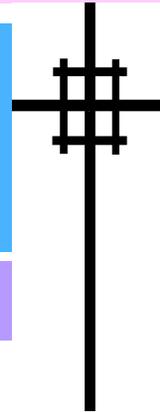


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



From the RECTOR



The Rev.
John F. Dwyer

Rector

Lent comes on us very fast this year! February 10th is Ash Wednesday, with services at 12:15 and at 7:00 pm. The day before, Tuesday, February 9th, is our newly imagined Mardi Gras Party to celebrate "Fat Tuesday" (formerly known as Shrove Tuesday). This year we are going to have a wham-bang Mardi Gras shindig with masks and beads and fun drawings for prizes throughout the evening, as well as a chili contest and Jell-O contest. We already have eight contestants for the chili contest! There is still plenty of room for more competitors! Dig out those recipes and let's taste-test ALL of them!

This year's beneficiary for this fun-fundraiser will be Habitat for Humanity, one of our long-standing Mission Opportunity events. There will be plenty of information to help all of us learn about Habitat and to answer any questions we might have about how we can get involved. We will be asking for donations to this year's effort, so please come ready to be generous! Please look to the Christ-O-Gram for more info about his fun evening. But please mark your calendars, sign up to volunteer in some way, and come and have a fantastic time, simultaneously helping us in our Mission

Meet Christ
Be Christ

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

2300 Hamline Ave N
Roseville, MN 55113
651-633-4589
stchristophers-mn.org

VESTRY:

Mary Pendergrass,
Sr. Warden
Jeff Jensen,
Jr. Warden
Ann DePaolis-Jones,
Clerk
Suzanne Hitchcock,
Treasurer
Kathy Ackerman
Darlene Cross
Harold Danley
Jan Fillmore
Elizabeth Grayden
Christopher Lacher
Becky Lucas
Mike Sirany
Barbara Swanson

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen,
Parish Administrator

Opportunity efforts.

Also this Lent, our Way of the Cross and Holy Eucharist will return on Wednesday evenings in Lent, starting at 7:00 pm in the church. This service is a way to mark Lent as a different and special time of the year. We hear readings and prayers as we physically move around the nave of the church to each of eight Stations of the Cross, completing the service gathered around our Common Table to celebrate the Eucharist. This is an intimate and moving service walking the path Jesus trod on his way to the Cross. If you are unable to make the walk, sitting, and listening, praying and responding with us is a perfectly marvelous way to participate in this service as well.

As we walk into Lent together, I ask that all of us mark these 40 days in some special way: adding a special time of prayer and reflection to each day; becoming involved in some mission opportunity event; volunteer to be part of our worship leadership team; join us on Wednesdays for the Way of the Cross; visit a homebound person. To me, Lent is not about giving something up but taking something on that changes us and the world around us. With that in mind, I leave you with a Matins (Daybreak) Hymn for Lent found in the Breviary of the Order of St. Helena:

*Behold, another day is given
for us to journey on toward heaven,
when Christ invites us to awake,
to work and love for Love's own sake.*

*Greet the new day, the Savior cries
to each who still in slumber lies;
in justice and in virtue stand,
and watch, my coming is at hand.*

*Help us, O Christ, your call to heed
that we may recognize our need;
may longing hope for you inspire
in us unquenchable desire.*

*So may you, Christ, our slumbers wake,
from us the chains of evil break;
with clarity reveal your way,
and make us zealous to obey.*

Chad O'Leary
Youth Director
Marion Hunner,
Children's Ministries
Karla S. Cole,
Director of Music
Diane Elliott,
Deacon Intern
Rev. Mary Rowe,
Assisting Priest
Rev. Janet MacNally,
Deacon
Rev. John F. Dwyer,
Rector

Our PROGRAM YEAR Schedule

Sunday:

8:00 AM

Holy Eucharist

9:00 AM

Fellowship

9:00-9:25 AM

Archangels

-Music Room

9:30-10:20 AM

Children's Education

-Room 107

9:30-10:15 AM

Youth Education

-Youth Room

9:30-10:15 AM

Adult

Education

-Chapel (1st & 3rd) **10:30**

AM

Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM

Fellowship

Wednesday:

12:15 PM

Holy Eucharist

-Chapel

*Zealous to make Christ's love known
to all those whom you have grown;
and make our wills bend
to yours, to serve those you send.*

*To you all glory, Trinity,
all laud, O Holy Unity;
to you on this new day we raise
our grateful hearts in songs of praise.
Amen.*

A blessed and holy Lent to each and every one of you.



The Deacon Discusses



The Rev.
Janet MacNally

Deacon

Will you strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will with God's help.

These are the words that we recite every time we witness a baptism. They are the last set of questions found in our Baptismal Covenant, and they help to lay the foundation for how we are to live our lives as Christians in the world. That question, comprised of fourteen words, informs us as to how we to order our lives, our relationships and our chance encounters with every person we meet, with no exceptions. No one said it would be easy; the truth is that often it is not; and yet we have promised, and on a semi-routine basis renew our vow to do just that.

Our intentional prayer group has been meeting on a regular basis since September. Through the guidance our of deacon intern Diane, we have worked our way through various spiritual

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9 AM - 4 PM

Over 55 Club News

We will meet on
Thursday, **February 4, at 12:30 PM** for lunch (\$10 each). We will enjoy a Travelogue after lunch. Come, join us!

--Roberta Williams

Food Shelf News

November & December food donation totaled 41 pounds. Much of this was cereal which is always in great demand. Many thanks to those who participate in this on going need.

--Pamela Case

MARDI GRAS FUNDRAISER! FEBRUARY 9th!



On Tuesday, February 9th, we will have a **Mardi Gras** Party to celebrate the end of Epiphany and ready ourselves for Ash Wednesday... We will have fun raffle-style drawings through the night and masks and beads

exercises, all of which have helped to open us to the art of holy listening as we discern where God is at work in our neighborhood and where it is that Holy Spirit is calling for us to join Her. And we have listened. What we have heard from voices within our faith community and from the language of politics is that many, many people have a fear of what they do not comprehend, what is unknown to them: Islam and our Muslim neighbors.

One of the best tools we have to combat the fear of the unknown is knowledge, educating ourselves so we are able to understand that of which we have become wary or even afraid. And so we have put together a "Lenten" program that will begin on February 14th and then meet every other Sunday *(2nd and 4th). The truth is we have more information than we have Sundays in Lent, and so we will continue this program into Eastertide. To make things convenient for both services, we will hold the gatherings in between the services, starting at 9:25 and ending no later than 10:15. We will begin on February 14th by viewing the short National Geographic film *Jerusalem*. We will follow with gatherings where we share our own family's immigration story, where learn about the Islamic faith, and we will be hosting guest speakers to share their faith and their experiences as Muslims in America in 2016. Our goal is to enter this program with a desire to learn, a promise to make intentional prayer our foundation, and an effort to open our minds so we are able to fully walk with our Muslim neighbors.

The next several weeks are filled with a great deal of promise and hope as we join in community to follow that final piece of the Baptismal Covenant. God is out ahead of us working in our neighborhood, and through discernment we have heard the Holy Spirit leading us into this conversation. Please prayerfully consider joining us as we explore the Islamic faith, learning from our Muslim neighbors. Fear can be a crippling force in our lives; join us in resisting that dark force. Join us as we seek to become the light in the darkness, the light that darkness cannot overcome. Join us as we seek to enter into relationship with our Muslim neighbors. Join us as strive for justice and peace and respect and dignity of every human being. We can with God's help.

Amen, Deacon Janet



February Footprints



and noise makers available...

There will be a "mask-making" station where children of any age (adults included!) can color/create their own unique mask. There will be a chili contest as well as a children-led Jell-o contest!...We will burn dried palm fronds during the evening (weather permitting) to create ashes to be used the next day...

There is a sign-up board in the upper Narthex - please look at it and let us know how you can help make this a successful fundraiser for **Habitat for Humanity**. There will be information available about this important Mission Opportunity that St. Christopher's has been involved with for 25 years, during the festivities.

February Calendar Highlights

- 3 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist-Chapel**
6:15 PM
Company of Heaven-Music Rm
7 PM Youth Group-Youth Room
7:15 PM Parish Choir-Music Room
- 4 12:30 PM Over 55 Club Lunch & Program-**

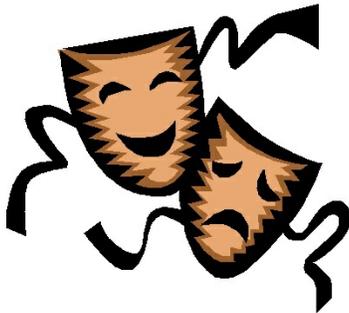


Marion Hunner

Children's Ministries Director



Everyone is invited to join the children and their families for **Potluck Supper and Game Night on Saturday, February 6th.** We'll begin at 5pm. Please bring a dish to share and your favorite board game. We will close the evening with Instructional Eucharist led by Fr. John.



The children will be presenting their **Dramatic Sermon** during the 10:30 service on Sunday, February 7th. This year they will be presenting the Creation story. As it happens, this is the last Sunday of Epiphany, so we will be putting away the Alleluias that day as well.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 10th. I have compiled several ideas that may help families observe this Lenten Season. They can be found on St. Christopher's website under "Lifelong Learning": <http://www.stchristophers-mn.org/lifelong-learning/>



As promised, if you saved your Christmas tree trunk, I have a Lenten project for you! You can look on St. Christopher's website under Lifelong Learning to find Lenten Resources. There you will find instruction on how to turn your tree trunk into a Lenten Cross (similar to an Advent wreath). If you would like to do this project but don't have a tree trunk, I have extras in my office.

6 4 PM Dramatic Sermon Rehearsal
5:30 PM Pot Luck Supper and Game Night!

7 8 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist-Dramatic Sermon!

8 5:30 PM Finance Committee- Parish Hall

9 6PM Mardi Gras!
Chili cook-off, Jell-O competition, lots of fun! - benefits Habitat for Humanity

10 ASH WEDNESDAY
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist w/ Imposition of Ashes-Church

6:15 PM Bell Choir - Balcony

7 PM Youth Group-Youth Room

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist w/Imposition of Ashes -Church

11 1:00 PM Knitting-Library

Gratitude Boxes - Sunday School children will be bringing home



Lenten Gratitude Boxes on February 7th for your family to use as a Lenten discipline. These are in the form of "carry out" boxes, and they have a slip of paper for each day with special instructions. Some ask for a good deed, some ask for prayer, some ask for a donation (this year we will be supporting the efforts of our Green Team), and others explore areas of our faith. They will bring their boxes to church on Easter Sunday to

be included with the offering (even if you didn't finish the tasks!). If you would like a box and do not have children in Sunday School, please let Marion know.

Looking Ahead!



On Palm Sunday, March 20th, we are offering an intergenerational event following the 10:30 liturgy. We'll begin with traditional soup luncheon and then explore the events of Holy Week. Please mark your calendars and plan to stay after church.



Surf Shack VBS will be in July - exact dates to be announced soon!

Youth News

12 5 PM Wedding

Rehearsal

6:30 PM

Couples Bridge

13 2 PM

Hall-Wells

Wedding

14 LENT 1

8 AM Holy

Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy

Eucharist

15 6:45 PM

Vestry-

Parish Hall

17 12:15 PM Holy

Eucharist-Chapel

6:15 PM

Company of
Heaven-Music Rm

7 PM Youth

Group-Youth

Room

7 PM Way of the

Cross and Holy

Eucharist-Church

7:15 PM Parish

Choir-Music Rm

20 12 PM Flute

Recital-Church

21 LENT 2

8 AM Holy

Eucharist

10:30 AM Holy

Eucharist

24 12:15 PM Holy

Eucharist-Chapel



Chad O'Leary

Youth Director

Hello! We have so many exciting ways to help our young people grow into becoming the best version of themselves. Please look over the list of February programming events below and join us for one -- or all -- of them!

SUNDAY FAITH FORMATION

Sunday morning is a time of prayer and fellowship for the St. Christopher's Youth Community. Be sure to join us from 9:30-10:15AM for inspirational lessons, friendship, and laughter. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP

We meet each Wednesday night from 7:00-8:30PM. During the month of February we will continue working on a series of bulletin covers. We will also be raising our voices and reaching out to Xcel Energy in the hopes that we can help bring the changes necessary to bring our solar panels into full operation. Hope to see you in the Youth Room!

COMPANY OF HEAVEN REHEARSALS

If you are in the youth choir, please get the following dates on your calendar:

February 3, 17 & 24

April 6, 13 & 20

YOUTH GROUP FIELD TRIP

On Wednesday February 3 we will be traveling to use the work shop at Venture Academy (on the U of M campus) so that we can build a new Alleluia Box. All participants will need to sign permission slips before departing. You can find them on the lower level bulletin board. We will likely need one parent driver so if you are free and want to do some woodworking, please consider joining us! We will leave St. Christopher's immediately following choir

1 PM--5:30 PM

Standing

Committee -

Parish Hall

6:15 PM

Company of
Heaven-Music Rm

7 PM Youth

Group-Youth
Room

**7 PM Way of the
Cross and Holy
Eucharist-Church**

**7:15 PM Parish
Choir-Music Rm**

25 5:30 PM

**Community Dinner-Parish
Hall**

29 e-Traveler

Deadline!

Please note:

Outside

group use of the building has
not
been listed here.

Please note that we

now have music
lessons Monday
through Saturday.

Please check the
calendar in the

office before

scheduling a

meeting or event.

Our weekly

building-use

calendar is quite

busy!

practice (7:00PM) and return at 8:30PM. There is no cost to participate!

3RD ANNUAL HUNT FOR THE YOUTH ROOM GNOME'S TREASURE CHEST BEGINS SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7!

Jerry's magical treasure chest is about to go missing again and it's your job, with the help of some clues, to relocate it! The first clue will be released after the 10:30AM service on February 7. A new clue will follow each Wednesday night and Sunday morning until it is located. This is open to all middle and high school youth. The prize for finding the treasure (besides parish-wide fame) is \$35 gift card to the location of your choice: Caribou Coffee, Target or Chipotle. Good luck!

LOOKING FORWARD!

SUMMER TRIP PLANNING

If you are interested in being part of a youth trip this summer, please plan on bringing your ideas to a meeting after the 10:30AM service on February 21. Our plan is to stay in the upper midwest this summer but then look toward an overseas pilgrimage during the summer of 2017!

HEADS UP!

TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (TEC) RETREATS

APRIL 15-17, 2016 (St. John the Evangelist, St. Paul)

An exciting opportunity is approaching for our high school youth to explore their faith in the context of the death and resurrection of Jesus (Paschal Mystery). This is a very special ministry that has changed the lives of many young people. Contact Chad if you are interested in attending of these retreats, either as a participant (first time) or team member (returning participant). Scholarship funds available to interested youth.

RESCHEDULED!!

SERVICE LEARNING RETREAT

MARCH 11-13, 2016

In order to better live out the message of the Resurrection, the youth of St. Christopher's will be participating in a service immersion weekend retreat through the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches after Easter. Participants will learn about poverty in the Twin Cities metro area and organizations currently working to meet the many needs present within our community. All participants will also spend several hours volunteering at one or more of those organizations. Cost: \$35. Scholarship funds available to interested

youth. If you were unable to attend the original January date but can join us this time, please contact Chad!

--

Much Peace on the Journey,
Chad O'Leary

Green Team News

The season of Lent is rapidly approaching. Many on the Green Team have been thinking about how we as a congregation might participate in this time of prayer, confession and abstinence. Here are a few green ideas that might be helpful in your walk with Christ.



Prayers: From Pope Francis *Laudato Si*
prayer for our earth

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.
O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.
Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.
Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.
Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.
We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle
for justice, love and peace.

A Christian prayer in union with creation

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light
you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you
in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined
to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love
for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life,

to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

Fasting: This can be a complete fast, avoiding all food, or a partial fast, avoiding certain types of food for a period of time over Lent. A green idea for fasting is something called "Meatless Mondays" during Lent. Not only is this a form of fasting, it is good for your health, the environment and animals. I invite you to join our faith community in participating in this activity during Lent. Below is a link for more information and recipes.

www.humanesociety.org/meatlessmonday

Welcome to the season of Lent and see everyone on Ash
Wednesday!

--Joel Norton, Green Team Member

Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the February *e-Traveler*.

Here's our Valentine doing his best to get us to come and play with him instead of going back to the desk:



Sincerely,
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
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Roseville, MN 55113
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651-633-4589



PS:

[Like us on Facebook](#) 