

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

Office Hours

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

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00pm

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

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

Weekday Masses

Mondays 8:30am

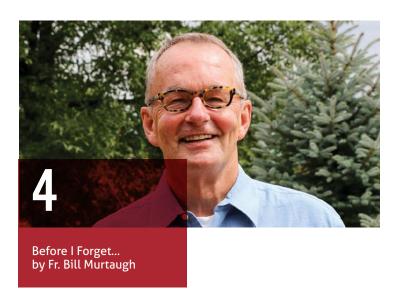
Tuesdays 8:30am with Rosary to follow

Wednesdays 6:00pm Thursdays 8:30am Fridays 8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation (private)

4:00-4:30pm Saturdays

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







Membership Engagement Survey Results... cont.







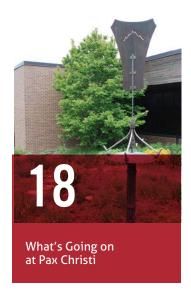


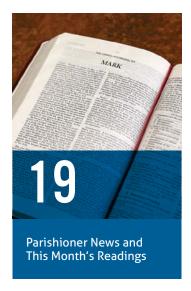
















BEFORE I FORGET...



Fr. Bill Murtaugh Pastor

THE CHURCH MUST

BE A PLACE OF MERCY

FREELY GIVEN, WHERE

EVERYONE CAN FEEL

WELCOMED, LOVED,

FORGIVEN, AND

ENCOURAGED TO LIVE

THE GOOD LIFE OF THE

GOSPEL.

—POPE FRANCIS
THE JOY OF THE GOSPEL

GOD does not need buildings to dwell in, but we need places to be together as a community. Those locked into authority will tell you of the importance of parishes and boundaries. Jesus highlighted the importance of communities living, praying, and being together, helping each other. Those Christian communities come together around the "table of the Lord" and are not affected by lines on a map. It is the praying community that counts. People are more important than boundaries, and people are more important than buildings. We have to learn first, as a believing community, as followers of Jesus and His Gospel, to recognize God in the faces of all who stumble along the path of life.

The sign on Pioneer Trail reads, "Pax Christi Catholic Community. Welcome." Are community theme during this Year of Mercy has been, "Open Wide the Doors." Every Sunday our community has an "Open House," with "open doors," where "all are welcome." No one is ever rejected. Some may decide to leave the community or not join the community for one reason or another. But it is still a vibrant community for the many, one that I am blessed to be a part of as a fellow seeker of God. I tell friends that this is the right community for me at this time of my life.

Discipleship, following Christ, is not for the faint-hearted. It is a choice that we make over and over again. We live that choice out daily in our lives. Ernest Hemmingway wrote, "It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it's the journey that matters in the end."

It's easy to put our hand to the plough and be tempted to turn back. We don't know where life will lead us. Much of it we can't control. We have to accept what comes our way on the journey and make choices because of that. But we do have to change and be different as we mature as humans and as Christians. The late Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan believed. best way to make the future different is to live the present differently." We can't go on doing things in exactly the same manner and hope to achieve a different result. We do have the opportunity to live differently now to determine how we can make the future different.

Being a disciple of Christ, and being an active, engaged member of the Faith Community of Pax Christi, is a call to live differently and to live graciously in the world. Jesus appoints every disciple of every time and place in human history to go before Him and to be agents of compassion, reconciliation, and hope to a needy world. John XXIII, some days before he died

on June 4, 1963, said, "I believe that when I stand before God, God will simply ask me: How did you use the gifts of life I gave you?"

C.S. Lewis said, "We are not ordinary people; we are not mere mortals; we are born to share the life of God." He continues, "Our challenge is that life is of immense costliness combined with the complete conviction that it is worth it." His view was that to follow your life's calling does not necessarily mean happiness but once the call has been heard, there is no happiness for those who do not follow it.

Our vocations in life will be many and varied, but central to our Christian vocation is to make the Reign of God real, here and now. Where Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God in the gospels, He always talks about it in the present tense. For Jesus, God's Kingdom is not something that will be experienced in another realm of time and space — God seeks to establish the Kingdom of mercy, peace, and justice **NOW**.

So how "far" are we from the Kingdom of God? How do our everyday lives reflect the love of God in our homes and workplaces? The Kingdom is made real when we learn by acts and not words — acts of kindness and compassion,



acts of forgiveness and reconciliation. We experience a kingdom of truth, love, holiness, justice, and peace. We experience a kingdom that belongs to the poor and the forgotten and the lost. We belong to a kingdom that has no boundaries. No matter which church excommunicates people, God's love never does.

A community or church which is more concerned with its own survival than spreading the Gospel/the Reign of God cannot be a true mission. A church which refuses to allow God to be as merciful and forgiving as God wishes, a church which refuses communion to people living in difficulty — the very people who need it the most — a church which drives people away from God rather than being an example of God's mercy bears all the hallmarks of

a failed institution. The criterion remains: "See how they love one another."

Pope Francis believes that the church needs proper organization, but we must always let God be God. And, he added, "We as Christians and we, as a church, should be dispensers of God's mercy not controllers of it."

The Pax Christi Community needs people who have enough conviction to roll up their sleeves and make things happen. That's what the Gospel asks of us — to be fervent, strong witnesses and people of conviction. As a Community of faith, we preach the Gospel by the way we live, we have faith (a relationship with God and one another), and do it all with humility and compassion.

engage

en·gage: en-geyj (verb) To occupy oneself, become involved, participate in. Establish a meaningful contact or connection with.

Pax Christi is pleased to present this month's magazine showcasing some of our members who have shared their gifts so generously with our community. Our gratitude extends also to those who shared their talents by interviewing and writing these stories of our members and their journey towards engagement in Pax Christi. Being engaged is much more than attending or belonging; it is making a conscious effort to live, grow, and thrive within this community. If you would like to learn more about engagement or how you can share your gifts with Pax Christi or the greater community, contact Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development, 952-405-7220 or mkennedy@paxchristi.com.

THE "GOOD NEWS" IS IN

2016 MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS FOR PAX CHRISTI

A large thank you to the almost 900 parishioners who, in February and March, took the time to participate in the 2016 Member Engagement Survey (ME25.) The results are in, and we are pleased to give you the "Good News," not the sacred good news of the gospels, but the good news that for that point in time, Pax Christi has increased the engagement of its members as measured through the Grandmean Engagement score of the ME25!

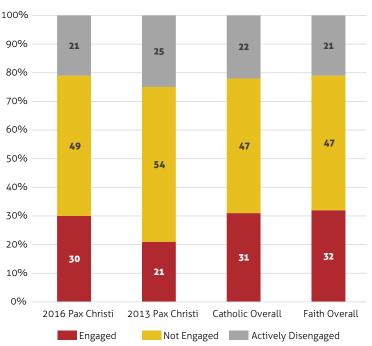
As you might remember, the ME25 survey consists of 25 items: nine items that measure individual Spiritual Commitment, 12 that measure Member Engagement, and four outcome items about life satisfaction, inviting, serving, and giving. The Spiritual Commitment items are individual and personal, while the Engagement items indicate how strongly one feels a sense of belonging within the community. Members who are highly engaged are more likely to volunteer more hours per week in service to others and give of their financial resources. They are also more likely to invite others to participate and to be more satisfied with their lives. The same is true of members who are spiritually committed.

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

Our overall average for the 12 engagement questions (called the Grandmean Engagement) was 3.45 in the 2013 survey. Our goal was to increase that by .10, or to 3.55 on the second survey. The result was actually 3.60. We exceeded our goal!

The overall average for the nine spiritual commitment questions had been 3.96. While we didn't set a goal for an increase in this area due to the individual and personal nature of the questions, we were gratified to see that the second survey result was 4.10!





As you can see in the graph, not only did the percentage of our members who are engaged **INCREASE**, but the percentages of not engaged and actively disengaged **DECREASED**. This is very heartening to see.

Second, Gallup developed a Member Engagement Index as a macro-level indicator of a parish's health to allow us to track engagement levels. This index identifies the percentage of members who are engaged, not engaged, and actively disengaged (see the definitions below the graph). The graph shows where Pax Christi is now in 2016, where we were in 2013, Catholic churches overall, and all Faiths overall, based on Gallup's extensive database of the parishes that have taken the ME25 over the years.

> You can see the full 7-page report from Gallup on our website, PaxChristi.com/gallup.

HERE, THEN, IS THE

WHAT DO THE RESULTS MEAN?

By delving a little further into the data from Gallup, we find some interesting things about the people of Pax Christi. We are a people who strongly believe in our mission. One question asked our level of agreement with the statement "The mission or purpose of my church makes me feel my participation is important" scored at 4.04, which is a very significant increase from the previous survey (up .20) and is also higher than the 75th percentile of all faith communities data that Gallup has collected which is hundreds of churches nationwide.

We are also a people who believe we have opportunities to learn and grow. *One of our core values is Lifelong Learning.* We scored an astounding 4.25 on this question, again higher than the 75th percentile in the Faith Overall group!

And we believe we regularly have the opportunity to do what we do best. We scored 3.91 on this item, also above the 75th percentile.

Gallup's research has shown that engaged members are

- Ten times as likely to invite someone to participate in their parish
- Three times as likely to say they are extremely satisfied with their lives
- Likely to spend more than two hours per week serving and helping others in their communities
- Likely to give three times more to their faith communities annually

82% of us rated a 4 or 5, agreeing that we are satisfied with our lives, compared to 75% for Catholic Overall or Faith Overall. *We're a joyful people!*

21% of us rated a 4 or 5 on inviting others to participate in our church, compared to 30% for Catholic Overall and 31% for Faith Overall.

We are great volunteers in service in our community! 30% of us give two to five hours per week in service, and another 12% give five hours or more. This compares to 23% at two to five hours and 11% at five hours or more for Catholic and Faith Overall.

In terms of giving, we are a bit more generous than other churches, though this may partly be due to our location in a more affluent suburb. Nonetheless, we can be proud of our generosity!

THESE MEASURES SHOW HOW WE ARE A PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN OUR ROLES OF STEWARDSHIP

Dr. Albert Winseman, Gallup's global practice leader for faith-based organizations, has said, "It is time for congregations to stop 'doing church' and start being the church again." Vatican II was very clear about saying that we are the people of God. We are the Church. Our survey results indicate that we here at Pax Christi Catholic Community strongly believe and feel this.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Growing in faith is a journey, and so is growing member engagement. We want to keep working on bringing all of our community members into the Engaged group.

We are reforming our Member EngagementSteeringCommittee. Under the guidance of the Lay Leadership Development Council, we are starting a Member Engagement Committee strategize and oversee efforts to continue to improve member engagement. invite anyone from Pax Christi with an interest in this to join us. If you are interested, please contact Jane Schmitz, Parish Director at ischmitz@paxchristi. com. Also, after all the Masses on July 16 and 17, we'll have a sign-up table in the narthex. Members of the Lay Leadership Development Council and Member Engagement Steering Committee will be there to answer questions.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Parish lay leaders, through their various councils, will be visiting this idea of member engagement especially as it links us to Jubilee of Mercy and our faith community theme of Open Wide the Doors. What can we do as a parish to augment the spiritual and hospitality experiences of members and non-members alike? How do we reach out to others? How do we create an environment of catholic (universal) welcoming to all?

Finally, from those of us who have been part of the Member Engagement Steering Committee and the Lay Leadership Development Council, we thank you, the People of Pax Christi, for your outstanding efforts to make this community a better church, building the Kingdom of God, and making us more committed disciples of Jesus Christ!

REASON FOR THE JUBILEE: BECAUSE THIS IS THE TIME FOR MERCY. IT IS THE FAVORABLE TIME TO HEAL WOUNDS. A TIME NOT TO BE **WEARY OF MEETING ALL THOSE WHO ARE WAITING TO SEE AND** TO TOUCH WITH THEIR HANDS THE SIGNS OF THE CLOSENESS OF GOD, A TIME TO OFFER **EVERYONE. THE WAY** OF FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION. MAY THE MOTHER OF GOD OPEN OUR EYES, SO THAT WE MAY **COMPREHEND THE TASK** TO WHICH WE HAVE **BEEN CALLED; AND MAY** SHE OBTAIN FOR US THE **GRACE TO EXPERIENCE** THIS JUBILEE OF MERCY AS FAITHFUL AND FRUITFUL WITNESSES OF CHRIST. -POPE FRANCIS

The infographic you see here shows some of the many ways that Pax Christi leaders and members have intentionally become more engaged in the life of the parish since 2013. Additionally to what is described here, there are countless service opportunities that members have been and continue to be engaged in the life of the parish. Some are more obvious, such as the liturgical ministers who help all of us pray at our weekend Masses, and some are more hidden, such as the prayer line ministers, quilters, and prayer shawl knitters. Visually apparent or behind-the-scenes, all are blessings to each other as a community of believers who take seriously the gospel message of love and service to one another.

CAMPUS, ARTS, GARDENS



The outdoor maintenance/Adopt-A-Garden involved 32 parishioners who donated approximately 1,640 labor hours.

Each year, over 1,200 pounds of produce is raised by parishioners in the Giving Garden and donated to PROP.

COMMUNICATIONS

The NEW monthly magazine means better communication to parishioners.



Over 3,500 registered parishioners receive the magazine each month.

\$ is saved on postage by only mailing one time per month vs. every week.

FAITH FORMATION



A high quality catechist recruiting video was produced highlighting personal stories of engagement from catechists.



New Faith Interest Connectors program engaged 30 new catechists, sharing their specific passions with over 675 high school youth.



Middle School program is being renewed to reflect a creative and consistent catechetical method of engaging our youth.

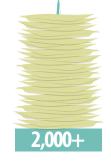


The Children's Liturgy of the Word program was reinstated, reaching over 50 children each week and involving 10 adult leaders.

FINANCE

The Finance Council created a "thank you" to include in the 2015 member contribution statements.

Six members of the council personally signed 2000+ of these "thank yous."



JUSTICE



Pax Christi produced an original video series on Catholic Social Teachings, featuring interviews of engaged parishioners and their ministries.

The Catholic Social Teachings videos were shown, one per week, to 2,300+ parishioners each week, for eight weeks.





Members of the Justice committee handed out over 8,800+ cards that detailed how parishioners could provide outreach to others.

During the last four weeks of the series, ministries and organizations displayed art, information, and engagement opportunities.



STEWARDSHIP



102,000 volunteer hours in ministries and activities last year.







New events to build community:

- RunWalkPray5k
- Blessing of the Animals with vendor booths



- Soup and Chili Potluck & BINGO!
- International Potluck

LAY LEADERSHIP









by discerned members whose vision helps shape Pax Christi today and in the future.

PASTORAL



Sixty-two parishioners went Christmas caroling at four different care centers. Faith Formation children made cards to give to the care center residents.

Eight parishioner/pet teams from the NEW Pax Pets ministry visit care centers and other facilities.



WORSHIP



Semi-annual calling campaign - reaching over 2500 families, gained valuable feedback, ideas, concerns, etc.

Monthly Name Tag Weekends to reach out to one another in this very large community.





Invited millennials to one of two listening sessions seeking input on their engagement needs.



SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO SWITCH GEARS TO GFT FNGAGFD

MY HUSBAND and I participated in the Tour de Cure 25th anniversary bike ride, and after completing our ride, we grabbed our buffet lunch and found an empty spot at a picnic table nestled in between several other groups of riders. I mention the scene as it was a ride to raise funds to find a cure for diabetes, a worthwhile effort drawing participation from thousands of riders, donors, and volunteers. Immersed in groups of people lending a helping hand to fight disease, my husband and I couldn't help but overhear a conversation that took place just a few spots down the table. A gentleman shared his admiration for another man in the group and all that this man had done for their church. He stated emphatically, "I am really impressed with all you did for that project at our church — that was amazing, and it helped a lot." He then shocked me by continuing, "I suppose I should do something around the church to help, but I just don't take the time. I don't even contribute much to the church. I know that I should, but when I get my statement, I think about it for a few moments and then move on to something else." He shrugged his shoulders and continued, "I admire what you are doing; don't get me wrong. It's just that a couple of times I got my statement, and it showed that I hadn't given much of anything, and then it showed somebody else's giving, and I thought are they showing me this to make me give something?" The speaker made a joke about his lack of giving to an institution that he belonged to and one his friend obviously supported with time, talent, and treasure. It was one of those moments where you want to join into a conversation, but you just don't have an entry point, but it did lead me to some personal introspection. I realized that while both of these men were members and involved with their church, only one of them was engaged in his spiritual community. I also realized that the speaker was perhaps

envious of the faith relationship his friend enjoyed why else would he bring such statements to the fore? I hoped that after we left, the two men could have that conversation that the speaker seemed to want to have. I hoped that this speaker could eventually find the community he seemed to be searching for.

There are as many reasons for joining a church as there are members; great worship opportunities, a fulfilling sacramental life, providing sanctuary, being a part of an involved community, learning and living out one's faith are just a few. Pax Christi is currently home to 3,505 households, or 10,182 members. We may be large, but our strength is in the diversity that "All are Welcome" proclaims as there are many, many ways our members can find to engage in their faith journey within the Pax Christi community.

The results of our recent Member Engagement study measures engagement in this community. Pax Christi has some members who are here in name only and many members involved, or participating, in our community. We are most pleased that so many of our members are engaged, or committed, to their life in Pax Christi. Being engaged means that Pax Christi is more than a place to come on the weekend, but you have found community, a place where your voice is heard, your gifts are welcomed, and a home for this leg of your faith journey. What draws the attention of one person may not be the least bit interesting to another, but each of us is called as disciples of Christ to take the time to figure out what drives our passion and then find a place that feeds us — in all aspects of our lives, faith, family, work, and relationships. What and where, with whom, and how are you being called to live your life as a steward today? Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development.

IAN KLEFFNER ENGAGED IN THE GARDEN

A CALL for Pax Christi volunteers went out recently to help with the Annual Spring clean-up around the church's grounds. Around thirty volunteers showed up early on a rather blustery Saturday just a few weeks ago to spruce up the walkways, flowers, bushes, and gardens.

The volunteers were a mixed group of men and women of varied ages. This was nothing really unusual for the many activities and ministries that the church sponsors that volunteers eagerly support.

However, there was one volunteer that caught the eye of one of the members of the Arts, Campus and Gardens Council. His name was lan, and he is eleven years old and a 5th grade student. It's his

story of what he shared with me that made me view this young volunteer with admiration.

His story begins the Friday evening before the Saturday Spring clean-up. His dad mentioned to lan that he was going to Pax Christi to help out around the grounds and invited his son to join him. Ian said he thought about it for a while, remembering that Saturdays were his day of rest. Saturdays, he recalled, were days he practiced his violin, played video games, and visited with friends and neighbors.

Ian told his dad he'd think about it and let him know Saturday morning. Well, his dad came by his bedroom around seven that Saturday morning and said he was getting ready to go to Pax Christi and asked Ian if he would like to join him.

Ian said he hesitated just a bit and said, "Yes, Dad, I'll go with you." He told me he chose volunteering because it sounded like fun and something different to do that day, plus he would get some exercise.

Of the few youngsters that were there, not many seemed interested in pulling weeds, shoveling ground cover, and trimming bushes. Ian, on the other hand, appeared interested and helped out with a variety of different tasks. His dad got involved in spreading ground cover on one side of the



church, and Ian found himself over by the Giving Garden and asked if he could help there. He was given some seeds and told how to plant a variety of vegetables. Ian said he learned how to plant peas, cucumber, carrots, eggplant, cabbage, and tomatoes. He said it was important to remember how deep to plant the seeds and how far apart to plant them.

Later that Saturday, he asked one of the volunteers, "When do you do this again?" He was informed that Monday and Thursday afternoons were days he could help out. So, on some Mondays and Thursdays, when he can fit it into the family schedule, he shows up at the Giving Garden to help out.

It's how he responded to my question of what would draw a young student to lend a hand on an early Saturday morning at church that captivated my respect.

Ian said he has learned through his family experiences, church activities, and Christian conferences that it's important for one to help others in need. He said he perceived himself in someone else's shoes who did not have what he had, and he had to do what he could to help out.

Ian added that when he is older, he wants to volunteer at a larger giving garden so he can help even more people in need.

lan is one volunteer we can all be proud of at Pax Christi.

Written by Hermes Cervantes, Arts, Campus, and Gardens Council member and Pax Christi parishioner.

A PROFILE OF AN ENGAGED FAMILY THE HUSCHKE'S



RETURN to yesteryear 1992. Susan and Mark Huschke move to Eden Prairie with Elizabeth. They join Pax Christi at the invitation of a new associate and are asked what ministry they would like to join as they offer their time, talent, and treasure to the parish. Susan is seven months pregnant with their second child, Adrienne. So, they decide to do something together as a couple with young children. Prepare Ministry will suit their life because they can do it at home.

Enter Jim and Mary Payne, the latter of whom is the writer of this piece. We invited Susan and Mark to meet with us to talk about being facilitators

in PREPARE, the ministry that works with engaged couples preparing for marriage. PREPARE is a great fit for this dynamic couple. They go through training and are assigned their first engaged couple. Several years pass during which their son, Daniel, was born.

Friends they made at church invited the family to join the Greeters and the Sunday School. They all did it together. It was very common in those earlier days to meet Susan and Mark, Elizabeth, Adrienne, and little Daniel at the front doors of church saying, "Good morning".

In the interim years, Mark (an engineer) became involved in

the Facilities Council, and the children went to Bible Camp. As the children grew, they were involved in religious education. Susan (a teacher) became active in Faith Formation. They encouraged their children to volunteer in various ministries such as altar serving, Bible Camp, Living Stations, youth ministry, Mission Trips (both parents were chaperones). Mark was concerned about the faith formation of his children, so he became a member of the Faith Formation Council.

WHAT IS THE VALUE AT THIS MOMENT?

"Sharing your treasure is important as is time and talent," said Mark. "Being present in the faith community is so vital, getting to know people, working on projects with them is key to making and keeping new friends. Others invite you to do things with them at church and beyond...looking back, we got more out of this than we ever gave."

Susan told us she grew up in a family that always went to church on Sunday, but she did not see her parents involved in volunteering at the church. She and Mark decided it was very important to serve others and to teach their children to do the same. Pax Christi is their faith community. This is where their Catholic faith is nurtured.

Move time to the present. Elizabeth and Adrienne are college graduates. Elizabeth works and lives in Wisconsin she continues volunteering. Adrienne is active at Pax Christi as a greeter and volunteering in Bible Camp. She is working at a local hospital and refereeing soccer. Daniel is a college student and will work in the projection booth this summer at liturgy. Now Mark feels it is less about stewardship and more about witnessing. He has been teaching in the high school Faith Formation program modeled after the book, Twelve *Ordinary Men.* This is the journey of the Catholic faith. To show what a valuable adult Mark is in the life of these young people, he was asked by one to be a Confirmation sponsor. Susan has just completed her term on the Faith Formation Council. Together they feed off of each other as their marriage continues to strengthen and their children use their wings to fly in the adult world. They are still working in the PREPARE ministry and are active on its Leadership Team. Both say, "Pax Christi is a big parish, but it is a small community of friends who know and work together to exemplify the meaning of an engaged family."

Written by Mary B. Payne, PREPARE Leadership Team Coordinator and Pax Christi parishioner.



SINCE the beginning days of Pax Christi, Judy Weigel has been engaged in serving. She remembers when Pax Christi started. She and her husband were members of St. Edward's parish in Bloomington. They lived on the west side of the railroad tracks so were on the right side of the tracks to move to the new parish. The energy of the new church, new people, and Father Tim Power all helped her to become involved virtually from day one and remain engaged for 35 years.

JUDY WEIGEL

Initially, she was one of five in the first music group at Pax Christi. She remembers practicing in each other's homes as Dale O'Brien developed the music program. She loved giving her time to help with its development, singing with the group, and now reminiscing about their startup.

She had a demanding job and felt limited on what she could do at Pax Christi while she was working. She knew she wanted to give more when she retired. She started going to morning Mass and met many wonderful people. Now 90% of her friends are Pax Christi members, and they keep each other motivated by being actively engaged.

Eight years ago, Judy retired and has steadily increased involvement. Has helped with mailings, answered phones, and provided transportation to Pax Christi for a former neighbor. Both she and her husband are greeters. Her husband helps weekly with cleaning the church. She continues to be a money counter and answer phones.

In addition to the many other services she provides, Judy has become deeply engaged with the pastoral care ministries. She started with the Companion Ministry and has provided support for parishioners in their homes as they deal with life's journey. She currently is involved with the Funeral Hospitality Ministry, Boomers steering committee, Eucharistic Ministry in church as well as Castle Ridge Care Center and The Colony Assisted Living. She serves on the Pastoral Care Council which she chose due to her involvement with many Pastoral Care Ministries.

Judy assists with Mass at Castle Ridge and the Colony and told of a recent experience when she asked a resident with memory loss if she wanted to come to Mass. The resident declined going to Mass since she said she could not think clearly. Judy asked her if she would want to say the Our Father in her room to which the resident readily agreed to do and "did not miss a beat" as she said the Lord's Prayer with Judy.

When asked what has changed since she began, she said the number of parishioners and more diverse ethnicities. She attributes this growth and diversity to Pax Christi's focus on all are welcome in our church. She would like to see more parishioners involved in ministries to meet needs and continue to spread the word.

Written by Laurie Ritz and Pat Kelly, Pastoral Care Council members and Pax Christi parishioners.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

While the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick can be celebrated at a home or a bedside, with a few close members of the family gathered to support their loved one, it is also a sacrament which can be celebrated communally. Members of the faith community who seek to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick are gathered with others in the community, known and unknown to them, who hold them with their prayerful support and presence. The community witnesses to the strength that comes from sharing concern, love, and the prayers of faith that enfold us in the truth that we are all united in Christ who "humbled himself to share in our humanity." The ministry of healing, shown to us by Jesus through the many times and ways he healed others, is a sacramental ministry shared by many within a faith community, both professionally and through our Christian commitment. This imperative is shown clearly in the introduction of the *Pastoral Care of the Sick*. The concern that Christ showed for the bodily and spiritual welfare of those who are ill is continued by the Church in its ministry to the sick. This ministry is the common responsibility of all Christians, who should visit the sick, remember them in prayer, and celebrate the sacraments with them. The family and friends of the sick, doctors and others who care for them, and priests with pastoral responsibilities, have a particular share in this ministry of comfort. (#43)

Please join us for a communal Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick on **August 10 at the 6:00pm Wednesday Mass**. If you or someone you know could benefit from this sacrament, please contact Mary Ann Callahan in Pastoral Care, 952-405-7227. Following Mass, a light dinner will be served in the Dorothy Day Social Hall.



AN ENGAGED YOUNG LEADER IN OUR MIDST—CHRISTIAN RAMIREZ

One of Pax Christi's young musical talents, Christian Ramirez, was recently accepted into St. Catherine University's *Music Ministry Alive!* camp for youth. With the help of a Leadership Development grant from Pax Christi, he will be spending five days developing his musical ability and learning skills that will aid him as a leader, musician, and liturgical minister. He currently is a member of the Adult Choir and Handbell Choir, and he has recently begun to operate the visual board on Saturday evenings. To learn more about Christian, I asked him about his acceptance to *Music Ministry Alive!* as well as his involvements within Pax Christi.

QUESTION: When did you first get started with music ministry? What aspects of it made you first interested in it?

I got involved in music ministry at my old school, Shakopee Area Catholic School, around sixth grade. There were always student singers at Masses on Wednesday, and I realized I wanted to be a part of it, so I asked the music teacher, and I started singing at weekly Mass. I also played piano during Mass, which was a great way for me to practice my piano skills. I was drawn into music ministry because I wanted to share my talents in a new way but in a setting that I was already used to.

Q: What do you think is the most fulfilling thing about music ministry?

The most fulfilling part about music ministry is knowing that I am doing something I love but am still benefitting our community. I love being able to share my talents in a setting that is welcoming and open to them.

Q: Why did you choose to participate in the choir, handbell choir, and the visual board? What do you enjoy about these activities? Do you have other involvements at Pax Christi?

In fifth grade after Mass, my mom and I went up to Shari Steffen and asked about bell choir. We were interested immediately because we loved the way they played and the music they made. I joined choir because I have always loved singing and being a part of different choirs, but I had never done it at the higher level of the Pax Christi adult choir. Doing the visual board has been a great job for me because it is a flexible schedule, and I get to go to Mass while I am doing it. The thing I love about all of these activities is that I get to know a different community of people in each one. I make relationships that are really important to me, and I often have new opportunities because of my involvement. Recently, I just discerned into the Worship Council where I am eager to share my thoughts from a younger perspective.

Q: What other things are you interested in outside of music ministry or church?

I have been playing piano for eight years, and I have been in school band since fifth grade playing alto saxophone. I also like photography and cooking.

Q: What do you hope to learn from Music Ministry Alive? What are you looking forward to?

I am hoping to get to know the music ministry community more and enhancing my skills to become a better leader in my church. I am looking forward to meeting other teenagers like me and also having private lesson sessions for individual learning. I signed up for three private lessons, two for vocal and one for piano where I get to meet with an instructor and have one-on-one time to see what I can improve and work on.

Q: How did you first hear about it? Which skills will you cultivate/enhance?

Donna Kasbohm was the first person to tell me about it. She immediately grabbed my interest and got me excited about the camp. She has been a huge help throughout the entire process, from helping me record songs for my application to helping me receive grant money from the Lay Leadership Development Council. I will improve my leadership qualities and learn how to play piano as an accompaniment as well as improve my vocal abilities.

Finally, Christian had one more thought to impart: "Thank you to everyone who is helping to make this experience possible for me; I am very excited to see what is ahead of me in my future at my parish." We congratulate Christian on his acceptance to the program, and we wish him well on his musical journey.

Written by Beth Corpuz, Pax Christi parishioner.

MEET COLLEEN REID

COLLEEN REID and her family have been a part of faith formation ever since moving to Eden Prairie and becoming members at Pax Christi. With her three kids participating in the Good Shepherd Program, Vacation Bible Camp, Children's Choir, and Children's Liturgy of the Word and Colleen assisting in leading Good Shepherd, Children's Liturgy of the Word, and being part of the Faith Formation Council, they have found fulfillment at Pax Christi and depth to their faith life.

Upon arriving at Pax Christi, Colleen knew her talents lie in working with kids because of her 14 years of teaching experience. She connected with Renee Dignan who asked her to assist with the Good Shepherd program and Children's Liturgy of the Word. She was happy to get the opportunity to not only be a part of her children's faith formation but to also get the chance to experience the Word

of God through the eyes of children. It is a place where she can continuously experience refreshing, positive energy from the kids she works with. After helping with these ministries for a few years, she was asked to join the Faith Formation Council where she is about to end her three-year term this coming year.

This constant involved presence at Pax Christi has not only had a great effect on her but on her three kids as well. By making faith a central part of her family's life, Pax Christi has become more like a second home to her three kids. Instead of complaining about going to church, they look forward to going every week. Father Bill frequently has them on the edge of the pews during his homilies. The Reid family knows a lot of people in the congregation, and a lot of people in the congregation know the family. These relationships between



her kids and members of the congregation across generations strengthen their faith along with the members who are blessed to know them. Colleen's two older daughters help assist her sometimes when she leads Children's Liturgy of the Word. This gives the daughters a chance to witness how one can use her talents and gifts to spread faith in God. Through the example of the Reids, you can see that by giving of your gifts and talents to the church and its members, your faith, the faith of your family, and the faith of the congregation is strengthened.

Written by Adrienne Huschke, Pax Christi parishioner.



FAITH FORMATION CATECHISTS NEEDED!

It takes a village to share our faith stories and traditions. Come join our team of catechists for 2016–2017. We are looking for leaders for all ages. Materials and support (and chocolate) are provided. Fees are waived for your entire family. Childcare is provided by our wonderful nursery staff. Additional information is online under "Faith Formation" or contact any of our team with questions. We asked some of the Pax Christi leaders to share why they teach:

I volunteer as a catechist to spend special time with my daughter. I love seeing her make connections within her church family, and I, in the meantime, have gotten to know my fellow catechists as well. I wish for my family to feel like Pax Christi is an extension of our home...and it does! —Alyson Armstrong

The reason I volunteer to be a Catechist Assistant is because I enjoy working with kids to help them develop a deeper respect and appreciation for Jesus. I enjoy sharing with them my strong belief in Jesus and hope that this will help them develop the same strong belief. —Brett

MEET ED KRONER AND JAN MAHONY



NEVER DOUBT the love of God. He is on the move. In you. In your neighbor. In our small corner of this planet, the marvelous news of salvation history gently echoes through the actions and words of witnesses who are sharing the love of Christ. It's not so difficult. Of course, it does involve giving your life away. Don't worry; you start small.

Just ask Ed Kroner and Jan Mahony. Their story would be impossible to tell without giving you a proper context. Much of their life centers around Pax Christi which they lovingly call home. Ed began attending in 1981. He served for many years on the Finance Council at a pivotal time when masses were held in a warehouse and they worked towards a permanent location.

Jan and Ed were married in 1989. They became even more rooted in the church when their daughter, Gracie was born. When she was three years old, Jan decided to stay home full time. She began to deliver meals to the home-bound through Meals on Wheels. Together they worked with a ministry called Art and Environment to decorate the sanctuary for each liturgical season. As their daughter grew, they moved into different ministries and together taught Faith Formation from grades 1–6. In 2011, Jan joined the Catholic Church. Soon after, she "felt a call to fill a deeply meaningful ministry" and became a Eucharistic Minister with her husband who was a Team Lead.

Much of their motivation for a fuller engagement at church was driven by a desire to raise their daughter where the spirit of giving is so strongly embraced. Soon, it was their daughter who led them into ministries they hadn't considered. Gracie joined the Handbell Choir, followed by her mom. She volunteered with the Funeral Hospitality Ministry and soon her parents got involved. Jan and Ed continue to work as needed cleaning up and serving during funerals. Jan said, "It's a tough and vulnerable time for people and yet it never fails that someone comes in the kitchen to give a heartfelt thank you."

Even though both are now retired, their lives illustrate quite the opposite. Together, they help with a monthly communion service at Friendship Village. They bring communion, do a reading, and even write a short homily. Over the past five years, they've come to know many of the residents who so much appreciate the time they share with them.

One of their most unforgettable experiences happened only recently and it may pique a memory for the rest of us. On Palm Sunday, the church did a food drive for PROP. Jan and Ed have been bringing the food to PROP from church once a month for years. However, this food drive was record breaking. It took them two days and several trips in their vehicle to deliver the 4,500 pounds of food (5 times as usual). Their enthusiasm was palpable when they shared that they had "sore backs but glowing hearts." They both agreed, "There was such a joy of being on the front lines." The people at PROP's head offices were shocked and thrilled. In their unassuming way, Jan and Ed explained that they were only the delivery crew, the real heroes were the people of Pax Christi.

Reflecting on how Pax Christi has changed over the years, they agree that even though it pushed the edge at times, it still retains the same focus. The same Spirit moves people to give of themselves and work for social justice. "It is a deep joy that we receive in return."

Written by Liz Georgioff, Pax Christi parishioner.



RECAP FROM THE JUSTICE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

THE 2016 Minnesota Legislative Session is completed — unless the Governor calls a special session to address bonding and transportation.

This year the Justice Advocacy committee focused on two initiatives before the legislature.

First was the Homes for All sponsored legislation Beacon Interfaith Housing Coalition. This legislation asked for a \$130 million bonding bill to build additional short-term housing for the homeless so that they can get back on their feet. Our Brick Card campaign in February was very successful, and your efforts produced 400 cards that were sent in the name of Pax Christi to the legislators. This was a 14% increase over last year's postcard campaign to end homelessness in Minnesota.

We also supported legislation to increase the MFIP (Minnesota

Family Investment Program) This initiative was grants. championed by the JRLC Religious Legislative (Joint Coalition), a group of Catholic, Muslim, Protestant, and Jewish faiths working together on legislation. The MFIP provides basic economic assistance for children and their parents working toward full-time paid employment. We were looking for an additional \$100/month to help families, raising the level to \$632. This would have been the first increase since 1986.

We want to say a big THANK YOU for taking your time to contact your legislators during the session. More than 40 personal letters were delivered to your representatives on behalf of these two initiatives. These individual letters are very meaningful for the legislators because they show real concern for these issues.

Unfortunately, neither of these initiatives passed during this session — very little was accomplished. But we shouldn't give up hope. We need to continue to advocate for the poor among us — to see the face of Christ in the needy and downtrodden.

Looking forward, the Justice Advocacy committee plans to focus on the election in the fall. We want to help parishioners find out what's going on at the state level in addition to the very visible presidential elections. Did you know that ALL the Minnesota legislators are up for election this year? Who are the candidates in your district? We should all be better informed about the values of our candidates.

Written by Tom Scheller, Justice Advocacy chair and Pax Christi parishioner.



A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY AT PAX CHRISTI

ARE YOU WILLING to set aside part of the next few months for some growth in your faith and a call to a deeper place with God and service to others? Beginning this September, for 24 weeks, Pax Christi will once again be offering an opportunity for a group of parish members to be changed forever as a result of participating in a one evening a week study program.

The name of the program is JustFaith. Participants will meet on Monday evenings, 6:30–8:30pm, and will also read some books and articles during the course of the program. In this Year of Mercy, they will learn how the joy of the Gospel relates to poverty, social justice, and Catholic Social Teaching. The readings promise to be compelling, interesting, and challenging. The best part is you get to come together with others to talk about it. JustFaith will also provide some retreat and immersion experiences.

For an investment of a registration fee (scholarships available) and a small amount of your time, you could see benefits and dividends that last for the rest of your life.

If you think this opportunity might be for you, or you want to learn more, contact: Andrea Ward, award@paxchristi.com, 952-405-2207, at the parish office, or Marcia Kladek, mk-2006@mchsi.com, 952-240-4775.

Written by Sigrid Ruhland Mellby, Pax Christi parishioner.

JULY

INDEPENDENCE DAY MASS

Monpay, July 4, 9:00am

So the staff can spend valuable time with family and friends during the Fouth of July holiday weekend, there will be no Mass and the parish offices will be closed on Friday, July 1. Please join us for Mass on the Fourth of July at 9:00am. The parish offices and building will be closed following Mass.

SPIRITUALITY AND MENTAL WELLNESS GROUP

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 3:00-4:30pm

This group meets monthly and provides an opportunity for anyone with mental health concerns to both give and receive support. If you would like to make a deeper connection with God and oneself and be exposed to tools which might help make one's life more manageable, you are welcome to join this group. The group meets on the first Thursday of every month from 3:00–4:30pm.

CHANGE THE WORLD SUMMER FILM SERIES

Wednesday, July 20 and August 10, 6:00-9:00pm, Hall of Martyrs

Teens ages 14–18, come be inspired with our "Change the World" Summer Film Series at Pax Christi! We'll be watching three incredible documentaries that are sure to change your perspective on the world and inspire you go out and make a difference! We will begin with 6:00pm Mass in the Thomas Merton Chapel followed by pizza, movie, discussion, and root beer floats in Hall of Martyrs. RSVP online to let us know you are coming. This event is free! Friends are welcome.

July 20 *Planetary*: We are in the midst of a global crisis of perspective. We have forgotten the undeniable truth that every living thing is connected.

August 10 *American Denial:* Where did American racism come from? Why does it continue today? What can we do to end racism once and for all?

A NOTE ABOUT EVENTS AT PAX CHRISTI

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



VACATION BIBLE CAMP: AGE 3-6TH GRADE

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

Summer Bible Camp week at Pax Christi offers a special world of programs and activities for children ages 3 through youth entering 6th grade. Each year during one week in July, Pax Christi comes alive with the excitement of Bible Camp engaging children and youth in worship, crafts, music, games, activities, and our drama team's biblical storytelling bringing bible stories to life! Complete details in right panel. Register online at www.paxchristi.com/biblecamp.

PAXCONNEX: FOR THOSE ENTERING 7TH-12TH GRADE

July 25-29, 9:00am-4:00pm, July 30 Celebration, 5:00pm RSVP

Join your friends for a fun and faith filled week! In the mornings we will put our faith into action by participating in on- and off-site service activities, followed by a community lunch (included) and exciting new afternoon activities! Our afternoons will consist of activities and games that allow you to grow your leadership skills, peer ministry skills, and build our community – all while having a blast! There is no fee for 10th-12th graders when they participate as a Peer Minister. Register online now. Additional details online at www.paxchristi.com/paxconnexsummer.

MAKE PLANS NOW

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

Wednesday, August 10, 6:00pm

Please join us for a communal Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick on August 10 at the 6:00pm, Wednesday Mass. If you or someone you know could benefit from this sacrament, please contact Mary Ann Callahan in Pastoral Care, 952-405-7227. Following Mass, a light dinner will be served in the Dorothy Day Social Hall. Complete details on page 11.

PARISHIONER NEWS

MAY BAPTISMS

Ava Lyn Peterson	5/1/2016
Blake Michael Peterson	5/1/2016
Jackson Norman-Louis Pexa	5/7/2016
Crosby Monroe Glaser	5/15/2016
Benjamin John Piras	5/15/2016
Niamh Lorlai Tousignant	5/15/2016
Finley Lynn Inveen	5/22/2016
Priya May Patil	5/22/2016
Easton George Schulte	5/22/2016
Ryan Shawn Schulte	5/22/2016
Aiden Antonio Sullivan	5/22/2016
Athena Susan Taylor	5/22/2016

MAY WEDDINGS

Tracy Cansino & Philip Norton	5/7/2016
Emily Knoll & David Holmquist	5/21/2016
Erin Sherman & Timothy Miller	5/28/2016

MAY FUNERALS

James Hokanson	5/6/2016
Lonne Murphy	5/6/2016
Arthur Anselmo	5/10/2016
Jean Elizabeth Lyons	5/28/2016

MAY NEW MEMBERS

Ryan and Jennifer Blesi James and Catherine Liegl Kevin and Chrisanne McGraw Shelly Milow Gerald and Franes Roth





READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 3, 2016

 Sunday:
 Is 66:10-14c/Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

 Monday:
 Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22/Ps 145:2-9/Mt 9:18-26

 Tuesday:
 Hos 8:4-7, 11-13/Ps 115:3-10/Mt 9:32-38

 Wednesday:
 Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12/Ps 105:2-7/Mt 10:1-7

 Thursday:
 Hos 11:1-4, 8c-9/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16/Mt 10:7-15

 Friday:
 Hos 14:2-10/Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-14, 17/Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Is 6:1-8/Ps 93:1-2, 5/Mt 10:24-33

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 10, 2016

Sunday: Dt 30:10-14/Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36-37 Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-8/Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday: ls 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-10, 14-15/Mt 11:25-27 Thursday: ls 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-21/Mt 11:28-30 Friday: ls 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/ls 38:10-12, 16/Mt 12:1-8 Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14/Mt 12:14-21

Readings for the Week of July 17, 2016

Sunday: Gn 18:1-10a/Ps 15:2-5/Col 1:24-28/Lk 10:38-42 Monday: Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16-17, 21, 23/Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-8/Mt 12:46-50 Wednesday: Jer 1:1, 4-10/Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17/Mt 13:1-9 Thursday: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Ps 36:6-11/Mt 13:10-17 Friday: Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31:10-13/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18 Saturday: Jer 7:1-11/Ps 84:3-6, 8, 11/Mt 13:24-30

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 24, 2016

Sunday: Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-3, 6-8/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13

Monday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1-6/Mt 20:20-28 Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8-11, 13/Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18/Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1-6/Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42 Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 14:1-12

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 31, 2016

Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21
Monday: Jer 28:1-17/Ps 119:29, 43, 79-80, 95, 102/Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23/Mt 14:22-36

Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10-13/Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:12-15, 18-19/Mt 16:13-23 Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Dt 32:35-36, 39, 41/Mt 16:24-28 Saturday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Lk 9:28b-36

JULY	See pages 18-19 for details or visit us online at www.paxchristi.com.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
26	27	28	29	30	1 BUILDING/OFFICES CLOSED	2	
					NO MASS		
3	INDEPENDENCE DAY 9:00AM MASS	5	6	7 SPIRITUALITY & MENTAL WELLNESS GROUP	8	9 NAME TAG WEEKEND	
		BAPTISM PREP CLASS					
10 NAME TAG WEEKEND	11	ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE MTG.	13	14	15	16 VIRTUS TRAINING	
		VIRTUS TRAINING					
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
			YOUTH FILM SERIES	VIRTUS TRAINING			
24	25	26	27 LE CAMP WEEK • PAXC	28	29	30 SATURDAY	
		VACATION BIBL	E CAMP WEEK PAXC	ONNEX CAMP WEEK		CELEBRATION	

The world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.

—Pope Francis



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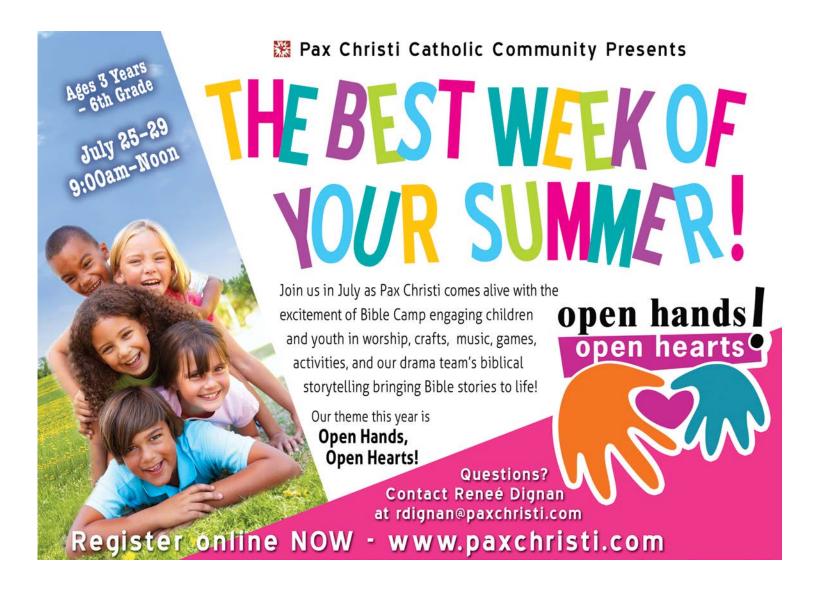
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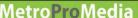
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