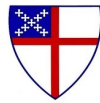




December 2023



The Flock

The Printed Voice of St. Francis of the Tetons Episcopal Church

St. Francis of the Tetons Episcopal Church

20 Alta School Rd. Alta, Wyoming 83414
307-353-8100 sftetons@gmail.com
stfrancis.idahodiocese.com

Church Services

Sundays at 10:00am

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 9am - 3pm
Friday 9am - noon

The Voice

As we draw to the close of 2023, we are all just weeks away from celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I'd like to start off start by sharing a quote from Corrie Ten Boom, and it goes like this.

"Can we add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God, so loved the world. The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life".

As we work through and manage the last few weeks of December, time, most assuredly becomes of the essence. Stressing out over the holidays is common, expected and for most, has become part of the ritual. Let me tell you, It doesn't have to be this way. Keeping it simple will create the memories which last a lifetime. Unfortunately, the reality for many, is that the holidays are a time of darkness and depression. What can we do about this? What should we do? The answer lies within the quote. Seek the motive and find purpose in the propagation of love. Love each other boldly as our Father loves us, not with materialism, which our secular world would have us doing, but by affording one another peace through good will.

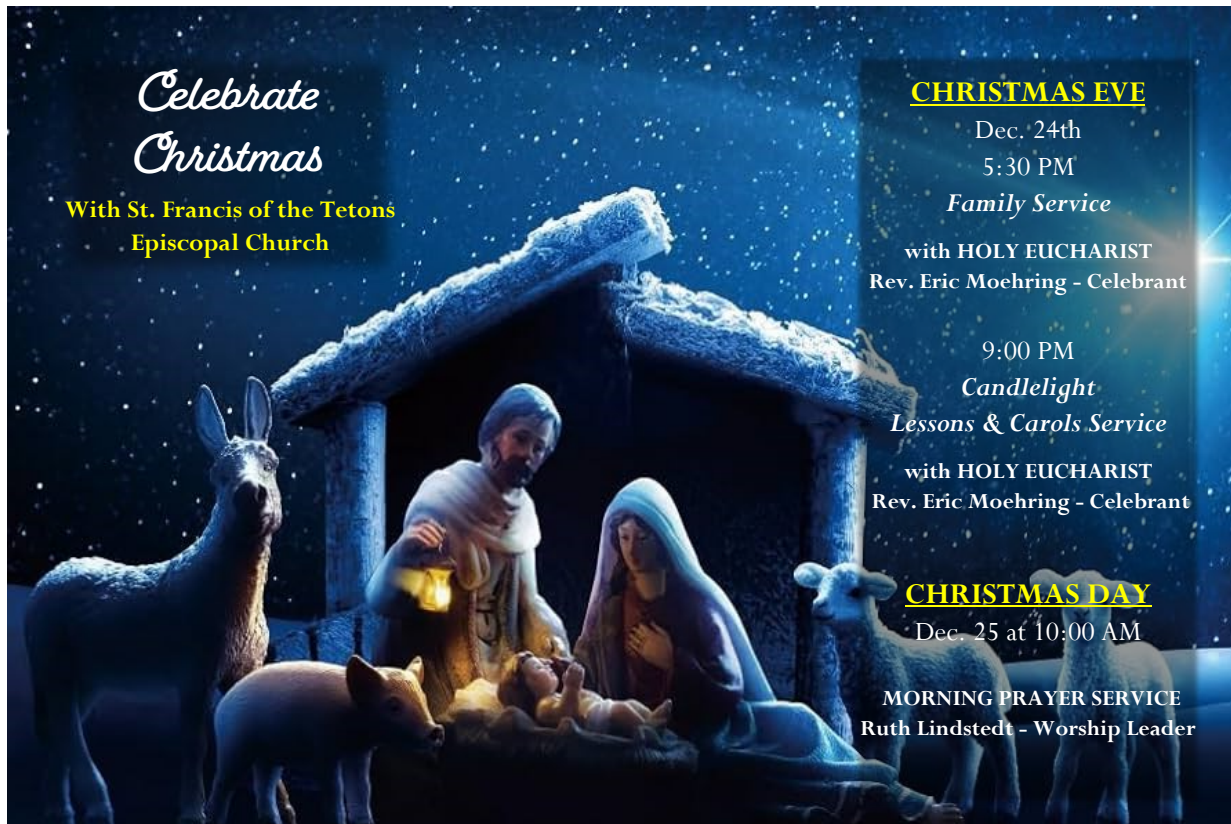
We know the miracle of Christ's arrival as a beautiful story of a virgin, a manger and a star. But we must also recognize the purpose for His birth. At the heart of Christmas is the gift of His sacrifice. He became one of us in order to take on our sin so that we could receive an offer to one day join Him in paradise. There is no greater gift for us.

So this year, join me by keeping close watch on the meaning of Christmas. Rejoice Immanuel. God is with us. Always. When you see the trees, beautifully decorated and lit, let it serve as a reminder that the light and love of God within you is meant to be shared with the world. The world needs us to shine the light of our Savior. For as we show our love and serve each other, we serve Him. The Christmas season gives us yet another chance to celebrate our walk with Christ. I hope you are all able to celebrate the Christmas miracle with family and friends, food and festivities. I also hope you can find the peace of the Lord, amidst the bustling weeks to come.

May God's Light Shine Through You Always,

John

Christmas Services



*Celebrate
Christmas*
With St. Francis of the Tetons
Episcopal Church

CHRISTMAS EVE
Dec. 24th
5:30 PM
Family Service
with HOLY EUCHARIST
Rev. Eric Moehring - Celebrant

9:00 PM
*Candlelight
Lessons & Carols Service*
with HOLY EUCHARIST
Rev. Eric Moehring - Celebrant

CHRISTMAS DAY
Dec. 25 at 10:00 AM
MORNING PRAYER SERVICE
Ruth Lindstedt - Worship Leader

Secular Sing-a-Long

St. Francis Christmas
Secular Sing-a-Long
Sunday, December 17th at 4 pm



Chili, cornbread & hot chocolate will be served.
Bring your family, friends, neighbors, sleigh bells,
and especially bring your voice.



Greening of the Church



Don't miss the fun this year in getting the church ready for the Christmas season.

We will be decorating the church and our Christmas tree after the service on

Sunday, December 17th.

Everyone's help is needed!

December Food Drive

St. Francis will be hosting another Food Drive to help members of the community through the Teton Valley Food Pantry. The drive will take place at Broulims Supermarket on Saturday, December 9th, from 10 am until 2 pm. Your help will be needed that day. Please come by and help support our local food pantry. A sign-up sheet is posted at the back of the church for those who wish to help out.



Tending Earth Retreat



Spiritual Practices for Care of Creation.

Ruth Lindstedt will be hosting another fabulous retreat on Saturday, December 2nd from 10 am until 3 pm.

Come and experience the natural world that surrounds us and our relationships within it. Engage in the development of spiritual practices that you can use to deepen your awareness, acceptance, and appreciation of our ecosystem. As you reflect and participate in guided meditation discover sacred energies necessary to support efforts to heal our suffering earth.

All supplies and materials are provided. A simple luncheon will be served.

Poinsettia Fundraiser

Our annual St. Francis Poinsettia Fundraiser is back. Poinsettias are for sale at the church, \$15.00 for one or \$25.00 for two. A sign up sheet is located at the back of the church.

You may take your poinsettias home after the Christmas service.



Last Call for Pledges

Our St. Francis pledge drive is now coming to an end. This year have pledges totaling **\$60,690.00**. Although this amount did not reach our goal for 2024 we are happy to report that we did receive 4 new pledges for the year.

If you haven't pledged yet there still is time, please consider St. Francis when budgeting your finances for next year. **Your generous pledge will make a difference in our small parish.** Please fill out the pledge card found in the pews, you may also call or email the church office with your pledge for the new year.



Parish News



Proud Grandparents

Lisa and Kent Wagener are the proud grandparents of Matthew Cache Riley, born October 23, 2023.

Matthew weighed 6 lbs 13 oz. Mom, Dad, and Cache are doing well. Grandma Lisa and Grandpa Kent are over the moon!



Julie Parisee Gets Accepted

Julie Parisee, daughter of John & Nancy Parisee, has been accepted at Lincoln Memorial University's Physician Assistant Program. She will head to Harrogate, Tennessee this spring to begin studies for her Master's Degree. Julie graduated Magna Cum Laude from Boise State University in 2022 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Cellular & Molecular Biology.

November Review



On November 19th, our vestry sponsored and cooked a delicious meal for the congregation. It was a time to celebrate and be thankful for all that we have at St. Francis, including the generous pledges received from our church family for the 2024 year.

"Thankful & Grateful"
Thanksgiving Meal
 sponsored by our vestry



Above: Jim & Ellen Rein, along with Nancy Groshart, are grateful for all the desserts.

Below: We were thankful that Eastern Deanery Dean, Barbara Turner (along with Bruce), joined us for the celebration.



Above: So thankful to have Rod Gust and Gayle Lien, both beloved members and volunteers at St. Francis!



Thankful & Grateful for all the good food & friends!

All Saints' Day

Rev. Eric Moehring led a beautiful, thoughtful, and memorable All Saints Service service on November 5th.

Left & Below: Candles, along with photos and mementos helped us to honor our loved ones on the special day of remembrance.



Gayle Lien, Co-Sr. Warden at St. Luke's, Kay Moor and Eastern Deanery Dean Barbara Turner take some time to spread the love between the churches in our diocese.

Ladies' Lunch



Join Us For A Potluck Lunch

Wednesday, December 6th at 12:30 pm.

You are invited to join us for our monthly potluck lunches that take place on the first Wednesday of the month.

This lunch is for all. Please bring a dish and friend if you can.

Online Giving With Realm

Through Realm you can set up online giving so it automatically comes out of your checking or credit card account each month. You also have the control to give just one time or numerous times, whenever you feel inclined to make a donation.



To donate online please follow this link or the link on the front page of our website

<https://onrealm.org/StFrancis99835/give/now>

Weekly Attendance & Offering

November 5	36	\$ 6,133.00
November 12	23	\$ 681.00
November 19	24	\$ 325.00
November 22 Thanksgiving Eve	13	\$ 0
November 26	24	\$ 1,815.00



Prayers of the People

Please remember in your prayers:

Rod Gust, Beverly Charette, Hansine Goran, Tommy Huss, Rebecca Henries, Ron Race, the family of Ben Gaston, as well as all faith Communities and schools of Teton Valley.



December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Frank Selman on December 6th
Erica Tremblay on December 12th
Spencer Parisee on December 18th
Rod Gust on December 19th
Steve Kruto on December 26th
Jaine Lewis on December 27th

Anniversaries

None

Church Staff and Vestry Members

Bishop of Idaho

The Rt. Rev. Jos Tharakan
208-345-4440

Supply Priest

Rev. Eric Moehring
614-448-7580
moehringee@att.net

Supply Priest

Fr. Coke McClure
208-637-9373
Mcclure.coke56@gmail.com

Deacon

Rev. Nancy Groshart
801-645-9560
ngroshart@gmail.com

Senior Warden

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Junior Warden

Ron Lien
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Vestry Members

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Elaine Moehring
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Jerry Groshart
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Rod Gust
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rodgust@gmail.com

Parish Administrator

Nancy Parisee
307-353-8100
208-201-3135
sftetons@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dan Baxter
307-631-4590
skiman1920@gmail.com



December Service Volunteers

December 3

Advent 1
Morning Prayer

Presider: Rev. Nancy Groshart
Musician: Beverly Charette
Lay Minister: Nancy Parisee
Lector: Jerry Groshart
Greeter/Usher: Ron Lien
Altar Guild: Ellen Rein
Refreshments: Potluck

December 10

Advent 2
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Very Rev. Lea Colvill
Musician: Gayle Lien
Euch. Minister: Sarah Balben
Lector: John Parisee
Greeter/Usher: Nancy Parisee
Altar Guild: Nancy Parisee
Refreshments: Potluck

December 17

Advent 3
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr. Coke McClure
Musician: Rev. Eric Moehring
Lay Minister: John Parisee
Lector: Ellen Rein
Greeter/Usher: Jim Rein
Altar Guild: Sarah Balben
Refreshments: Potluck

December 24

Advent 4
Morning Prayer

Worship Leader: John Parisee
Musician: Rev. Eric Moehring
Lay Minister: Ruth Lindstedt
Lector: Angie Warner
Greeter/Usher: Barb Rieb
Altar Guild: Angie Warner
Refreshments: Potluck

December 24

Christmas Eve 5:30 pm
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Rev. Eric Moehring
Musician: Gayle Lien
Euch. Minister: Nancy Parisee
Lector: John Parisee
Greeter/Usher: Jim Rein & John P.
Altar Guild: Nancy Parisee

December 24

Christmas Eve 9:00 pm
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Rev. Eric Moehring
Musician: Beverly Charette
Euch. Minister: Angie Warner
Lector: Jerry Groshart
Greeter/Usher: HELP NEEDED
Altar Guild: Angie Warner

December 25

Christmas Day 10:00 am
Morning Prayer

Worship Leader: Ruth Lindstedt
Musician: Beverly Charette
Euch. Minister: Angie Warner
Lector: Rev. Nancy Groshart
Greeter/Usher: HELP NEEDED
Altar Guild: Angie Warner

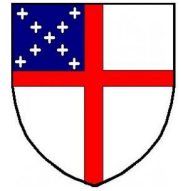
December 31

Christmas 1
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr. Coke McClure
Musician: Gayle Lien
Euch. Minister: Ellen Rein
Lector: Sarah Balben
Greeter/Usher: Jim Rein
Altar Guild: Ellen Rein
Refreshments: Potluck

Approved Vestry Minutes

October



Present: John Parisee, Jerry Groshart, Elaine Moehring, Sarah Balben, Rod Gust, & Ron Lien

The meeting was recorded on Zoom, the minutes were written from the recording.

The September vestry minutes were approved by the majority via email.

Treasurer – Vestry reviewed the Transaction Detail by Account. It was noted that there needs to be a correction made to an Eat & Meet expenditure, change it to say the expenditure was for September Eat & Meet, not October. A correction needs to be made to the cleaner's wages; it was incorrectly entered by the accounting firm as Sexton wages. A question came up about where Angie's salary was in the report, Nancy P. had said that the payroll firm lumps the two salaries together for reporting. Rod made a motion to approve the TDBA with the corrections mentioned above and a clarification to the salaries, Ron seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Senior Warden

By-laws – More changes are still in order. John will have a discussion with the bishop so we can get clarification from him regarding multiple areas.

Possible Vestry Members for 2024 –A nominating committee will need to recruit new members. A discussion took place about how the Sr. Warden is elected to vestry and who should be on the nominating committee, John will ask the bishop for clarification.

Bishop's Retreat Review – All enjoyed the retreat, they found it inspiring and thought it was a great way to get to know each other.

Vestry Minutes – John asked that when the minutes are sent out via email, vestry members review them and get any edits in right away. The minutes are sent out via email so that the parish can review them soon after the meeting. Only approved minutes can be published in the newsletter. The committee discussed whether or not to keep approving the minutes via email, nothing was decided. John asked that if sending edits in, they should be presented clearly and concisely.

Stewardship 2024 – October 22nd is the kick-off day for stewardship. Jim Rein will be in charge.

Committees – John will ask chairs of the committees to get back to him with a vision for their committee along with guidelines and their thoughts on how they are functioning.

Junior Warden

Ron gave a report, he stated that there are new LED light fixtures to be installed throughout the church.

Committees

Sarah gave a verbal report on events taking place and coming up at the church for the Outreach Committee.

No other committees gave reports.

Other Business – John said that the church audit is due at the end of the month. The audit should be performed by the bookkeeper and two volunteers. Sarah volunteered to do the audit; she will find someone on the finance committee to help.

The next meeting date is November 14th.

Respectfully submitted,











Nancy Parisee

VESTRY



December 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 NA 6:30pm	2  Care of Creation Retreat 10 am
3 Advent 1 10am MP with Rev. Nancy Groshart  Worship Committee Al-Anon 5pm	4 NA 6:30pm	5 Office Closed NA 6:30pm	6 Centering Prayer 11am Ladies' Lunch 12:30 pm  NA 6:30pm	7 Office Closed Centering Prayer 4pm	8 NA 6:30pm	9 Food Drive at Broulims 11:00 am 
10 Advent 2 10am HE with Rev. Lea Colvill Vestry special meeting after church Al-Anon 5pm	11 NA 6:30pm	12 Office Closed Vestry 6:30 pm NA 6:30pm 	13 Office Closed Centering Prayer 11am NA 6:30pm	14 Office Closed Centering Prayer 4pm	15 NA 6:30pm	16 Bible Study 10am 
17 Advent 3 10am HE with Fr. Coke McClure Greening of the Church Bldg. & Grounds After church Secular Sing - Along 4 pm Al-Anon 	18 NA 6:30pm	19 Office Closed NA 6:30pm	20 Centering Prayer 11am NA 6:30pm	21 Office Closed Centering Prayer 4pm	22 NA 6:30pm	23
24  Advent 4 10am MP with John Parisee Christmas Eve 5:30 & 9:00 pm with Rev. Eric Mochring	25 Christmas Day Office Closed 10am MP with Ruth Lindstedt NA 6:30pm 	26 Office Closed NA 6:30pm	27 Centering Prayer 11am NA 6:30pm	28 Office Closed Centering Prayer 4pm	29 NA 6:30pm	30
31  Christmas 1 New Years' Eve 10am HE with Fr. Coke McClure Al-Anon 5pm	<u>Office Hours</u> Monday & Wednesday 9am - 3pm Friday 9am - noon					