



# The Flame



**APRIL 2019**

**Our Mission** is to be a welcoming place where people meet Christ and grow in their relationship with God through our worship, service, and fellowship.

The St. Margaret Chapter of Daughters of the King®  
and

Church of the Holy Spirit, Bellevue  
invite you to share a

## Lenten Labyrinth Quiet Day

*walk, pray, meditate, and connect with God*

on Saturday, April 6th

anytime between 10 am to 4 pm

at Church of the Holy Spirit

1305 Thomas Dr.

Bellevue



We invite you to come walk our 27 foot square indoor labyrinth in the parish hall  
(please enter through the red doors on the parking lot side of the building)

or

come walk our outdoor brick labyrinth off the circular drive. (weather permitting)

Daughters of the King® members will be available to provide guidance and instruction, if needed.

## FR TOM'S TIDBITS

As we enter the month of April, and Spring is in the air, we must not forget the terrible flooding that has occurred. We had two families who lost everything, another whose camper trailer was destroyed, and another who had water in their apartment requiring the replacement of all the flooring and some minor damage to their household goods. I cannot begin to express how wonderful the initial support offered by members of our parish was. We quickly helped one family resettle and begin anew, and the other family is expected to move into a new place later this month.



The outpouring of support, prayers, and material things has given both families a renewed hope in a brighter future. However, just because their immediate needs have been met, we cannot simply move on with our lives; they will continue to need the love and support of the parish throughout their rebuilding process. While each of knows that stuff is just stuff, and what is important is the safety of those we love, we forget about the stuff we take for granted until we no longer have it.

I am reminded of a recent survey that was published that said the top major life stressors for millennials was the loss of their wallet, credit card, or phone. Getting a new phone or replacement credit card is the easy part, dealing with the aftermath is much harder. Having lost a phone or two in my day, I know how hard it is to start over. You don't know what you lost sometimes until you go looking for it. This will be true for our parish families as they begin their new life. It may be months down the road before they realize the need for something lost. When they do, I pray we are able to still be there to help them.

If you have not done so already, those who were impacted by the flooding and need assistance, please contact Fr. Tom. There are parish and community resources available to meet a variety of needs.

*Fr. Tom*



## Shrove Tuesday - pictures

Our thanks go out to the Men of Spirit for their outstanding pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday and to all who joined in to help us usher in the Lenten season and raise a little money to support our youth who wish to go on mission or to camp.

## DEACON'S CORNER

"Walk in love as Christ loved us..." these words from Ephesians 5:2 are more than nice or comforting words. When we hear them during our worship service, we recognize them as a call for a response. As soon as the ushers hear those words, they respond by bringing our offerings of bread and wine to the altar.

These words are attributed to the apostle Paul, who addressed them to a church in Ephesus, to help the members better understand how God wants us to live not only as people of the church but as well as people of the world. As followers of Christ, we walk in the love of Christ when we respond with love to the needs of our neighbors.

Some of those needs of our neighbors can be scheduled, such as the ERD ingathering, the Mobile Food Pantries, Moving Veterans Forward and so on. The response to those needs from you here at CHS has been wonderful.

Other needs cannot be scheduled, like the needs of our friends and neighbors who were displaced because of the flood waters last month. Spring Break is normally a difficult time for families who qualify for free and reduced lunches. This year it was far more stressful and difficult. Last month, as members of Bellevue Together, you responded to a call to help at-risk Bellevue school students. As a result of your out pouring of love by donating requested snacks, fruit and games, you helped over 60 Bellevue families during Spring Break

Thank you for all your gifts offered to our friends and neighbors.



*Deacon Joan* 



### Ash Wednesday

Thank you to Marcia Adams who coordinated and prepared our wonderful soup supper on Ash Wednesday and to all who joined our youth group for dinner. While Ash Wednesday is a day set aside by the church to reflect on who we are, and to prepare ourselves for the Lenten season, our shared supper was a great reminder that we are part of a community, loved by God, who shares that love in a healthy and supportive way.



*Class of 2007*, by Nina Chanel Abney



*Sleep*, by Kehinde Wiley

## Wee Bookies

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body", is attributed to Richard Steele. On March 2, members of the Wee Bookies exercised the body by exploring the *30 Americans* Exhibit at the Joslyn Museum after having discussed the wonderfully told and thought provoking story of Starr Carter, the main character in *The Hate You Give*, by Angie Thomas.

The temporary exhibit is from the Rubell Family Collection.

"As the show evolved, we decided to call it *30 Americans*. 'Americans,' rather than 'African Americans' or 'Black Americans,' because nationality is a statement of fact, while racial identity is a question each artist answers in his or her own way, or not at all. And the number 30 because we acknowledge...that this show does not include everyone who could be in it."

Mera and Donald Rubell

The exhibit is at the Joslyn until May 5 and admission is free on the first Saturday of the month.



## Sunday Night Worship

As part of our Lenten observance, Fr. Tom is once again offering a 5pm Sunday evening service through Palm Sunday (14 Apr). Offering members an alternative to Sunday morning worship, this service includes contemporary music and meditation, is held in the parish hall, and is then followed by our Lenten Soup Supper and Study.



## **Lent Soup Supper and Study**

Our Sunday evening soup supper and study this year has been looking at the life and ministry of Jesus from the perspective of the four different gospel writers and uses pictures from Fr. Tom's trip to the Holy Land to help us connect to the stories in a different way. The two remaining study nights (Apr 7th and 14th) will look at the passion narratives and will include a look at a modern day journey along the Via Delarosa, the processional route in the Old City of Jerusalem, believed to be the path Jesus walked on the way to his crucifixion.

## **Inquirer's Class**

After weeks of delay, due to inclement weather, Fr. Tom's inquirer's class is meeting at noon in the conference room. If you missed the start of the class and are interested in joining in a discussion of the faith we profess, and the way we live out our faith as part of the Episcopal Church here at Holy Spirit, feel free to grab a cup of coffee and stop by.

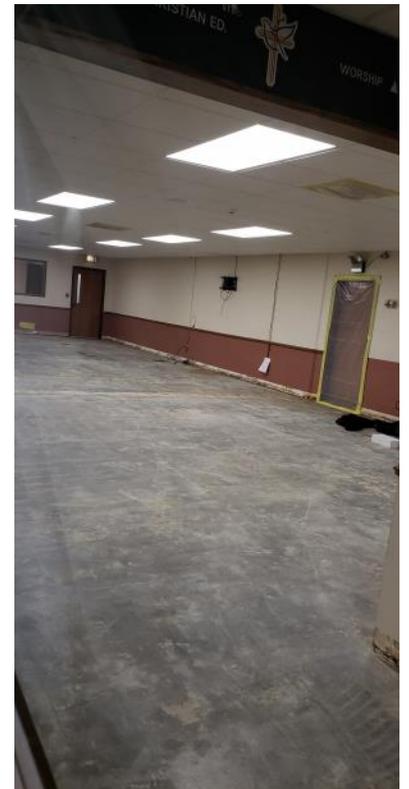
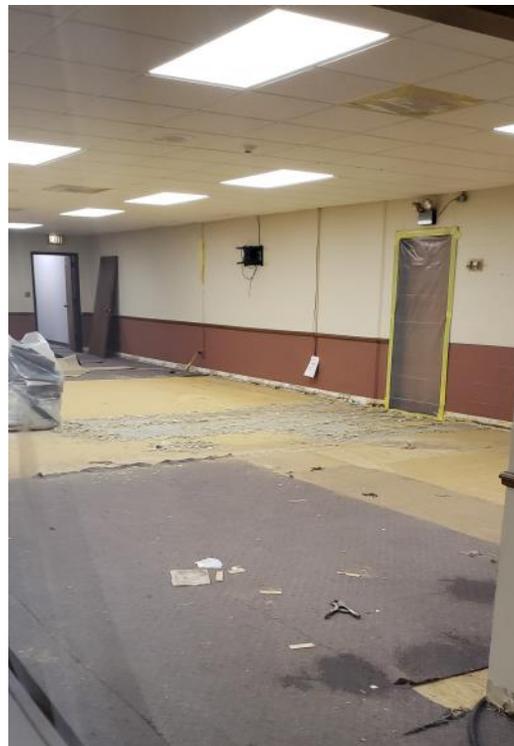


## **Youth Group Roller Skating**

During the flooring project, our youth group met at Skate City for a night of fun and fellowship. We had a really great turnout, with family and friends joining in the fun.

## Parish Hall Flooring

The parish hall carpeting is out, the asbestos tile is removed, and our new flooring is in. Thanks to Leslie Nutting, our Senior Warden, for all her work in coordinating this major project that not only makes our parish hall more inviting, but healthier too as our both well worn carpeting and dangerous asbestos has been removed. Post asbestos removal inspections, prior to the laying of new flooring, all came back showing that removal was successful and that there are no lingering dangers. Thank you to all who made pledges to support this project and to those who have begun to fulfill them.





## Vestry Retreat

Last month our Vestry gathered for a working retreat. Once again they explored the ways in which we help to welcome our guests and encourage them to become participating members of our community. Some interesting ideas were examined with regards to how we integrate the work of four very important and visible ministries, our VPOD (Vestry person of the day), greeters and ushers in particular, but also the coffee hour teams. The vestry will be building a plan that aligns the many thoughts generated and they will solicit ministry team inputs to make sure we have a program that meets the needs, passions, and abilities of our parish.

Another area examined was the development of a newcomer's class. Key aspects of who we are and what we do, as well as the general expectations of our members, were identified for possible inclusion in such a class. Out of our discussion, it was determined that a similar class should be developed for our long time members so that we are all moving in the same direction along our unique spiritual journeys.

Finally, a deep conversation took place with regards to the developing corner of the parish hall. It was decided that this corner of the parish hall would best serve to both welcome our guests and engage our members. To this end, considering all the suggested names provided during Annual Meeting, the Vestry believes the name that best describes it use is "The Spirit Hub". The hope is to develop this part of our parish hall to be a central place where guests, and members alike, can meet to find out more about what is happening in our community.

## Parish Hall Painting

At the end of last month, Leslie and Fr. Tom met with the painters who did such a great job on the sanctuary, to discuss painting the parish hall now that the new lighting was installed and the flooring is replaced. Prep work and painting will begin Monday 8 Apr, and we were assured that the parish hall would be ready for our Easter celebration. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but your Vestry is confident that it will be worth it in the end.



## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Spring is here which means baseball season is upon us. Once again CHS will be manning beer carts on Thirsty Thursdays at Werner Park for the Omaha StormChaser games. This fundraising has netted the church at least \$2000 every year. Not only do we get a percentage of our sales but we get to keep all the tips! We are looking for people who can open cans of beer and can handle cash. We also have spiffy t-shirts to wear that advertise the church. Other benefits, besides the camaraderie, are discounted food and drinks at the ballpark and the opportunity to stick around after the 7th inning to watch the game. Thirsty Thursday dates this year are April 11 & 25, May 9 & 23, June 6 & 20, July 18, August 8 & 29. If you would like to get involved in this activity, please see the sign up sheets at the Spirit Hub or contact Sharon Jones, who has more information and will get you a t-shirt!

## Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)



The ERD is an international agency of the Episcopal church that works in about 40 countries assisting those who struggle with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease. ERD stays for the long haul in places where few other disaster agencies stay after the initial need is alleviated. As a result, the continued presence of ERD has enable it to deliver life-improving results for those communities and has allowed it to collaborate with the communities to address three life-changing priorities-women, children and climate. Thereby creating authentic results that can be sustained by the communities themselves.

ERD is working with the Nebraska Diocese to coordinate a planned diocesan response to help with flood relief. If you wish to donate to ERD and if you add a note in the memo line of a check that says, "Nebraska Flood Relief", Bishop Barker assures us that every dollar donated will eventually be applied to help Nebraskans that have been impacted by these floods.

The in-gathering of ERD boxes and checks is on April 14.

## Holy Week

We will once again offer an array of services during Holy Week, see page 10, that culminates in the Triduum, a three part service held over Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. As part of this service, we will once again include a soup supper on Maundy Thursday (18 Apr) beginning at 6:30pm. Following the supper and service, we will begin our annual Maundy Thursday Vigil. During this vigil (8pm until 11am), participants are invited to sign up for one hour of meditation, throughout the night, in the chapel.



The tradition of staying with the reserved sacrament on the eve of Good Friday comes from Jesus' words to his disciples, who had trouble staying awake on the night of his betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane, when he asked them 'can you not stay awake with me for one hour?' A sign-up sheet is located at The Spirit Hub. Those who participate in our Vigil should ring the doorbell and enter through the blue office door on Thomas Drive.

## Easter Egg Hunt



Thanks to Jennifer Buser, a giant Easter egg hunt will take place on Easter morning (21 Apr) following the 10:30am service. All parish youth are invited to join in the fun. A portion of the parish grounds will be set aside for our smallest hunters.



# HOLY WEEK

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Sunday Apr 14 – Sunday Apr 21

## Service Times

Palm Sunday	8 & 10:30 am
Holy Monday	Noon
Holy Tuesday	Noon
Holy Wednesday	9:30 am and Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm – Guided Meditation
Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm
Vigil	8:00 pm until 11:00 am
Good Friday	Noon & 6:30 pm
Easter Vigil	6:30 pm
Easter Sunday	8 & 10:30 am

- Holy Communion will be offered at all services except:

- Wednesday's Guided Meditation

- Maundy Thursday's Vigil.

- There will be no 5:00 pm Saturday night service on the Saturday of the Easter Vigil



## Mobile Food Pantry on April 27 Doors open at 10:00 AM

The next Mobile Food Pantry (MFP) will be on Saturday, April 27. CHS is once again blessed to be able to offer our neighbors food assistance. Doors will open at 10:00 am and will remain open until 12:00 pm or until the food runs out.

Volunteers who will help with the event are asked to arrive by 8:30 A.M. to help set up. The delivery truck is scheduled to arrive at 9:00 A.M.

Please bring a cart or wagon if you have one. They are invaluable when helping carrying out the food items to vehicles.

We partner with the Food Bank of the Heartland and these MFPs make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors. CHS works hard to provide an environment that is well-organized and respectful to all who enter the doors.

*Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble.  
Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you  
will be as bright as noon.  
Isaiah 58:10*

## Wee Bookies on April 27

The CHS Wee Bookies, a book discussion club (not a betting club) will meet on Saturday, April 27, after the Mobile Food Pantry.

The book chosen for the discussion is, *liturgy of the ordinary; sacred practices in everyday life*, by Tish Harrison Warren.

This is what a book review on Amazon.com had to say about the book:

In the overlooked moments and routines of our day, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred?

Framed around one ordinary day, this book explores daily life through the lens of liturgy, small practices, and habits that form us. Each chapter looks at something—making the bed, brushing her teeth, losing her keys—that the author does every day. Drawing from the diversity of her life as a campus minister, Anglican priest, friend, wife, and mother, Tish Harrison Warren opens up a practical theology of the everyday. Each activity is related to a spiritual practice as well as an aspect of our Sunday worship. Come and discover the holiness of your every day

Come and join in the discussion, bring a sack lunch and in light of this quote from the book:

“The church has a reputation for being antipleasure. Many characterize Christians in general the way H. L. Mencken wryly described Puritans: people with a “haunting fear that someone, somewhere might be happy.” In reality, the church has led the way in the art of enjoyment and pleasure. New Testament scholar Ben Witherington points out that it was the church, not Starbucks, that created coffee culture. Coffee was first invented by Ethiopian monks—the term cappuccino refers to the shade of brown used for the habits of the Capuchin monks of Italy. Coffee is born of extravagance, an extravagant God who formed an extravagant people, who formed a craft out of the pleasures of roasted beans and frothed milk.”

We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall, about noontime....by the coffee machine.



**VESTRY MINUTES**  
**March 14, 2019**

Vestry Members present: Fr. Tom, Terri Storm, Ken Gomeringer, Linda Blinston, Vic Culp, Lori Erickson

Recorder: Carol McLaughlin

Fr. Tom opened the meeting at 6:30 pm with prayer.

**Financial Report:**

Copies of February 2019 Treasurers Report handed out.

Vic Culp went over the Income and Expense portions of the report:

- Income: February income was sluggish, mainly due to the weather keeping attendance numbers down. The last week of February pledges were not included, they will be on March report. We are at 130% income overall right now. This is still padded by prior year offerings. Nothing remarkable in other income categories.
- Expenditure: Nothing remarkable for this early in the year, some expense noted in administrative expense (at 120%), and liability insurance quarterly payments. This will all even out as year progresses. Building & Grounds right at 101%, considering snow removal and gas bills are high after the weather in first two months of 2019. Ministry expense, low for now at 18%, usual for this early in the year.
- We are \$10,000 in the red for February but overall, we are about \$13,000 in the black for the year, all this will even out as the year progresses.
- Changes in Equity report: Nothing out of the ordinary, numbers match up to the income & expense reports. Some money moved around in discretionary accounts Flooring fund pretty much depleted, as work is in progress.

**Fund Expenditures**

- Funeral Fund \$76.71 (Tefft funeral)
- Men of Spirit \$240.00 (Tickets – costs to be reimbursed)
- Women of Spirit Fund \$49.00 (luncheon)
- DOK Fund \$19.47 (Supplies – Mobile Pantry coffee)
- Rector's Discretionary Fund \$100.00 (assistance)
- Oktoberfest \$11.45 (prizes – Valentine's Extravaganza)

March Fund Expenses:

- Building Fund – lighting \$1,150.00 (kitchen lighting)
- Building Fund \$975.00 (lighting and kitchen exhaust fan)

**Motion M03-14-01:** It was moved by Vic to accept the Treasurer's reports as presented and seconded by Linda. Approved.

**Motion M03-14-02:** It was moved by Ken to pay the bills and seconded by Lori. Approved.

**Old Business:**

Flooring Pledge Drive: Total pledges at end of the drive came to \$25,840 which essentially covered total cost of the current flooring project. The \$11,000 previously earmarked for flooring will be kept in reserve for future flooring updates. Eleven of the pledges have been fulfilled, totaling \$9,475.

Lilly Grant update: Fr. Tom asked 3 members present to read the narratives and asked them to make recommendations for any changes by next week.

Parish Retreat: Vic and Linda presented information on the venues they have looked at for the retreat. Mahoney and Platte River State Parks were found to be excellent facilities however they book up about a year in advance so we would not be able to book a retreat for next fall, also the costs for these two are fairly high. St. Benedict and Cloisters on the Platte would not be family friendly, and not good for our purpose. They also outlined pros and cons for two other locations: Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland and Camp Comeca in Cozad. They will also check into the Lied Center in Nebraska City and report back on that next meeting.

Vestry Retreat: This will be held at CHS on Saturday 3/23. Fr. Tom handed out a paper written by Kim Culp on a Newcomer's Class. He asked members to look this over to prepare for discussion at the retreat. Also, he handed out a list of the potential names for the "old clipboard table" as suggested by parishioners. Vestry members will decide on this name at the retreat.

### **New Business:**

One application has been received for the CHS educational scholarship. Vestry members are welcome to read this applicant's letter.

We will need to do something with the grass on the Virginia Street lawn. If we don't, the grounds people will need to raise their rates for maintenance of this area. They suggested we do an over seeding of the area this spring. This will cost about \$400. We have the money in the building fund, but Fr. Tom wanted Vestry to approve the decision. **Motion 03-14-03:** Vic moved that we approve this over-seeding expense, this was seconded by Lori. Approved.

The banquet countertop was not able to be saved in one piece when the banquet was removed from the parish hall for flooring work. It could possibly be pieced together when the banquet is reassembled, but it would not be as nice, so Fr. Tom got a bid for a new countertop to match the other new counters we have added. This could be done for about \$500. Also, if any material is left over, he can use that for the recycle center counter. **Motion 03-14-04:** Lori moved that we have a new countertop built. Linda seconded this. Approved.

Weight Watchers is leaving our location, this was to be effective in April but since they couldn't meet here this week (due to flooring project) they decided to leave immediately. This is a business decision on their part, as part of cost saving efforts they will not be using satellite locations for meetings anymore.

Fr. Tom went over the upcoming events including the Werner Park schedule starting in April. Also, an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday is being planned.

**Motion M03-14-05:** Ken moved to adjourn. It was seconded by Lori. Approved.



### **Diocesan Mission Work**

Last month, Fr. Tom along with Fr. John Schaefer at St. Andrews, were appointed Co-Vicars of Mission for the Diocese of Nebraska. Together, they will begin building a plan for 2020 that will offer opportunities for youth and adults across the diocese to come together and work in local, regional, and international communities to serve Christ and deepen relationships.

In the meantime, the diocese is exploring the possibility of an eight day adult service-orientated mission trip to the Dominican Republic this coming September. The anticipated project will be painting at an Episcopal school. The cost for this trip is expected to be \$1,500 and includes airfare, lodging, meals, and supply costs. If you might be interested, please visit with Fr. Tom.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Financial Report as of February 30, 2019

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledged	\$ 9,537.00	\$ 16,071.25	\$ 27,586.00	\$ 32,142.50
Other Inc.	\$ 323.00	\$ 2,687.67	\$ 20,704.25	\$ 5,375.33
Total Inc	\$ 9,860.00	\$ 18,758.92	\$ 48,290.25	\$ 37,517.83
Expenses	\$ 20,097.53	\$ 18,886.25	\$ 34,792.84	\$ 37,772.50

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS!

- Apr 6: DOK Lenten Labyrinth Day beginning @ 10am
- Apr 7: Inquirer's Class @ noon; Youth Scavenger Hunt
- Apr 13: Clean up outside beginning @ 9am
- Apr 14: Endowment Meeting @ 9:15am  
Finance Meeting @ 9:30am  
Inquirer's Class @ noon  
Youth Group Zoo Scavenger Hunt - Apr 14 @ 1pm  
Lent Service, supper, study beginning @ 5pm
- Apr 18: Maundy Thursday supper/service beginning @ 6:30pm
- Apr 19: Good Friday Services @ noon & 6:30pm
- Apr 20: Easter Vigil @ 6:30pm
- Apr 22: Office Closed
- Apr 23: Staff Meeting @ 9:30am; Lectionary Group @ 4:30pm
- Apr 25: Vestry meeting @ 6:30pm
- Apr 27: Mobile Food Pantry @ 10am
- Apr 28: Youth Sunday; Inquirer's Class @ noon

*Please submit articles for  
the May 2019 FLAME to the  
church office by April 15.  
Thank you*



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# LAY MINISTRIES SCHEDULE



Ministries	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
<b>VPOD</b>	Michele H	Linda B	Lori E	Doug A
<b>Coffee Hosts 8am</b>	TBD Team 3	TBD Team 4	TBD Team 5	TBD Team 6
<b>Greeters Sun 8am 10:30am</b>	Kristin K Dean & Joan O	Leslie N Toby W Doug A	Kristin K John & Pauline P	Leslie N Gary & Karen G
<b>Ushers 10:30am</b>	Gary & Karen G	Chris D Dean O	Vince C, Jr Brian W Vic C	Ryan & Casey M
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Joan W Sharon J Kim C	Toby W Kristi S Charlotte A Janet H	Jan S Linda B Joan M	Sandy V Joan O Leslie N Carol M
<b>Altar Bread</b>	Lent - No Bread	Lent - No Bread	Michelle H	Michelle H
<b>LEVs</b>	Toby W Charlotte A	Joan W	Jan S Ken G	Joan W
<b>LEM Sat 5pm</b>	Alberta Y	Cathy J	Jan S	Kristi S
<b>8:00am Lessons Prayers</b>	Doug A Rick S	Terri S Sue H	Sue H Rick S	Ken G Jared S
<b>10:30am Lessons Prayers</b>	Doug S Jan S	Charlotte A Michele H	Jan S Terri S	Michele H Vince C
<b>Acolytes 10:30am</b>	Silas C Kyper M Zoe S	Bobby R Emily W William R	Darius H Isaiah H Vincent C	Daunte H Olivia H Evelyn C

	Maundy Thurs	Good Fri Noon	Good Fri PM	Easter Vigil
<b>Greeters</b>	Kristin K	Gary & Karen G	Stuart W	Stuart W
<b>Ushers</b>				
<b>LEMs</b>	Jan S Charlotte A	Alberta Y	Ken G Doug A	Jan S



### Regular Services:

**Saturday:** 5:00 pm Holy Eucharist (chapel)  
**Sunday:** 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite 1 (church)  
Nursery from 9:30–11:30 am  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist (church)  
**Wednesday:** 9:30 am Holy Eucharist / Healing Prayer (chapel)

### Education:

**Sunday:** 9:30 am Sunday School (September-May)  
**Wednesday:** 10:15 am Adult Formation  
5:30 pm Adult Formation

### Office Hours:

**Monday – Thursday:** 9:00 am–3:00 pm  
**Friday:** 9:00 am–Noon

### Rector's Day Off:

**Friday**

*The Flame* is a monthly production of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Episcopal, in Bellevue, Nebraska. We welcome all stories, pictures, and suggestions, but must reserve the right to choose what we can print. Please send articles and pictures to CHS Admin at [holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org](mailto:holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org). The next deadline for submitting news is April 15.

**Webpage:** [www.chsepiscopal.org](http://www.chsepiscopal.org)

**Email:** [holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org](mailto:holyspirit@chsepiscopal.org)

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