

JUNE TIDINGS

Volume 7 Issue 6

June 2025

A Reflection from your Priest-in-Charge

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

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Beloved Siblings in Christ,

What a joy it was to welcome Bishop Doug Fisher to Holy Trinity on Sunday, May 18th. It was wonderful to see the congregation full as we celebrated the confirmation and reception of our beloved siblings in Christ, Colleen, Teddy, Emmy, Jack, Violet, Paige, and Traci. The spirit's presence was in full force, as we were blessed to bear witness to this beautiful ritual that marks this important moment for their faith journey. We know we don't walk this journey alone, and so thank you to all of you who are part of the great cloud of witnesses. You have played an incredibly important role in the life of the church and the life of these beloved siblings. I'm certainly excited and eager to see where their faith journey brings them next. I pray that our support and love for them continues to shine through as they continue on in their faith journey and support the life of this congregation.

As we went into this summer season, I pray that the spirit brings you good rest and renewal in the midst of a slower season, that in the midst the brokenness and pain of the world, you keep your eyes open for joy and hope in the midst of all the chaos.

May the peace of Christ be with you today and always.

Peace,

Pastor Dan



June Mission Plate

The Mission Plate Funds for the months of May and June will be going to

“Journey’s End Refugee Services.” Journey’s End Refugee Services is a Christian - Community based organization with the mission of welcoming refugees without regard to ethnic origin or creed and to assist them to become healthy, independent, contributing members of the community. “Journey’s End Refugee Services” is based in Buffalo, New York.

This organization provides essential support to refugees and immigrant communities, including immigration legal services, employment, education for adult English language learners, interpretation and translation, mentoring, and more. Volunteers aid in setting up apartments, and through donations provide beds, household items, etc., for these families who have been forced to leave their native lands and homes to escape poverty, hunger, war, persecution, and violence. In 2023, Journey’s End Refugee Services assisted 2,050 new cases through their Immigration Legal Services Program, including naturalization, family reunification, asylum and more.

Recently, Journey’s End Refugee Services has been forced to cut 20 staff members following an executive order from President Donald Trump which suspended the Refugee Admission Program, citing public safety and national security concerns. Journey’s End says that more than 80% of its funding comes from this program. The organization remains committed to their mission and will continue to provide essential support to refugees and immigrant communities.

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Ma., with its Social Justice Commission continues to welcome, support, and assist refugee and immigrant families toward becoming independent, contributing members of our communities.

In an announcement from the Right Reverend Dr. Douglas J. Fisher on April 10, 2025, he strongly commented on the unjust treatment that many of our refugees and immigrants are facing, he wrote: “The appalling disregard for the dignity of all human beings is NOT OK, It is just not right ...” “Only love will defeat what is straining to co-opt our humanity and make us enemies of one another.”

This quote from Leviticus 19:34 says it all: “The foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you. You shall love the foreigner as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

Please pray for the refugees and immigrants living within our communities, states, and country. We all came from somewhere. Please, give what you can to

Journey’s End Refugee Services since much of their governmental funding has been cut.

Susan L Grant

Member of the Mission and Outreach Committee



Happy
Father's
Day!



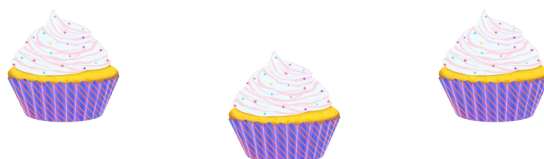
Dear God

Bless our Fathers for the many times they reflected the love, strength, generosity, wisdom and mercy that You exemplify in Your relationship with us Your children.

Amen

Notes from our Music Director

Choir will meet at 10 on Sunday to rehearse for Sunday morning services and any anthems coming up in June. We will try to do an anthem for Pentecost which is June 8th. Sunday, June 29, is a combined service at BLC. Music information will be determined shortly.



June

BIRTHDAYS

4— Teddy Demings

14 – Joe Pieczynski

22 – Trisha O'Brien-Briere

23 – Joe DiSalvatore

Food Pantry Donations for June

Our donations for June will go to Wales Community Pantry. The mission of the Wales Community Pantry is to create access to good, healthy food in our community. Their mission states:

We believe that access to nutritious food is a basic human right. We are committed to responding to the needs of our community through food distribution and support services.

In January, they served 105 households / 225 individuals in Brimfield, Holland, and Wales. Every week they are adding new households in need. Please share our information with anyone in need. Donations of any kind can bring healthy food to those in need in our 3 towns.



Wales Community Pantry
Serving the towns of Brimfield, Holland and Wales
85 Main Street • Wales, MA 01081
413-245-0055 • <https://www.walescommunitypantry.com>



UTO Gratitude Moment

In this time of political upheaval and deep divisions within our country, I am grateful that our leaders in the Episcopal Church continue to speak out with a strong voice when government leaders take actions which are in opposition to Jesus' directive to love one another and care for those who are in need. And I'm grateful that they invite leaders to return to behavior that follows Jesus' teaching rather than casting them away.

Lynn Garland

Vestry Highlights

- For the warmer weather fans will be brought up into the sanctuary, and vestments will not be worn starting Memorial Day weekend.
- The fifth Sunday in June, the 29th, will be a shared service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Bethlehem's Confirmation will take place that Sunday.
- The Collaboration Committee discussed having a shared service once a month beginning in the Fall.

Stewardship Reflection



Sharing the Good News: An Easter Reflection

Did you ever have news that was so exciting, so important, so urgent, that you could not wait to share it? Imagine the spice-bearing women who encounter the Angels at the empty tomb learning that it was all true - everything that Jesus had told them would happen had, indeed, happened. They rushed from what had been a moment of ritual grief and mourning and ran to tell the other followers of Jesus what they had witnessed.

Easter gives us a whole year's worth of joy and light and excitement in one glorious moment. As we hear the triple Alleluia for the first time, the spark is ignited within us, and our souls are alight with the need to share this joy with others. Smiles are broad and handshakes are enthusiastic on Easter Sunday in church.

This is the exact spirit which we carry with us all year that inspires us to share not only the Good News, but also the ways in which our lives have been transformed by God's blessings. We share our time, talent, and treasure freely because of the love we have experienced in redemption and in the death-defying power of Jesus and his ministry in the world. Such an enthusiasm cannot be contained, it must be recounted. Like Peter, who was skeptical when the women came to tell him of the Resurrection, others might wonder what has gotten into us: why we are so willing to release our gifts into the world rather than safeguard them in a tomb. But we who have experienced the destruction of darkness and the return of the light will know why we do what we do. It is a story we will rush to share with the world. 🌞



Questions for Reflection:

What ministry or program in your church is so inspiring to you that you want to tell others about it?



Cn. J. Davey Gerhard serves as Executive Director of TENS: The Episcopal Network for Stewardship and can't wait to tell people about the great things his church is doing in the world.



Shared News from Bethlehem Lutheran



CAMPFIRE FELLOWSHIP WITH BLC AND HTC

Fellowship, Friends, and Fire!
What could be better!

JUNE 7TH 6:30PM

JULY 26TH 6:30PM

AUGUST 9TH 6:30PM

SEPTEMBER 20TH 6:30PM

Chance of S'mores?
100%!!!!



Join us for

Sorting Sundays!

Help sort
clothing for
Bethlehem's

Closet
after
worship

June 1st

July 6th

August 3rd

Grab coffee and a treat
and head downstairs to
help! Many hands make
light work!



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The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Rt. Reverend Douglas Fisher

Sunday Services

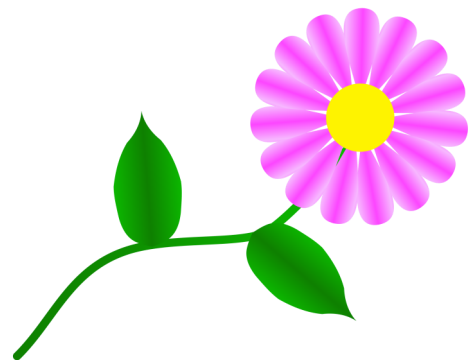
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Pastor Dan Purtell

Priest in Charge

pastordan.holytrinity@gmail.com

June



Website



Facebook



Tithe.ly—Giving