



THE SHEAF



<i>All Saints, Minot</i>	<i>St. James, Cannon Ball</i>	<i>St. Paul's, White Shield</i>
<i>Church of the Cross, Selfridge</i>	<i>St. John the Divine, Moorhead</i>	<i>St. Peter's, Walhalla</i>
<i>Advent, Devils Lake</i>	<i>St. John's, Dickinson</i>	<i>St. Peter's, Williston</i>
<i>Gethsemane, Fargo</i>	<i>St. Luke's, Fort Yates</i>	<i>St. Stephen's, Fargo</i>
<i>Grace, Jamestown</i>	<i>St. Michael and All Angels, Cartwright</i>	<i>St. Sylvan's, Dunseith</i>
<i>St. George's, Bismarck</i>	<i>St. Paul's, Grand Forks</i>	<i>St. Thomas, Fort Totten</i>



Deus Incrementum Dat | God Gives the Growth
1 Corinthians 3.6



A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
 Epiphany Edition ~ February 2025



Epiphany Message from our Diocesan Missioner

Ashley Dobbs Hubbard

Epiphany blessings and greetings, good people of the Diocese of North Dakota. I am delighted to have been asked to contribute to the 2025 Epiphany edition of *The Sheaf*. Epiphany is a very important liturgical season – not just a day – in the life of the church. As we experience the days getting longer, our church calendar follows the light – starting with a single, *wild* star resting over Bethlehem and burning brighter each day until a culmination of brilliant luminescence shines forth at Jesus’ transfiguration. As Christians we understand Jesus – the light of the world (John 8:12) – existed from the beginning of time, and it is during the season of Epiphany that we focus on the Light and reflect how it has shown forth in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5, paraphrase). The blessing of the Epiphanytide is that we are invited to continue unwrapping the greatest gift of all time - Jesus’ love for us and all of Creation – long after the Christmas season has passed. Jesus’ appearance or manifestation (the Greek meanings of Epiphany) on Earth - as recounted in the Gospels – inspires us to walk with Jesus through his Jewish celebrations and rituals (his naming and redemption ceremonies and Baptism), the beginnings of his ministry (including the calling of the Apostles), and his miracles (water to wine at Cana and healings) and teachings. We are also invited to respond in faith through the telling of our own Jesus stories - bearing witness to a faith that truly considers our own Baptism (and Baptismal Covenant), ministries, and discipleship. In essence, we are called to make visible Christ’s love in our own time and place and in so doing we reveal our love for Christ.

It has been a gift to see the light of Christ shine forth in the Diocese of North Dakota over the past few weeks. Through my conversations with individuals and visits to parishes, you have born witness to how your unique and vital ministries - and dedication to service - are the heartbeat of your communities and this Diocese. Our Diocese has rich communities of faith that maintain a diversity of worship spaces and styles while showing the love of Christ through generosity, hospitality, and steadfast faith. Jesus’ love shines through each of you and your commitments to family, community, youth engagement, and leadership development.

Winter Talk 2025 Group Photo (photo credit - The Dio. of SD)



I have also witnessed the manifestation of Jesus' love at Winter Talk 2025 (WT25). WT25 was held at St. Crispin's Conference Center in Seminole, OK with a theme of "Coming to Center: Wholeness, Healing, and Right Relationship." I cherish this life-giving time to connect with mentors and colleagues in Indigenous Ministry and enjoy building new relationships for future partnerships and collaboration. This year's program included presentations on youth formation from our very own John Floberg+, Becca Gardner (Dio. of UT) on Art Empowers, and Kurt Huber+ (Dio. of SD) on Black Horse Ranch; Indigenous Theological Education; and Indigenous boarding school justice and healing work through pilgrimages from Debbie Royals+ and members of the Council for Native American Ministry (Dio. of AZ). There was also a panel discussion from members of the A127 Boarding School Commission and the MW062 Committee – which includes the Dio of ND's Carmine Goodhouse, Angela Goodhouse+, and myself – along with Joe Hubbard+. Some accomplishments this group made during 2024 includes hiring a research consultant, beginning archival research and retrieval (gathering over 10,000 pages of documents), initiating outreach to Tribal elected officials, and beginning development on Tribal data sovereignty and consultation policies. Finally, as one would expect Spirit to move in and through the Eucharist, she did! The annual WT Eucharist was a healing service that included an awe-inspiring sermon by Bp. Steven Charleston and beautiful music by Ron Braman (Dio. of ID), Bude Van Dyke+ (Dio. of AL), and the talented WT25 Choir.

The light of Christ is all around us, folks. I pray that during this Epiphany season we will all take time to pause and acknowledge it – unwrapping a little bit more of Jesus' love each day – and share it with others. For it is in so doing that "the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to brightness of your dawn." (Isa. 60:2b-3, NRSV)

Epiphany Blessings,



Ashley D. Hubbard



Top Right: Sunrise at St. Crispin's

Middle Left: Labyrinth at St. Crispin's

Bottom Right: WT25 Eucharist

(Photos by Ashley Hubbard)



Epiphany Message from our Missioner for Reconciliation, Creation Care, and Congregational Ministry Development

The Rev. Kim Fox

Dear Beloved in Christ,

In this Epiphany season when we remember the light from the star that guided the Magi to the infant Jesus, we also remember the various manifestations or epiphanies of Jesus' divinity.

One of the first stories of the season is Jesus' changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana. This got me thinking about the process of change and how miraculous it is when we move through a transition to find ourselves transformed at the end.



The two congregations I am currently serving, Saint Paul's, White Shield and Saint Sylvan's, Dunseith are bright with possibility and joy at gathering regularly again. It is an honor to minister with them.

I also have the privilege of serving on the nominating/search committee for our new bishop, to be elected at our next convention. As a diocese we will be undergoing yet another change of leadership once our new bishop is identified. We are a diverse group and I am pleased that different views are being incorporated into the profile or job description that will soon be released for candidates to consider.



As "consultant" to the Reconciliation and Creation Care committees, I was pleased that these committees sent a joint letter to the search committee with recommendations for traits sought in our next bishop. Please pray for the work of the search committee and for the right candidates to be inspired to apply.

Another light in this season is that Ashley Hubbard has joined us as Diocesan Missioner. Her gifts are much-needed and her ministry is already underway, bringing comfort and joy to those whom she serves.

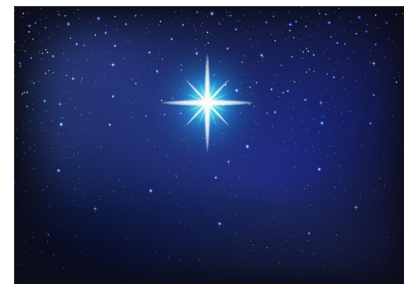


As we move through Epiphany, I invite you to consider what is bringing light to your life right now, what changes are beginning to unfold, what everyday miracles you can point to. As a former hospice chaplain, I learned that while physical healing is not always possible, spiritual healing is always possible and that in itself can be miraculous.

When there is anxiety in any system, we are called to be that less-anxious presence. Change can understandably produce anxiety. However, we know that Jesus goes before us to Galilee and goes before us in any transition. We can do hard things, with God’s help.

We cannot always control the situations in which we find ourselves, but we can always control our responses to them. I was personally moved by (my former) Bishop Mariann Budde's response to President Trump in her post-inaugural sermon, when she pleaded with him to have mercy on those who are feeling anxious and fearful now. I am proud to belong to a denomination that upholds our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of every human being.

I hope our collective response as a Diocese will be to meet any anxiety and fear with courage and grace, knowing that our loving Creator is our North Star, who can light our way and guide us into all truth.



In Christ's peace, power, and love,
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Episcopal News Service

Website: <https://episcopalnewsservice.org>

Interested in finding out what is happening in The Episcopal Church? Subscribe to The Episcopal News Service to stay in the loop!

Presiding bishop in cathedral sermon: Jesus puts the marginalized at center of his kingdom

Trump's foreign aid freeze halts Episcopal-affiliated humanitarian aid program in Central America

Documents detail allegations of discrimination, financial impropriety against former Florida bishop

Episcopal Migration Ministries to lay off 22 after Trump's order effectively ends new refugee resettlement

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CHURCH PENSION FUND

A Message from the Chair
Read quarterly highlights from The Church Pension Fund Board of Trustees.

[Learn More!](#)

Calendar

**All noted times are Central Time*

Bishop Thom's Schedule

February 2025

- 12th-17th: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 16th: Bishop's Visitation at St. Michael and All Angels, Cartwright

March 2025

- 12th-16th: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 15th: ND Council on Indigenous Ministry at St. Sylvan's, Dunseith
- 16th: Bishop's Visitation at St. Peter's, Williston
- 18th-25th: House of Bishops in Alabama

April 2025

- 9th-14th: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 13th: Bishop's Visitation at Grace, Jamestown



Diocesan Events and Dates to Note

February 2025

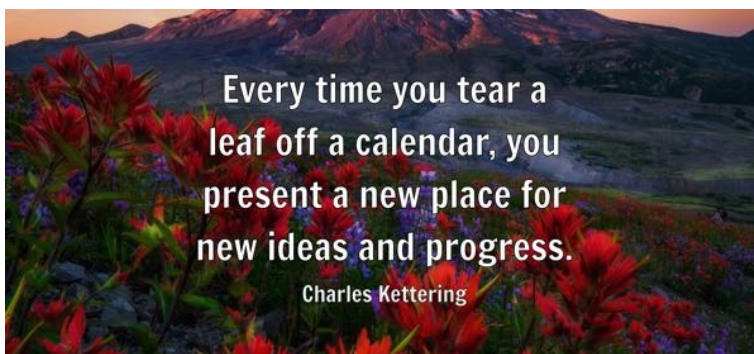
- 13th: Diocesan Ministry Support Team (Bismarck); 10am
- 14th-15th: Diocesan Council Meeting (In-person); St. George's, Bismarck
- 16th: Bishop's Visitation: St. Michael and All Angels, Cartwright
- 17th: Diocesan Office Closed (President's Day)
- 27th: Diocesan Ministry Support Team (Zoom); 10am

March 2025

- 4th: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 4th: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- 15th: North Dakota Council on Indian Ministries (Dunseith)
- 16th: Bishop's Visitation: St. Peter's, Williston

April 2025

- 1st: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 1st: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- **7th: Easter *Sheaf* deadline!**
- 11th-12th: Diocesan Council Meeting (In-Person); Fargo
- 13th: Bishop's Visitation: Grace, Jamestown
- 21st: Diocesan Office Closed (Easter Monday)



Bishop Brian's Visitation & Diocesan Council Schedule

February	14th-15th 16th	Diocesan Council [St. George's, Bismarck] St. Michael and All Angels, Cartwright
March	15th 16th	NDCIM Meeting [St. Sylan's, Dunseith] St. Peter's, Williston
April	11th-12th 13th	Diocesan Council [Fargo] Grace, Jamestown
May	18 th	St. George's, Bismarck
June	20th-21st 22nd 22 nd	Diocesan Council [Grace, Jamestown] St. Stephen's, Fargo Peter Akecmeir Ordination to Priesthood [St. John the Divine, Moorhead]
July	20th	St. James, Cannon Ball & St. Luke's, Fort Yates
August	24th	St. Sylan's, Dunseith
September	TBD TBD	Diocesan Council [All Saints, Minot] St. Paul's, White Shield
October	24th-25th 26th	53rd Annual Diocesan Convention [Prairie Knights, Fort Yates] Gethsemane, Fargo & St. John the Divine, Moorhead
November	21st-22nd 23rd	Diocesan Council [St. Paul's, Grand Forks] St. Paul's, Grand Forks
December	14th	All Saints, Minot



The Sheaf



Future Editions

We are working on making the *Sheaf* more collaborative and celebratory of all the ministry that happens throughout the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota. And we want YOUR input! Let us help you celebrate the ministry you are a part of!

Sheaf Deadlines and Publication Dates

Easter: April 7, 2025 Deadline | April 11, 2025 Publication

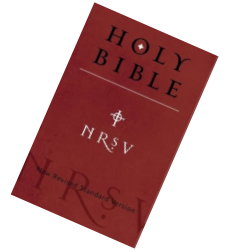
Pentecost: June 9, 2025 Deadline | June 13, 2025, 2025 Publication

Pre-Convention: September 8, 2025 Deadline | September 12, 2025 Publication

Advent: December 1, 2025 Deadline | December 5, 2025 Publication

Aliens, Strangers, and Neighbors

The Rev. Harvey Henderson, St. Paul's, Grand Forks



Aliens, Strangers, and Neighbors

You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.

~ Ex. 22.21

For six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest, so that your ox and your donkey may have relief, and your home-born slave and the resident alien may be refreshed. ~ Ex. 23.12

You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God. ~ Lev. 19.10

When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God. ~ Lev. 19.33-34

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am the Lord your God.

~ Lev. 23.22

You and the alien who resides with you shall have the same law and the same ordinance. ~ Num. 15.16

But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ~ Deut. 5.14

When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. ~ Deut. 24.20

Strangers

You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. ~ Deut. 10.19

Neighbor

You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. ~ Lev. 19.18

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.' ~ Deut. 15.11



(Jesus said) ‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.’ ~ Mt. 5.43-45

(Jesus) said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’ ~ Mt. 22.37-40

(Jesus) answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’ ~ Lk. 10.27-29

Remember, Jesus gave an outrageous illustration! The Samaritan, a bitter enemy of the one in the ditch, acted as the neighbor. And he goes well beyond first aid!



We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. ~ Rom. 15.1-2

10 Quranic Verses and Hadith on How to Treat Your Neighbor

<https://themuslimvibe.com/faith-islam/10-quranic-verses-and-hadith-on-how-to-treat-your-neighbor>



1) Doing good to neighbors who may even be strangers

“Serve God, and join not any partners with Him; and do good – to parents, kinsfolk, orphans, those in need, neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer (ye meet), and what your right hands possess.” [The Holy Qur’an, al-Nisaa 4:36]

2) Treating one’s neighbor with respect and duty

When asked what the rights of the neighbor are, the Prophet Mohammed answered: “The least of a neighbor’s rights on him is that if he asks him for a loan he should grant it to him. If he asks for help, he should help him. If he wants to borrow something from him, he should lend it to him. If he needs him to donate something to him, he should do so. If he invites him, he should accept his invitation. If he gets sick, he should go and visit him. If he passes away, he should attend his funeral procession.” [Mustadrak al-Wasa’il, v.2, p.79]

Continued on page 10

3) Loving a neighbor like family

The Prophet Mohammed is reported to have said: “If [a neighbor] receives some blessings, he should be happy and not envious of him. If a tragedy befalls him, he should grieve for his grief. He should not build a tall building in front of his dwelling which would trouble him due to its overlooking his house and obstructing the passage of breeze. If he is presented with some novelty in his house, then he should present him a part of it if he knows that he does not have something like it, otherwise he should conceal it from him and his family if he desires it for himself.” [Mustadrak al-Wasa’il, v.2, p.79]

4) Those who fulfil the rights of neighbors are blessed

After describing the rights of neighbors, the Prophet Mohammed is reported to have stated: “Listen to what I tell you. Only a few people who are blessed by God’s Mercy fulfil the rights of neighbors. God enjoined on me the rights of the neighbor to the extent that I thought He would appoint him as an heir.” [Mustadrak al-Wasa’il, v.2, p.79]

5) Respecting neighbors is a duty upon Muslims

The Prophet Mohammed stated: “Whoever believes in God and the Final Day should not trouble his neighbors.” [Mustadrak al-Wasa’il, v.2, pp.78-79]

6) Treating your neighbor like your mother

In another *hadith*, the Prophet is reported to have stated: “The reverence of a neighbor incumbent on the neighbor is like the reverence due to one’s mother.” [Mustadrak al-Wasa’il, v.2, pp.78-79]

7) Helping out a neighbor in need may end up helping you as well

“Treating one’s neighbors with kindness and being a good neighbor will result in an increase in one’s share of daily bread and the development of towns.” [Mustadrak al-Wasa’il, v.2, pp.78-79]

8) Not fearing your neighbors

The Prophet is reported to have stated in regards to not fearing one’s neighbors: “The neighbor because of whom one locks the door, out of fear for one’s family and wealth, is not a believer.” [Tafsir-i-Namunah, v.3, pp.380-381]

9) One must not trouble their neighbors

In one narration, someone complained to the Prophet Mohammed about his neighbor. The Prophet reportedly turned his face away from him, and then stated to those around him: “Go and publicly announce that the curse of God and the angels is on one who troubles his neighbor.” [Mustadrak al-Wasa’il, v.2, pp.78-79]

10) Believing in the Prophet means believing in helping out your community and neighbors

“One who spends the night with a full stomach while his neighbor is hungry, has not believed in me. One who spends the night clothed, while his neighbor has no clothes, has not believed in me.” [Mustadrak al-Wasa’il, v.2, pp.78-79]

Compiled by
Father Harvey Henderson
Priest-in-Charge
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Grand Forks, ND



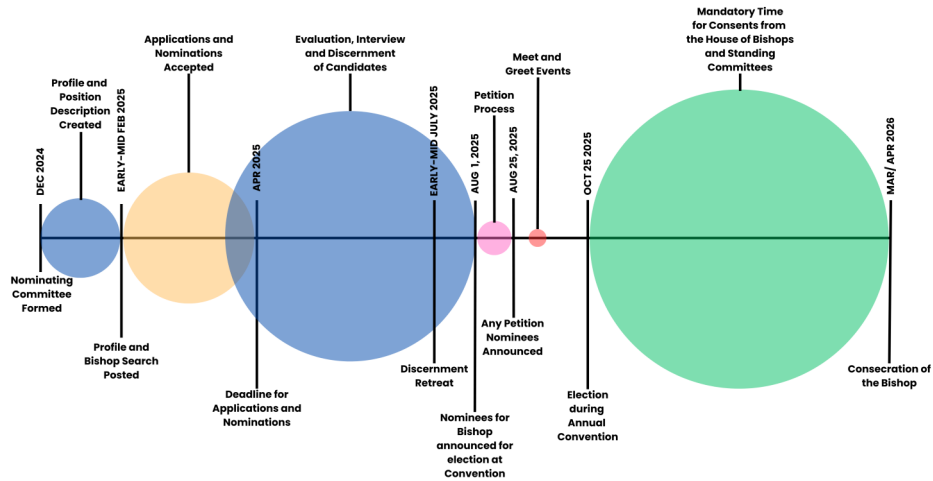
Bishop Search Committee

Website: <https://www.ndepiscopal.org/bishopsearch/>

Daily Prayer Petition

O God, creator of the world and sustainer of our lives. We thank you for bringing together the members of the Diocese of North Dakota, a diverse and faithful people. Help us to listen to your Spirit as we discern our choice for a bishop that will live with us, work beside us, and know and understand us as we grow together to serve your people. **AMEN**

ND Bishop Search and Election Timeline



On January 11, 2025 the Standing Committee and Nominating Committee for the election of the twelfth Bishop of North Dakota held their first meeting of the Bishop Search process. The Standing Committee charged the Nominating Committee to complete the work and provided them a timeline which both committees agreed to use for the process. This timeline is a living document and so some of the information may be edited as needed.

Please note that there are many parts to this process, and the timeline was created by a careful review of the Canons of the ND Episcopal Church and the National Church Canons. We also took into account a process that would be as fair to all the candidates and future nominees in the process. The Nominating Committee has already begun to work on creating the Profile for the Bishop opening and they have the full trust of the Standing Committee to do the work. Please note that all of the information the Nominating Committee receives including the names of all candidates will be held in the strictest confidence by the committee, and cannot be shared outside of the committee. Even the Standing Committee will not know this information until the end of the process.

The Chair of the Committee is Sean Burt (Gethsemane, Fargo), the Chaplain The Rev. Harvey Henderson (St. Paul's, Grand Forks), and the Recording Secretary Leslie Ross (St. John's, Dickinson). Please include them and the entire committee in your prayers. They will be working with Canon Brian Nordwick the contracted Consultant hired by the Standing Committee.

Nominating Committee

- Solveigh Barney | St. George's, Bismarck
- Sean Burt | Gethsemane, Fargo
- Rev. Kim Fox | St. Paul's, White Shield
- Carmine Goodhouse | St. Luke's, Fort Yates
- Rev. Harvey Henderson | St. Paul's, Grand Forks
- Alison Hiatt | St. George's, Bismarck
- David Lukudu | St. John the Divine, Moorhead
- Rev. Jamie Parsley | St. Stephen's, Fargo
- Dan Rice | St. Stephen's, Fargo
- Leslie Ross | St. John's, Dickinson
- Chad Schmidt | All Saints, Minot
- Betty Swain | St. Sylvan's, Dunseith

North Dakota Episcopal Foundation Approves Nearly \$19,000 in Grants for Local and Global Projects

Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota



NORTH DAKOTA EPISCOPAL FOUNDATION

The NDEF is a grant funding entity supporting Episcopal ministries of North Dakota. Funding is provided through endowments from parishioners and their families.

DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSION
MARCH 24, 2025



www.ndepiscopal.org/ndef

The North Dakota Episcopal Foundation has approved nearly \$19,000 in grants to support both local and international initiatives during its latest grant cycle. The funds, awarded to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Fargo and St. George's Episcopal Church in Bismarck will go toward a variety of important projects that aim to improve church facilities and provide much-needed support to communities in need.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Fargo will receive a grant to enhance its facilities by purchasing two new thermostats, caulking windows to improve energy efficiency, and conducting radon testing. These improvements, totaling over \$8,000, will help create a safer, more comfortable environment for the congregation, especially during North Dakota's harsh winters. The upgrades are part of the church's broader efforts to make their building more sustainable and welcoming to all who worship there.

In Bismarck, St. George's Episcopal Church has been awarded a grant to further its mission of providing healthcare to underserved populations in Haiti. The grant will help fund a new medical building as well as essential medical supplies for St. Vincent's, an Episcopal mission hospital in Haiti. The church has been actively involved in supporting St. Vincent's, which helps provide healthcare services in one of the world's most impoverished nations. The \$10,000 grant will go a long way in making repairs and expanding the mission's capacity to serve those in need.

The North Dakota Episcopal Foundation encourages other local Episcopal churches and organizations to apply for future funding. The deadline for the next grant cycle is **March 24, 2025**. Organizations interested in applying can find more information on the Foundation's website at <https://www.ndepiscopal.org/ndef/>.

ND Cycle of Prayer



Sunday, February 16, 2025

The Church of Bangladesh

All Saints, Minot; Kathy Hintz, Senior Warden; and for the Commission on Ministry:

The Rev. Harvey Henderson, chair.

Sunday, February 23, 2025

The Episcopal [Anglican] Church of Brazil

St. John the Divine, Moorhead: Barbara Olson, Hellen Lodu, and Peter Akecmeir,

Deacons; Charles Cherry, supply priest; Oliver Mogga, Senior Warden; and for the North Dakota Council on Indian Ministries.

Sunday, March 2, 2025

The Anglican Church of Burundi

Church of the Cross, Selfridge: John Floberg, Rector; Sloane Floberg, Deacon; Sylvia Culbertson, Senior Warden; and for the Worship Leaders and Lay Readers of the Diocese.

Sunday, March 9, 2025

The Anglican Church of Canada

St. Peter's, Walhalla: Elsie Magnus, Deacon; Ross Blair, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Chancellor: Leo Wilking.

Sunday, March 16, 2025

The Church of the Province of Central Africa

St. Paul's, White Shield: Kim Fox, Priest-in-Charge; Wes Fox, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Youth Commission.

Sunday, March 23, 2025

The Anglican Church of Central America

St. Peter's, Williston; George Abdilnour, Senior Warden; and for the Catechists and Church School Teachers of the Diocese.

Sunday, March 30, 2025

The Province of the Anglican Church of Congo

St. Gabriel's Camp, Solen: John Floberg, Priest; and for the Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors of the Diocese.

Sunday, April 6, 2025

The Anglican Church of Chile

The Diocesan Ministry Support Team: Bishop Brian Thom, Jessica Krzewina, The Rev. Kim Fox, and Ashley Hubbard; and for the Diocesan Safe Church Team.

Sunday, April 13, 2025

The Church of England

For widowed clergy spouses: Alice Hauan, Patricia Sauer, Gary Towne, Lew Cowardin, Ron Walters, and Sandy Burkhardt; and for the Diocesan Finance Committee.

Lent 2025: 40 Days of Welcome and Gratitude

Website: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/lent/>

Each Lent, United Thank Offering (UTO) offers a variety of resources for congregations, families, children, and individuals. This year, UTO is proud to partner with Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) to present: **40 Days of Welcome and Gratitude: a call to giving thanks for the ways we are welcomed in the world and the ways that people offer welcome to us and to our communities.** UTO and EMM are excited to partner together this Lent to provide a multi-faceted program to help people of all ages consider ways we experience and provide welcome that we are grateful for.



The Ungrateful Refugee: A Lenten Book Group with UTO and EMM

Looking for a way to connect with others as a part of your Lenten Discipline this year? Look no further! UTO, in partnership with Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) is offering a 5-session book club on *The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You* by Dina Nayeri. This is a perfect book to explore during Lent because it can encourage us to think more deeply about the experience of refugees. We'll explore this book together and see what we can learn about gratitude as a way to receive the stories and experiences of others. While reading the text prior to the meeting will enhance your experience, it is not required. You're also welcome to attend all 5 sessions or just the ones when you're available or where a topic interests you.

Visit: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/lent/> to register for the Zoom sessions.

See **page 15** for a Gratitude Calendar to help you journey through Lent.

Convention 2025 ~ Save the Date



October 24-25, 2025

Prairie Knights Resort & Casino, Fort Yates

The Convention Planning Team will be gathering soon to start preparing for the 53rd Annual Diocesan Convention. Please consider sharing your time with this important Diocesan Ministry.

LENT 2025

March Calendar

This week, we invite you to notice and give thanks for the people who offer welcome in your communities.

9 Dear God, thank you for all of the people who offer welcome, let them know our gratitude for their words and actions, even when we forget to acknowledge them.

This week, we invite you to consider and give thanks for organizations that welcome those in need of help.

16 Dear God, thank you for all of the people who offer welcome to those in need in our community, from medical professionals to social service agencies. Bless and uphold them.

This week, we invite you to consider and give thanks for those who welcome immigrants, refugees, and migrants.

23 Dear God, we give you thanks for encouraging us to be the sign of you love when we offer welcome and hospitality to the stranger. Uphold those that do this work on behalf of the church and help us support them in it.

This week, we invite you to consider and give thanks for the ways we are welcomed by other cultures.

30 Dear God, we give you thanks for the diversity of cultures and traditions in the world around us. Thank you for the richness this brings to our lives and communities.

This week, we invite you to reflect on "welcome"; how it feels and what it means to be welcomed.

11 Are you a regular? Do you go to the same store or coffee shop each week? Do you go because you feel welcome? Tell the staff thank you!

18 Notice and give thanks for those that offer welcome and help to the unhoused.

25 Today we give thanks and pray for the Episcopal congregations and ministries offering welcome to migrants.

Ash Wednesday 5 Reflect on a time when you felt or experienced welcome. Why was that experience so memorable for you?

12 Social Media invites? Say thank you to the community groups that organize events in your town to help connect people.

19 Notice and give thanks for those that offer welcome and help to those suffering from substance use disorder: AA groups, overdose clinics, etc..

26 Today we give thanks and pray for Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) and the refugees they welcome and support on our behalf.

6 Reflect on a time when you felt or experienced being unwelcome. Why was that experience so memorable for you?

13 Welcome wagon? Notice how your town welcomes people when they visit or move to town. How can or do you offer welcome?

20 Notice and give thanks for those that offer welcome and help to people in crisis: therapists, crisis hotlines, domestic violence shelters, etc..

27 Today we give thanks for the contributions of immigrants to our community and society. Instead of scrolling the news, search for inspiring stories from these change-makers.

7 If you had to explain what "welcome" means to someone what would you say?

14 Enjoying a Friday night out? Notice and give thanks for the actions of others that help you feel welcome when you go out.

21 Notice and give thanks for those that offer welcome and help to those who are isolated: social workers, home visitors, etc..

28 Spend some time today thinking about the immigrant community in your area and learn how to say 'hello' and 'welcome' in their language.

8 **Self Care Saturday:** Do something today that helps you feel welcome at home, in your neighborhood, or in your body.

15 **Self Care Saturday:** Do something today that helps you feel welcome at home, in your neighborhood, or in your body.

22 **Self Care Saturday:** Spend some time today cleaning out your house, donate gently used items to a local domestic violence shelter, or volunteer.

29 **Self Care Saturday:** Spend some time today learning about your family's story - were they immigrants, Indigenous people, or refugees?

Gratitude is a journey...come journey with UTO and EMM this Lent.

This calendar begins with Ash Wednesday and goes through Easter to help you spend a little time each day during Lent reflecting with gratitude on the ways welcome is offered in our world. Each week will focus on a new area of welcome. Sundays will offer a prayer to help us focus our thoughts, while Saturday will give an opportunity to care for ourselves through opportunities to reflect, learn, grow, or engage. You can also receive these prompts via text message each day or on our social media platforms or join our weekly book group. For more information visit:

www.unitedthankoffering.com/lent



The Sheaf

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