



Hello, St. Christopher's Community!

Get Busy *by Fr. Randy+*

The school bell rang and *immediately* a “*dam burst*” of students flooded out the front doors yelling and flailing arms in unbridled joy! “*School’s out for the summer!*” (*aka, the oldies song by Alice Cooper! I know...sorry for the ‘Brain worm!’*) Parents and grandparents were waiting patiently—and haltingly—for this moment, either in their line of cars or alongside the overfilled bike racks. Summer has begun. Another page in life has been turned.

And all of this action reminded me of the upcoming Matthew’s Gospel reading for Trinity Sunday—the Sunday following Pentecost. In this reading, Jesus gives his disciples something of a set of instructions in his Great Commission—stated directions as to how they are to carry on the ministry of sharing the Good News to the world.

But interestingly, it is a message that has at times, been only partially heard. Here is a portion of it;

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:18-20)

This time of the church year is very much like our natural world and cycle of our school systems. This is the time we change to our “*Green Season of the Ordinary*,” a time for recharge and renewal, and a time for new growth. (Remember a couple of weeks ago when our Sunday School kids taught us about the liturgical colors of the church year? *Green it is!*)

Unfortunately, many of us have taken to selective listening when we hear the Great Commission of Jesus. We hear the words, “*Go therefore...*” and immediately dismiss the remainder of Jesus’ statement. We excitedly flee the regular, hum-drum life we lead, and somehow go “*Father deaf*” to the remainder of our stated responsibility as followers of Jesus. The Great

Commission is an invitation—one which we frequently miss. We perceive this commission as little more than another list of chores we must perform, when we would much rather escape our ordinary life and focus upon our own self-satisfaction.

But, Jesus has prepared us to receive this charge—to continue to learn and grow and build up our community—knowing that God is with us always. This “*Green season*” is a time for personal growth, trying new and innovative ways to engage our neighbors in the love of Christ, and to spend intentional time modeling ourselves to build deeper relationships with God and our neighbors. It is a time to not abandon connecting in our faith community, but rather a time to strengthen our bonds.

This is the Good News we are commissioned to share with the world—to build enduring relationships which freely, luxuriantly, and extravagantly contribute to growing the Kingdom of God. And, we do so with the assurance that God *is* with us, and it demands that we live like it!

Building community and relationships anchored in lovingkindness in Christ is the work of this growing “*Green season.*” *Go therefore. Get on with it! Get busy!*

Randy+

Music Up Next

As we come together in one worship service for the summer, I am busily hunting for interesting musical offerings and will share in here the ones that I think you might really like to catch. This week, it's the penultimate Sunday of the choir season and we'll have a lovely, familiar anthem by Mozart. And in addition, our section leaders AJ Lund, Katherine Johnson and Carolyn Nuelle will gift us with a beautiful trio.

Next week, there's a barn-burner anthem from the choir and a Bell-a-palooza season finale from the Handbell choir. Also, I've got a date for your calendar - **June 11th at 3:00**, we'll host the ***Eclectic Whirlwind*** in our sanctuary. This performing duo of my Skandihooovian friend, Rolf Krogstad and his Skandihooovian friend, Neils Billund will perform an eclectic mix of American and Scandinavian folk songs and fiddle tunes, as well as pop, rock and American standards. Come join us!

Karla Cole

THIS WEEK! Together at 9:30!

Sunday, May 28, is **Pentecost** Sunday! Please wear **red**! AND, *please note* that on Pentecost, we are changing to a **single service at 9:30 AM** for the Summer.



Giving Garden News

St. Christopher's friends,

Our 2023 growing season has begun. Many hands helped to prepare the beds and to plant our seeds and baby plants. Thank you, all! You can see the green results on the south side of the church, where there is plenty of sun – right below our solar panels.

Now, to flourish and to feed our hungry neighbors, everything in the Giving Garden needs some nurturing: regular watering, occasional weed-pulling, and (in the case of radishes, especially quickly) harvesting.

Please consider if you might be able to sign up for a week, two weeks, three... or find a buddy to share the Giving Gardeners' tasks with you. People from the neighborhood, other parishes, your family or circle of friends all are welcome to volunteer.

Last year, we grew more than 700 pounds of vegetables for our neighbors who use the food shelf on Rice Street. The vegetables are "extra," in a sense, because those who use the food shelf can take what they want and need – no restrictions, no weighing.

Please look at your calendar and sign up for our 2023 Giving Garden! To sign up or if you Questions: ask Jeff Jensen, jjensen1@msn.com or 651-270-5947.

Upcoming Lectionary Readings

May 28: PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:25-35, 37; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23.

June 4: TRINITY

Genesis 1:1—2:4a; Psalm 8 (or Canticle 2 or 13); 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20.

Bike to Church and "Blessing of the Wheels"

It's time for the "Blessing of the Wheels." Dust off those bikes, scooters and skateboards and join us after the 9:30 service on **June 4**. Bonus blessing for those who RIDE their bikes and scooters to Church. Don't forget your helmets!

Adopt-A-Highway

Every spring, St. Christopher participates in the Adopt-A-Highway program. We are responsible for picking up garbage along Hamline Ave. from County Rd. B to County Rd. C. Come join the Green team on **June 4** after the 9:30 service (and following the "Blessing of the Wheels") and make Hamline beautiful. Bring some gloves! Bags and a partner are provided! It doesn't usually take us more than 1 hour and we get some early morning steps in!



Take the Hwy 36 survey!

What is YOUR vision for the future of Hwy 36? MnDOT is conducting a study of Hwy 36 and needs your input. This study will look at car, truck, transit, bike and pedestrian use along and across the highway. As residents and community members of this area, our experiences and voices are valuable. Please visit the website to learn more about the study and take the survey.

Survey link: <https://metroquestsurvey.com/p61j>

Study website: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/hwy36maplewood-roseville/> (Or use the QR code below)

Public Meeting:

Virtual Meeting: Wednesday, May 31, Noon-2 PM. This meeting will include a presentation and facilitated discussion from 12-1 pm, followed by a question-and-answer session from 1-2 pm. Register for the virtual meeting at the Study website (above).



COVID-19 Protocols

Wearing masks inside the church building for worship and other activities is optional. Please remain attentive to the health needs and concerns of others, knowing some of our community will continue to wear a mask indoors, and be kind.

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.



Thank you for keeping your pledge up to date.

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