

THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

October 2023

A letter from . . .

Pastor Aaron Twait



Dear Friends,

*I hope this edition of **The Caller** finds each of you well and enjoying the fall weather we've stepped into. The beauty of the changing leaves, the crisp cooler air, our annual trip to the apple orchard, and the sudden appearance of "pumpkin spice" everything is a vivid reminder that God hallows time by giving us seasons of all kinds. And speaking of time...*

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Third Friday Fun Night . . .

I want to encourage everyone to come to our Third Friday Fun Night on October 27th from 5:00 to 7:00. (Yes, it's the fourth Friday. Rules are meant to be broken.) All of our Third Friday Fun Nights will have two elements: an activity, and a dinner. This month we're blessed to have Episcopal Church Women providing both the dinner and a pumpkin carving activity!

One thing I've discerned in my short time here is how hungry we are as a congregation for opportunities to gather and be a community. So while our Fun Fridays have been geared in the past for younger families, we're working hard this year to create events that will appeal to parishioners of all ages. So even if you aren't interested in things like pumpkin carving or bingo, come anyway for a free meal and to deepen our ties as a community! Nothing would make me happier than packing our parish hall one night a month.

Expectations For Me . . .

One of the things I've learned is that for any group to be successful, it needs to have shared expectations about the work it does together. So I want us to think for a few minutes about ministry and what standards and expectations we should have for each other as we labor together in God's vineyard.

When I was ordained to the priesthood last year, I took a set of vows. There's an excellent guide from the Episcopal Diocese of Newark that uses these vows to create expectations for priests and their ministry. Here are those vows – along with a summary of the things they require me to do.

Will you respect and be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

I will attend ECMN's Annual Convention, the Clergy Conference, and the annual Renewal of Ordination Vows

I will provide information about Christ Church to the bishop upon request and will seek the bishop's counsel on matters as necessary.

Will you be diligent in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ?

I will observe daily times for prayer, Scripture reading, and meditation or otherwise engage in some Rule of Life.

I will participate in Reconciliation of a Penitent (confession) as needed.

I will maintain a regular program of continuing education.

I will participate in mutual ministry reviews.





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A letter continued from . . .

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Will you endeavor so to minister the Word of God and the sacraments of the New Covenant, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?

I will ensure that all parishioners receive instruction in the faith and ministry of the Church and in Christian stewardship.

I will ensure people are prepared for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation.

Will you undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve, laboring together with them and your fellow ministers to build up the family of God?

I will encourage the development of "shared ministry" so that our congregational life allows us to live into the theology of a priesthood of all believers.

I will pursue opportunities to work with other congregations and clergy of all faiths, and with community organizations.

I will lead us in complying with mandated activities, including parochial reports, Safe Church training, and maintaining the Parish Register.

I will be involved in the life, councils, and activities of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota.

Will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?

I will practice responsible stewardship of financial resources.

I will pay attention to my physical and emotional health.

I will ensure that I take regular days off each week and use my vacation time.

I will participate in activities that promote my development, including retreats and spiritual direction.

I will spend intentional and significant time "away from the congregation" with family, friends, or engaged in community activities.

We could go a lot deeper into the weeds, of course. But I hope this gives us some shared standards to hold me accountable to.

. . . and Expectations For You.

But in return, I'll be holding you all accountable as well -- because the ministry of the laity is just as important as the ministry of deacons, priests, and bishops! As we focus on our themes of Prayer, Discernment, and Welcome this year, here are my expectations for our shared life.

We come together for corporate worship and fellowship.

We work, pray, and give for the spread of God's reign.

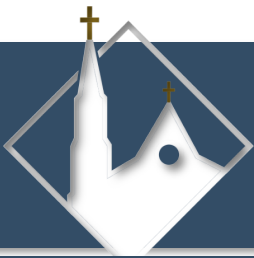
We deepen our relationship with God through prayer, learning, and Scripture.

We discern where Christ is leading, and commit to follow.

*As always, I'll hold each of you in prayer -
I hope you'll do the same for me.*

*Blessings,
Pastor Aaron*





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Thoughts from our Deacon



Vicki Lambert

Children seldom raise the issue of fairness when they are being favored. In fact, adults don't raise the issue of fairness when they are favored or privileged either. Frequently church problems are identified as "fairness" problems. And they are.

There is a lot of unfairness in churches. There is a lot of unfairness in life. Anyone who wants to fill their heart and life with resentment will have ample opportunity to do so.

The scandal of our faith is that we are often covetous and jealous when God's gifts of forgiveness and life are given to others in equal measure. That's a tough pill to swallow.

We covet what God chooses to give to others.

And in our relationships, covetousness is a problem. The point here isn't necessarily that other folks receive blessings from God that we don't — that they get more or better or lovelier gifts from God. The problem is that they get **the same** as us; and they don't deserve it, do they? They are somehow less worthy, or different, or just plain "bad" or "lazy" people. They don't deserve the same as we get, do they? Not nothing maybe, but certainly *not the same*. The scandal here is that we are all equal recipients of God's gifts, regardless.

Jesus invites us to move beyond fairness and into boundless love.

The kind of love Jesus calls us to is grounded in, and in fact, is his own sacrificial love. This love was won on the cross. Suffering preceded Jesus' death. Jesus' death was unjust. We might see it as a cosmically unfair event. But that awful death became the door to Resurrection for Jesus. In Jesus' Resurrection we see the meaning of suffering, the meaning of injustice, and the meaning of death transformed by God's power into our experience and knowledge of God's limitless love.

God looks at us and says, "I love you just the way you are."

God's love is not conditional on our behavior, God just wants us to show up and work. This work is about being a sign of love to the world, and finding ways to love others even if they don't agree with us, look like us, or behave the way we want them to. It is each of our own responsibility to build community regardless of when we got here. Also remember, you are not alone; we are in this together "striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel." (Phil 1:27)

Be a sign - maybe even a flashing beacon - of love in the world. Love radically and scandalously. You have all you need. Each and every one of you is a beloved child of God. You are enough.





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It's here! It's here!



by Kris Blaney

Fall is here, the smell in the air is of the leaves changing and dropping to the ground.

The earth brings us wonders of color before the leaves fall to the ground. We are so fortunate to witness this wonder every fall. This change, however, brings additional hours of yard work and getting things ready for the first snowfall. I always wondered how the leaves change colors and why in the season of Autumn. So, I did a little research. According to the Forest Service:

During the growing season, chlorophyll is continually being produced and broken down and leaves appear green. As night length increases in the autumn, chlorophyll production slows down and then stops and eventually all the chlorophyll is destroyed. The carotenoids and anthocyanin that are present in the leaf are then unmasked and show their colors.

There are so many things I love about Autumn. The change in colors brings cooler days and brisk evenings to sit by the fire or cuddle up under a blanket with a good book or movie. The coffee shops are enjoying their revenue increase with pumpkin spice everything, it's a phenomenon that can't be explained, just enjoyed. I enjoy bringing out my soup recipes. My husband, on the other hand is not as much of a fan, he's a casserole man. I'm sharing one of my favorite soup recipes, look for it later in the caller.

What I also love about fall is the increased hustle and bustle at church.

Those we haven't seen all summer return, the choir comes back, and we start some new traditions. I'm looking forward to our first new tradition, **1st Sundays**. This is where we get a chance to enjoy some different music and take in some conversation about improving our faith and life. I invite you to join us on the 1st for our first one this fall. And if you can't make this month, join us next month.

Blessings
Kris Blaney





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Irish Root Soup (in honor of Irish Heritage)

From Kris Blaney

Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon butter
2 pounds carrots, peeled and sliced
2 leeks (white part only), sliced
6 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
2 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled,
halved, boiled and oven-roasted *
4 cups chicken stock
2 cups whipping cream plus whipped
cream for garnish
Pinch of salt
Pinch of white pepper
2 tablespoons granulated sugar

Instructions

1. Heat oil and butter in large, heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add carrots, leeks, garlic and sweet potatoes. Sauté until leeks are translucent, about 8 minutes.
2. Add stock and cream. Cover and simmer until carrots and potatoes are very soft, stirring occasionally, about 30 minutes.
3. Puree soup in batches in blender. Return soup to same saucepan. Add salt, pepper and sugar. Taste and adjust seasonings. Stir soup over medium heat until heated through. Ladle into bowls and top with whipped cream.

Notes

* Boil potatoes about 10 minutes, then oven-roast by placing potatoes on cookie sheet in 350 degree F oven about 30 minutes, or until browned and tender.



Enjoy!



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Community Engagement Notes

Pat Martin

Thank you for your generosity!

4th Quarter Drive:

This quarter we are focusing on the Coat Shed and the Minneapolis Veteran's Hospital. Let's honor November's Veteran's Day by helping out homeless vets. They are in need of new underwear, t-shirts, warm socks, long underwear, sweatpants, and sweatshirts for both men and women in all sizes. Please keep the tags on. These may be dropped off in a labeled bin in the Parish Hall. Thanks to all who have kept the Coat Shed so well stocked and ready for this coming winter. We will continue to collect throughout the year.

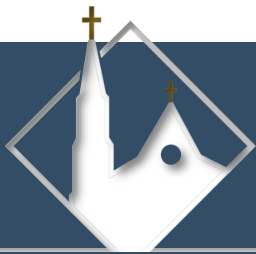


CROP Hunger Walk:

Pat will be collecting during the Potluck luncheon of First Sunday, October 1. Please join us as we do the actual walk on Saturday, October 7, immediately following the 11:00am Blessing of the Animals. It will be a fun addition to have some or all of the animals participating as we walk to four other churches to read the prayers they have posted for this event.

Food Shelf:

Please continue to drop food off in the labeled bins in the back of the main church or Parish Hall.



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Junior Guild . . .



The Junior Guild is looking for new members! If you have the first Monday of the month available to help plan and participate in events such as, **Pumpkin Carving**, the **Church Bazaar & Bake Sale**, then this is perfect for you! The meetings are at 12:00 noon for about an hour. Treats or dessert are included! Contact Sandy Richter or Marilyn Potswald for more info.

Psssssst . . .

We are looking for men and women!

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

- Education
- Employment
- Pregnancy
- Food
- Social Services





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Junior Guild



Sandy Richter

Pumpkin Carving

Where: Parish Hall

When: October 27

Time: 5:00 pm

Pumpkins will be provided, but if you'd like to bring your own carving tools

That would be . . . eerily amazing!



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Bazaar and Bake Sale !



Junior Guild

The Junior Guild Presents All Church Bazaar & Bake Sale!

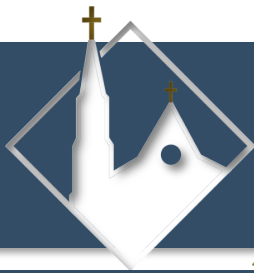
- ★ When: November 11th
- ★ Time: 9:00am to 2:00pm
- ★ Where: Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Hall

Lots of wonderful treats and crafts to choose from.
Come join the fun and do a little holiday shopping.
The fellowship is no charge!

*This is such an amazing event.
Let's make it fantastic this year too!*



If you would like to contribute, please contact Sandy Richter for more information. We ask that your items be priced and the baked goods packaged as well.



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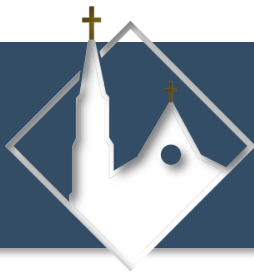
October 2023 Scheduled Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist	2 12 pm Junior Guild	3 1 pm Sewing Group 	4 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 5:30 pm Hospitality Meeting 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30 pm MOPS	6	7 11 am Blessing of the Animals  7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
8 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist	9	10 8:00 am Hope Coalition 5:30 pm Property Committee	11 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14 10:30 am Community Engagement Team 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
15 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist	16	17 5 pm Vestry Meeting	18 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 6:30 pm MOPS	20	21 9:30 am ECW Meeting 7:00 pm NA Youth
22 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist	23 4:30 pm Altar Guild	24	25 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	26	27 5 pm ECW Pumpkin Carving 	28 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
29 8 am Eucharist 10 am Eucharist	30	31 				



10/27 - ECW Pumpkin Carving!

11/11 - ECW Church Bake Sale & Bazaar



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October Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

1 David Lee
2 Mike Wilson
2 Kelly Konnor
2 Willow Flueger
6 Abe Reintz
9 Marlis Whitmore
11 Archie Casci

11 Kris Hager
22 Judy Carpenter
25 Sharon Bryan
20 Annette Johnson
27 Bill Foot
31 Ben Meyer
31 Margaret Sutherland



Anniversaries

5 Chris & Laura Knutson
11 Gordie & Sandy Gieseke
11 Rex & Shelby Miller
25 Jon & Mary Heckman



Altar Memorial Flowers for October

October 1

Chapel In thanksgiving for great-grandchildren
**Greyson, Brecken, Kaia, Brielle, Mila,
Lindy, Jack, Charlotte, Adeline & Lyla**
Char Friedrich

Church In Memory of Husband Jim
Jean Featherstone

October 8

Chapel In Memory of Dr. George & Ibba Hawley
Jane Hawley Cooper

Church In Loving Memory of husband, Robet
Marilyn Grosse

October 15

Chapel Polly Foot Thompson (daughter of EH Foot)
Foot Memorial Fund

Church In Memory of Betty, Tom & Peggy & Carolyn Brown
Charlie & Lynn Brown

October 22

Chapel In Loving Memory of Dale & Lorraine Remus
Lori Remus

Church In Loving Memory of Seneca, Alice & Dennis VanGuilder & Glenn &
Vivian Richter
Given by Sandy Richter & children

October 29

Chapel In Celebration of our daughter Willow. We love you honey!!
Heather Flueger & Todd Wahlen

Church In Blessing of My Family
Sean & Kris Blaney



Please contact Dawne to
sign up for alter
flowers for any time of
the year.
Call Office or email:
office@christchurchrw.org