

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 11 NOVEMBER 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Saints,

The Feast of All Saints, which is our patronal feast, emerged very early in the history of the church as a day set aside to remember those faithful believers whose lives gave a godly witness to Christ. And one of the main themes of this feast is what the Apostles' Creed calls, "the communion of saints," the mystical connection that all Christians share with each other throughout time and space.

This concept crops up again and again in our Prayers of the People and our Eucharistic prayer, which often brings visitors to the Episcopal Church and those from other traditions to ask, "Why do we pray for the dead?"

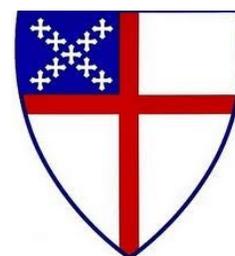
It's a good question if you think about it. What does praying for the dead accomplish? Isn't their fate up to God?! Historically, the idea of praying for the dead is associated by some with the Catholic doctrine of purgatory. Even our own Anglican Reformers rejected this doctrine once the Church of England broke away from Rome. If you turn to the historical documents section of our Book of Common Prayer (which make for a good read if the sermon you're listening to is terrible!), you'll see in Article XXII of the 39 Articles of the Faith (BCP, 872) that, "The Romish Doctrine concerning Purgatory, Pardons, Worshipping and Adoration, as well of Images as of Relics, and also Invocation of Saints, is a fond thing, vainly invented, and grounded upon no warranty of Scripture, but rather repugnant to the Word of God."

To all this, your rector says, "Harumph!"

And the great bishop and Biblical scholar, NT Wright, feels the same way. In his book, *Surprised by Hope*, Bishop Wright says:

"Since both the departed saints and we ourselves are in Christ, we share with them in the 'communion of saints.' They are still our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we celebrate the Eucharist they are there with us, along with the angels and archangels. Why then should we not pray for them and with them? The reason the Reformers and their successors did their best to outlaw praying for the dead was because that had been so bound up with the notion of purgatory and the need to get people out of it soon as possible. Once we rule out purgatory, I see no reason why we should not pray for and with the dead and every reason why we should—not that they will get out of purgatory but that they will be refreshed and filled with God's joy and peace. Love passes into prayer; we still love them; why not hold them, in that love, before God?"

So if you've ever wondered why we finish the Prayers of the People by praying for the dead, please know that this is an acknowledgment of the communion of saints, and a really beautiful act of love given for those who have died and come into the presence of God.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR (CON'TD)

In fact, times like these have called us to pray for the dead. The widescale death and destruction seen in WWI and in the Influenza Epidemic of 1918 questioned our theology and changed our Prayerbooks. Before these events, Prayerbooks had very carefully worded burial services about the fate of the dead, as well as prayers for the demise of enemies called “imprecatory prayers”. But with some hard-learned perspective, all modern Prayerbooks encourage us to pray for the dead, as well as for those who hate us.



“Love passes into prayer; we still love them; why not hold them then, in that love, before God?”

If you would like to take some time to pass some love into prayer this first week of November we have set up a special All Saints’ Day altar in Memorial Garden. Please feel free to bring flowers to adorn the altar or chalk the name of your faithful departed onto the stone. They have not been forgotten by God, nor do they need to be forgotten by His children.

Charlie+

DIOCESAN CONVENTION RECAP

The 2020 Diocese of Montana Convention opened with Committee reports. New clergy were introduced, including Fr. Charlie Knuth and Mtr. Mikayla Dunfee. Offerings to ERD Episcopal Relief & Development and to Camp Marshall were accepted via links which can be found on the Diocesan website: www.diomontana.com

The 2021 budget was enacted. Categories include College for Congregational Development, Education for ministry, Camp Marshall, prison ministry, campus ministry, youth ministry, and Ecumenical work and meetings. There were no items that will directly impact All Saints. [Budget documents](#) can be found on the Convention Website.

After the Standing Committee report, elections were held. Fr. Charlie is joining Michael Moffit on the Foundation Board. Mtr. Mikayla was appointed to the Commission on Ministry. Fr. Adam Linton was appointed to the Congregational Development Committee.

Canon 16, Professional Standards was amended with a new Section 6 that ensures that all stipendiary clergy have health insurance. A loophole was accidentally discovered last year when a clergyperson got sick during a transition. This adjustment fits with the intention of parishes providing healthcare coverage. Convention also approved “Government Programs Health Insurance”, in addition to health insurance meeting Episcopal church guidelines.

The metrics used for determining representation at diocesan convention changed from the “adult communicants” to “ASA Average Sunday Attendance”. Membership is difficult to quantify and ASA is the standard metric that most dioceses utilize. As the 4th largest parish in the diocese, this will increase the size of All Saints’ delegation at Convention.

After discussing and amendment, a “Resolution To Adopt A Covenant to Root Out Racism” was approved by convention. Written in July, 2020 by Deon Johnson, the Bishop of Missouri. The document includes covenants “to amend our lives to more fully reflect God’s dream of Beloved Community”. During her address, Bishop Stebbins used her personal narrative to introduce the topic of Systemic Racism, calling for education and change. As noted, this is an opportunity for our Diocese to engage in meaningful action. The Resolution was amended, adapting Bishop Johnson’s Covenant to include indigenous peoples native to Montana. An amendment was made to financially support not only “the work of Historically Black Colleges and Universities” but “Native American Colleges and Universities.”

DIOCESAN CONVENTION RECAP

There was some discussion that there were no implementation plans, but the focus on the Covenant was on values. How these values can be implemented will, no doubt, require effort on the part of people at the parish and diocesan levels.

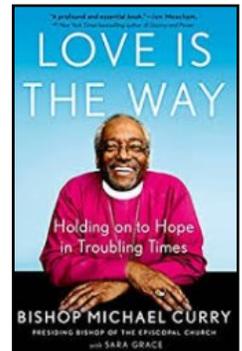
Convention adjourned after announcing the 2021 convention will be (God willing) held at St. Luke's & St. Stephen's in Billings.

BOOK STUDY

Our Thursday evening book study is taking a little break, before **we return at 6pm on Thursday, November 19th** to discuss our new book: *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, written by the Rt. Rev'd Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church.

If you'd like an idea of what this new book is all about, Michael Curry sat down with Brene Brown (the famous lecturer, researcher, and Episcopalian!) a few weeks back for a stimulating conversation about the church, moving beyond fear, and the hard work of love.

You can get the book on Amazon, or better yet, order it through Bad Rock Books in Columbia Falls. Bad Rock's owner, Cindy Ritter, has had a rough go with the pandemic and a recent water main break that's going to cost over \$14,000 to repair. The church was able to assist Cindy a little bit, but everything helps!



STEWARDSHIP

Just a reminder that you should have received our annual stewardship packet (if you haven't received a stewardship packet, please e-mail Shawn). Please return your pledge card by our Ingathering **Sunday, November 15th**. You can mail it to us (PO BOX 1923 Whitefish, MT 59937), drop it by the church office, or put it in the offering plate on Sunday. You can also skip the card and e-mail your pledge to cknuth@allsaintsmt.org.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICES

Thanksgiving is not only a national holiday, but a Feast Day in the Episcopal Church calendar that calls each of us and the nation to give thanks for our abundant blessings and to pray for the needs of others. So at **noon on Thanksgiving Eve (November 25th)**, please bring yourselves for our Thanksgiving service and any ingredients, pots, or utensils that you would like blessed in preparation for Thanksgiving festivities.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

We are having a Christmas Pageant this year! All kids and youth are invited to participate. We will be recording parts remotely and our amazing technical genius Shawn Sloan will be putting them together. We will get started on this in the next couple of weeks so that we can put it all together in time for Christmas. Since families will be recording a short video at home (using a phone is great!) we won't need to have rehearsals. We'll send you directions and the script and if you need any technical assistance we'll gladly help. We're taking this opportunity to do something original and different to tell the Christmas story, and we cannot wait!



Please let Cynthia know if you can participate. cynthia@allsaintsmt.org

CRECHE OFFERINGS

At All Saints, we mark and celebrate Advent a number of different ways to commemorate the coming of our Lord. Perhaps most important are the four special offerings we bring to our nativity creche each of the 4 weeks of Advent. On the first Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29th), we invite you to bring teddy bears and other stuffed animals to the crèche to give to North Valley Hospital to distribute to anxious kids who arrive at the ER for treatment (we ask that these animal be new and compact... no larger than 10 inches).



If you want to get a bit ahead in this ministry of gifts to the crèche, the remaining Sundays of Advent (Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th) involve our bringing canned food for the community food banks, pet food which will be given to the Flathead Spay and Neuter Task Force, and men's and women's socks and underwear for the Flathead Warming Center. "Come, Lord Jesus!"

AMAZON SMILE

At the recommendation of a number of parishioners, we have activated our AmazonSmile account!

AmazonSmile (www.smile.amazon.com) is a website operated by Amazon that work exactly like their shopping site. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.



If you would like All Saints to be the recipient of your AmazonSmile account, simply follow these instructions.

1. Enter www.smile.amazon.com into the browser of your desktop or laptop computer, or smart cell phone.
2. Log in using your Amazon user ID and password
3. On the right of the page under **Select a charity**, use the "Or pick your own charitable organization", enter All Saints Episcopal Church in the search box and click the **Search** button.
4. You will see the search results page listing many, many All Saints-es! Find the one located in Whitefish and then click the **Select** button.
5. You will get a page with message that you have changed your charity to All Saints. Now your late night impulse purchases will support the church!

BISHOP MARTY'S VISIT

Reception, Installation, and Commissioning of Acolytes



YAY! We finally have a procession!

Kate is received into the Episcopal Church



Commissioning of new acolytes



Evelyn



Marcus



Vivian



Fr Charlie is officially installed as the 2nd Rector of All Saints' !



We gift the Bishop a special bell to remember us by

BISHOP MARTY'S VISIT (CONT'D)

St Francis Day Pet Blessings with Bishop Marty



BISHOP MARTY'S VISIT (CONT'D)

St Francis Day Pet Blessings (in absentia) with Bishop Marty



BUILDING UPDATES

October building project highlights



Oct 6 - texturing done



Oct 6 - texturing done



Oct 6 - north wall textured



Oct 6 - south wall textured



Oct 7 - bead board for ceiling arrives



Oct 7 - priming begins



Oct 8 - Fr Charlie inspects the new collar tie

BUILDING UPDATES (CONT'D)

October building project highlights



Oct 13 - blowing out conduits for fiber optics



Oct 13 - fiber optics cables - yay!



Oct 13 - ceiling & trim boards primed



Oct 14 - ceiling bead board



Oct 14 - ceiling bead board



Oct 15 - ceiling bead board finished



Oct 15 - ready to start coves & window frames

BUILDING UPDATES (CONT'D)

October building project highlights



Oct 17 - beginning of electrical coves



Oct 17 - beginning of electrical coves



Oct 17 - cleaned up for Sunday services



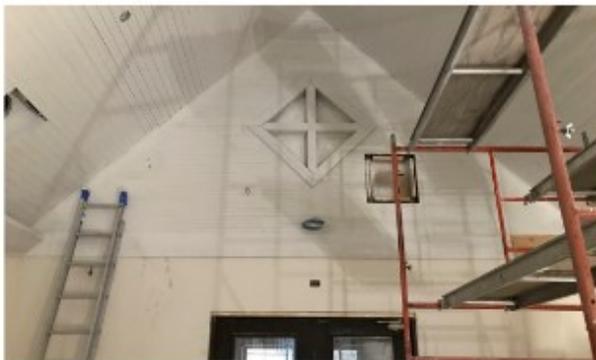
Oct 18 - church back inside for a week



Oct 19 - coves finished window trim starts



Oct 19 - bead board & trim in narthex



Oct 19 - detailing bead board for painting



Oct 22 - New built in aumbry

BUILDING UPDATES (CONT'D)

October building project highlights



Oct 22 - trim all done ready for priming



Oct 22 - priming begins



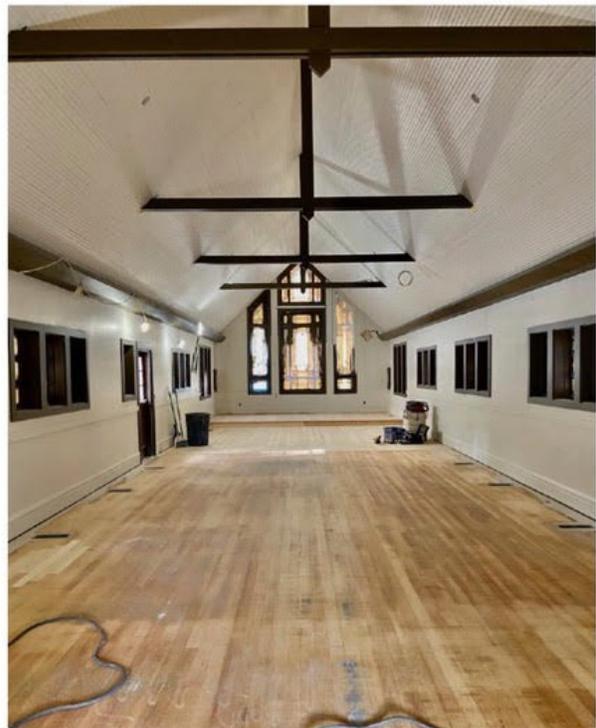
Oct 25 - priming done & trim painting begins



Oct 26 - trim painting / floor boards arrive



Oct 28 - new flooring



Oct 29 - Old floor get stripped/sanded

NOVEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SERVICE TIMES LISTED ON LAST PAGE						
1 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm	2 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	3 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	4 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	5 Office Hour 11:00-12:00pm	6	7
8 Coffee Hour 12:00am-1:00 pm	9 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	10 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	11 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	12 Office Hour 11:00-12:00pm	13	14
15 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm Vestry Meeting 12:30 INGATHERING	16 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	17 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	18 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon	19 Office Hour 11:00-12:00pm Book Group 6:00-7:00pm	20	21
22 and 29 Coffee Hour 12:00-1:00 pm	23 and 30 Office Hours 11:00-12:00pm 2:00-3:00 pm	24 Office Hour 5:00pm-6:00pm	25 Bible Study 10:30-12 noon Thanksgiving Eve Service 12 noon	26 	27	28

COVID-19 SERVICE CHANGES AND PRECAUTIONS

CHANGES TO OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

- * AS OUR BUILDING EXPANSION NEARS ITS FINAL STAGES, COVID-19 CASES CONTINUE TO RISE IN THE FLATHEAD VALLEY, AND THE WEATHER HAS TURNED UNPREDICTABLE, EXPECT ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY CHANGES TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICES
- * WHEN POSSIBLE WE WILL HOLD WORSHIP INSIDE, IF THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE (DUE TO PAINTING OR REFINISHING THE FLOOR OR NEW RESTRICTIONS FROM THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT) WE WILL SUSPEND IN PERSON WORSHIP, BUT CONTINUE TO LIVE-STREAM A SERVICE AT 9 A.M. WITH DRIVE THROUGH COMMUNION FROM 10 - 11 A.M. IN THE PARKING LOT



- * IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO HOLD INDOOR WORSHIP EXPECT THE FOLLOWING:

- * MASKS REQUIRED AT ALL SERVICES
- * NO MUSIC AT THE 7:30 AM & 7 PM SERVICES
- * MUSIC AT 9 & 11 (BUT ONLY THE CHORAGOS WILL SING THE HYMNS)
- * MAINTAIN A 6-10 FT DISTANCE BETWEEN FAMILIES
- * COMMUNION (IN BOTH KINDS) WILL BE BROUGHT TO YOU

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

7:30 am - service only, no music

9:00 am - service with hymns

9:00 am service is also streamed live on Facebook

10:00-11:00 am - Drive through communion

11:00 am - service with hymns

7:00 pm – service only, no music



HOME COMMUNION AND VISITATIONS

If you have had to take some time away from church, but would like to receive the sacraments, please let us know! While the bishop has requested that clergy refrain from scheduling home visits, (hospitals and senior living facilities won't allow them either!), Fr. Charlie would be more than happy to bring you the sacrament/say prayers with you on your doorstep, the hospital parking lot, or at the church.

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

Church location:

2048 Conn Road
Columbia Falls, MT
Phone: 406-862-2863

Church mailing address:

PO Box 1923
Whitefish, MT 59937

Rector: Reverend Charlie Knuth
Email: cknuth@allsaintsmt.org
Cell: 801-635-5162

Parish Administrator: Shawn Sloan
Email: allsaintsmt@gmail.com
Cell: 406-291-3613

Christian Formation Minister/Children and Youth: Cynthia Benkelman
Email: cynthia@allsaintsmt.org
Cell: 406-261-9636

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus forever. and ever.

Find us here:

Just click on the link!

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt>

YouTube link: http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAl6n1GwSPS5dIAkzda

Webpage link: <http://www.allsaintsmt.org>

Vestry Members

Rector: Reverend Charlie Knuth
Senior Warden: Leif Peterson
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Betsy Paugh
Heidi Sobczak
Henry Stamm

Diocese of Montana:
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