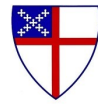




March 2024



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

The Voice

The wind is howling tonight, and the winter storm, which was forecast to arrive, has arrived. Now the only questions remaining are those of intensity and duration. So, just as the saying goes, March is coming in like a lion.

The Lamb is coming, to save us all. We all believe that God's grace will rescue us from an eternal separation from Him. God's grace is so abundant. Its value can't be measured or quantified; thus it cannot be diminished. To what do you attribute God's gift of grace? I, like most, initially think of salvation. Have you ever considered how grace plays into the story of our creation? I've been pondering that these days. To know goodness, to be able to have a relationship with Him and to reflect His image are the rewards of our creation. It is precisely that grace that brings us together, bonded as believers to do good works.

At St Francis we are doing good works. While churches within the state, around the nation, and throughout the world are closing their doors, we are remaining steady in our efforts to continue forward. We have much to do this year and we cannot be complacent on our mission. Where we go and how we get there will be determined by you, the parishioners. If you believe as I do, that we are created to good works then we should pursue those works, to best give the glory to God.

When I first became a Sr. Warden, I was advised that to continue to only do as we have done leads to peril. We've shown our resolve, our willingness to do more. We came back together after persevering through Covid, and other challenges. Now it is time to reach far and wide. Now is the time to build, to grow, and to get to the next level. Getting to the top of the hill has a lot to do with how much momentum you've got at the beginning.

So much work, but it's good work. It's work we were created to do.

Every single person brings a special gift to St Francis.

We may be small, but we have the heart of a lion.

God Bless You All,

John

Holy Week

Holy Week Services at St. Francis of the Tetons Episcopal Church

Palm Sunday Service

Sunday, March 24th @ 10:00am
with Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, March 28th @ 6:00pm
with Holy Communion

Good Friday Service

Friday, March 29th @ 12 noon
Service of the Word

Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil

Saturday, March 30th from 6-9pm
The church will be open for quiet prayer
and reflection

Easter Sunday Service

Sunday, March 31st @ 10:00am
with Holy Communion
Children's Easter Egg Hunt
& Easter Brunch
to follow the service

Easter Candy Needed



The Easter Bunny Needs Your Help

Candy donations are needed for our Easter egg hunt on Easter Day. The candy should be small enough to fit in plastic eggs. Please drop off your donations on the shelf located in the church foyer. Donations of money to help buy the candy are also welcome.

Egg Stuffing on Palm Sunday



Help Us Stuff Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt

Your help is needed after the Palm Sunday worship service on

Sunday, March 24th

to help us stuff hundreds of Easter Eggs

All are welcome!

Donations of Easter candy are needed

Easter Lily Fundraiser



Easter Lilies are for sale at St. Francis.

Buy one lily for \$15 or two for \$25

A sign up sheet is posted at the back of the church, or you can call the office if you wish to purchase a lily.

Easter Sunday Brunch

Our Outreach/Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring an Easter Sunday Brunch after the worship service on March 31st. The church will be providing the meat, we will need you to help with the side dishes and desserts.

Bring your whole family for this special day of the church year. Dress up the kids in their Easter best for the church service and then hunt for Easter eggs in the snow before coming back inside for a warm and delicious meal. This day is open to all who wish to come and celebrate with us.



Children's Easter Egg Hunt



A children's Easter Egg Hunt will take place immediately following the 10am Easter Sunday service. Children may bring an Easter basket from home to collect the eggs.

Please invite your friends and neighbors for some Easter Sunday fun!

Tending Earth Retreat Coming In April



Spiritual Practices for Care of Creation.

Ruth Lindstedt will be hosting another fabulous retreat on Saturday, April 13th from 10 am until 4 pm.

This retreat will be an expansion of the December 2nd retreat. 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.

Ladies' Lunch



Join Us For A Potluck Lunch

Wednesday, April 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.

February Review



Blessing for Barb Rieb

Left: At the February 4th service, members of the congregation came up for a special prayer and the blessing of a handmade Afghan for Barb Rieb.

Right: Kevin shows us his beautiful bowl of cut fruit for the pancake supper.



Shrove Tuesday

19 of our church family and members of the community came out for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 13th.

Below Right: Angie Warner's twin granddaughters, Scarlett and Piper, show us how silly they can be at the pancake supper.

Below Left: Ron Lien & Clarke Arick get ready to eat some pancakes and bacon!



Outreach Community Music Concert

The Outreach/Fellowship Committee at St. Francis has been active in offering the gift of music to those in our community.

On February 25th, 94 attended a musical concert featuring performances by the Schindler Family, Kristy Romano, The Teton Valley Children's Choir, and retired Metropolitan Opera Singer Lauren McNeese.

Watch for more music concerts at St. Francis throughout the year.



Rod Gust Celebration of Life

The Celebration of Life service for Rod Gust has been changed to Saturday, June 15, 2024. There will be a service at St. Francis Church at 11:00 am followed by Rod's Interment at Alta Cemetery with military honors.

There will be a gathering for all at Aspen Leaf Ranch (Rod & Jil's house), located at 420 Greenville Rd, Alta, WY at 1:00 pm that day. This will include a gathering of friends, sharing of memories, food, and a bonfire. There will be RV, camper, and car parking available.

A "save the date" flyer will be attached to the weekly email next Monday.



Church Staff & Vestry Members

Bishop of Idaho

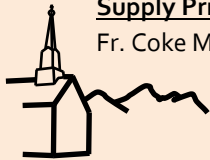
The Rt. Rev. Jos Tharakan

Supply Priest

Rev. Eric Moehring

Supply Priest

Fr. Coke McClure



Senior Warden

John Parisee

Junior Warden

Ron Lien

Vestry Members

Jerry Groshart

Wood Palmer

Ruth Lindstedt

Parish Administrator

Nancy Parisee

Parish Treasurer

Dan Baxter

Custodian

Angie Warner

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>



Your donations matter!

Weekly Attendance & Offering

February 5	19	\$ 2,030.00
February 11	25	\$ 526.00
February 14 - Ash Wed	12	\$ 40.00
February 18	24	\$ 326.00
February 25	34	\$ 7,160.00



Prayers of the People

Please remember in your prayers:

Barb Rieb, Hansine Goran, Tommy Huss, Ron Race, Harry & Martha Baxter, Marlene Wusinich, Jim Palmer, Connie Kirby, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Betty Elliott, as well as all faith Communities and schools of Teton Valley.



March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

Sarah Balben on March 4th
 Beverly Charette on March 11th
 Ellen Rein on March 13th
 Nancy Reed on March 26th
 Philbin Schulz on March 29th



March Service Volunteers

March 3

Lent 3
Morning Prayer

Worship Leader: Ruth Lindstedt
Musician: Beverly Charette
Lay Minister: Angie Warner
Lector: Jerry Groshart
Greeter/Usher: Carl Schiner
Altar Guild: Angie Warner
Refreshments: Potluck

March 10

Lent 4
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr. Coke McClure
Musician: Gayle Lien
Euch. Minister: Nancy Parisee
Lector: George Nowack
Greeter/Usher: John Parisee
Altar Guild: Nancy Parisee
Refreshments: Potluck

March 17

Lent 5
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Rev. Eric Moehring
Musician: Beverly Charette
Euch. Minister: Ruth Lindstedt
Lector: Jim Steele
Greeter/Usher: Sarah Balben
Altar Guild: Sarah Balben
Refreshments: Potluck

March 24

Palm Sunday
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Fr. Coke McClure
Musician: Gayle Lien
Lay Minister: Sarah Balben
Lector: Angie Warner
Greeter/Usher: Linda Wilner
Altar Guild: Beverly Charette
Refreshments: Potluck

March 28

Maundy Thursday
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Rev. Eric Moehring
Musician: Beverly Charette
Lay Minister: Angie Warner
Lector: Jerry Groshart
Greeter/Usher: Ruth Lindstedt
Altar Guild: Angie Warner

March 29

Good Friday
Morning Prayer

Worship Leader: John Parisee
Musician: N/A
Lay Minister: Angie Warner
Lector: Nancy Parisee
Greeter/Usher: N/A
Altar Guild: Nancy Parisee

March 30

Holy Saturday
Prayer Vigil

6 - 7 pm - HELP NEEDED
7 - 8 pm - HELP NEEDED

8 pm
Set up for Easter after the
service - HELP NEEDED

March 31

Easter Sunday
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Rev. Eric Moehring
Musician: Gayle Lien
Lay Minister: Nancy Parisee
Lector: Jim Steele
Greeter/Usher: John Parisee
Altar Guild: Angie Warner
Refreshments: Potluck Easter
Brunch

St. Francis Vestry

Approved Vestry Minutes

February 2024

Present: John Parisee, Jerry Groshart, Ruth Lindstedt, Ron Lien, Wood Palmer & Bishop Jos Tharakan attended via Zoom.

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

The January vestry minutes were approved via email by John, Ron, Sarah & Jerry.

Treasurer – Dan Baxter did not attend the meeting but did provide a financial summary for the vestry to review.

John updated the vestry that there was a sizeable donations to the RHM Endowment Fund as well as to the Front Entry Fund.

Nancy Parisee was able to break out the custodian salary from the administrator's salary in Quickbooks.

The Finance Committee made a request to invest \$30,000 from our operating account and \$30,000 from our designated funds to invest in short term CD's.

Ron made a motion to invest the money as stated and Jerry seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

The Transaction Detail by Account was reviewed by the vestry. Ron made a motion to accept the expenditures as stated, Jerry seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Bishop Jos

Church Audit – The bishop asked if our congregation had done our audit this year, John responded that we do prepare and submit our audit to the diocese every year.

Check signers – The bishop mandated that we have another signer for checks besides John if Nancy Parisee is making out the checks even though we have a system that reviews more than once all checks that are written. He said that he will pick someone from the vestry as a signer.

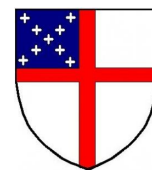
Sr. Warden - The bishop expressed that he felt that John should now share the responsibility as Sr. Warden with someone else who would act as a Co-Sr. Warden from among the other vestry members, this person would work with John to create another layer of leadership. John would groom that person to create the Co-Sr. Warden relationship.

Church credit card - The bishop said to take Nancy Parisee off as a signer of the church credit card, he stated that Dan Baxter and John should be the authorized signers. Ruth made a motion to take Nancy Parisee off the credit card and add Dan and John as authorized signers, Ron seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Senior Warden

John welcomed new members Wood Palmer and Ruth Lindstedt as well as returning members.

John explained to the bishop that the vestry meetings are now recorded, and the minutes are transcribed from the recording. John said he felt that recording the meetings are good for transparency and work well for confirming votes and conversations. The bishop said that we are free to store the



meetings on a diocesan storage space that has unlimited storage if we want to. There is also a program that can transcribe minutes for us. If we want to utilize the program, we should contact Renee in the diocesan office.

Congregational Development –

John reviewed the purpose and guidelines that were submitted to vestry by some of our committees, he also gave the names of the members on each committee for this year.

John asked that the vestry think about who we are and where we are going as a congregation.

John asked the members for input on how they thought we were doing as a congregation as we try to stand on our own two feet. One vestry member made the following comments to his question.

We should have rails as structural limits in terms of the rubrics of the church as well as power and control issues.

We should use the prayer book more.

We should have more Holy Eucharist services.

We should have a capital campaign to raise money for a full-time rector.

We should have someone come in once in a while to observe how we are doing.

The bishop gave his input as to what he thought congregational development should be. He gave the following guidelines.

Congregational development should include numerical growth of the parish that is relevant to the character and culture of our community.

Congregational vitality is an important part of congregational development.

Another important aspect is leadership in a parish. He said that we should bring in more lay leaders who will take responsibility and guide us from the ground level.

Lay leaders will help in providing different perspectives.

We will train the lay leaders so we can identify each person's gifts.

Leadership from within will help inside and outside our congregation.

The team of leaders for the church will take part in Mutual Ministry. They will be a core group of leaders that are members of the parish who help to run the church instead of the vestry.

Sacramental leadership (priests) will still be brought in for worship services but will not run the church.

We will develop growth that is not clergy led.

The bishop and Canon Emily will attend the vestry meetings via Zoom for the next few months to help with our Congregational development.

As a vestry and congregation,

we will still need to determine what kind of "fit" we are looking for from our lay leaders, this may take some time.

We will look for congregation feedback.

We will use a pragmatic approach.

The bishop and Canon Emily will work with the vestry over the next couple of months to see what that can look like.

We will need to listen to all perspectives in order for us to grow together.

John asked the bishop for a clear guideline for appointing the Sr. Warden at St. Francis.

The bishop stated that if we do not have a priest or rector then the bishop will appoint the Sr. Warden.

The bishop will help John and the vestry with appointing a co-Sr. Warden for this year.

The bishop wants to build a team together over the next couple of months until we can figure out who the Co-Sr. Warden will be.

John will continue to work alone as the Sr. Warden until the end of April, which is when the bishop would like to get the Co-Sr. Warden in place. He would like the candidate to be someone who works well with John.

Junior Warden nomination – John made a motion to elect Ron Lien as the Jr. Warden for 2024, Ruth seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Parochial Report – Ron made a motion to approve the 2024 Parochial Report, Ruth seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Musician Bonuses – John proposed that we provided quarterly bonuses to the musicians. Ruth recommended that we table the conversation for a few months.

Description of Designated Funds – The members have been provided with descriptions of each designated fund for reference and how the money is to be spent for each fund.

Junior Warden

Ron reported that the egress window, ladder & smoke detector are in for the sleeping room in the basement. We will not start the project until the weather gets warmer.

The signs put up on the fence for skiers are working well. There are still some who chose to ignore the signs.

Ron is still working on the removal of our old oil tank that is under the parking lot.

Volunteers have been taking care of removing the snow on our sidewalks.

Sound system & microphone – We will be having people coming in to help us with a possible upgrade of our audio systems. Ron stated that the microphone still has been a problem, The speakers in the ceiling should still work fine, speakers have not changed over the years.

Committees

The vestry reviewed the committee minutes that were provided by each committee.

The vestry designated the following as liaisons for each of our St. Francis committees. Outreach/Fellowship – John Parisee, Pastoral Care – Jerry Groshart Building & Grounds – Ron Lien, Worship – Ruth Lindstedt, Finance – John Parisee, Christian Education – no one has signed up for this committee, Stewardship – none noted.

Other Business –

The bishop said that he will put Mother Lea Colvill and her role at St. Francis on pause for now so we can build up our lay leadership within the parish.

He would like more people to take part in the administrative side of the ministry of the church.

He stated that our website was well done.

Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12th.











Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Parisee

VESTRY



March 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 NA 6:30pm	2
3 Lent 3 10am MP with Ruth Lindstedt AI-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 Daylight Savings Turn clocks ahead tonight 
10 Lent 4 10am HE with Fr. Coke McClure Worship Committee Mtg after church AI-Anon 5pm	11 NA 6:30pm	12 Office Closed Vestry 6:30 pm NA 6:30pm 	13 Centering Prayer 11am NA 6:30pm	14 Office Closed Centering Prayer 4pm	15 NA 6:30pm	16 Bible Study 10am 
17 Lent 5  St. Patrick's Day 10am HE with Rev. Eric Moehring	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 Palm Sunday  10am HE with Fr. Coke McClure AI-Anon 5pm	25 NA 6:30pm	26 Office Closed NA 6:30pm	27 Centering Prayer 11am NA 6:30pm	28  Maundy Thursday HE Service with Rev. Eric Moehring 6 pm Office Closed Centering Prayer 4pm	29 Good Friday MP service with John Parisee 12 noon NA 6:30pm 	30 Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil 6-8 pm 
31 Easter Sunday  10am HE with Rev. Eric Moehring AI-Anon 5pm	Office Hours Monday & Wednesday 9am - 3pm Friday 9am - noon					