



THE LESSER WORD—Spring 2018

The people of Church of Our Savior are committed to developing a deeper relationship with God and to reaching out to each other, the community, and the world through scripture, tradition, and reason.

From the Rector . . .

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I write this, I am amid furious preparations for my sabbatical leave. I have decided that I am going to spend the bulk of my leave resting and thereby engaging in activities that are decidedly not “churchy” in any way. I plan to read a lot of novels (not theological works), learn to play the accordion, learn to speak at least basic Spanish (which is important for my job as Vicar for Mission for the diocese, but which has also been on my bucket list for quite some time), finish my leg tattoo, garden (I am redoing a garden at the lake that needs some clean-up work), and some house projects (painting, light carpentry, etc.). Additionally, I will continue some activities that are important for my physical and spiritual health—daily prayer, Sunday worship, regular exercise); and I plan to travel to various places, mostly to visit with friends. A smaller portion of my time will also be used to study and plan a way forward to rethink ministry in this place and develop plans for providing opportunities for greater spiritual growth, centering specifically on prayer, Scripture study, and service. In short, I will be busy, but being on sabbatical does not necessarily mean inactivity (I’m not good at inactivity anyway). It does mean rest and refocusing on God as the ground and source of life. Engaging in activities that bring me life are good ways to refocus in just such a way.

I’d like to speak for a bit about Sabbath rest and why the Church has decided that a paid sabbatical leave is an important thing for congregations to provide for their clergy. First, to the latter point. Part of my compensation package is the promise of a paid sabbatical leave every five to seven years that I serve this congregation as well as an amount of money—\$250.00/year—set aside for my use during the sabbatical leave to be spent in any way that I desire. The reason for such strong recommendation, I think, is that parish ministry is one of the few professions left in which one is privy to the intimate details of another’s life. Priests share in the joys of life—birthdays, the birth of children, anniversaries, new jobs, baptisms,



weddings, graduations, etc.—as well as the struggles and sorrows of life—death, divorce, illness, job loss, mental health issues, family issues, etc. Having such knowledge with the added weight of confidentiality means that a priest bears these things alone with little or no outlet. Such things can become heavy to bear and thus tiring. Now please understand, I am not complaining or asking you not to share these things; I consider it a privilege to be your priest and am humbled by the joy and responsibility of my work. I merely wish to convey that the burden of the work can at times become heavy, and to be a good priest, rest is needed—both regular rest periods (days off, vacations) and a sabbatical leave.

But what is a sabbatical, and why is it relevant? The word *sabbatical* is related to the word *sabbath*. When God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, the Fourth Commandment especially was fleshed out in great detail.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested on the seventh day; therefore, the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. (Exodus 20:8–11)

REMEMBER THE
SABBATH DAY
BY KEEPING IT HOLY.
EXODUS 20:8

The command to rest on the sabbath is connected to two things: the creation of the universe and the experience of slavery in Egypt. In Walter Brueggemann's book, *Sabbath as Resistance*, he argues that the fourth commandment requiring Sabbath observance was given to the Hebrew people who were slaves to Pharaoh in his drive to amass more wealth and power. Pharaoh and Egypt, says Brueggemann, are metaphors for any socioeconomic system that serves "the way of endless desire, endless productivity, and endless restlessness." (p. 11) By contrast, "[t]he Sabbath commandment is drawn into the Exodus narrative, for the God who rests is the God who emancipates from slavery and consequently from the work system of Egypt and from the gods of Egypt who require and legitimate that work system." (p. 2) In short, observing Sabbath helps people of faith take a stand of resistance against the way of the world, and a stand of affirmation for the way of God, the way of life in the world.

Related to sabbath-keeping is the idea of the Jubilee Year.



You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan. That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field. (Leviticus 25:8–12)

“The Jubilee then came every fifty years. When the trumpet sounded on the fiftieth year, and specifically on the Day of Atonement, liberty would be proclaimed ‘throughout the land to all its inhabitants’ and then all of the property that had been taken by others for unpaid debts would have to be returned to the original families (clans). On that year there would be no reaping or planting or gathering of the crops for it was to be ‘holy to’ the nation Israel and everyone could ‘eat the produce of the field.’ What a celebration that must have been. Everyone that had been indebted was then released from that debt and able to start over again by having their land returned to them.”

[\(http://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2014/06/01/what-is-the-meaning-of-jubilee-in-the-bible/\)](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/christiancrier/2014/06/01/what-is-the-meaning-of-jubilee-in-the-bible/)

A sabbatical leave is based on these concepts. It is an opportunity for a priest to rest based in the sabbath command to rest, and it is an opportunity for a new start based on the Jubilee Year in which all is restored to its proper place *vis-à-vis* God. This finally is the center of it all. For me (or any of us, for that matter) to be the follower of Jesus I am called to be, I must take time weekly to recharge and refocus myself on the source of life and love, God; and for me to be the priest I am called to be, I similarly need a Jubilee Year to reorient myself and reacquaint myself with the call I received both to be a priest and to be a priest in this place. So, there will be plenty of rest in my time away, that is true, but there will also be ample reflection on the things that are essential in my faith journey, and by extension, on the journey in which I as a priest am charged to lead this congregation. I look forward to sharing what I discover when I return. Until then, know you are all in my prayers daily.

Peace!

Fr. Jeffrey+



From the Senior Warden . . .

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Lord is Risen! He is Risen indeed! I think we all celebrate these words, when we know that the time of great suffering for our Lord is over and he has triumphed over death. We also see renewal everywhere as Spring brings forth new growth and new life!

During Lent, I had the privilege of studying with an absolutely incredible group of women to discern if we are being called to become Daughters of the King. One of our studies included praying the Baptismal Covenant. Included in that study was an enrichment activity written by Reginald Hollis. I wanted to share a portion of this, as it really spoke to my heart:

“Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?”

Our Father,

Help me to live the way Jesus called me to live. May my actions speak louder than my words of your love and new life in Jesus. At the same time, help me rise above my own stumbling speech and give me the words to express what I believe. Let me be a witness to the Truth.



“Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?”

Our Father,

I do not want my attitudes to be shaped by the injustices that mar society, by the discriminations, greed and lust that spoil relationships in Jesus color does not count, wealth carries no weight and gender is not important. Help me to live in Jesus, to see people through His eyes, and work for the harmony that reflects your kingdom.

We are all called to be disciples of Christ....Lord, what will you have me do?

Blessings to all,
Chris

The Downtown Community Meal

Volunteers from Church of Our Savior are needed to help with the meal, particularly for the serving/clean-up shift from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Church of Our Savior serves on the 1st, 4th, and 5th Wednesday of the month. Sign-up sheets are posted in the hallway by the Fireside Room. Also, if you are interested in supporting this ministry in another way, food donations are always welcome. Talk to Shari Shore for more details, and thanks!

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Easter Offering

The Vestry decided the 2018 Easter Offering would be divided between Deborah's Legacy, a ministry in North Platte to provide sanctuary along with an array of support services and educational opportunities for women, and the General Fund of Church of Our Savior, which was strained this spring due to higher than usual snow removal costs and repairs to an aging heating and cooling system. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



The Adult Class

The Adult Class continues through the rest of the year, March 21, April 11, 18, 25, and May 2 & 9 with *The Story of God* narrated by Morgan Freeman. This National Geographic series explores how the power of religion touches all our lives, no matter what our faith, and seeks to discover how our beliefs connect us all. Join us at 6:30 Wednesdays in the library.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd – our Christian formation program for children, The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd continues from 4–5:30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons ending for the summer vacation May 2. For more information, call Helen Lindley, 532–5463.



Tuesday Noon Bible Study gathers together to study the readings for the following Sunday worship. No particular knowledge is required, and each week will stand alone so you can drop in as your schedule allows. If you are interested in exploring scripture in community with others, please join us. For more information contact Helen Lindley (532-5463) or Susan Fry (532-8160).

The *Thursday Bible Study* meets at noon on Thursdays in the library and is a group-led study using a Bible and a Bible commentary. The group chooses the books in the Bible they wish to study. Currently we are reading the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. Join us!



BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL: 4/8 Brad Stickelman; 4/20 Karla Axford, Joseph Eller; 4/24 Lloyd Synovec; 4/25 Chris Vieyra; 4/27 Rebecca Lindley

ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL: 4/22 Amy and Howard Waples

BIRTHDAYS IN MAY: 5/2 John Huebner; 5/6 Connie Edwards; 5/12 John Striebel; 5/15 Randy Sullivan; 5/19 Austin Axford; 5/20 Holland George Cooper, Aardel Walters; 5/21 Colton Nisley; 5/22 Ryan Farley; 5/24 Dan Wright; 5/25 Brandon Eller

ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY: 5/30 Phyllis and Milo Shavlik

BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE: 6/1 Dan Brown, Jeff Fisher; 6/2 Julie Rohr; 6/7 Don Yoshida; 6/18 Elleigh Fisher; 6/19 Marcia Mapes; 6/20 Stephanie Eller; 6/22 Tonchita Palmisano; 6/28 Jon Hermelbracht, David Lindley; 6/29 Bernice Sakurai

ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE: 6/4 Becky and Jerry Hohnbaum





Spring Holy Days

Here are the Holy Days for the Spring Quarter, 2018.

The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ: Easter Day is on Sunday, April 1. The Holy Eucharist is at 9:30 a.m. followed by Easter Brunch in the Fireside Room. Each day through Easter Week, April 2-7, the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m. in the chapel, except for Thursday, April 5 when The Holy Eucharist with Healing will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. as usual. **The Vigil of the Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary**, transferred from March 25th because of Holy Week and Easter Week, will be celebrated during the regular Sunday liturgy on April 8 at 9:30 a.m. **The Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist** is on Wednesday, April 25. The Rosary will be prayed at 11:45 a.m. followed by Noonday Prayer at 12:15 p.m. in the chapel.

On Tuesday, May 1, we will celebrate **The Feast of Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles** with Noonday Prayer in the chapel. **The Day of Pentecost** is Sunday, May 20. We will celebrate The Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. **Trinity Sunday** is Sunday, May 27. Communion from the Reserved Sacrament will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. **The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth**, May 31, will be celebrated with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament with Healing at 5:30 p.m.

The Vigil of the Feast of Saint Barnabas will be commemorated on Sunday, June 10 during the regular Sunday liturgy at 9:30 a.m., as will **The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist** on Sunday, June 24 at 9:30 a.m. Finally, **The Vigil of the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Apostles**, will be celebrated with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament with Healing on June 28 at 5:30 p.m. Please join us. All are welcome here!

All are welcome here!



Sabbatical Leave

I will be on sabbatical leave beginning after the liturgy on Sunday, April 8, and will be back in the office on Tuesday, July 10. A three-month paid sabbatical leave may be taken by priests who have served between five and seven years in a parish as a time of further study or rest. I intend a combination of things on my leave. I will do some traveling to Phoenix, St. Louis, Minneapolis, and Wisconsin. In addition, I intend to garden, learn to play the accordion, work on my Spanish, complete my leg tattoo, finish some house projects, and read novels, as well as engage in reflection and prep work as the parish moves into deeper spiritual awareness in the months ahead. In my absence, if you have any pastoral emergencies, please call Administrative Assistant Marcia Mapes in the church office (308-532-0515), or Senior Warden Chris Vieyra (308-530-6838). I will come back to preside at any funerals that may occur, otherwise refer all business to Marcia or Chris. Pray for me in my absence, as I will you.

Peace!

Fr. Jeffrey+

SESQUICENTENNIAL DIOCESAN NEWS

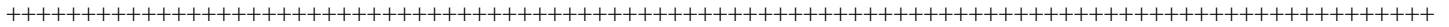
We're celebrating our sesquicentennial anniversary by setting out on a yearlong pilgrimage, and you are invited to come along for the journey!

Cranes & Common Prayer On Friday and Saturday, April 6 & 7, 2018, the celebration of the Sesquicentennial of the Diocese of Nebraska continues with Cranes & Common Prayer. On Friday evening or Saturday morning you are invited to observe the Sandhill Cranes at The Nature Conservancy's private blinds. On Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m., we will gather at St. Luke's Church in Kearney for a unique worship service in celebration of the past, present, and future of our 150 years pilgrimage as a diocese. The events are free, but reservations are required because space for the crane watching is limited. Join us as we celebrate 150 years of God's grace in Nebraska!

Keep informed of the sesquicentennial events at Q150.Episcopal-NE.org



Reneè Sullivan as she joins her family in Omaha, Josh Sherwood as he moves back to Ohio, family and friends of James Keller, who passed away March 28, 2018, and especially with Fr. Jeffrey, as he has time for rest and reflection. We surely will miss those who are moving away, praise God for the life of James, and await Fr. Jeffrey's return in July.

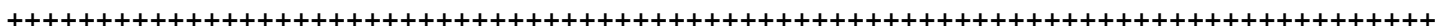


Project Connect

Project Connect is a "one-stop-shop" approach to link families to assistance for housing, employment, medical care, education, counseling, and veteran's services. The event will be on Thursday, April 5, 2018, from 1:00-6:00 p.m. at the D&N Event Center, 501 E. Walker Road, North Platte. Thirty-five to forty organizations and agencies will be present. If you or someone you know needs these services, please refer them to this event.

Additionally, **Project Connect** needs donated food items and other care needs. Food boxes should include: 3 cans of meat, 2 cans of green beans, 2 cans of corn, 2 cans of fruit, 4 cans of soup, 1 box of cereal, 2 cans of kidney, pinto, or chili beans, 1 jar of peanut butter, 2 cans of tomato sauce, 2 pkgs. Of pasta, 1 pkg. of rice, 4 boxes of bread mix or crackers. Also needed are personal hygiene items, fire alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, laundry detergent, blankets, first aid items, diapers or baby needs. Boxes and other items will be picked up March 26-30, 2018.

Finally, **Project Connect** needs volunteers. Volunteer training is on April 4 from 3-4 p.m. and April 5 from 11-1 (including lunch). A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex. The goal of Church of Our Savior is to provide five (5) boxes to be distributed on April 5th.





203 W 4TH ST
NORTH PLATTE NE 69101

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Parish Leadership:

Bishop: The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker
Rector: Rev. Jeffrey S. F. Nelson 530-8321
Senior Warden: Chris Vieyra 532-5851
Junior Warden: Dan Brown 308-534-1421
Treasurer: Kathy Stevens 534-3506

Parish Staff:

Administrative Assistant: Marcia Mapes
Choir Director: Chrysanne Bailey
Organist: Carolyn Cline
Organist Emerita: Naomi Getty
Sexton: Sam Domingus

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Parish Contact Information:

Admin. Asst.: secretary.cosnp@gmail.com
Pastoral Care: rector.cosnp@gmail.com
Treasurer: treasurer.cosnp@gmail.com
Phone: (308) 532-0515
Toll free 1-888-314-8653
Website: www.churchofoursaviornp.org
FAX: 308-534-0339

Weekly Liturgies:

Sundays:

The Holy Eucharist 9:30 AM

Thursdays:

The Holy Eucharist with Healing
5:30 PM-Chapel

Weekly Contemplative Prayer:

Wednesdays:

Rosary, 12:00 PM-Chapel

Vestry Members:

Ruby Coleman	308-534-1940
Shari Shore	308-539-1715
Toni Dale	308-534-2186
Janice Roth	402-440-6307
Bobbi DeNaeyer	308-650-1692
Howard Waples	308-368-7432