



Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie January 2020

PAX CHRISTI

News

The Listening Church

Archbishop
Hebda scheduled
to attend this
session.

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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

Mission Statement: As a community of faith nourished by the Eucharist, we are committed in our discipleship with Christ to act for justice, be of generous service, and authentically welcome all to Pax Christi Catholic Community.

Values: God-Centered, Justice, Inclusion, Spiritual Growth, Stewardship, and Lay Leadership.

Mass Schedule

Saturday	5:00pm
Sunday	9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm
Mondays	8:30am
Tuesdays	8:30am
Wednesdays	6:00pm
Thursdays	8:30am
Fridays	8:30am

Rosary prayed following weekday morning Masses.
Nursery available at all Sunday Masses.
Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (private)

Saturdays 4:00–4:30pm

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Dear Friends...

At this moment within the parish boundaries of Pax Christi, there are probably millions of acorns buried beneath the snow. Every single one of them carries within itself the potential to become an oak tree some day. And 99.9 percent of them will fail in that endeavor, even though all of them will make the effort. Their fate will be mostly the result of bad luck; having fallen to earth in the wrong place, among the wrong critters (i.e. squirrels), or with the wrong amount of sunlight, moisture, temperature, or soil. One could say that the purpose, or “call,” of an acorn is to grow up to be exactly one thing, so when that doesn’t happen, we are correct to speak about “failure” in a certain sense. An acorn has two options for its destiny in life: to be a tree or to be a rotting acorn (or to be lunch for a squirrel, which I suppose is the same thing). Nature itself has built that calculation into its rhythm.

But the lowly acorn can be a helpful teacher to us humans, by way of contrast, as we think about our “call” in life, and that is for at least a

few reasons. First, unlike the acorn, at the moment of our birth not a single one of us is set up by God or by nature for failure. It is true that very many people are made to confront this life with enormous disadvantages and necessary struggles. But nobody was created

in order to fail. Neither God nor nature sends billions of human beings into the world in the hope that maybe a few of them will, by chance, succeed. Most acorns are expendable by design, but not a single human person is.

Second, unlike acorns, our futures are not determined by blind fate or dumb luck. We are all predisposed by circumstances or innate talents to excel at some things and not others. And often we confront challenges, even tragedies, that are not of our own making. But while the acorn has to just sit there and take in whatever happens, a human being does not. Even when the unavoidable and unplanned adversity confronts us, we can decide freely how to respond to it. There is no such thing as the human life that is consigned to “rotting,” unless that is our decision. We are not acorns.

And third, unlike the acorn, in our coming to birth and to baptism we are not thereby programmed to mature into exactly one thing. The “call” of our existence, both as persons and as Christians, does not already have a predetermined concrete ultimate outcome—quite to the contrary. Truly to be called is to recognize a summons into conversation with God (prayer), with others (community), and with life (the environment and activity around us). None of these three is experienced as completely stable throughout a person’s life, which is why responding to a call is a project that never ends. A call is never a once-and-for-all experience that has a specific-looking “product” in the end. It is, as I said, an open-ended conversation.

Fr. J. Michael Byron
Pastor





Sometimes people wonder and worry whether they have “missed their calling” in this world, by having made some singular choice along the way or having failed to recognize some specific opportunity. Or, alternatively, they can become grieved that what they used to think of as their call—as a spouse, a parent, a worker, a parishioner, a volunteer, a minister—must have been “wrong” because it seems to have changed over time. That’s not it. It’s in the nature of a conversation to open up new horizons and imaginations among those who are engaged in it.

When I was studying for priesthood in my twenties it seemed pretty clear that my call was to be a parish pastor some day. Then I got waylaid by higher education and it seemed pretty clear that my call was to be a theology teacher for the rest of my days. Then I moved

away from that and the call seemed to revert to pastoral ministry. It could be something else by this time next year (though I surely hope not!). I would describe all those shifts as a successful engaging of a call, because I think of it as being and doing what I am “supposed” to be doing right here and now. I believe that the same holds true for all of us, whatever our situation in life. The task is to listen.

All of us have a call, which is nothing other than to say that all of us need to be in those conversations in order to understand ourselves best, as well as our place and purpose among our community at that moment in time. This turning of the year is often a time to rededicate ourselves to the project of taking a good look at how we’re doing at that, and perhaps to help others do the same.

Called to Lay Preaching

Introducing the Thursday Mass Lay Preaching Team

With Fr. Bill Murtaugh's reassignment to the Church of Christ the King in July of this year, Pax Christi has transitioned from a parish with two priests to that of one priest. One of the ways that Fr. Mike and the lay leadership have responded to the change is by introducing a Thursday morning Word and Communion service. The new Thursday morning service was started after discussions in the Worship Council and an inquiry by Fr. Mike to those who gathered for Thursday morning services as to their thoughts about having a Word and Communion service rather than Mass. With no objections from those in attendance, the change in services was approved and a lay preaching ministry was reestablished.

Two of those called to be part of the lay preaching ministry are Fred and Patricia Baumer. Fred and Patricia preach at Word and Communion services at Friendship Village care center, and now at Pax Christi's Thursday morning Word and Communion services. Fred and Patricia established training for Pax Christi's lay preaching ministry in the early 1990s, and are the co-founders of their not for profit, Partners in Preaching. When asked about the call to lay preaching, Fred says, "the preaching call comes through a faith community." He goes on to say, "preaching in the liturgical setting requires studying and praying the Scriptural texts not only to discern what they meant when they were written but how they can have meaning for today. It requires me to answer the question, 'so what?'. So, what do these Scriptures mean for me today within the community that gathers in terms of guiding/challenging/supporting

our lives? That builds in me a continuing sense of purpose to grow ever more closely to God within the faith community."

Patricia Baumer first preached in 1972 at a summer retreat, then in a parish during the time she was in seminary in Chicago from 1974 to 1977, and thereafter in multiple ministries including campus ministry and hospice chaplaincy. She echoes Fred's belief that the discernment process is rooted in joy at the call coming through the community. Patricia says, "People have consistently responded with gratitude and joy in my preaching." Patricia then went on to express the importance of this call, saying "Preaching and training and formation have been the primary, though not exclusive, forms of ministry that looking back have clearly been, beyond family, my life's work."

Another husband and wife team are Ed Kroner and Jan Mahony. Their call to lay preaching was seeing a need where they both felt they could help out. Ed says, "I was familiar with Friendship Village as my wife's parents were living there. I didn't feel I was called particularly to preaching, but rather called to help out at Friendship Village." Preaching has offered him the opportunity to worship and reflect on the readings with a wonderful, evolving group of seniors. He says, "they have been welcoming and very appreciative of our efforts. The experience at Friendship Village allowed me to consider preaching at Pax Christi when that opportunity came up this fall." Ed says, "the ministry has encouraged me to reflect and



Left to right: Ed Kroner, Patricia Baumer, Scott Brazil, Jan Mahony, Jean Thoresen, Joan Howe-Pullis, Fred Baumer, Mary Ellen Schroeder, Deacon Al Schroeder, Fr. Michael Byron

sometimes research more deeply on the scripture readings. It has allowed me to present my thoughts and hopefully to provide some food for thought to the listeners.”

Pax Christi staff members Jean Thoresen, Scott Brazil, and Joan Howe-Pullis are also part of the lay preaching ministry. Jean Thoresen says she began to fully embrace her call to preaching when, as a graduate student, her professors really encouraged her to have her own voice and claim her call to preach. Jean says, “I love to tell stories and make connections with biblical stories written centuries ago to our day-to-day life and our personal calling today.” She became involved in the monthly care center Word and Communion services when she began her work with Pax Christi four years ago. She has found that preparing for the services has become a deeply prayerful time: “In my position it seems as though I go from one task to the next with little time to pause for deep reflection. When I know I’m going to preach, I give myself permission to close my door, read the scripture slowly and prayerfully, and ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit. This practice helps me realign my call to ministry and the rest of the day seems to fall into place beautifully.”

Scott Brazil, who is the Director of Faith Formation and now part of the Thursday Word and Communion services, previously served as a Word and Communion lay minister at Risen Savior in Burnsville, as well as at St. Edward’s in Bloomington. He says that his call to lay

preaching goes all the way back to when he was a youth minister at St. Edward’s. He says, “We would sometimes do youth liturgies and I would be the one to do a reflection since I already had a connection with the young people and knew what was going on in their lives and could craft my reflections around that. Like anyone, I simply am trying to share of my gifts in a way that can be helpful to others.” Scott says that it’s amazing how having to reflect deeply in preparing to lead a Word and Communion service has forced him to look more critically at his own lived discipleship.

Deacon Al Schroeder, who along with his wife Mary Ellen, are also part of the ministry, says, “lay preaching is an exciting opportunity for others to interact with the gospel.” As someone called to become a deacon, he finds being part of this group an enriching experience and a way to embrace his ministry. Being a deacon means meeting the call to serve. Deacon Al recognized that being part of the ministry was how he was being called to serve the Pax Christi community at this time. Deacon Al says that an important part of lay preaching is that the community has the opportunity to hear other voices, including female voices, and understand others’ views as they break open the Word. Preaching is helping others understand how Jesus is talking to us through Scripture, and bringing the gospel to life for those in the community.

Written by Karin Poellinger, Staff Writer and Technical Editor

The Bible: God's Story, Our Story

A Parish-Wide Faith Formation Event in January

As we continue to explore the theme *Christ is Alive* as a community, the Faith Formation team would like to extend a special invitation to everyone in our parish to join us for what promises to be a great night for all. Essentially, we have put together an evening that is designed to help participants connect the “Great Story” of salvation history as recorded in the Scriptures to their own personal lived experience. We have called the event *The Bible: God's Story, Our Story* and will offer it twice in early January:

Sunday, January 5, 6:30–7:45pm

Wednesday, January 8, 6:00–7:15pm

The evening is comprised of three short stories shared by parishioners/former parishioners that connect to the central themes of the Bible:

We Are Called to a Covenant Relationship by parishioner Patti Christensen. Patti brings a great deal of compassion and expertise to our event, as she has served many years in Catholic faith formation ministry in Wisconsin and has continued to gift our parish through her various efforts as a shared minister.

We Are Called to Work for Justice by former Pax Christi Youth Minister Peter Bierer. Peter and his wife, Lauren, who currently reside in Australia, will be visiting the area during the holidays and are excited to join us for the event!

We Are Called to New Life by young adult parishioner Mackenzie Kloempken. Mackenzie offers to us great energy and an infectious smile, and she will be sure to both inspire us and fill us with joy!

In between each presentation, Peter and Lauren will lead us in inspirational music. In addition, we will allow for brief periods of discussion and reflection among small groups and families to help everyone connect the themes to their own lives.

Both evening events will take place in our main worship space and will be followed with hospitality (cookies and hot chocolate) in the Dorothy Day Social Hall. There is no fee to participate in this event, though we do ask that attendees RSVP on the parish website in advance to assist us in our planning.

Feel free to contact anyone on the Faith Formation team if you have questions about this wonderful event. We hope to see you there!

Written by Scott Brazil, Director of Faith Formatio



Calling All Shared Ministers!

All are Invited to Join Us on Saturday, January 25

JANUARY JAMBOREE



Have you been called? What's your vocation? For many people, this simple question may be difficult to answer. Words or terms used to describe calling and vocation are work, career, mission, trade, craft, and purpose. These terms create mindful relatable visions and images on how to earn a living or provide and care for a family. However, a few non-familial terms such as family relationship, commitments, promises, community, and marriage also are calling and vocation. Being a daughter or son is a vocation, marriage is a vocation, and being a good neighbor is a vocation. Within a church, terms and words used to define calling and vocation include discipleship, ministry of the baptized, gifts of the Spirit, or ministry in daily life. We are called in many ways and at multiple speeds. A calling can occur slowly, as a planted seed, as an idea that was sowed, then nourished and grown. A vocation can be progressive, like a seeker on a journey of new information and discovery. There are times it can happen quickly, as a moment in time, a flash of brilliance, an "ah-ha" moment. Each of us have multiple callings during a lifetime and they can occur simultaneously. A calling is personal, lifelong, and ever-changing. It can be communal, serving a community larger than yourself.

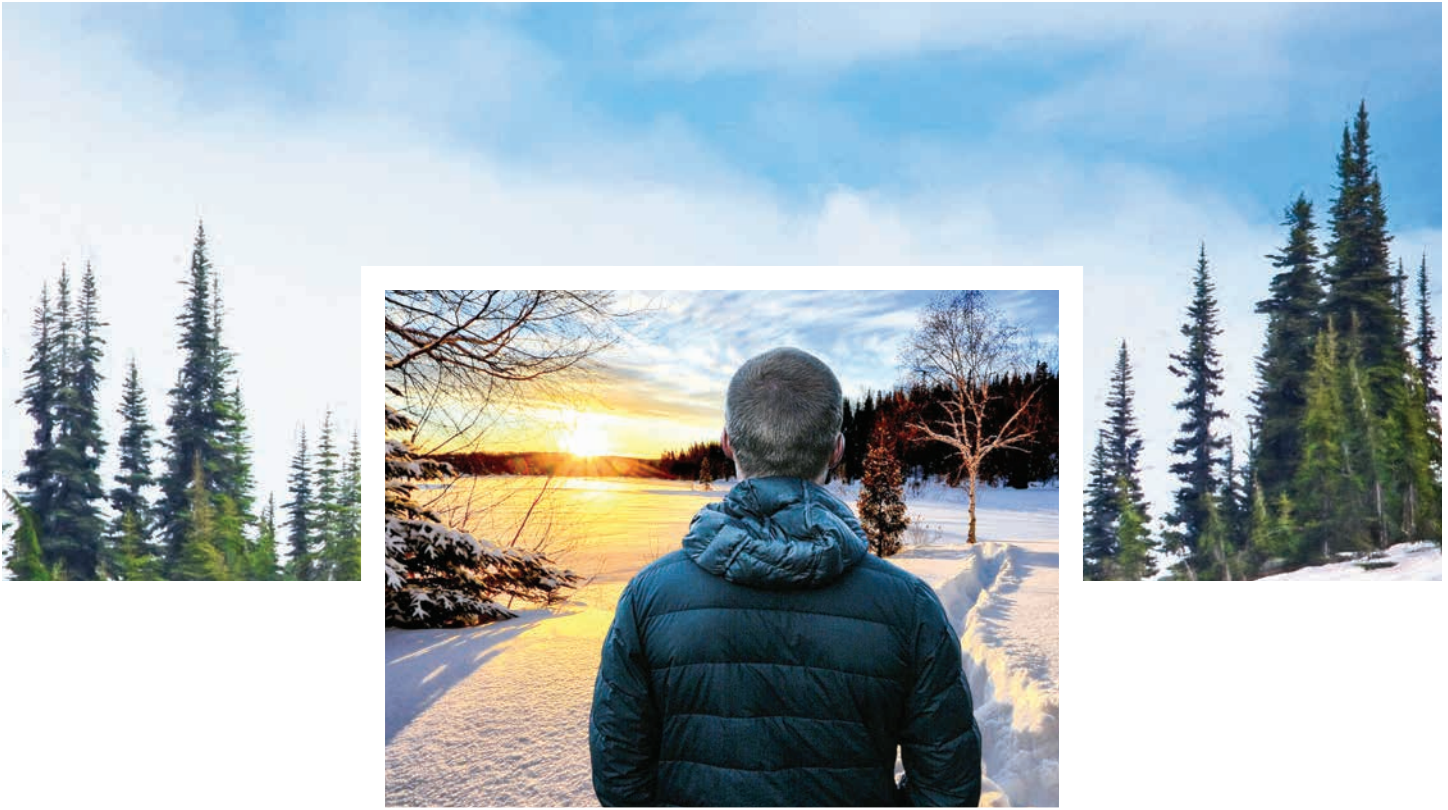
A calling doesn't invite you to stand up and give the answers but rather invites you into the question.

.... ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country. (Excerpt from John F. Kennedy inaugural address on January 20, 1961.)

There is so much power in that imperative. It is to be proactive rather than reactive, by taking a hold of a calling and nourishing it.

At Pax Christi, a way we refer to vocation is shared ministry. Each of you as shared ministers are an example of asking not what Pax Christi can do for you but what you have done for Pax Christi through prayer, service, and sharing. The energy and essence that you bring to your ministry is more than being a volunteer, it's a calling, a vocation. Each and every shared minister is vital to the health and energy of what we call Church. Whatever your calling or vocation, it needs to be appreciated and celebrated. **Come join in the celebration of January Jamboree, The Call of the Shared Minister on Saturday, January 25 during and after the 5:00pm Mass.**

Written by Lisa Cox, Community Life Coordinator



The Wounded Body Of Christ

I, like many, have accumulated many wounds throughout my life. My long list of injuries and illnesses, with their various amounts of pain and discomfort, have thankfully been healed through a blend of medical expertise, time, and attention. Our physical wounds can be complicated, yet most often we can find the source of the pain and then treat as needed. Our emotional and spiritual wounds are much more complex than that. Many times we are not even sure how to name them, or if we even want to. There have been times when I have been wounded so deeply that I just want to lie in bed and pull the covers over my head, to try not to think about it or react to it in any way. These are the kinds of scars that clerical abuse has left in its wake. It is the kind of wound that is so deep we often don't even have the words or energy to address it. We read the headlines and we silently weep.

This past November, a group of courageous men and women gathered here at Pax Christi to have meaningful conversations around the difficult topic of clergy abuse with the help of the book *The Wounded Body of Christ* by Matthew Halbach. They bravely named their pain and sadness through stories of how this scandal has affected them personally. We all shared the deep disappointment we felt when coverups were exposed in the highest level of leadership.

Why did this go on unnamed and unaddressed for so long? Together we shared our anger and through this were able to find hope in each other. We didn't always agree on details, yet we could affirm each other's pain and nod in agreement that these are hard conversations with no simple solution. We talked of clericalism, accountability, and forgiveness. We listened with love and acceptance. Sitting together each week became sacred time where we experienced God in each other. Christian community can do that.

We didn't come up with any grand solutions. Rather, we realized that each of us has work to do for our own personal healing. Some will write letters, others will join groups who are fighting for change, and all of us plan to attend one of the listening sessions being held throughout the archdiocese where we can gather again as a community to name our pain and disappointment. When we name these things together, we become stronger. That strength allows me to pull back my covers every morning and walk into a church that has both wounded me and nurtured me, empowering me to come to a place where I still find flames of faith, hope, and love, and can be surrounded by people like you who inspire me and show me the light of Christ each and every day.

by Jean Thoresen, Director of Care and Support Ministry

The Listening Church

*Come Holy Spirit
 Make our ears to hear
 Make our eyes to see
 Make our mouths to speak
 Make our hearts to seek
 Make our hands to reach out
 And touch the world with your love.
 Amen.
 Mary, Mother of the Church
 Pray for us.*

(Pre-Synod Prayer for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis)

When Archbishop Bernard Hebda came to the archdiocese in spring of 2015, it was a chaotic time in the local church with the resignation of the current archbishop as well as an auxiliary bishop. This came ten days after prosecutors brought criminal charges against the archdiocese for its failure to protect children. That fall, Hebda conducted listening sessions to hear what the faithful of the local church wanted to see in the next archbishop, as he was appointed apostolic administrator, a temporary position. Pope Francis later appointed Hebda to lead the archdiocese, and on May 13, 2016, he was installed as the fifth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. After his installation, he said “it’s going to be my responsibility to set a longer course.” The first part of the “longer course” was to shepherd the diocese through settlements with the plaintiffs of clergy sexual abuse as well as guiding movements through the bankruptcy process.

After those key moments, the archbishop now desires to set in motion the course to bring a Synod to the archdiocese. The diocese has not had a Synod—a coming together of the local faithful to help the bishop determine priorities for the development of a pastoral plan—since 1939. In his letter to parish ambassadors, he sees this to be “a time of mutual listening, a time of growing in unity, and a time of becoming a Church that more effectively proclaims the gospel.”

Pax Christi will be hosting a listening session on Tuesday evening, January 28, from 6:00–9:00pm. Participants will gather together to pray, discuss, and give feedback on what is working well in their parish and this archdiocese as well as naming the challenges. All are welcome, and all participants will be encouraged to give written feedback that will be read and considered. Archbishop Hebda is scheduled to attend this and the other listening sessions held throughout the diocese (see www.paxchristi.com/thelisteningchurch). I encourage you to attend the session at Pax Christi and/or any of the others this winter. Please invite those family members or friends who no longer feel connected to the Catholic Church to attend as well.

Over this next month, we will be singing the above prayer to the Holy Spirit at Mass in preparation for the listening session here. As indicated in the prayer, may our whole being be open to the Spirit’s presence as we journey in faith as a church seeking renewal, relevance, and reform.

Written by Jane Schmitz, Parish Director



Called to Act for Justice



Pax Christi Values

GOD-CENTERED ~ We hold God as the center of our daily lives and provide a place for spiritual rest and rejuvenation.

JUSTICE ~ We advocate for the marginalized and act as catalysts for systemic change.

INCLUSION ~ We build relationships and create an inclusive culture through our attitudes, actions, and activities.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ~ We engage in a lifelong process of spiritual growth and continually learn how to live out our faith.

STEWARDSHIP ~ We acknowledge our God-given gifts and put them into action as we pray, serve, and share.

LAY LEADERSHIP ~ We co-lead and share in the responsibility of upholding the mission of the church.

At the core of who we are as a faith community, Pax Christi has always worked to cultivate a place of belonging for all by holding up the core value of **JUSTICE**. We believe that working for justice is integral, not optional, in the life of the parish. We recognize our many blessings and we respond in gratitude and in solidarity with the world around us. Ricardo Ortiz Nava, chair of Pax Christi's Justice Council, ponders our faith call, guided by scripture, and lived out in the many expressions of justice work here in our community:

“¿Acaso no falta sólo un poco para que el Líbano se haga un vergel, y el vergel parezca una selva?”

“Surely in a very little while, Lebanon shall be changed into an orchard, and the orchard be considered a forest!” Isaiah 29:17

Should we not rejoice in our blessings? Aren't we already enjoying the orchard? Many members of Pax Christi can surely say they are already living in an orchard, some could say they're almost living in a forest! Let's enjoy our blessing and let the world go round!

Nothing could be further from what our faith is asking from us. Our awareness of the world demands two things: Love and Understanding. We are fortunate to receive a guide to what Love should be through the scripture: love for the dispossessed, the weakest of us, the different, the abandoned. Understanding is part of Pax Christi's core value of Justice which our Justice Council works to keep at the core of everything we do and who we are as a faith community. **Justice – We advocate for the marginalized and act as catalysts for systemic change.** Who is marginalized? How can I be a catalyst? What needs to be changed? Catholic faith will help us understand these.

PERMANENT QUESTIONS with EVER CHANGING ANSWERS, an apparently endless situation!

There is plenty of work to be done, and we are fortunate to have Pax Christi in allowing us to choose the path that best fits us to pursue those answers: volunteer opportunities like organizing, doing, supporting, building, rallying, informing, training, Endless ways to face hate and fear with Love and Understanding.

The orchard is indeed really close; we can work to make the orchard be within the grasp of everyone.

We invite you join one of our many Justice Ministries.

Written by Ricardo Ortiz Nava, Justice Ministry Chair



Meet Our New Serve

You are Invited to Share Your Enthusiasm, Faith, and Talents

You may be wondering what SERVE is. This is an online tool designed to connect your passions/talents with ministries at Pax Christi. We have redesigned it so it's even easier to use. If you want to jump in right away, check out our **Immediate Needs** area. If you want to do some exploring, we have lots of options. Either way, you are in the "driver's seat."

How do you get started? It's simple. Go to the Pax Christi homepage at www.paxchristi.com and locate **SERVE**. Scroll down to the pictures where you will see lots of amazing shared ministers at work. When you see a picture that "sparks" your imagination, click on the picture. It will connect you with Maura Schnorbach in Development and Engagement.

From there you will be connected to a member of the Pax Christi team who will "drill down" into the details about the ministry area that you are interested in exploring. If you have a few areas of interest, you will have a chance to connect with a couple of people to see what would be a good fit for you.

Every season of life opens up new doors. Changes in lifestyle may mean you will have time to try something new. Perhaps you are feeling called to serve, but you aren't sure what you would like to do. No worries, we have you covered! Pax Christi has almost 200 ministries. There is something for everyone. Sometimes exploring questions like, "What brings you joy?", "What makes you excited?," or "What special hobby, interest, or skill lights up your imagination?" may be clues.

If you have been involved with ministries at Pax Christi, we are grateful! You make our community joyful and vibrant. Last year, our shared ministers contributed over 73,500 hours of service. You touched every area of our community and beyond with your talent and passion. You shared your faith journey, celebrated liturgy, sang joyfully, offered hospitality, visited care centers, served hot meals to hungry neighbors, showed up with groceries, mittens and books, worked for justice, and stewarded our beautiful campus to name a few.

You welcomed the stranger, knowing that individual would become a friend. Our New Member Welcome Team invites you to join us as we extend a *Welcome to All!*

You can get connected with SERVE or Immediate Needs even if you do not use a computer. We have a full version of SERVE in the hallway next to the sanctuary. Feel free to pick up a hardcopy.

Jump start your New Year's resolutions with service at Pax Christi. You are the heartbeat of shared ministry. If you have questions about using SERVE, let us know. We look forward to getting you connected. Contact Maura Schnorbach at mschnorbach@paxchristi.com for more details.

Written by Maura Schnorbach, Director of Development and Engagement

The Strengths of Our Youth

What is your calling? That's a big question with a lot of possible answers. It's a lot easier to answer with a bit of hindsight. When we ask our youth the question, "What is your calling?" it shouldn't be a surprise if the response is uncertain. Our middle school youth are just beginning to define themselves, moving away from a self-perception defined by parents and families and into what the outside world says. Interests, skills, friendships, likes, wants, and needs are all defined with an increasing influence from someplace outside the family. One of those outside voices can and should be the church community.

At the same time, adults start asking more pointed questions about things like career interests, moving from "What do you want to be when you grow up," to "What career have you chosen?" The pressure is on to figure it all out. As Catholics we know calling is more than a career choice. It's about listening and exploring where God is directing us through the movement of the Holy Spirit. How do I know that what I am doing is my calling? The answer is through prayer, primarily, but also by being aware of our strengths and supporting the strengths of others.

This year, with the support of a Lay Leadership Development Grant, the middle school youth have the opportunity to explore and share what their strengths are using the language of the Gallup Strengths Explorer inventory. This tool will help us establish a positive vocabulary for the youth so they can describe their own strengths and imagine the ways that they can pursue their calling in light of those strengths. It's not simply, "What am I good at?," but rather, "What are the foundational elements of who I am that drive what I do?." The youth will take the inventory and the results will be shared with the youth and their families. They'll come away with their top three strengths (out of ten) which will help to guide positive and uplifting conversations about what gifts and strengths each individual young person brings to their family, our church, and the wider world.

For more information on the Strengths Explorer inventory, visit www.strengths-explorer.com.

Written by Evan Bierer, Youth Formation Minister





PaxConnex

PaxConnex is the Pax Christi Middle School Faith Formation and Youth Ministry program. Designed for youth in grades six to eight, we offer several opportunities for middle school kids to stay connected with their faith and the Pax Christi community. Faith formation, youth events, Just5Days service week, and the middle school summer service camp are all part of our dynamic ministry to middle school youth!

This year in faith formation, the youth are learning about the bible—how to navigate it, understand it, and relate it to their lives. The youth are practicing their own storytelling abilities to share the gospel through words and action in the world. They're also exploring their strengths, gifts, and talents, and how God may be calling them to use their strengths, gifts, and talents to serve the community, the world, and God.

Written by Evan Bierer, Youth Formation Minister



Ministries of Support

COMPASSIONATE CARE

LISTENING CIRCLE

Third Thursday of each month 3:00–4:30pm

The listening circle provides a safe place for reflection and meaningful conversation for those who find themselves at a crossroads in life, such as loss, caregiving responsibilities, mental illness, grief, chronic illness, or any life transition.

SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION

Pax Christi partners with the Southwest Grief Coalition to provide support and education for those who are grieving. Three series are offered each year, hosted by local churches. Each series consists of a light meal, a speaker exploring some dimension of grief, and facilitated small groups specific to particular losses. Information on upcoming sessions can be found on our website or at www.swgriefcoalition.org.

ON-SITE 12-STEP SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous, Saturday Sisters AA for Women, Al-Anon/Prairie Peace, and Overeaters Anonymous. These support groups each meet weekly to offer listening, guidance, and hope for those working to overcome a specific addiction interfering with their lives.

RESOURCES

Written resources on prayer, grief, relationships, illness, aging, and education/support opportunities are available in the racks at the rear of the worship space and at the kiosk inside the main entrance. Offerings include Living Faith, a booklet of Catholic devotions, and CareNotes, informative and inspirational pamphlets on a wide variety of topics.

**For additional information visit
www.paxchristi.com/careandsupport.**



LIVING STATIONS PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Attention Pax Christi Youth: For 25 years the youth of Pax Christi have presented Living Stations on Good Friday for the Pax Christi community. We present a living re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross, with meditations and music. Be a part of this Pax Christi Good Friday tradition! Youth from sixth through twelfth grade are needed to act out the scenes from the passion of Jesus. No memorization of lines needed! Your ability to hold a pose is all that is required. You must be available for rehearsals in the church on March 29 and April 5 from 1:00–3:00pm and on Good Friday, April 10 at 1:00pm. Presentations of the Living Stations will take place at 3:00pm on April 10. Contact Joan Howe-Pullis, jhowe-pullis@paxchristi.com, if interested in participating.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Wondering what's happening around the Archdiocese during Catholic Schools Week, January 26–February 1, 2020? Join this celebration of the beautiful heritage of Catholic education! Visit FindCatholicSchools.org to find a school near you! There are 79 grade schools with 74 preschools in the Twin Cities metro area!

Parishioner News for November 2019

Baptisms

Olivia Rene Schmit	11/3/2019
Isla Rose Schussler	11/3/2019
Monroe Mae Todd	11/3/2019
Anderson Anthony Eddy	11/10/2019
Everly Belle Eddy	11/10/2019
Arya Lee Benson	11/17/2019
Oliver Steven Hiebl	11/17/2019
Lucia Alejandra Craine-Alfaro	11/27/2019

Weddings

Marian Duran & Jeffrey Craine	11/27/2019
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Funerals

Mike Cochran	11/1/2019
Mary Horozaniecki	11/4/2019
Leoneze Jean Smith	11/5/2019
Donald Piontek	11/6/2019
Raymond Vecellio	11/18/2019
Lois E. Geib	11/26/2019
Annette Tousignant	11/27/2019

New Members

Riley and Laura Brost
Joseph and Mary Cassioppi
Maureen Cater
Kris Fridgen
Gabriel and Michelle Higgins
James and Patsy Kiesner
Colleen McMahan
Jeanne Roffee
Glen and Louise Thompson

Readings for January 2020

Available online at www.usccb.org/bible/readings

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5, 2020

Monday:	1 Jn 3:22 – 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19 – 5:4; Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday:	Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Mt 3:13-17

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2020

Monday:	1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday:	1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday:	1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
Friday:	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday:	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday:	Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 19, 2020

Monday:	1 Sm 15:16-23; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday:	1 Sm 16:1-13; Ps 89:20-22, 27-28; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday:	1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday:	1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Ps 56:2-3, 9-13; Mk 3:7-12
Friday:	1 Sm 24:3-21; Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11; Mk 3:13-19
Saturday:	Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
Sunday:	Is 8:23 – 9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23 [12-17]

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26, 2020

Monday:	2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday:	2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Ps 24:7-10; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday:	2 Sm 7:4-17; Ps 89:4-5, 27-30; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps 132:1-5, 11-14; Mk 4:21-25
Friday:	2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Ps 51:3-7, 10-11; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-17; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday:	Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

Whats going on...

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

December 31, 5:00pm or January 1, 9:00am 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.

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Friday, January 3, beginning with Mass at 8:30am

THE BIBLE: GOD'S STORY, OUR STORY

A Parish-Wide Faith Formation Event

January 5, 6:30-7:45pm or January 8, 6:00-7:15pm **RSVP**

All parishioners are invited to join us as stories of faith are shared, connecting to the key themes of the bible. There will be opportunities to discuss and share your faith with your family and/or in a small group, and we will also be treated to music by Secret Hill. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served in the Dorothy Day Social Hall afterwards.



JUSTMATTERS

Faith and Racial Equity: Exploring Power and Privilege **RSVP**

OPENING RETREAT: Saturday, January 4, 8:30am-5:00pm

CHOOSE A SESSION: Wednesdays, January 8-February 26, 1:00pm OR Thursdays, January 9-February 27, 6:00pm

Faith and Racial Equity: Exploring Power & Privilege, is an eight-week module that awakens groups to the economic systems, public policies, cultural norms, and hidden biases that empower some and oppress others. Complete details on page 8. **NO FEE:** This program is made possible through the generosity of the Catholic Community Foundation.

BOOMERS AND BEYOND EVENT

Holiday Party for the New Year

Saturday, January 11, 10:00am **RSVP**

Brunch followed by White Elephant Bingo. Don't know what to do with that picture frame, candle, or another miscellaneous item you received at Christmas? Save it and come and play White Elephant Bingo. Put the item in a paper bag and come and have brunch and play bingo. You do not know what surprise you could win. The fee is \$10 for the brunch. There is no charge for bingo, just bring a White Elephant gift. Register online or contact Maria Miller, 952-405-7217.

MEN AND CHURCH WITH FR. MIKE BYRON

An Evening for the Men of Pax Christi

Tuesday, January 14, 6:30-8:00pm, Room 212 **RSVP**

What was your experience, understanding, and relationship to the "Church" as a young boy, and how has it changed in your present context? What role has the Church played in your spiritual development as a Catholic man. Our pastor, Fr. Mike, invites all men of the parish to join him as he helps us reflect upon these questions and their implication for our lives. There is no fee to participate, though we do ask for all attendees to RSVP to assist us in planning for the evening.

SWGC WINTER GRIEF SERIES

Seven weeks, beginning Thursday, January 16, 5:30pm-7:30pm, St. Hubert's Catholic Church, No Fee

The Southwest Grief Coalition (SWGC) is a partnership of local churches working together for over 20 years to provide support and education for those who are grieving. The evening will include a light meal, large group education session, and small group supportive sessions designed to offer listening and care specific to your type of loss. Brochures are available in the kiosk by the reception desk and online under paxchristi.com/grief.

SENIOR HIGH WINTER RETREAT**January 17–19, Episcopal House of Prayer, \$25 **RSVP****

Mark your calendar for Pax Christi's senior high winter retreat, January 17–19, at the Episcopal House of Prayer on the beautiful campus of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN! The retreat is open to ninth through twelfth graders, and friends are always welcome, even if they don't go to Pax Christi. This retreat will combine individual reflection, small group conversation, music, prayer, and creative expression to help us discover and explore our story within God's story. Using several familiar Scripture stories as grounding points, we will consider how God is calling each of us to live out our own stories more authentically in a time when our world desperately yearns for hope.

BOOK CLUB: THE FRIENDSHIP OF WOMEN**Two Six-Week Options: Mondays, 6:30pm, beginning January 20 or Thursdays, 10:00am, beginning January 23 **RSVP****

Looking deeply into biblical stories of female friendships in order to extract greater truths, this compelling work by respected Catholic spiritual writer Joan Chittister explores the sacred dimension of friendship through the lenses of faith, tradition, and scripture, revealing the often overlooked voices and experiences of women in the Old and New Testaments. The discussion series will run for six consecutive weeks. The participation fee of \$15 covers the cost of the book.

JANUARY JAMBOREE***The Call of the Shared Minister*
Saturday, January 25, 5:00pm-8:00pm**

You've been called! In appreciation of all Pax Christi shared ministers, please plan to attend *January Jamboree, the Call of the Shared Minister*. After a celebratory Mass on Saturday evening, join us for tasty appetizers and foamy beverages. Take a moment to visit with fellow parishioners, tell your stories, or have fun in the game area. Chase away the January winter cold with the warmth of laughter and fellowship. Enjoy all the gifts that make this community of faith so amazing.

If an event indicates **RSVP,
you may register/**RSVP** online at
www.paxchrisi.com/eventregistration.**

**Questions? Contact the
parish office, 952-941-3150.**

OPEN LABYRINTH WALK**Monday, January 27, 7:00–8:30pm, Hall of Martyrs **RSVP****

Unlike a maze where you lose your way, the labyrinth is a spiritual tool that can help you find your way. The labyrinth can help you quiet the mind, calm the body, gain insight, and experience a sense of wholeness. Held indoors, walking the 36-foot canvas, Chartres-style labyrinth usually takes 20 to 30 minutes depending on your pace and the number of walkers on the labyrinth. Please come prepared to walk in stocking feet. You are welcome to begin your walk any time between 7:00pm and 8:00pm. Following your walk, you are invited to stay and meditate or journal. The labyrinth will close at 8:30pm. New to the labyrinth? Ask for an introduction when you arrive.

ARCHDIOCESAN LISTENING SESSION**Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 6:00-9:00pm, Worship Space**

Join other Archdiocesan Catholics for a Listening Session with Archbishop Bernard Hebda. Complete details on page 11.

CALLING ALL SCOUTS!**Sunday, February 9, 9:00am Mass**

All Cub Scouts, Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Venture Crews, past or present, are welcome to attend the 9:00am Mass at Pax Christi! Come demonstrate your duty and reverence to God by participating in the Mass. You can help with the liturgy as a greeter or gift bearer, or just wear your uniform to church. Let's show the community the impact scouting has made in our world!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION - MEN'S MINISTRY***Men's Ministry: Jesus in Christianity and Islam*****Tuesday, February 11, 6:30-8:00pm, Room 212, No Fee **RSVP****

Traditionally, Jesus' role as prophet has been one of the major theological issues that divides Islam and Christianity. This presentation shows not only how this has been a major dividing issue between Muslims and Christians, but also how this could be a theological area of common ground, especially if it is applied to orthopraxy (right practice) more so than orthodoxy (right belief). What does this mean to men who are followers of Jesus in our contemporary world?

ANNUAL CANA DINNER – SAVE THE DATE**Saturday, April 25, 6:00–9:30pm **RSVP****

All couples are welcome to celebrate the "Gift of Love" when spring is in the air. Watch for upcoming details of the 15th annual Pax Christi Cana Dinner.



Staff Contacts

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COMMUNITY

COUNCIL

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Jane Schmitz, Parish Director
Fred Baumer, Chair
Nicholle Check
Mike Kennedy
Andy Leet
Mary Frances Messer
Dale Nelson
Phyllis Olson
Ricardo Ortiz-Nava
Dave Putrich
Mike Schneider
Cindy Schuh
Julie Tyler

PARISH TRUSTEES

Bruce Koehn
Carolyn Zucker

FINANCE

COUNCIL CHAIR

Mike Kennedy

January

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			New Year's Day Solemnity of Mary		First Friday Social	Just Matters Retreat
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
The Bible: God's Story, Our Story Intergenerational Event		Baptism Class	Moms ROCK The Bible: God's Story, Our Story Intergenerational Event			Boomer's Holiday Party New Member Sign-up Weekend
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
New Member Sign-up Weekend Faith Formation Sessions		Men's Ministry Event	Tot-Time Open Gym Faith Formation Sessions	Compassionate Care Listening Circle SWGC Series Begins	Sr. High Winter Retreat	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sr. High Winter Retreat	Book Club Begins	Leadership Meetings	Faith Formation Sessions	Book Club Begins		January Jamboree: Shared Ministry Appreciation Event
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Faith Formation Sessions	Labyrinth Walk	Listening Session with Archbishop Hebda				





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

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 by December 31.



Can we pray for you?

Life is difficult at times and we all need prayer.

We invite you to submit your prayer request using Pax Christi's online prayer form at www.paxchristi.com/prayer. Our prayer team is ready to pray for you and/or your loved ones. If you would like to pray for those in need of prayer, visit our prayer wall at www.paxchristi.com/prayerwall. Questions? Contact Sally Bergum, Administrative Support, 952-405-7229, or sbergum@paxchristi.com.

