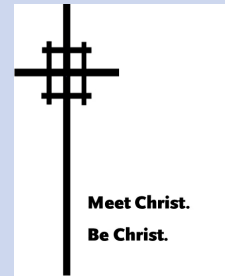


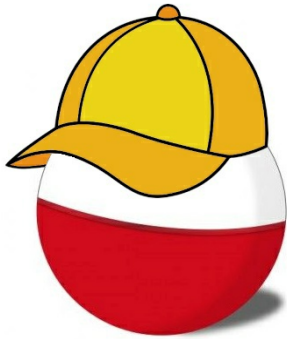
St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**

Rector

Thanksgiving *by Fr. Randy+*

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all thy mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP pg. 835)

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. (Psalm 86:12)

The Thanksgiving national holiday is not a canonical Holy Day, but it is a day that holds special meaning for me. It is a day to focus upon being grateful and thankful for all the blessings of this life. It is a special day I can spend with my family--without the many other clerical functions, duties, and responsibilities. It is a time to reflect, refresh, and re-center—to give thanks to the many persons and blessings that I receive each and every day.

But, in our time of dispensing thankfulness do we ever really get around to thanking God? Or, have we simply forgotten him?

This Thanksgiving, thank God.

Because of God's name, we should be thankful that we are invited into a relationship with God. When God revealed his name, he made himself known to us. He no longer was a distant deity separated from his creation. He chose to move into the neighborhood, take up residence with us, abide with us, and allow himself to be known. God has impressed his character and likeness into

our very nature. In knowing God, and through Holy Baptism, we become a beloved child—marked as Christ’s own, forever.

Are you thankful for your relationship with God? Or, has it grown stale and common place. Do you take it for granted?

Thanksgiving provides a time and space for me to once again marvel in God’s glory, and humbly express thankfulness that he has allowed us to share in his everlasting presence.

We truly have much to be thankful for, don’t we? Giving thanks to God for all he has done should be one of the most distinctive marks of the believer in Jesus Christ. Is that true of you? Or has the spirit of ingratitude hardened your heart and chilled your relationship with God and with others? Nothing turns us into bitter, selfish, dissatisfied people more quickly than an ungrateful heart. And nothing will do more to restore contentment and joy of our salvation than a true spirit of thankfulness.

To be grateful, after all, is to see God, the world, and ourselves through the lens of God’s love. It is to recognize that all of life is a gracious gift from God’s hand. It is truly to believe in God’s goodness and to be ever thankful for this gift of life everlasting. This Thanksgiving, I hope you do not forget God. Make sure he is first and last on your thanksgiving list.



Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield thee hearty thanks and praise for the return of seed time and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits, and for all other blessings of thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor, world without end. Amen. (BCP pg. 840)

Randy+

Music Notes



Karla Cole
Director of Music
Ministries

As I write, the speakers are being installed in the sanctuary for our Rodgers digital organ – technically a Rodgers Inspire Series 233. I hope you've been able to hear already the

improvement in the wider range of different sounds and the ease with which it moves from one sound to another. Please be patient as we figure out how much sound is too little or too much and adjust accordingly. Sitting at the organ bench is far from the best place to hear what's going on, and I am relying on other people's feedback to help me figure out how to choose the registration – sometimes in the middle of a hymn! And even though we are now getting lots of bass through those giant subwoofers in the corners, I know the choir will be thrilled to have the speakers mounted up high and not blaring right at them anymore.

Many, many thanks to Don Sheik, Jeff Jensen and Matt Cole for early rising and working hard hauling heavy pieces of scaffolding to and fro for the install team. By the end of the day, the chancel was empty except for the new organ console, the piano, and the pipe organ. All of the other stuff had to be re-positioned before we could call it a day. It was a labor of love and I am most grateful.

There is a steep learning curve in this for me, since it is really just an enormous computer and I am a 19th century musician who is no techie. There are 5 complete organs in there, each with a distinct character of its own. There's the *American Eclectic* organ, which is what we expect to hear in any of the big Protestant churches here in the Twin Cities – a rather bold, bright sound. There is an *English Cathedral* organ, some call it "tubby", it is usually a rounder, less pointy sound. Especially as compared to the *French Romantic* organ, which is full of reedy, nasally sorts of stops. And then there is the *German Baroque*, with solid, Bach-like sounds. Oh, and the 5th organ, in case you're counting, is a *Hammond 3B* for those days when I'm feeling a little Baptist.

But there's more! There are orchestral sounds – a pretty creditable flute, oboe, clarinet and trumpet, as well as composites of strings, handbells and chimes. (The Handbell choir thought perhaps they might not be needed anymore since we have handbells on the organ. I hastened to assure them that the real thing was infinitely preferable.) There are also a variety of piano sounds, a harp, a harpsichord, and even tympani. I suppose the most amusing stops have to be the Choir oohs and aahs. I haven't heard them yet, but I'm confident that they *are* amusing, and perhaps we may never find a use for them in worship. Likewise the tremulants – those overly quavery sounds reminiscent of a funeral home organ.

With all of those sounds available, and 50 empty presets to fill up, you can create your own personalized stop list. Do you like the French flute stops better than the others? Use those. Hate the American cornet combination? Use the English one. It's almost infinitely customizable, you just have to wait until your

19th century organist gets up to speed!

We'll still be packed a bit like sardines up there in the chancel for a while. The Vestry has decided to try to sell the little pipe organ, so we'll list it and see what kind of a reception that gets. In the meantime, it will need to be up there and be playable for any potential buyer. And If you know anyone that might be interested, please direct them my way!

Karla Cole

Be an Organ Donor!

Our new Rodgers Organ has been completely installed in our church nave, and already is raising its beautiful voice in worship and praise! The initial funding of the purchase of our new organ was made possible through the generous memorial gifts and donations made to St. Christopher's over the past several years.



We are now inviting friends and family members of St. Christopher's to become an "Organ Donor"—an opportunity to contribute towards the remaining portion of the new organ cost. Gifts of any amount towards the organ purchase will be gratefully received. We have already received several contributions to the Organ Donor fund, and we will be celebrating a dedication service of the new organ later this fall. Thank you for prayerfully considering becoming an Organ Donor at St. Christopher's!

Fr. Randy+

Footprints NOVEMBER 2023 News from Children's Ministries



Marion Hunner

**Director of
Children's Ministries**

Hayride – 33 folks enjoyed a ride through the woods followed by a potluck supper around the bonfire. We had a lovely afternoon, and the rain held off until the very end!



Sunday School: We got off to a great start this fall learning about the many books within the Bible, and we are using that as a base for each story that we explore. In the beginning of October, we took a detour to talk about St. Francis and make dog biscuits. This is a fun hands-on project that the children really enjoy.

Advent Traditions: Everyone is invited to the Parish Hall on Sunday, November 26, at 9:15, to share Advent Traditions. We would love to hear what your family does during Advent, and perhaps you will try some new traditions this year!

Thinking Ahead . . .

We will be looking for folks interested in reading and/or donning a costume for our Epiphany Presentation on January 7th. The commitment is a rehearsal on January 6th followed by a potluck supper, as well as the 10:30 service on January 7th. If you are interested or want more details, please let Marion know

Stewardship Campaign Update

We are *On the Road!* 51.9% of pledges have already been received (through 10/31). Please prayerfully consider responding with a pledge for the coming fiscal year. The Vestry, with input from the Finance team, has requested a 3% increase to keep us *On the Road*.

If you need a Pledge Form, please call the office, or go to:
<https://www.stchristophers-mn.org/publications.html>
and scroll down to "Here is the 2024 Pledge Form."



A Little Help from Our Friends

Well, as I prepare to send out this November e-Traveler, I am greeted by the necessity to find a shovel... and to ask all of you to volunteer for a week of snow shoveling for the church!

Shoveling weeks are Monday-to-Sunday (because no one wants to wake up to snow on Sunday and not remember that it's the START of your week).

Anything over 2 inches is covered by our plowing service when they plow, BUT, we do need help sometimes mid-day to keep things safe before they arrive. Sand and salt are in (or near) the entries. Call the office if you have questions!

THANK YOU to each and every person and family who helps out, and to all of those who have helped in the past!

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 26 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!

Hearts and Hands News

On October 19th, Hearts and Hands packed bags for newborns at Second Stork.





Vestry Shorts

The Vestry met on October 18th. Here are some highlights:

By now everyone is aware that St. Christopher's is the proud owner of a new organ. Thanks to Karla and the Organ Committee, which consists of Karla Cole, Josh Kattelman, Barb Hovey, Eric Hedican, and Fr. Randy. They put in many hours to make this happen.

Packets were prepared and mailed for the Stewardship Campaign with Pledge Sunday being on October 29th.

On October 7th a wonderful group went to Open Arms and packaged around 1,000 medically prepared meals. Thanks to you all who participated in a wonderful organization. Watch for another opportunity to serve Open Arms in January 2024.

The Daycare is in need of more space and plans have been approved for them to begin renting rooms 109 and 111 downstairs.

A shout out to the following parishioners: **Kathy Ackerman** for being elected as an EMMA (East Metro Mission Area) representative; and **Lyn Lawyer** for leading the St. Luke's Adult Education Class.

Green Team Update

Consider Composting: I was talking to my brother-in-law the other day, and I asked if he composted his food scraps. He replied no, because he doesn't waste food. But most compost isn't actually wasted food! Now that fall is in full swing, it won't be long until we're planning our Thanksgiving meals. This holiday and all of the delicious food that comes with it presents a great opportunity to think about how much composting you can really do. Here are just some of the parts of the Thanksgiving meal that can be composted:

- Turkey Carcasses
- Egg shells
- Potato peels
- Sweet potato and carrot peels
- Other vegetable peels
- Coffee grounds

Tea bags
Paper towels
Cardboard egg cartons
Napkins and Kleenex
Pizza boxes - for the day after, when you're tired of cooking and order a pizza instead!
And, of course, any leftover food (for when your most distant relative brings the worst side dish)

Please consider composting. It's very easy, and it's amazing how much one household actually generates. Ramsey County provides free bags at composting sites. There's a composting dumpster you can access 24/7 right near church, at 1149 Beulah Lane (in the southwest corner of Como Park). If you have any questions, ask a member of the Green Team.

Giving Garden Update: We have collected **853.8 lbs** from the giving garden, the final tally after we closed out the garden on October 25th!

Jean Crow
Member of the Green Team

NOVEMBER Calendar

1 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church
4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM
6 PM Bell Choir – Balcony
6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room
7:15 PM Choir – Music Room

2 Thursday

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

3 Friday

2:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM
3 PM Holmes Cello Student Rehearsals – Church – to 9 PM

4 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons – Music Room
1 PM Holmes Cello Student Recitals – Church – to 5 PM

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS – FALL BACK ONE HOUR



5 Sunday – **All Saints' Sunday**

8 AM Holy Eucharist
9 AM Fellowship
9:15 AM Adult Forum
9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

5 PM Guy Fawkes Celebration – N Parking Lot - to 7 PM

6 Monday

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:30 PM

7 Tuesday – General Election Day

7 AM Polling Opens – Parish Hall – to 8 PM

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM

8 Wednesday

10:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

6 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir – Music Room

9 Thursday

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

10 Friday

2:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

11 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons – Music Room

12 Sunday – Pentecost 24

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship

9:15 AM Adult Forum

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

13 Monday

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:30 PM

5:30 PM Finance Team – Parish Hall

6 PM Woods & Water Retreat – Gathering Room – to 9 PM

14 Tuesday

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

10 AM SG Peer Group – Gathering Room – to 12 PM

10:30 AM Meals On Wheels – Offsite

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall or Outdoors

15 Wednesday

10:45 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

6 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir – Music Room

16 Thursday

10:30 AM Hearts and Hands – Parish Hall

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

17 Friday

2:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

7:30 PM Concert: Schola Cantorum of Eau Claire – Church

18 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons – Music Room

9 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

10 AM Altar Ministers – Church – to 11 AM

19 Sunday – Pentecost 25

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship

9:15 AM Adult Forum

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

20 Monday

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:30 PM

6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall

21 Tuesday

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM

10 AM Tuesday OA – Room #218

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall or Outdoors

22 Wednesday

12:15 PM THANKSGIVING Holy Eucharist – Church

1:15 PM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

23 Thursday – Thanksgiving Day

Office Closed

24 Friday

Office Closed

25 Saturday

26 Sunday – Christ the King (Last Pentecost)

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship

9:15 AM Adult Forum/What Do You Do for Advent?

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

27 Monday

e-Traveler Deadline

10:30 AM 75th Anniversary Committee – Gathering Room

28 Tuesday

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM

7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall or Outdoors

29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM

6 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir – Music Room

30 Thursday

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library

3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 - to 7:15 PM

Please note that MOST of our outside groups have returned to meeting in the building. Those groups are now on this calendar (*in italics*) to avoid over-scheduling. Always check with the church office before scheduling a meeting. Days with no activity scheduled have been left off this calendar.



Last Words

I hope you have enjoyed the November e-Traveler!

In case you missed MY big news: I'm a great-grandmother! When I started here at St. Christopher's, I was a new Granny. Now that child has brought another generation! Here's a picture of week-old Finnegan (below).

Happy Thanksgiving! I am thankful for all of YOU!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Karen Hartman, Sr. Warden; Barb Hovey, Jr. Warden
Robert Williams, Clerk; Jean Crow, Treasurer

Ross Ackerman; Patrick Ahern; Cheryl Bailey;
Darlene Cross, Madisen Crow; Eric Hedican;
Leslie Norton; Rich Pieper; Ann Trapnell

STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator
Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries
Rev. Christopher Haack, Deacon
Rev. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Schedule:

Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.

Sundays through May 2024:

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist
9:30 AM Fellowship
9:15-10:15 AM Adult Forum
9:30-10:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
11:30 AM Fellowship

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N.

Roseville, MN 55113
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