



THE CALLER

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, MN

December 2023

A Special Message From . . .



Pastor Aaron Twait

Bishop

The Right Rev. Craig Loya

Priest-in-Charge

The Rev Aaron Twait

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Music Director

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Christ Church Vestry 2023

Sr. Warden: Angela

Shefeland

Jr. Warden: Kris Blaney

Zoe Malinchoc-DeVoe (2024)

Hugh Wronski (2024)

Elaine Hoisington (2025)

Erik Prink (2025)

Ron Weitnauer (2026)

Brendan Kelly (2026)

Teri Van Allen (2026)

Treasurers

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Dear Friends in Christ,

I don't really know anyone who enjoys waiting. I struggle with it, and goodness knows the other people who live in my house do, too. In fact, we live in a society where waiting seems to be actively discouraged. We can order our pizza or other take-out food ahead, to be picked up at our convenience. We can buy items without leaving home – just the click on a button on the website of our choosing. Often times, we can even pay for overnight shipping. And I can't count the number of times in the day that I microwave a dinner, or a snack, or just some water for my tea. Waiting seems almost counter-cultural in the world of 2023.

I have to admit, all this convenience has its advantages. And yet, I wonder if all the instant gratification society offers has left us missing something. Because waiting offers some really important benefits. Sometimes waiting to let a situation develop allows us to better understand it, and gives us the knowledge and perspective to respond in the most appropriate way. The perseverance we develop through waiting helps us build our capacity – our emotional, spiritual, and physical muscles – as we spend time practicing whatever it is we're working toward. And sometimes, simply stopping and waiting forces us to clear our minds from the busy-ness we've created and listen for what's going on in the world around us. Or perhaps more frightening, to listen for what's going on inside ourselves.





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Continued from . . .



Pastor Aaron Twait

Every year, the church calendar begins with Advent – that four-week period that comes before Christmas. Advent is the Church's invitation to practice Holy Waiting – to anticipate the birth of the Christ Child on Christmas – where the God who was present at the beginning of Creation took on human form. We're invited to slow down. To think about what it means to join all our ancestors in faith who waited on God – whether it was the Israelites enslaved in Egypt, the people of Jerusalem who were taken to Babylon, or the apostles huddling in the upper room. Because the reality is that we're often waiting on God, too. Waiting for a test result. For a job offer.

For whatever prayers we want to have answered.

Advent invites us to a time of contemplation. If we're unaccustomed to stillness, we might find the quiet unsettling. But if we persevere, we might just realize that as we wait for the coming of the Messiah – both at Christmas, and in our own lives – we might find new routines and habits that lead to a closer relationship with the God on whom we are always waiting, and yet who is ever present.

My prayer for you this Advent is that your Holy Waiting will draw you closer to the Ever Present God and will sustain your hope for the future that God is always drawing us into.

Peace,





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We need your help!



We need your ideas!

Here it is, the last 31 days of 2023.

And what a whirlwind it was. We started the year with no Parish Relations Coordinator and no Priest, uffda. The first quarter was a challenge and I'm so thankful to you all who were there during the chaos and supported the church through that time. We now have a spectacular coordinator, Dawne. If you have not taken the time to meet or say hi to Dawne, please do. She does an amazing job keeping the church operating and we would be lost without her. I know she keeps me and the Vestry sane.

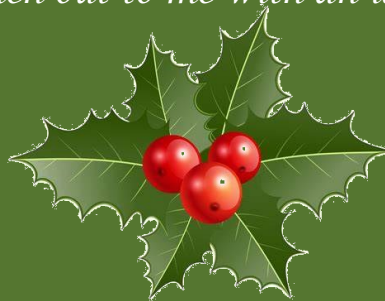
Our prayers were answered when Pastor Aaron joined our parish as Priest in Charge. If you have not had a chance to engage in conversation with him, what are you waiting for? If you are screening your calls and you get one from him, it's ok to answer...he won't bite. He's making his rounds to all our members but if you have not heard from him yet, please reach out, he's excited to meet all of us and learn about our faith journey.

I feel the energy coming back into the church. I'm excited about the things we are doing! We are having a blast with Friday fun nights; we are back hosting Christian Conversations, 1st Sunday music, and so much more. I am even more excited about the opportunities for 2024!

We need your help! We need your ideas! What would you like to see the church doing? Are there some traditions you would like to bring back that you have enjoyed? Can you help steward a project?

Give it some thought and reach out to me with an idea, would love to hear about it!

*Blessings,
Kris Blaney*





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Our Little Angels...



On November 19th Heather & company decorated the Bishop's grave and walked outside the church collecting any trash that my have blown in. Inside they worked on the upcoming communal prayer & where Jesus lived in the world. Thank you!!!



Super Fun Game Night ...



There were about 15 participants. They had tomato soup, wild rice soup, and a gluten-free soup along with some rolls, oranges and apples.

For board games, there was Sorry, Yahtzee, New Yorker Cartoon Caption Game.

What a great way to spend a Friday night!





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Community Engagement Notes



Pat Martin

Minneapolis Veteran's Hospital:

The homeless vets are in need of new underwear, T-shirts, warm socks, long underwear, sweatpants and sweatshirts for both men and women in all sizes. Please keep the tags on. These may be dropped off in the labeled bin in the Parish Hall. We are collecting through December.

Food Shelf:

Please bring your items to the labeled bins in the back of the Parish Hall, or in the back of the church. They will be blessed the first Sunday of the month.

Coat Shed:

Our current needs include men's hats, gloves, and socks, as well as children's jackets

CROP Hunger Walk:

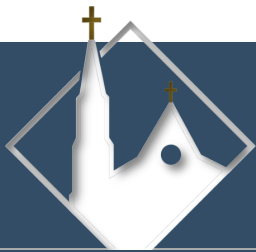
The total from all 5 churches came to \$6,669. The Red Wing Area Food Shelf will receive 25% of this, which is \$1,667. Our neighbors around the world will receive \$5,002. Our church donated \$752. Thank you for your contributions!



Thank you for your generosity!

If you'd like to contribute to the holiday poinsettias, please call the office, send an email, or just drop by! They are \$15. Please make the check to Christ Church and insert in the notations that it's for the poinsettias.

Merry Christmas!



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Holiday Service Times



Dec. 21 ~ 6:00pm Blue Christmas

This time of year can bring challenging mixed emotions. We invite you for a service of reflection, comfort, and hope.

Dec. 24 ~ 10:00am (morning prayer)

*Dec. 24 ~ 4:00 & 10:00pm

Dec. 25 ~ 10:00am

* This time will be new to some of you

Friday Fun Night!!!



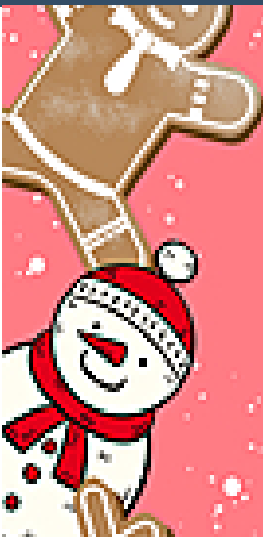
Cookie Decorating and Dinner.

12/15 ~ 5:00-7:00pm Fellowship Hall

Come for dinner and fellowship and stay to decorate cookies to take home to family, friends and of course Santa!

Pastor Aaron will share the story of the First Christmas.

All are welcome!





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Holiday Stroll . . .



What a lovely event!

The prayer wall was set up on the front lawn. A prayer could be said and a ribbon tied to the wall. There was a warm fire to cozy up to and cider and cookies for all to enjoy.

At 5:30 the church doors were open for treats and a Carol Sing.

We had over 60 people attend!

Thank you so much to all our blessed parishioners who participated to make this a success for our church and Red Wing.





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Bazaar and Bake Sale !



Junior Guild

The Junior Guild All Church Bazaar & Bake Sale!

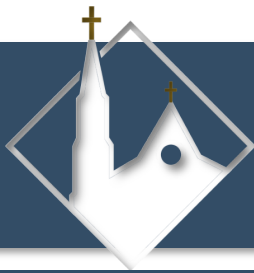
This was an amazing event! We want to thank the Junior Guild for another super success, and thank everyone who helped, participated and donated to this cause. We couldn't have done it without you.

Kudos!!!



The pecans are currently in the church office to be picked up!
If you would like to purchase, they are \$12, check payable to Junior Guild.

Happy Holidays!



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December 2023 Scheduled Events

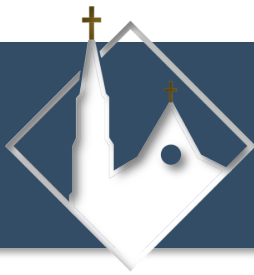
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 New Year's Eve 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 					1	2 10:30am Community Engagement Team 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
3 9:00 am First Sunday Celebration!  8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist	4 12:00pm Junior Guild	5 1:00 pm Sewing Group 	6 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00pm Hospitality Meeting 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	7 6:30pm MOPS	8	9 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
10 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist 7:00 pm Recovery Worship @ Colvill Park 	11	12 5:30 pm Property Committee	13 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 5:00 - 7:00pm Friday Fun Night! Cookie Decorating 	16 9:30 am ECW Meeting 7:00 pm NA Youth
17 8:00 am Eucharist 10:00 am Eucharist	18	19 5:00 pm Vestry Meeting	20 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 Blue Christmas 6:00am Service Chapel 	22	23 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room
24 10:00am Morning Prayer *4:00pm & 10:00pm Service * New time 	25 Christmas Day 10:00am Service 	26	27 10:00 am Eucharist 5:00 pm Women's AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30 7:00 pm NA in Youth Room



12/15- Fun Friday! ~ Cookie Decorating

12/21 - Blue Christmas

Flyers are at church!



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December Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

6 Heidi Befort
6 Lily White
8 Kris Blaney
8 Heather Flueger
13 Gretchen Lee
15 Fred Paruhn
17 Jared Fanslow
22 Ellie Kelly

24 Lindsay Johnson
24 Peggy Danielson
26 Sorin James Knutson
30 Judy Mann



Anniversaries

11 Kris & Sharon Hager
14 Linda McNairy
17 Barney Flueger



Altar Memorial Flowers for December



December 3

Chapel In loving memory of husband OH Norgaard & daughter Katherine Mezger
Joan Norgaard

Church In loving memory of Robert Grosse & Lorraine Grosse
Jerry, Bev, Matt and Cody Stevens

December 10

Chapel In memory of Lucy Falls from her family
Jotsie Johnson

Church In loving memory of Sister Kathy Bryan & loving husband Peter
Barbara Von Haaren

December 17

Chapel Foot Memorial Fund
Evelyn Foot (1st wife of EH Foot)

Church In thanksgiving for children & grandchildren: Tom & Katie, Madlyn, Paige
Graham & Kristen, Ella, Logan & Nora
Scott and Peggy Danielson

December 24

Church Poinsettias per sign up sheet

Roses on altar in memory of Greg Hoff, Richard Schotta, Jeanette Schotta
& Cliff Simonson
Suzanne Simonson & Emily Hoff

December 31 Chapel In loving memory of Elizabeth "Betty" & Desmond Bright
Mary Christensen