



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.

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From the Rector

Dear members of St. Augustine's,

As I was preparing a sermon to reflect the text about The Lord's Prayer, I got to thinking about all of the various prayers that exist, and what makes a good prayer for me.

There are so many books of prayers, in addition to the prayers found in scripture and the Book of Common Prayer, to give us an ample supply to choose from. And then there are what I call "freelance" prayers. These are prayers that are not written down, or repeated, they are the prayers that just flow freely from our hearts and souls.

These may be prayers of thanks, of praise, of sorrow, or intercessions. They are extremely personal and can never be wrong. These are the prayers that many are fearful of saying in public, lest they make a mistake. My question is who would even think about judging a prayer?! Usually free lance prayers in public are said before a meal, or to begin or end a meeting. Again, they can never be wrong.

Many times, when we are praying on our own and having a conversation with God, freelancing is what we do – we are just saying what is on our heart and/or mind.

In spite of all I said about freelance prayers, my absolute favorite is from the Book of Common Prayer, in the compline service.

It reads:

"Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake."

I particularly like the words "with those who work, or watch or weep." Those words are so clear that it is easy to picture folks who are either working, or watching, or weeping. The image is powerful. These are the folks who need our prayers and who will benefit from them.

I have long found the words in this prayer to be a great comfort to me, and is also a prayer filled with hope.

My curiosity wants me to ask, "what is your favorite prayer?" Please share some with me, and I may print some in upcoming newsletters.

In prayer and His name,

Meredyth+

PRAYER ON THE PORCH

Prayer on the Porch continues each Wednesday through August (with the exception of Aug. 7) at 7 p.m. on the back deck of the rectory.

This year we are discussing the Way of Love initiative embraced by Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry.

You are welcome to come anytime. Participation does not need to be each week. The conversations each week will be independent of each other.



STILL ROOM ON THE BUS

October may seem a long way away, but the revival with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is really just around the corner.

As presiding bishop, he must visit each diocese once during his nine-year-term. This year it is our turn, and his visit will be in the form of a revival on Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fox Valley Exposition Center in Appleton. His message will echo his Way of Love initiative to inspire those gathered to go out into the world and love, and provide practices for a Jesus-centered life.

To make it possible for as many people as possible to attend, St. Augustine's and St. Matthias in Minocqua are working together to rent a bus. Exact cost of the bus will be announced in about a month. Please sign up in the guild hall; you may invite friends.

The bus will leave St. Augustine's around 7 a.m., and return around 7 p.m.

Also speaking during the revival will be Bob Lenz and international speaker, who is founder and president of Life! Promotions in Appleton. He authored "Grace – For Those Who Think They Don't Measure Up" and co-authored Dignity Revolution: Standing Up for the Value of Every Person and 18 Faith for the Next Generation.

VACATION TIME

Mother Meredyth and Sue did not coordinate their vacation plans very well – or maybe they did! Both will be out of the office the week of Aug. 5. Diane Willette has volunteered to staff the office from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of that week, just in case you need something.

Mother Meredyth plans to be back from a vacation in San Antonio, to celebrate mass on Sunday, Aug. 11. She will then be off again Friday through Sunday, Aug. 16 to 18. Father Ken Guy will serve as supply priest on Aug. 18.

RUMMAGE SALE FAST APPROACHING

The ECW is planning a rummage sale on August 23 and 24 in the rectory garage. Excess items from the church that were unearthed in the recent cleaning; and items that you wish to donate. Please no clothing. You may donate all the proceeds from your contribution, or a portion to the church. The proceeds will go toward painting and updating the meeting room in the undercroft (church word for basement).

Items may be dropped off August 12-15 from 9 a.m. to noon. Set up for the sale will be Aug. 19 and Aug. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon.



ECW

Our next meeting will be Monday, August 19th at 10 a.m. Ladies Night out (St. Marguerita Society) will be held on Thursday, August 15th at 6 p.m. at Rhinelander Café & Pub. There will be a sign up sheet in Guild Hall.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We are in need of someone to take out the pedestrian crossing sign each Sunday. If you are able to do so, please let Corky or Mother Meredyth know.

FAITHFUL INNOVATIONS NIGHT OUT

The sidewalk in front of St. Augustine's gets quite a bit of walking traffic each evening. So, the Faithful Innovations team will take its message to the curb side on Wednesday, Aug. 26. From 4 to 6 p.m., the Faithful Innovations team will share the message of Jesus and pass out "Bendable Jesus" figurines to passersby.

THE TABLE

St. Augustine's will host The Table on Aug. 31. Look for a sign-up sheet in the guild hall in the near future.

