

The Guide

A Newsletter of
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
April 2021



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Join us
for
Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.

Modified Holy Eucharist at St. Stephen's

Good Friday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday Liturgy at Messiah Lutheran (122 W 7th St)

Holy Saturday, April 3, 8 p.m.

Great Vigil of Easter, including modified Holy Eucharist at St. Stephen's.

Easter Sunday, April 4, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

In order to make sure that everyone can attend an Easter service while maintaining social distance, we will offer two services in the church, at 8:00 am and 10:00 am.

At all services, we will wear masks and observe social distancing for the safety of those who are not yet fully vaccinated.

Invitation to the Triduum

At the heart of the Christian calendar stands Holy Week. Once per year, we take a few days to celebrate and remember the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus in greater and more specific



detail than we do on most Sundays (in the Creed and the Eucharistic Prayer, if nowhere else). Taken as a whole, Holy Week serves as a pilgrimage, not in the sense of a literal reenactment of those days in Jerusalem but rather as a corporate commemoration of those events during which we proclaim the power that the crucifixion and resurrection continue to have today.

The Triduum (the three-day observance incorporating Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter) has its roots in early Christian observances. Egeria, a late-fourth-century pilgrim to Jerusalem, wrote a detailed record of how the Church there ritually celebrated Jesus' last week, and in her account we can identify the various activities that eventually defined the liturgies specific to Holy Week (procession with palms, footwashing, veneration of the cross, etc.). These liturgies (especially the Easter Vigil) lost much of their energy and importance in the Middle Ages, and it was only in the mid-twentieth-century that Western Christendom rediscovered and reemphasized them (in the Episcopal Church, the current 1979 Book of Common Prayer is the first to include specific liturgies for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and the Easter Vigil).

Taken as a whole, the Triduum enacts the Christian experience: by virtue of Baptism, we live, die, and rise with Christ. On Maundy Thursday, we read about Jesus washing the disciples' feet, reminding us that he came not to be served but to serve and that he taught us to love one another, and we celebrate the Eucharist, his gift and command to those who would follow him. On Good Friday, we read the Passion narrative, recalling the details of Jesus' trial and crucifixion, and solemnly pray for the world for which he endured that suffering and death. The Great Vigil of Easter serves as the climax of both the Church year and our life in Christ. We begin in darkness, recalling the light of God that shone at the dawn of creation and continues to break into the darkness of our lives, and then trace the history of the relationship between God and humanity from creation through the exodus through God's promises of forthcoming salvation. Historically, the Vigil was when new members of the church were baptized: having heard the history of salvation, the candidates are baptized into Christ's death and then join with the whole church in proclaiming his resurrection with the first Alleluias and Eucharist of the Easter season.

Coming to worship services three evenings in a row is not the most convenient thing for us to do, particularly when the past year has trained us to stay home as much as possible. But these Triduum services are important, they are special, and they remind us how the sacrifice Christ made for us is far greater than any sacrifice we can make for Christ. So I invite you to take a pilgrimage this Holy Week, with services for Maundy Thursday (April 1 at 6:30 pm), Good Friday (April 2 at 6:30 pm at Messiah Lutheran), and the Great Vigil of Easter (April 3 at 8:00 pm), that together we may remember and live into Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Sunday Worship Update

Between the decreasing number
of new Covid-19 cases locally
and the increasing number of

parishioners who have received both doses of vaccine, beginning with Easter Sunday (April 4), we are considering



worship in the church as the default (in other words, in the absence of a One Call Now or parish email saying differently, assume that the 10:00 am Sunday service is in the church). For the moment, the Bishop's restrictions around masking, social distance, singing, and coffee hour remain in place, but Fr. John is talking with the Diocese about the benchmarks and conditions under which we can take additional steps toward the pre-Covid Sunday normal.

Please read and observe the following guidelines:

- Enter and exit the building only through the glass doors by the parking lot (so those who need the elevator will have access), with other church doors remaining locked
- Inside the building, maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from other family units (a family unit being one or more people who live together and/or drove to church together)
- Wear masks covering your nose and mouth while inside the building, even if you have already been vaccinated against Covid-19
- Do not idle or linger in the parish hall or other areas outside the sanctuary
- In the sanctuary, sit in alternating pews (occupying only those pews where the red cushions have not been removed) and remain in your pew until the conclusion of the service
- At the conclusion of the service, exit the sanctuary in an orderly fashion, maintaining physical distance and proceeding directly through the parish hall to exit the glass doors
- Do not plan to use the bathroom while at the church
- There will be no coffee hour or social time inside the building
- A plate will be available in the back of the church, into which parishioners may drop checks or cash as they enter or leave the sanctuary
- Please stay home if you are sick or were recently in close contact with someone who tested positive for Covid-19

Vestry Leadership



For 2021, the Vestry has elected Tracy Babcock as Senior Warden, Don Young as Junior Warden, and Kaeleigh Post as Clerk. In addition to them, other Vestry members are Michael Smith and Sue Cameron. The Vestry also elected Terry Babcock to serve as Treasurer. Please contact any of them with questions or concerns you cannot or choose not to raise with Fr. John.

Tuesday Evening Zoom Bible Study

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The Bible Study that meets over Zoom at 6:00 pm on Tuesdays is taking a hiatus through April and will resume on May 4 with a book study. Please contact Fr. John (johndavidadams85@gmail.com or 571-232-1294) for more information or if you are interested in joining.

Wednesday Zoom Evening Prayer

Now that Sunday services in the church are the norm, in April we will be moving the Wednesday evening service to Zoom as an experiment to offer a worship option for those who are unable or unwilling to attend in-person on Sundays. On April 7, 14, and 28, we will offer Evening Prayer (a 20-25 minute service) at 6:00 pm; look for the Zoom link in our weekly emails.



Youth News

Faith 5: This Zoom call was intended to take place of our Sunday School time for youth and for adults. Faith 5 was used to stay connected to each other and the word of Christ.

Currently this Zoom call is being suspended, and we are looking at new ways to connect. As Covid-19 restrictions lighten up, we are hoping to get back to an in-person Sunday School setting.

Thank you to everyone that donated candy for our Easter bag handouts that were given away

Saturday 27th during Saturday Suppers. The kids' faces are priceless when they get a special bag, just for them.

Mission Trip: I am excited to announce that this summer we will be heading to Colorado for our Mission Trip! Dates and details are in the works so stay tuned for more info!

Blessings,
Courtney!



Sacred Ground - Diocese of Nebraska Anti-Racism Training

Sacred Ground is a 10-part series built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. It is focused on the challenges that swirl around issues of race and racism, as well as the difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue we need to have with each other about them.

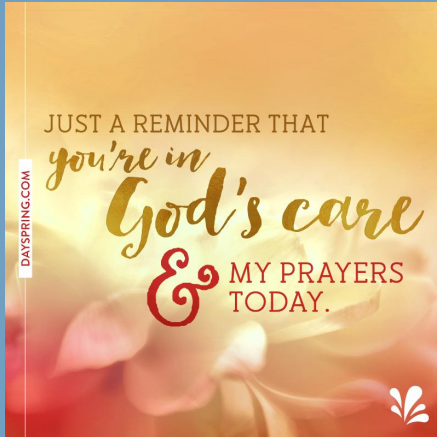
Classes begin mid-April and multiple times will be available; register by March 31 at <https://alliance.wufoo.com/forms/z1ch8qvn02y400o/>

Camera Operators Wanted

As we resume worship in the sanctuary, Fr. John is looking for folks willing to operate the camera in the back of the church so we can continue posting his sermons online. The operation of the camera is simple (checking that it's pointed at the pulpit and pushing record before the sermon starts, and pushing record again to stop the recording



once the sermon is over), but it does require standing on the pew to reach the camera. If you are able and willing to do this, please let Fr. John know.



**Make a Call,
Send a Card,
Say a Prayer**

On Our Prayer Lists

Those in need of healing or for other concerns: Robin, Marilyn, Cindy, Steve, Rebekah, Jerry, Cody, Reece, Jade, Keith, Elaine, Brendan, Lori and Anabel

Those serving in the military: Tim

Homebound: Virginia, Marla, Mickey and Vera

If you would like to add a name (or remove a name from) the prayer list or submit birthdays and anniversaries, please call the church office at 308-382-4961 or e-mail Lynne. Prayers run in the weekly bulletin as well as monthly in The Guide.

Prayer Chain requests can be e-mailed to Donna at dowesm@yahoo.com

Celebrating in April

Happy Birthday to

Charlee Condry - April 2
Tyler Cook - April 6
Kathy Patton - April 6
George Royse - April 7
Dan Korensky - April 10
Jeanette Timmerman - April 13
Don Dreier - April 14
Mike McElroy - April 16
Ted Harris - April 17
Roxie Webb - April 18
Billie Condry - April 24

Anniversary Congratulations to

John & Deborah White - April 3
Dan & Brittany Korensky - April 8

How Can YOU Connect with St. Stephen's?

Worship Services

Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10 a.m.
Evening Prayer over Zoom on April 7, 14 & 28 at 6 p.m.

Christian Education (September - May)

Study of Church History and Denominations on Tuesdays, April 6 & 13 at 10 a.m.
Youth Activities as Announced

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Leadership and Staff

Priest-in-Charge

Fr. John Adams

johndavidadams85@gmail.com

Senior Warden (2023)

Tracy Babcock

Buildings & Grounds

TracyBabcock@me.com

Mike Smith (2022)

Finances

grumpy72smith@outlook.com

Clerk (2023)

Kaeleigh Post

Liturgy & Parish Life Committee

kaeleigh.post@icloud.com

2024 Vestry

Sue Cameron

skcameron44@gmail.com

Don Young

dryoung@hamilton.net

Church Treasurer

Terry Babcock

terry.babcock@mccain.com

Parish Administrator

Lynne Nuss

lynne@ststephengi.org

Youth Director

Courtney Berg

courtney.levanders@hotmail.com

