



The Newsletter



SAINT AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

The Mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and with each other in Jesus Christ. We pursue that mission in prayer, worship, and the sacraments, the proclamation of the Gospel, and in working for justice, peace and love. *The Book of Common Prayer, Page 855*

Saint Augustine's Church is a parish of the Diocese of Fond du Lac: A community of disciples enthusiastically leading all people to transformation in Jesus.



May 5th Ascension Thursday

You're invited to join in the flying of kites or the fun of watching kites fly at the Nicolet field on County G at 3:30 p.m. Mass on the Grass will follow at 4:45 p.m. with Pastor Carol. Then a short ride to the Guild Hall to enjoy some real Cinco de Mayo fare at 5:30 p.m.

Please check the ingredient sign up sheet and be sure to sign the attendance sheet for the meal.

How many Episcopalians does it take to get a kite in the air? Join us and find out!

Third Article of the Three Part Series

Cleaning Up Bad Communication Habits

Rejecting Anonymous Feedback

Why would someone give feedback anonymously? There are several reasons. Anonymity allows people to avoid accountability for the content. The individual with the complaint or accusation may also fear reprisals. Sometimes the individual simply doesn't know whom to talk to about a concern. At other times the individual is trying to get his or her way in a conflicted situation, but stays underground to maintain the appearance of being in a harmonious relationship with other congregants.

Personnel committees and other groups that oversee pastoral ministry must be clear in their policies and practices that they will neither receive nor take seriously anonymous complaints—letters, phone messages, e-mails, or pass-through communication. Slanderous comments in particular should not be disseminated by the recipient, not even to the clergy person or any others on a committee, unless the content contains serious threats or requires a legal response.

Congregations can waste a lot of energy on slanderous static that interferes with their listening to and addressing real issues. If e-mails are sent from unknown sources, they can be stopped by a trusted leader sending a letter to the congregation asking everyone to block the anonymous sender of the "junk" information and to ignore the content.

Anonymous communication is damaging to everyone in the congregation because feelings are often expressed but cannot be resolved. Wounds are named but cannot be healed. Criticism is offered without the chance to explore the possibility of healing. To stop anonymous feedback, clergy and lay leaders need to agree that it is counterproductive. You can't apologize to anonymous. Anonymous will remain angry or sad until he or she comes forward with the truth. Anonymous others cannot and should not be considered when making leadership decisions or resolving conflicts.

by Kibbie Simmons Ruth , Karen A. McClintock

AT THE DOOR



The cartoon is about the Spring Fair, but for those who have had visions of spring planting the same request of good weather would be a welcome blessing.

Check the bulletin for the Rogation Prayer for a fruitful season from the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Guest Preacher on Pentecost Sunday

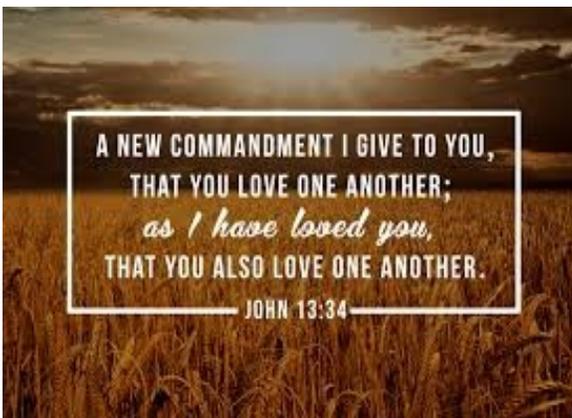


Our preacher for Pentecost Sunday, May 15th, is Sister Elizabeth Amman, Op. Sister Elizabeth is the Director of the Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center in Arbor Vitae.

Marywood is affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church and offers many opportunities for classes, retreats, and spiritual direction to women and men of any spiritual tradition. Pastor Carol and other members of St. Augustine's have participated in several classes and other activities at Marywood this past year. Carl Koch, an associate member of the staff at Marywood, recently led our program on Transitions to assist St Augustine's in our search process.

DEANERY MEETING—MAY 14th

9 AM – 3 PM



The gospel message of the Fifth Sunday of Easter. The May 14th Deanery meeting in Wausau at St. John's will begin the dialogue towards fulfilling the gospel message of today. The Deanery Meeting to which all of us are invited is... "Engaging One Another Across Our Differences". Your voice needs to be heard as the diocese begins to plan and implement for growth.

Sign up in the Guild Hall or give Pastor Carol a call 715-362-3184 Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-11 a.m.