

May 1, 2024

# MAY CALLER

## Christ Episcopal Church—Red Wing

### **Bishop**

The Right Rev. Craig Loya

### **Priest-in-Charge**

The Rev Aaron Twait

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### **Deacon**

The Rev Vicki Lambert

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### **Music Director**

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### **Sunday School Director**

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### Christ Church Vestry 2024

Sr. Warden: Angela Shefvland

Jr. Warden: Kris Blaney

Elaine Hoisington (2025)

Pam Dressen (2025)

Ron Weitnauer (2026)

Brendan Kelly (2026)

Teri Van Allen (2026)

Randy Pastorius (2027)

Gretchen Lee (2027)

### Treasurers

Buck Foot, Sandy Richter

[finance@christchurchrw.org](mailto:finance@christchurchrw.org)

### Office

Tina Langton (ends May 2)

Dawn Mettes (returning May 7)

[office@christchurchrw.org](mailto:office@christchurchrw.org)

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## A LETTER FROM PASTOR AARON

Dear Friends,

This last weekend I was privileged to attend a diocesan-wide Confirmation at St. Mark's Cathedral to present Annie Reinitz for Confirmation. It was an amazing event for any number of reasons – a cathedral that was practically bursting to the seams with confirmands, those being received into the Episcopal Church, and their families; the beautiful music, and the incredible diversity within the sanctuary.

I saw a statistic a few years back stating that, nationwide, the Episcopal Church is the second-whitest mainline denomination in the United States, just behind our ELCA Lutheran friends. And so it's inspiring to go to a diocesan event and see diversity in full bloom. To worship in anywhere from three to five languages. To hear the faith stories of people whose ancestors came from so many different parts of the world. To know that the God who created the universe has come to communities across the world, speaking to each of us in our own language.

One of my assumptions about God is that God delights in diversity. We see evidence for it in the natural world. Good care for our soil, for example, includes rotating the crops that are planted from year to year. We see it in places like Borneo's ancient tropical rain forests, where species from orangutans to green sea turtles to sun bears have a home. And we even see it in Scripture. Look no further than the four Gospels that give four different perspectives – that simply can't be harmonized – on the life and ministry of Jesus.

Some elements of diversity can be easy to see, like different animal species or human ethnicity and language. Other elements are harder to see – and some take a lot of work to get at. Things like economic status, or education, or gender, or opinions.

I've been wondering lately what diversity looks like for us at Christ Church. We already take opportunities to celebrate diversity in our common life, such as when we deliberately invite young people into our worship ministries, or when we invite guest musicians to play for us, or when we hear an overlooked translation read for us in worship. And all of that is good.

But I wonder if God isn't prodding us to look more carefully for the diversity in our midst and invite more diversity into our life together. Not just so that we can more completely reflect the diversity of the community into which we've been planted, but so that we can be more welcoming to that community. Because people are always more likely to become part of a group when they can see themselves in it.

So the question is: what do we need to do to ensure that those who would make us more diverse will find Christ Church an inviting and safe place to be? The answer, as is so often the case, starts with our willingness to enter into a new conversation – a new relationship. Our challenge is to have the courage to start.

Blessings,

Pastor Aaron



**Pastor Aaron Twait**

## A LETTER FROM DEACON VICKI

Friends, consider opening your Bible to 1 John 3. (Not the gospel of John, the first letter of John.)

What exactly might Jesus mean when he says I lay down my life for the sheep? In 1 John 3:16, we read, “We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.” The reading goes on, but I invite you to sit with that for a moment – let it sink in. We ought to lay down our lives for one another. After all, that’s what Jesus did. He laid down his life on the cross. What does that mean for us?

We lay down our lives when we put someone else’s needs above our own. While most of us are not called to radically public life like Ghandi or Martin Luther King Jr., I submit we are laying down our lives when we give up judgment, when we speak up for someone who is being bullied - which happens anywhere: right here in church, in school, at work, online. Laying down our lives is hard because speaking up and out for people is risky. If you feel uncomfortable speaking up, imagine how the person being bullied feels. Saying nothing in the moment indicates agreement with the harm being done. Another way we lay down our lives is when we give up our selfishness and greed. Laying down our lives is hard because it challenges our sense of ego and perceived power. It also requires us to know our place as the sheep (followers), not the shepherd.

Next notice in 1 John 3:17, “How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?” Here the eye is connected to the heart. To lay down our life is to open our heart to the needs that are visible. When there is a visible need to be met, love is opening the heart and sharing goods and resources, and not just empty words like “thoughts and prayers”. Have you gone out of your way to help anyone this year... or this month... or this week... or today?

“Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” This short pericope invites every one of us to love and take on the work of sacrifice. It is a form of laying down our lives. It specifically calls for people who have resources to share with those who have need. Love is a verb and not a noun. It is action that requires us to give up our selfishness and embrace the collective flock. Love offers us the opportunity to look for someone in need and offer help to improve our whole human family. How have you actually physically, emotionally, and/or financially given of yourself to another in need?

Remember - Jesus is the good shepherd, and we are the sheep. The relationship between the sheep and the shepherd is based on what the shepherd does first. It’s about trusting and following the shepherd’s lead into love, even when it’s uncomfortable. Are you willing to get uncomfortable? By our loving actions and participation in the work of love, we can know that we are living in right relationship with God and each other.

Rev. Vicki Lambert

Deacon

# A Note from the Bishop

From Bishop Loya  
Beloved in Christ,

Last night, I had a lovely dinner at a new-to-me restaurant. When I sat down, I was relieved to see a very small menu. I tend to find a menu that is several pages long paralyzing and oppressive rather than liberating and exciting.

Modern life can be like that. There are so many things vying for our attention and energy, competing for our loyalty and commitment, promising something satisfying and meaningful. But we can't do all of them, and sometimes trying to choose from among so many options can feel like confinement, not liberation.

True freedom is found not in unlimited options, but in clear purpose. "For freedom Christ has set us free," Paul tells us in Galatians, and liberation in Christ isn't about doing whatever we want, but knowing deeply what we are for: joining God's project to heal the world with love, and inviting others to know the freedom of doing so, too.

As our nation enters fully into another election season that, whatever else happens, promises to rend the fabric for our common life even more deeply, the first question for us is not, "what should we do?", but "what are we for?" We are for the healing power of love in the face of the horrendous evils and massive injustices of life in a fallen world. Anything we do must be firmly rooted in the soil of that clarity if it is to be faithful in this moment.

Beloved, in a world of so many competing choices, in a season of great conflict and uncertainty, I believe that Jesus Christ is living, wounded, and present right here among us in a palpable and real way. I believe that Jesus, and Jesus alone, has the power to give us the freedom we so long for, to offer us the healing the world so needs. In the months to come, we don't need to fix, control, or resolve all the things that will be hard, we simply need to keep coming back to Jesus, joining our wounds and the wounds of the world to his, trusting in God's power to transform us into bread for a world that is starving.

Grace and Peace,  
The Right Reverend Craig Loya  
Bishop X  
Episcopal Church in Minnesota

*May's Third Fun Friday*

*ECW Presents  
Spring Fling for  
the Heart and Soul*

Honoring the female members of  
Christ Church

FRIDAY

MAY  
17

AT 5:30 PM

TAKE THE NIGHT OFF - LET THE  
MEN COOK, SERVE AND CLEAN UP!

Sign up by emailing or calling the  
office or via the bulletin board

# First Sunday April 7th





Youth Sunday  
April 21



# Upcoming Events

## **ROGATION SUNDAY AT GOOD COURAGE FARM**

PARTICIPATE IN THE ANCIENT TRADITION  
OF BLESSING THE FIELDS  
SUNDAY MAY 5TH FROM 3-5 PM  
GOOD COURAGE FARM, HUTCHINSON



## **\*\*DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP\*\***

SPRING FLING FOR THE HEART AND SOUL  
CELEBRATING ALL FEMALES AND ALL AGES  
~PRESENTED BY ECW~  
FRIDAY, MAY 17 AT 5:30 IN THE PARISH HALL



## **ADULT EDUCATION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY**

**5.5.24** — FIRST SUNDAY - PRAYER STYLES

**5.12.24** — PRONOUNS, GENDER IDENTITY, LGBTQIA+  
VOCABULARY

**5.19.24** — GUEST PRESENTER - REV. CANON BLAIR POGUE  
ECMN'S CANON MISSIONER FOR VITALITY AND INNOVATION

**5.26.24** — MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND - SOCIAL HOUR

**6.2.24** — FIRST SUNDAY - CELEBRATE SPRING WITH A  
DEACON'S WALK





**MAY 05, 2024 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**GOOD COURAGE FARM, 21161 YORK ROAD  
HUTCHINSON, MN 55350**

COME JOIN THE COMMUNITY CONNECTED TO OUR AGRARIAN MINISTRY ON ROGATION SUNDAY AS WE PARTICIPATE IN THE ANCIENT TRADITION OF BLESSING THE FIELDS. ROGATION COMES FROM THE LATIN, ROGARE, WHICH MEANS TO ASK. FOR MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS, THIS SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR HAS BEEN SET ASIDE TO ASK GOD FOR GOOD WEATHER, SATISFYING WORK, AND A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.

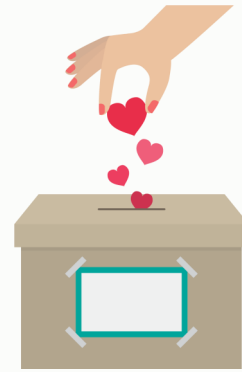
WE'LL "BEAT THE BOUNDS", PROCESSING AROUND THE FARM TO PRAY FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON ORCHARDS, VINEYARDS, ANIMALS, AND PEOPLE, SINGING THE PSALMS, AND OFFERING INCENSE. BRING FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO ENJOY AN AFTERNOON ON THE FARM, VISITING THE ANIMALS AND LEARNING ABOUT THE CROPS. BRING SEEDS FROM HOME AND WE'LL BLESS THEM FOR YOUR OWN GARDEN. KIDS WELCOME, AND TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE ON-FARM FOR THOSE WITH MOBILITY NEEDS.

WEAR STURDY SHOES AND DRESS FOR THE WEATHER, AS WE'LL BE OUTDOORS MOST OF THE TIME!

**[HTTPS://WWW.GOODCOURAGE.FARM/EVENT-DETAILS/BLESSING-OF-THE-FIELDS-ROGATION-SUNDAY-2024](https://www.goodcourage.farm/event-details/blessing-of-the-fields-rogation-sunday-2024)**

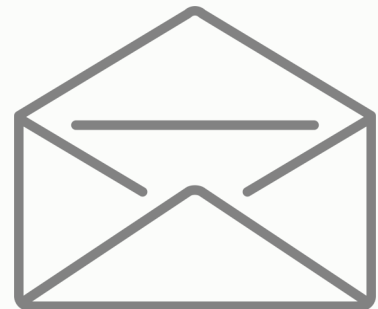
*Between 'There' Care*

*April-June the Community Engagement team is collecting feminine hygiene and incontinence products to donate locally. See the poster on the bulletin board for more details!*



*The coat shed is closed for the season. Donations are accepted year round. Thank you for both your donations and your support for this mission.*

*If you would like pledge envelopes, contact the office and the finance department will get you taken care of!*



*We have a lovely library in our church! Anyone have any suggestions on how to encourage people to use it more?*

*What about having a potluck/quiet time where we use our library or bring something to read?*

# Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

There's an old proverb that says: "You cannot really know someone until you've eaten a kilo of salt together". In other words, to really know someone, you have to break bread with them many, many times!

That's why the second-most important hour of our week (after worship) at Christ Church is our coffee hour. It's our opportunity to share a meal – and work on that pound of salt. Over coffee and treats our fellowship bonds us as a community, builds a sense of family, and helps strengthen the ties that bring us together.

Christ Church needs some additional volunteers to be part of this wonderful ministry that brings life to our faith community! The great news is that coffee hour hosting is easy: all the plates, napkins, cups, utensils, and coffee are provided. You just setup and bring something everyone can enjoy. We can even pair you with an experienced veteran if you like!

You can volunteer by signing up on the sheet next to the parish offices, or by contacting Pastor Aaron or the office staff by phone or email. Questions? Ask Pastor Aaron!



# Upcoming First Sundays

Christ Church's First Sunday Celebrations have given us some great opportunities to promote our mental, physical, and spiritual wellness through community building, celebrating diversity, creating a sense of belonging as well as a time for renewal.

Each First Sunday offers the following:  
9:00 Wellness Hour with Guest Speaker  
10:00 Worship Service with Guest Musicians  
11:00 Potluck Lunch  
12:00 Mini-Concert with Guest Musicians

Our next two First Sundays are May 5 and June 2 – see below for more information. If you haven't tried one out yet, we invite you to join us – and invite others in the community who are interested in renewal and wellness to come along.

May 5th

Wellness Hour – “Prayer Styles” presented by Dr. Christine Luna Munger of Episcopal House of Prayer in Collegeville.

Guest Musician – Tony Cuchetti, singer/songwriter

June 2nd

Wellness Hour – “Celebrate Spring” presented by our deacons, the Rev. Barbara Von Haaren and the Rev. Vicki Lambert.

Guest Musicians – Bells of the Bluff, handbell ensemble



## Time to Update Our Directory!

As we are almost halfway through the calendar year, it's time to make sure our directory is up to date. There are a few ways to do this:

1. Send the office an email with; a photo of your choice, emails, birthdays, addresses, anniversaries, and whatever else you'd like to include.
2. Do it yourself! Our directory is available in the form of an app and via a website, and contact the office to have the instructional videos sent.

# May Calendar

			1	2	3	4
			10am- Eucharist with Discussion	6:30pm- MOPS	7pm- Crossroads NA	10:30am- Community Engagement Meeting
			5pm- Hospitality Meeting			7pm- Crossroads NA
			5pm-Women's AA			
			6:30pm-Choir Rehearsal			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
First Sunday Celebration	12pm-Jr Guild Meeting		10am- Eucharist with Discussion		7pm- Crossroads NA	10am-ECW Meeting
8am- Eucha- rist Service			5pm-Women's AA			7pm-Crossroads NA
10am- Eucha- rist Rite II			6:30- Choir Rehearsal			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8am-Eucharist Service		5pm- Women's AA - Sound Healing Event	10am- Eucharist with Discussion	6:30pm- MOPS	5:30pm- ECW Dinner (Third Fun Friday)	7pm-Crossroads NA
10am- Eucharist Rite II		5:30pm- Property Committee Meeting	5pm-Womens AA		7pm- Crossroads NA	
7pm-Recovery Worship						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8am-Eucharist Service		5pm-Vestry Meeting	10am- Eucharist with Discussion		7pm- Crossroads NA	7pm-Crossroads NA
10am- Eucharist Rite II			5pm-Womens AA			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Clergy Discre- tionary	4:30pm-Altar Guild		10am- Eucharist with Discussion		7pm- Crossroads NA	
8am- Eucha- rist Service			5pm-Womens AA			
10am- Eucharist Rite II						

# May Birthdays

Derek Featherstone 5/1  
Bill Hoyt 5/1  
Ariel Johnson 5/2  
Mary Gustafson 5/3  
Jon Danielson 5/3  
Scott Danielson 5/6  
Samantha Bangaard 5/6  
Jon Heckman 5/7  
Jeff Richter 5/11  
Karen Rigelman 5/12  
Amelia Reinitz 5/17  
Allison Johnson 5/20  
Sharon Hager 5/20  
Barbara Anderson 5/21  
Sandy Richter 5/24  
Phyllis Johnson 5/25  
Mary Brunner 5/25  
Pat Kelly 5/27  
Mac Francis Fanslow 5/31



## And Anniversaries



Congratulations to Brad and Babs Knudson  
on May 17  
and a very special 45th Anniversary for  
Bill and Becky Foot on May 19





# IT'S PECAN TIME AGAIN

Are you running low on Pecans?  
Family summer picnics are just around the corner  
and it's time to make those tasty Pecan Cookies,  
Bars, Breads, Pies and even no-bake treats for the  
family gatherings.

**CALL SANDY RICHTER  
(388-0901) - ONLY \$12.00/BAG**

## *May Altar Flowers*

05/05 Chapel - In thanksgiving for Clara and Reid  
*Catherine and Randy Johnson*  
Church - In memory of parents, Don and Beverly Prinz  
*Gail Hennek*

05/12 Chapel - In thanksgiving for parents,  
Ralph and Marie Nelson  
*Marilyn Potswald*  
Church - In memory of Jill Friedrich Root  
*given by children Susie Kiker, David Root, Julie Root  
and Willie Root*

05/19 Chapel - In memory of loved ones  
*Mr and Mrs Tom Danielson*  
Church - In thanksgiving for Alison, Ariel, and Alyssa  
*Annette Johnson*

05/26 Chapel - Foot Memorial Fund  
Church - In loving memory of Luella Stone  
*Jamie and Laura Teele*