



We plant seeds
that will flower as
results in our lives,
so best to remove
the weeds of anger,
avarice, envy and
doubt, that peace
and abundance may
manifest for all.

Dorothy Day

Dear Friends,

The Search Team for the next Bishop just completed our second significant retreat. This letter is not about what we're doing, though I do want you to know that the variety of gifted candidates and the work of the Spirit amongst them are amazing. What I want to try to describe to you is something I hadn't expected.

Every meeting, in person or online begins in prayer. Of course that's what you would expect. We end in prayer and worship and thanksgiving too. But that's not all. We are engaged in discernment — in other words, we are trying to figure out where God is at work and how we can get there to cooperate, or something like that. Our practice doesn't just begin and end in prayer. Every time the discussion turns one way or the other, or we come to a decision point, we stop to listen, and to commend our conversation or decision or the candidate in question to God. It has become a routine for us. Today I counted; we stopped to pray at least thirty times. And something I have rarely experienced before is happening. It feels as though God is an active participant.

What do I mean? Well you know in Acts when it says that the disciples were gathered together and "all of one mind" because of the Holy Spirit moving amongst them? I think it's something like that. We are discerning together in the Spirit, and the conversation flows lovingly from one place to the next in a fashion that the world might have a hard time recognizing.

Which is not to say that we all always end up in agreement; but we do, all of us, end up in consensus and believe it to be holy.

In Acts, the apostles make some major decisions, after they have discerned and prayed, by giving the final choice up to God. They roll dice! We haven't quite got to that place yet, but if we do I'll tell you all about it.

Your friend in Christ,
Michael



San Jose Obrero

Many thanks to Mary Levine for organizing this annual mission. The sandwiches were great, the weather beautiful, and the conversation interesting!

Your ministry opportunity in September.



Diapers are almost as important for the health of a child as food. 3-5 families who struggle to afford diapers for their children in daycare, miss workdays. <https://www.diaperbankmn.org>

Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 6

Bring your pet for a blessing at the start of church.

WOSP Meeting

On September 22, 2019, we will meet to discuss Bazaar and the proceeds of July's rummage sale. Please plan to join us.

Rachel's Light

On Sunday, September 29 at 3:00, St. Paul's Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran of Meriden are teaming up to host an open house and blessing for the new women and children's home, Rachel's Light. The shelter is next door to the Lutheran church in the former parsonage. We are providing treats. Kristin Warehime is coordinating the event, but she will be in Montana that weekend. If you are able to assist with baking or serving, please let Kristin know or sign up in Upper Tanner.

Please!
Pick up your
baking dishes
(& your Nesco
turkey cooker!)
in the kitchen.



Cleo's MEWSings

Can you believe that it is September already! Kids are back to school, summer vacation is over and it's time to enjoy the nice warm days and cool nights of fall.

So what's new with our St Paul's family? More new babies! This time grand and great-grand babies. Jim and Bobbie Otteson have a new grandson. Son Paul and wife Natasha welcomed a new baby, Soren James on July 18th. He has a big sister, Elin, who is five. Bet she just loves him! And Maggie and Pete Dixon have a new great granddaughter. Millicent Margaret was born August 1 to granddaughter Mystery and husband Brian. She is a cutie! Maggie has pictures!

Little Gary Vyncke will be baptized this Sunday, September 8th. Hope most of you will be in church to see! He is growing fast and smiling a lot now.

Lots of people coming and going—more than my little brain can remember! Tom and Ann Dietz were off to visit Alaska! So was Alan Peterson who went fishing with his son. I even got a nibble of the salmon because Alan was kind enough to share some of the frozen fish with the knitters!

Also traveling were Jack and Diane Spitzack. They drove to Oregon to visit one of Jack's kids. Scott and Kathy Brittain went to Breckenridge, CO and met up with Scott's sister, Wendy and her husband. From what hear they all had fun.

Did I tell you about Jody Boisen's trip to France? She posted lots of lovely pictures. But it was record heat there! And she was home for just a short time and was off to Chicago. She left Matt home to mind the store (or should I say the vet clinic). Mary Levine and her crew spend the Sunday afternoon of Labor Day weekend providing hospitality in Montgomery for San Jose Obrero. This is a service and lunch for the migrant workers who come to harvest crops. Hear it all went well and Mary had lots of helpers.

Want to share some news about Gail and Pat Plathe's granddaughter, Georgia Rae. She went to Washington D.C. to lobby with Kids for the Boundary Waters! She just turned 16 and wants to be an Actuary and then maybe a lawyer! You go, girl!

Did you all know Gary Johnson competed in the Senior Games in St. Cloud in August. He won Bronze in Men's singles, Gold in Men's doubles and Gold in mixed doubles, all in Table Tennis! He says it was "a very good and fun day!"

And did you get to the fair and see all Leanne Alt's winning photography? They were beautiful. Also saw some lovely photographs by Jenni Brittain. She didn't win a ribbon but got my vote for viewer's favorite. Also winning ribbons at the fair were Terri Hottman for crocheting including best crocheted afghan and Janet Dixon and Mollie Gfrerer for their knitting.

Minnesota's Episcopal Convention

September 13,14

Your delegates are Jody, Gretchen, Drew and Judy, and your clergy, Michael and Steve. This is the convention that will prepare the way for the election of our next Bishop.



Bishop Search

The Search Team has carefully, prayerfully, engaged several double handfuls of potential candidates and now we have just a handful. Next there will be 6 weeks of background, references and psychological checks. Then there will be a final retreat with them all at the end of October. After which there will be between 3 and 5 candidates for you to choose from. Do we have good candidates? Oh yes we do.

Did you all know that Kris and Roger Warehime are key members of the Foremost Brewery team? It is scheduled to open soon in Owatonna; they have a building downtown and are hard at work getting it ready.

And as always, we have some loved ones needing extra prayers. Little Jordyn Maas was attacked by a neighbor's pit bull. She has lots of stitches in her hand and arm but is healing well. Also needing prayers is Neil Dodd who is recovering from a broken leg. And our friend Linda Clader spent over a week in the hospital in Santa Rosa where she lives. She is now home recovering wrapped in one of our prayer shawls. And needing some extra love is the Ruehling family who lost Jody's mom this summer.

I am out of news
and out of space
so til next month.



Wednesday Evenings at Church

**Good food, good company,
good conversation
6:00-7:45**

For the next few weeks the topic is
Episcopal 411: everything you wanted
to know but were afraid to ask.

Lay Schedule

Date	Lay Reader	Lector	Chalice	Ushers	Counter
Sep 15	Mark	Amy	Janet	Julie and Gayle	Mark
Sep 22	Kristin	Matt	Diane	Gretchen and Marty	Kristin
Sep 29	Jackie	Gary	Francy	Maria and Rebecca	Francy
Oct 6	Julianna	Mary	Janet	Gary and Mike W	Gretchen
Oct 13	Mark	Leanne	Francy	Julie and Gayle	Mark
Oct 20	Kristin	Francy	Diane	Gary and Mike W	Kristin
Oct 27	Jackie	Any	Janet	Maria and Rebecca	Julie
Nov 3	Julianna	Matt	Francy	Gretchen and Marty	Francy
Nov 10	Mark	Gary	Diane	Julie and Gayle	Mark



If you make a schedule change,
please leave a message on the church phone.

Coffee Committees

September

Gail Plathe
Deb Carlson
Janet Dixon
Nan Gjerdahl
Carol Peterson
Jodie Ruehling
Kristin Warehime
Julianna Skluzacek

October

Julie Conlin
Gayle Kozelka
Maggie Dixon
Deb Buck
Carol McKernan
Jan Robran
Bernie Reisenauer
Julia Miller
Sharon Kramer

Altar Guild

September

Diane Spitzack
Gerri Schwenker

October

Deb Carlson
Sharol Tamburro
Betty Kristo