



**Meet Christ.
Be Christ.**

Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

Our Deepest Fear *by Fr. Randy+*

This past week I attended the annual MN Emergency Manager's Conference—a gathering of public and private emergency managers, public safety and healthcare officials, and other human service providers from around the state. We attended multiple training sessions and informational seminars addressing topics of great impact to our societal well-being, safety, and risk-reduction/recovery from disaster events.

This year's conference had a certain sense of sadness and extraordinary burden as the political winds from those in power have been on attack against the very structures and programs which strive strongly to prevent death and minimize damage, as well as restore people and communities to well-being. The final speaker went a different direction than all of the other presentations at the conference. She focused her talk on how to include a heaping helping of self-care into our everyday work—work which is difficult at best and devastating to the soul at it's very worst.

The presenter shared a poem by Marianne Williams, "*Our Deepest Fear.*" As I heard it, pondered it's key ideas, and re-read it several times, I believe it has great meaning and impact on our very lives—how we should apply ourselves as followers of Jesus into a world which can be very overwhelming--to instead encourage people to embrace their potential and shine brightly as reflections of God's glory.

In her famous poem, "*Our Deepest Fear,*" Marianne Williamson touches on a profound truth that resonates deeply with the teachings of the Bible. The poem reminds us that **our greatest fear is not our inadequacy, but our potential to be powerful beyond measure.** This message aligns beautifully with the biblical understanding of our identity and purpose as children of God.

"Our Deepest Fear" Poem by Marianne Williamson
Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our Light, not our Darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God.

Your playing small does not serve the World.

**There is nothing enlightening about shrinking
so that other people won't feel unsure around you.**

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone.

As we let our own Light shine,

we consciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear,

our presence automatically liberates others.

Understanding Our True Identity

Williamson writes, **“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.”** This reflects the biblical truth that we are created in the image of God:

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” GENESIS 1:27

Our potential is not something to be feared but embraced. God has given each of us unique gifts and talents intended for His glory and the service of others.

Embracing the Light Within Us

“It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us,”Williamson continues.

The Bible tells us that Jesus is the light of the world:

“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’”
JOHN 8:12

and as His followers, we are called to reflect His light:

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

We are often more comfortable hiding in the shadows of our perceived limitations rather than stepping into the light of our God-given potential.

Yet, Scripture encourages us to let our light shine before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven.

Rejecting False Humility

Williamson challenges us with the question, **“Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?”** and answers, **“Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God.”**

This echoes the biblical teaching that we are fearfully and wonderfully made:

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” psalm 139:14

True humility is not about denying our strengths but about recognizing that our abilities come from God and should be used for His purposes. Playing small does not serve the world or honor God.

Manifesting God’s Glory

“We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us,” Williamson asserts. This statement is biblically backed!

The Bible instructs us to use our gifts to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms:

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:10-11

The Apostle Paul also reminds us that we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do: “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” EPHESIANS 2:10

Empowering Others

“As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.” This principle aligns with the biblical practice to encourage and build each other up:

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

When we live out our calling boldly and authentically, we inspire others to do the same!

Our courage and confidence can help liberate others from their fears!

Liberation from Fear

Williamson concludes, **“As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”**

The Bible speaks of perfect love casting out fear:

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.” 1 JOHN 4:18

When we embrace God’s love and His purpose for our lives, we can live fearlessly. Our freedom and confidence in Christ have the power to influence and inspire those around us.

Conclusion

Marianne Williamson’s “Our Deepest Fear” is a powerful reminder of the biblical truths about our identity and purpose.

We are not to fear our potential but to embrace it, shining brightly as reflections of God's glory. By doing so, we not only fulfill our God-given purpose but also inspire and empower others to do the same.

Let us step boldly into the light, confident in who we are as children of God, and live out our calling with faith not fear.



Migrant Support Fund

On February 6, 2025, Bishop Loya established a migrant support fund. He has seeded this fund with an initial gift of \$10,000, and asks every faith community in the diocese to **consider designating the offering for the last Sunday after Epiphany, March 2**, to help build this fund. The situation is changing and unfolding too quickly to outline all this fund will be used for, but with the disruption in federal funding, the incredible work being done by a number of our congregations at the grassroots, we know the need is already great, and will only continue to grow. St. Christopher's will participate in the March 2nd offering. If you will not be in church on March 2nd, and/or would like to donate on your own, you may find ways to do that [HERE](#).

An Easy Way to Contact Your US Representative and Senators

Are you frustrated by whatever it is that is going on in Washington DC? We CAN make sure our opinions are registered in the right place! On your smart phone, go to your App Store, and find a free app called "5 Calls," and choose it. Set your zip code location, and it chooses the right US Representative and Senators for you.

A list of current topics will come up; choose the one closest to what's on your

mind today, and it will provide a script for you to read (if you wish) to support or oppose the topic, and you can choose to make the call. (If your topic is not listed, you can still contact them.).

Please be kind to the person answering the phone! Thank them for their work, as they are hearing from many people each day and not all are friendly.

St. Christopher's Lenten Soup Suppers 2025



Mark Your Calendars! A simple soup supper will be provided from 5:30-7:00 PM each Wednesday throughout Lent: March 5, 12, 19, 26 and April 2 & 9. Interested in volunteering or hosting a week? Sign up now as an individual or a team. Many hands make light work! Please sign up using [SignUp Genius](#)- or -Contact Kim Johnson (651.210.7077) or Ann Trapnell (651.325.8801).

Cookie Time!

My Cookie Site QR Code

Charlotte would love your help in raising money for her Girl Scout troop. If you would like to purchase cookies, you can scan this QR code and we can have your cookies ready to go on March 2nd at church. Thank you for supporting Charlotte!



We Get By with A Little Help from Our Friends

I am here again to ask all of you to volunteer for a week of snow shoveling for the church!

Shoveling weeks are Monday-to-Sunday (because no one wants to wake up to snow on Sunday and not remember that it's the START of your week). **When you sign up, please mark your calendar so you remember which week you "took." Thanks!

Anything over 1.5 inches is covered by our plowing service *when they plow*, BUT, we do need help sometimes mid-day to keep things safe before they arrive. Sand and salt are in (or near) the entries. Call the office if you have questions!

THANK YOU to each and every person and family who has signed up to help!

Prayer List Requests

Have you noticed a "Prayer Requests" button on our website? This is a very short form to add a name to our prayer list! Requests will be monitored Monday through Friday and added to the list published on Fridays. You may, of course, still call the office to add or remove a name from the list. AND, you can use this QR Code to go right to the website!



Upcoming Lectionary Readings

February 23: 7th Sunday after Epiphany, Year C

Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42; 1 Corinth. 15:35-38, 42-50;
Luke 6:27-38.

March 2: Last Sunday after Epiphany, Year C

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinth. 3:12—4:2; Luke 9:28-36(37-43a).

Sunday Ministries February 23

8:00 AM

Lectors - Tom M, Bill S
Intercessor - Tom M
LEM - Robert W
Usher - Chris H
Altar Guild - Jennifer W
Coffee Host: Pete L, Cindy L

10:30 AM

Nursery: Kathy A, Rich P
Lectors - Angela R, Lyn L
Intercessor - Pat A
LEM - Madisen C, Lyn L
Crucifer - Madisen C
Ushers - Jean C, Scott C
Altar Guild - Jean D
Coffee Hosts - Becky L, Robin M

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www.stchristophers-mn.org



Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date.

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