



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 LIV

December 29, 2019

From the Rector

Dear St. Augustine Family members;

I had an interesting experience two days before Christmas that left me pleased and surprised at the same time. As you know, twice a week AA meetings are held in our church building – 52 weeks a year, regardless of the day. I never gave much thought about a meeting not taking place, because I am aware of the need for those in recovery to have support, especially at holiday times.

So, I was surprised when an individual came to the office to thank me for allowing the group to meet on Christmas Day. I was a bit baffled, why wouldn't we allow a meeting to be held. I was told that some churches do not allow the AA sign to be out on Christmas Day, because it sends the wrong message.

I don't know what that means. If we are not supportive at a time of true need, then when do we reach out to others? Holidays are difficult for individuals in recovery because of loneliness, triggers of bad memories and guilt.

The irony of me having the conversation at the time when I was in the midst of writing the sermon for Christmas eve and talking about Peace on Earth and Jesus as the King of Peace, was not lost on me.

The Peace offered to us may come in the form of caring and understanding.

It is so easy to say that we are caring and compassionate – but the true Peace of the Christmas season comes when doing so is not easy, nor convenient.

I hope this little story reminds you that the gift of peace, love and compassion offered to us by God through the birth of Jesus, is meant to be shared – not on our terms but based on the needs of the others.

We are soon moving into the season of Epiphany which prepares us for Lent, which prepares us for Lent. It is a time of introspection and action.

Whatever the liturgical season, let us remember the gifts given to us by God and share them as we move through our own busy lives.

Faithfully,

Meredyth+

Thank you!!!

Our church sanctuary looks gorgeous decorated for Christmas. It is the result of many hands make light work. It was fun to watch the busyness of so many people in various corners of the church paying attention to all of the details. To all who helped, thank you!



ECW meeting

ECW (Episcopal Church Women) will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 8 in the kitchen. (It's close to the coffee.)

Selma

The movie Selma will be shown on Sunday, Jan. 19 at Lakeland Cinema in Woodruff. It will be shown at 5:30 p.m. There is no charge to see the film as it sponsored by Northwoods' Worshipping Communities.

St. Augustine's is sponsoring a movie at Art Start

Our parish and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rhinelander are sponsoring the movie "Invisible Lines" at ArtStart on Sunday, Jan. 26 at 2 p.m.

The documentary features 10 individuals of color speaking about segregation, racism and prejudice in Milwaukee, considered to be among the most racist cities in the country.

You might wonder why we are sponsoring this film since we are not Milwaukee; and you might believe those topics are not issues in the Northwoods. The reason for sponsoring the showing of the film is about education and awareness of the topics, making us better informed Christians.

A responsibility we have in sponsoring the film is providing snacks. We need three people to bring treat—either sweet or savory. Let Mother Meredyth know if you are available.

Even if you're not sure if the topic is of interest to you, consider attending, you might be surprised and also be able to apply the root of the conversation to situations that exist in our area.

And... it's the week between playoffs and the Superbowl.

ArtStart is located on Stevens Street, across from McDonald's.



Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 9, during coffee hour. This is a change in date from a previous announcement.

At this meeting we will review the past year and talk about plans and ideas for the coming year. Two individuals will be elected to vestry. If you are interested in serving, please contact Mother Meredyth or Senior Warden JoAnne Mass or Junior Warden Corky Stoxen.

