

St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**

Rector

How are you doing? I really mean it...how are you doing? Here we are in the seemingly never-ending COVID-19 response...and many of us are about ready to lose it over the physical distancing, stay at home orders, and updated executive orders impacting all facets of life as we know it. I am now in day 70 of activation in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) which serves as the hub of state response to all things related to the response effort. I have the ring-side seat to be in the decision-making processes involved in public health and economic development support to this incident, and am continually amazed at the energy and dedication to the welfare of all Minnesotans displayed by all involved.

As school year work has ended for students (and their “teacher parents”), and businesses begin to slowly open, the sense of pent-up energy and longing to get back to “normal” is bubbling over in our homes and communities. The sad fact is that we are far from done with this health crisis. With ever-increasing numbers of ill and deceased persons, the escalation of the viral disease will continue for some time. Scientists are valiantly working to find ways to combat and defeat this viral disease. The battle between sound medical science and political pressure is becoming intense.

Some elected officials have been recently pressing to have faith communities be open to large-scale gatherings immediately, despite health warnings that this will rapidly escalate the potential of exposure and contraction of the disease. Political persons say that the immediate return of faith communities to large scale worship is “essential.”

I recently received a copy of a response to this immediate pressure and urging to open church gatherings written by Bishop-elect of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri, Deon K. Johnson.

“The work of the church is essential.

The work of caring for the lonely, the marginalized, and the oppressed is essential.

The work of speaking truth to power and seeking justice is essential.

The work of being a loving, liberating, and life giving presence in the world is essential.

The work of welcoming the stranger, the refugee, and the undocumented is essential.

The work of reconciliation and healing and caring is essential.

The church does not need to be “open” because the church never “closed.” We who make up the Body of Christ, the church, love God and our neighbors and ourselves so much that we will stay away from our buildings until it is safe. We are the church.”

We need to always bear in mind that to love God and each other, we must always remain focused on how we daily live out our life in Christ. Loving God and loving our neighbor are the two most important laws we adhere to as we together walk The Way of Love. We are to always remember that we are the church, and we can still be church while we are temporarily distanced from each other. Staying connected in new ways is the key to compassionately caring for those we love.

While I agree that this is an extremely difficult time for us to live in Christian community, it will come to an end. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which is celebrated on this Pentecost Sunday, will remind us once more that we are never alone, abandoned, or orphaned. The Spirit will hold us up and be ever alongside us as we resiliently share in the resurrection life of Jesus.

Peace and all things good.
Randy+

The Deacon Discusses



**The Rev.
Janet MacNally**

Deacon

From the Fifth Floor

I have a regular coffee date with one of my fellow deacons. We used to gather at a local coffee shop and take up a small table for the better part of a morning discussing all manner of things and solving all of the problems in the church and the world and figuring out what we were going to preach on when we landed on the same Sunday, not necessarily in that order. Needless to say, we now meet over Zoom, still taking up as much time, still trying to solve all the problems of the world and at our last Zoom coffee we discussed the lessons for Easter 7, because both of us were on the schedule for that date. Both of us, had always in the past, agreed that a deacon can always find, in every set of readings, a clear diaconal message. We agreed that the readings for Easter 7, the Sunday after the Ascension, just didn't seem to have a clear diaconal presence. Well, at least not at first.

To be honest, it wasn't just the readings that left us stymied, it was the reality of the world we are living right now that wasn't helping either. The church often refers to deacons as the bridge between the church and the world. Our ministry, we often tell others, is to bring our faith communities "over the bridge" from the church into the world and discern where and how the Spirit is calling us to engage with our neighbors. It was ever so much easier to urge you from the pulpit thru the sermon to go outside of the doors of the church into the world and by your actions with our neighbors you would be proclaiming the good news of God in Christ. It was easier to tell you that through baptism you died to your old life, rose through the baptismal waters to new life, and joined with Christ to bring about God's mission here on earth. So, come on and follow me across the bridge. It all was *so much* easier.

We agreed, after more than one mug of coffee that morning, that there was a call to the world outside the doors of our faith communities, it just didn't take us across the bridge in the same way. And leaning on the words of our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and our bishop and bishop-elect Brian and Craig we discerned where and perhaps how the Spirit was calling us into joining God in God's mission with our neighbors. Our bishop/bishop-elect wrote the following in an all ECMN message: "Small groups of those necessary to livestream worship from church buildings may do so if faith leaders so choose, and all other gatherings remain suspended. We are committed to following the way of Jesus as our standard. As much as we long to return to worshipping in person, and as painful as it is to be separated from one another, the way of Jesus in this moment calls us to sacrifice some of our own preferences in order to do all we can to slow the spread of the pandemic, and to protect those most vulnerable, to whom Jesus always draws particularly close." It is not only worshipping together as we did before the virus took over, but how we are able to "do mission" that has been impacted.

So, what can we do? How can we cross that bridge into the neighborhood and be Christ to those we meet? Here are a few suggestions for us. We are not

able to host our community dinner at present yet we know that food shortage for folks has become an increasing problem. While it might not seem as important as actually bringing food to church for the Keystone Food shelf, donating funds to Minnesota FoodShare directly is actually a way to make your dollars purchase more while serving Keystone at the same time. They are able through their efforts and corporate partnerships and matching grants to make your dollars go farther and serve more people. And while March is currently the month they gather funds, due to Covid 19 they are still taking donations. Wear a mask. I realize that doesn't seem like a missional thing to do, however, Ruth (from the office) said it best when she commented, "I wash my hands for me, I wear my mask for you." Wearing masks and keeping social distance works best when we all participate. It is the most outward and visible sign that we love our neighbors, that we care about the health of all we encounter. Keep lines of communication open and flowing. We may not be able to see each other the way we always have in the past, but we can use our phones, our emails and texts to check up on each other and keep the community strong. There are other, many other ways to join the Spirit in the neighborhood, these are just a few to get you thinking of more.

We don't know when we be able to return to some semblance of the way things used to be, some semblance of what was normal. And when we do begin to emerge it is not clear how we will go about our lives or what it is that we will find. The only thing we know for certain is that things will be different. The fact of the matter is that some things will change but not everything. We have through the waters of baptism died to our old life and risen with Christ joined in His mission to bring about the God's kingdom on earth. We are called by the Spirit to meet and serve our neighbors outside the door of our faith community and love them as we have been loved.

Amen. Deacon Janet

A Note from Rev. Tim Hodapp!

"I was notified by CPG that I began my pension on May 10, 2010, which would have been my first day on the job at St. Christopher's. Ten years! (It feels like a lifetime.) So, I want to reach out to you to say "thank you." What a gift St. C's was then, for Gerard and for me; and what a gift this wonderful Roseville parish continues to have, reverberating grace upon grace through my life. How blessed I am to have St. Christopher's influence, grace, and sharing in my life.

Gerard and I (and the pups) are doing fine with COVID-19. What a game changer. The world has shifted and it isn't easy, I suspect for all of us, to even begin to make sense of this. In the meantime, we stay safe. As I pray you are.

Many blessings,
Tim"

Music Notes



Karla Cole

Director of Music Ministries

Music Notes

Since everything that we know and have taken for granted for most of our lives has been tossed like a salad in recent months, we've all been left with trying to make sense of it and find our way toward getting something done in this new-not-so-normal. I have to admit to some naiveté and Pollyanna-ish optimism at the first. So, Lent was cancelled, well, let's figure out how to have a festive Easter with little or no rehearsal time. And then there wasn't an Easter service. Well, maybe Pentecost. Pentecost is *my* favorite festival day, so I happily set about planning a service that could go together a half hour before church with a few bells and whistles. But as you know, that didn't happen either. Maybe the fall will be our time. Hope springs eternal.

In the meantime, I've also been working on the Ordination and Consecration of the 10th Bishop of Minnesota. Much as our clergy are expected to give a few days each month to the work of the diocese, the parish staff members also get tapped for special events and projects. I wrote a processional and directed a handbell choir for Bishop Brian Prior's consecration ten years ago – and haven't really done much since then. So, I guess it's my turn again. I was initially asked to plan all the music and form and direct a massed choir, and I got to spend about three weeks with that great and glorious notion before it became clear that this service would look like no other previous consecration, and there certainly wouldn't be a massed choir. Instead, we planned several different scenarios, each engaging slightly more people and a slightly bigger choir. And in the end, and after hours and hours of the committee's Zoom meetings, the magic number is about 15, the minimum number of people we could have and still get all the canonical i's dotted and t's crossed. And there are only four singers, no choir. If it's any consolation, there are a handful of other Bishops-elect who are having to do the same thing. They all have a group chat to discuss their consecration services and, much like all of our 2020 graduates, the disappointment in having this incredibly special service shanghaied by the coronavirus. So with all of that and trying to sell his house in Nebraska, the Bishop-elect has been living on Zoom these last few months and is finally moving to Minnesota this week. He's a really nice guy. I think you'll like him.

The service will be live streamed on the ECMN website, www.episcopalmn.org, as well as on Facebook Live - at **10:00 am Saturday morning, June 6th**. I would encourage you to set your alarm, brew up a pot of coffee, print out the bulletin and join us. There will be organ music provided by the Canon Raymond Johnston at St. Mark's Cathedral, hymns and anthems – you can sing along with the aforementioned four singers, thoughtful lessons and prayers, and lots of history and symbolism. Even though there won't be a cathedral full of people, there will be plenty of pomp and circumstance. And

you'll be proud to be an Episcopalian.

One of the issues we had to deal with early on was social distancing. Trying to keep everyone in a six foot bubble in a service where there's a traditional laying on of hands – ha! That tightly limited how many people could be up front. And it certainly limited how many singers we could have as well. In early May, the American Choral Directors and the National Association of Teachers of Singing hosted a roundtable of musicians, doctors and epidemiologists to discuss the future of singing. And it ain't pretty. As you may have read, there was a church in Washington state that had a two and a half hour rehearsal back in March where one attendee was infected. Of the 61 choir members, there were 32 confirmed infections, 20 secondary probable cases, 3 hospitalized and 2 dead. That was our first clue that singing might be a problem. A few weeks later, epidemiologists deemed singing a "superspreader" activity. If you do it right, singing draws large volumes of air deep into the lungs and expels it with way more droplets than simple speaking. Have you ever seen a Broadway show where the singer is at the front of the stage and backlit just a bit – you can easily see the spray as they exaggerate the diction in order to be understood.

So the roundtable left us with the sense that group singing just isn't healthy, since you can have and spread the virus without even knowing it. The six foot bubble isn't good enough for singers – it has to be more like ten to fifteen feet. When you extrapolate that out to the average 16 or 18 person church choir, it means that there isn't really a safe place to rehearse, let alone sing on a Sunday morning. Rehearsing outside has been suggested, and if the wind isn't blowing, that seems logical, except that sound doesn't travel well outside and singers need to hear each other and connect with their fellow singers. There's a reason why the St. Olaf Choir holds hands when they sing. Thus, for choir rehearsals to happen, all must accept some level of risk that they will be exposed. Then each singer must be screened for symptoms and have temperature (less than 99.4°) and blood oxygen level (above 94%) checked. Additionally, a PCR test would identify anyone with the virus – but goodness, what church could afford to provide these tests for each choir member at every rehearsal? The risk factors alone scare me off. Almost all of us are of that "certain age", making us vulnerable to this virus, and many of us have an underlying condition that increases that risk. And both of those things could be said of St. Christopher's congregation as well.

Taken together, all of this means that there won't be any choral singing for quite some time. And no hymn-singing when we do get back to in-person worship. I know you 8:00ers don't mind, but the rest of us do. From the earliest times, Christian worship has included singing – those psalms were written specifically to be sung! "Sing a new song to the Lord" and all that. So, what does this mean for the music director? Well, I'm already pretty tired of myself. But I'm exploring some virtual options. Sadly, that virtual choir video from the national church that we all enjoyed at Easter was a very expensive project and took many hours of editing by people who knew what they were doing. Our learning curve is straight up, so you won't be seeing any of that. But, hopefully, we'll be able to manage some simpler things in time. And once we begin in-person worship again, there will be instrumental and vocal offerings. There will be music, there just won't be any congregational singing. You'll have to do your singing in the shower for a while yet.

Grace and peace,

Footprints JUNE 2020 - News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



So here we are, 2+ months into this craziness, and there are so many unknowns! I am very aware that our kiddos are getting saturated with distance learning from school, and their parents are trying to work from home while also helping their children learn from home. I cannot imagine how overwhelming that must be! I continue to look for resources that are engaging and accessible to our families, and I recently asked them to fill out a survey to evaluate what I have been doing so far and where they would like me to go from here.

At this point we are all trying to adjust to some kind of “new normal.” For Children’s Ministries, here’s what that looks like right now:

-- Each week I try to share some sort of fun activity or resource on the closed “St. C. Families” Facebook page.

-- On Fridays I send my weekly email (Marion’s Message), as I have done for years, with updates for families. Now that email includes an attachment of a family faith formation piece that they can do at home.

-- On Sundays, we Zoom! Our attendance is anywhere from 2-7 kids, much like our Sunday School attendance. Often we have our Sunday School teachers, Carol Duff and Jean Darnell, as well, and Fr. Randy even joined us one week. In our Zoom meetings we check in, do our Sunday School body prayer together, share a story, and tell what we are thankful for this week. Recently we have added a music piece! Patrick plays the guitar and I teach the children a song with motions. We started with “This Is the Day,” and have done that for two weeks now. We will introduce a new song on Pentecost. In fact, we have a special interactive story for Pentecost!

Vacation Bible School Update:

As much as it pains me to write this, for the first time since 2004, we will not be having Vacation Bible School at St. Christopher’s this summer. As many of you know, this has been a passion project for me for 15 years, and I am very saddened by this reality. There are some virtual programs available through ECMN and one or two other parishes in the area - I will be referring families to those opportunities. The Knights of



North Castle curriculum is purchased, and I have already started some of the planning. I will put that on hold until we find ourselves in a place where it will be safe to proceed.

A Note from Rev. Mary Rowe

Way down here in Moab, I am reeling from the horror of George Floyd's death. The horror and pain is reverberating all the over the country. My prayer is that all the faithful will stand strong and resolute in seeking justice. The peace of God is within the facing and ending strife and injustice.

My life down here has been interesting. Tom is home after spending 2 weeks in Shiprock on the Navajo Reservation, where he volunteered as a physician. The Navajo people he met were very kind, greatly appreciative of his being there, and deeply concerned about the spreading of Covid-19. They are faithful about wearing masks, but social distancing is often hard, as often several multi-generational families live in the same house. Another big problem for them is water. Something like 40% do not have running water.

He was glad to see how many medical personal from all over the country have responded to the need of the Navajo. He felt good about leaving as there were a number of doctors and medical people coming in. Many homemade masks have been coming in from all over the country. This was really appreciated.

Now that Tom is home, he is unfortunately being treated as a pariah by me and our friends. For two weeks, he cannot come within 6 feet of any of us. As the saying goes, no good deed goes unpunished!

On so many levels, it seems that the foundations beneath us seem to be crumbling. I would like to have you keep in your hearts and minds that for us, the foundation of our being is in Jesus Christ. The foundation of eternal life is not within power or might, but a unity of love that we have been called to witness and trust in unto death.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

Love,
Mary+

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE LIVESTREAMED

ORDINATION & CONSECRATION

of The Very Rev. Craig Loya

Dear St. Christopher's Church

The Ordination and Consecration of the Very Rev. Craig Loya as the 10th Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota will take place on **Saturday, June 6th at 10am.**

You are invited to join virtually to celebrate this new ministry and new chapter in the life of ECMN.

The livestream for the service can be found at:

mnbishopsearch.org/consecration , or on the [ECMN Facebook page](#) on June 6th.

An in-person Celebration of New Ministry will be planned for a future date when it is safe to gather again.

Green Team Reflections

Please join us today and throughout this month in saying this prayer, which Sally Brown offered at our May 13 meeting.

Lord grant us the wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures. Help us to become a new creation founded in the covenant of your love. Amen.

We have planted the Giving Garden and now seek helping hands. **We hope some of you will volunteer in the garden for a week or two, as all the produce goes to our hungry neighbors served by the food shelf on Rice Street.**

Please sign up using this [online Google document](#) or, if that is not feasible or convenient, by contacting Allison Jensen (allisoncampbelljensen@gmail.com) with your preferred week(s). We need folks at the start to weed and water; after 20 days or so, we can start harvesting a few things, like radishes and maybe beet tops and baby kale; then we'll move into the bounty. So we pray; please do pray for the garden to feed many.

We also remind you that eating a diet light on meat and heavy on vegetables is better for you and better for the earth. Please check out our St. Christopher's

cookbook, *Recipes & Remembrances* for recipes like Texas Caviar with Avocado (p. 7), Marinated Vegetable Salad (p. 16), and Emily's Favorite Pasta (p. 29).

—Allison Jensen, for the Green Team: Ross Ackerman, Sally Brown, Jean Crow, Karen Hartman, Mary Friend, Joan Hoium, Larry Jones, Becky Lucas, and Joel & Leslie Norton.

Pulse of the Parish, May 2020

The Vestry met on May 18, 2020.

The two items of interest discussed were our financial picture and the possibility of having some repair work on our driveway performed.

The driveway issues are that we have a patch of the lot that was taken out when we had the sewer repair performed in 2017. The replacement of that patch was substandard in 2019, and we are now in the position of having to replace it again, because the replacement work was substandard. I will be writing a letter to the sewer contractor, asking them to come out with their asphalt subcontractor to review the work and discuss further solutions. We are also considering doing seal coat and crack repairs. At the time of the discussion, we had two bids, and referred the matter back to Finance for their review.

I'm going to break with the format a little bit and talk to you about our financial picture and how we are going to proceed from this point forward.

FINANCES.

-- You all are to be commended for your continued, faithful giving through mailing in pledges, not discontinuing automatic transfers or paying through bill pay. This is especially the case in what can be difficult financial times for you personally. Pledge receipts are above or near normal levels. I personally am quite grateful and I know I speak for the Finance Committee, Fr. Randy, Mike Sirany and the Vestry as well. Thank you all very much, and keep up the good work!

-- The Capital Campaign revenue has slowed down some, but we are close to having our original goal of \$300,000 in hand. Again, you are all to be commended for your faithfulness to that campaign.

-- That having been said, we have sustained a couple of hits to our budget. As you know, the Minnesota State Fair has been cancelled. That provided us with several thousand dollars in additional revenue from the rental and manning of our parking lots. We had also been taking a portion of the revenue and setting it aside for parking lot improvements.

-- The second hit is that the Chinese Day Care closed, and we are not receiving any rent money. We do not know when it will reopen. Losing that revenue is not optimal, but, again, we are not in optimal times.

-- In light of this, Fr. Randy and I have been in discussions about where and how we can cut our budget. We are taking these discussions to the Finance Committee, and you will hear more about that later.

-- The bottom line is that I personally am committed to making sure that we don't go into the red, and I know our Finance Committee, Fr. Randy, Mike and

Vestry are as well.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

As you know, we are in Phase 1.5 of the Bishops' plan for opening. This means that we can't open for services, but we can enhance what we've already been doing in terms of the video services. Look for more music and more content in the coming days.

I also am aware of Gov. Walz' removal of some restrictions on public worship. But we are called as a faith community to not just be guided by government regulations, but by what the Holy Spirit and the Church demands of us. As I said on Facebook, I stand with the Bishops.

But this means that it is going to be a while before we can open our doors again. I am just as saddened and depressed about this as anyone.

However, when I think about where we are, I'm reminded of a certain point in history where a group of people were huddled in a closed off set of rooms, unable to go out for fear of their lives. They went out just long enough to get food, and then came right back. Sound familiar?

Somehow, the Holy Spirit came in and shook them up and got them going again. Now, we can't be Simon Peter and get up in the market square and start preaching to the crowds, what with social distancing. But we can open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and get going with reaching out and being a light to the world and work on continuing to bring our folk together.

We have some ideas in the works to increase our footprint on the Internet and bring our community together more. I am mindful that we have some issues with some of our older members and technology. That is a problem, and one that, frankly, we could use some help with. If you have any ideas how we can serve our more technologically challenged folk, let me know. Katjones37@yahoo.com. If you have ideas about how we can just get together in general, let me know. I'm open to new ideas.

Thanks for your time.

Kathy Ackerman

Senior Warden



JUNE Calendar Highlights!

2 Tuesday

Meals on Wheels – *Offsite*

7 Sunday - TRINITY

8 Monday

5:30 PM Finance Meeting - via ZOOM

12 Friday

1:30 PM Keystone Mobile Food Shelf - West Lot

14 Sunday - Pentecost 2

15 Monday

6:45 PM Vestry Meeting – via ZOOM

21 Sunday - Pentecost 3 - Father's Day

28 Sunday - Pentecost 4

29 Monday

e-Traveler Deadline for July

Please note: Due to the COVID-19 protocols in place as we prepare this edition of the *e-Traveler*, most activities of our community and outside groups have been cancelled or postponed. If we are able to resume activities, we'll send out plenty of notices.

Last Words



I hope you have enjoyed the June *e-Traveler*!

The deadline for this issue really surprised me when it came up. The weeks have been long and strange, working mostly from home with only the cat for company! The end of June will change that, as my husband will retire. I expect he may be away more, fishing with our son and grandsons. I am looking forward to a summer feast of pan fish!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Kathy Ackerman, Sr. Warden; Mike Sirany, Jr. Warden
Allison Jensen, Clerk; Suzanne Hitchcock, Treasurer

Erin Bowman; Barbara Hovey; Ann DePaolis-Jones; Josh Kattelman;
Alexander Kun; Tom Linder; Jeanna McLoughlin; Al Reedstrom; Lisa Spiro

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Chad O'Leary, Youth Ministries Director
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Rev. Mary Rowe, Assisting Priest
Rev. Janet MacNally, Deacon
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Regular Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:00 AM Fellowship

9:30-10:20 AM Children's Education-Room 107
(*NO First Sunday*)

9:30-10:15 AM Youth Education-Youth Room

9:30-10:15 AM Adult Education-Parish Hall

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM Children's Chapel (*First Sunday ONLY*)

11:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

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STAY CONNECTED

