



Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

Who Are You? *by Fr. Randy+*

The front doorbell rings. Our grand-dog Rey erupts into a barking frenzy and runs to greet the visitors at the door. Groups of excited kids erupt into a chorus of "Trick or Treat!" The tiny ones usually don't say a word, but still have learned how to hold out their treat bags to collect the candy and goodies. Another happy "Thank you" is "sing-songed," and the group is happily on their way to the next house. A quick wave to the parents and grandparent escorts waiting on the street, and we repeat the entire sequence of events in a couple more minutes.

It is Halloween night, or as we prefer to call it, All Saint's Eve. It's the night so many people have been preparing for—decorating homes and picking just the right costumes to wear. Unfortunately, it is pretty cold outside, so many of the kids are bundled up with hats and gloves and coats that really don't enhance the effect of their carefully chosen alter ego.

And, what a variety of costumes there are! There are the requisite cowboys and garden variety princesses, along with some very surprising selections—Albert Einstein, and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg! Some kids obviously were very thoughtful about their costume choices, while others were less intentional—wearing a white sheet with a hastily cut out eye hole or two. Others chose very contemporary individuals to emulate—and I had to ask the kid, "*Who are you?*" They would respond with the name Taylor Swift, or some current rap artist, or a sports figure I had never heard of. Obviously, this person had made an impact on their lives and the lens through which they view the world.

The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus about how we are to "*dress up*" as members of the Body of Christ. The lens he viewed the world through was one that the early Christians would understand—that of the influence and power they experienced under Roman rule. It is the virtual image of putting on the armor necessary to be prepared for the difficulties ahead—what is necessary to sustain a life of faith and courage. The people of the day would

understand this metaphor of the true authority of God--what it is like to project to the world who we are to be as Christians, and how to identify and be identified as a follower of Jesus.

The Whole Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, stand firm. Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.



Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining"!

Last Call for Photos!

We're still looking for photos for our new directory. Matt Cole will be back on November 5th, and 19th. Please try to get in to see him after church (either service) and get your photo taken for the church directory. He'll be in Room 219; OR you can submit one to the office as soon as possible.

On the Road...

Please Remember to get your 2024 pledge in this weekend! Thank you!

Remember, remember the 5th of November!

Gunpowder, treason and tacos!

There will be walking tacos, s'mores and the requisite bonfire for what the Brits call "Bonfire Night" - Sunday, November 5th at 5:00. See you then!

Coming Soon...

Daylight Saving Time **ends** THIS Sunday, **November 5th!**



All Saints' Day Remembrance: If you have friends or loved ones who have died in the last year (since November 1), please submit the names to the office **BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3**, and we will read them at the All Saints' Day service on November 5th.

ISAIAH Saint Paul and East Metro Agenda Unveiling and Path to 2025 Summit

Tue Nov 28

On Tuesday November 28th, we will make political meaning together about the outcome of the Saint Paul elections and what's happened in the East Metro.

We will share the results of the Saint Paul and East Metro Agenda survey, the listening sessions that happened this fall and unveil our updated agenda we will advance for the next couple of years.

We will talk about our mission and set of strategies to advance a multi-racial democracy and caring economy through 2024 with the Mayor and the new Saint Paul city council. There will be an East Metro breakout to discuss the path for those who are in East Metro congregations to advance a multi-racial democracy, caring economy and just climate transition in the suburbs!.

Join us for the ISAIAH Saint Paul and East Metro Agenda Unveiling and Path to 2025 Summit on Tuesday, November 28th, from 6:15pm - 8:45pm (TBD Location).

Please contact Dan Humes for sign up information: 612-581-5418, or humes45@comcast.net

In Case You Missed It:

Here is the Stewardship presented by Kathy Ackerman on October 29th.

He is Risen!

We have come to the end of the road to Emmaus, with the disciples boldly proclaiming “The Lord is risen indeed!” – and during the Easter Season, these four walls resound with that proclamation. But, beyond that, how do I boldly proclaim He is Risen Indeed? I will admit that initially, I was stumped. Truly stumped. I mean, I’m an Episcopalian! We’re not QUITE the “Frozen Chosen,” but we come close. I then realized that proclaiming the Good News can be more than words, and that actions DO matter. I had learned that lesson early, growing up on a cattle ranch in southeastern Wyoming.

In the spring after my 8th birthday, my dad announced that I now had “real horse” (my words, not his) to ride. I had been sharing a Shetland pony with my sister for the past four years, taking turns riding around the small pens near the houses and barns. That also meant that I was going to help move cattle for branding.

Branding is one of the most important events in the ranch cycle. Every year, the cows and the calves, known as pairs, are driven from winter pastures to our horse pasture, next to the house and barns. The next day, the pairs are brought into the small pens and separated. The calves are then roped by their hind legs, dragged a few feet to a pair of waiting “wrestlers” and then held down to be branded, vaccinated, (in the case of bull calves) neutered, then sent back out to their mothers. The pairs are moved to summer pasture a couple of days later. It takes a lot of manpower to brand 300+ calves in one morning – two or three ropers, three or four sets of wrestlers, three or four guys doing the rest. The area ranchers all help each other out during this season – which is why you will see me roll my eyes whenever I hear someone talk about the rugged individualism of the American cowboy.

The day before branding, I was “riding drag” on the herd. In other words, I kept the pairs moving by riding behind them – a job reserved for newbie riders. The actual herding was done by my dad, grandpa, great uncle Ora (who owned the ranch at that time) and my uncle Pete. At some point, Uncles Ora and Pete joined me in riding drag (probably because we were near the horse pasture and they wanted to get the pairs settled before lunch.) Dad and Grandpa were ahead, guiding the pairs into the pasture through the gate.

I was practically bouncing in the saddle with excitement, (not because the horse was trotting, mind you) and bombarding Uncles Ora and Pete with chatter. I was so excited to be herding cattle, to finally have a real horse, to be a big enough kid to do all this, and on and on and on and on...

My great-uncle Ora was a kind man, but not a man of many words. After listening to my chatter for a few minutes, he pointed a finger at me and said, “less talk, more do.” With that, he rode off after a pair who were sneaking away from the herd. I looked at Uncle Pete, who was grinning at me. He said, “It’s about the doing, not about the talking.” Wow.

I was taught that lesson over and over again throughout my life by my family. *Less talk, more do* was our motto, especially in our church. My parents were both on vestry at various times, both served as wardens. Mom was a convention delegate, and she still does coffee hour from time to time. Dad was the Don Shiek and Bruce Warkentien of his church for many years, as well. Needed something done? Call Raymond Jones. He’ll get ‘er done.

The point of all this can be boiled down to a saying that is attributed to

St. Francis of Assisi: “Preach the gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words.”

Well, the Gospel, or Good News, is that “He is Risen Indeed.” Jesus’ life, ministry and resurrection has transcended that terrible death on the cross to inspire millions – including my family and me. By being of service, I truly believe that, in my own Wyoming-cowgirl-Episcopalian way, I am proclaiming the Gospel that He is Risen Indeed. That’s why I volunteer and serve as much as I am able.

Remember I mentioned that branding day takes a lot of manpower and that area ranchers work together? There’s a lesson there as well. We here at St. Christopher’s use the manpower and funds that our members provide to proclaim the Good News to each other and the world. Every contribution of time, talent and treasure is a proclamation that He is Risen indeed. No matter what role you play (and trust me, you don’t have to go to my extreme!), you are part of this community’s proclamation that the Lord is Risen Indeed.

Can St. Christopher’s do more to proclaim the Good News that He is Risen? Of course we can. I have long maintained that while St. Christopher’s has always been a welcoming place, today’s world needs more than welcome from us; it needs us to step outside our doors and into the world. And we don’t have to do it alone – just like my Uncle Ora and my dad didn’t have to brand their calves alone. We have each other, and we have the greater Episcopal Church in Minnesota. We can even look beyond the Episcopal Church to form partnerships with other faith communities to provide service that expands our ability to proclaim our deepest belief that He Is Risen Indeed. And who knows, we might even want to do it WITH words!

The Lord is Risen. Alleluia.
The Lord is Risen Indeed. Alleluia.
Thanks for listening.

What do YOU do during Advent?

By Marion Hunner, Children’s Ministries Director

Do you have special Advent traditions? Do you light an Advent wreath? How often? Is there a prayer or ritual around lighting the wreath? Do you have special activities or decorations for Advent? Join me in the Parish Hall at 9:15 on Sunday, November 29 to share Advent traditions with your Faith Family. I will have some resources available. If you would like to provide your idea ahead of time, I would be happy to make any handouts that would be helpful or share your ideas if you are unable to join us. Maybe you’ll hear a new tradition that you will try this year!



St. Christopher’s First Event Fair

WE NEED YOU!

Help us build and strengthen our St. Christopher’s Community through Fellowship and Fun! Raise \$\$ for the Mission Opportunities Fund which helps support ministries in the parish and important outreach. Please consider

donating a fun event to St. Christopher's First **Event Fair**. Think outside the box! What are your favorite hobbies, foods, and pass times? Offer a karaoke night or guitar lesson(s), lead a hike or bird watching outing, take a group golfing, share a meal with others, teach a cooking class, lead a knitting lesson, offer game night or a day on a lake, or throw a dance party! The options are endless! Fill out the [donation form](#) (or find it on our website at the bottom of the Publications page) and send it to Ann (mntrappers@gmail.com) or Kim (kimmersue58@hotmail.com). Event donations are due by **November 15th**! The St. Christopher's Event Fair will occur December 10th through 17th, with specific event sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall! All events will occur in 2024!

Upcoming Lectionary Readings

November 5: All Saints' Sunday

Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12.

November 12: Pentecost 24, Proper 27

Wisdom 6:12-16, or Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13.

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.

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