



**Meet Christ.
Be Christ.**

Hello, St. Christopher's Community! *Please note:* The "from" email now reads "office@stchristophers-mn.org.ccsend.com" due to new rules about authenticating emails sent with services like the one we use, *Constant Contact* ("ccsend"). If you or someone you know is having trouble receiving the Thursday e-Blast and monthly e-Traveler, please check your "spam" or "junk" folders and mark as "not spam" or "safe."

Pick-A-Little, Talk-A-Little *by Fr. Randy+*



Pick-A-Little, Talk-A-Little lyrics; *The Music Man Musical*

Sung in an upbeat tempo by the LADIES:

Eulalie, Ethel, Maud, Alma, and Mrs. Squires
Pick a little, talk a little, pick a little, talk a little
Cheep cheep cheep, talk a lot, pick a little more
Pick a little, talk a little, pick a little, talk a little
Cheep cheep cheep, talk a lot, pick a little more
Pick a little, talk a little, pick a little, talk a little
Cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep
Cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep
Cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep cheep
Pick a little, talk a little, pick a little, talk a little
Pick a little, talk a little, cheep!

Most of you know I am a great fan of the classic musical films put out by

Hollywood in their Golden Days—and in amazing Technicolor! One of my all-time favorites is *The Music Man*. The film celebrates the idealist American Experience of life in the small town of River City, Iowa, at the turn of the century—that is, around 1900. It is a hilarious romp of unforgettable musical tunes, lavish costumes, and melodramatic remembrances of a time gone by. Many of the scenes and situations are stretched well beyond reality, but are meant to make a point of the uniqueness of the human condition we all share.

One of my favorite scenes is when the local society ladies are gathered together to share local news and general “goings on” of their small town. Again, a normal human condition—much like has occurred through all millennia, beginning with the gathering of people around the town well or even today at our “water-cooler” talk. *Who is where?—who did what?—what happened then?—did you know?—what did she/he say?—well, I heard...!*

Unfortunately, sometimes this sharing of factual information becomes more of a fantasy frolic—which usually becomes gossip and hurtful, regardless of the original intent of sharing compassionate concern. And in this case of the society women of River City, the above song lyrics are “cackled” in rapid tempo, all to the disparagement of the lovely town librarian, Marion.

A funny film scene, but one in which I must admit I have participated more than once in my lifetime. A practice of which I consciously am deeply aware of and do my best not to participate in at any cost. It is our charge from Jesus to step away from scorn, disrespect, and mockery—and fully lean into our love for neighbor and God.

Which brings me to an experience last weekend which I will cherish forever. I attended the English Tea—part of our 2024 St. C’s Event Fair series. It was a delightful event of scrumptious food delicacies, fragrant teas, and uplifting conversations around delightfully teapot-decorated tables. Attendees were asked to wear fanciful hats and bring along favorite teacups from home for the event.

And, as the celebration was winding down, people were invited to share a story about the hat they chose to wear or the special teacup from which they sipped. The stories shared were amazing! Memories flowed of beloved relatives from whom the teacups were gifted, special memories of events and exotic places held close in hearts, and remembrances of those whom we deeply love, yet see no more. Kind words shared of uplifting others, life-giving joy, and everlasting gratefulness and remembrance. A holy space filled with wisdom and thankfulness.

“My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.” (Psalm 49:3)

“Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” and call insight your intimate friend.” (Proverbs 7:4)

“The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:2)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” (Colossians 3:16)

Nary a “sideways word” said. No Pick-A-Little, Talk-A-Little fussing and cackling.

Just wisdom and love—only wisdom and love. And, of course, a bit of lemon...
Randy+



“WILL YOU?”
A LENTEN STUDY OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES
(Book by Amanda Perkins McGriff)

During the upcoming Lenten season, we will be studying the Baptismal Covenant promises we made, or were made for us by our sponsors. The first three questions of the Covenant echo the words of our creeds, our beliefs about God and the church. The last five questions focus on action. They each begin with the words: "Will You?"

These "Will You" questions articulate how we are to animate our baptism, to follow Christ's example in our relationships with others, our communities, and the world. These questions move from a "gathering in" to a "sending out"--they are a call to embrace and practice evangelism by proclaiming the Good News of Christ in all we do and say.

This five-week Lenten small group study offers daily reflections, examples of evangelism in action, and an invitation to think in new ways about the promises we make to God, each other, and ourselves in baptism.

We will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15; if there is interest, we can schedule a discussion group online during the week, as well. Included in the book is a short daily meditation for each day of Lent.

Books will be available soon, or you may download on Kindle. (Print books will be \$12.). Contact Marilyn+ (email) to reserve a book.

Lenten Reflections

Would you like to join our Lenten reflection Project? Here's how it works – There will be a blog on the St. Christopher's website, and each morning during Lent a new reflection will appear based on the readings for the day. Where do these reflections come from? They come from you! If you are interested in writing a reflection, contact Marion@stchristophers-mn.org. She will assign you

a date and send the readings to you. We are collecting them NOW, so that the blog can be set up and run smoothly throughout Lent. There are 40 days in Lent, so don't be afraid to jump in. It could be a prayer, thoughts about the readings, or a personal reflection about Lent. There is no required format (or length) – just share what comes from your heart.

Lenten Soup Suppers are returning to St Christopher's - Mark Your Calendars!

A simple soup supper will be provided from 5:30-7:00 each Wednesday: February 14, 21 & 28 and March 6, 13 & 20.

Interested in volunteering, or hosting a week? Contact Kim Johnson (651.210.7077) or Ann Trapnell (651.325.8801)



Our Facebook WORSHIP Fans

We've got our 10:30 service online, for those who cannot be with us. (If you're not following us on FaceBook yet, please do!) It's especially helpful with winter weather, and it's an opportunity to connect with our snowbirds, and people we haven't met yet.

Here's where **you** come in! We really need one person per Sunday to set up and monitor a tablet during the service, and take it down afterwards. We could use several more people so that the commitment is not a burden to a few. This is a great ministry opportunity for anyone to get started in a low-key way!

Volunteers of any age are encouraged; the only requirement is some familiarity with tablets, and we'll train and provide simple directions.

Please consider this important outreach opportunity! Contact Marilyn+ for more information and to sign up. [Marilyn's email](#)

MEANWHILE, if you are not "on" FaceBook, here is a link that will take you to the St. Christopher's page, so you can watch the service live streamed, or go back later to watch the recording.

<https://www.facebook.com/St.ChristophersRoseville>

Upcoming Lectionary Readings

February 4: Epiphany 5

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:6-14; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20.

February 11: LAST Epiphany

2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.

Sunday Ministries February 4

8:00 AM

Lectors - Bruce W, Joan M
Intercessor - Bruce W
LEM - Robert W
Usher - Tom M
Altar Guild - Ann T
Coffee Hosts: Karen & Chris H

10:30 AM

Nursery - Janet C, Tom L
Lectors - Pat A, Charlotte B
Intercessor - Kathy A
LEM - Kathy A, Ella S
Ushers - Bill H, Bruce W
Altar Guild - Jill E
Crucifer - Angela R
Coffee Hosts: Becky L & Robin M

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

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