



Hello, St. Christopher's Community! *It's FAIR TIME!*

Sunday Best *by Fr. Randy+*

My mom used to tell me stories about growing up in Rosewood, a teeny-tiny unincorporated town in very rural Marshall County Township, MN. It was a small cluster of minute homes on the prairie of northwestern Minnesota in the late 1930s, and it is even smaller now. My mom was one of nine children of Lester and Vera Taggart—eking out a subsistence living along with their relatives, friends, and neighbors. They did not have much that could be accounted for as financial and material wealth, but they were healthy and happy and lovingly cared for. Clothing items were passed down from older to younger child as they grew, accompanied by some significant mending done at each hand-off. Their clothing may have been worn—*er, I mean well loved*—but the entire family was clean, well-fed, and contented.

First Baptist Church was the center of their spiritual and social life, being in the mighty metropolis of Thief River Falls, MN. The family would travel several times a day to join in worship services, bible studies, and other gatherings. Patched and repaired clothing became their **Sunday Best**.

I believe that my mom's family story is not much different than stories you may have heard about your own families, not too many generations removed from us today. We all have stories of our people doing the best they can and counting on the grace of God and others to help us along, as we helped them.

But I also believe that it is much more than that. I think that bringing our **Sunday Best** is more than just wearing clean, but well-loved clothes on the outside of our bodies. I believe that our **Sunday Best** is also what we share with others from our inner self to our beloved neighbors—demonstrating clearly how we love our neighbors as ourselves and reflecting towards others how Jesus loves us.

This coming Sunday's Lectionary Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans brings this reality to my deeper self—challenging us to bring our **Sunday Best** each and every day:

Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

My word of prayerful encouragement this day is that each one of us brings our **Sunday Best** to bear always, as we share the Good News of the Gospel to our families, friends, and neighbors. It's not just for Sundays, anymore.

Randy+



It's Time for a New Directory!

The good news: There will be no one trying to sell you giant retouched photos!
The challenge: We need your help to make it happen!

Matt Cole has agreed to photograph each family unit for a new, do-it-ourselves directory. He will set up a photo booth and take pictures after services on several Sundays, but sadly, NOT including Start-Up Sunday, September 10. So, put on your prettiest smile and get yourself to church!

Or, simply send a recent photo to Ruth in the office and we'll be glad to add it.

We also need some volunteers to help herd people on Sundays for photos, to update information, and to help put the directory together. Look for more information in weekly news, and email Marilyn ([HERE](#)) to help.

Music Up Next

Tom McNellis returns this Sunday with his banjo in tow. Join us for some fun

singalong songs and hymns. And catch him and his band, Skunk Hollow, at the Sociable Cider Werks on the last Friday in September, the 29th, at 7:30pm.

Look for more organ music on Start Up Sunday. Peggy Bartunek joins us that day, to show us what the Rodgers organ can do - things that your less-than-techie organist just hasn't figured out yet! She will also be around afterwards to answer any questions you might have. And the choir will be back in their places and raring to go with a special musical treat for you on that day.

Karla Cole

It's State Fair Time!

Dates are **August 24 to September 4.**

If you need to visit the church during Fair time (except on Sunday morning), please park on the highway side of the building in the grass. Do not park in regular parking areas and **DO NOT** park in ANY handicap parking spots.

Hallelujah!

We need to staff the nursery on Sunday mornings!

We have a family who is interested in transferring from another Episcopal church to St. Christopher's, as they have recently moved. They have a 2-year-old, and they're hoping to be able to utilize the nursery on Sunday mornings. This is a great time to re-establish a nursery team at St. Christopher's, as we have not had one since Covid. Please let Marion know if you would like to help with this ministry. Our hope is to have enough people so that everyone can serve about once per month beginning with Sunday, September 10th.

Together at 9:30!

Please note that we have changed to a **single service at 9:30 AM** for the Summer. We will continue with one service **THROUGH** Start-Up Sunday on September 10th, and return to two services on September 17th.



Fall Adult Formation

This fall, Bishop Loya has asked each faith community to study the Gospel of Luke at roughly the same time, and we plan to do just that for our Adult Formation hour on Sunday mornings. (9:15-10:15). We'll be using the recommended book (Interpretation Bible Series: Luke) and will begin on September 17, the week after our Start-Up Sunday.

Books will be provided; contact Marilyn+ to pick one up, and start your reading. We plan to cover one chapter a week. More information will follow.

Upcoming Lectionary Readings

September 3: Pentecost 14, Proper 17

Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

September 10: Pentecost 15, Proper 18

Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20.

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Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date.

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