



THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

July 2023

A letter from . . .

Pastor Aaron Twait

Dear Friends,

I'm looking forward to joining you as Priest-in-Charge this month! Two things I'll be talking about as we get to know each other are listening and welcoming. Both of these were at the heart of Jesus' ministry.

Christian leadership is about listening to the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus demonstrates this to us in the Gospels, as he gains confidence from listening to the Father through prayer time and time again. And listening to others around us is also critical – it's both a radical action toward unity and also how we create and build trust with those outside our circles. Improving our listening skills is a cornerstone habit for churches.

Welcoming is also critical to our discipleship. St. Benedict instructed his monks to receive all guests as Christ, citing Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me". Being welcoming – offering people a place in our lives – embodies the Gospel's message of reconciliation. Listening and welcoming demonstrate Jesus' presence in our community – and that's the unique thing we have as a church that other organizations simply cannot offer to the world.

So with those things in mind, there are two things I want us to be doing.

First, please wear your nametags on Sunday mornings (and let the office know if you need one!)

We need to wear them not only because they will help me learn your names more quickly, but because it's an outward sign that we expect and welcome visitors just as Christ did.

It's a best practice for congregations that want to grow.

Second, from time to time we'll be hearing different translations of Scripture in worship.

Although the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is the default, the Episcopal Church has authorized 14 translations of the Bible for use in worship. (Don't worry – none of them are *The Message!*) Listening to different translations allows us to hear other voices making different decisions about how to translate out of the original Hebrew or Greek. And that will help us hear God speaking new things to us through the same Scriptures.

If nothing else, think of it as the spiritual equivalent to a balanced diet!

You're all in my prayers as we make this transition into a shared life together – I hope you will keep me and my family in yours, too.

*Blessings,
Pastor 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)

Treasurers
Buck Foot, Sandy Richter
finance@christchurchrw.org

Office
Dawne Mettes
office@christchurchrw.org

Christ Episcopal Church
321 West Avenue,
Red Wing, MN 55066
(651) 388-0411
www.christchurchrw.org





THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

July 2023

From Bishop Loya

We live in a culture of addiction. We have any number of distractions, devices, substances, and just plain busyness that we variously use to fill the void and ache that exists in each of us. Most people I know can barely stop at a stoplight without looking at their phones... Christian spirituality is about learning to find God by becoming fully present to our lives as they really are. The twelve steps are one tried and true path to help us do that. Step 2 alone—"we came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity"—would be transformative in our lives and faith communities if all of us really and truly committed to turning our lives and wills over to God every day.

Episcopal priest Samuel Schoemaker, whom we commemorate on January 31st each year, was a key figure in the development of the twelve steps. As part of that legacy, last year we celebrated the first ever diocesan [Recovery Eucharist](#) to celebrate and give thanks for the wisdom and spiritual vitality that movement brings to our life together. We will celebrate this year's on Tuesday, August 15 at 6pm at St. Mark's Cathedral. I hope you will plan to join us for that.

I have also appointed a diocesan recovery commission to help organizing the Recovery Eucharist every year, as well as promote the movement generally in the diocese, and support congregations as they support those in their communities who are in recovery. The members of the commission are the Reverends Vicki Lambert, Tom Gehlsen, and Colleen Tully. We are continuing to build that membership, so if you or others might be interested in helping with that work, please do let me know.

A.A., N.A., and groups like them are a global movement of people who are finding healing, love, and new life every day of the week in church buildings and other spaces all over our communities. They hallow our spaces by meeting in our buildings, and we have much to learn from the vibrancy and vitality of that movement. I hope you will join us on August 15, and continue to pray for, give thanks, and engage the deep wisdom the recovery movement brings to all of us on the journey toward the healing we all so deeply long for, and that God so deeply longs to give us.

ECMN+

RECOVERY EUCHARIST

What's a Recovery Eucharist?

The 12 steps are a spiritual discipline. Many of the millions of people in recovery can offer powerful witness to God's unfailing love. Joining together the 12 steps with a service of Communion, we will together celebrate those in recovery—whether you're in hour one or year 50.

Tuesday
AUGUST 15
6pm

ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL
519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis

Learn more: episcopalmn.org/recovery-eucharist



THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

July 2023

Social Media

by Kris Blaney

Social media, it's a platform we live with every day.

When I was a kid, social media was picking up the phone, which was considered a land line, and calling friends. You would sit on the phone for hours, talking about nothing...literally. We didn't even have internet yet...no really. Wow, did I just age myself there? Whether you participate or not, it's everywhere and we have to live within the atmosphere.

People use the platform for many things, sharing things like family events, political views, an opinion (good or bad), promoting their business, the ideas are endless. Some also use it for negative but we won't focus on that. I pulled back from social media a couple years ago, particularly around the time of the pandemic. I found the time spent scanning the posts brought me more angst and negative outlook on the world. So, I stopped posting and occasionally "stalk" to see what people are posting, scanning through the negative, and looking for the positive.

One of the positive things of posting to social media I find that warms my heart is the historical information. It's fun to see a memory pop up from a prior post. Especially when it involves my children or family. I recently came across a story that I felt compelled to share. I feel this story is another testament of how the Holy Spirit speaks to us. I invite you to read the story and think about how the Holy Spirit was present in this situation. This post was from June 6, 2015:

Had a feel-good moment today, made me a little emotional. I was in the Dollar Store today buying graduation cards and as I'm going through the checkouts, there's a mom in the next line with her four children. Now it has become apparent to me that this family did not have a lot but the mom was trying her best with her kids. She was buying stuff for one of the daughter's birthday. One of the boys was super pumped about being able to get a water gun, his face lit up and I even saw a fist pump when it came across the scanner and put into the bag. The one daughter (we'll call her Emma) that was going

to be on the receiving end of the birthday party was full of life and spunk and had braces with head gear on. She reminded me of Sue Heck from the sitcom "The Middle" (if you have seen this sitcom).

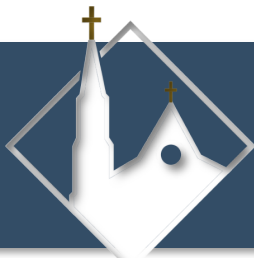
Emma asks her mom for a quarter, and I can hear her mom say, "Emma, are you kidding?" in a sarcastic voice. The one brother snaps back and says, "Emma, be thankful for what you have". I'm guessing the quarter was requested to be used at the little candy/toy dispensers.

It made me realize two things – that my life is so full of blessings and a quarter means more to a young girl than it does to me.

So, as I was leaving, I dug into my purse and pulled out four quarters, walked up to the girl, handed them to her and told her to share with her siblings. I wish you all could have seen the look on her face and her reaction. It was like someone handed her a \$100 bill. It was the most profound moment in my life, and I still tear up with it. As I was walking away, I hear the girl say, "Look what that lady just gave me!". I kept walking knowing that I made that girl and family's day by this simple gesture. I know that giving up four quarters was nothing for me and could've given so much more but at that moment, that simple act left an imprint on her and hopefully she will remember it.

For those of you that grew up with everything and never had to struggle or go without, this is how those that had to do without need your compassion. Don't blame the child for the misfortune of the parents, help them. At most times, the parents are doing the best they can with what they have to work with.

As I relived this story, I can still see the reaction on that child's face, and it still brings a tear to my eye. Do you have story like this to share? If not, find an opportunity and leave an impression.



THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

July 2023

The Community Engagement Team Notes

◆ Picnic after the Jazz Service on July 23:

There will be a **sign-up sheet** on the hallway bulletin board for volunteers to help with a hotdog picnic in Central Park immediately after the service there. We also need donations ahead of time to help with the cost.

◆ Third Quarterly Drive “Pick a Non-Profit:”

For the next three months, we would like to donate to a few **local non-profits**. Do you have a favorite? Please let a member of the Community Engagement Team know, and we will consider which ones to choose at our July meeting. Members include Vicki Lambert, Mike Stelton, Ken Christianson, Tari Carpenter, Terry Van Allen, Mary Heckman, Suzanne Simonson, Kris Blaney, and Pat Martin.

◆ Between There Care:

Thank you for your donations. We dropped off incontinence products and lotions to Hope Coalition. **List is on the board!**

◆ Food Shelf:

We dropped off a couple of bags in June. **Please continue to support this.**

◆ Coat Shed:

Donations **accepted year round** in the office or on bench outside of office.

◆ Bins are moving:

The bins for **donations are moving** from the Parish Hall entryway to the back of the Parish Hall. Food Shelf bins are also located in the back of the church, behind the last row of pews.

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...



THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

July 2023

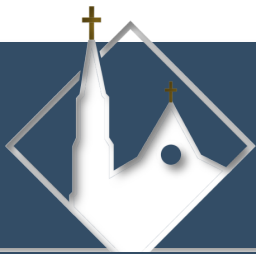


Feed My Starving Children packing day.

5 youth and 4 adults met at the Feed My Starving Children packing facility in Eagan.

We had a great time and helped the agency pass their landmark goal of packing over 4 billion meals since inception.





THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

July 2023

Mark Your Calendars!

JAZZ Worship **In the Park**

Christ Episcopal Church

Invites you

July 23, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Central Park Band Shell

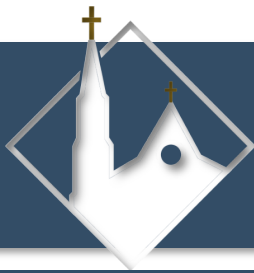
Welcome! Welcome! Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

Coffee hour on July 9 at 11:00 am in the Parish Hall.

Please join in welcoming our new Priest-in Charge,
Pastor Aaron Twait.

He will be such a wonderful addition to our Parish family!





THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

July 2023

July 2023 Scheduled Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7 pm NA in Youth Room
2 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist	3 12 pm Junior Guild Meeting	4 	5 9:30 am Eucharist 5 pm Women's AA 5:30 pm Hospitality Meeting	6	7	8 10:30 am Commu- nity Engagement Team (CET) 7 pm NA in Youth Room
9 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist Coffee Hour Welcome for Pastor Aaron! 	10	11 5:30 pm Property Committee	12 9:30 am Eucharist 5 pm Women's AA	13	14	15 9:30 am ECW Meeting 7 pm NA in Youth Room
16 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist	17 5 pm Vestry Meeting	18	19 9:30 am Eucharist 5 pm Women's AA	20	21	22  Wedding of Marissa & Trent! 7 pm NA in Youth Room
23 Clergy's Discretionary Fund 8 am Eucharist 10 am Jazz in the Park 	24 4:30 pm Altar Guild	25	26 9:30 am Eucharist 5 pm Women's AA	27	28	29



Mark your calendar

August 20 Bishop Loya visit.



THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

July 2023

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

3 Scarlet Johnson
8 Tony Casci
15 Landon Johnson
19 Ayla Casci
20 Keith Hase
20 Alyssa Haas Johnson
22 Jean Featherstone
26 Pam Dressen
26 Nada Peters

Anniversaries

6 Jim & Pam Dressen
8 Ellie & Pat Kelly
16 Brianna & Matthew Dressen
19 Ann & Kevin Florine
21 Erik & Laura Prink



Altar Memorial Flowers for July

July 2

Chapel **In memory of loved ones**
John & Maureen Blue
Church **In memory of Warren**
Naomi Lenway, Susan & Mary

July 9

Chapel **Foot Memorial Fund**
Mr. E.H. Foot
Church **In loving memory of Marian & James Teele**
Jamie & Laura Teele

July 16

Chapel **In memory of Gene**
Arlene Beckwith
Church **In memory of son Grant & husband Dick**
Carol Kosec

July 23

Chapel **In memory of loved ones; Louis & Adela Possehl, Edward & Martha Possehl, Louise Wright & Colin**
Adeline & Hyden Lindsted
Church **In memory of Don & Vonnie Wick**
Dennis & Marlis Whitmore

July 30

Church & Chapel **OPEN**

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