

The Ambassador

April 2017

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

A vital, eclectic Episcopal congregation committed to the ministry of all the baptized

From Fr. Jamie

One thing you hear me say again and again is that Easter doesn't simply end at sundown on Easter Day. It lasts for 50 days. But, I really believe that all Christians should live in the Easter spirit every single day of their lives.

In this Easter season, I invite you to celebrate Easter every day, fully and completely in your life. St. Augustine once said that a Christian is "an Alleluia from head to toe." I always took that quote as a personal challenge of living out my life as a Christian. I hope you too take it as a challenge and will strive to live out your life during this Easter season and beyond as an Alleluia from head to toe.

-peace,
Jamie+



Around St. Stephen's

Birth

Johannes Michael Tackling, son of Jennifer and Sebastian and brother of Matthias, Oliver and Eloise, was born April 5.

Episcopal 101

Fr. Jamie will be offering an Episcopal 101 class beginning on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:00 pm. This is class geared especially toward new members and anyone interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church. If you are interested in participating in the class, please contact Fr. Jamie (apium@aol.com)

Acolyte Training

Fr. Jamie will offering Acolyte Training on Sunday April 30, following the 11:00 a.m. Mass for anyone interested in serving as acolyte. Please let Fr. Jamie know if you are interested in serving as an acolyte.

Altar Guild Training

Fr. Jamie will offering Altar Guild Training on Sunday June 4, following the 11:00 a.m. Mass for anyone interested in serving on the Altar Guild. Please let Fr. Jamie know if you are interested in serving on Altar Guild.

Great Plains Food Bank - May 6

Our first opportunity to package food items at Great Plains will be on Saturday, May 6, from 10 - noon. We'll need *at least* 10 volunteers but we can use more volunteers. Older children are welcome to come along with their parents. The facility is located at 1720 3rd Ave. N. in Fargo. There is a sign-up sheet in the undercroft.

This is a new outreach/service opportunity. We are signed up for four additional Saturdays in 2017: July 30, September 30, October 29, and December 31. Plan to join the group on May 6 and learn more about the Great Plains Food Bank and their impressive work to address hunger not only in Fargo-Moorhead but across the rest of North Dakota as well.

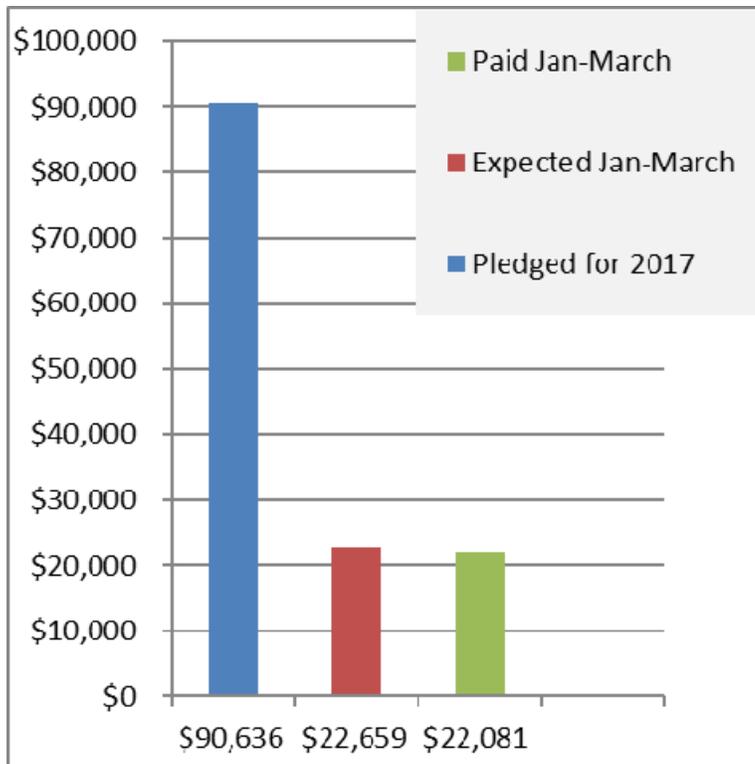
Ingathering for ER&D - April 23

Plan to bring the Episcopal Relief & Development (ER&D) coin boxes (or at least their contents!) to church for our ingathering of these offerings on Sunday, April 23. The contents of our individual boxes will be combined with the ER&D Sunday and the Lenten Wednesday offerings. Together we anticipate that there will be at least enough money (\$175) to pay for one family's share in a community garden through ER&D's Gifts for Life.

This is one small - but important - way we help alleviate hunger in the wider world and address Sustainable Development Goal #2 to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Don't forget your coin box on April 23. Of course contributions, in addition to those from the coin boxes, will be welcome on April 23 as well.

The Financial Pledge Picture

At the annual meeting, several people suggested that a periodic update on pledge income would be helpful. The graphic below shows the total 2017 pledge amount, the pledge income expected after the first three months of the year and the actual pledge income for those three months. As the graphic shows, we are behind expected pledge income by \$578.



Amos & Micah

Steve Bolduc and Amy Phillips will be facilitating a discussion of the Prophets Amos & Micah on April 23 after the service at approximately 12:45 in the office downstairs. Everyone is welcome! Feel free to read the prophets ahead of time and bring your Bible.

Last Children's Chapel

The last Children's Chapel of the season will be May 21. Join us on that Sunday as we recognize all our students, teachers and helpers who helped make Children's Chapel such a success this year!

Rogation Sunday

Join us on Sunday May 21 for our annual Rogation Procession and Blessing of Seeds and gardening implements. At the conclusion of the service, we will process to the Memorial Garden of a blessing of the elements, including any seeds and gardening implements you would like to bring. So, please plan to bring any items you would like blessed at this celebration of the planting season.

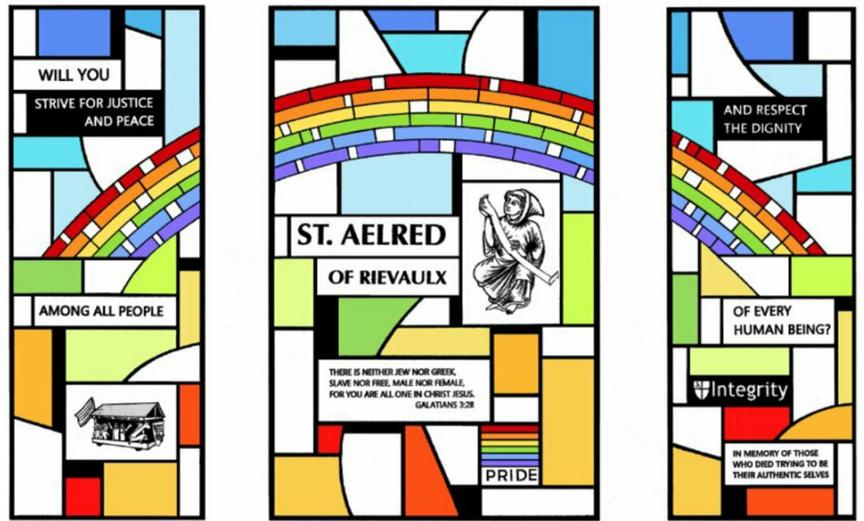
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Dedication and Blessing of the Integrity Window

The third stained glass window in a series of windows being placed in our nave was dedicated and blessed during the 11:00 a.m. celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday, April 2.

The “Integrity” Window (a.k.a. the St. Aelred Window) commemorates St. Stephen’s long and proud ministry with the LGBTQ community. We are so proud to have this addition to our church. Our very own Gin Templeton designed the window and Michael Orchard Studio of Fargo built and installed it.

Commemorating St. Aelred of Rievaulx (1110-1167), the patron saint of Integrity (the LGBTQ organization in the Episcopal Church), the window features an overarching rainbow, the Pride flag, and the St. Stephen’s Noah’s Ark float used each year in the Pride



Parade. The message of the window of “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect with the dignity of every human being?” comes from the Baptismal Covenant of the Book of Common Prayer. A verse of scripture from the book of Galatians is also included in the window.



William Weightman posing alongside the window panel commemorating the Pride Parade float when designed and built.

Below:

Michael Orchard of Michael Orchard Studios, Gin Templeton who designed the window and Nick Walberg who works for Michael Orchard Studio and a long-time friend of St. Stephen’s.



REVISED Schedule of Ministries at St. Stephen's for April-May

Schedule			April 16	April 23	April 30
Acolyte				Holbrook	Meister
Altar Guild				Phillips	Phillips
Worship Ldr/EM				Corbitt-Hall	Anderson
Lector				Hauan	Hill
Usher				McMullen	Phillips
				McMullen	Rice
Euch. Visitor				Clark	Holbrook
Coffee				Morrissey	Stewart
				Morrissey	Wilson
Cleaning				Holbrook	Holbrook
Children's Chapel				<i>Lead : Donna Assist: Bolduc</i>	<i>Lead: Sue Assist: McMullen</i>
TENTATIVE Schedule	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	
Acolyte	Rudnick	Corbitt-Hall	Meister	Holbrook	
Altar Guild	Nylander	Nylander	Hauan	Hauan	
Worship Ldr/EM	Baird	Meister	Weightman	Stewart	
Lector	Holbrook	McMullen	Meister	Morrissey	
Usher	Anderson	Baird	Wilson	Clark	
	Pitzel	Bolduc	Wiling	Hill	
Euch. Visitor	Weightman	Baird	Anderson	Clark	
Coffee	Baird	Clark	Phillips	Nylander	
	Holbrook	Templeton	Rice		
Cleaning	Nylander	Nylander	Marubbio	Marubbio	
Children's Chapel	<i>Lead: Gelinske Assist: Gelinske</i>	<i>Lead: Clark Assist: Rice</i>	<i>Lead: Stewart Assist: Holbrook</i>	No Chapel	

*Communion is available for those who are unable to attend Sunday worship. Please call the church to request communion after the Sunday service.

**If you are unavailable to serve on a date when you are assigned, please find a substitute and let James (evensong2@gmail.com) now who the substitute will be as early as possible so he can include the correct names in the bulletins. THANKS.