



THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

August 2023

A letter from . . .

Pastor Aaron Twait

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your welcome over this last month – it’s been a joy and a blessing both to be here and to get to know so many Christ Church members! I’d love to sit down with as many of you as I can over the next couple of months – and I’m happy to treat you to coffee or lunch! (See the end of the article for my contact information.)

We have a lot to be grateful for as a congregation. One thing I’d like to highlight is the 3rd Annual Jazz Service we held July 23rd in Central Park. The Judson Jazz Ensemble joined us once again this year to provide uplifting music as we went all out to share the love of Christ with our neighbors. It was a great event, and special thanks to the Community Engagement Team for sponsoring it and to all our volunteers who helped set up, serve the picnic lunch, and tear down afterwards.

Looking into this upcoming month, on **August 20th we’ll be having one service at 10:00**, as Bishop Loya will be joining us for confirmations and for his biennial visitation of the parish. We’ll be having a reception afterwards in honor of our confirmands, so I hope you’ll make a special effort to join us that morning to support our youth as they mark an important milestone in their faith journey.

Nametags and Welcoming! One of the goals I’ve set for us for the next year is to continue developing a culture of welcoming at Christ Church. Part of that work involves putting practices in place that might seem small to us, but which show our guests that we expect to have visitors in our midst and which offer them meaningful hospitality. Wearing nametags is one of those practices, because there’s something about offering our name to someone we don’t know that is vitally important to entering into relationships.

I’m grateful that so many of you have started to wear your nametags during worship and at coffee hour. We’re storing the nametags on the holders in the hallway across from the chapel.

If there isn’t one there for you, please put your name down on the sheet located there or let Dawne in the office know you need one.

And as always, if you see someone you don’t know at the service, please make sure to welcome them to Christ Church and invite them to the coffee hour following the 10:00 service!

Common Cup. I am reviewing our practices for serving wine during communion. The main question is: will we continue with our current practice of serving wine from the Common Cup into individual glasses, or will we move toward allowing people to consume directly from the Common Cup? Some of you have already been in touch with me about this. If you haven’t, feel free to contact me if you’d like your viewpoint heard.

Youth and Young Adults. Are you a young person? Are you responsible for a young person? If so, I’d love to talk about how our youth programming might evolve over the next few years. What should be our goals for youth and young adult programming? What resources and support can we provide to help your families deepen your faith and your discipleship? Your ideas and your input will help shape our future.

Contacting me. If you need to get in touch with me, you can email me at (priest@christchurchrw.org), call me on my office phone (my direct line is 651-327-2242), or you can call or text my cell (651-350-8696). You can also stop by the office Tuesday through Thursday from 9 to 4, but if you want to ensure that I’ll be free, use my Calendly account (<https://calendly.com/aarontwait>) to get on my calendar.

**Blessings,
Aaron**



Bishop
The Right Rev. Craig Loya

Deacon
The Rev Vicki Lambert
deacon@christchurchrw.org

Music Director
John Albright
albright303@hotmail.com

Sunday School Director
Heather Flueger-Whalen
heather.flueger@gmail.com

Christ Church Vestry 2023
Sr. Warden: Angela Shefveld
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)

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welcomes you



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From Deacon Vicki

“In hope, we were saved.” (Rom 8:24) And right after - “hope that is seen is not hope”. HOPE fuels the imagination for the way things ought to be. Hope is for things that are not yet but are promises to us. Hope empowers the one with hope to confront the evils of this age, knowing their way is not the final way. The one who hopes is inspired to work in the present for things to get better in the present. We live this truth in reminding ourselves to renounce our sinfulness. Bishop Curry wrote in one of his books I read that sinfulness is synonymous with selfishness. Sooo, we live this truth in reminding ourselves to renounce our selfishness.

Each one of us does things which hurt others, sometimes on purpose. Each one of us stubbornly holds onto our old ideas regardless of their fruitfulness. AND Each one of us does amazing things which helps our world be a better place.

Our spirit is desperately seeking connection with our creator and one another. Kind of like the native tradition of planting corn, beans, and squash together to nurture the soil. We also need to understand that there is both positive and negative tendencies in each of us. Selfishness is going to be there because we are imperfect. Accept and forgive yourself and learn to do better.

I hope to remind you that what is not our concern or within our ability to determine is - who is and who is not in the Kingdom of God or family of Christ.

Each of us has the responsibility to nurture the good plant within ourselves through prayer and building beloved community, and to devote ourselves to the many teachings of Jesus. Ours is to accept, reflect, praise, and share the love of Christ, and the good life that he shares with us.



The one who hopes is inspired to work in the present for things to get better in the present.

When we are tempted to judge and separate the good and bad, we need to back off and remember that our only job is to love our neighbor. We need take this family of God very seriously. Without this love as the focus of our lives, it is likely that the selfish-weed will overtake our hearts. Let us pray for the strength, faith, and concentration to allow us to keep our course and to inspire others to join us.

So, as members of one family - the human family - we know there are going to be differences. Still, we commit to continue to come together to help one another, forgive each other, and take care of one another. Friends, my HOPE is that we all work toward patient, active acceptance of other people we don't understand, a generous hand, and a kind heart always.



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We are never truly prepared....

by Kris Blaney

Death, we all know it's coming but we are never prepared when it becomes reality. My grandmother has been suffering from dementia for the last 5+ years, she is now 96. It's hard to watch the decline in someone you love. You know at some point, the disease will take them, still never ready.

While at Church preparing for the jazz service, I got a text from my sister that our grandma was taking the next step in her journey, the eternal journey. She had been declining since her 95th birthday. She would be down, ready to be with Carl (her husband) and the next happy to be alive. When I got this news, I knew immediately I needed to go see her and say my goodbye. Her body was tired, her mind lost; it was time for her to be reunited with her husband, our grandpa. He had passed 23 years ago, and we always joked that he wasn't ready for her to join him, he was enjoying his time without her; for she was a feisty one. My sister has been grandma's caregiver since her residency and the amount of care and time she has provided to her has been nothing short of amazing. The woman deserves a medal for everything she has done. I'm very thankful she accepted the call to care for her. I tell her she definitely earned her wings!

So, after the service, I made the drive to Woodbury where she was residing. With dementia, I knew that seeing her was more for my benefit than hers as her memory hadn't recognized me for some time now. Saying goodbye to a loved one is hard, it's uncomfortable. I always struggle with saying goodbye when the time comes. What do you say, how should you feel, act or be? The process is different for every individual, the journey is different. So, I had an idea. Before I left, I reached out to my trusted Deacon to help me with a passage and prayer to read. She gladly assisted me with a perfect passage from 2 Corinthians 4:16. She also found a wonderful prayer:

**Blessings,
Kris Blaney
Junior Warden**



*Lord Jesus Christ, by your patience in suffering
you hallowed
earthly pain and gave us the example of obedi-
ence to your
Father's will: Be near me in my time of weakness
and pain;
sustain me by your grace, that my strength and
courage may
not fail; heal me according to your will; and help
me always
to believe that what happens to me here is of
little account if
you hold me in eternal life, my Lord and my
God. Amen.*

As I read them to grandma, it brought me peace. It also allowed for more prayers to flow. I kissed my grandma on the forehead and thanked her for being such an important part of my life and everything she did for me. I think she heard me because the most beautiful moment happened. Grandma reached across with her left hand; I grabbed it, and she pulled my hand up to her face and held it there for a long time, not letting go. It is a moment I will remember and cherish forever.

I believe that through every eternal journey, certain people trigger a response/action. I believe she knew who was present in the room. I believed that grandma knew who I was and was saying goodbye in her own way. I am very thankful I was able to share that moment with her, I'm also glad I was there to enjoy one last sweet moment with grandma.

This experience also showed me that it's ok to be uncomfortable, let the Lord guide you. Trust in him that he can help us with our journey and help us navigate the moments that we are unsure about.

I pay homage to my grandma; feisty, stubborn, opinionated, but full of love under that armor. "Go be with grandpa and sew your seeds again, dig in the dirt, and grow your beautiful flowers". Until we meet again. May 17, 1927-July 26, 2023.



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The Community Engagement Team Notes



The Community Engagement Team will be preparing and serving dinner to the current residents of the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester MN. After, there will be time to chat with the families.

The date is **August 21st** and the meeting-at-church time is **4:00pm**. If you would like more information and possibly donate to this wonderful cause, you can call Vicki Lambert, Joyce Koerner, Tari Carpenter, or Terry Van Allen.

The Community Engagement Team Notes Continued!



Summer Jazz Service and Picnic was wonderful! Thank you to the many helpers who donated their money and/or time to make this happen. Without your help, this wouldn't have been the great success it was!

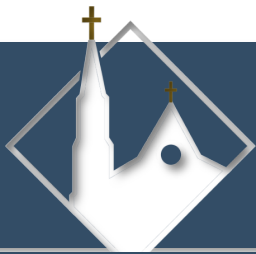


Pick a Nonprofit: Our quarterly drive for July, August, and September is collecting gas funds on gift cards. If you would like to participate, please pick up a gas only gift card from any fuel store in any amount (\$5, \$10, \$20). You may drop them off at the church office, put in the Sunday collection plate or give to Vicki Lambert, Mary Heckman, Tari Carpenter, or Pat Martin. These would then be given to Faith in Action, Hope Coalition and our clergy discretionary fund for people struggling to fill their gas tanks.



Food Shelf: They are in need of peanut butter and all kinds of pastas. Please drop off items in the labeled Bins in the parish hall or the back of the church.

As always, thank you for your generosity!



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Mark Your Calendars!

Bishop Loya Visit

On August 20th the Bishop will be addressing our 10:00 Service. It is such an honor to have him here with us. We hope everyone will attend this service.*

Reception following in the Parish Hall.

**There will not be an 8:00 service that day.*



Photos8.com

Our Partners in God's Work: Goodhue County Resource Center



Helping families and individuals access resources in our community.

NEW HOURS:

Monday 11am—4pm
Tuesday 12pm—7pm
Thursday 11am—4pm
Friday 11am—4pm

- Housing
- Physical & Mental Health
- Chemical Dependency
- Legal Services
- Child Care
- Eviction Litigation
- Transportation

Education
Employment
Pregnancy
Food
Social Services
And More...



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A story to warm your heart because you never know....



You may recognize Joe from his smiling face at the Welcome Desk at the Y, greeting members and guests upon their arrival and departure or you may recognize him by the beautiful music he plays each day.

Diagnosed with high-functioning autism in 2018, Joe Bigalke began to understand why he had always been told he had a learning disability, he was often isolated and felt misunderstood. These feelings forged a deep need in Joe to express his love for God and connect with others through the writing and performing of music.

In 2021, Joe sustained a significant traumatic leg injury that required multiple surgeries. One day while staring out his window, he gazed upon the Episcopal Church across the street from him. He marveled at the beautiful sunset on the church, filtered by the haze of Canadian wildfire smoke that the jetstreams had carried into central Minnesota. At that moment, Joe began writing his song, "A Friend Above All", a letter of friendship, trust, and faith in God, whom Joe considers his best friend.

"My faith in God, but also my desire to help others facing mental health issues, autism, and isolation drives me to create music. I want to impact music education in the schools as a way of connecting and overcoming life's challenges" states Joe, "I am but one voice, when joined with others we are many".

One day while staring out his window, he gazed upon the Episcopal Church across the street from him. He marveled at the beautiful sunset on the church

Joe is thrilled to release his debut single, "A Friend Above All" worldwide on the storied record label Rock the Cause Records. "A Friend Above All" penned by Joe, features the angelic vocals of Anna Filkins of River Falls, WI., with help from producer Mark Woerpel on the uplifting and majestic musical arrangements.

Joe is working towards releasing a full record in 2024 of his most cherished compositions, with a little help from his friends in the Nashville music community and around the globe.



*-mostly copied from
joebigalkemusic.com*



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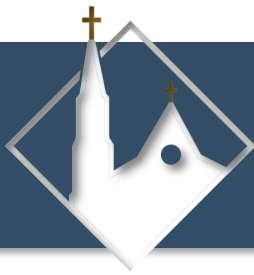
August 2023 Scheduled Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 10:00 Eucharist 5:00pm Women's AA 5:30pm Hospitality Meeting	3	4	5 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
6 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist	7 12:00pm Junior Guild	8 5:30 pm Property Committee	9 10:00 Eucharist 5:00pm Women's AA	10	11	12 10:30am Community Engagement Team 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
13 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist	14	15 5:00pm Vestry Meeting	16 10:00 Eucharist 5:00pm Women's AA	17	18	19 9:30am ECW Meeting 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
20 Bishop Loya visit  10 am Eucharist	21	22	23 10:00 Eucharist 5:00pm Women's AA	24	25	26 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
27 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist	28 4:30pm Altar Guild	29	30 10:00 Eucharist 5:00pm Women's AA	31		



Congratulations to Abe Reinitz on his graduation from high school. He will be attending Gustavs Adolphus in the fall.





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August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

3 Jim Dressen
3 Margaret Hoyt
8 Joan Foot
12 Madelyne Shefvland
13 Kathryn Bea Prink
13 Alyce Mae Prink
18 Becky Foot
18 Erik Prink

20 Truman Danielson
24 Wendy Thomforde
28 Joan Norgaard
30 Arlene Beckwith
30 Becky Schafer

Anniversaries

8 Scott & Amanda Johnson
18 Angela & Matt Shefvland
29 Roy & Norma Neufeldt



Altar Memorial Flowers for August

August 6

Chapel **In memory of Ira Huron**
Barb Nelson

Church **In memory of wife, Beverly**
Don Prinz Memorial Fund

August 13

Chapel **In memory of family loved ones**
Jeannie Featherstone

Church **In loving memory of Sam & Barbara Blue**
John & Maureen Blue

August 20

Chapel **In memory of deceased members**
Junior Guild

Church **In thanksgiving of grandsons, Owen & Nathaniel**
Bud & Betty Stolpa

August 27

Chapel **In honor of Bev (Grosse) Stevens birthday**
Becky Plaas

Church **In honor of Jerry Stevens birthday**
Marilyn Grosse



Please contact Maureen Blue to sign up for altar flowers for any time of the year.
Phone 651-385-0574 or email: maureenblue108@yahoo.com