PAXCHRISTINES

Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie December 2017

MARY'S "YES" AND OUR "YES"

Families on a Mission

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AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH

God's choice to dwell in the chaos. Pages 8-9



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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

Mission Statement: Pax Christi Catholic Community, in company with God, and guided by the Spirit of Vatican II, welcomes all as leaders in faith for service to the world.

Vision Statement: Pax Christi Catholic Community will be a community guided by a cooperative spirit that supports growth in faith and calls for each member to engage in active and generous service to each other, our community and the greater world.

THE PAX CHRISTI NEWS IS PRINTED MONTHLY BY THE CHURCH OF PAX CHRISTI OF EDEN PRAIRIE. EMAIL COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS TO MELISSA NAULT, COMMUNICATION ARTS DIRECTOR, MNAULT@PAXCHRISTI.COM, OR 952-405-7221.







And the Word Became Flesh...























BEFORE I FORGET...



Fr. Bill Murtaugh Pastor

ENTRUST YOURSELF
TO GOD. GOD SEEMS
SO IMMENSE AND FAR
AWAY FROM YOU. BUT
IF YOU HUMBLY OPEN
UP TO GOD, YOU WILL
FEEL GOD NEAR.

A CHILD'S LETTER TO GOD:

"Dear God, Did you think that Christmas would turn out like this when you started it?

Love, Wendy (age 7)"

(from *Dear God*, *Children's Letters* to *God* by David Heller.)

That is an interesting question. Did God foresee how we would celebrate Christmas in the 21st century — and did God send the Son in spite of it all? That really tells us how much God loves us. So much of our current celebration of Christmas is so out of alignment with the spirit of the original story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Now the Christmas season stresses out people with hectic activity. The season of Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for this wonder-filled feast of God becoming one like us.

Matthew is so interested in telling his readers, from the beginning of the Gospel, the deep significance of the name of the protagonist of the story. Even before he is born he is named Jesus, which means: God saves. He is called that because He will save His people from their sins.

We humans need to be saved from evil, injustice, violence. We need to be forgiven and reoriented toward a life more worthy of human beings. This is the salvation we receive through Jesus. Another name also given to Jesus is Emmanuel: God with Us. It is given to Jesus by those who believe that God accompanies us, blesses us, and saves us in and through Jesus.

Twenty-one centuries since His birth. Christians must learn to pronounce Jesus' name in a new way: affectionately and lovingly, with a renewed faith and an attitude of conversion. The name of Jesus was etched in the hearts of the first generations of Christians. They repeated it over and over. They were baptized in His name; they gathered for prayer in His name. The name of Jesus was the synthesis of their faith. For the Apostle Paul it was above every other name. In one of the first Christian hymns Paul writes, "every knee should bend at the name of Jesus" (Philippians 2:10). In our daily commitment to Jesus Christ and His Gospel way of living, we can live and die in hope, with his name on our lips and in our

On December 25 we celebrate the great mystery of God becoming one of us. It is such a loving and tender mystery that in order to experience the Son of God becoming human, one of us, we need to prepare ourselves inwardly. Ask yourself: What does it mean, how can you know that God is with you?

To appreciate the One we have named God, you and I need some alone time in a quiet, restful place. Ask yourself: Where does my life come from? What is there in the deepest part of my being? Where is my life going?

Entrust yourself to God. God seems so immense and far away from you. But if you humbly open up to God, you will feel God near. God dwells within you, holding you in your fragileness and giving you life. People love you from outside you; God loves you from within you; God is in you. Do not cheat yourself by ignoring God.

The French writer, J. Onimus, writes: "Why should you (Jesus Christ) be the private property of preachers, highly qualified and learned; you taught such simple and direct truths, words that continue to give life to all people." After 45 years of journeying with the People of God, the conviction that motivates me is that faith in Jesus Christ is the greatest strength a human being can find



to face each day, the clearest light to live life successfully, the most indestructible hope to look to the future with confidence.

Many have distanced themselves from the church in these times because, perhaps, they have not found Jesus Christ in the church. In a scene described in the Gospel of John, we are told that Jesus, seeing many people deserting him, asked the disciples, "You do not want to leave too, do you?" And Peter, direct as always, replied, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe in you." We too, for all one knows, may have to say the same thing — "To whom shall we go?"

Whoever gets close to Jesus has the feeling of meeting someone strangely contemporary. There is something indefinable in his words and deeds that impact us even today, for they touch the core of our most vital problems and concerns. The passing of the centuries has not dulled the power and life in them, especially if we open our hearts to him with sincerity.

It is sad to say not many people get to know Jesus. They haven't been fortunate to listen to his message told in a simple and direct way. His teachings have reached them distorted by doctrines, formulas, and abstruse theological debate.



It is only with the heart that we can truly experience the Christmas message of faith: God became human.

Many ordinary, good people do not know the way to get close to Jesus who was full of God, who warmly embraces children, who welcomes prostitutes, sinners, the outcast, the poor, who weeps at the death of his friends, gives hope, and calls everyone to be free to live a more dignified and happy life.

Jesus taught us that God loves us. This is the message of Christmas — God is very near to you, right where you are, no matter what is going on in your life — if only you will open yourself to God who came into our world as a newborn infant. That infant says to each one of us that we don't need to fear God, only love God as we would love a newborn child, with unconditional love.

It is only with the heart that we can truly experience the Christmas message of faith: God became human. Now you will never be alone. God is with us. Now you know something about Christmas that makes us want to celebrate it as believers, enjoy it, and share the joy with others, and be generous to those who live in suffering and sadness.

We have a Savior, Jesus the Christ, born for all of us. "Do not be afraid" as the angels told Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the entire staff!



THE SEASON OF ADVENT AT

ST. AUGUSTINE tells us that angels are spirits, God's faithful ministers. They become "angels" — heavenly messengers — when they are sent on a mission by God. They are spirits by name and messengers by actions. Angels are a channel of God's blessings to us, and their duty is to lead all of humankind toward the realization of the reign of God, both now and in the future.

Angels are part of our spiritual heritage from Judaism. The angels are present at creation, and the prophets speak their message. The psalms tell us that God's angels protect us and join us in praising God. Unnamed angels in the New Testament come to St. Joseph and the magi in their dreams, and they tend Jesus (as they tended Ezekiel) in the desert after his temptation and also in the garden of his agony. They are present in the empty tomb to announce the Resurrection, and signal the coming of the Last Day in Revelation. (AIM Vol. 48, No. 3, 2017 World Library Publications)

During this season of Advent, you are invited to take an "angel message," found in the gathering space, to ponder and keep in your heart for your reflection time. We are reminded that the nourishment we receive in the Eucharist is nourishment for eternal life. Therefore, we continue to ask that the angels guide us into that life.

Written by Donna Kasbohm, Director of Liturgy.



Angel was designed and crafted by Pax Christi member, Mark Lanners.



PAX CHRISTI

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

"The GIFT of Angels"
Tuesday, December 12, 7:00pm

Clergy will be available for private confessions following the Reconciliation Service.

Hear the herald angels singing: "Peace to God's whole earth!" they cry.

We are called to slow down and take the longer view of our lives. Mark's gospel reminds us:

"Be watchful! Be alert!" We pray for clear eyes that are able to see God's "faithful messengers" and read the signs of the times. We pray for the ears of our hearts to hear the words of forgiveness, mercy, and promise, remembering that we do not walk alone in the spiritual life. John O'Donohue, an Irish poet, has said, "May all the angels be your sheltering and joyful guardians."

The "God of Openness and Life" blesses us and invites us to reach down within, to extend compassion to ourselves and to others, and to look into the dead spaces of our hearts that need to change so that we can give hope, healing, and courage, to ourselves and others. Advent is the promise of a new order of things, of life, and of our very existence.

"Tomorrow the angels will tell what has happened with loud rejoicing voices, and we shall know it and be glad, if we have believed and trusted in Advent."

—Alfred Delp, Watch for the Light.

ADVENT BEGINS DECEMBER 3 2017 SCHEDULE

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Private)

Saturdays, December 2, 9, 16, 23 3:30–4:30pm

First Sunday of Advent December 3

Feast of the Immaculate ConceptionDecember 8
Holy Day Morning Mass
8:30am

Second Sunday of Advent December 10

Advent Reconciliation ServiceThe Gift of Angels

Opportunity for individual confessions following the service.

Third Sunday of Advent December 17

Fourth Sunday of AdventDecember 23/24Saturday Mass5:00pmSunday Mass9:00am

NOTE: No 11:00am Mass.

Christmas Eve December 24 Stories and Songs, followed by 1:45pm Children's Christmas Eve Mass 2:00pm Fr. Paveglio Christmas Mass Fr. Paveglio 4:00pm Christmas Mass Fr. Murtaugh 6:00pm Christmas Mass Fr. McMichael 7:30pm Lessons and Carols, followed by 9:30pm Solemn Celebration of Christmas 10:00pm Fr. Murtaugh

Christmas Day
Christmas Mass

Pr. Paveglio

9:00am

Christmas Mass Fr. Murtaugh 11:00am

NOTE: No 5:00pm Mass, building closed.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and JosephDecember 30/31December 30Fr. Paveglio5:00pmDecember 31Fr. Paveglio9:00amDecember 31Fr. Murtaugh11:00amDecember 31Fr. Murtaugh5:00pm

Feast of Mary, Mother of GodHoly Day Mass

Fr. Paveglio

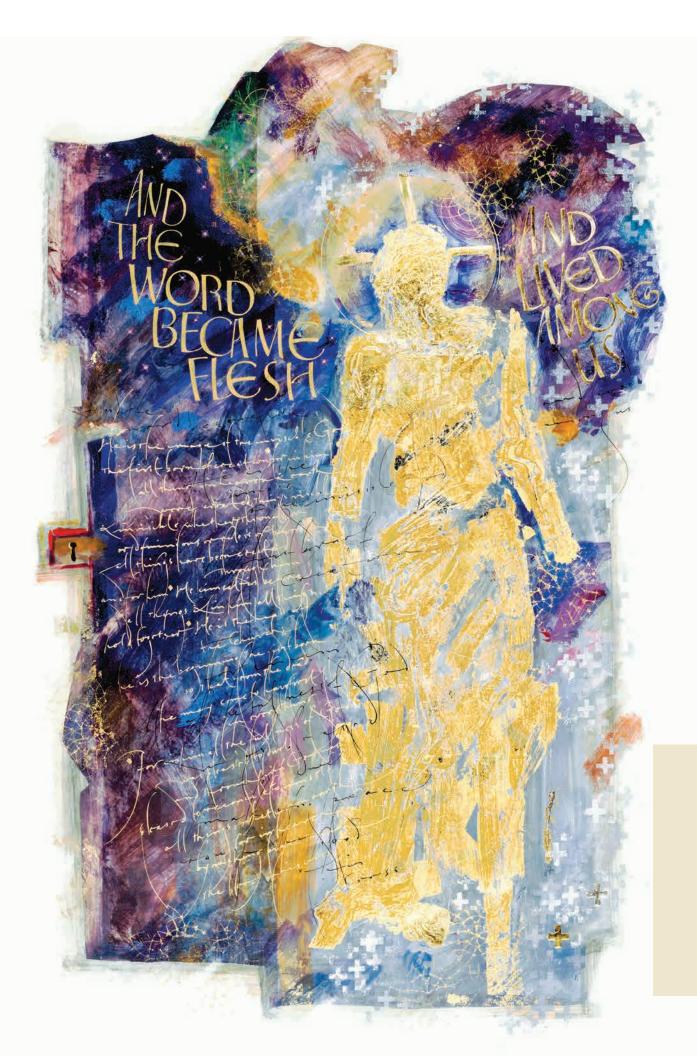
9:00am

Feast of the Epiphany January 7

Regular Weekend Mass and Reconciliation Schedule

Baptism of the LordRegular Daily Mass
8:30am

www.paxchristi.com/advent



"AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH ..."

JOHN'S FAMED GOSPEL starts off, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (1:1) Christ the Word, the fully divine Word, was with God from the very beginning, creating and loving and giving life to all things.

The story continues. Sin happened. Humanity fell. We needed help. We needed a savior ... and the Word could not stay away. "He was in the world," John writes.

Jesus Christ the Word was born into this world. Our world. Our broken, needy world.

Look at the chaos that Christ was born into. We see it depicted in this illumination from *The Saint John's Bible* — a mess of purples and blues and greens swirling together, brush strokes every which way. There

are little honeycomb shapes and crosses overlapping all over the place. Look at the chaos.

Look at the chaos.

We see it every day — black and white and brown trying to figure out how to live together. Violence breaking out every which way. The overlapping of genuine desires for peace with genuine desires for justice. Look at the chaos.

And then look at Christ, the word who became flesh and lived among us.

Look at Christ right here, right in the thick of things, radiating in divine gold amid the chaos. Indeed, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Christ the Word, the Light, does not let the darkness overcome. He does not let the chaos break us down.

There's no doubt that a lot of hurt is inflicting our world right now. The violence, the unrest, the prejudice — it's confusing and it can be easy to lose hope. So it's important to return to this passage often. To remind ourselves that the Word became flesh and lived among us. The Word was in the world and gifted the world with a light that darkness cannot ever overcome.

This golden one is a figure of hope and love and all that is good, right, and true.

Advent and Christmas are seasons to celebrate the Incarnation, God's choice to become flesh and live among us, God's choice to dwell in the chaos, God's choice to love this broken world more than we can ever imagine.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



Written by Jessie Bazan, Youth Formation Minister.

What word or phrase stands out to you?

How might God be speaking to you through this word or phrase?

Where are your eyes drawn in the illumination?

Are there any areas you avoid?

AS THE first handwritten and illuminated Bible in more than 500 years, *The Saint John's Bible* was commissioned by the monks of Saint John's Abbey with the hope that its beautiful illuminations and calligraphy would ignite the spiritual imaginations of readers. Its evocative artwork, brilliant colors, and beautiful calligraphy have made *The Saint John's Bible* one of the best evangelization and catechesis tools of its time. The Word Made Flesh illumination corresponds with the opening of John's Gospel. Consider taking time individually or as a family to pray with the text of John 1:1-14 and the illumination.

Opposite Page:
Word Made Flesh, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible,
Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA.
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MARY'S "YES" AND OUR "YES": FAMILIES ON A MISSION

"MARY SAID, 'I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

The first chapter of Luke's gospel contains the story of the Annunciation — the angel appearing to Mary and telling her about God's plan for her to be the Mother of Jesus. Have you ever stopped to consider the incredible courage and faith it must have taken for Mary to utter these words?

While the angel Gabriel certainly speaks in declarative sentences, those words to her are really a question, an invitation. It is Mary's response — her "yes" — that puts the plan into action.

Mary, an unwed teenager at the time, had a lot to lose. She was risking her safety, reputation, and well-being by agreeing to bear the Son of God. Yet her openness to the will of God in her life and the life of the world gave her the courage to say "yes!"

And it is that initial "yes" that emboldens her to proclaim the power and justice of God. Even today, we can hear fire and resonance in the prophetic words she speaks when she visits her cousin Elizabeth later in the first chapter of Luke's gospel:

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name...
God has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things; God has senttherich away empty.

As the power of God literally grows within her, Mary hears the call of God, responds with the support of her community (Joseph, Elizabeth, and others), and uses her gifts and very self to bring forth the New Life who

is the source of all healing and justice in the

(Luke 1:49, 52-53)

world.

This December, families in our Faith Formation program will explore together Mary's "yes" in the context of God's calling in our own lives. What does it mean to be called by God? How are we each invited to respond? What might that response look like in the context of a family?

Family members of all ages, from preschoolers to adults, are invited to join us for an engaging evening of prayer, music, learning, and service as we explore together how God is calling us to use our unique gifts to live as families on a mission for God's kingdom!

Written by Jessie Johnson, Youth Formation Minister



JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FAITH FORMATION EVENT ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NIGHTS:

- December 6, 6:30-7:45pm
- December 10, 4:45-6pm
- December 10, 6:30-7:45pm

PILGRIMAGE BRINGS MANY BLESSINGS



WE BOARDED our motor coach at Pax Christi on a beautiful September morning, and our entire trip to the Wisconsin shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe was full of stunning scenery — multicolored hills, trees, and bushes — as nature prepared us for a unique spiritual encounter. Forty-four pilgrims accompanied us to La Crosse, WI, to visit, pray, meditate, build community, make new friendships, ask Our Blessed Mother for special intentions, and give thanks to God for our many blessings. Only 10 of the 44 pilgrims had been to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, so it was a first for the great majority of us! Father Marc joined us on this pilgrimage, leading us in prayer and the rosary — and even hymns! The entire experience helped to bring us closer together with a common purpose — loving God and loving each other. After stopping at a rest area for coffee, goodies, and a stretch, we arrived at the shrine. We journeyed up the gentle hill and passed statues of St. Joseph, St. Kateri Tekawitha, the Guardian Angel, St. Juan Diego, and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pilgrims reflected on the shrine's country setting, welcoming atmosphere, the beautiful grounds, the amazing votive chapel, the architecture of the wonderful church, the inspirational art icons, and the terrific company! We participated in Mass, concelebrated by Fr. Marc, and then had a delicious lunch at the Shrine's café. Our entire experience was God-inspired and will be with us always. The rain held off until we were safely on the bus and the ride back home took us along the river, which was also lovely. Many expressed the desire to return, and maybe we will some day!





HONORING OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS AND QUEEN OF MEXICO

Saturday, December 9 at the 5:00pm Mass

All are invited to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe at our second annual Pax Christi celebration during the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, December 9. The Blessed Mother, in the form of a mestiza young woman, appeared four times in December, 1531, to St. Juan Diego, a poor indigenous Mexican, on Tepeyac Hill above Mexico City. She identified herself as the mother of God and asked that a shrine be built for her. Her image miraculously appeared on St. Juan Diego's tilma, or cloak. After 486 years, this very image is framed and still hangs in Our Lady of Guadalupe's basilica in Mexico City, and the basilica is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world. In 1945, Pope Pius XII declared Our Lady of Guadalupe the Queen of Mexico and Patroness of the Americas. In 2016, Juan Diego was named a saint by Pope Francis. Millions from all over the Americas come to pay tribute to her — especially around the time of her December 12 feast day.

Afterthe Saturday 5:00 pm Mass, Pax Christi's Latino community will serve a home-cooked Mexican meal. The fiest a will include mariachis, a piñata, and artwork honoring Our Lady. Mexican sweet breads will also be served following the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses on Sunday, December 10.

ALL ARE WELCOME/iBIENVENIDOS A TODOS!

Written by Cecilia Cervantes. Worship Council Member

ON OUR JOURNEY OF STEWARDSHIP: GIVING THE GIFT OF YOU

I have no gift to bring Pa rum pum pum pum That's fit to give our King Pa rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum

Shall I play for you Pa rum pum pum pum On my drum

Mary nodded Pa rum pum pum pum The ox and lamb kept time Pa rum pum pum pum I played my drum for Him Pa rum pum pum pum I played my best for Him Pa rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum

Then He smiled at me Pa rum pum pum pum Me and my drum

-partial text of the "Little Drummer Boy"

ONE OF MY favorite Christmas Carols has always been the "Little Drummer Boy." As a small child, I liked to think that the song meant that Jesus not only welcomed the kings with their rich gifts, but also the lowly shepherd boy — who was much closer to my status than any myrrh-carrying king from the East. In high school, this song once again reclaimed my heart with a rendition by classic crooner Bing Crosby and the rocker David Bowie.

This incredibly strange duo appeared on a Bing Crosby "Merrie Olde Christmas" special, which aired in late 1977. The premise of the special was that Crosby was on holiday in England and all sorts of British celebrities kept dropping in to say "cheerio." The duet was recorded on September 11, 1977, (how's that for a crazy coincidental date?) and Bing died of a heart attack one month later. When Bowie arrived for the taping and learned what he and Crosby would be singing, he refused to sing that song as he "hated it," according to a Washington Post story by Paul Farhi posted on December 20, 2006. Bowie only accepted the job as his mother loved Bing Crosby. The producers immediately jumped to work and quickly weaved another melody together called "Peace on Earth," which Bowie sang while Bing "rum pum pum pum-ed" his finest in harmony.

The reason I like this rendition so much is that two disparate individuals came together and shared their gifts, resulting in something quite unique and entertaining. Good things can come out of crazy pairings. Similarly to "Little Drummer Boy," the "Peace on Earth" song was also hopeful. The hope the songs shared was that in coming together in community, the world could live in peace. That is a theme for all time: the drummer boy provides the syncopated beat and each of us shares our own gifts in perfect harmony.

Dusting off the saccharine left behind by these sugar plum fairies, good and great things can happen when we come together and offer the gift of ourselves to one another. The best gift we can give is sharing our heart and our time with the people we encounter. Our gifts do not have to be extravagant or expensive. The best gifts given are when they are genuine and heartfelt. What if David Bowie had said, "I'll come back next month when you have another song picked out?" It would have been too late. If the producers hadn't been inspired by the muse to match up these two talented individuals, it would

have been a missed opportunity. The opportunity was presented and the gift came together in the moment. Inspiration and talent shared created a Christmas classic. In this season of anticipation, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, what gifts can you and your family share with others to celebrate the Drummer Boy or Girl found in YOU?





BELL RINGING RUNS IN THE FAMILY

KELLY SCHACHT and her daughter, Jessica Schacht, have been in the handbell choir at Pax Christi for almost 10 years. How did this long-lived family tradition come about?

The mother and daughter joined when Jessica, an eighth-grader at the time, was recruited for her music-reading skills as a violinist. Once Kelly shared her history as a flute player, the musical cat was out of the bag as she was told, "Okay, you should come too!"

Although the recruitment occurred quickly, the Schacht's involvement in the choir has endured for almost a decade. Kelly has been with the choir for the entire stretch, while Jessica took a break while earning her chemical engineering degree from the University of Minnesota-Duluth from 2012-2016. Shortly after returning to the choir in the fall of 2016, Jessica introduced a new recruit — her now-fiancé Chris Larson.

Chris won't officially be an in-law until September 2018, but is already a member of the Pax Christi bell choir family. Music was "in the wheelhouse already," Chris says, with nine years of percussion and nine years of piano under his belt. So when Jessica suggested the idea, the decision wasn't hard to make. He's been in the choir for over five months now, and is enjoying it so far. It's a way to participate in his new community, he says.

What do the Schachts hope to provide as bell ringers? Even before joining the choir, she "always thought it was fun to hear them play," Jessica says. All three hope that the bell choir today offers similar enrichment for other Pax Christi members attending Mass.

It's a manageable way to make an impact on Pax Christi, with only three monthly rehearsals and two monthly performances. "Even if you're busy, you could still do it," Jessica tells me, adding that for her, bell choir is "a break from regular thinking," and a chance "to do something fun."

The bells play for three Pax Christi weekend Masses (excluding Sunday nights), but rotate which Mass they play for. The group just played at a Saturday evening Mass, Chris says, and the next Mass will be a 9:00am, followed by an 11:00am performance. The group occasionally plays for other special events like Confirmations, but generally sticks to regular Masses, Easter, and Christmas Masses.

The handbell choir is currently looking for new members. The choir "could always use more flexibility so we don't have to cancel when more than two people are gone," Jessica says. Amid some laughter, it emerges that a recently proposed schedule change was scrapped because Jessica and Kelly had prior plans to go wedding dress shopping.

Having additional members and subs is especially important because of the limited number of bells and notes one person can play. "Being in bell choir is not like being in the singing choir," Kelly explains. "In the singing choir, there's always someone that can fill your spot, but in the bell choir, if you're not there for your particular bells ... it's much harder to cover the missing notes."

Are you interested in joining a fun group of bell ringers and getting more involved in the Mass? Contact director Shari Steffen by calling the parish office, 952-405-7221. Come ring out your joy with the bells!

Written by Anne Daly, Writer and Technical Editor

PONDERING THE QUESTIONS OF LIFE

Be patient toward all that is unresolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves...Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.—Rainer Maria Rilke

AT CERTAIN TRANSITION points in our lives, we are asked to live with many questions. We need quiet places where we can process all that life is calling is us to deal with at the present moment. It may be illness, caregiving, loss of some kind, or a new phase in life. We find we cannot deal with all the uncertainty alone.

Pondering life's questions in a compassionate setting with others can take away the anxiety we face. When we listen to others, it helps us to not feel alone in our journey. I may find or hear my solution through the telling of your story. Still, it is the listening that is important. We are not out to fix each other but to give one another space to live with our individual questions.

Here at Pax Christi, we have a Compassionate Care Listening Circle that meets the third Thursday of each month. If you are at a crossroads and are in search of a sacred space to deal with the questions life is giving you, contact Jean Thoresen, Director of Care and Support Ministry, for more information about the listening circle.

Written by Jeanie Hansen, Co-facilitator of Compassionate Care Listening Circle

COMPASSIONATE CARE LISTENING CIRCLE:

Third Thursday of the month, 3:00–4:30pm

RSVP to Jean Thoresen, jthoresen@paxchristi.com



WRAPPED IN LOVE AND PRAYER

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY started in 2006 when my husband and I received a prayer shawl from a friend after the death of our son. It was so comforting to wrap the shawl around me, knowing that someone cared and prayed for whomever received it. It is a deep spiritual ministry — it was like the Lord wrapping His arms around me. I contacted Pax Christi and found that we did not have this ministry at that time, so we got it started. The first year we made 48 shawls. It has grown ever since; we are fast approaching the 600th completed shawl. Our shawls have gone as far as Texas, New York, and Florida — 33 went to families who loved ones were killed in the Virginia Tech massacre.

These shawls can be a gift to anyone going through an event in life, happy, or difficult. They can go to those grieving a loss or happier times like bridal showers, new babies, and weddings. When you choose a shawl, there are prayers that go along with each of these events.

Our knitting pattern is done in threes, knit three, purl three. There is symbolism in 3s. In the Christian faith it is the Trinity: child, adult, senior; birth, death, and rebirth; past, present and future, therefore the pattern stitches of three. I tend to say, "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph," while knitting my series of three stitches.

We would like to thank all the people for sharing their talents and time to make this ministry a success. Anyone wishing to join the ministry can contact Inez Bugman, 763-559-6988, Prayer Ministry Chairperson, or Staff Liaison, Renee Reardon, 952-405-7200, rreardon@paxchristi.com.

Call the parish office, 952-951-3150, or stop in if you would like to give a prayer shawl to someone. A suggested donation of \$20 helps to offset the cost of yarn.

Written by Inez Bugman, Prayer Shawl Ministry





ON THE ROAD TO JERICHO

CONTINUING OUR FAITH COMMUNITY JOURNEY TO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PLIGHT OF IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANTS, AND REFUGEES

IN THE AUGUST issue of the *PaxChristiNews*, we introduced an initiative known as *On the Road to Jericho*. This is an effort to gain a deeper understanding of Catholic social teaching related to immigration, immigrants, migrants, and refugees, and to bring that information to our entire parish community. We have had several events, speakers, and documentaries that have showcased the more personal side of the immigrant/refugee experience. Going forward, *On the Road to Jericho* will offer more opportunities for all of us to be more informed, involved, and proactive in this important issue.

Following the admonition of St. Paul, "Welcome one another then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God" (Romans 15:7). We are called to understand how that welcome can be extended today. As a first step, those who have participated in On Road to Jericho events have gained a deeper understanding of this issue by exposure to immigrants' personal stories. As Christians, we are encouraged through the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, The Love of Christ Toward Migrants, to "promote an authentic culture of welcome capable of accepting the truly human values of immigrants over and above any difficulties caused by living together with persons who are different."

To this end, in 2003, the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States issued a Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope.* After introducing the many human, religious, social, political, and legal challenges inherent in globalization and its impact in the Americas, the bishop's stated five principles from Catholic social teaching which may guide our view of migration.

- **1.** Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland people have a right to work, and work that provides a just, living wage is a basic human need.
- **2.** Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families the goods of the earth belong to all peoples. When life sustaining employment cannot be found in their country of origin, people have the right to migrate and nations should provide ways to accommodate this right.
- **3.** Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders while granting this right of control, such control is rejected when it is exerted merely for the purpose of acquiring additional wealth.
- **4.** Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection those who flee persecution have a right to claim refugee status without incarceration.
- **5.** The human dignity and human rights of undocumented migrants should be respected regardless of their legal status, migrants, like all human beings, possess inherent human dignity and that dignity should be respected.

As we have learned of the nature and reach of the issues embedded in immigration, we have learned firsthand the stories of people from our own community. We invite you to join us in learning guided by our faith. We have opportunities to assist our neighbors and to be better ourselves on this journey, like the Good Samaritan ... on the road to Jericho.

Written by Mary Beth Buckman, Lay Leadership Development Council

READINGS FOR DECEMBER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3, 2017

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/

1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10, 2017

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14/2 Pt 3:8-14/

Mk 1:1-8

Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26 Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/

Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30 Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15 Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/

Mt 17:9a, 10-13

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17, 2017

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54/

1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25 Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45 Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56 Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2017

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29/

Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Vigil: ls 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/

Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25; Midnight Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/ Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14; Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/ Lk 2:15-20; Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/

Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18 Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 2017

Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9,/

Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42 Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11

PARISHIONER NEWS

OCTOBER BAPTISMS

Dylan Thomas Bjerke	10/1/2017
Donovan Mark Denny	10/7/2017
Addison Ann Maiers	10/8/2017
Jack Christian McDaniels	10/15/2017
Elizabeth Claire Brunner	10/22/2017
Madelyn Grace Brunner	10/22/2017
Madox Cubby Blair McClellan	10/22/2017
Kai Hudlow Schletty	10/22/2017
Norah Celestine Adou	10/29/2017
Anthony Christopher Alonzi	10/29/2017
Brooke Rose Halvorsen	10/29/2017
Benjamin Nicholas Heinze	10/29/2017

OCTOBER WEDDING

Courtney Hanousek and Gavin Miller 10/14/2017

OCTOBER FUNERALS

 Margaret A. Lavelle
 10/16/2017

 Rose (Bailey) Stuhlman
 10/17/2017

 Marcella M. Muchow
 10/26/2017

 Steven Paul Kieser
 10/27/2017

OCTOBER NEW MEMBERS

Carl and Janice Gammon
James Gillham
Marie Griesmann
Michael and Ashley Groehler
Derrick Hanson and Jen Okerlund
Gaylord and Mary May
Sam and Jennifer Remus
Genevieve Simonson and Daniel Liesener
Chris and Karen Wattengel





IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE PAX CHRISTI CHILDREN'S CHOIR!

The Children's Choir is still open to enthusiastic singers between grades 2 and 6. We rehearse on Sundays at 10:00am and usually sing at one Mass each month. We will also be singing at the Children's Christmas Eve Mass beginning at 1:45pm on Christmas Eve. You do not need to make each rehearsal or Mass to participate. Contact Amanda Tahnk-Johnson, Amanda.TahnkJohnson@gmail.com, with questions.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORY at 1:45pm; Mass at 2:00pm

Each year, Pax Christi's young people take the lead in being ministers of the Word and music for a special Children's Christmas Eve Mass. This is one of our most treasured traditions here at Pax Christi. Our Children's Christmas Eve celebration begins with 3rd and 4th grade youth telling the story of Christmas in word and song at 1:45pm. Mass begins at 2:00pm.

Third and fourth-grade students are invited to participate in telling the Christmas Story in word and song as prelude to this Christmas Eve Mass.

The Pax Christi Children's Choir, whose members are 2nd through 6th graders, will support the music for this special Children's Christmas Mass. Anyone wishing to join the Children's Choir is invited to get connected now (see page one for more information), as this is a great way to get to know the choir and have a special role in our community Christmas celebrations.

Rehearsal for all is Saturday, December 23, 9:00am-12:00noon

Participants and their parents will be required to attend the one and only dress rehearsal. In order to successfully create this special liturgy, parent volunteers are needed. Registration is required no later than December 9. *Visit www.paxchristi.com/childrenschristmasmass* for online registration or contact Joan Howe-Pullis, 952-405-7247. Questions? Contact the Parish Office, 952-941-3150.



BOW: BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

We are excited to announce the return of our Facebook group – Breaking Open the Word. Every Sunday evening we will post the readings for the following weekend's Masses. We invite you to join this group and post your personal reflections on the readings. This will serve our community in getting more deeply connected with each other and with our presiders. All members of Pax Christi are invited to join this enlightening group and to share with all of us the unique way the Word intersects with our everyday lives.

www.facebook.com/groups/breakingopentheword

DECEMBER

"SHARE THE JOY" CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Drop off gifts at doors 1 & 3 in the designated Bins, By December 10.

Complete details on back cover.

CENTERING PRAYER

Second and Fourth Thursday of the month, 9:00am, Room 221

Opportunities for Centering Prayer, in a group setting on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Friday, December 1, Beginning with Mass at 8:30am

Join other parishioners for Mass in the chapel at 8:30am, followed by coffee and pastries in the Dorothy Day Social Hall. The event is sponsored by Pax Christi Boomers and Beyond Senior Ministry. All are welcome! After fellowship, please stay for a bit and join us as we plan upcoming Boomers and Beyond events. New ideas are welcome!

TWELFTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Saturday, December 2, 9:00am-3:00pm

Start your holidays in style at our annual boutique and bake sale! This shopping extravaganza is for the whole family. It will feature a variety of handcrafted items from over 50 quality crafters and artisans, a bake sale, and luncheon. Come and shop for the perfect holiday gift for everyone on your list. This event is free, and there is plenty of parking available. Don't miss out on this annual holiday tradition!

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAKE SALE: BAKED GOODS NEEDED

Saturday, December 2, 9:00am-3:00pm

Bake your favorite cookies, breads, pies, and bring them to the bake sale. Proceeds benefit our youth! Baked goods can be dropped off at the church in Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Room 111, in the lower level, on Friday, December 1, 4:00–8:00pm, or Saturday, December 2, 7:30–8:45am.



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

Holy Day Mass, Friday, December 8, 8:30am

The Church acknowledges Mary as the ultimate example of faithfulness and discipleship. She is God's handmaid, a model of faith for all Christians to follow.

HONORING OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Saturday, December 9 at the 5:00pm Mass

Complete details are on page 11. All are Welcome – bienvenidos a todos!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT LOCAL CARE CENTERS

Sunday, December 10, 2:00-4:00pm, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Room 111

Come join the fun and brighten the day for our senior friends and neighbors. Faith Formation and Care and Support Ministries are joining together to go Christmas caroling and distribute handmade cards at local senior care centers. Singing on-key is optional! Songbooks provided. ALL ages are welcome. You provide your own transportation for this event, but all care centers are close by and you will be grouped with other joyful singers. Creative holiday attire is encouraged! Meet at 2:00pm in Room 111 (park in the lower level parking lot by door 6). We'll return to Pax Christi for hot chocolate, cookie decorating, and an opportunity for a family photo. It's important to RSVP online by December 6 so we can plan for an adequate number of care centers to visit. Questions? Contact Jean Thoresen, 952-405-7211, or jthoresen@paxchristi.com, or Renee Dignan, 952-405-7212, or rdignan@paxchristi.com.

BOOMERS AND BEYOND EVENT: CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON Saturday, December 16, 11:15am-2:30pm

As we remember the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Boomers and Beyond cordially invite you to our Christmas Celebration for members and guests. There will be entertainment by the NOTEable Singers, a women's show choir based in Bloomington, Minnesota, and a traditional meal of ham and all the fixings. As a bonus, there will be a drawing for door prizes after the entertainment. You must be present to win. The fun will end around 2:30pm. The NOTEables have been entertaining audiences with song and dance since 1974. With their wide range of repertoire and energetic choreography, they are sure to delight any audience. Check-in starts at 11:15am with lunch in the Hall of Martyrs at 11:45am. Registration of \$15.00 for Boomers and non-Boomers must be received by December 6. Register online with a credit card or drop off payment with Maria Miller in the Parish Office by December 6.

MAKE PLANS NOW

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

January 1, 8:30am in the Sanctuary

The Solemnity of Mary acknowledges and celebrates Mary's role as the mother of Jesus Christ. It is a holy day of obligation.

TRANSFORMING PAIN

Tuesday, January 2, 6:30-7:30pm, Thomas Merton Chapel

The pain of living and the pain of dying have many things in common. How can the pain in our own lives and the pain in the lives of those we love teach us compassion? We will look at physical, social, psychological, and spiritual pain and learn some healing strategies. Our evening presenter, Patricia Hughes Baumer, has been a lay minister in multiple settings including hospice chaplaincy, and since 1991 has focused on the ministry of lay liturgical preaching. She and her husband, Fred, have been members of Pax Christi since 1989. No need to RSVP. Questions? Contact Jean Thoresen, Director of Care and Support Ministry, jthoresen@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7211.

SHARED MINISTRY CELEBRATION

Minnesota Mardi Gras:

A Shared Ministry Celebration with Archbishop Hebda

Saturday, January 20, 6:00-9:30pm

An adult-only evening of fun and frolic beginning with Mass celebrated with Archbishop Hebda at 5:00pm. After Mass, we will continue celebrating all of Pax Christi's Adult Shared Ministers with appetizers, desserts, soda, beer, music, and plenty of opportunities for conversation, mingling, and fun. If you are an adult member of Pax Christi and are committed to sharing your gifts of time, talent, and treasure with this community, you are invited to attend. We are all DISCIPLES ON A MISSION, and this event will help us celebrate the myriad ways each of us has responded to that call. No RSVP is needed, just come and join in the celebration! For those who might need childcare, the nursery will be available. Please make reservations via www.paxchristi.com/childcare.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SPEAKER SERIES

Transforming Your Life, Parish, and the World through "Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home"

Sunday, January 21, 12:30pm, Room 212

Marybeth Lorbiecki offers a path to understanding the opportunities for us in Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*, with stories, science, and practical actions to start integrating key elements into our lives, parish, and world.

ANNUAL CANA DINNER: A NIGHT IN THE TROPICS

Saturday, January 27, 6:00-9:30pm, Early Love-Bird Rate \$65

Tired of the cold? Make it your mission to escape to "A Night in the Tropics." Warm breezes welcome all couples, of all ages, to the annual Cana Dinner. The evening begins with a hosted wine reception, followed by a Fabulously Catered festive dinner. Following dinner, enjoy coffee, wine, and dessert while you are entertained by Stan Bann, host of the always popular "The Not-So Newlywed Game." A couples photo op will be offered during the evening, so be sure to dress up – cruise wear is encouraged! Tickets are available at an early lovebird price of \$65.00 per couple. The rate goes up to \$75.00 per couple after December 28. The ticket price includes a hosted wine reception, dinner, dessert, entertainment, couple's photo, and loving childcare, which should be arranged online at www.paxchristi.com/childcare. Consider what a wonderful Christmas gift a pair of Cana Dinner tickets would make for that special couple in your life. Register now at www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration.

TAX ADVANTAGES OF DONATIONS TO PAX CHRISTI

Did you know that donations to Pax Christi can help you save money on your tax return?

CASH: Gifts of cash given in the baskets during Masses or donated electronically via credit card or ACH can be deducted if you itemize deductions on your tax return. Lowering your taxable income will reduce the amount of tax you pay.

REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS: If you make a direct transfer from your IRA to Pax Christi, you get to count that money toward your required minimum distribution - but because it's not actually

distributed to you, it won't increase your adjusted gross income. This option is particularly beneficial if you don't itemize deductions on your tax return.

STOCK: If you donate appreciated stock to Pax Christi, not only will you avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation, but you can also take a deduction for the full market value of the stock



Consult with your tax advisor for more details about the option that is best for you or contact Sue Fier in the parish office at 952-405-7202.

DECEMBER

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 SHARE-THE-JOY	27	28	29	30	FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION	HOLIDAY TEA HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE, BAKE SALE, AND LUNCHEON
HOLIDAY DRIVE						SHARE-THE-JOY HOLIDAY DRIVE
SHARE-THE-JOY HOLIDAY DRIVE	4	5	6	CENTERING PRAYER	FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	NEW MEMBER SIGN-UP WEEKEND 9 SHARE-THE-JOY HOLIDAY DRIVE
FAITH FORMATION	LABYRINTH WALK	BAPTISM CLASS	FAITH FORMATION			OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION
NEW MEMBER SIGN-UP WEEKEND 10 SHARE-THE-JOY HOLIDAY DRIVE	11	12	MOMS ROCK	14	15	16 BOOMERSAND BEYOND: CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT CARE CENTERS FAITH FORMATION	CASTING INTO THE DEEF ADULT FORMATION	5	FAITH FORMATION		CONFIRMATI	ON RETREAT
17	18	19	20	21 CENTERING PRAYER	22	23
FAITH FORMATION		LEADERSHIP MEETINGS	FAITH FORMATION			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS DAY					
	1	37				



PASTOR

Fr. Bill Murtaugh 952-405-7245

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Marc Paveglio 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

Sue Fier 952-405-7202

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

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

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Melissa Nault 952-405-7221 Anne Daly 952-941-3150

FAITH FORMATION

DirectorLynn Schelitzche952-405-7230Youth MinisterJessie Johnson952-405-7210Youth MinisterJessie Bazan952-405-7213Preschool through Grade 5Reneé Dignan952-405-7212

JUSTICE

Justice Coordinator Joan Howe-Pullis 952-405-7247

OPERATIONS

DirectorKen Reineccius952-405-7250Building ServicesTerry Lee952-405-7233Building ServicesTodd Nelson952-405-7233

CARE AND SUPPORT MINISTRY

DirectorJean Thoresen952-405-7211Care Ministry SpecialistMary Ann Callahan952-405-7227Care Ministry CoordinatorReneé Reardon952-405-7200

STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

DirectorMary Kennedy952-405-7220Nursery and Hospitality Coord.Janell McBeain952-405-7242

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DirectorDonna Kasbohm952-405-7240Liturgy and Funeral Coord.Joan Howe-Pullis952-405-7247Teen ChoirAngie O'Brien952-405-7243

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Sandra Towey
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Shari Steffen Bruce Koehn

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Sandy Towey, Chair



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