

PAXCHRISTI NEWS

Monthly Magazine of Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie September 2019

**Get Your
SPIRIT On!**
at the Tailgate
Homecoming
Celebration
Page 9

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

...by being present among us all the time as Spirit...



PAX CHRISTI

Catholic Community

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

Office Hours

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

Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

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

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

Weekday Masses

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

Rosary prayed following weekday morning Masses.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (private)

Saturdays 4:00–4:30pm

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.

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DEAR FRIENDS...



Fr. J. Michael Byron
Pastor

ONE of the reasons that we take liturgical music so seriously here at Pax Christi is not only to encourage beauty and singing—it's also to ensure that we are doing good theology when we worship together. By that I mean that the songs in which we partake need to be speaking of things that we actually believe to be true about the faith that we profess. No less than the prayers of the Mass, the sung syllables that come out of our mouths form us in the practice of our religion. (This is why the present English translation of the Roman Missal is so abysmal, among other reasons for suggesting regularly that we Christians "merit" salvation from God by the good things that we do. That's completely false, heretical in fact, but

don't get me started. Let's just say that the Lutherans have been proven right in being suspicious of us Catholics on account of such utterances!)

Anyway, I've been thinking recently about some of the popular hymns that are sung in church, not nearly all of which are filled with sound Catholic theology. We do a great job in our parish of filtering out some of the worst sentiments in "sacred music," and that is very deliberate. But there's one song that keeps coming back because people like it. It's sung at about 98.6 percent of funerals that we celebrate. It's the not-particularly-Catholic (but quite lovely sounding) hymn titled, "How Great Thou Art." I like it, too. But it's the third verse that always makes me crazy, perhaps because I think too much about it. The words go like this: "And when I think of God, His Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in. When on the cross, my burdens gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sins."

Wait, what? God sent His Son to us in order to die? That was His purpose? And somehow His agonizing suffering was needed in order for me to have access to the love, mercy, and forgiveness of God? I don't believe that. Some Reformation

Protestants do, in fact, believe that, but I'm not one of those. And our Catholic tradition has never formally taught that. It's known in theological circles as the theory of "atonement," and it has a long, popular history in Christian churches of all kinds, including ours. But let's think for a moment about what that implies.

First, it suggests that God was constrained to behave in a particular way because of a muddle into which we had forced Him because of our bad behavior. That's absurd. Second, it suggests that suffering and death is somehow pleasing to God because of the good end that will come of it. That also is absurd. Third, it suggests that the God who made us and who sustains us daily really didn't like us very much after we had disappointed Him by sin, and would only be appeased by blood sacrifice. Believe that if you will, but I do not. And nothing in our Catholic theological tradition requires us to think otherwise.

It all begs the question, "Well then, why DID Christ come to us?". There is a venerable tradition, advanced most vigorously by the Franciscans for the past 800 years or so, that insists that He came in order to disclose God's





enduring love for us, and to show us how to live well together as compassionate human beings. That makes sense to me. I don't and can't "merit" God's affection by anything that I accomplish well enough, and I don't have to. Life with God is a gift, not a reward.

This month's magazine highlights the theme that **CHRIST IS ALIVE**. Amen! His singular accomplishment is not by being dead or having suffered. It is by being present among us all the time as Spirit, welcoming us, encouraging us

into the life of our Maker. It is by being Lord over all threats, even death itself. God is not out to get us, in that sense. But God is indeed out to get us.

Christ
is
Alive!
pax christi catholic community

PAX CHRISTI YOUTH IN DC!

SERVING THOSE IN NEED, WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Fourteen youth and three adults from Pax Christi traveled to Washington, DC on July 21–27 for a service/justice immersion trip through Young Neighbors in Action. The youth kept a communal journal throughout the trip. Here are some of their entries:



Evan's rundown is a pretty good description of our daily routine! Our evening program consisted of learning about Catholic social teaching, engaging in prayer together, and building our community through social activities and fun! We also experienced the culture of Washington, DC's black Catholic community through an evening of dance, song, spoken word, drumming, and more. Additionally, we visited the National Mall on our "rec night" and walked through several of the monuments there.



JULY 22, 2019

As we woke up this morning, some of us may not have known what we were getting into or why we are here. Today my group got the opportunity to go to the Garden Guild, and from weeding to mowing, we did it all! We are excited to enjoy our week. On our job site we do not get to see much of who we are helping, but we can see our progress and it puts a smile on our faces. —Makayla O'Laughlin, 18



I woke up, then I ate breakfast. I was working with children all day. I came back and took a nap, ate dinner, went to evening programming, and then went to bed. —Evan Divine, 16

JULY 23, 2019

It was fun taking a tour of the Franciscan Monastery where the Garden Guild is located. The weather was not as oppressive as yesterday, so that's nice. At the site we picked vegetables—tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, and more. I was a little disappointed that the work was not as much of a workout, but at least it wasn't an inferno like yesterday. —Nate Laurent, 17

Today was really cool. At our work site we were able to attend Mass and get a tour of the beautiful church. During work time we harvested crops and sorted them. We got the opportunity to see one of the food shelves that was receiving the food. I can't wait for the rest of the week! —Jacob Plourde, 17

JULY 25, 2019

Today was a good day. I got to make so many connections with the kids. It made me so happy! Everyone was so sweet and kind. I learned a lot from all of these people. —Kalina Fuglie, 15

Today was very eventful! At the end of the day we had culture night and it was AMAZING. It was all about African American culture, which I loved! It was so joyful and it was so nice to connect with my black roots. —Anna Madison, 16

PAX YOUTH SERVED AT THREE SITES:

FRANCISCAN MONASTERY

GARDEN GUILD: weeding, mowing, harvesting, and sorting at an urban farm that offers its produce to food shelves in the area

AGE IN PLACE: indoor and outdoor maintenance projects that allow senior citizens to stay in their homes and live independently

LITTLE FRIENDS FOR PEACE:

working with children at a peace camp (run by Pax Christi founding members MJ and Jerry Park) teaching skills to cultivate peace to kids ages four to 12.



JULY 26, 2019

This week was a great experience! I feel closer to God and the friends I made throughout our time. Making connections with the kids at camp was so fun and meaningful. The service turned out to be so important and truly had an impact on how I look at the world around me. –Murphy Schoenecker, 16

Today, the youth went to the Capitol and met with staffers from the offices of Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Tina Smith, and Representative Dean Phillips. They even got a chance to speak with Representative Dean Phillips himself for about ten minutes, which was an awesome surprise! The youth spoke about human dignity, focusing on the specific issues of immigration, homelessness, and hunger. They told stories drawing from our experiences at Pax Christi as well as the work they did in Washington, DC. They were respectful, articulate, and compelling, and I hope our elected officials can appreciate the important perspective of their young constituents. –Jessie Johnson, 9-12th grade Youth Formation Minister

JULY 27, 2019

This week we got a lot closer to God and our community through our service for Jesus Christ. –Mary Kate McCoy, 17

This week was full of enriching experiences that developed my skill set and grew my faith. One of my favorite parts of working with the elderly was asking them what piece of advice they would give to a young person. In all, this experience has driven me to go out and DO. Although it is foundationally necessary to acknowledge how much you have, it is a whole other necessary thing to take action. –Eleanor Watson, 16

Our group visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the White House on our last day in Washington, DC. It was an important reminder of the obligation we have as Catholic Christians to work for justice in our everyday lives through service and advocacy.





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.

GOD-CENTERED

DID YOU KNOW that “God-Centered” is at the top of our Pax Christi’s list of six values that supports our Mission Statement? Focusing on our values helps us to live out our mission. As a parish community “we hold God as the center of our daily lives and provide a place for spiritual rest and rejuvenation.” The commentary on this value states, “We believe the way to God and the way to peace is made possible by our union with Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit . . . Our unity with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and the unity with the Catholic Church are manifested in the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. In this celebration, Christ is present not only in the Eucharist, but also in the presider, the assembly, and the Word. Through sacraments, worship, and prayer, we become God-centered.”

My husband Wayne and I church “hopped” and “shopped” before becoming members at Pax Christi. What was most important to us in a faith community was how the Eucharist was celebrated. Is the community involved, participative, and responsive? Are visitors made to feel welcome? Is the liturgical music uplifting, singable, and related to the Scripture readings? Are the homilies challenging and hope-filled? Is there a joyfulness and a spirit of generosity in the community? We found these things to be genuinely true for us when we visited Pax Christi. We feel privileged and grateful to have found our spiritual home here!

What we know is that a well-planned Eucharistic celebration doesn’t just magically happen! Perhaps it will surprise you to know that for our four weekend Eucharistic celebrations it takes hundreds of shared ministers. Greeters, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, choir members, instrumentalists, altar servers, Mass coordinators, sign language interpreters, cross bearers, computer technicians, hospitality and nursery ministers, Children’s Liturgy of the Word leaders, liturgical environment, and altar linen shared ministers all add their gifts to our community!

The Worship Council, of which I am a part, would like to invite each of you to consider how you might add your gift(s) to help sustain this wonderful God-centered community. No gift is too small. Parents and grandparents, encourage your children/grandchildren to share their gifts with the community. Be a great role model to them by ministering with them. We need you and them! Being an active part of the community can make you feel like you belong. And belonging can lead to growth in your faith journey and wonderful, lasting relationships.

Written by Phyllis Olson, Worship Council Chair



THE FALL has always been one of my favorite seasons. The air feels cool and crisp and the leaves become showy with crimson, gold, and pink. There is a crackle of anticipation.

Fall marked a return to school...a fresh start. When my children were young, it meant the end of leisurely days in the sun. Our long evenings of watching baseball and soccer games, switched to soccer tryouts and football games. It also meant reconnecting with friends.

Homecoming was one of the highlights of the fall. Our kids were always excited when Spirit Week started. Homecoming was a day of pride with all of the kids wearing their jerseys. There were large gatherings at friends' houses for the homecoming parade which was followed by the big football game. The whole town celebrated!

We invite you to join us for the Pax Christi Tailgate/Homecoming Celebration on the weekend of October 5/6. It marks the beginning of our stewardship month. It's a celebration of generosity and community. Living into the God story is our baptismal call, to heal and to transform the world.

Your generosity makes all of the work at Pax Christi possible. We offer over 100 ministries that make a daily impact on people's lives. Our Eucharistic ministers not only serve at our Masses, they also reach out to people living in care centers or who are homebound. We respond with love, groceries, hot meals, Easter baskets, blankets, quilts, mittens, and hats through your generosity. We sign, sing, and celebrate Masses with joyous instruments. We steward our beautiful sanctuary, chapel, 25-acre campus, walking paths, and labyrinth. We grow food for our hungry neighbors in our Giving Garden.

We imagine and work toward a world that honors each of our stories, heritage, and culture, welcoming all. We live in hope and teach our children that God is the real source of our strength. We welcome new people to our faith.

We seek the holy and sacred. We celebrate sacraments. We seek justice and work faithfully for those whose voices are not heard. We generously grant to agencies that empower and lift people out of poverty.

We ask you to prayerfully consider your part of this powerful story. We are grateful for the many ways that you lift up our joyful community in prayer, service, and financial generosity. Join us at the Pax Christi Tailgate/Homecoming Celebration!

Written by Maura Schnorbach, Director of Development and Engagement



TRUTH AND JUSTICE

Discovered in Scripture, Defined by Action

TRUTH AND JUSTICE. How can we find truth in this world of information where we are given “truth” in so many different ways? So many truths available to us so easily, some even in Twitter’s 280 characters. Can we really understand reality within 280 characters?

This formless foundation of understanding we create is nothing new to those concerned with values and morality, or questions of justice and power. Over time an explosion of individualized thought has re-oriented a world which now has more questions and possible answers than ever before. Some have claimed this epoch is defined by a “crisis of values.” They see an inverse geometry, a striation where structure used to rule. It is a fair point. What does justice really mean for those of us in the Catholic faith when morality is so formless?

On the one hand, we know Scripture provides these answers. It gives to us the Word of God so that we may know truth firsthand and for ourselves. We may even think of scripture as unveiled certainty. Indeed, what else could the truth be but certain and immediate? Truth however, is double-sided: difference and repetition, the idea *requires* the application, the form requires matter, and so truth demands action. Truth demands living in the world, experiencing the world, and maybe most importantly it requires strength to encounter the world. Though the idea of justice may be self-evident, the application seldom is.

Pope Francis seizes on this line in *Laudato Si’*, an encyclical that enshrines both a commitment to justice as Catholics, but also an application of the same. He defines an idea of justice that is firmly enshrined in the world, and which sees everything as primordially interconnected. Justice forms part of a global process. It necessitates a “global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity.” It is thus justice as application not simply as concept, and it demands “Being in the World.” In fact, Pope Francis takes great pains to lay out the issues affecting our world as fundamentally connected to justice. However, justice here is one that is found and addressed in community: “Respect must also be shown for the various cultural riches of different peoples, their art and poetry, their interior life and spirituality. If we are truly concerned to develop an ecology capable of remedying the damage we have done, no branch of the sciences and no form of wisdom can be left out, and that includes religion and the language particular to it.”

Truth and Justice are born out of a process of understanding and love. For us as Catholics, they are discovered through Scripture but defined by action. Though doctrine gives us the answers, it is through the world as it is lived and experienced that we uncover the Form of Truth, and the application of justice. Let’s join the work of the Church on the application of justice.

On Sunday, September 15 we will launch our new Pax Christi Social Action Teams ministry. We will gather in Room 212 at 12:30pm. Come join in community with other Pax Christi members to take action for justice. Please join us! Additional information on page 19.

Written by Ricardo Ortiz Nava, Justice Council Member

WE HONOR KRIS KOEPPL

FRIEND, LEADER, JUSTICE-SEEKER, PEACEMAKER

KRIS KOEPPL was a caring, loving, strong, incredible person. She was a person of integrity and valued justice for all. Kris looked for goodness in everyone. She served Pax Christi as a member of the Justice Council and during that time worked for the good of every human being. She was a fervent leader who stood for kindness, understanding, solidarity, and peace.

Even when her health started to decline, her attitude was always positive. Kris was determined to live every day to the best of her ability. Kris's life revolved around her family and grandkids who she referred to as her "Grand Angels." We were blessed that her love of family extended to the community of Pax Christi in all that she shared with us and all that she taught us. She had a wonderful quote: "I've had a great life and am not entitled to be crabby."

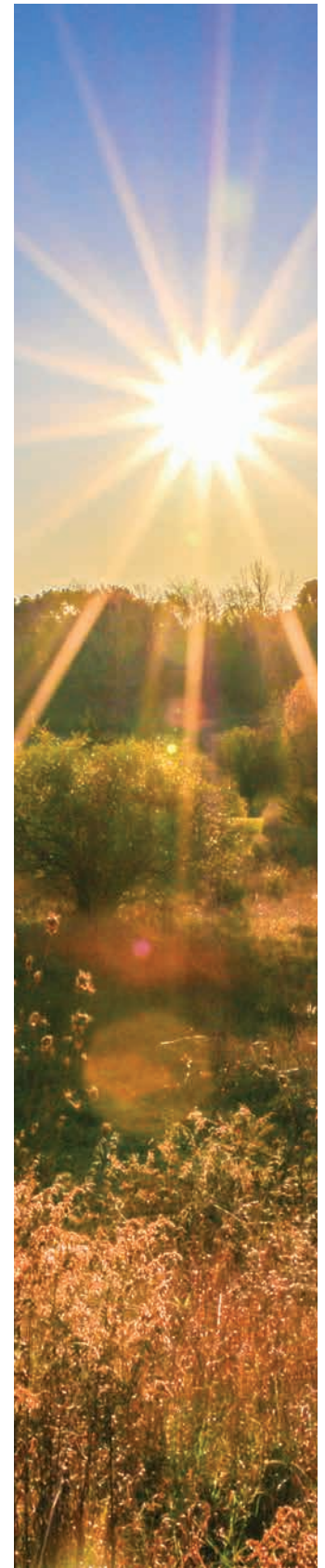
In honor of Kris, the Justice Council is celebrating with a **Sharing Our Stories Breakfast** on Saturday, September 21, at 8:45am. We honor her memory in this event designed to provide an opportunity for diverse members of Eden Prairie to come together to share across differences. It is a time to share one of the oldest rituals: sitting down and eating with friends (new and old), sharing and listening to stories of what makes us who we are. We can think of no better way to honor our friend than to reach out to the greater community to connect, learn, build trust, and support a community of care! To quote Maya Angelou, "Food is important not just as fuel for the body, but as devices for the growth of the soul."

Please join us on September 21, at 8:45am. Reservations are required for this event so that we can be well-prepared to welcome all who gather! We recommend this event for people between the ages of 10 and 100! Come share your story.

Written by Peg Musegades, Justice Ministry



I ASK ALL PEOPLE OF
GOODWILL TO HELP BUILD A
CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER,
SOLIDARITY AND PEACE.
—POPE FRANCIS



WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

POPE FRANCIS has declared **September 29** as the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. On this day the plight of refugees around the world is brought to our attention. Many flee their homeland because of famine, plague, war, persecution, discrimination, and natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes. Many flee to escape poverty. Together we focus on trying to help migrants and refugees and on reducing the number of people who become refugees in the future.

Following are excerpts from Pope Francis' message to reflect on and ponder.

...The presence of migrants and refugees—and of vulnerable people in general—is an invitation to recover some of those essential dimensions of our Christian existence and our humanity that risk being overlooked in a prosperous society.

That is why it is not just about migrants.

When we show concern for them, we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone; in taking care of them, we all grow; in listening to them, we also give voice to a part of ourselves that we may keep hidden because it is not well regarded nowadays.

It is not just about migrants: it is also about our fears...

It is not just about migrants: it is about charity...

It is not just about migrants: it is about our humanity...

It is not just about migrants: it is a question of seeing that no one is excluded...

It is not just about migrants: it is about putting the last in first place...

It is not just about migrants: it is about the whole person, about all people...

It is not just about migrants: it is about building the city of God and man...

Migrants, especially those who are most vulnerable, help us to read the 'signs of the times'...

If you would like to learn more about worldwide migration, how to advocate for a just immigration system in the U.S., and find out more about the newly formed Pax Christi Immigration Team, contact Joan Howe-Pullis, jhowe-pullis@paxchristi.com.

Written by Donna Kasbohm, Director of Liturgy and Music

The entire message from Pope Francis for the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees can be found at <http://w2.vatican.va>.





SCOTT BRAZIL BEGINS ROLE AS DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

PAX CHRISTI welcomes Scott Brazil as its new Director of Faith Formation. Scott grew up in Bloomington as a member of St. Edward's parish. His involvement with St. Edward's youth program played a large role in his current vocation. He says youth ministry was a place where he not only found unconditional acceptance and belonging, but also a setting in which he could discover his gifts and skills to make things better.

Even though Scott knew in high school that he had the desire to become involved in faith ministry, his path there was hardly a straight line. A commitment he had already made to enter the Navy required that he put this vocation to the side. Four years later, Scott's commitment with the military was complete and he started completing his general education requirements at Normandale College. At the same time, Scott began volunteering at St. Edward's in the youth program. His volunteer work there evolved into a part-time position, and then a full-time position. While working full time at St. Edward's, Scott attended the University of St. Thomas. After eight and a half years at St. Edward, Scott made the difficult decision to leave his home parish to become part of the staff at Holy Family High School in Victoria. He taught theology and was part of the campus ministry from 2004 to 2007. From there, Scott went to Our Lady of the Lake in Mound where he was in charge of the faith formation program for three years. His most recent position was at Risen Savior in Burnsville where he spent more than eight years in social justice and adult faith formation.

Scott anticipates that his familiarity with two members of Pax Christi will help his transition: Fr. Byron, who taught theology while Scott was attending St. Thomas, and Parish Director Jane Schmitz, who was on staff at St. Edwards. Scott has heard a lot about Pax Christi and says that it is unique in its founding and its strong lay leadership. One of his greatest areas of interest, and where he sees a significant opportunity, is supporting Pax Christi's young adults. Scott hopes to learn what is of greatest importance to their faith life, develop ways to encourage spiritual growth, and create connections to engage them in the larger community.

Scott will be commuting to Pax Christi from Jordan, where he lives with his wife Jamie and their two daughters—Alayna who is 13 and Sofia who is 10. Other residents in the Brazil home include two dogs and four cats. Animals are just one of the family's passions; the other is soccer. Scott and Jamie enjoy watching Alayna and Sofia play youth soccer and the entire family loves taking in the Minnesota United games. As someone who describes himself as a servant leader, Scott is eager to listen and learn about the passions of the Pax Christi community so that he can serve as a resource to members of the parish.

Written by Karin Poellinger, Staff Writer and Technical Editor



CLEANING IS A MONDAY MORNING RITUAL FOR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS

AT 6:00AM on a Monday morning, the hum of a vacuum cleaner breaks the silence in the sanctuary. It's the sound of Terry Brown already on the job in his volunteer capacity with Building Services. Terry is one of several volunteers who spend their Monday mornings cleaning the church and getting it ready for the rest of the week. After being retired for several years, Terry responded to an ad in the bulletin requesting help from Building Services. As an early riser, the task fit his schedule and allowed him to contribute to his parish community. Terry started out in the summer of 2015 doing a variety of needed jobs, such as mopping the altar area, cleaning classrooms, setting up and tearing down rooms, vacuuming the hallways, and spraying weeds outside. After a year, he started vacuuming, and has been doing so ever since. It takes Terry about two and a half hours to vacuum the sanctuary and narthex—a very large space that sees a lot of use over the weekend. Terry says he is supported by the Building Services staff who supply him with what he needs to complete his weekly task. He also feels appreciated by the staff who take the time to ask how he's doing and to extend their gratitude.

Terry isn't the only one arriving early. Tony Skenzich is also in at 6:00am and calls himself a Jack-of-all-trades. He says that he basically fills in wherever the staff needs him to, but that it largely consists of room set up and tear down. Depending upon each week's calendar, Tony will stop in to volunteer two to four days a week to make sure that rooms are ready and set up for each activity. He took on the role about six years ago after being recruited by Al Haider, the Building Services coordinator at the time. Tony said that Al had a special gift for making people feel welcome and that all of the building services staff make him feel needed.

One of those arriving a little later in the morning is Sharon Karkanen, who started volunteering with building services seven years ago. Sharon had completed a volunteer interest form, and Monday morning cleaning was one of the volunteer activities that matched her schedule and preferences. Building Services contacted her and she began by vacuuming the sanctuary. When that job no longer suited her, Sharon moved to other assignments. Right now she is responsible for restocking the soap and paper

products in Pax Christi's bathrooms, along with emptying the trash cans. It may sound like a small task but given how many bathrooms there are—13 in all—Sharon saves the janitorial staff considerable time. While going about her duties, Sharon noticed that the indoor plants were in need of attention, and like a true gardener, couldn't help but tend to them. After talking to building staff, Sharon made the plants a formal part of her building service duties. Because plants are her passion, she feels a spiritual connection as she is carrying out her work.

Plant care has become a shared responsibility with Lekha Varkey. Lekha says that she enjoys taking care of the plants at Pax Christi because it gives her an opportunity to serve the church in a small way. Lekha says, "The funny thing is I hardly ever noticed the plants in church before I started watering them." Now it brings her immense joy to see the plants flourishing.

Like many of the volunteers, Theresa (Terry) Lubbers' duties have fluctuated since starting as a cleaning volunteer. She appreciates that both her schedule and physical needs have been accommodated. At one time, when she was waiting for her shoulder to heal, Al Haider told her that she still had one good arm to use and that she could use it to dust, which she did until she fully recovered. Theresa laughs about that but is grateful for the flexibility and the opportunity to contribute. These days her routine includes cleaning several rooms, including Mother Teresa, the Anne Frank room, and the staff break room.

Terese Rowekamp and her husband Mike drop in every other Monday to wash windows. Washing windows is something they started doing a year and a half ago as a way to volunteer together. For Mike, who at 61 has early-onset Alzheimer's, washing windows allows him to continue a lifetime commitment to volunteering. For Terese, it helps her to keep Mike busy and active. For both, it provides a connection to the Pax Christi community.

Although they each have different jobs, all of the Monday morning volunteers appreciate the ability to contribute and make a difference. As a group they acknowledge that the sense of appreciation and support from the staff is what keeps them coming back. For Sharon Karkanen, volunteering has given her the opportunity to meet many people. Sharon says she now has more friends to visit and have coffee with. One of those friends is Lekha Varkey. The friendship started with care of the plants but has expanded to their own gardens and various other interests. Lekha says, "I guess the biggest gift I have received since I started watering the church plants is my friendship with Sharon!"

Theresa Lubbers says that her work on Monday mornings gives her a sense of belonging. She especially enjoys her surroundings and likes to stop by the St. Francis shrine when it's time to take a break. Theresa even likes that cleaning takes place on Mondays. For her it's a positive way to start her week, giving her a sense of accomplishment and getting things off to a good start.



Although they work independently and behind the scenes, the Monday volunteers find a unique sense of connection with the community. For Tony the connection comes with the events that he prepares for, and for Terry Brown and Theresa Lubbers it comes with finding items that people have left behind. When Terry is vacuuming the sanctuary and finds Cheerios or other snacks, it makes him think about the families with young, hungry children. Theresa takes note of the seasonal ebb and flow of activity in the community. Glitter used to make decorations is a common during Advent, and bobby pins are often found during the wedding season. These little discoveries create a sense of belonging to the Pax Christi community—a community that has clean surroundings thanks to this group of volunteers.

Written by Karin Poellinger, Staff Writer and Technical Editor



MINISTRIES OF PRAYER:

LABYRINTH WALKING – A labyrinth is a walking meditation that integrates mind, body, and spirit in prayer. Pax Christi has an outdoor labyrinth which is self-directed and available year round. Indoor labyrinth walks are available monthly. A topic is explored in a group setting prior to the monthly indoor walks.

PRAYER BASKET – Before and after each weekend Mass, you may write a prayer intention and drop it into the Prayer Basket located near the baptismal font. All intentions in the Prayer Basket are collectively included in the Prayers of the Faithful at each weekend Mass.

PRAYER BOARD – Pax Christi's website hosts the Prayer Board. You are invited to pray as you are able for the intentions listed. Intentions may be submitted via the link on our homepage.

PRAYER CORNER – The Prayer Corner is included in the weekly bulletin. You are invited to pray as you are able for those listed.

PRAYER LINE – The Prayer Line team of dedicated parishioners prays in response to intentions brought forward by others in our community. Call the parish office if you have a prayer request you would like included.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – Give one or make one. Prayer and love of knitting or crocheting have been combined into a special ministry that reaches out to anyone going through a transition, providing them with a beautiful shawl. You are invited to join this special ministry. Prayer shawls are available in the parish office.

ROSARY GROUP – Each Tuesday morning at 9:05am, the rosary is prayed in the chapel. Come and join others in this timeless prayer.

For additional information visit
www.paxchristi.com/careandsupportministry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ONLINE PICTORIAL DIRECTORY, SIGN UP FOR YOUR PHOTO SESSION NOW!

Fotohaus will be returning in September for three days to take photos for our online directory. Sessions will be held outside in the St. Francis of the Woods Shrine. In the event of bad weather, the photo session will move indoors to the Hall of Martyrs. A viewing and purchase opportunity will promptly follow your portrait session. If you purchase photos or digital images, they will arrive at Pax Christi 2–3 weeks after your photo session. You will receive an email or phone call when they are ready to pick up. The digital images will be retouched and color corrected and ready to print at a studio of your choice.

Go to www.paxchristi.com/saycheese for complete details and link to register online. Questions? Contact Melissa Nault in the parish office, 952-405-7221.

www.paxchristi.com/saycheese

READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13; Lk 4:16-30
 Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 4:31-37
 Wednesday: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52:10-11; Lk 4:38-44
 Thursday: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98:2-6; Lk 5:1-11
 Friday: Col 1:15-20; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 5:33-39
 Saturday: Col 1:21-23; Ps 54:3-4, 6, 8; Lk 6:1-5
 Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-6, 12-17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17;
 Lk 14:25-33

READINGS FOR THE WEEK SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

Monday: Col 1:24 -- 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11
 Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19
 Wednesday: Col 3:1-11; Ps 145:2-3, 10-13ab; Lk 6:20-26
 Thursday: Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38
 Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42
 Saturday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
 Sunday: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19;
 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 [1-10]

READINGS FOR THE WEEK SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10
 Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6; Lk 7:11-17
 Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35
 Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-10; Lk 7:36-50
 Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3
 Saturday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
 Sunday: Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 [10-13]

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 8:16-18
 Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 8:19-21
 Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Tb:13:2, 3-4abefghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6
 Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 9:7-9
 Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Ps 43:1-4; Lk 9:18-22
 Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45
 Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7-10; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

Monday: Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Lk 9:46-50
 Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-7; Lk 9:51-56
 Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8; Ps 137:1-6, 10-11; Mt 18:1-5, 10
 Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8-11; Lk 10:1-12
 Friday: Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9; Lk 10:13-16
 Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-37; Lk 10:17-24
 Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10

PARISHIONER NEWS

JULY BAPTISMS

Cora Lee Hanson	7/14/2019
Caroline Elizabeth Heinze	7/14/2019
Ryker Daniel Sebolboro	7/14/2019
Zander Jeffery Sebolboro	7/14/2019
Ava Margaret Naudé	7/21/2019
Abel Mann O'Toole	7/21/2019
Thomas Steven Richardson	7/21/2019
Yavin Drew Tegio Legaspi	7/28/2019

JULY WEDDINGS

Abby Morrison and Andrew Weeres	7/13/2019
Katherine Schacht and Luke Scheeman	7/19/2019

JULY FUNERALS

Timothy Snell	7/3/2019
Ervin E. Kirchner, Jr.	7/15/2019
Denise A. Cline	7/21/2019
Kristin Jo (Porter) Schaitberger	7/25/2019

JULY NEW MEMBERS

Jacquelyn Bormann
 Brigid Brady and Matthew Cooper
 Carol Coburn
 Earl and Virginia Geiger
 Dau-shen Ju and Chi-Yu Huang
 Nilce and Rachelle Legaspi
 Grainne McCartie



BOOMERS AND BEYOND

PAX CHRISTI SENIOR MINISTRY

Sign-up at www.paxchristi.com/boomers
 to receive info on upcoming events.

Upcoming events include:

September 6: First Friday Coffee and Conversation
September 11: Rabbi Glaser Event

SEPTEMBER

TOT-TIME OPEN GYM

Fifteen Wednesdays, 9:30–11:30am, September 2019–May 2020

Tot-Time Open Gym is a great opportunity for parents or grandparents and children to play alongside others. This is a great activity for those long winter months or when you are looking for some interaction and companionship. Wednesday mornings from September–May opposite of Moms ROCK gatherings as schedule permits. Parents **MUST** stay with children. For more information, check the Pax Christi calendar for dates and location.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

MASS: Monday, September 2, 9:00am

There is no Sunday morning hospitality, and the nursery will be closed the entire Labor Day weekend. Join us for Labor Day Mass on Monday at 9:00am in the chapel. The parish office will be **CLOSED** for business in observance of the holiday and the building will close following Mass.

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Friday, September 6, beginning with Mass at 8:30am

Come and join other parishioners for Mass in the chapel at 8:30am, followed by coffee and hospitality. The event is sponsored by the Pax Christi Boomers and Beyond. All are welcome!

BOOMERS AND BEYOND: BRUNCH AND SPEAKER

Wednesday, September 11, 9:30am, \$10 **RSVP**

Join other Pax Christi seniors for brunch followed by a talk by Rabbi Glaser. This is the first talk in a Comparative Religion series. Rabbi Glaser is at Temple Israel, Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he serves his congregation with his knowledge of Torah Kabbalah and Israeli culture, teachings, music, comedy, Jewish mysticism, and social justice. Come and join us for an interesting and entertaining presentation. Register online or contact Maria Miller, 952-405-7217, by Tuesday, September 3. The fee is \$10.

A NOTE ABOUT EVENTS AT PAX CHRISTI

If an event indicates **RSVP**,
you may register/RSVP online at
www.paxchrisi.com/eventregistration.
Questions? Contact the parish office, 952-941-3150.

OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH/ NATIVITY OF MOTHER MARY

Saturday, September 14, 5:00pm Mass with dinner to follow

Mother Mary holds a special place in the hearts of Catholics in India. We will celebrate The Feast of Our Lady of Good Health with the celebration of Mass at 5:00pm, followed by a short prayer and Indian dinner. Please join us to honor our Mother, make new friends, and enjoy some delicious Indian food prepared by the committee.

TWELVE BASKETS BOOK DRIVE

Weekends of September 14/15 and 21/22

Twelve Baskets is sponsoring a book drive for Blessed Trinity to help them replenish their school library. Blessed Trinity Catholic School is a Pre-K to grade eight school in Richfield. It is supported by the parishes of St. Richard's, Assumption, and St. Peter's. Book titles from their wish list will be on display at doors 1 and 3. Parishioners have the option to purchase a book for the library or make a cash donation.

PAX CHRISTI SOCIAL ACTION TEAM MINISTRY LAUNCH

Sunday, September 15, 12:30–2:00pm, Room 212

After many months of preparation and discernment around our Justice Ministry mission, Pax Christi Justice Council will launch its new initiative in calling forth a Social Action Teams Ministry which will work to "change the structures that create injustice." Join us for a conversation about the history of the idea, how we plan to begin, and how you might see yourself participating in this ministry which is dedicated to social transformation. Additional information on page 10.



COMPASSIONATE CARE LISTENING CIRCLE**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 3:00–4:30pm** **RSVP**

The Compassionate Care Listening Circle gathers monthly and is open to anyone who finds themselves at a crossroads in life. The listening circle provides a safe place for reflection and meaningful conversation as one strives to find an awareness of God in the face of life challenges. These challenges can include loss, caregiving responsibilities, mental illness, grief, chronic illness, or any life transition. In this small group setting we will have time for ritual, prayer, and sharing around a monthly topic. For more information, or if you would like to join this group, contact Jean Thoresen, Director of Care and Support Ministry, 952-405-7211, or jthoresen@paxchristi.com.

VATICAN II: ANCIENT HISTORY OR STILL ALIVE? **RSVP****THURSDAYS, SEPTEMBER 19–OCTOBER 10, 6:30–8:00pm, Room 212**

When Pax Christi Catholic Church was established, the spirit of Vatican II was its essence. Many contemporaneous Catholics think of Vatican II as making significant changes only in our sacred liturgies and sacraments. However, several of the documents that came from Vatican II go deeply into how each of us baptized as Catholics are to live in the world. In this four-week series, we will reflect upon and discuss excerpts from a different document each week.

"SHARING OUR STORIES" BREAKFAST **RSVP****SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 8:45am, DOROTHY DAY SOCIAL HALL**

In honor of parishioner Kris Koepl, Pax Christi Justice Council is sponsoring the "Sharing Our Stories" breakfast. Kris was a fervent leader in Pax Christi's social justice ministry. She stood for kindness, understanding, solidarity, and peace. We honor her memory in this event designed to provide an opportunity for diverse members of Eden Prairie to come together to share across differences. Reservations are required for this event so that we can prepare to welcome all who gather! We recommend this event for people between the ages of 10 and 100! Additional information on page 11.

WOMEN WITH SPIRIT BIBLE STUDY **RSVP****TUESDAYS, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 24, 9:30–11:30am**

Women of all ages and faiths are invited to join us for 20 weekly hour-long presentations by university-based biblical scholars, followed by an hour of small group discussion. This year's series, "Called by the Spirit," will study the Acts of the Apostles for ten weeks, women in the Bible for four weeks, and six weeks learning where the Bible and the Qur'an overlap. Please consider joining this active group of women who share a desire for a greater understanding of the scriptures. Tuition for the series is \$100, which covers teachers, books, and three mornings of reflection. REGISTRATIONS REQUESTED BY SEPTEMBER 12.

MOMS ROCK: RAISING OUR CHRISTIAN KIDS **RSVP****BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 9:30–11:30am, Room 212**

Moms ROCK welcomes all parents, parents-to-be, and anyone else interested in joining us. These 16 gatherings include brunch and relaxing social time, followed by uninterrupted time to focus on the day's guest speaker. Whether you can come to one or all of the gatherings, you are certain to leave with a feeling that you are part of something wonderful! The cost to attend each speaker is \$10 per meeting, which includes childcare for those that have preregistered. Complete details at www.paxchristi.com/momsrock.

MAKE PLANS NOW**HOMECOMING TAILGATE CELEBRATION— SAVE THE DATE!****Weekend of October 5/6**

Complete details on page 9 and the back cover.

FALL BOOK CLUB***The Universal Christ* by Fr. Richard Rohr** **RSVP****BEGINNING MONDAYS, 6:30pm–8:00pm, SEPTEMBER 30 OR THURSDAYS, 10:00am–11:30am, OCTOBER 3**

Join a study group and learn about a forgotten teaching on Christ that can impact everything we see, hope for, and believe. Experience the opportunity to learn and engage in Christian contemplative practices and participate in a community whose members are growing in their presence to one another. Groups will engage in group work: reflective lectio practice and contemplative sit, pair-sharing with another, and solo reflection. Groups limited to 15 people. Register online. The fee is \$21 and covers the cost of books. Questions? Contact Scott Brazil, Dir. of Faith Formation, sbrazil@paxchristi.com.

**PARISHIONERS' ART EXHIBIT
ARTISTS NEEDED!**

We invite you display your artwork at this year's Parishioners' Art Exhibit! The exhibit will run November 24 through December 15 in the Pacem In Terris Gallery. The guidelines and registration forms are available on the parish website, www.paxchristi.com/artexhibits. The registration deadline is November 20 and the drop-off date is November 24.

SEPTEMBER

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 LABOR DAY MASS	3 FARE FOR ALL BAPTISM CLASS	4 CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION	5	6 FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL	7
8	9	10	11 BOOMERS' OPENING EVENT	12	13	14 NEW MEMBER SIGN-UP WEEKEND OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH CELEBRATION TWELVE BASKETS BOOK DRIVE
15 NEW MEMBER SIGN-UP WEEKEND SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY LAUNCH TWELVE BASKETS BOOK DRIVE	16	17 LEADERSHIP MEETINGS	18 TOT-TIME OPEN GYM	19 COMPASSIONATE CARE LISTENING CIRCLE	20	21 SHARING STORIES BREAKFAST TWELVE BASKETS BOOK DRIVE
22 TWELVE BASKETS BOOK DRIVE	23	24 WOMEN W/SPIRIT OPENING SESSION	25 MOMS ROCK OPENING SESSION	26	27	28 WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES
29 WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES	30	1	2	3	4	5 HOMECOMING WEEKEND





PAX CHRISTI CONTACTS

PASTOR

Fr. Michael Byron 952-405-7219

DEACONS

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

PARISH DIRECTOR

Jane Schmitz 952-405-7238

PARISH FINANCIAL MANAGER

Sue Fier 952-405-7202

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

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

COMMUNICATION ARTS

Melissa Nault 952-405-7221

CARE AND SUPPORT MINISTRY

Director	Jean Thoresen	952-405-7211
Care Ministry Specialist	Mary Ann Callahan	952-405-7227
Care Ministry Coordinator	Renee Reardon	952-405-7200

FAITH FORMATION

Director (Adult Faith, RCIA, Preschool)	Scott Brazil	952-405-7230
Grades 1 through 5, CLOW	Reneé Dignan	952-405-7212
Grades 6 through 8	Evan Bierer	952-405-7213
Grades 9 through 12	Jessie Johnson	952-405-7210

JUSTICE

Director	Joan Howe-Pullis	952-405-7247
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OPERATIONS

Director	Ken Reineccius	952-405-7250
Building Services	Terry Lee	952-405-7233
Building Services	Todd Nelson	952-405-7233

DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Director	Maura Schnorbach	952-405-7220
Community Life Coordinator	Lisa Cox	952-405-7204
Nursery and Hospitality Coord.	Janell McBeain	952-405-7242

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Director	Donna Kasbohm	952-405-7240
Liturgy and Funeral Coord.	Joan Howe-Pullis	952-405-7247
Teen Choir	Angie O'Brien	952-405-7243

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

PARISH TRUSTEES

Shari Steffen
Bruce Koehn

FINANCE COUNCIL

Mike Kennedy, Chair



Church of Pax Christi of Eden Prairie
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Eden Prairie, MN 55347-4208

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BY AUGUST 31.**



**Join us for the Pax Christi
Tailgate/Homecoming
Celebration the weekend
of October 5 and 6.**

This will be the kickoff of
our stewardship month. We
will be serving up hotdogs,
chips, and refreshments after
Saturday's 5:00pm Mass and
Sunday's 11:00am Mass.

Wear your favorite jersey and
get your spirit on!

Bring the whole family.

Everyone is welcome!

**GET YOUR
PAX CHRISTI
SPIRIT ON!**



*Wear your favorite
jersey to Mass weekend
of October 5/6!*