



## *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.

Volume XLV

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## *From the Rector*

Merry Christmas! Yes, even though it is after Dec. 25, this is the Christmas season, which runs up to Epiphany – January 6.

This is a reminder to us that Christmas is not just one day – but a season. While it is a season, it can carry with it a message that we can live throughout the year.

It has become my tradition to end the Christmas Eve service with a benediction written by Howard Thurman.

It reads:

*“When the Star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins –  
Find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoners,  
To teach the nations,  
To bring Christ's love to all.  
To make music in the heart.*

Every year I find myself saying, and others also telling me, ‘I should remember this all year long.’

Yes, it is a message to carry forward into the New Year. One of caring for others, but more importantly recognizing that some people have needs that differ very much from ours. Before we can help, we need to identify needs, and put our own actions, lifestyles and judgements behind us.

During 2019, I would like to challenge St. Augustine’s parish members to reach outside of individual comfort zones and identify those who have less, in many different ways, than you do.

As a parish, St. Augustine’s is participating in the Diocese of Fond du Lac’s Faithful Innovations initiative. We are one of several parishes who are participating in trainings this year; other churches in the dioceses will participate in subsequent years.

A key component in the Faithful Innovations initiative is to identify ways to take ministry into the community. Our team will be looking at such opportunities in the Rhinelander community, and ways to improve ministries to our fellow church members.

As you are introduced to these ideas, I ask that you think about them, encourage the committee, and offer your support to the endeavors.

Faithful Innovations is an effort to keep the church and its mission alive, as Howard Thurman, “... when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks...”

Faithfully,

Meredyth+



## **Epiphany Open House at the Rectory**

Coffee hour to celebrate Epiphany will be held at the rectory on Sunday, January 6. Following the church service, head on over to the rectory where we will hold coffee hour, and celebrate Epiphany.

## **Annual Meeting Sunday, Jan. 27**

St. Augustine’s annual meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 27, after the 9 a.m. service.

We will begin with a potluck meal – bring a favorite breakfast or lunch item to share.

The annual meeting will begin once everyone has their plates.

The purpose of the annual meeting is to approve the budget for the coming year, elect members to the vestry and elect lay delegates to the diocesan convention.

The vestry members to be elected are senior warden, junior warden and two vestry members.

According to the Canons of the Diocese of Fond du Lac and the Episcopal Church, those eligible to vote are Adult Communicants in good standing. That means that the individual is a communicant (baptized and received Holy Communion at three times in the preceding year; is at least 16 years of age; baptized in a Christian Church; and for the previous year has been faithful in corporate worship and have been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

The clerk and treasurer are elected by the vestry at a vestry meeting at a later date.

A nominating committee comprised of Pete Cody, Linda Hutchinson and Heather Kurilla will be developing a slate of candidates. If you are interested in serving on the vestry, speak to one of them.

If you have any questions, ask Mother Meredyth.

### **Good Book Club: Romans in Epiphanytide**

The Good Book Club is an invitation to all Episcopalians to join in reading Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans during Epiphany 2019. Episcopalians will start reading Romans on January 7, 2019 and read a section every day (except Sundays) through the Epiphany season.

Follow this link (<https://www.thegatheringofleaders.org/good-book-club-2019/>) to watch a video from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on the Good Book Club, learn more about Gathering of Leaders, and sign up to receive these reflections daily in your email throughout Epiphany.

### **Mother Meredyth at Continuing Education**

Mother Meredyth will be gone the week of January 14 to take a class on Family Systems in the Church. The class to be held at Nashotah House Seminary will be led by Peter Steinke, a researcher and author on the family systems topic, which examines ecclesial organizations and how pastoral leaders function in them.

If a pastoral emergency arises during that week, contact senior warden, JoAnne Maass. Mother Meredyth plans to return to the office on Tuesday, January 22. Pastor Gerald Anderson will serve as supply priest on Sunday, Jan. 20.

### **Dr. Martin Luther King Poverty simulation**

A poverty simulation, in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, will be held on Sunday, Jan 20 at Ascension Lutheran Church in Minocqua.

The Northwoods Unitarian Universalist's annual remembrance of Dr. King will be celebrated with a poverty simulation to better understand the challenges faced by those who live in poverty every day.

Tamara Sharp and Barney Slowey, adjunct professors at Silver Lake College will lead the simulation, which is an interactive learning experience. All who attend will be given the opportunity to participate.

St. Augustine's is a sponsor of the event, if you would like to attend, please sign up in the guild hall by Jan. 10. Registration is required to attend. An optional suggested contribution of \$5 will be taken at the door. The tax-deductible donation will be given to Caritas-Minocqua, a service mission which distributes funds to those in urgent and immediate need of assistance.

