

Christ Episcopal Church, Red Wing, Minnesota

# The Caller

## Plunge Into, Move With and Join Change

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Dear Friends,

My body is telling me it's time for me to retire. I had hoped to make it until June 2023 - but I realize it is time. I will be with you through Christmas, with December 31, 2022, being my last day.

It has been a joy and blessing for me to minister alongside you these past three years, getting to know you and your families and your beautiful river town. And, no doubt, it has been a challenging time to navigate the pandemic, together. I will reflect more on our time together in the December Caller.

***Change is hard and it can trigger fear and anxiety. God is with you all...You do not need to fear the future.***

In these next few months, I want to continue to be your pastor, cheerleader, and pray partner:

Change is hard and it can trigger fear and anxiety. God is with you all. Jesus said, wherever two or three (or more) are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them. And the Holy Spirit is given to us to encourage, equip, and guide us as the Body of Christ. You do not need to fear the future.

Christ Church has a faithful group of leaders in the Vestry and Search Committee. Please encourage and support them.



Vicki Lambert, God willing and the people consenting, will be ordained as a deacon on December 9<sup>th</sup> to serve at Christ Church, 3 Sundays a month.

Separately, we hired Vicki to coordinate the youth and young adult ministries.

Last week, seven families with children gathered at the Flueger Farm for a back-to-school picnic. Catechesis of the Shepherd, our Sunday School, begins on October 2. Please pray for the young adults, youth, children, and parents of our congregation.

You have committed people serving on various committees, the backbone of the church.

You have a beautiful church facility in the center of town.

## Rev. Letha continued

Your Vestry, the Search Committee, and the Faithful Innovations Team are in prayer seeking to discern God's guidance and leading for the next phase of Christ Church.

God is faithful. I encourage you to pray for God's guidance through this transition. I believe the Spirit led me to Christ Church to help offer stability and healing. I trust the Spirit is already preparing your future priest to love you and help lead you into your next phase of mission and ministry, of loving and serving God and your neighbors.

I invite you to commit to praying daily for the transition process.

### A prayer for a time of transition:

*God of mercy and faithfulness, we thank you for your infinite love in*

*calling us to be your people through, Christ our Lord. Guide our congregation as we seek to discern and call our next priest. Transform our fear and anxiety into trust in you. Give wisdom and discernment to the Search Committee and Vestry, as they lead us through this process. We also pray for our future priest. May they be committed to proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed, and inspire us to do the same; and may they love us and help guide us in discerning your call to us for mission and ministry in our community. As we grow in trust in you, help us to be faithful in prayer, worship, service and sharing our gifts. In the name of Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.*

Blessings, Letha



*There are thousands of sacred places in the world; the many religions practiced over human history came to feel a spiritual connection to a collection of natural spaces and human created structures. Perhaps you have visited some of these, both far and near. Let's look at a few in this part of the world.*

## Faithful Innovation

What is God up to — in our church and church neighborhood

It's time for the Faithful Innovation Team to listen well to our parishioners and our neighbors. **Please join the Faithful Innovation Team for coffee and treats after the 10:00 church service on September 18.** We'll be visiting you at your tables and informally checking in with you on how you experience God in your everyday lives.

**Come along with us on a walk of our church's neighborhood on Sunday, October 16 after the 10:00 church service.** What will you notice? Any surprises or concerns? Is God doing anything in this neighborhood?

We look forward to discovering with you what God might be up to.

The Faithful Innovation Team: Tari Carpenter, Chris Foss, Angela Shefveland, Pat Martin and Kathleen Malinchoc



## Transition Team/Search Committee

I am pleased to offer a brief update and an invitation from the Transition Team/Search Committee. I would first like to introduce the team:

Angela Shefveland, Catherine Johnson, Chris Foss, Brendan Kelly

***...we would like to know what you, the parishioners of Christ Episcopal Church – Red Wing, would like to see in a new Rector.***

After a Zoom call with Karen Olson, Canon of Ministry with ECMN, we met to review the documents she provided as well as the information shared by previous Search Committee member, Joan Foot. We then provided the Vestry with some key questions to guide the search for a new Rector. Specifically, full time vs. part time and local vs. nationwide search. While we wait for their guidance, we would like to know what you, the parishioners of Christ Episcopal Church – Red Wing, would like to see in a new Rector.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall on **September 11 @ 9am** for a “Temperature Check” of the parish. A few questions to ponder:

- \*What do you hope for in the future of CEC Red Wing? What do you want our next chapter to look like?
- \*What is and is not working really well in the functioning of the congregation?
- \*Where are you seeing Jesus at work in the wider community?
- \*What are the sparks of joy in our church community?
- \*What do you think God is up to at CEC Red Wing?

If you are unable to attend, please feel free to send any questions to me via email ([angela.shefveland@gmail.com](mailto:angela.shefveland@gmail.com)) prior to the Temperature Check and I will do my best to answer. We want to hear from you, the congregation. Your input matters!

*Angela Shefveland*



**The Sacred Quarries of Pipestone Minnesota**

*Oral tribal histories say that for many centuries the land here was considered neutral ground where people were able to quarry for pipestone without fear. Pipestone was traded widely throughout North America and has been found in burial sites in Ohio that are two thousand years old.*

*The Yankton Dakota believe the red in the pipestone is the blood of their people.*

## New Coat Shed Installed

The new coat shed, built for us by Habitat for Humanity, was installed on Wednesday, August 31. Its’ design provides two sides: one, facing the sidewalk, for those coming to get coats, and the other, on the backside, to store coats and other winter clothing for easy restocking.



## Thoughts about Living into Belonging *by Vicki Jo Lambert*

Have you ever felt like you didn't belong? I know I have.

Here are some harder questions for you to think about:

Have you ever felt like you didn't want others to belong? Did you say something mean because you felt threatened? Did you judge someone because you were afraid?

Today's tendency to center so much of our lives on power and control – especially in selfish ways – is as dangerous a trend as in any era. This often shows up in careless or hurtful comments OR sadly, we refuse to admit this truth within and among us. We repress it, cover it up, hide from it, ignore it, and sometimes are simply unaware that it is a part of what drives us.

***Whenever we use power over others in the absence of love, the action leaves us separated from God and the values of God.***

For Jesus followers, the bottom line about power and control is best understood in this way: its negative use is a function of power over and against. It is designed to exclude and divide. Whenever we use power over others in the absence of love, the action leaves us separated from God and the values of God. It denies access to God-given-ness within each of us. For example, the leader of the synagogue in Luke 13:14 attempted to preserve his own power and control of the community by using the power of his authority and a literal expression of Sabbath law to dishonor and weaken Jesus and control those present so they would not follow a rival.

But Jesus provides examples again and again of the better way to use power. One powerful example is in Jesus' response in acting out of compassion for

the condition of the crippled woman in Luke 13:10-13 and employing for her benefit the greatest power in the universe, the power of love. He used that power for, not against, not to control, but to help and heal and restore life. Jesus used his power – the power of the Holy Spirit – the power of compassionate love – to heal the woman. Once healed, she "began praising God." This is the Jesus about whom Paul wrote in Philippians as the human Lord who did not misuse the power of God, did not exploit it with selfish purposes, but humbled himself in obedience to God – giving himself away, even unto death on a cross.

We are called to love in obedience to God time and time again.

We are called to praise God by loving everyone, including ourselves. We are called to be vulnerable by admitting our mistakes and doing better.

We have room to grow. We are called to open ourselves up for healing. Remember, if the unnamed woman didn't show up, she wouldn't have been healed. The challenge of living into our healing can help us uncover the realities and possibilities in our lives and also invite others to explore theirs.

Remember, Jesus drew a circle large enough so it would include everyone and not seek power against anyone. He used the power of love to unlock the God within each of us, a power through which we can follow him in giving ourselves away and caring for others.

How will you live into Jesus' radical call to listen to the Holy Spirit, see the unseen, care for the hurting, and love the unlovable?



The Jeffers Petroglyphs site is an outcrop in southwestern Minnesota with pre-contact Native American petroglyphs.

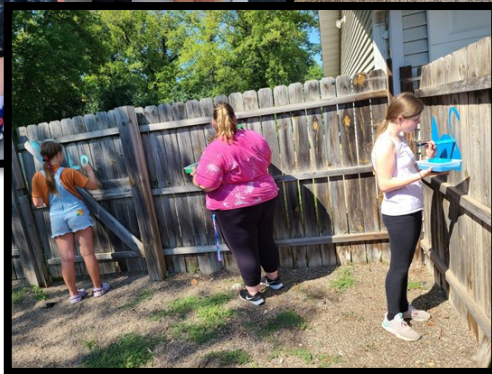
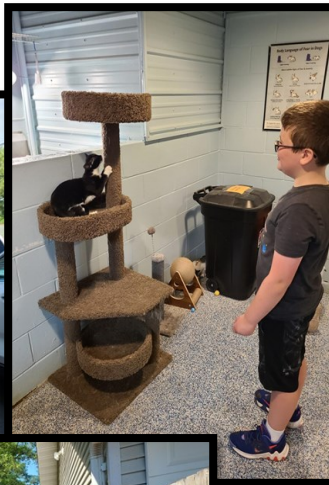
Several archaeologists have hypothesized theories about the purpose of the carvings. Some hypotheses include the practice of hunting magic, performance of sacred ceremonies, or recording historical events. The exact age and purpose of the carvings is only speculation, not established fact. Meanwhile, some Native Americans view the Jeffers site as sacred ground and a very spiritual place, not merely a site to be studied and speculated upon.

## Youth Group News

Here we are - gearing up again for another school year! Christ Episcopal is excited to start youth activities again. Youth group is designed for all young people from 5th to 12th grade (regardless of confirmation status). We use the GroupMe app for news. Contact Vicki to join the app.

**Upcoming youth events:**  
HokSiLa park in Lake City on August 31.

Church/Community Block party on September 9.



On August 17th, we engaged in service work with River Bluff Humane Society right here in Red Wing. We painted decorative designs on their fence and pulled weeds in the dog run area. Of course, we got to play with some kittens. Then, Letha joined us for lunch at Godfather's. Great Work, friends!



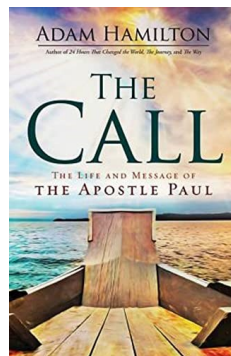
### Badlands, South Dakota

*The Lakota Sioux and other Plains Indians have long considered the broad expanse of harsh terrain called the Badlands a place of deep spiritual significance. The saw-tooth ridges and parched canyons inspired many generations of Native Americans, especially young men who came on vision quests to pray for a good life enriched with fruitful hunting.*

## Bible Study on Wednesdays

Bible Study resumes Wednesday, September 14 at 11:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We will be studying the Apostle Paul. Please join us!

Thanks to JoAnne McNamara for providing our study books.



## Back to School Party



Sunday School Director Heather Flueger Whalen hosted families and friends for a back to school party on August 22 at her family's beautiful farm land.



### White Shell Provincial Park, south Manitoba

This is an area of great spiritual significance to the local indigenous people. The park has many flat granite areas that were used for **petroform** making by the native tribes. For thousands of years, the Anishinaabe harvested wild rice, hunted, fished, traded, had ceremonies, taught, and resided here.



## Community Engagement Notes *from Pat and Mike Martin*

Please continue to add to the bins in the entryway to the Parish Hall for Hope Coalition. They are still in need of nonperishable food items, feminine hygiene and general hygiene products, and gently used children's clothing.

We dropped off 17 pounds of mainly toilet paper at the Food Shelf in early August. With only about half an hour left of being open on a Friday, they were thrilled to get our delivery, for they had just run out of toilet paper. Later in August we dropped off 5 bags of canned goods. You all came through—thank you!!

Some members of the team cooked a meal for the residents of the Ronald McDonald House, Rochester, Minnesota. We had a great time!

If you want to be involved in community outreach, please consider joining us! We would love to have your company!



## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

2 Lily Befort  
 4 Mike Martin  
 5 Helen Fanslow  
 Vicki Lambert  
 6 Melinda Spohn  
 10 Marissa Kelly  
 11 Dennis Whitmore  
 12 Logan Losey  
 16 Brendan Kelly  
 19 Carol Kosec  
 20 June Miller  
 23 Kelly Johnson

25 Reid Johnson  
 27 Barney Flueger  
 29 Lawrence Fanslow  
 30 Laura Prink

### Anniversaries

3 Kelly and Lindsay Johnson  
 5 Dennis and Marlis Whitmore  
 7 Rick and JoAnne McNamara  
 18 Scott and Peggy Danielson  
 20 Joseph and Patricia Tighe  
 27 Kris and Shawn Blaney



**Pahaku Hill,  
 Nebraska**

The bluff is one of five natural sites in the historic range of the Pawnees that were considered sacred to them, and it is the only remaining location that is still virtually biologically intact. It was considered one of the dwellings of spirit animals with miraculous powers. Although the top of the bluff was cultivated, the site otherwise underwent very little change after the European immigrants claimed the land. The site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. It is the only one of the nahurac sites that has not been significantly damaged.

## Altar Flowers for September

**September 4** Chapel **In memory of Bessie Foot**

*Foot Memorial Fund*  
 Church Open

**September 11** Chapel **In memory of husband, Jim**

*Jean Featherstone*  
 Church **In loving memory of Grandpa Grosse and Aunt Loraine**  
*Given by grandchildren Allecia, McCabe, Taite and Kailen Plaas*

**September 18** Chapel **In memory of Mary Flueger**

*Barney Flueger*  
 Church **In loving memory of mother and father, Cheryl and Lowell Mann**  
*Given by children, Arthur and Samantha*

**September 25** Chapel **In Memory of Jessie Joyce Foot**

*Foot Memorial Fund*  
 Church **In celebration of family**  
*Heather, Todd and Willow Whalen*

### CEC Vestry 2022

**Senior Warden**  
**Charlie Brown**

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## September 2022 Calendar and Scheduled Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		30	31	1	2	3
4 <i>Rite II</i> 10am	5 Labor Day	6	7 Chapel Service 10:00 Hospitality 5:30 pm Choir 6:30	8 Suicide Prevention Group 7 pm	9	10 Community Engagement 10:30 am
11 <b>Jubilee Sunday</b> <i>Rite I</i> 8:00 am <i>Rite II</i> 10:00 am	12 Junior Guild 12 noon	13 Property 5:30pm	14 Chapel Service 10am  Choir 6:30	15 MOPS 6:30 pm	16 Fun Night for All	17
18 <i>Rite I</i> 8:00 am <i>Rite II</i> 10:00 am <i>Faithful Innovation Team at coffee hour</i>	19 Vestry_7 pm	20	21 Chapel Service 10am  Choir 6:30	22	23	24
25 <i>Rite I</i> 8:00 am <i>Rite II</i> 10:00 am	26	27 Altar Guild 4:45	28 Chapel Service 10am  Choir 6:30	29	30	1 October

**September 11 - Jubilee Sunday, Welcome back!**

8 a.m. We will resume our 8 a.m. service in the chapel, using the more contemporary Rite II liturgy and no music.

8:45 a.m. Join us in the chapel to **consecrate our newly refurbished stained glass windows.**

All are welcome.

9:00 a.m. Christian Conversations led by the Search Committee - Congregational Temperature Check. This is a chance to give input to the Search Committee, please make this a priority.

10 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist, Followed by a special coffee hour.

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**September Christian Conversations (Adult Education) resumes at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall. 9/11: Search Committee:** Congregational Temperature Check

**9/18: Liz McGill**, Director of Hope and Harbor (Red Wing's seasonal homeless shelter): Learn about homelessness in Red Wing and ways Christ Church can help. offer insight into homelessness and the shortage of housing in Red Wing.

**9/25: Quarterly Vestry Report** to the Congregation

**Mark Your Calendars!****Saturday, October 8th:**

10:30 a.m. **Blessing of the Animals**, on the Front Lawn, bring your furry family members, and tell your neighbors and friends.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. Need 3-4 volunteers to serve as hosts for a **Christ Church open house** during the **Fall Red Wing Art Fair.**

**Sunday, October 9th, all afternoon: Christ Church serves a meal for the San Obrero Mission in Montgomery, MN.** Volunteers needed. Talk to Vicki or Letha

**Friday, October 21, 5-8 p.m. Friday Fun Night for all.** Pumpkin Carving and dinner, sponsored by Episcopal Church Women (ECW).

**Saturday, November 12, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. All Church Bazaar and Bake Sale.** Everyone is invited to participate by donating items or by shopping at the Bazaar.