



THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

February 2024

A Special Message From . . .



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Jr. Warden: Kris Blaney
Randy Pastorius (2027)
Gretchen Lee (2027)
Elaine Hoisington (2025)
Pam Dressen (2025)
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Dear Friends in Christ,

I don't know about you, but it feels like January went by in a flash. Between the warm weather, and my kids' activities (volleyball tournaments galore!), and the busy-ness of church life, the sugar rush of the holiday season really carried through to the end of the month. I've got this sense of needing to stop and take a breath. It's one of the big reasons why I'm so happy Lent is coming early this year.

I sometimes joke that, having been raised both Roman Catholic and Norwegian, Lent feels like the time of the year when we do church "right". And there is something special about Lent, but it doesn't (or at least shouldn't) have anything to do with feelings

of guilt. Lent comes with a sense of re-orienting our lives back toward lives of faithful discipleship. Many of us will have some Lenten spiritual practices to help with that. Often they involve giving something up – I dread going six weeks without candy!

However, I think what makes Lent special is that in a world where our value seems determined by our ability to be productive, Lent offers an opportunity to set time aside, pause, and re-discover an important truth. The truth is that we have inherent worth as human beings simply because we are loved by God. Knowing that deeply is one of the greatest gifts we can have.

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Pastor Aaron Twait

We have some great opportunities at Christ Church this Lent to pause and connect more deeply with God. After we enter into Lent on Ash Wednesday, our Wednesdays will include a simple supper at 5pm, with Evening Prayer at 5:45. One Evening Prayer service will offer the counter-cultural opportunity to lament, and another will focus on healing. You can join us on Zoom at 7:00 on Mondays for Centering Prayer. And I hope that you'll be able to enter with us into the drama of Holy Week as we walk with Jesus and his followers through his last meal, his betrayal and death, and his resurrection.

As I said at the Annual Meeting, it's an amazing privilege to be in this congregation and serve as Christ Church's priest-in-charge. I'm deeply grateful for all the ways you've made me feel welcome and accepted here. My prayer for each of you this Lent is that, through your own spiritual practices, you will come to more fully know the depth and breadth of God's love for you.

As I said at the Annual Meeting, it's an amazing privilege to be in this congregation and serve as Christ Church's priest-in-charge. I'm deeply grateful for all the ways you've made me feel welcome and accepted here. My prayer for each of you this Lent is that, through your own spiritual practices, you will come to more fully know the depth and breadth of God's love for you.

Yours in Christ,

- Pastor Aaron





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Once Upon a Time—Wait, The Time Is Now

Deacon Vicki Lambert

Maybe, once upon a time, there was *time*. *Time to dawdle. Time to procrastinate. Time to delay. Maybe, in that idyllic yesteryear, there was leisure to tell ourselves that we don't need to hurry. That we can afford to hang back. That someone else will come along and fix this mess. Because ... we've got time.* If such a “once upon a time” ever existed — and honestly, I doubt it did — it doesn't exist anymore.

I'm thinking about Jonah. He shouts a terrifying countdown across the streets of Nineveh: “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” I'm also thinking about first Corinthians where Paul tells his readers to make swift and serious lifestyle changes because “the appointed time has grown short,” and “the present form of this world is passing away.” Then in the first chapter of Mark's Gospel, Jesus arrives in Galilee with an urgent, no-nonsense message: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near.”

Do we believe any of this? I mean, really, deep in our hearts, when push comes to shove, do we believe that our faith makes urgent, time-sensitive claims on us? Or are we offended at the thought that our spiritual casualness or lukewarm faith has real-world consequences?

Let's consider when Jesus was calling the first men to surround himself with. Jesus was just emerging from his days in the wilderness and was ready to begin his public ministry. The most important thing I want to share is that he did not do it alone.

I propose the question about discipleship is not what did they give up, but what would they gain by following this guy, Jesus. (*This is still true today.*) What was it about this random man walking down by the lake that made them curious enough to follow? In those days there were lots of zealots walking around proclaiming to be “The One” to follow. I suspect the fishing metaphor made more sense to them that I will ever understand. But, more importantly, their spirit connected to Jesus and felt compelled to follow him. Jesus says, “Follow me, and *I will make you...*” This is a promise to cultivate, not to sever. It's a promise rooted in gentleness and respect — not violence and coercion. It's a promise that when we dare to let go, the things we relinquish might be returned to us anew, enlivened in ways we couldn't have imagined on our own.

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Deacon Vicki Lambert

Most importantly, it is a promise from God to us — not from us to God. Jesus calls, and the four fishermen “immediately” follow. No hesitation, no questions asked. Is this because they’re men of superhuman courage or prophetic foreknowledge? Of course not. These are the same guys who later doubt, deny, and abandon Jesus. They’re as fallible and as ordinary as the rest of us, and their own volition can’t get them very far. No, they immediately follow Jesus because Jesus makes it possible for them to do so.

Are we listening for the call? As Paul writes, “the time has grown short”. Are we really listening? There are regular people speaking truth. I believe God is imploring us to stand in community together. Jesus went everywhere with his friends. Even though they struggled, they were courageous and spoke truth together.

I am listening. I am listening to people today like Greta Thunberg from Sweden who was 16 when she said these words to the UN, “To all of you who choose to look the other way every day because you seem more frightened of the changes that can prevent catastrophic climate change than the catastrophic climate change itself. Your silence is almost worst of all.”

I am listening when 13 year old Autumn Peltier, from the Anishnabek Nation of Canada, told the UN “We can’t eat money or drink oil.”

I am listening when Nicky Buck, from Dakota tribe of Prairie Island says, “I was also taught that if I have privilege, that I must use the privilege to benefit the greater good.”

We, today, are the called. Like the disciples who misunderstood and failed, we are not perfect. Like them, we are not in this alone - we are the community of God.

Like them, we are not called to enjoyment of private salvation but to public vocation.

Like them, we are called to leave the comfortable privilege that we enjoy.

Like them, we are called into immediacy with the grace of gradual transformation.

Like them, we are called to be courageous, to lean in with the spirit with radical trust in the love of God - together. Jesus said, “Follow me...”

The time is now.



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ECW Presents



Lenten Retreat
"Prayers and Potatoes"



When: March 16
Time: 9:00am to 3:00pm
Where: Parish Hall

Guest Speaker
Pastor Aaron Twait

Look for a sign up
sheet to be posted.

All are
Welcome!



Thank You!

*We would like to thank Zoe Malinchoc DeVoe,
Hugh Wronski and Erik Prink for all they have
done working with our Vestry.
You are appreciate more than you know!*

*A joyful welcome to Randy Pastorius, Gretchen
Lee, and Pam Dressen for bringing there pas-
sion and ideas to the Vestry group!*





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My Journey with Centering Prayer

Lori Remus

So a few years ago in 2020, a pandemic happened and things were different. Church was streamed in our homes via zoom and we had to wear masks when we went out.

At the time, Reverend Letha was our priest, and she had to get creative as to what to do to get the church and the people through a pandemic.

That was when she started up centering prayer. It was done in our homes via zoom every Tuesday night. I did not know what centering prayer was so I decided to give it a try, and that was when my journey began.

Centering prayer is a form of Christian contemplative prayer to center awareness on the presence of God and a time to clear the mind, and turn off the every day things that are happening in the world.

Reverend Letha had us pick a word to say to bring us back to centering prayer if our minds wandered and we got off track. My word was love.

During centering prayer, I started talking to God and one thing led to another and before you know it, we started having adventures together (this was all in my mind, of course, but it was real to me.)

The adventure always started out by my saying where are we going tonight God? and I didn't care as long as I was with God.

Some of the adventures we had would be canoeing down a stream, a picnic by the water, building a snowman, sitting by a fireplace inside, watching a movie-popcorn included. I really enjoyed my time with God and the adventures we had together.

So if you ever get the chance to try centering prayer, it would be worth your while and it may even surprise you.



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Community Engagement Team

February Needs

The Community Engagement Team is focusing on the Food Shelf for this quarter. Right now the Food Shelf is particularly in need:



Pasta



Plastic bags

Please place donations in the Food Shelf bins in the Parish Hall or the back of the church. Monetary donations are also welcome. Checks may be made out to “Red Wing Area Food Shelf.”

Thank you very much for your participation and contribution.

It is appreciated by many!





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Shrove Tuesday!



Please join us for this intergenerational event! There will be pancakes, of course, and fellowship. There will also be opportunity to make Valentines for your friends and family. What fun! Look for the sign up sheet on the board.

**When: February 13th
Time: 5-7pm**



Wednesday Evening Prayer



Evening Prayer



Following Ash Wednesday, throughout the season of Lent, we will be coming together every Wednesday for a simple supper at 5:00pm followed with Evening Prayer at 5:45pm. One of the services will offer a counter-cultural opportunity to lament and another will focus on healing.

Please join. This will certainly help to center us in the Lenten season.



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Community Engagement



Coat Closet

The Coat Shed is in serious need of men's winter coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. The weather has been unusually mild so far, but it could change at any time.

You can drop items off at the church office on the pew and leave items directly in the shed.

Our community will be very grateful!

Thanks ahead of time!



Food for Thought . . .

Pledge Envelopes ~ If you would like envelopes, Contact the office and the Finance Dept will get you taken care of.



Another Reminder Coat Shed

It's hard to believe, but they are already running low on coats, hats & gloves. If you have any available, please bring them by the church.



Thanks!



Library



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?

Just a thought...



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Chili and Trivia Night!

What a crazy wonderful night!!!!

A good crowd of eighteen people attended the Third Friday Fun Night.

Four different kinds of chili were enjoyed along with lots of toppings, cookies, and fruit.

After the meal, trivia was played and hosted by Ron Weitnauer. The points were close, but I think the table that had Pastor had a slight advantage. HA!

Afterward, the Vestry gave Pastor Aaron a T-shirt for giving of his time.

Thanks everyone! It was a blast!





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February 2024 Scheduled Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30pm MOPS	2 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room	3 10:30am  Community Engagement Team 5:00pm Family Bunco Night for all 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
4 9:00 am First Sunday Celebration!  8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist	5 12:00pm Junior Guild Meeting	6 1:00pm Sewing Group 	7 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Hospitality Meeting 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9 7:00pm Crossroads NA	10 7:00pm Crossroads NA
11 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Recovery Worship @ Colvill Park 	12	13 5:30 pm Property Committee 5-7pm Shrove Tues Pancake & Valentines 	14 10am & 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service  5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30pm MOPS		17 9:30 am ECW Meeting 7:00pm Crossroads NA
18 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist	19	20 5:00 pm Vestry Meeting	21 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23 7:00pm Crossroads NA	24 7:00pm Crossroads NA
25 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist	26 4:30 pm Altar Guild	27	28 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	29		



3/16 Saturday ~ ECW presents the Annual Lenten Retreat "Prayer & Potatoes" 9am to 3pm



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February Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 10 Sandy Gieseke | 25 Becky Bangard |
| 12 Jenna Bangard | 26 Annie Reinitz |
| 12 Raymond Schafer | 26 Richard Malinchoc DeVoe |
| 13 Buck Foot | 28 Linda Hase |
| 13 Gordie Gieseke | |
| 14 Naomi Lenway | |
| 19 Clair Hemenway | |
| 19 Scott Johnson | |
| 21 Clark Knudsen | |

Anniversaries

- | |
|-------------------------|
| 7 Buck & Joan Foot |
| 21 Bill & Margaret Hoyt |



Altar Memorial Flowers for February



February 4

Chapel	In memory of Jane Smith <i>MaryAnn Valentine</i>
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Church	In memory of Edwin Stone <i>Jamie & Laura Teele</i>
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February 11

Chapel	In memory of Verna Borlie and Lilian Christenson <i>Marilyn Potswald</i>
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Church	In memory of Audrey Ferber given by sisters Evie, Marian and Lorraine <i>Evie Perkins</i>
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February 18

Chapel	In memory of Leon <i>Mary Christensen</i>
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Church	In loving memory of Scott "Soup" Campbell <i>Nadine Platson</i>
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February 25

Chapel	In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Grosse, Robert Grosse and Lorriaine Gross <i>Marilyn Grosse and Beckie Plaas</i>
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Church	In memory of Rick <i>Tari Carpenter</i>
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