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## Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

The Great Minnesota State Fair is ON! Please remember that parking for church/office visitors is on the highway side of the building. Tell the Parking volunteers you're coming in to the church, and they'll wave you through - even if the lot is "Full."

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## The Goodness of Humanity *by Fr. Randy+*

*For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. (Hebrews 2:11-16)*

The past few weeks, both of the major political parties in America held their respective national conventions. Lots of talking, lots of posturing, lots of promises, lots of statements that were found to be questionable or stretching the truth when subjected to fact checks—words from many different prominent voices—meant to raise our fears or soothe our hopes and build our sense of trust. Sometimes we found them joyful—sometimes we find them downright scary.

We often hear humanity spoken of as depraved, broken, inherently sinful—straying far from the first Garden, destroying creation’s gifts. We also know that human beings have the capacity to care both for each other and for the earth.

The writer of the Hebrews makes the case that we share a heritage with Jesus—we have one Father—and we are all called his brothers and sisters. We share not only this divine connection, but the earthly connection as well. Jesus was fully human. God chose the human form as the embodiment of his Son.

Our value in the eyes of our Creator could not be greater. Our humanity is not something to be scorned or reviled. It is what makes us most precious to God. And it is this precious humanity that we are called to celebrate and honor in others.

In this time of difficult political discourse and demanding decision-making about what type of leadership we choose to endorse at the ballot box, I pray that we all step away from the temptation to embroil ourselves in criticism and divisiveness, engaging if the folly of anger and fear. I pray we take time to truly listen to our neighbors—our brothers and sisters—and regard them as beloveds of God, regarding them as our own beloveds. Extend loving-kindness, do not instill fear. Love others, as God loves us.

Faithful God, you came to us in human form to redeem us and to help us to see you as you see us—holy, beloved, and good. Help us to see your holiness in one another. Help us to honor your creation and care for your beloved children. Help us to be the good people you created us to be. *Fr. Randy+*



## Hearts and Hands

Hearts and Hands met on August 15th to put together birthday bags for the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf. The bags included a handmade card, cake mix, books and art supplies. (Only 7 of 10 attendees are pictured.)

## Book Group

Greetings and Blessings, Beloved Community,  
We started the book group here at St. Christopher's. We met in the parish hall on 24-Jul-24 to discuss the [The Book of Longings](#) by [Sue Monk Kidd](#).

### ***"I am Ana. I was the wife of Jesus."***

Raised in a wealthy family in Sepphoris with ties to the ruler of Galilee, Ana is rebellious and ambitious, a relentless seeker with a brilliant, curious mind and a daring spirit. She yearns for a pursuit worthy of her life, but finds no outlet for her considerable talents. Defying the expectations placed on women, she engages in furtive scholarly pursuits and writes secret narratives about neglected and silenced women. When she meets the eighteen-year-old Jesus, each is drawn to and enriched by the other's spiritual and philosophical ideas. He becomes a floodgate for her intellect, but also the awakener of her heart.

The discussion followed the Book Group guide provided by the author. As we discussed the title of the novel, and Ana's character being defined by her longings and aspirations, we also talked about how passionate she is about the power of writing, of narratives, and of having a voice, as well as lifting up the voices of other women. We went on to talk about how the novel's theme of finding and expressing one's authentic voice unfolded in the story. We got lively around, "What forces work to silence contemporary women, and what emboldens them? We also explored Ana's aunt, Yaltha, and how she most profoundly influenced Ana. The discussion did wander, but we did manage to allow the guide questions to shape and frame our conversation.

We would like to try a [hybrid meeting at the Roseville Library in the Board Room on Tuesday, 08-Oct -24 at 5:30](#).

**Are you interested in joining us?** You will need to contact Angela Robinson, [angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com](mailto:angela.robinson.elohim@gmail.com), or Rev. Marilyn, so we can send the details of the book we are reading and the meeting information for those who wish to join online.

Also, we look forward to hearing from you about any suggestions you may have as to specific books or genres.

--Angela

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### 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!



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### Upcoming Lectionary Readings

**September 1: 15th Pentecost, Proper 17**

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

**September 8: 16th Pentecost, Proper 18**

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-10, 14-17; Mark 7:24-37.

**Sunday Ministries September 1**

**9:30 AM**

Nursery - Kathy A, Tom L

Lectors - Pete L, Chris M

Intercessor - Kathy A

LEM - Chris M, Robert W

Ushers - Pete L, Cindy L

Altar Guild - Karen H, Jill E

Crucifer - Alexander K

Coffee Hosts: Leslie & Joel N

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*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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