Issue #163 | AUGUST 2026

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler

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Be Christ.

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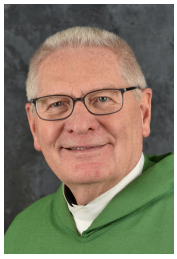
Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

From the Rector



The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson

Rector

Scarcity or Abundance *by Fr. Randy+*

Early Saturday morning at our house sometimes has a rather slow start, especially after a particularly busy week. On these occasions, Kim and I have a few extra moments to sip a coffee or tea or hot chocolate and immerse ourselves in the several culinary programs on TPT channel 2. There are a wide variety of chefs and cooks showcased, who serve up a range of ethnic and regional specialties with flair and seemingly little effort. Yes, it is as if they believe we could just whip up these with little time or effort expended.
Some of my favorite programs concentrate on baking. I have learned from these experts, from Julia Child to America's Test Kitchen experts, that excellent baking requires precise measurements of ingredients and accurate timing to ensure a delicious result. In addition, quality ingredients are essential and proper technique cannot be overstated.

Many of the culinary experts bake on a scale that is familiar to many of us, the scale of a nuclear family unit. But there are a few bakers who demonstrate cooking on a massive scale, a scale more typical of a commercial bakery. The amounts of ingredients make my head spin, hooking up bread dough in massive commercial floor mixers that are nearly as tall as the bakers themselves!

I was reminded of a parable told by Jesus in Matthew 13:33, in which he tells of a woman who was baking bread, mixing yeast into the into the finely ground flour. Jesus uses this image in speaking of the expansiveness of the kingdom of heaven. The woman took and mixed in *"three measures"* of flour with the living yeast and warm water. I did some research on just what amount of bread dough this would yield and was surprised to learn that this amount of flour and yeast would yield enough bread to feed as many as one hundred people! That is a lot of people fed! That is abundance!

Try to imagine the kingdom of God on this earth. Close your eyes and picture one hundred people gathering to break bread together. Do they all look alike? Or are they a diverse crowd like the mix you see in many churches on Sunday morning?

This is the nature of the kingdom. It brings together all kinds of people, and somehow, they find a way to celebrate their unity in Christ. Their differences, in fact, pale in comparison to what they have in common: their need to feed on the Bread of Life in a world whose *"bread"* can never sustain or satisfy.

Jesus came *"to gather into one the dispersed children of God"* (John 11:52). He came to break down every *"dividing wall of enmity"* that kept people at odds with each other (Ephesians 2:14). And he did it by overcoming the root of all division and enmity, which is sin. It's the selfishness of sin that convinces us that God's love, and the resources of this world, are limited and scarce. It's the arrogance of sin that convinces us that we are more deserving of these resources and God's love that someone else.

But it's the generosity and mercy of God that prove that there's room for everyone in God's kingdom. It's the wide-open arms of the crucified Christ that welcome everyone to the table and into *"many dwelling places"* in God's house prepared for us (John 14:2).

What a privilege and source of rejoicing! Jesus has welcomed you into a kingdom filled with countless treasures meant for countless people. Jesus, thank you for bringing all of us into your kingdom!
Randy+

State Fair Park-n-Ride Returns!

The State Fair dates for 2026 are August 27 - September 7

Please sign up to volunteer for a parking shift - morning or afternoon; no evenings - and help fair-goers park and get to the bus to the Fairgrounds. You can sign up on the clipboards in the upper Narthex, or, use this link to choose your time slot(s)! Park-N-Ride Sign Up

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Marion Hunner
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

Snowball Mountain Challenge Vacation Bible School
We had a wonderful 5-day adventure in July during which we learned that “We Can Do All Things Through Him Who Strengthens Me.” Many thanks to all who helped make this happen. In addition to the 18 adults and 6 youth who led our travelers throughout the week, we are also appreciative of those who did behind-the-scenes prep work and the people who helped us set up and tear down. This fabulous experience doesn’t happen without ALL of you!

This year was extra special to me, because collaboration with ECMN Children Youth and Family colleagues helped us bring together children, youth and adults from 6 different EMMA churches as well as other faith traditions. To learn more about this aspect of the program, you can read my article for ECMN here.

Go to our Facebook page and scroll down to see photos from each day of VBS.

Outreach Recap: We provided the following to Ralph Reader Food Shelf, which is run by the Community Education department of the Moundsview School District

- 24 Birthday Bags that included cake mix, a can of sprite (did you know you can make cake mix with soda instead of oil and eggs ?!), frosting, a pan, plates & napkins, a table decoration, candles, and a party favor
- 6 packages of gluten free cake mix
- 98 pounds of food
- 15 tie-dyed pillowcases

School Supplies

It is almost Back-to-School time, and we are supporting students in the Roseville School District with school supplies. Please bring your donations to the bus in the Lower Narthex by Sunday, August 16. Click here to see the district's supply list, or simply purchase basic items like folders, spiral notebooks (both wide and college ruled), crayons, markers, pencils, pens, backpacks, etc. If you would like to support this effort but don't want to shop, please clearly mark your donation "school supplies" and put it in Marion's mailbox, the offering plate, or drop it at the office.

St. Christopher's Day Brunch

Here are a couple of photos from the July 26th St. Christopher's Day celebration. "A good time was had by all."

What WOULD Jesus Drink?

August 23rd
Rail Werks Brewing Depot, 4055 Central Ave, Columbia Heights
There's a selection of English and German style beers, hard and N/A seltzers, a large food menu of smoked meats, sandwiches and bar food. Not crazy about beer? Come for the N/A menu full of intriguing mocktails, house-made soda, root beer, and ginger ale. Their crafted cocktail menu is enormous. Something for everyone.

From the Green Team

The City of Roseville's Sustainability Team is putting on an event promoting reuse. They are asking for donations of gently used clothing, shoes, and accessories and that they be dropped off between Aug. 17 and 25 at Roseville City Hall. The free clothing swap event will be held in the Rose Room at the Roseville Skating Center on Aug. 27 and 28 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm.

For more information go to:
http://www.ci.roseville.mn.us/m/NewsFlash/Home/Detail/3136

Thanks,
The Green Team

Vestry Shorts

The Vestry did not meet in July.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact a Vestry member.

AUGUST Calendar

1 Saturday

2 Sunday – Pentecost 0

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

3 Monday
Possible Golf parking, West lot, due to pavement work at Cedarholm.

4 Tuesday
8:00 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM*
2:45 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 5:30 PM*
7 PM *Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall & Outdoors*

5 Wednesday
9:30 AM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 12:30 PM*
10:45 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 12 PM*
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist
1:15 PM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 2:30 PM*
3 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 7:30 PM*
6:30 PM *Wednesday AA – Gathering Room*

6 Thursday
6 AM Tree removal begins in north grove
9 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 10 AM*
4 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 6 PM*
5:00 PM *SOLARIS Dance Group – Parish Hall – to 10 PM*

7 Friday
2:30 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 5:15 PM*
4:00 PM *Cello Book Recital – Chapel – to 4:45 PM*

8 Saturday
1 PM "Flash Mob" Event - *Offsite*

9 Sunday – Pentecost 11
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

10 Monday
11 AM Staff Planning Meeting – **Office Closed to 1 PM**
4 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 6:30 PM*
3 PM *Voting Area SetUp – Parish Hall*

11 Tuesday – Primary Election Day
7 AM to 8 PM – Voting in Parish Hall
2:45 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 5:30 PM*

12 Wednesday
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist
3:30 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 6:30 PM*
6:30 PM *Wednesday AA – Gathering Room*

13 Thursday
3 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 7 PM*
5:00 PM *SOLARIS Dance Group – Parish Hall – to 10 PM*

14 Friday

2:30 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 6:30 PM*

15 Saturday

16 Sunday – Pentecost 12
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall
1 PM Hmong Language Eucharist (No meal)

17 Monday
5:30 PM Finance Committee – Parish Hall
6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall

18 Tuesday—Office Closed - Vacation
8:00 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM*
9 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 10:30 AM*
10 AM *Tuesday OA - #219*
10:30 AM Meals on Wheels – *Offsite*
2:45 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 5:30 PM*
7 PM *Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall & Outdoors*

19 Wednesday Office Closed - Vacation
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist
3:30 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 6:30 PM*
6:30 PM *Wednesday AA – Gathering Room*

20 Thursday Office Closed - Vacation
10 AM Pickleball Event - Offsite
3 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 7 PM*
5:00 PM *SOLARIS Dance Group – Parish Hall – to 10 PM*

21 Friday Office Closed - Vacation
2:30 PM *Cello Lessons - #218 – to 6:30 PM*

22 Saturday
9 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 10 AM*

23 Sunday – Pentecost 13
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

24 Monday Office Closed - Vacation

25 Tuesday
7 PM *Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall*

26 Wednesday
12:15 PM Holy Eucharist
6:30 PM *Wednesday AA – Gathering Room*

27 Thursday – STATE FAIR PARKING BEGINS

28 Friday—STATE FAIR PARKING

29 Saturday—STATE FAIR PARKING
8:30 AM *Private Spiritual Direction – Library – to 10 AM*

30 Sunday – Pentecost 14— STATE FAIR PARKING
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Fellowship—Parish Hall

31 Monday— STATE FAIR PARKING (Through September6!)

Please note that our outside groups have returned to meeting in the building. Those groups are now on this calendar *(in italics)* to avoid over-scheduling. **ALWAYS check** with the church office before scheduling a meeting.

Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the August ***e-Traveler***!

August 18-25 will be my last week of vacation. The office will mainly be closed.

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:
Ann DePaolis-Jones, Sr. Warden; Bruce Warkentien, Jr. Warden
Ann Trapnell, Clerk; Bruce Warkentien, Treasurer

Kathy Ackerman; Jeff Jensen; Becky Lucas;
Angela Robinson; Jane Suilman; Betsy Wesenberg

STAFF:
Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Lyla Aaland, Deaconal Intern
Rev. Christopher Haack, Deacon
Rev. Mary Rowe, Assisting Priest
Rev. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Schedule:

Live-stream and Recorded services can be found on YouTube at:
Saint Christopher's Episcopal Roseville MN

Summer Sundays:

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: **12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** in the Sanctuary

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N.
Roseville, MN 55113
651-633-4589 | Fax 651-633-7361 | www.stchristophers-mn.org

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