



Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

You Are Formed, Known, Consecrated, and Named

by Fr. Randy+

Last week, I attended the annual MN Emergency Management Training Conference in Brooklyn Center. It is the yearly gathering of emergency managers throughout the state, and even the nation, to gain insights to the newest and most current trends and best practices in assisting our communities and individuals recover from loss caused by natural or human-created disasters. A gathering of this type, you may imagine, is a time for professional networking and introduction to new colleagues and partners.

One of the most interesting observations of mine was the nearly constant *"dipping of eyes"* as persons initially make eye contact, then immediately look down at the nametag credential hanging around the other person's neck. On it is the person's name, professional affiliation, and personal credentials—usually a series of random letters, numbers, and the like. At times, it made me almost giggle to monitor the unofficial contest to see how many combinations of letters, numbers, and titles one could fit on a 3" x 4" name badge!

Credentials; qualified, tested, bonded, educated, glorified, honored, and even set above. Sometimes it is self-aggrandizing and chest thumping, ego-driven, *"Hey—look at me!"* attention grabbing.

I was re-reading a portion of Jeremiah (1:4-8), and I find this passage by the prophet to be deeply challenging, yet consoling. We live in an age, and a culture where what goes in front of and behind your name is crucial. It matters hugely if you can add Dr., The Reverend, Chief, Queen, or even President. It is equally important if you can add PhD., M.Div., M.D., J.D., R.N., or Esq. after your name. Success and privilege and supposed happiness hang on titles and initials. People spend their lives, and enormous amounts of capital, chasing after a sense of self-worth believed to be found in them. And into this culture Jeremiah speaks words of truth, and a promise of hope.

Jeremiah's Call and Commission

4 Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

6 Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” **7** But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

8 Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.”

Clearly Jeremiah was reflecting on his own vocation and call. What is significant is that he roots the seeds of that vocation, not in titles or initials gained after years of training, but in a relationship. Jeremiah roots his vocation not in *what he has done*, but simply *who he is*, someone formed, known, and consecrated by God while still in his mother's womb.

Jeremiah reminds us that God doesn't look at us and love us for what we have done, or achieved, but *that we simply are*. It is enough for God that I am. Shed of all titles, initials, and achievements; shed even of all talents, skills, and accomplishments, I have still been formed, known, and consecrated by God to be something no one else can be.

Shed of everything, except his existence, Jeremiah was formed, known, and consecrated to be a prophet to the nations, equipped by God to do God's work. And that is good news—good news to each one of us.

The great temptation, even sin, of our age, is to find our worth only through what we have accomplished. The great gift, even grace we find in Jeremiah, is that our real worth lies in having been made in the image and likeness of God. It is that image and likeness of God, clothed in Christ's baptism, that lies our true worth.

One of the great graces of quiet retreat and contemplation is the wonderful gift of prayer—sacred time to discover that our true worth lies not in titles, initials, or achievements. In times of retreat and occasions of prayer, we discover for ourselves that we have been formed, known, and consecrated by God. In the womb of retreat and prayer, shed of everything except our existence, and knowing ourselves to be made in God's image and clothed in Christ's likeness, we discover again God reaching out and recognizing us as God's extraordinary, unique, and beautiful creation. This is truly good news, full of hope and promise for a life fully lived, in this credential mad world.



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).



Klondike Kate Karaoke Event

Would you like to join us for a fun-filled Klondike Kate Karaoke Night? **We still have space for a few more:** Enjoy a night of singing karaoke and dining on Old West bar food! (Baked beans with sliced hot dogs on buns, peanuts, popcorn, beer and wine.) Music, food and fun! Saturday, March 15th, 6:00-9:00 pm in the Parish Hall. Cost is \$20/person. Contact Jennifer Wright (612-209-3138) or Angela Robinson (651-414-9377) if you'd like to attend!



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

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).

March 9: Lent 1, Year C

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

Sunday Ministries March 2

8:00 AM

Lectors - Pete L, Mary P
Intercessor - Samuel A
LEM - Mary P
Usher - Pete & Cindy L
Altar Guild - Karen H
Coffee Host: *open*

10:30 AM

Nursery: Janet C, Connie H
Lectors - Sue T, Becky L
Intercessor - Bill H
LEM - Kathy A, Carol D
Crucifer - Kathy A
Ushers - Mark B, Wendy B
Altar Guild - Jill E
Coffee Hosts - Kathy & Ross Ackerman

Are you receiving this email forwarded by a friend?

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www.stchristophers-mn.org



Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date.

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