



## DIOCESAN E-NEWS

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

News for the week of September 29, 2020

### Día de Los Muertos Toolkit

All congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California are warmly invited to join in observing El Día de Los Muertos on All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2020.

Originating in Mexico, the Day of the Dead is now widely celebrated across Latin America and in Spanish-speaking communities around the world. Here in Northern California, El Día de Los Muertos is a culturally meaningful chance for Episcopal churches to connect with our Latino/Hispanic parishioners, friends, colleagues, and neighbors.



In this year of extraordinary loss and grief, the Day of the Dead offers us all a moment to mark our mourning, to remember our loved ones, and to affirm the life that we cherish in community.

This diocesan observance was proposed by the Task Force for Latino/Hispanic Ministries, a working group of the diocesan Commission for Intercultural Ministries, and approved by Bishop Megan Traquair. The task force has prepared the toolkit for congregations, complete with resources for event planning, worship, pastoral care, public outreach, and cultural background. The toolkit includes tips on COVID-safe ways to provide *ofrendas* (altars), *desfiles* (processions), and other elements of the traditional Day of the Dead.

To download the toolkit, [please visit](#).

Share your congregation's journey to El Día de Los Muertos with the whole diocese! Send your photos, videos, and announcements to [EDNC Communications](#) or [Commission on Intercultural Ministries](#)

### Reconciliation to our Polarized Politics

Trinity Cathedral is participating in a Braver Angels program called *With Malice Toward None*. Braver Angels is an organization committed to bringing people

with diverse political opinions together to find common values and foster peace in our polarized political environment.

*With Malice Toward None* takes its title from Lincoln's second inaugural address, when he sought to heal the nation after the trauma of the Civil War. The heart of the program will be a prayer service on the Cathedral live-stream the day after the election.

This program is open to members of the Cathedral community and the Diocese of Northern California. The first two sessions are:

**October 6 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm -*Depolarizing Within***

This is a public workshop, all are invited. It would be very useful to participate in this workshop in order to prepare for our Trinity and the Diocese of Northern California program outlined below.

**October 7 at 7:00 pm –*Introductions and Hopes***

Meet each other and introduce this program. Marisa Gottuso and Shelley Mydans will outline the goals of Braver Angels. We will also discuss our hopes for the prayer service on November 4.

Please email [braverangels@trinitycathedral.org](mailto:braverangels@trinitycathedral.org) for more information and if you wish to participate.

## Deanery Convocation

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

CONVENTION 2020

DEANERY CONVOCATION  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

New this year, the Convocation will be live streamed on Saturday, October 10 from 9:30 - 10:30 am. Individual deaneries may have a follow-up Zoom call at 10:30 am. Watch your email for more information on your local meeting and for the Convocation materials.

Raising Up Saints!



## Diocesan Convention Registration

### Still time to register!

New this year, we are inviting all members of the diocese to attend the virtual convention. When you register you will be able to participate in one of the four dynamic learning tracks as well as attend the general sessions.

[For more information click here](#)

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## Administration & Finance

### The Episcopal Church Medical Trust 2021 Open Enrollment Process is Coming Soon!

#### 2021 Active Employee Open Enrollment

October 28 - November 18, 2020

#### 2021 Pre-65 Retiree Open Enrollment

October 28 - November 18, 2020

#### 2021 Post-65 Retiree Open Enrollment

October 15 - December 7, 2020\*

*\* Dates are estimated; final dates will match Medicare Open Enrollment period once announced*

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More information on 2021 Open Enrollment coming soon.  
Please contact [benefits@norcalepiscopal.org](mailto:benefits@norcalepiscopal.org) with any questions.

## Disaster Relief Assistance

O God, our refuge and strength, our help in times of trouble.

Have mercy on the lands damaged by fires.

Have mercy on the lands where the weather has destroyed livelihoods.

Protect those who evacuate houses, and strengthen those who rebuild hope so that entire communities may face the future without fear.

Amen.



*Please give to help  
Disaster Relief*

In our diocese there are six main fires that have burned over 1,700,000 acres. These fires have impacted 38 churches and at least four families have lost their homes.

In addition to prayer, if you would like to reach out a helping hand, here is how to donate to disaster relief:

### **Bishop's Discretionary Fund: Disaster Relief**

100% of your donation will go directly to assist victims in the first stage of the disaster and later during long term recovery.

To donate to disaster relief, click [here](#) now.

<https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=159790&f=6&a=20.00>

Please make checks out to EDNC put "Disaster Relief" in the memo line.

Mail checks to:

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California  
350 University Avenue, Suite 280  
Sacramento, CA 95825

## Resources and Links



### THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

THEODICY AND SPIRITUALITY



### **CENTER FOR BIBLE STUDY** **presents the Gospel of John**

Join the Center for Bible Study for a six week bible study beginning on **October 7** via Zoom. Lead by The Rev. Daniel London, PhD, rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Eureka, CA. Together explore how we reconcile an all-loving and all-powerful God with a world of suffering.

[For more information click here.](#)  
[For the schedule click here.](#)



**Get Prepared** - Whether it's an earthquake, wildfire, flood, or COVID-19, Listos California wants everyone to get ready and stay safe. Working with you to establish resilient communities and build a new culture of disaster preparedness for all Californians. Listos California offers resources for you and your family. Visit their website [here](#).

## **The College for Congregational Development Update**

The College for Congregational Development will be going online.

Dates to be announced soon. Watch for more information.

College for  
Congregational  
Development

*The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California*



[Online resources for  
people in recovery](#)



**Recovery Ministries  
of the  
Episcopal Church**

To submit news/events, please email [communications@norcalepiscopal.org](mailto:communications@norcalepiscopal.org). The submission deadline is the Wednesday before the Tuesday publication.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

*Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints & Transforming Communities for Christ*

[www.norcalepiscopal.org](http://www.norcalepiscopal.org)

