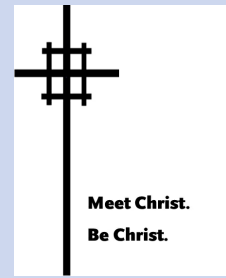


St. Christopher's

e-Traveler



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From the Rector



**The Rev.
Randy W. Johnson**
Rector

What, Me Worry? *by Fr. Randy+*

“**What, Me Worry?**” was the signature catchphrase I remember as a kid when reading that most irreverent humor magazine MAD Magazine. If you are of my genre you may remember the goofy-looking face of the young red-haired youth, resplendent with a goofy smile and prominent diastema gap between his two big front teeth, and his shotgun splatter of freckles across his nose and cheeks. He went by the name of Alfred E. Neuman. I guess he probably looked a little bit like me! *Maybe that is why I remember his visage so fondly...* (Look him up on Google if you don't remember his face)

I was always a bit confused as I tried to understand just what this phrase meant. I tried to get a context by looking at the variety of individual his images on each new magazine cover—the context was perplexing. Alfred E. Neuman seemed to ooze and invoke an attitude of “*Why should I worry? Nothing can hurt me!*” But, in retrospect, it was likely more along the line of “*I don't need to worry about anything...especially things that I don't understand.*”

It turns out that Alfred, in spite of his “good looks,” is much like everyone else and his repeated reflections on this catchphrase were meant as a way to affirm to himself that everything will be OK. “**What, Me Worry?**” *But, is this what we experience or witness or sense in our lives?*

If you are at all like me, you worry—in fact, some of us worry a lot! A quick look

at Scripture will confirm that we are not alone in current times—people worried a lot throughout human history—nothing is new under the sun.

In Matthew 10:16-23, the writer messages to the people that had just lived through the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD by the Romans. Historians estimate 1.1 million people were killed during the siege, and thousands were captured and enslaved. Jewish men, women and children were victims of the carnage. St. Matthew shares Jesus' words as an acknowledgement that bad things can and do happen in this world—this is not a Gospel news media release, neither is it a prediction of what might happen. It *is* happening. Persecution *is* happening. Matthew is signaling that it will continue. But the message from Matthew is this—not to worry; God will provide. (Take the time to read Luke 12:22-34; Philippians 4:6-7)

Down through the ages, many, many followers of Jesus have found enormous comfort in this assurance, in the midst of persecution and suffering; that we need not worry; God will provide. From Syria to Palestine, Afghanistan to North Korea, even in our own country—people hear Jesus' prediction of persecution and his promise of provision. *His word remains true today!*

For those of us who this day are not facing active persecution, I suggest we do two things:

-Pray for those who do. Pray particularly and with intention for those dear souls who need to hear of Jesus' provision in their hour of need.

-Take Jesus at his word that you need not worry. Whatever there is in your life that threatens to engulf you—a troubling relationship; something gone sideways at school or work; something about your health or of a loved one—whatever is coming at you that feels threatening to engulf your heart. Hear Jesus' words of promise: in these terribly worrisome things. **You need not worry. There will be provision. God will provide.**

“What, Me Worry?” Peace and all things good.

Randy+

Music Notes



Karla Cole

Director of Music Ministries

I have heard so many people say how much they've missed singing hymns and hearing the choir in this last year and a half. And the choir members have missed seeing and singing with each other as well. It has been a serious disruption of our fellowship together, as well as of the quality of our worship. Our worship is missing a critical

ingredient when there is no singing. And that's not just my opinion. Singing goes way back. By all accounts, the faithful have used singing to convey their prayers, lamentations and praises to the Creator and amongst themselves from the very beginning of our relationship with God. The prophet Zephaniah recorded that God even modeled the act of singing for us: *"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."* (Zephaniah 3:17)

There is little wonder then, that the apostle Paul encouraged us to *"speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord."* (Ephesians 5:19) Singing is part and parcel of the way Christians worship. And providing that the delta variant doesn't completely derail us this year, we will soon be a singing congregation again. We will return to something resembling normal in the choir room next week, and shortly thereafter, the Advent and Christmas music will roll out. Masks and distancing notwithstanding, we'll be a choir again. The handbell choir, too, will return in a somewhat altered state. They're going to come down from the balcony to ensure social distancing and proper airflow, so you'll be able to see them as they play, for a change.

Music is the highest form of praise we poor humans can offer to God. The reformer Martin Luther proclaimed that *"the gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music."* Luther very strongly felt that music was gifted to us by God, much as the great composers' and performers' works are gifts to us as well. The philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche wrote, *"without music, life would be a mistake."* Now I don't know about that, but life certainly wouldn't be as rich or as colorful. I think the Gen X author, Sarah Dessen was on to something when she wrote *"Music is the great uniter. An incredible force. Something that people who differ on everything and anything else can have in common."* A beautiful illustration of that incredible force is the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, formed in 1999 as a Tanglewood-style experience for young musicians from Middle Eastern countries. Pianist, composer and musical activist Daniel Barenboim brings Arab, Israeli, Palestinian, Iranian, Egyptian musicians together in Seville each summer to experience both his remarkable artistry and the transcendence that is the musical experience. Together, they have performed all over the world, at the BBC Proms and the 2012 Olympics, as well as having received prizes and accolades from both musical and political worlds. Their performances are chronicled on YouTube, of course, but there you'll only get a glimpse of what must be the overwhelming musical and personal experience of each musician. Musicians, whose ancestors and maybe even parents are enemies, finding friendship and understanding through music. We should have more of these experiences for people of all ages, I think. (And you can start here at home because St. Christopher's would warmly welcome your participation.) Music hath charms, indeed.

Karla



Marion Hunner

**Children's Ministries
Director**



We are very excited to move into a new program year! While some details are uncertain, we do know this: We will begin Sunday School with outside lessons in the fall, and we will also continue our monthly outdoor Family Worship.



The School Supply Collection was very successful!

Thank you to all who contributed! We collected 12 full grocery bags of supplies and 8 backpacks, and the monetary donations provided an additional 14 backpacks! The Roseville School District was pleased as punch when everything was dropped off last week.



Hayride Saturday, October 23rd!

Mark your calendar for the annual Hayride and Potluck Bonfire – all are welcome! We meet at Bunker Stables at **4 pm**, enjoy a hayride around the grounds, and gather at the firepit for a potluck supper. As the date gets closer, we will evaluate the Covid situation and determine whether or not this is an appropriate

activity.

What Would Jesus Drink?

This month, it's cider! All of our gluten-intolerant friends (there are quite a few) need a break from the beer. So join us at the **Sociable Cider Werks on September 26th, 3:00 to 6:00pm. 1500 Fillmore St. NE in Minneapolis.** Watch for the Dunbar Armored Truck building and you've found us just behind it. Sociable has many different kinds of cider to choose from, as well as mead, if you want to get a little Medieval. Sammy's Food Truck is in residence as well. Come for a little while or stay all afternoon. We'd love to see you there!

Join in EfM Online: Fall 2021

(EfM is Education for Ministry)

"Do you have questions about your faith? Most people do, and most find it challenging to get answers. Education for Ministry (EfM) was developed by the School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee, to provide a mechanism for people to work through those questions. This four-year course of study provides the framework for the group to connect faith to their daily lives through reading and discussion." (See <https://efm.sewanee.edu/>)

EfM Online provides a way for people to take advantage of the EfM program regardless of where they live. The seminar sessions are once a week on Zoom, so anyone with a device (computer, laptop, tablet, phone) that can run Zoom can participate.

ECMN's School for Formation is supporting an online group in ECMN this year. The course will begin in mid October and finish in June, with time off for holidays.

This year, the SFF will help subsidize the cost of the program for ECMN folks. The usual cost is \$380. SFF will kick in \$100 per person, for a final cost to participants of \$280. If even that is a hardship, contact the EfM Coordinators below for possible additional scholarship help.

Coordinators:

the Rev. Kate Maxwell, OSB katemaxwell1109@gmail.com or 651-263-3840
Chris Opsal, PhD clopsal@gmail.com
Register now: Contact katemaxwell1109@gmail.com.

Pulse of the Parish

Vestry meeting held on August 16, 2021

The purpose of this report is to inform you about the work and actions from the Aug 16 Vestry meeting.

After opening prayer, reading of the Vestry Covenant, and approval of the July minutes, Sr. Warden Mike Sirany briefly over-viewed our finances, stating that we're looking good so far this year. Normally a more complete report would be presented from the week's previous finance meeting, but the August finance meeting was replaced with our yearly audit, which went well.

Jr. Warden Chris Mayr shared the God Has Work for Us Stewardship campaign plans. Please look for your Stewardship material, which will be mailed the last week of September.

New business:

Lemonade on the Lawn will be suspended indefinitely after today's gathering, due to health and safety matters. We will keep you posted about if and when it might resume after Start Up Sunday.

Speaking of Start-Up Sunday, The Vestry discussed the Start-up Sunday plan. It will be after our last 9:30 service of the summer, on September 12. Further information about this will be coming in the near future. Please put it on your calendar, and plan on attending. Like our last Start-Up Sunday two years ago,

we will again follow the State Fair theme of Food on a Stick. This annual fall event provides you with opportunities to learn about our various faith family teams and activities taking place in our St. Christopher's community. This year we will showcase our people, programs and place in open house-like fashion throughout the building and grounds, to increase social distancing and incorporate current Covid-19 protocols.

Other new business: Buildings and Grounds Team leader Jeff Jensen is leading an effort to research new phone-communication systems to fit our needs and budget; our current one is obsolete and needs to be replaced.

A variety of shout-outs to the following:

Mark Brilowski for fixing our freezer; Don Shiek for managing the carpet replacement project; Bruce Warkentien for cleaning out the garage; Jeff Jensen & Ross Ackerman for working on the AV updating; Jeff and Don for fixing the washer/dryer. And a very special thank-you to all St. Christopher's very dedicated volunteers who give so generously of their time and talent to our faith community!

The meeting ended with Compline.

Please feel free to visit with any of our Vestry members if you have questions or comments. The minutes of the meeting will be available after they have been approved at the next Vestry meeting, Monday, September 20.

CALENDAR for SEPTEMBER

1 Wednesday - State Fair Parking

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

6:30 PM Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

2 Thursday - State Fair Parking

3 Friday - State Fair Parking

4 Saturday - State Fair Parking

5 Sunday - Pentecost 15 - State Fair Parking starts at 1 PM

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist

6 Monday - Labor Day - State Fair Parking

Office Closed

7 Tuesday

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library - to 5 PM

11:30 AM Meals on Wheels - Offsite

3 PM Private Spiritual Direction - Gathering Room - to 4 PM

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Outdoors, Parish Hall

8 Wednesday

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library - to 11 AM

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

6:30 PM Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

7 PM Green Team - Library or Chapel

7:15 PM Choir - Parish Hall

11 Saturday

8 AM OA - Room 218

12 Sunday - Pentecost 16 - START UP SUNDAY!

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist with Backpack Blessing

10:30 AM Ministry Fair and Food-on-a-Stick!

13 Monday

6:45 PM Finance Team - Parish Hall, in person

14 Tuesday

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Outdoors, Parish Hall

15 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

6:30 PM Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir - Parish Hall

18 Saturday

8 AM OA - Room 218

10 AM CLA - Room 218

19 Sunday - Pentecost 17

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

20 Monday

6:45 PM Vestry - Parish Hall, in person

21 Tuesday

8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction - Library - to 5 PM

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - Outdoors, Parish Hall

22 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

6:30 PM - Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir - Parish Hall

25 Saturday

8 AM OA - Room 218

10 AM Barb Danley Visitation

11 AM Barb Danley Funeral

26 Sunday - Pentecost 18

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

27 Monday - e-Traveler Deadline for October

28 Tuesday

11:30 AM Meals on Wheels - *Offsite*

6 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band Rehearsal - *Outdoors, Parish Hall*

29 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist - Church

6:30 PM - Roseville Wednesday AA - Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir - Parish Hall

Please note that some of our outside groups have returned to meeting in the building or on the grounds. Some of those groups are now on this calendar to avoid over-scheduling. Always check with the church office before scheduling a meeting.

Last Words



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

There is so much joy flowing in and out of this office lately! There is excitement building for the start of our "Program Year" and all it's returning activities, especially the return of the choir, and the Ministry Fair at Start Up Sunday on September 12th.

And, of course, we've had LOTS of Fair parking going on! Thanks to all our volunteers for spending time here, rain or shine, in support of the parish and the Fair. (I do have to admit, I'll be glad to have "MY" parking spot back!) :)

Come and see me at a table on September 12th, and check your contact info from our list. I'd really love to put some faces with all these names I know!

Thank you!

Ruth Thillen
Parish Administrator

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

VESTRY:

Michael Sirany, Sr. Warden; Chris Mayr, Jr. Warden
Allison Jensen, Clerk; Jean Crow, Treasurer

Ross Ackerman, Patrick Ahern, Erin Bowman;
Ann DePaolis-Jones; Josh Kattelman; Alexander Kun;
Jeanna McLoughlin; Leslie Norton; Al Reedstrom

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. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

Our Current Schedule

Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.

Sunday: 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Our Fall Schedule starting September 19:

Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.

Sunday: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

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STAY CONNECTED

