



January 2024



The Flock

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

St. Francis of the Tetons Episcopal Church

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Church Services

Sundays at 10:00am

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 9am - 3pm

Friday 9am - noon

The Voice

Dear Friends,

As we turn the last page of the chapter "2023", I'd like to share some reflections of the last 12 months.

I wouldn't describe the past year as a particularly easy one. It was filled with challenges, pressures, uncertainty and some doubts. This was a year of hard work and achievement. It was a year of foundation building and growth. This year ran the gamut. Physically, spiritually, and emotionally, this year brought us all to many new places. We've also been allowed to be comfortable with all those things that are wonderfully mundane and familiar. Now that we've gotten through the holidays, it's time to start a new chapter.

A new year gives us a fresh start. It's a time where we can let go of the missed opportunities and look forward to reaching to new ones. As it says in the book of Ecclesiastes, "For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven". We each have a purpose for which God has designed us to achieve as we enter the New Year. We should be open and listening to God's word and his leadership. I invite each of you to start this New Year with a prayer offering. 'Thanks for a new beginning'.

Perhaps some of you are looking forward to some peace and quiet, rest and relaxation and a chance to decompress from the holidays. While the holidays were extremely busy and somewhat chaotic, I noticed a spirit of the congregation which touched me deeply. The length to which this congregation will go to help others, who are in need, was undaunted. I believe this attitude is deep within all of us. I wish to thank everyone for being part of this amazing family at St Francis. Individually we are mere threads. When woven together, our strength multiplies exponentially.

So what will this New Year have in store for us? The hope is that we can continue to put our energy toward creating new goals and accomplishing those that we share. The prayer is that at this time next year, we have all come closer to what Christ calls us to be. The dream is for our love of Christ to be seen as a brightly shining beacon, drawing others to know Him, just as the star drew the Wise Men to Bethlehem. During Epiphany, Christ is revealed to us, just after his birth, through his baptism and the miracles which he performed. What was revealed was the greatest gift ever bestowed upon humanity. In order to receive it, we must truly believe in it.

Be Blessed,

John

Annual Meeting



Our 2024 Annual Meeting date is set for Sunday, January 21st, after the church service. We hope everyone can join us as we discuss the vestry approved 2024 budget for the church, nominate a new member for the Endowment Committee, and say goodbye to outgoing vestry members and hello to incoming members.

Your participation is an important part of being a “good steward” of our church and our church community.

In Memory of Rod Gust



Our dear brother in Christ, Rod Gust, departed this life on December 23, 2023 to be with his God and Maker in heaven.

Rod was a beloved member of this church who wore many hats, including serving as Jr. Warden, Sr. Warden & Treasurer. He was a member of the Building & Grounds, Worship Committees, Vestry and served as Greeter/Usher, Worship Leader, Eucharistic Minister & Lector.

We were lucky enough to celebrate Rod’s last birthday with him on December 17th, during which members of the congregation sang “Happy Birthday” and visited with him during fellowship time.

Rod’s wife Jil will be having a summer service for Rod on Saturday, July 20th, followed by a BBQ picnic at family farm in Alta, Wyoming. Please watch for more details as the time gets closer.



Rod & Jil Gust at the service on December 17th

St. Francis Fills the Food Pantry

On December 9th members of St. Francis Church held a Food Drive to help support the Teton Valley Food Pantry. Members of the congregation volunteered their time to collect food from customers and then transport it to the Food Pantry.

The contributions that St. Francis gave helped tremendously and, once again, far exceeded expectations of all at this food drive.



Left: Sarah Balben, Linda Wilner & Nancy Groshart help pass out food lists.



Left: John Parisee sorts out the food.



Left: Ellen Rein, Jim Rein, Sarah Balben & Jim Steele having a fun time!



Merry Christmas from our St. Francis volunteers

Vestry Candidates



Candidates for our 2024 church vestry are being now being considered. According to our Church By-Laws, vestry members should be members in good standing; meaning that you are at least 16 years of age, pledge, and have received communion at St. Francis a minimum of 3 times within the past year.

If you are interested in being considered for vestry please contact John Parisee at 208-201-3134.

Committee Volunteers Needed

Our St. Francis committees need you in 2024! Sign-up sheets and descriptions of the committees are posted at the back of the church. Some committees meet monthly and some meet as needed. You can also email the office if you wish to join one of the committees groups listed below. Sign up sheets will be posted until the end of January.

*Fellowship/Outreach, Pastoral Care, Building & Grounds, Worship,
Finance & Christian Education*



Worship Volunteers Needed

Our Sunday services need your help! Volunteers are needed for the positions of Greeter/Usher, Lector (Reader), Altar Guild, & Refreshments.

If you would like to help, please sign up on the sheets located at the back of the church. No experience needed!



Thank You for Your Pledges!



Our 2024 St. Francis Stewardship Drive has come to an end. Thank you to all who pledged to our parish for 2023. Our final pledge total was **\$60,794.00**, which represented 26 pledges from members of our church family.

Stewardship does not only mean pledging your money, it can also mean pledging your time and talents, to help our church stay up and running. There are so many ways you can help through our committees and volunteering. Faithful volunteers are always needed behind the scenes, that could be you!

2024 Church Directory & Email



In 2024, we will be updating our Church Directory and email lists so that you may have the most recent information available.

The revised directory will be available as a hard copy as well as in a PDF version at the beginning of the year so you can access it as needed. The "locals" and "newsletter" email lists will also undergo some cleaning for the new year.

If any of your contact information has changed, or you wish to be added or removed from the directory or email list please email the church office at sftetons@gmail.com.

December Review

Greening of the Church

Our Greening of the Church took place on Sunday, December 17th after the service.



Above: Sarah Balben, Jerry Groshart, Angie Warner, & Deb Rouleau put up the decorations.



Above: the sanctuary is looking beautiful

Left: Beverly Charette & granddaughter Elizabeth decorate the tree in the fellowship hall.



Secular Sing a Long

Above: Beverly Charette and Ellen Rein lead approximately 40 members of the community in Christmas carols on December 17th.

Right & Middle Right: Rod and Jil join along with the congregation as they sing Happy Birthday to Rod.

Happy Birthday Rod Gust

The congregation felt blessed to be able to worship and sing happy birthday to Rod on December 17th.

*forever
IN OUR
hearts*



Ladies' Lunch



Join Us For A Potluck Lunch

Wednesday, January 3rd 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.

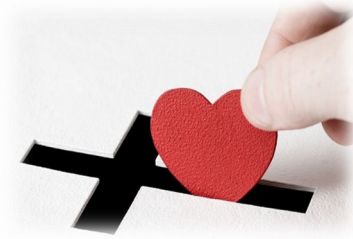


To donate online please follow this link or the link on the front page of our website

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

Weekly Attendance & Offering

December 3	19	\$ 3,016.00
December 10	26	\$ 781.00
December 17	33	\$ 1,643.24
December 24	20	\$ 2,545.00
December 24 Christmas Eve 5:30	76	\$ 679.00
December 24 Christmas Eve 9:00	25	\$ 574.78
December 25 Christmas Day	19	\$ 700.00
December 31	33	\$ 195.00



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Elaine Moehring on January 8th

Patty Sticher on January 15th

Diane Brendsel on January 15th

Ron Lien on January 19th

Pete Oslund on January 22nd

Prayers of the People

Please remember in your prayers:

The family of Rod Gust, Barb Rieb, Hansine Goran, Tommy Huss, Rebecca Henries, Ron Race, Harry & Martha Baxter, Marlene Wusinich, the family of Tommy Grover, as well as all faith Communities and schools of Teton Valley.



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

John Parisee
208-201-3134
jparisee1@yahoo.com

Junior Warden

Ron Lien
307-353-0902
rlien@silverstar.com

Vestry Members

Sarah Balben
208-456-2209
tsbalben@silverstar.com

Elaine Moehring
614-578-6131
moehringe4314@gmail.com

Jerry Groshart
801-389-8867
jerrygroshart@yahoo.com

Rod Gust
307-413-2102
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

January Service Volunteers

January 7

Epiphany 1

Morning Prayer

Worship Leader: Ellen Rein
Musician: Beverly Charette
Lay Minister: Sarah Balben
Lector: Jim Steele
Greeter/Usher: Carl Schiner
Altar Guild: Sarah Balben
Refreshments: Potluck

January 14

Epiphany 2

Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr. Coke McClure
Musician: Beverly Charette
Euch. Minister: Nancy Parisee
Lector: George Nowack
Greeter/Usher: Jim Rein
Altar Guild: Beverly Charette
Refreshments: Potluck



January 21

Epiphany 3

Morning Prayer

Worship Leader: John Parisee
Musician: Gayle Lien
Lay Minister: Angie Warner
Lector: Jerry Groshart
Greeter/Usher: Linda Wilner
Altar Guild: Nancy Parisee
Refreshments: Potluck

January 28

Epiphany 4

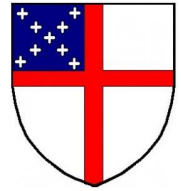
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr. Coke McClure
Musician: Gayle Lien
Lay Minister: John Parisee
Lector: Nancy Parisee
Greeter/Usher: Ruth Lindstedt
Altar Guild: Angie Warner
Refreshments: Potluck



Approved Vestry Minutes

November



Present: John Parisee, Jerry Groshart, Elaine Moehring, Sarah Balben, Ron Lien & Dan Baxter as Treasurer

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

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

Treasurer

Dan went over the financials for October and presented the Transaction Detail by Account. A motion was made by Ron to accept the TDBA for October, Sarah seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Audit – The 2022 audit was done by Sarah, Jim Rein, & Nancy Parisee. The audit was presented by Sarah for vestry's approval. Sarah made a motion to accept the audit, Jerry seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Dan had recommended that the church cancel the current debit card and apply for a credit card, which would be more efficient for the office to use. Ron made a motion to apply for the church credit card with Key Bank, with a credit limit of \$5000, in the name of Nancy Parisee, Jerry seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Senior Warden

By-laws – Edits to the bylaws were sent to the bishop for review, John is hoping they will be returned by the end of the month.

Possible Vestry Members for 2024 – John said that Rod Gust wishes to stay on vestry in 2024. It was noted that meetings will remain visible on Zoom throughout the year. Per the bishop, anyone who is paid by the church cannot become a member of vestry. John volunteered to stay on another year. Sarah volunteered to take over Angie Warner's term and stay on longer.

Stewardship 2024 – John said that so far, we have had 21 pledges for a total of \$46,370. Jerry said he would like to read a collect at the end of the Stewardship campaign.

Thankful & Grateful Meal – The vestry will cook the food needed for the Thanksgiving "Thankful & Grateful" meal on November 19th. Members discussed which food they will bring.

Committees

John said he would like committee liaisons to report at vestry meetings. He would like to hear from the Outreach, Building & Grounds, Worship & Pastoral Care committees regularly.

There was a request from the Building & Grounds Committee to spend up to \$2000 to upgrade a basement room for visiting priests (this suggestion came from Bishop Jos). Sarah made a motion to approve up to \$2000 for the project, Jerry seconded the motion. 5 were in favor of approving the project, 1 member abstained. Motion passed.

Convention Review – John reported on the 2023 convention. Mother Lea Colvill, the bishop's assistant, would like to visit St. Francis possibly on December 10th to lead the worship service and meet with vestry regarding pastoral presence.

Junior Warden

Ron gave a report, he stated that the Rennai heater in the sanctuary has been hard to start. Elaine said that they have a used heater that we could use if we need to replace the existing heater.

Ron reported that the crack in the basement floor will be taken care of.

Committees

John noted that, per the bishop's directive, the Pastoral Care committee's purpose is to only help those within our congregation; Outreach committee is to aid those outside of the congregation. John would like to tighten up parameters and make sure we pay attention to how each committee is funded.

Worship – Written minutes were submitted. John gave a verbal update on the committee. He said that Rev. Eric Moehring is stepping down as chair.

Outreach – Sarah gave a verbal report on the upcoming Food Drive. John had contacted the CRC for requests for basic needs in the valley.

Pastoral Care – Jerry gave a verbal update on various things the committee has been involved with.

Building & Grounds – Written minutes were submitted. John gave a verbal report on various projects around the church. John said that St. Francis was awarded a grant for a road sign at convention.

Finance – Sarah said that the committee will get together soon to work on the budget for 2024.






The next meeting date is December 12th.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Parisee

VESTRY

January 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 New Years' Day Office Closed NA 6:30pm 	2 Office Closed NA 6:30pm	3 Centering Prayer 11am Ladies' Lunch 12:30 pm  NA 6:30pm	4 Office Closed Centering Prayer 4pm	5 NA 6:30pm	6
7 Epiphany 1 10am MP with Ellen Rein AI-Anon 5pm	8 NA 6:30pm	9 Office Closed Vestry 6:30 pm NA 6:30pm 	10 Office Closed Centering Prayer 11am NA 6:30pm	17 Office Closed Centering Prayer 4pm	12 NA 6:30pm	13
14 Epiphany 2 10am HE with Fr. Coke McClure Worship Committee AI-Anon 5pm 	15 NA 6:30pm	16 Office Closed NA 6:30pm	17 Centering Prayer 11am NA 6:30pm	18 Office Closed Centering Prayer 4pm	19 NA 6:30pm	20 Bible Study 10am 
21 Epiphany 3 10am MP with John Parisee	22 NA 6:30pm	23 Office Closed NA 6:30pm	24 Centering Prayer 11am NA 6:30pm	25 Office Closed Centering Prayer 4pm	26 NA 6:30pm	27
28 Epiphany 4 10am HE with Fr. Coke McClure AI-Anon 5pm	29 NA 6:30pm	30 Office Closed NA 6:30pm	31 Centering Prayer 11am NA 6:30pm	<u>Office Hours</u> Monday & Wednesday 9am - 3pm Friday 9am - noon		