

April 5, 2024

APRIL CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church—Red Wing

Bishop

The Right Rev. Craig Loya

Priest-in-Charge

The Rev Aaron Twait

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Deacon

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Christ Church Vestry 2023

Sr. Warden: Angela Shefvland

Jr. Warden: Kris Blaney

Zoe Malinchoc-DeVoe (2024)

Hugh Wronski (2024)

Elaine Hoisington (2025)

Erik Prink (2025)

Ron Weitnauer (2026)

Brendan Kelly (2026)

Teri Van Allen (2026)

Treasurers

Buck Foot, Sandy Richter

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Office

Amelia Reinitz (ends April 12)

Tina Langton (begins April 15)

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A LETTER FROM PASTOR AARON

Dear Friends,

We're in the Easter Season – the Great Fifty Days between Easter and Pentecost where we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and what it means for us. We'll be spending some time over the next few Sundays revisiting Jesus' teachings about himself and his mission as he prepares them to take God's unstoppable love into the world. It's a tall order for the disciples, and for us too.

I thought about this as I re-read a book last month called *The Ninefold Path of Jesus: Hidden Wisdom of the Beatitudes* by Mark Scandrette, a former youth minister, church planter, and pastor at both Lutheran and Baptist congregations who now works in practical Christian spirituality.

In his book, Mark writes about being haunted by a conversation he had with a Buddhist priest, who was able to clearly and succinctly explain how he lived out his beliefs using the Eightfold Path. When the priest asked him in return how he lived out his beliefs, the best Mark could come up with was: "Each day I try to love God with my whole being and love my neighbor as myself". It's a vague answer that gets an "A" for aspiration and an "F" for being a useful how-to manual.

And I think Mark hits on one of the biggest challenges we face as modern Christians. Many of us were formed as Christians during a time when people simply belonged to a faith community – regardless of how strong (or weak) our faith was. But as the church's role in society is changing, we struggle to give people a compelling vision for life beyond vague generalities or bland moralism. What does it look like to live out an authentic Christian life? How do we actually take God's unstoppable love into the world? What might practical Christian spirituality look like for us?

Mark's vague answer to the Buddhist priest's question became a lot more detail after his epiphany that the Beatitudes might be "the ninefold path of Jesus". As he thought about it and talked

with others, Mark realized the Beatitudes represent a simple, easy-to-understand, yet hard to master guide for what Christian life looks when we live it out in the world around us. Through the Beatitudes, Mark writes, “Jesus invites us to confront our distorted responses to life and return to what is most real and true. The Beatitudes chart this path back to reality.”

I don’t know about you, but Mark’s frustration with his answer to the Buddhist priest about how to live a Christian life resonated with me. Sometimes I struggle to put my beliefs into actions – or to know how I might do it in ways that help me grow in my discipleship. Maybe you feel the same way, too. If you do, I hope you’ll think about joining me this fall for a walk through this book – as we learn new postures for life that will help us embrace the deeper reality of the Community of God.

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!

Pastor Aaron



Pastor Aaron Twait



A LETTER FROM DEACON VICKI

The Good News of Easter is that there is the possibility of new life. Now. Not tomorrow or the next day. NOW. The power of the resurrection is not something that simply awaits us after death, but something that comes to us now, that comes to us always, that proclaims the good news that new life is possible here, now, today.

Gerard Manley Hopkins has a wonderful poem, “The Wreck of the Deutschland”, where he uses the phrase “Let him Easter in us.” Here, the noun Easter is a verb.

It is a remarkable phrase. I suggest this is a great way to look at the real truth, the transforming reality of Easter. Let Easter get into us. Let Easter come and live where we live inside us. Let Easter permeate our souls. “Let him Easter in us, and be a dayspring to the dimness of us.” Isn’t that really what we all desire most? Not Easter as a noun, about a long-ago event. But, rather, Easter as a verb, as something that transforms our present lives, as something that gives us new life now, as something that gives us hope and meaning and courage. Isn’t that what every human heart longs for? Let him Easter in us!

It feels like, in so many ways, people are longing for an experience of Easter in their lives. The grieving widowed whose spouse died at a much too early age. A person who is struggling with a new career at midlife and fears their ability to cope with new challenges. A colleague who experiences a deep, clinical depression and struggles to live through the day with meager energy. In so many ways, so many people are longing for new life, for God to Easter in us, and be a dayspring to the dimness of us.

One could say that the women who arrived at the tomb early on that first Easter morning also needed to experience Easter as a verb. Look at how the Gospel of Mark tells it. The women came to the tomb thinking that the story had ended, that it was all over between them and Jesus. They had gone to attend to the dead body of Jesus, to anoint him, to wrap him up, and to give him a proper burial, and we may suppose to mourn the loss of their Lord.

What they get when they arrive is a breathtaking announcement that God has raised Christ from the dead and that he has gone ahead of them to Galilee where they will see him. What they get is Easter as a noun, and we have no reason to believe that they doubted that God had, in fact, raised Christ from the dead. It’s just that the reality of the event was so overwhelming that they were dumbfounded. As Mark says, “they went out and fled the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” They experienced Easter as a noun, but they had not yet experienced Easter as a verb because they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Our other gospels and tradition tell us that the women eventually did experience Easter as a verb, because they did eventually go and tell the other disciples that Christ had been raised from the dead. He Eastered inside them and they were transformed from a group of terrified people, who were frightened and fearful, to apostles, to people who boldly went forth from the tomb and proclaimed the good news that because Christ is risen life is stronger than death, love is stronger than hate, and God's peace is more powerful than human violence.

Let him Easter within us. Easter is a verb. It is something that happens within us. Easter is true when it lives where we live and permeates our souls.

Right now, at this moment, we can let go of past hurts and grudges, and start over. Right here, right now, we can overcome our fear and fixation on death and trust in the Lord of life and love. Right here, right now, wherever we are, we can claim new life in our families, in our jobs and hobbies, in our relationships, in our churches, in this broken but beautiful world. We can be new here and now by the power of the resurrection.

God is here, alive and moving. Let's get Easter into us; let Easter come and grow and transform us; let Easter permeate our souls. We let him Easter in us, and be a dayspring to the dimness of us.

Alleluia! Let us love fiercely, live bravely, and embrace our transformation! Alleluia!



Deacon Vicki Lambert

Lenten Soup Suppers

This year our Lenten Journey again featured Wednesday night soup suppers followed by Evening Prayer in the chapel. We averaged about 10 hardy souls who were fed soups ranging from Chicken Wild Rice to Vegetable to Chipotle Chile, and whose souls were fed with Scripture, prayer, and spiritual companionship.

Thanks to everyone who came – and special thanks to our cooks: Tara Burnham, Deacon Barbara, Deacon Vicki, Sandy Gieseke, and Pastor Aaron. We look forward to seeing you all again next Lent!





Easter Sunday

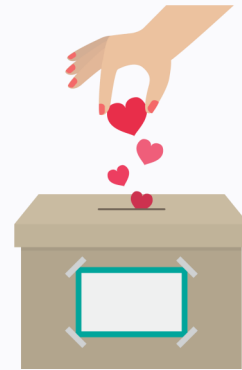
Fun Fridays are BACK



Third Fun Friday returns from its Lenten Break in April with a Dinner and Bingo Night! Come for dinner and fellowship and stay to win a prize or two. Take a night off from cooking and enjoy some fun with your Christ Church family! No cost to attend and all are welcome.

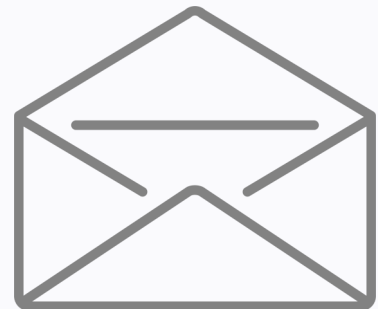
Between 'There' Care

April-June the Community Engagement team is collecting feminine hygiene and incontinence products to donate locally. See the poster on the bulletin board for more details!



*The coat shed is looking for more coats!
We are running low on boys coats specifically. Drop them off in the office with Amelia!*

If you would like pledge envelopes, contact the office and the finance department will get you taken care of!



We have a lovely library in our church! Anyone have any suggestions on how to encourage people to use it more?

What about having a potluck/quiet time where we use our library or bring something to read?

Now Announcing...
Spring Fling for the Heart and Soul
Celebrating Women of All Ages
~Presented by ECW~
Friday, May 17 at 5:30 in the Parish Hall

Upcoming Events

Adult Education For the Month of April
4.7.24—Shelia Wall on Music and Spirituality
4.14.24—Instructed Eucharist— Why We Do What We Do
4.21.24—Presentation by Faith in Action
4.28.24—Judaism on One Foot by Steve Lear

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

There's an old proverb that says: "You cannot really know someone until you've eaten a kilo of salt together". In other words, to really know someone, you have to break bread with them many, many times!

That's why the second-most important hour of our week (after worship) at Christ Church is our coffee hour. It's our opportunity to share a meal – and work on that pound of salt. Over coffee and treats our fellowship bonds us as a community, builds a sense of family, and helps strengthen the ties that bring us together.

Christ Church needs some additional volunteers to be part of this wonderful ministry that brings life to our faith community! The great news is that coffee hour hosting is easy: all the plates, napkins, cups, utensils, and coffee are provided. You just setup and bring something everyone can enjoy. We can even pair you with an experienced veteran if you like!

You can volunteer by signing up on the sheet next to the parish offices, or by contacting Pastor Aaron or the office staff by phone or email. Questions? Ask Pastor Aaron!



Upcoming First Sundays

Christ Church's First Sunday Celebrations have given us some great opportunities to promote our mental, physical, and spiritual wellness through community building, celebrating diversity, and creating a sense of belonging and a time for renewal.

Each First Sunday offers the following:
9:00 Wellness Hour with Guest Speaker
10:00 Worship Service with Guest Musicians
11:00 Potluck Lunch
12:00 Mini-Concert with Guest Musicians

Out next three First Sundays are April 7, May 5, and June 2 – see below for more information. If you have tried one out we invite you to join us – and invite others in the community who are interested in renewal and wellness to come along.

April 7th

Wellness Hour – “Music and Spirituality” presented by Sheila Wall. She has a special connection to Christ Church – she's Vicki Lambert's sister!

Guest Musicians -Wreckless, a variety band of professional musicians whose lead female singer, Shelley, is Vicki's cousin!

May 5th

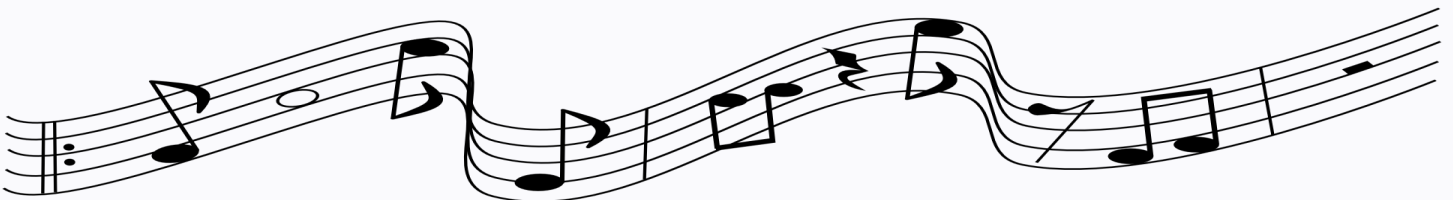
Wellness Hour – “Prayer Styles” presented by Dr. Christine Luna Munger, from Episcopal House of Prayer in Collegeville.

Guest Musician – Tony Cuchetti, singer/songwriter

June 2nd

Wellness Hour – “Celebrate Spring” presented by our deacons, the Rev. Barbara Von Haaren and the Rev. Vicki Lambert.

Guest Musicians – Bells of the Bluff, handbell ensemble



Time to Update Our Directory!

As we are almost halfway through the calendar year, it's time to make sure our directory is up to date. There are a few ways to do this:

1. Send the office an email with; a photo of your choice, emails, birthdays, addresses, anniversaries, and whatever else you'd like to include.
2. Do it yourself! Our directory is available in the form of an app and via a website, and Amelia is attaching how to videos and PDFs so you can always access them at all times.

**If you don't have an account
Click this link!**

[How to Create an Account to Access and Edit Your Church Directory Using Instant Church Directory](#)

Or Download this PDF

PDF HERE!

**If you have an account
click this link!**

[Steps to Edit Your Family Information in Instant Church Directory](#)

Or Download this PDF

PDF HERE!

April Calendar

31	1 12pm-Junior Guild 7pm- Hope & Harbor	2 1pm-Sewing Group	3 10am- Eucharist with Discussion 5pm- Hospitality Meeting 5pm-Women's AA 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30pm- MOPS	5 7pm- Crossroads NA	6 10:30am- Community Engagement Meeting 7pm- Crossroads NA
7 First Sunday Celebration 8am- Eucharist Service 10am- Eucharist Rite II	8 7pm-Recovery Worship	9 5:30pm- Property Committee Meeting	10 10am- Eucharist with Discussion 5pm-Women's AA 6:30- Choir Rehearsal	11	12 7pm- Crossroads NA	13 7pm-Crossroads NA
14 8am-Eucharist Service 10am- Eucharist Rite II 7pm-Recovery Worship	15	16 5pm-Vestry Meeting	17 10am- Eucharist with Discussion 5pm-Womens AA 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	18 6:30pm- MOPS	19 7pm- Crossroads NA	20 9:30am- ECW Meeting 7pm-Crossroads NA
21 8am-Eucharist Service 10am- Eucharist Rite II	22 4:30pm-Altar Guild Meeting	23	24 10am- Eucharist with Discussion 5pm-Womens AA 6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal	25	26 7pm- Crossroads NA	27 7pm-Crossroads NA
28 Clergy Discretionary 8am- Eucharist Service 10am- Eucharist Rite II	29	30				

April Birthdays!

Darius Weyaus—April 1
Pat Martin—April 13
Christine Foss—April 14
Norma Neufeldt—April 14
Elaine Hoisington—April 16
Gweny Fanslow—April 18
Chris Knutson—April 27
Malla Knutson—April 28
Brad Knudson—April 30

April Anniversaries!

Jeanette and Mike Johnson—April 20

Altar Flowers for April

4.7.24	Chapel	In Loving Memory of my Mother <i>Heather, Willow, and Todd Whalen</i>
	Church	In Thanksgiving for Jaysa <i>Love, Mom and Gabe</i>
4.14.24	Chapel	In Loving Memory of Marion & Jim Teele <i>Jamie & Laura Teele</i>
	Church	In Memory of Lucille Eke & her Parents <i>Eke Memorial Fund</i>
4.21.24	Chapel	In Memory of Husband Bob, & Sister Lenore <i>Marm Nihart</i>
	Church	In Memory of Sam & Barbra Blue <i>Mary Blue Birrettella</i>