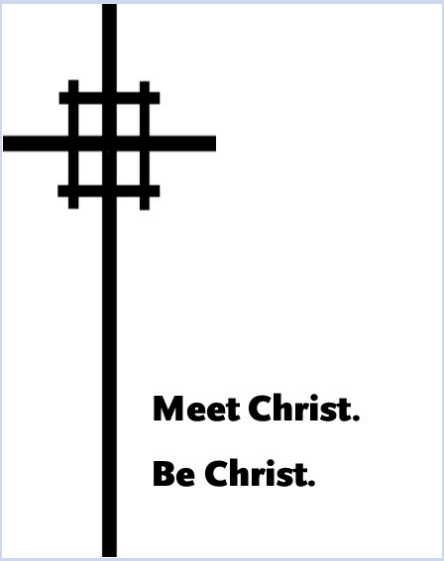

Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

Humility *by Fr. Randy+*

I believe one of the most underrated and most easily dismissed characteristics displayed by people today is also one of the most highly valued virtues one could share with the world. It is the virtue of humility. It appears this most highly honored way of living has been pushed aside by our society and relegated to a character trait which has little or no value. It is viewed by many in this world as a sign of weakness and a less than desirable way of engaging the world today. This is unfortunate. The most upright and beloved individuals in sacred scripture lived their lives with grace, kindness, and humility.

One day the disciples approached Jesus and asked him, *"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"* (Matt 18:1) Jesus didn't answer them until he had called over a small child. Then he said, *"Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."* (Matt 18:4) What a striking example of humility—one they would never forget!

But this was not the only time that Jesus talked about humility. He famously said, *"Everyone who exults himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exulted."* (Luke 18:14) He even called himself *"meek and humble of heart."* (Matt 11:29) In doing so, Jesus was recalling a long biblical tradition of extolling the virtue of humility. For example, the psalmist wrote, *"He guides the humble in righteousness, and teaches the humble his way."* (Psalm 25:9) And the Book of Sirach taught that *"faithfulness and humility are [God's] delight."* (1:27)

Clearly, God treasures humility! I pray that we are willing and able to ponder this great virtue by expanding our understanding of what it means to be humble. I pray that we are brave and bold enough to exercise this virtue in our daily lives. We should be free to reflect on the humility of our forebears; of Moses, Mary, the Mother of God, and Jesus himself so that we can follow in their footsteps.

What is humility? Sometimes we confuse it with many other less than desirable traits. We often think that humility means simply having a low estimate of oneself. But that's false humility. One of the best definitions of biblical humility comes from the late Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, who was the chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations in the United Kingdom:

True humility is mindlessness of self. An *anav* [the humble person] is one who never thinks about himself because he has more important things to think about. I once heard someone say about a religious leader" "He took God so seriously that he didn't need to take himself seriously at all"…

Humility is not self-abasement. It is not self-anything. It is the ability to stand in silent awe in the presence of otherness—the Thou of God, the otherness of other people, the majesty of creation, the beauty of the world, the power of great ideals. Humility is the silence of the self in the presence of that which is greater than self. (*Covenant and Conversation, Humility*, rabbisacks.org)

The humble person neither overestimates nor underestimates himself of his calling. HE is neither the center of attention nor does he hide and miss the opportunity to bring goodness and God's presence into daily life. Humility, or *anavah* in Hebrew, is never selfish but rather is selfless. It means that I occupy my God-given space in this world. I do what God has called me to do—no more and no less.
Randy+

Music this week

Katherine Johnson returns on Sunday, bringing her own special joy and some spiritual arrangements. Spirituals have served multiple purposes throughout history, from survival, comfort and resistance to cultural preservation and community building among enslaved people. Today, they are a living archive of

that history, and they commemorate African American resilience. You won't want to miss Katherine singing these beautiful songs!

WWJD?

Jesus would enjoy the broad array of beverages and food available at Rail Werks Brewing Depot in Columbia Heights this Sunday afternoon. Don't like beer? There are lots of alternatives. Do you like bbq? Stick around for dinner. Oh, and if you do like beer, bring your Sunday bulletin and get your beer for $5. 4055 Central Ave NE, Mpls.

In Memory

We are sad to announce the passing of Lynn Baxter on August 9th.

A service is in the planning stages for a *tentative* date of October 29th.

Rest eternal grant to Lynn, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon her.
May her soul, and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

ECMN Night at the Saints

Friday, September 11th is ECMN Night at the Saints – This is more than just a game; it's a day to connect, celebrate fellowship, and enjoy the spirit of community. Starting at 5pm, savor delicious bites and share in the joyous atmosphere with friends old and new at the Cub a Cabana. The game starts at 6:37 pm. Bring your family, bring your friends, and bring your spirit of joy—this event promises to be a divine evening filled with laughter, camaraderie, and, of course, baseball! You can purchase tickets for just the game ($29), or for the game and dinner ($54).

Click here to reserve tickets with the St. Christopher's block – I will buy the tickets all together so that we can sit in a group. You will pay St. Christopher's, and I will get reimbursed. Deadline is Sunday, August 23.

Click here to choose your *own* tickets in the ECMN block.

St Christopher's Crossings Book Group

Greetings and Blessings St. C's Book Group (and those Curious),
Now that Angela has retired, perhaps it is time to move the Book Group to the daytime.

Here is a link to a poll to help determine a good time to meet, Find a Time for St Christopher's Crossings Book Group.

Our first read is:
September: ***This Tender Land*** by William Kent Krueger; In Minnesota, in the summer of 1932, on the banks of the Gilead River, the Lincoln Indian Training School is a pitiless place where Native American children, forcibly separated

from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to Odie O'Banion, a lively orphan boy whose exploits constantly earn him the superintendent's wrath. Odie and his brother, Albert, are the only white faces among the hundreds of Native American children at the school.

After committing a terrible crime, Odie and Albert are forced to flee for their lives along with their best friend, Mose, a mute young man of Sioux heritage. Out of pity, they also take with them a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy. Together, they steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi in search for a place to call home.

Here is a link to our current considerations:
St Christopher's Crossings Book Group Selections

For any questions contact Angela Robinson,
angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com

Upcoming Lectionary Readings

August 23: Pentecost 13 (Proper 16), Year A
Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20.

August 30: Pentecost 14 (Proper 17), Year A
Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28.

Sunday Ministries August 23

9:30 AM
Nursery - Rich P
Lectors - Cameron G, Scott C
Intercessor - Roland K
LEM - Mary P, Marion H
Crucifer - Marion H
Acolytes - Melodie L, Camden T
Ushers - Jean & Scott C
Altar Guild - Jennifer W, Jean D
Coffee Hosts - Kathy & Ross A

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 or email the office to add or remove a name from the list.

(Please note: There is NO way to reply to the prayer request form.)

Are you receiving this email forwarded by a friend?

You can now sign up to receive the weekly Parish Mail and monthly ***e-Traveler*** in your own inbox. A sign-up form is now on the main page at our website. Just go to www.stchristophers-mn.org.

www.stchristophers-mn.org

Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date.

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave N | Roseville, MN 55113 US

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