

PAXCHRISTINEWS

Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie April 2016

**REGISTER FOR
A NEW YEAR!**

Sacraments,
Faith Formation,
Summer Programs.

Page 12



**SHOULDN'T EVERY DAY BE
EARTH DAY?**

Featuring Fr. Larry Snyder and UST Biologist, Adam Kay. Page 6



PAX CHRISTI

Catholic Community

12100 Pioneer Trail, Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208
Phone: 952-941-3150 Website: www.paxchristi.com

Office Hours

Monday–Thursday 8:00am–4:30pm
Friday 8:00am–12:00pm

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Nursery available at all weekend Masses.
Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.

Weekday Masses

Mondays 8:30am
Tuesdays 8:30am with Rosary to follow
Wednesdays 6:00pm
Thursdays 8:30am
Fridays 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation (private)

Saturdays 4:00–4:30pm

The Pax Christi News is printed monthly by the Church of Pax Christi of Eden Prairie. We accept unsolicited manuscripts and photos from parishioners but reserve the right to edit and publish such material at our discretion. Email submissions, photos, and/or questions to Melissa Nault, Communication Arts Director, mnault@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7221. All contributions become the property of Pax Christi Catholic Community.



4

Taking Care of Mom
by Fr. Herb Hayek, O.P.



6

Shouldn't Every Day
Be Earth Day?




8

On Care for Our
Common Home



10

News from Stewardship



11

Come to the Table



12

Faith Formation and Summer Programs



14

Speak Up,
Your Voice Matters



15

ENGAGE Pax Christi



16

Pax Christi Plants Seeds



17

Parishioner News



18

What's Going on
at Pax Christi



20

Month at a Glance....
psst, tear this page out!



21

Contact Information

TAKING CARE OF MOM



Fr. Herb Hayek, O.P.
Sr. Associate Pastor

PRAISED BE YOU MY LORD
THROUGH OUR SISTER,
MOTHER EARTH
WHO SUSTAINS AND
GOVERNS US,
PRODUCING VARIED
FRUITS WITH COLOURED
FLOWERS AND HERBS.

—FROM CANTICLE OF CREATION
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

APRIL 23 will find the parish community taking time to think about Mother Nature and our home, the Planet Earth. We have heard a lot about climate change, preserving the environment, recycling, and conspicuous consumption. We have an Environmental Committee here at Pax Christi. The proposed solar project offers new possibilities for the parish and makes us a role model for other parishes. This is all well and good and could remain on the level of science and health. However, we live in different levels or worlds.

Through his encyclical, *Laudato Si'* — *Praise to You*, Pope Francis has been calling all Catholics (and other Christians) to a deeper care and respect for our mother and home. This is based on the Canticle of the Sun by St. Francis of Assisi. There are those who think that this has nothing to do with our faith. How can science have anything to say to believers? While I was in the Holy, I heard a presentation by an evangelical teacher on creation. He was very articulate and convincing in what he presented. However, there was only one problem. It was all based on the premise that the world was created in six 24-hour days and that it all happened about six thousand years ago. (This was in spite of

the fact that we had stopped in Jericho and saw the ruins of an earlier city which dates back nearly eight thousand years!) But this is the sort of reading of Scripture that continues the science versus religion debate that has gone on for years. But we know that the authors of these scriptures were not writing about science. This was beyond their knowledge, and they were trying to speak of a God who is loving and all-powerful in a way that would speak to an agricultural society several thousands of years ago. It was how God had entered their lives and continued to do so.

There have also been those with a literalist interpretation who have tried to use scripture, to justify exploiting nature and its resources. Do you remember the Secretary of the Interior, James Watt (1981–83). He would quote scripture about man being set over creation, which we find in Genesis. However, from this he provided an exegesis that allowed and even encouraged us to exploit natural resources to the fullest. Needless to say this was very controversial, not just among environmentalists but among many Christians. Today this is still a hot-button political item. However, for those who understand what the Bible is actually saying, it is a less

heated matter. We have been given responsibility by God to care for this earth as our home, it is a gift from a generous and loving God. We are the stewards or caretakers of it and are to pass it on to those generations which will follow us.

Yet there were those who saw this encyclical as taking sides in a political battle in this country. But the Pope is not writing for us alone. We need to remember that this pastoral letter was meant for the one billion plus Catholics. From the opening words of Genesis we do not hear of humanity dominating and using the earth for its own short-sighted uses. Rather, we are part of the greater creation. We are to live in harmony with what God has called into existence. This also means that we are to share with others from the bounty of the earth. The story par excellence



is that of Joseph, sold into slavery in Egypt by his brothers, who then welcomes them later on when Israel experiences a famine. The message of the prophets throughout the centuries continues to remind us that we are responsible for one another, even the stranger or foreigner. This is brought home most forcefully in the gospel of Matthew. In chapter 25, Jesus tells us the criteria for how He will judge us at the end times. Did we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit and care for the sick and imprisoned, and welcome the stranger/immigrant? All of this is to be done in harmony with nature as we share God's gifts with all God's children. And unless we know the exact hour and day when Jesus will return for this final judgment, we need to care for this earth, our home, for generations to come.

So we are all being invited to gather as a parish community on April 23 to celebrate creation and give thanks for all of the blessings that our God has showered down on us. As you are reading this, we will have just celebrated Easter a few days ago where out of the seeming defeat of death on the cross, God raised up His Son. Now we can rejoice in this message of life as we continue to be part of God's creative work in making this world reflect more

completely God's will "on earth as it is in heaven." We are also seeing the beginning of spring which is so wonderful and eagerly anticipated here in Minnesota. There is the new green of budding trees and early flowers bringing color to the drab landscape of a fading winter. This is certainly the time to see where we can work together with the Creator and our brothers and sisters in "renewing the face of the earth" (as we pray to the Holy Spirit). It is a time to learn new ways to utilize what resources we have and then to use them for the benefit of all. And we will do this in a day which will offer us so much.

But it isn't just a day to be busy. It is a retreat day, and that means it is also a time to reflect, to listen, and to grow in our understanding of our faith. When I was in the Holy Land in early February, we drove out to the Jordanian desert one day. This had been the area that was used in the filming of the movie *Lawrence of Arabia*. We weren't there to see a movie set or buy souvenirs. Rather we were given an experience of what quiet could sound like. As we stood in the red desert sand and saw rock formations and sand dunes all around, we could

only hear the sound of the wind shifting the sand around. Even then there was often nothing to be heard. In our daily life this probably never happens. There is the blare of the radio or television in our homes or the ear buds feeding us music as we work out at the gym or walk around campus or the mall. These all have their place in our daily life. But this day will allow us to unplug, and in the quiet of the day, in listening to others, we can listen more easily to the voice of God speaking to us. I don't promise new revelations or insights — only the possibility of them and the opportunity to maybe see our mother earth and mother church in a new light.





SHOULDN'T EVERY DAY BE EARTH DAY?

EVERYBODY NEEDS BEAUTY AS WELL AS BREAD, PLACES TO PLAY IN AND PRAY IN, WHERE NATURE MAY HEAL AND GIVE STRENGTH TO BODY AND SOUL.

—JOHN MUIR

ON SATURDAY, April 23, the parish retreat will be contemplating the theme of Earth Day with presentation, prayer, and a panel of experts to share in the conversation about our relationship to the earth. Much has gone into the planning of this day to create a spiritual, reflective, informative, and challenging time for the human inhabitants of the earth. With the encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*, from Pope Francis as the backdrop and impetus of the day, the parish is delighted to offer this day set aside to assess our relationship with Planet Earth and the moral imperative to care for the earth, our common home.

FR. LARRY SNYDER will lead the keynote presentation on *Laudato Si': A Message of*

Inclusion, Accompaniment, and Mercy. Through unpacking the message of Pope Francis in the encyclical, Snyder will help participants understand not only the key components of the document but also the challenges that we face today. Snyder is a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, is past president of Catholic Charities, USA, and is currently Vice President for Mission at the University of St. Thomas.

Joining Snyder on April 23 is **ADAM KAY, PH.D.**, associate professor of biology at the University of St. Thomas. Kay will speak on *The Scientific Dimension and Imperative Underlying Laudato Si'*. Kay's

academic research focuses on the biology of urban agriculture, urban ecology, and urban food insecurity. Dr. Kay founded the St. Thomas Stewardship Garden, an on-campus site integrating urban agriculture research and community service. He co-developed the Urban Flower Field, an art-science hybrid project that received a Twin Cities "Great Places Award" in 2014. He also co-founded BrightSide Produce, an economically sustainable model for distributing fresh produce to corner stores in low-income urban areas.

Exciting panelists will be present to share their expertise. **LONNE MURPHY**, Liturgy Assistant at Pax Christi, holds a Master's Degree in Theology with an emphasis on Spirituality from St. Catherine University.

Having worked in church liturgy and music her entire career, she has a deep concern for the language and symbols used in our liturgical prayer. Because it is the most primal of elements used in our sacraments and in our symbols, water, fire, wind, wheat, and grapes from the earth, we are called to care for and protect these elements. Pope Francis has made this his first concern as have many other world leaders, scientists, and social justice prophets. From our prayer flows action to make our world a better place for all, especially for those who live in poverty with little or no access to clean water, food, or unpolluted air. Lonne will speak of our challenge as the church to include in our liturgical language a current understanding of God in the world and actually of the world itself. This involves a discussion of the "New Creation Story," which includes God as the Original Source of all that lives.

JOE AND TERRIE ADAMS will join us and share their experience of beginning a People Food Farm and the influence of their farm backgrounds, experiences living in Peru, the reading of the uncertain economy, and their learnings from other specialty farmers. They will explain the process of how they moved onto their current rental property and how they sought out Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farmers, support organizations, government agencies for consultation, and set up the business and leveraged their individual talents. The Adams' will also share their surprises along the way and what they learned from Mother Nature, from their customers and their stories to better health, from the interns, and from their own partnership and increased energy with the

creative, dynamic young-farmer community.

KEN REINECCIUS, Director of Operations at Pax Christi, will discuss where Pax Christi is headed concerning the Community Solar Project about to begin this year. Ken will also explain the energy saving devices, methods, and processes that have been employed at Pax Christi over the past several years. Additionally, there will be a discussion of the role of rebates in those projects and how parishioners can use rebates from energy providers to lower home energy costs and save valuable resources at the same time.

PETER BIERER, Youth Minister at Pax Christi, and **CAITLYN SHIPP**, parishioner and member of the youth ministry at Pax Christi, will share their insights on *Everyday Practical Ways to Care for the Earth*.

Throughout the day, we will be introduced to the exhibitors from a variety of different aspects of environmental action organizations.

SISTER JOAN MITCHELL, CSJ, will provide her facilitation skills, and tease out the topics, perspectives, and questions that the presenters and participants bring, and will lead guests in discerning transformative action which will help us to care more consciously for earth, our common home.

Please register for this unique event online at www.paxchristi.com/earthday. It would be helpful to read the encyclical posted online at www.paxchristi.com/earthday or a section of a paraphrase of the encyclical on page 9. *Written by Jane Schmitz, Parish Director.*

This Chinook Blessing Litany encapsulates the spirit of loving, caring, respecting, and living gracefully upon the earth.

We call upon the earth, our planet home, with its beautiful depths and soaring heights, its vitality and abundance of life, and we ask that it teach us, and show us the way.

We call upon the mountains, the Cascades and the Olympics, the high green valley and meadows filled with wild flowers, the snows that never melt, the summits of intense silence, and we ask that they teach us, and show us the way.

We call upon the waters that rim the earth, horizon to horizon, that flow in our rivers and streams, that fall upon our gardens and fields, and we ask that they teach us and show us the way.

We call upon the land which grows our food, the nurturing soil, the fertile fields, the abundant gardens and orchards, and we ask that they teach us, and show us the way.

We call upon the forests, the great trees reaching strongly to the sky with earth in their roots, and show us the way.

We call upon the creatures of the fields and forests and the seas, our brothers and sisters the wolves and the deer, the eagle and the dove, the great whales and the dolphin, the beautiful Orca and salmon who share our Northwest home, and we ask them to teach us, and show us the way.

We call upon all those who have lived on this earth, our ancestors and our friends, who dreamed the best for future generations, and upon whose lives our lives are built, and with thanksgiving, we call upon them to teach us and show us the way.

And lastly, we call upon all that we hold most sacred, the presence and power of the Great Spirit of love and truth which flows through all the universe, to be with us to teach us, and show us the way.



ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

The concept of having an Earth Day Retreat rose simply out of the encyclical letter *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, by Pope Francis, with an eye to pay attention to the pope's reflections and directives, the reality of our common home, and the desire to do good by offering some time for participants to reflect on where we all stand on this desire to care for the earth.

Bill Huebsch, a theologian whose roots are in Minnesota, writes for Twenty-third Publications, and is an author well-known in breaking down theological, dogmatic, and pastoral writings of Vatican II and Pope Francis so we can all understand and participate in the message. Below is a snapshot of a portion of the second chapter of *Laudato Si'*, in the reading guide summary version by Huebsch. The numbers correspond with the "paragraphs" in the original text, and it is used with permission.

62. I want to turn now to the ways in which faith can inform the dialogue for which I am calling. Even though not all to whom this is addressed are believers, religion can still make a rich contribution.

I. THE LIGHT OFFERED BY FAITH

63. The ecological crisis in which we find ourselves is complex, and solutions must, therefore, come from every culture and tradition, from art and poetry as well as from spirituality. 64. I hope for a worldwide dialogue through this encyclical, and I hope that Christians will realize their responsibility within creation.

II. THE WISDOM OF THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNTS

65. Human dignity rises out of the belief that we are created by God and found by him to be good. We are made in God's image. Because we are created in love, we are capable of giving

ourselves in love. Each human life, is therefore, valuable and unique. Each is held in God's own hand. 66. Scripture helps us see that human life is grounded in three close relationships: we relate to God, to our neighbor, and to the earth itself. By refusing to acknowledge that we humans have certain limits and that we are not the masters of the universe, we ruptured these relationships. We call this rupture by the name sin.

67. "We are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us." Our way of reading Genesis 1:28 has in the past suggested that humans have "dominion" over the earth, and this has been the root justification for "the unbridled exploitation of nature." This is not a correct interpretation of Scripture, and we reject the idea that being created in God's image gives us the right to destroy the earth. The role we have been given leads us to

restore the broken relationships, end the selfishness, and turn greed into shared resources. Our role, in the end, is to till, keep, and protect the earth (Genesis 2:15).

68. We are also called to respect the natural laws of the world, offering the land and animals alike a chance to rest, helping and assisting both neighbor and livestock when the need arises, and caring even for the birds when they have fallen to the ground (Deuteronomy 22:4, 6). The Bible does not support the idea that humans are allowed to plunder and destroy other creatures.

69. We humans, according to the Bible, must take our place within creation, not stand outside it in a superior position. It is a distorted view of human life that claims we are better or more important than the rest of creation. The *Catechism* teaches that each created animal or plant reflects the face of God.

THE CREATION STORY

GENESIS 1: 1-2:4

First this: God created the Heavens and the Earth—
all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a soup
of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky
blackness. God's Spirit brooded like a bird above the
watery abyss.

God spoke: "Light!"

And light appeared.

God saw that light was good
and separated light from dark.

God named the light Day,
he named the dark Night.

It was evening, it was morning—
Day One.

God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the water;
separate water from water!"

God made sky.

He separated the water under sky
from the water above sky.

And there it was:

he named sky the Heavens;

It was evening, it was morning—
Day Two.

God spoke: "Separate!

Water-beneath-Heaven, gather into one place;
Land, appear!"

And there it was.

God named the land Earth.

He named the pooled water Ocean.

God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Earth, green up! Grow all varieties
of seed-bearing plants,
Every sort of fruit-bearing tree."

And there it was.

Earth produced green seed-bearing plants,
all varieties,

And fruit-bearing trees of all sorts.

God saw that it was good.

It was evening, it was morning—
Day Three.

God spoke: "Lights! Come out!

Shine in Heaven's sky!

Separate Day from Night.

Mark seasons and days and years,
Lights in Heaven's sky to give light to Earth."

And there it was.

God made two big lights, the larger
to take charge of Day,

The smaller to be in charge of Night;
and he made the stars.

God placed them in the heavenly sky
to light up Earth

And oversee Day and Night,
to separate light and dark.

God saw that it was good.

It was evening, it was morning—
Day Four.

God spoke: "Swarm, Ocean, with fish and all sea life!

Birds, fly through the sky over the Earth!"

God created the huge whales,
all the swarm of life in the waters,

And every kind and species of flying birds.

God saw that it was good.

God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Ocean!

Birds, reproduce on Earth!"

It was evening, it was morning—
Day Five.

God spoke: "Earth, generate life! Every sort and kind:
cattle and reptiles and wild animals—all kinds."

And there it was:

wild animals of every kind,

Cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug.

God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image,
make them reflecting our nature

So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,
the birds in the air, the cattle,

And, yes, Earth itself,

and every animal that moves on the face of Earth."

God created human beings;

he created them godlike,

Reflecting God's nature,

He created them male and female.

God blessed them:

"Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!

Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth."

Then God said, "I've given you

every sort of seed-bearing plant on Earth

And every kind of fruit-bearing tree,
given them to you for food.

To all animals and all birds,

everything that moves and breathes,

I give whatever grows out of the ground for food."

And there it was.

God looked over everything he had made;

it was so good, so very good!

It was evening, it was morning—
Day Six.

Heaven and Earth were finished,

Down to the last detail.

By the seventh day

God had finished his work.

On the seventh day

he rested from all his work.

God blessed the seventh day.

He made it a Holy Day

Because on that day he rested from his work,

All the creating God had done.

This is the story of how it all started,
of Heaven and Earth when they were created.



GUIDEBOOK AND DIRECTORY ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

We are in the process of updating our annual Guidebook and Directory. This book contains Pax Christi ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions, and events plus a complete directory of members. This book is provided to each family at no cost to Pax Christi through the ads placed in it by local businesses. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please contact Mary Kennedy, mkennedy@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7220.

Recent survey results by Guidebook Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guidebook and Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It "will pay" to advertise in our new Guidebook and Directory.

STEWARDS ARE CALLED TO "TILL AND KEEP THE GARDENS OF OUR WORLD"

God then took the man and settled him in the Garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. –Genesis 2:15

WE LEFT the toughest job for last, that being cleaning out the garage and the workshop in the basement of my parents' home. We left this mighty task undone until the property sold, and as it had, the siblings gathered and made that one final trip northward to clear out the last of the memory-filled belongings of our mom and dad. It wasn't easy, especially with the OHIO rule in play: Only Handle It Once. If you picked it up, you had to deal with it, whether to trash, donate, own, or sell. Of course, the sly sibling could always attempt the hand-off, but that trick only worked for a few times. What the OHIO rule couldn't overcome was the memories that seemed to flow from item after item. My parents were products of the Great Depression, so nothing was thrown away – ever. The handle for a long-lost broom, the ax head without a handle, scraps of sandpaper, every conceivable size of nuts and bolts, all of these competed with the maps from the 1980s from almost every state and lots of Canadian provinces, correspondence and records back to the 1950s, and pieces of wood that might be the perfect fit for a yet-undetermined home repair. As we sorted, we relived the memories of how this artifact was used and when, determined what could be retained to share with future family members, and in

some cases, we shrugged our shoulders and wondered, why in the world did they keep this?

Besides the memories were so many lessons to remind us of our own members of the Greatest Generation. They didn't waste anything. It was a different time. Those who lived through times of having little were careful to use everything they had until it was all used up. My parents nurtured the origins of my stewardship journey. In fact, all of our parents and grandparents have provided us with life lessons on how to value our belongings and care for our corner of the world. Pope Francis, in his Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, encourages us to follow the example found in Genesis, that we were placed here to "till and keep the garden of the world." It's not enough to admire the gardens of our world, but we must nurture them using the gifts we have at our disposal. Living as a steward also encourages us to respect and care for all the gifts we have been given. Where we live and how we treat the environment in which we live are integral parts of that call.

We may not be able to solve every environmental issue in the world, but we certainly can make an impact on the corner of the world that we call home. Reduce, reuse, recycle – the mantra we have all heard so

many times, perhaps it has lost its urgency, but this mantra can be applied to all the clutter we find in our lives. Cutting down on all of the paper and turning off the lights when you leave the room can be just as important as taking a pause from the frenetic schedules and spending that "found" time with family. Can some of our gifts be "repurposed" for another use? You may have been great at getting the kids prepped for their spelling or math tests. Maybe it's time to share those gifts at one of the many schools where Pax Christi volunteers tutor. Perhaps your schedule has opened up, and you have some time to spare. Look around and determine what needs you can cultivate to spend that precious time in gift to others. Consider how you are called to respond to Pope Francis' call to "till and keep" the gardens of your world.

Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development.



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

IN THIS YEAR OF MERCY, our Finding God participants continue their Random Acts of Kindness for Mother Earth.

We are called to care for our environment by keeping it clean for all to appreciate. We took up the challenge and walked throughout the Pax Christi grounds to pick-up litter and unwanted elements. We enjoyed a walk around our 'pond' and visited our beautiful Saint Francis shrine.

Pope Francis says, "We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it!" —*ReCreation* is not some possession that we can lord over for our own pleasure; nor, even less, is it the property of only some people, the few. Creation is a gift; it is the marvelous gift that God has given us so that we will take care of it and harness it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude. We must protect creation for it is a gift which the Lord has given us, it is God's present to us; we are the guardians of creation." It is our hope and desire to keep the grounds of Pax Christi as beautiful as possible for all to enjoy. The Finding God participants also offered a gift of food to the returning birds as we made Cheerio bird feeders and hung them on our trees. It is our desire as we share our love of God's magnificent creation that we learn how to treat our surroundings with respect at all times.

Enjoy our Earth together as a family. Here are just a few simple and rewarding ideas: 1) Go for a nature walk or hike in a park. Perhaps turn it into a scavenger hunt or treasure hunt. 2) Experience a car-free day. Go for a bike ride! 3) Have an outdoor picnic. 4) Decorate a recycling box and keep it full! 5) Plant a tree or a garden. Enjoy watching the cycle of life. 6) Make a bird feeder and share a song with your feathered friends. 7) Construct nature creations: Collect a variety of outdoor items such as leaves, sticks, flowers, and rocks, and create unique art projects. 8) Try "earth painting:" Finger paint with mud on sidewalks or paper or use non-toxic watercolors to paint river rocks. The water will wash the paint away. 9) Clean a community area: Take your children to their favorite park, woods, or even for a stroll around your neighborhood. Pick up all the litter you can find and see who can collect the biggest bag. Take the time to explain the effects litter has on our environment. 10) Watch a movie together about the environment. Great movies for younger kids are Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* and *Ferngully*. Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* is a perfect starting point for a discussion with your teens. The Disney film *Wall-E* will also bring a call to action and a sense of protection for our surroundings. Enjoy the beauty of creation! Love the created world as God does?

Written by Reneé Dignan, Faith Formation Minister



COME TO THE TABLE!

THE SACRAMENT of the Eucharist began thousands of years ago when Jesus ate a meal with his closest friends on the evening before he died.

They shared conversation, prayer, stories and felt the true presence of Jesus' love. At the Last Supper, Jesus instructed his followers to "Do this in memory of me." Weekly we gather together as a faith community to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist.

Together, over 100 children have willingly prepared to receive this very special and important sacrament. We have learned together; we have shared scripture stories; we have prayed together; we have participated in a retreat with our families. It's a very special time for our community to embrace these wonderful children and reflect on receiving for the first time in our own lives. Perhaps we remember what we wore, or the message from our priest, or the sounds and taste of the experience. Perhaps we remember the celebration gathering. Our fifth- and sixth-graders offered their words of wisdom to the younger children. One wrote,

Dear Second Grader,

Congratulations on your First Communion! You are just about to enter a huge part of your life that will change who you are as person and what you do as a child of God. Just remember not to worry and that God will help you with everything you do. Don't be nervous; everything turns out great as long as you believe and trust in God. I felt so welcome when I got my First Communion. Now every time I go to church, I get to experience that feeling all over again. Good Luck, Your sixth-grade friend.

We believe worshipping together brings our spiritual selves to life and offers us food for the journey. We know that God longs for the whole family to gather around the table. In the Eucharist we realize that we are all one in God. We hold our children and their families in our prayers as they willingly and eagerly COME TO THE TABLE for the first time. *Written by Reneé Dignan, Faith Formation Minister*

DO SOMETHING **AWESOME** THIS SUMMER!

EVERY SUMMER teenagers gather among the Minnesota pines and meet on the shores of Lake Sagatagan to experience the deep mysteries of the universe and discover their purpose in life. Intrigued? Come to Youth in Theology and Ministry Summer Camp at St. John's University! YTM is a two-week long camp for high school students who want to develop leadership skills, grow in faith, and build lasting friendships with an incredible community!

During the camp, young people get to take college-level theology classes, participate in service projects, experience a variety of prayer forms and liturgies, and enjoy all that the campus of St. John's has to offer (the beach, canoeing, hiking, gym, and more!).

What's more important than growing in relationship with God?

We are so excited about YTM that Pax Christi is willing to pay almost HALF of the cost of your camp tuition! We want young people to become the leaders of the Church TODAY!



2015 YTM Participants: Austin Murr, Sam Kinzel, Grace Curtiss, Caitlyn Shipp

YTM is an excellent opportunity for young people to express their own opinions on theology and religion with people their own age. It's very easy to grow and feel at home when you feel like your thoughts and positions matter. YTM also covers topics that young people actually care about — social justice, poverty, gender issues, politics, religion, etc. — all connect with one another. If you feel passionate about these issues but can't find your outlet, YTM is for you.

—Grace Curtiss, 12th grader and Pax Christi Parishioner

DATES: June 12-25, 2016

FEE: \$450

SIGN-UP: www.ytm-sju.org

For more information contact Peter Bierer, Youth Formation, Minister,
pbierer@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7210.

FAITH FORMATION, FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST EUCHARIST, AND CONFIRMATION

REGISTRATION START THIS MONTH!

WWW.PAXCHRISTI.COM/FFREGISTRATION

AS THE CURRENT faith formation program year ends, it's time to start planning for the next one! For your convenience, faith formation and sacrament preparation registration is starting early this year. The date is easy to remember—Tax Day! Registration opens April 15. This gives you plenty of time to plan and to get the early bird discount before the summer activities take over and push everything else aside.

There are two ways to register: online or paper copy. Both methods can be found under the Faith Formation tab of our website (paxchristi.com). Information about our programs and program staff contact information are also available under the Faith Formation tab. Additionally, our application for financial aid or a payment plan can be found in this same convenient place.

We are very excited about new endeavors in our faith formation programs. Please see articles about these new happenings in our programs on the following pages.

We enjoy working with families and supporting you in forming the faith of your family—the home church! Please feel free to contact any faith formation staff member to discuss ideas, needs, or questions. *Written by Lynn Schelitzche, Director of Faith Formation.*



PAXCONNEX

FAITH LEARNING FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS THE PAX CHRISTI WAY

THE FAITH FORMATION department, along with members of the Middle School Faith Formation sub-committee, catechists, and current middle and high school youth, has been working hard researching, gathering information, and discussing many ideas to develop a middle school program that truly reflects the Mission, Vision, and Values of Pax Christi. The new program has been named PaxConnex to reflect the spirit of Pax Christi and the connection of our youth to our faith community.

PaxConnex will be a bridge between the Finding God/Good Shepherd programs and the High School Faith Interest Connectors program. Equal emphasis on the three movements of faith formation: Head (Knowledge), Heart (Passions), and Hands (Service and Justice) will be the catalyst for increasing our youth's knowledge in an engaging and meaningful way which will strengthen their relationship with the Church.

The **HEAD** component will focus on increasing knowledge of our Catholic faith and will follow a traditional faith formation classroom learning format. Seventh and eighth graders will gain a deeper understanding of Scripture, Creed, Sacraments, Prayer, Social Justice, and Catholic Morality.

The **HEART** component is being modeled after Pax Christi's successful Faith Interest Connectors program for our high school youth. In this section, they will partake in experiences that will connect them with parishioners and learn how our faith can be applied in their daily lives.

In the **HANDS** component, they will integrate their knowledge learned into action throughout the community by participating in service projects in our faith community and in the community at large, and then discussing the relationship between service and faith.

We are very excited to introduce PaxConnex to the parish and look forward to our youth becoming increasingly engaged with our faith community!

Informational meetings for parents of current 6th and 7th graders will be held on **Sunday, April 17, 10:15am and 6:30pm.**

An informational meeting for current 8th graders and their parents to introduce them to the high school FIC program will be held on **Sunday, April 17, 7:15pm.**
Written by Michelle Frederick, Middle School Formation Coordinator.

PAXCONNEX IN THE SUMMER!

**FOR THOSE ENTERING GRADES 7, 8,
AND 9 FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR.**

Our faith doesn't take a summer vacation — we have great things in the works for Summer 2016!

Each month we will have opportunities for youth to get together to serve the community, enjoy lunch, and have faith conversations with one another. There is no fee to participate, though it is suggested that the youth make a donation to the service activity of the day. Youth can either bring a bag lunch or purchase a lunch for \$5.00. Friends who are not members of Pax Christi are welcome to participate.

**Dates are May 22, June 15, June 29, July 13,
August 3, and August 17.**

Youth can participate as often as they are able. Sign-up and additional details for each date are available online at www.paxchristi.com.

Youth can also join us for The Best Week of Summer! — July 25–29, 9:00am–4:00pm, and July 30, 5:00–7:30pm.

Each day will be fun and faith-filled! In the mornings youth will participate in a variety of activities from drama team*, Bible Camp assistant leaders, nursery assistants, and on-site and off-site service activities.

We will then meet for a community lunch and exciting new afternoon activities.

Our afternoons will be focused on activities and games that teach leadership skills, peer ministry skills, and team/community building — all while having a blast!

Sign-up and additional details are available online at www.paxchristi.com.

**Drama Team requires additional time commitments*



SPEAK UP, YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

THE NEW Pax Christi Advocacy Committee for Justice is in full swing. The committee has organized Pax Christi members to advocate at the legislative and government level to make sure that the voice of the poor is heard. Our focus is to assist in making systemic changes for justice. This session, our focus is on "Homes for All" legislation to help end homelessness. We asked the legislators to support the bill to provide substantial resources to build affordable housing and provide critical services to assist people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota. Our Brick Card campaign in February was very successful and your efforts produced 400 cards that were sent in the name of Pax Christi through Beacon Interfaith Housing Coalition to the Legislators. This was a 14% increase over last year's postcard campaign to end homelessness in Minnesota.

At the end of April and beginning of May, the committee will be orchestrating a letter writing campaign which will ask our legislators to support raising the MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program) Grants. This program provides basic economic assistance for children and their parents working toward full-time paid employment. All parents enrolled in MFIP must be working, job searching, pursuing education, or job training. This is Minnesota's largest workforce development program. We are looking for an additional \$100/month to help families, raising the level to \$632. This would be the first increase since 1986. A modest income boost is correlated with stronger education, health, and developmental outcomes for children. It helps families cover basic expenses, including housing and transportation. More information will be available at a later date.

The members of Pax Christi, through their generosity, volunteering, and willingness to get involved, have been in the forefront of following in the footsteps of Jesus. Let us continue to live out our faith in practicing the Principles of Catholic Social Teachings. As Pope Francis has stated: "The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty. We do not judge our progress based on how the wealthiest are doing. Instead, we evaluate our greatness by observing how the most vulnerable are faring. And then, whenever we see deficiencies, we are called to respond in faith." *Written by Joan Pare', parishioner and Justice Council chair.*

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

YOU HAVE probably heard about the Justice Grants that the parish makes each year. They have been a part of our tradition here at Pax Christi since the beginning. During these past thirty plus years, many agencies, projects, programs, and groups have benefitted from the generosity of our parish. For the last several years, the focus has been on education and homelessness. So as we start a new year, I thought that it would be helpful to let you know who have benefitted from our grants.

In the field of education, we have donated \$45,000 to three Catholic schools.

CRISTO REY JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL is part of a national system that was established some years ago to address students in the inner-city. It combines strong academics with work experience and a strong faith dimension. Our Quilters Ministry also gives a hand-made quilt to each of their graduating seniors each year. Parish members are also tutors here.

RISEN CHRIST SCHOOL is an elementary school that is a coalition of five parishes in south Minneapolis. We have also provided school supplies, uniforms, and food assistance to the students. Several parishioners also volunteer as tutors in the school.

BLESSED TRINITY is the school for the three parishes of Richfield, which are part of the deanery in which Pax Christi is also a member. Like Risen Christ, this school also has a large Latino population.

Four programs addressing homelessness received \$58,000 in Justice grants.

YOUTHLINK is a center in downtown Minneapolis that serves young adults, ages 16–23. These are youth living on the street, often with little or no family support. They receive help with food, housing, and job training. We are also looking at the possibility of serving supper one night a month at the center.

SMALL SUMS, ST. STEPHEN'S HUMAN SERVICES, and CABRINI PROJECT/PPL work in related or complimentary areas. They help with providing housing for the homeless and creating a more stable life for them. Job training is part of the program, and resources necessary to help them in their jobs are provided.

Besides the financial support that we give these schools and agencies, we also donate food, clothing, and other supplies, often at holidays. We have been blessed in many ways, and we share generously with others. *Written by Fr. Herb Hayek, O.P.*

engage^{PC}

MEET JAN BEAULIEU

IT IS EASY to make parishioner Jan Beaulieu's face light up. Just catch her in the hallway working on one of her many bulletin boards — where she can be found almost every week — and comment on her designs. Nothing encourages her more than a positive or negative comment about one of the bulletin boards she is responsible for creating for the various Social Justice Ministries at Pax Christi.

Jan is an original member of Pax Christi, dating to the time when the church was first established and hosting Masses in a warehouse.

"It was a complete joy," says Jan, "decorating that warehouse environment into a church by designing and creating banners that provided a spiritual and liturgical backdrop for services." She is referring to the time of Pax Christi's inception, when the church first operated out of rented warehouse space on Cecilia Ave. Jan comes by her talent with a natural gift and plenty of professional experience. She was a designer on the creative services team for years at Campbell Mithun, once a top advertising agency in town, (now part of McCann Worldgroup). She worked professionally for years as a designer, then took time to raise three children and volunteer for lots of school activities related to their busy schedules. And now, she delights in using her gifts to give back with creativity by making the Justice Ministries bulletin boards come alive.

"This makes good sense and is a good fit for me," says Jan. "There is a personality and culture about this place. I would much rather be here utilizing my talents than trying to complete some ministry by maybe going downtown and serving in some other way. This gives me energy."

Jan first got involved with the bulletin boards two and half years ago when then Social Justice staff and Social Justice chair Beth

en·gage: en-geyj (verb)

To occupy oneself, become involved, participate in.

Establish a meaningful contact or connection with.

Rademacher and Barb Van Hauer respectively, reached out to Jan and asked her if she'd like to help make the bulletin boards for Social Justice Ministries come alive. Even discussing what their initial ideas were gave Jan inspiration. The goal of the bulletin boards is to promote the spirituality of the work of the Justice Ministries, to let people know what they are doing, to show how important the work is to the underserved and those on the margins of society, and how to get personally involved.

The current boards utilize a "pillar" theme and sub themes on a justice continuum of: *Charity, Partnership, Connections, Inspiration, and Advocacy* that support the pillars. They also help tie together the videos created by the Justice Council and shown over recent weeks during Mass. They reinforce the message of "Charity Gives but Justice Changes" by highlighting each sub theme:

- *Charity* (showcasing the current efforts of Twelve Baskets)
- *Partnerships* (showcasing various community partnership efforts, like Pax Christi's involvement with PROP (People Reaching Out to People), right here in Eden Prairie)
- *Connections* (featuring St. Francis, Pope Francis, and Mother Teresa)
- *Inspiration* (featuring a collage of social injustice photos)
- *Advocacy* (featuring both Pax Christi's efforts to Open Wide the Doors and the Year of Encounter by Pope Francis)

So the next time you are in the south hallway of Pax Christi, take a minute to reflect on the bulletin boards, appreciate the artwork, and see if you, too might be inspired to get involved in one or more of the Justice Ministries. And remember, justice changes.

Written by Geri Martin, Pax Christi parishioner.





PAX CHRISTI PLANTS SEEDS

SPRING is a season of possibilities. As we gaze out our windows at the once frozen earth, we know that beneath the barren soil, seeds are eagerly waiting to erupt into the plants and flowers that gave us such joy and beauty last summer. Empty flower pots are filled with possibility as we consider what worked well last year and incorporate new ideas for this year. The planting of seeds and tending to our gardens are perfect metaphors to describe our Christian calling from the Master Gardener who created us to plant good seed and cultivate life-giving relationships. However, any good gardener knows this is hard work. All that plowing, sowing, watering, and waiting takes much time and attention. Yet reaping right relationships with our brothers and sisters is as beautiful as a summer garden in full bloom.

During the six-week winter session of Year of Encounter with Pope Francis, a group of us were able to ponder some thoughtful questions about the seeds we scatter. We asked ourselves if we scatter seeds of unconditional love, compassion, and acceptance that create a fertile ground for inclusion, or do we spread anger, fear, and judgment on others? In response, we discussed concrete ways to be inclusive as we strive to recognize the image and likeness of God through both public and private encounters with our neighbors. We looked at the power of rituals and symbols of our Catholic faith and how they can be invoked publically to confront the reality of people being excluded by our economy, our immigration system, our criminal justice system. We brainstormed ways to create a "culture of encounter" by creating deeper conversation with members of our parish and community. Motivated by the words and example of Pope Francis and through inspiration from scripture, we discussed how the things we choose to plant in our hearts become our harvest. Indeed, our hearts both initiate and reflect the quality of the world around us. We recognized that we cannot become gardeners by just reading "how-to" books or watching on the sidelines; we need to get our hands dirty. We left with much to think about and pray about and I invite you to do the same. Spring is now in the air; we can breathe a little easier, light has overcome darkness, and we can all begin anew in what we choose to plant in our hearts and in our world. *Written by Jean Thoresen, Director of Pastoral Care.*



VOLUNTEER

MONDAY VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to help put Pax Christi back in order after a busy weekend of Mass and events. Duties include cleaning the sanctuary, sacristy, and various room set-ups. Pick and choose what you like to do. Pick a time slot between 6:30am–2:00pm. We will be putting together a calendar of volunteers who may choose to work once a month or more based on their availability. If interested, please contact Al Haider, 952-405-7232, or ahaider@paxchristi.com.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP HELP NEEDED JULY 25-29

We need your help in a variety of ways listed below:

- We are looking for a youth or adult who would enjoy playing the piano during our Bible Camp drama presentations. Rehearsal times vary. Music is provided.
- Scripture stories are shared daily by our fabulous youth drama team. They break open the Word of God through music and movement as well. Youth grades six and older are invited to be a drama team member.
- Fun, Christian music is at the heart of our camp, and each family receives a CD. Our wonderful music team leads us in prayer and praise as we lift our voices to God in song. We're always looking for song leaders to join our team. Rehearsals take place throughout the summer.
- Our dedicated snack team brings our stories to life through food, which is sure to be a hit with the kids. Help as many days as you are able to help prepare and deliver the snacks.
- Our awesome craft team helps prepare and lead the campers in five different crafts. If you like to paint and create, this one's for you. Some of the preparation takes place before the week of camp and can be done at home or sitting by the lake. We will also need help with decorations.
- Games are a hit every year and offer a variety of movement and time to release some energy. Senior high youth and adults are welcome to help lead these activities.

VBC Questions? Contact Reneé Dignan, Camp Director, rdignan@paxchristi.com.

PARISHIONER NEWS

FEBRUARY BAPTISMS

Iverson Enninga Ramon Fortune 2/6/2016
 Jesse Raymond Hendricks 2/7/2016
 Renata Lopez 2/21/2016
 Caroline Eve Harer 2/27/2016

FEBRUARY FUNERALS

Charlita "Chuck" Karlin 2/13/2016
 Magdalen 'Lenny' Brockert 2/19/2016
 John G. 'Jack' Popowich, MD 2/22/2016

FEBRUARY NEW MEMBERS

John and Malgorzata Arleth
 Paul Baechler
 John and Sue Brady
 Mike and Michele Cici
 Alex Hanson and Lauren Cici
 Neil and Jeanne Heikkila
 Keith and Kelli Igoe
 Keith and Laura Kravcik
 Kevin and Lily Lockwood
 Thomas and Anna Masters
 Larry McKay and Mary Jane David
 Gullyana Morales
 Samuel and Amanda Onan
 Darryl and Diane Scott
 Steven and Meghan Tousignant
 Dan Turnbloom
 Brandt and Kari Vettel
 Cory and Jill Wagner



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 3, 2016

Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31
 Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Jn 3:7b-15
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-9/Jn 3:16-21
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20/Jn 3:31-36
 Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15
 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 10, 2016

Sunday: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14
 Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29
 Tuesday: Acts 7:51--8:1a/Ps 31:3-4, 6-8, 17, 21/Jn 6:30-35
 Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-7/Jn 6:35-40
 Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51
 Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1-2/Jn 6:52-59
 Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-17/Jn 6:60-69

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 17, 2016

Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-3, 5/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30
 Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4/Jn 10:1-10
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1-7/Jn 10:22-30
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24--13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8/Jn 12:44-50
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27/Jn 13:16-20
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-11/Jn 14:1-6
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 14:7-14

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 24, 2016

Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-13/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35
 Monday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20
 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-13, 21/Jn 14:27-31a
 Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-5/Jn 15:1-8
 Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11
 Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-10, 12/Jn 15:12-17
 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1-3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

APRIL

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Friday, April 1, beginning with Mass at 8:30am

Come and join other parishioners for Mass in the chapel at 8:30am, followed by coffee and rolls in the Chief Joseph room on the first Friday of each month. The event is sponsored by the Pax Christi Boomers and Beyond. All are welcome!

NAME TAG WEEKEND

April 9/10 – Second full weekend of each month

Name Tag weekends will occur the second full weekend of each month. As you arrive for Mass, greeters will be available to assist in the process. This is one of the Worship Council's efforts towards our goal of engaging members. It is our hope that all who come to Pax Christi to worship will be a part of our outreach to one another in this very large community of faith.

SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION: SPRING SCHEDULE

Mondays, 5:30–7:30pm beginning April 11 at Pax Christi

The Southwest Grief Coalition is a partnership of five local churches working together to provide support and education for those who are grieving. A seven-week spring series, *Living and Growing Through Loss*, will begin on Monday, April 11, hosted here at Pax Christi. The evening will include a light meal, followed by speaker, and then small group supportive sessions specific to your type of loss. If you or someone you know has suffered the death of a loved one, you are invited to participate. There is no cost to attend. For more information visit www.paxchristi.com/bereavementministry.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION MEETING

Sunday, April 17, 10:15am and 6:30pm

Complete details on page 13.

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION MEETING

Sunday, April 17, 7:15pm

Complete details on page 13.

BOOMERS AND BEYOND: FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Thursday, April 21, 9:30–11:30am, 18732 Lake Dr., Chanhassen **RSVP**

Everyone's help is needed to feed the children of the world. A wonderful way to do this is by volunteering for two hours at Feed My Starving Children. Our help is needed to pack nutritious meals consisting of vitamins and minerals added to dried vegetables, soy protein, and rice, which enable children to grow and thrive. We are offered a variety of simple tasks and a choice of sitting or standing to complete them. This food is shipped to nearly 70 countries where trusted partners distribute it. This service is an honor, done in an atmosphere of joy and satisfaction, as we care for God's Little Ones. After our Work of Mercy, some of us enjoy eating at a nearby restaurant. Both members and nonmembers are asked to RSVP, either online or by calling the RSVP line, 952-405-7251.

EARTH DAY RETREAT

Saturday, April 23, 8:30am–2:30pm **RSVP**

The day will include keynote speaker Fr. Larry Snyder, Vice President for Mission at University of St. Thomas and past president of Catholic Charities USA, a panel of experts, and exhibitor booths. Register online NOW at www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration. Additional information on pages 6–7 or online at www.paxchristi.com/earthday.

SPRING CLEAN-UP IS BACK!

Saturday, April 30 **RSVP**

The Arts, Campus, and Gardens Council would like to announce we are restarting the annual Spring Clean-up this year on April 30. We want to give the gardens and our beautiful campus a kick start for another summer season. We will be trimming, picking up trash, pulling out dead foliage, and generally sprucing up the area around the church before the new growth begins. We will also be asking people to sign up for the Adopt-A-Garden program for the rest of the summer. RSVP online or contact Ken Reineccius, 952-405-7250.

A NOTE ABOUT EVENTS AT PAX CHRISTI

Due to the large volume of events we offer at Pax Christi, we have to keep our announcements brief. Please visit us online at www.paxchristi.com for additional information and details. If an event indicates RSVP, you may register/signup online at www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration. Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.

MAKE PLANS NOW

TWELVE BASKETS ANNUAL BABY SHOWER DRIVE

Weekend of May 7/8

Baby items are needed for the Twelve Baskets annual Baby Shower Drive on Mother's Day Weekend. Bring joy to new mothers in need by donating new clothing (newborn to 5T), diapers and wipes, blankets, bottles and more – diapers (newborn to size 5) are especially needed. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

BOOMERS ANNUAL RETREAT

Tuesday, May 10, 9:00am–1:00pm at St. Edward's Church RSVP

All seniors are invited to our annual end-of-the year retreat co-sponsored with the Young at Heart seniors at the Church of St. Edward in Bloomington. The retreat will feature two spiritual directors presenting the theme "Grand Presence." "My children don't go to church anymore and my grandchildren aren't being raised in the faith. What can I do?" We will explore the ways this struggle can inspire our own spiritual growth and the ways we can continue modeling faith for our families. Boomer members can enjoy this event free as part of your annual membership. Non-members are encouraged to attend for a fee of \$15 per person with reservation and payment in advance. The day will begin at 9:00am with Mass followed by coffee and rolls and the retreat. Lunch will follow at the conclusion of the retreat. Both members and nonmembers must register by Monday, May 2, either online or by calling the RSVP line, 952-405-7251.

4TH ANNUAL RUNWALKPRAY5K

Saturday, May 14, 9:00am RSVP

See details on page 22.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PAX CHRISTI – 35 YEARS OF GIVING!

Pentecost Weekend, May 14/15

Mark your calendar and make sure you join us as we celebrate 35 years of giving! The weekend will include our annual 5K and pancake breakfast, a Pentecost Mass with special blessing of the new Peace Pole as well as our volunteers, video musings, photo memories, food and fun! Watch for additional information in the May *PaxChristiNews*.

YOUTH IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY SUMMER CAMP

June 12–25 at St. John's University, Fee is \$450 RSVP

Complete details on page 13.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP: AGE 3–6TH GRADE

July 25–29, 9:00am–12:00pm, July 30 Celebration, 5:00pm RSVP

Complete details in right panel.

PAXCONNEX: FOR THOSE ENTERING 7TH–9TH GRADE

July 25–29, 9:00am–12:00pm, July 30 Celebration, 5:00pm RSVP

Each day will be fun and faith filled! In the mornings youth will participate in a variety of activities from drama team, Bible School assistant leaders, nursery assistants, and on-site and off-site service activities. Our afternoons will be focused on activities and games that teach leadership skills, peer ministry skills, and team/community building – all while having a blast! Register online now. Additional details are available on page 13 and online.



COME SHARE THE BEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER!

Bible Camp 2016 is the week of July 25–29, 9:00am–12:00pm! Our week concludes with 5:00pm Mass on Saturday evening, July 30, and includes a dinner and entertainment! Children ages three–6th grade are invited to participate. Invite your friends as you do not have to be Pax Christi members to attend.

Come for faith and stay for fun and friendships! Our stories and activities reflect the Year of Mercy and include the power of forgiveness, love, and helping others.

We are proud to develop our own curriculum, which includes age appropriate activities for our toddlers and preschoolers. We sing together, pray together, do service and outreach, participate in wacky games, and enjoy a daily craft and snack.

JOIN THE FUN! Volunteers are needed as crew leaders, snack leaders, craft leaders, game leaders, and musicians. Parents, grandparents, college kids, empty nesters — all are welcome to join our camp experience. Training and all materials are provided. We will also need help with our decorations several weeks before camp begins.

If you're grade six and older, we would love to have you involved with our drama team. This wonderful group is the heart-beat of our camp and brings our Incredible scripture stories to life. Registration information for this outstanding experience is online at www.paxchristi.com.

Registration and further information about Bible Camp and the volunteer opportunities are also online at www.paxchristi.com/biblecamp.

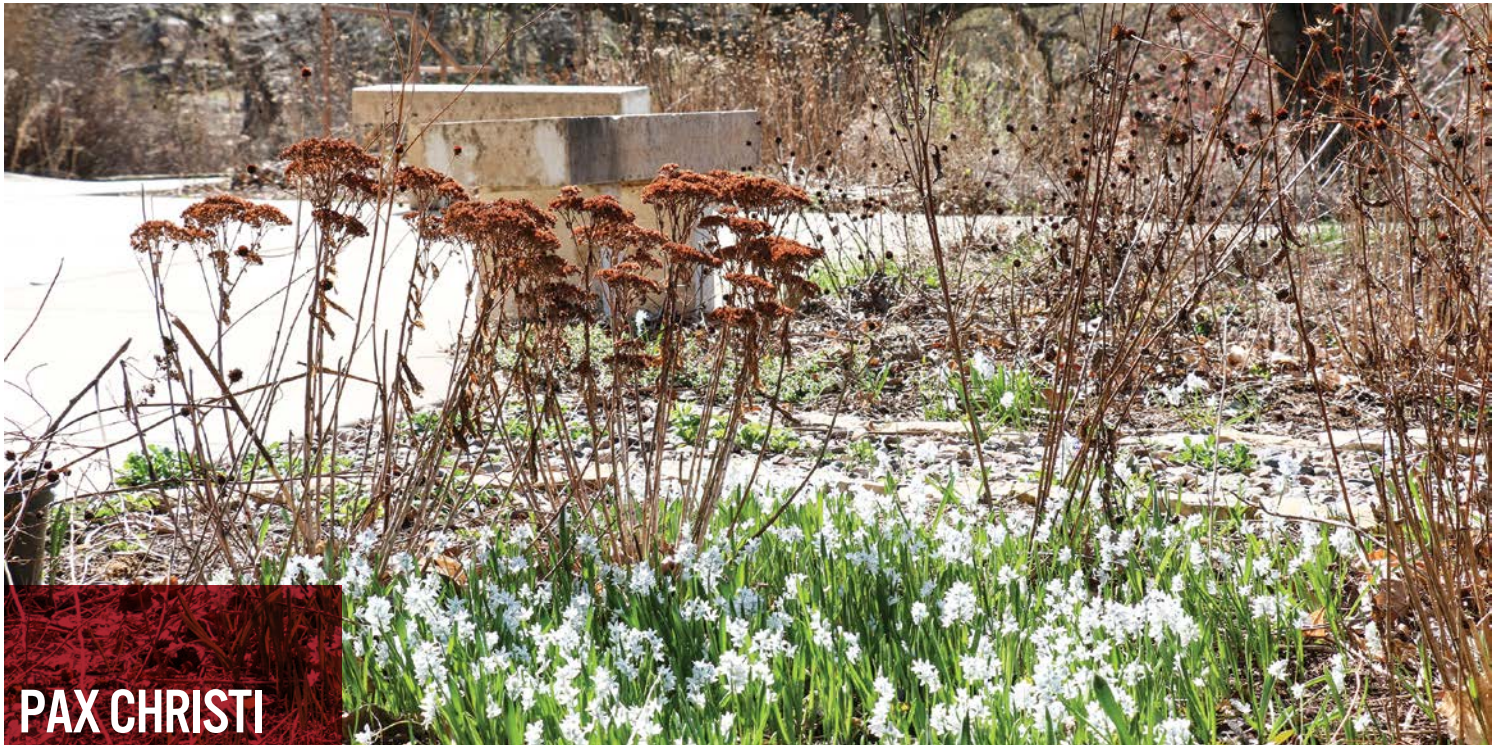
Questions? Contact Renee Dignan, Camp Director, rdignan@paxchristi.com.

APRIL

See pages 18-19 for details
or visit us online at www.paxchristi.com.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE	2
3	4 CHAIR YOGA	5 BAPTISM PREP CLASS	6 ANGEL HOUR	7 SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL WELLNESS GROUP LEADERSHIP DISCERNMENT NIGHT	8	9 NAME TAG WEEKEND NEW MEMBER WKND
FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATION NAME TAG WEEKEND NEW MEMBER WKND FAITH FORMATION	11 CHAIR YOGA SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY	12 LEADERSHIP DISCERNMENT NIGHT	13 BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY FAITH FORMATION RCIA	14	15	16 FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATION
17 PAXCONNEX INFO MTGS FAITH FORMATION	18 CHAIR YOGA SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY CONFIRMATION AT BASILICA	19 LEADERSHIP MEETINGS	20 ANGEL HOUR BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY FAITH FORMATION RCIA	21 BOOMERS FMSC	22	23 FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATION EARTH DAY RETREAT
24 FIRST EUCHARIST CELEBRATION FAITH FORMATION	25 CHAIR YOGA SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY	26	27 BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY FAITH FORMATION RCIA	28	29	30 SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY MARRIAGE PREP RETREAT BABY CARE DRIVE BEGINS





PAX CHRISTI CONTACTS

PASTOR

Fr. Bill Murtaugh 952-405-7245

**SR ASSOCIATE PASTOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE CONTACT**

Fr. Herb Hayek, O.P. 952-405-7219

DEACONS

Al Schroeder 952-405-7205
Terry Beer 952-405-7231
Charles Bobertz 952-405-7239

PARISH DIRECTOR

Jane Schmitz 952-405-7238

PARISH FINANCIAL MANAGER

Anne Swenson 952-405-7202

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Maria Miller 952-405-7217
Andrea Ward 952-405-7207
Sally Bergum 952-405-7229

COMMUNICATION ARTS *Editor*

Melissa Nault 952-405-7221

FAITH FORMATION

Director	Lynn Schelitzche	952-405-7230
Middle School/Senior High	Peter Bierer	952-405-7210
Preschool through Grade 6	Reneé Dignan	952-405-7212
Middle School Coordinator	Michelle Frederick	952-405-7213

OPERATIONS

Director	Ken Reineccius	952-405-7250
Building Services Coord.	Al Haider	952-405-7234
Building Services	Terry Lee	952-405-7233
Building Services	Todd Nelson	952-405-7233

PASTORAL CARE

Director	Jean Thoresen	952-405-7211
Pastoral Care Specialist	Mary Ann Callahan	952-405-7227

STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Director	Mary Kennedy	952-405-7220
Nursery and Hospitality Coord.	Janell McBeain	952-405-7242

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Director	Donna Kasbohm	952-405-7240
Teen Choir	Angie O'Brien	952-405-7243
Liturgy /Children's Choir	Lonne Murphy	952-405-7247

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Fr. William Murtaugh
Jane Schmitz, Parish Director
Mary Beth Buckman
Mark Cox
Mike Karas
Pat Kelly
Mike Kennedy
Marcia Kladek
Joan Paré
Peter Rasmussen
Brad Schlieff
Mike Schneider
Joe Stich, Chair
Wayne Ward

PARISH TRUSTEES

Shari Steffen
Bruce Koehn

FINANCE COUNCIL

Peter Rasmussen, Chair



Church of Pax Christi of Eden Prairie
12100 Pioneer Trail
Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #3844
TWIN CITIES, MN

**PLEASE DELIVER
BY MARCH 31.**

Change Service Requested

Just One of the Highlights of
Pax Christi's
35th Anniversary
Celebration Weekend
May 14–15!

Register now for the 4th annual

PAX CHRISTI RunWalkPray5K

Saturday, May 14, 9:00am

*\$20 for the first entrant,
\$10 for each additional
participant within a
household.*

This parish-wide event will benefit the Pax Christi Giving Garden (Crops for PROP) and build community among Pax Christi families and the greater Eden Prairie neighborhood. All are welcome – bring someone along who is not a member! Our goal is 250 participants, so we need you to join in the fun. Register online by visiting www.paxchristi.com/5k. The fee is \$20 for the first entrant, \$10 for each additional participant within a household (includes t-shirt and pancake breakfast).



Complete details and course map at www.paxchristi.com/5k