



EPISCOPAL HOUSE *of* PRAYER

June 2019



Words on...Wisdom

Greetings Dear Ones!

As we prepare to gather for our Wisdom School retreat in a few weeks, I find myself sitting with an understanding of the "Wisdom Tradition," within the Judeo-Christian landscape, as the places throughout the centuries where insight and practice seamlessly wove together to form living schools of transformation. These living schools are alive within the broader traditions at all times and in diverse places.

In my own journey, intentional communities like Benedictine monasteries and intentional settings like Ignatian retreat houses provide the fodder for the development of the formal Wisdom tradition by gaining insights found in the context of daily life. The Episcopal House of Prayer is also one such living school, in which we gather regularly in retreat from daily life in order to reflect on the deeper meaning and broader invitations that Life itself constantly communicates to us.

Communications from the Holy One sometimes manifest in our lives clearly and without doubt; at other times, the Mystery of Life communicates with us more subtly and in seemingly hidden ways. The Judeo-Christian concepts of *sophia* and *logos* are formal personifications that help us to address this ongoing tension between God's manifestation as Word, logos, and as hidden in Mystery, sophia.

You will note in this month's letter that I have revised my own original chant, which focused on Wisdom, to now include the opposite expression, Logos. In what ways might God be made manifest in your own life? In what ways might you be called to wholeness by living into the tensions found in opposites? Might you consider one of our upcoming retreat offerings to sit with these eternal and ongoing spiritual questions?

In peace,
Christine Luna Munger

Community Reflection Corner

This month, we prompted a few of our long-time retreat go-ers to offer a video reflection about their experiences of the Wisdom School retreats.

Dianne Pizey, an 8 time Wisdom School participant (beginning in 2004) and one of the Wisdom Sisters, tells about her experience. [Click here to listen](#) to Dianne's video.

Tom Darnall, who attended Wisdom School in 2018, offers a reflection on his decision to attend and experience of Wisdom School. [Click there to listen](#) to Tom's video.

Community Chant Corner

Chant and sacred song are an important element of our weekly prayer and retreat experiences at the Episcopal House of Prayer. Over the years, a number of beloved and favorite chants have echoed in the oratory, even as new ones are heard for the first time.

This spring, I invited a few of our regular community members to offer some time to the House by recording and sharing some of their favorite chants. Bill Brand and John Mischke have since recorded a number of chants and will offer them regularly to be shared with the community.

Here, I offer the second one! Click to listen, [As the Deer](#)

From the May Newsletter [Bind my Head](#)

Revised chant from the March Newsletter, [Holy Wisdom, Holy Logos](#)

I invite all members of our community to consider either recording some of your favorite chants and/or listening to them when they are posted in the newsletters. Coming soon, we will also have a section on the website to house all of our beloved and favorite sacred songs.

Coming in July...

Wisdom School 2019

Places We Never Expected to Go: *Being with Vicissitudes*

One week of registration remains. [To register, click here.](#)

**Offered by Diane Millis, Ph D, Rev. Bussho Lahn, Christine Luna Munger, Ph D
Monday, July 22 — Saturday, July 27 (intensive)
\$775 (Scholarships available)**

In this year's Wisdom School, we will draw upon wisdom teachings from Judeo-Christian and Buddhist traditions and explore practices for "being-with" rather than bypassing the vicissitudes in our lives. We will also learn small-group practices for "being with one another" during difficult times.

Paradoxically, the spiritual life may be more, rather than less difficult, imploring us to investigate the inevitable difficulties, disappointments, and disruptions in our lives. Our shared spiritual inquiry during retreat will prepare us to face suffering as a mental, emotional, and spiritual reality, thus allowing for the fullest expression of divine and human life in our daily lived experience. Somehow, in the passing away, we find full life.

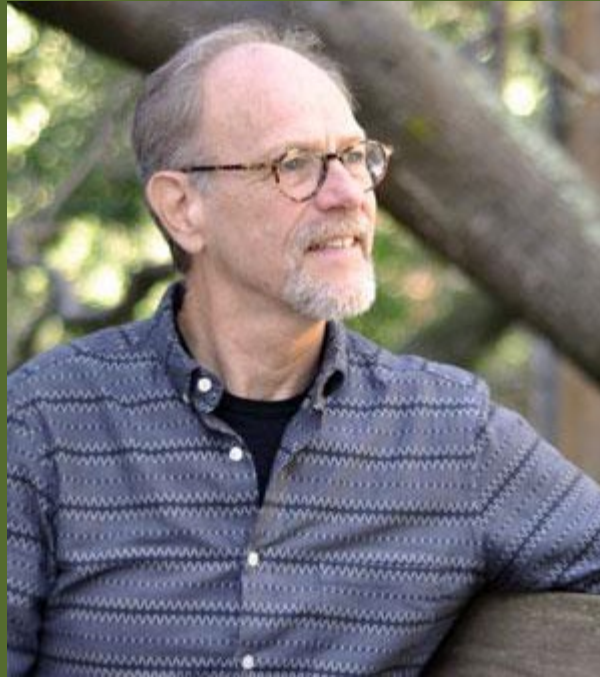
Each day on retreat will consist of retreat-leader teachings, periods of sitting and walking meditation, contemplative creative art activities, and contemplative conversations in small groups. We will carry light and joyful hearts as we engage our deep work.

Rev. Bussho Lahn first came to Zen Buddhism in 1993, was ordained in 2009, and became a full priest in 2015. Bussho is a trained spiritual director, connecting with and mentoring those who wish to deepen an intentional and contemplative spiritual life. He explores the connection between spirituality and psychology. He is active in both the recovery and Christian contemplative communities, teaching and leading retreats and overseas pilgrimages through the Episcopal House of Prayer and the Aslan Institute.

Diane M. Millis, Ph D loves to help people explore their stories through spiritual direction, retreats, workshops, and the courses she teaches. Diane's recent book, *Re-Creating a Life: Learning How to Tell Our Most Life-Giving Story*, offers guidance and encouragement for mining the meaning in our most challenging life experiences. She currently teaches at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.

Christine Luna Munger, Ph D currently serves as the Director of the Episcopal House of Prayer. She served as Coordinator & Professional Professor of Theology for the Spiritual Direction Certificate in the graduate department of Theology at St. Catherine University from 2012-2018. Christine has published resources for spiritual direction for Spiritual Directors International (SDI), including the Comparison of Helping Relationships chart, a brochure--What to Expect in Christian Spiritual Direction, two SDI Learns from... videos, and an article—*Five Ordinary Movements in Spiritual Direction*. Christine is a wife and mother of two young children. She is bilingual (English & Spanish) and enjoys all forms of dance and being outdoors.

Please pray for those who will gather on retreat in July...



Ward Bauman reflects on the contemplative life and offers an invitation to come away to the Episcopal House of Prayer. Click on the picture to see Ward's video. Keep watch for future videos from our community leaders & founders as they share about the impact and history of the Episcopal House of Prayer.

If you are seeking spiritual transformation, we invite you to join us for weekly Contemplative Prayer in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Collegeville All are welcome!

[Visit our website](#)

The Episcopal House of Prayer is a contemplative ministry grounded in the Christian tradition, with locations in Collegeville and Minneapolis, Minnesota. This ministry is dedicated to supporting individuals and groups as they seek to be "formed into Christ" (Galations 4:19).

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