January 2026 Newsletter

The Flock

The Printed Voice of St. Francis of the Tetons Episcopal Church

St. Francis of the Tetons Episcopal Church
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Church Services - Sundays at 10:00 am

Voice of the Vestry

Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six. As we approach another year of seasons: winter, spring, summer, autumn and winter again, most of us reflect on the past and envision the future, what it might hold. Resolutions are made and a few of them might successfully change us through the upcoming year.

While most of the nation is probably somewhat moderate, what seems to make the news is polarizing opinions and extreme viewpoints. I have trouble reconciling what may be two different points of view in the New Testament. Matthew 12:30 says "whoever is not with me is against me and whoever does not gather with me scatters." This seems in my mind to contradict Mark 12:30-31. When asked what the most important commandments were, Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

How can we love our neighbors when they are not with us in our beliefs and therefore must be against us? How can those who seem to be preaching hatred, racism and other doctrines we consider in direct opposition to our Christian values of brotherly love be worthy of "love your neighbor as yourself" direction that Jesus expects of us?

I believe that Paul's letter to the Ephesians 4:2-3: "Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love, make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace" should be a great new year's resolution for all of us. While the "Loudest Voice" seems to drive many talk shows and be the mantra of some media outlets, where compromise has become a dirty word, let's try to consider moderation in our views as a far greater philosophy to live by.

I'm making it a New Year's resolution to listen to others' opinions and viewpoints and to try to see things from their perspective. I'm going to moderate my reply and try to respond to different points of view with considerate and thoughtful replies instead of angry words.

First Peter 3:15 "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you the reason for the hope that you have. Do this with gentleness and respect." Good words to live by!

Happy New Year!

Carl Schiner
St. Francis Vestry



Bible Study

January 17 - 10 am - Noon

Would you like to dig deeper into the Bible readings from Sunday worship? Join the group led by Rev. Eric Moehring and Ruth Lindstedt to learn about and discuss the scriptures. Contact Ruth at ralindstedt1336@gmail.com or Rev. Eric at moehringee@att.net for more information.



Worship Committee Meeting

Worship Committee meets on January 4 after worship service. All are welcome.



Lunch Bunch - January 7

Join us for potluck lunch and great conversation.

- Time: 12:30 pm
- Location: St. Francis Church

All are welcome!
Please bring a dish to share, and a friend, too!



Prepare the Church for Epiphany - January 7

On Wednesday, after potluck lunch, please stay and help take down the Christmas decorations, and prepare the church for Ephiphany.











Christmas Eve - A Children's Walk to Bethlehem

Community Interfaith Prayer Walk - January 3, at 11:00 am
Primrose Park (just north of the Teton County Courthouse)

Join your friends and neighbors for a time of prayer, peace and purpose. Together, we will walk in harmony with others gathering across the country on the first Saturday of each month. Our walk is a moment to speak to the Sacred - however you name the Holy, the Ineffable or God - about the divisions we see in our nation. We'll pray for those in leadership positions in government and for all the families and individuals affected by injustice and indifference; the hungry, the sick, and the disabled.

Let's walk as a sign of peace, hope, and light - a reminder that compassion still leads the way. Bring your heart, your voice and your hope. Invite others to join - the more hearts, the stronger the prayer.



Save the Date!! March 8, 2026, 3:00 pm at St. Francis

When he's not working on pianos, Will Perkins is often found playing one. A lifelong performer, Will began appearing at ragtime and traditional jazz festivals at just 14 years old. His passion for early jazz and ragtime piano has taken him to stages across the United States and internationally. He has been a featured performer at the Bohem Ragtime and Early Jazz Festival in Kecskemét, Hungary, and the Buenos Aires Ragtime Festival in Argentina.

Will is also a regular presence at leading U.S. festivals, including the West Coast Ragtime Festival, the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival, and many others. In 2017, Rivermont Records released his debut album, Snowy Morning Blues, which is available at https://willperkinspianos.com/music, on CD, Spotify, and iTunes.

Will currently lives in Idaho Falls, Idaho, with his wife, McKenna, and their son, Quinn.

GOOD CAUSE FOR THE QUARTER



As we begin 2026, we will be focusing our support on Seniors West of the Tetons (SWOT).
SWOT's mission is enriching seniors' lives through advocacy, diverse programming, and wellness and nutrition opportunities.

As many of us know, the SWOT lunches are famous in the valley, not only for the great food but also for the great fellowship. It's the place to go to see old friends and meet new ones. And SWOT has so much more to offer, such as:

- Home delivered meals and other services to homebound seniors.
- Weekly exercise classes - Yoga, Drumming, Tai Chi, Fit 'N Fall, and even Rock Climbing! Also, get your blood pressure checked by a local EMT.
- Brain Health activities include weekly bridge and mahjong games, art classes in partnership with Teton Arts, a photography club, hikes in favorable weather and book club.
- Quarterly Aging Well in Teton Valley seminars presented by local experts in aging and age-related challenges
- Learning experiences include estate planning and Death Cafe - a discussion about end of life planning. Also, iphone tips and tech time to get help with all your devices.
- Just for fun you can join the Pizza and a Movie nights, the weekly coffee klatsch or attend one of their special events throughout the year.

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing how we at St. Francis can support SWOT. Stay tuned!
For more information and to receive their monthly newsletter, contact SWOT at 208-354-6973 or www.tetonseniors.org.

Prayers, Celebrations and Meetings

Please remember in your prayers:

Zac Dubois, Susan Nowack, the family of Dorothy Ann Palmer, the family of Lynn Griffis, the family of Randall Fisher, the family of Connie Kirby, the family of Sofia Carlson, Lynn Quanstrom, Riley, Leo, Bill Wesley, Penny Oslund, Will, Tommy Huss, Tom Davis, Mike Hurwitz, as well as all faith communities and schools of Teton Valley.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Birthdays:

Elaine Moehring - Jan 8
Patty Sticher - Jan 15
Diane Brendsel - Jan 15
Ron Lien - Jan 19
Pete Oslund - Jan 27

Centering Prayer meets at 11 am on Wednesdays and 4 pm on Thursdays at the Church. All are welcome.

Vestry Meeting - January 13th via Zoom

Annual Meeting - January 18 - Following Worship

Our Dioceses are organized under the direction of the Bishop, in representation of the parishes of the diocese. The parishes are organized by their bylaws, in accordance of the national and diocesan canons. At this annual meeting, our parish elects the vestry, elects the delegate to diocesan convention, and approves the parish budget. We encourage and appreciate your participation in these important matters.

Stewardship

We have raised $49,180 of our goal of $80,000 for 2026. We still need $30,820.00 in pledges to keep the church running smoothly. The Vestry will be looking at ways to cut our expenses if our pledge goal is not met.

If you have not had a chance to pledge to support St. Francis for 2026, please give as you are able. Thank you.

You may place your pledge card in the collection plate or:

Email your pledge to sftetons@gmail.com, or

Send your pledge to:

St Francis Church
20 Alta School Rd.
Alta, WY 83414

Through the church giving site, www.realm.org you can setup online giving so your donations automatically come out of your checking or credit card account each month. To create your account use the QR code , or go to this URL:

https://onrealm.org/StFrancis99835

	Offerings	Attendance
Dec 7	$1,680	28
Dec 14	$585	29
Dec 21	$25,667	26
Dec 24	$847	72/31
Dec 28	$995	30

Church Leaders, Vestry Members and Staff

Bishop of Idaho
The Rt. Rev. Jos Tharakan
bishopjos@idahoepiscopal.org

Senior Warden
Lisa Wagener
sftseniorwarden@gmail.com

Clergy in our Parish
Rev. Deb Adams
chocolatelibrarian@gmail.com

Rev. Eric Moehring
moehringee@att.net

Rev. Nancy Groshart
ngroshart@gmail.com

Worship Leaders
Ellen Rein
jwreins2002@yahoo.com

Ruth Lindstedt
ralindstedt1336@gmail.com

Darrell Reinke
drreinke@myidahomail.com

Parish Treasurer
Dan Baxter
skiman1920@gmail.com

Vestry Members
Wood Palmer
woodsriver@silverstar.com

Ruth Lindstedt
ralindstedt1336@gmail.com

Carl Schiner
carlschiner@hotmail.com

Carol Taylor
caroltaylor58@gmail.com

Employees:
Angie Warner-Custodian
Etta Rokes-Caretaker
Cheryl Letchworth-Newsletter and Bulletin
Hannah Steed-Admin. Assistant, Website, and Social Media

Church Services

Services begin at 10 am, unless otherwise stated.

January 4
2nd Sunday after Christmas
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant: Rev. Deb Adams
Eucharistic Minister: Sarah Balben
Musician: Gayle Lien
Lector: Ellen Rein
Greeter/Usher: Ron Lien
Altar Guild: Ellen Rein
Refreshments: Potluck
VMOD: Carol Taylor

January 11
1st Sunday after the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist

Celebrant/Preacher: Rev. Deb Adams
Eucharistic Minister: Angie Warner
Musician: Gayle Lien
Lector: George Nowack
Greeter/Usher: Ron Lien
Altar Guild: Elaine Moehring
Refreshments: Potluck
VMOD: Wood Palmer

January 18
2nd Sunday after the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist
Annual Meeting

Celebrant: Rev. Sandy Casey-Martus
Eucharistic Minister: Angie Warner
Musician: Rev. Eric Moehring
Lector: Jim Steele
Greeter/Usher: Carl Schiner
Alter Guild:: Sarah Balben
Refreshments: Potluck
VMOD: Lisa Wagener

January 25
3rd Sunday after the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist

Officiant: Nancy Groshart
Preacher: Carol Taylor
Musician: Beverly Charette
Lector: Jerry Groshart
Greeter/Usher: Carol Taylor
Altar Guild: Angie Warner
Refreshments: Potluck
VMOD: Carl Schiner

JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NA = Narcotics Anonymous				1 NA 6:30 pm	2 NA 6:30 pm	3 Prayer Walk 11:00 am
4 2nd Sunday after Christmas Holy Eucharist Rev. Deb Adams Worship Com. Mtg. Al-Anon - 5 pm	5 NA 6:30 pm	6	7 Potluck Lunch 12:30 NA 6:30 pm	8 NA 6:30 pm	9 NA 6:30 pm	10
11 1st Sunday after the Ephiphany Holy Eucharist Rev. Eric Moehring Al-Anon - 5 pm	12 NA 6:30 pm	13 Vestry Meeting via Zoom	14 NA 6:30 pm	15 NA 6:30 pm	16 NA 6:30 pm	17 Bible Study 10 am-noon
18 2nd Sunday after the Ephiphany Holy Eucharist Rev. Sandy Casey-Martus Annual Mtg. after Service Al-Anon - 5 pm	19 NA 6:30 pm	20	21 NA 6:30 pm	22 NA 6:30 pm	23 NA 6:30 pm	24
25 3rd Sunday after the Ephiphany Morning Prayer Nancy Groshart Al-Anon - 5 pm	26 NA 6:30 pm	27	28 NA 6:30 pm	29 NA 6:30 pm	30 NA 6:30 pm	31