

Announcements

3 May 2026

Welcome and Happy Eastertide! We are so glad you are here! This morning, we welcome back the Rev. LaRae Rutenbar, who presides and preaches at the Holy Eucharist. Our musician is Sal Page.

Who Knew? In the past, parishioners had to bring their own Prayer Books to church. It's still a good idea to have a copy of both the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible at home. Have you got yours? The Bible translation we use is called the New Revised Standard Version (N.R.S.V.). You can purchase either or both online at www.churchpublishing.org.

Spotlight on Hymnody: Originally authored in German, the hymn that begins "Jesus lives! thy terrors now" (#194) was once translated "Jesus lives! no longer now," and Percy Dearmer described this as "unfortunate." Set to Henry John Gauntlett's tune *St. Albinus*, the hymn makes a triumphal and defiant statement to Death. Since deleted, a sixth stanza put it this way: "Jesus lives! henceforth is death / entrance-gate of life immortal."

Save the Date: Our annual welcome brunch will take place after church on June 14—to welcome back our seasonal members and to celebrate the beginning of summer (and, after this year, the end of winter!). To RSVP, call 231-582-2648.

Recommending: The Center for Action and Contemplation is a project founded by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan friar and ecumenical teacher. They offer podcasts, daily meditations, online education, and other events—all from a Christian perspective that is unashamedly progressive and "woke." Many of their programs are offered without charge, although the Living School year-long online training course costs \$2,100. There is also an online bookstore (cac.org). Any prophets out there?

The Vestry met on April 23. (The Vestry is our parish governing board.) At this meeting, they:

- Shared prayer concerns and pastoral matters
- Learned that Nativity has received a \$5,000 Congregational Development Grant from the Diocese of the Great Lakes—to support engaging supply clergy in weeks when Barrie does not preside
- Also learned that the diocese has invited up to three Nativity folks to participate in coaching and formation to help us discern projects that will shape our next chapter—at no expense to us!

- Confirmed plans to conduct a required financial review jointly with Christ Church, Charlevoix, this summer
- Learned that we will have a priest to celebrate the Holy Eucharist every Sunday through October—and possibly beyond
- Discussed installing handrails on the steps to our altar platform; this will be investigated in more detail
- Learned that the exterior door from the downstairs kitchen needs to be replaced
- Learned that our church cleaner is recovering from surgery; Jerris Makee has agreed to substitute until the cleaner fully recuperates, likely in June
- Received quotes from Stairlifts of Michigan for installing a stairlift to the basement, and agreed a new stairlift was preferable to installing a used one (and only marginally more expensive); a few questions need to be sorted out, including financing
- Reviewed a proposal from Wright Building and Design to renovate the upstairs lavatory, installing storage cabinets, a wall-mounted baby-changing station, and new flooring; several questions need to be addressed by the contractor
- Learned that installing a comfort-height toilet in the basement is delayed due to a preferred plumber's medical situation
- Agreed on a set of guiding principles, including working by consensus and generally meeting bimonthly
- Discussed establishing an endowment fund with the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, a proposal likely to be enacted at the next meeting
- Received a favorable financial report, showing income of \$19,131 and expenses of \$12,843, year to date
- Approved the minutes of the March meeting

The Vestry next meets on May 14, although the time of that gathering has not yet been ascertained. (Barrie will be returning from a diocesan clergy retreat downstate that day, so the ending of the retreat and travel time have to be accounted for.)

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The Rev. Dr. J. Barrington Bates, *Priest-in-Charge*

