

LOOK INSIDE >>>

## Get to know some of our Liturgical Ministers...

Find out why they serve, what got them started, and how their example can inspire us all to participate.



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2021

CHRIST OUR LIGHT CATHOLIC PARISH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# Be the Light



## INSPIRED BY EXAMPLE

By Jenny Adams, Communications Coordinator

One Sunday not too long ago, I was cantoring during a Mass outside. It was surprisingly cool out, but it was a beautiful day to celebrate the liturgy outside nonetheless. Taking in the Mass and the message from up front can add a little different perspective. Toward the beginning of Mass I noticed a young person with her arms folded, a bit cold. A couple sitting next to her and her family took their unused jacket off their chair and placed around the arms of that young person and my heart just swelled!

Now, I like to believe that simple act of kindness enhanced the Mass for this young person... not only because she was on the receiving end of an unexpected kind gesture, but also to allow her to be more present to the Mass and not focusing on being cold. It also reminded me how much I love my parish and the willingness people have to help others - who step up - whenever there is a need, because it's just what we do.

I am continually inspired by the example of others, including those who dedicate their time to help make our liturgies come alive by serving. Greeters, Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, as well as Hospital Ministers share their time and presence to enhance the Mass and allow us in the congregation to be on the receiving end of their kindness. Mass would not be the same without that kindness displayed.

Soon we will be inviting people to participate in these ministries. Throughout this newsletter, we want you to get to know some of our amazing parishioners who serve in our various liturgical ministries and discover what called them to get involved and why they serve. We also encourage you to consider participating in a ministry leading up to our Sign Me Up Weekend, **September 25/26**. Please consider how you can share your time to enhance the Mass and parish life here at Christ Our Light.

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: *Marie Blasey*

Why do you volunteer?

I serve as a Eucharistic Minister because of the intimate relationship to our Lord.

What do you enjoy about your ministry?

I love sharing that relationship with fellow parishioners.

Can you share a meaningful, funny or enjoyable memory from serving?

I sometimes have to hold back tears seeing the love and joy others display while receiving our Lord.

How did you get into this ministry?

I taught Sacramental Prep for second graders for many years... this deepened my love of the real presence.

Why should others serve?

I encourage everyone to participate in any way they are able as it makes you feel so much more a part of the church and parish!



## We encourage your participation in parish life...

Christ Our Light is a vibrant parish with many programs and ministries to serve the parish and community. We invite you to become a part of one or more of our programs and ministries for your own enrichment and for the growth of the parish. A Sign Me Up form will be handed out during Masses **Sept. 25/26** and is available for download through our parish website. We thank you for giving your time and talent to the ministries here at Christ Our Light Catholic Parish.





## QUESTION:

**Can you explain what we mean by a vocation or calling? I have heard this term used in many different contexts and am not sure what it means. Does it only apply to religious life?**

## ANSWER:

A vocation or calling refers to a spiritual experience whereby a person senses within oneself the closeness of God and what he is asking in one's life. It is a realization of what one's part in God's plan could be.

Vocation comes in all kinds of ways. Some are as dramatic as St. Paul's, being knocked off his horse, blinded, and hearing God's voice. Others are less dramatic, often occurring over time through little events and personal interests. Others happen in a hurry, accompanied by great spiritual insight or conversion.

We often think that this applies to religious vocation, but in fact, every Christian has a vocation, a calling to serve others in and through the church. Whether married or single, religious or lay, we are all called to live out our baptismal commitment to preach and teach the Gospel message. Each of us has our role to play in God's plan, and we become coworkers with God in the work of redemption. With a little confidence, a willing spirit and God's grace, we can and will respond to his unique call.



# Building/Campaign Updates

By Teresa Callison, Parish Administrator

While things haven't gone according to our plan, we must take pause and reflect on what is going well. Our capital campaign has raised \$2,053,412, which is over our initial campaign pledged amount of \$2,021,615. This is truly something to celebrate! Our pledged amount including the extension year pledges is \$2,144,999 – so that will be our next milestone to work towards.

Until either North or South sells, we will be holding off on a new capital campaign. As soon as a building sells, we are positioned to kick off another campaign that will get us to construct the first phase of our building project.

I believe we will reach our goal of building our new church home someday – but we must remember it will be in God's time. For now, we are left to trust and continue making the best decisions we can to move forward. We appreciate each and every dollar that has been given to our goal of building our new worship home. We invite you to continue contributing to the building fund, as when the time is right that will put us in a better financial position to take that exciting step into construction.



## LECTORS:

### Forrest "Frosty" & Ellie Horton

**Why do you volunteer?**

*Ellie:* I like being involved and enjoy giving back with a gift to God.

*Frosty:* it helps me to be more active in the church and I feel it models behaviors I want for my children.

**What do you enjoy about your ministry?**

*Ellie:* It helps to better understand the readings and represent the youth of our parish.

*Frosty:* I enjoy being a part of the ministry and it helps me focus on the positive message that is being shared.

**Can you share a meaningful, funny or enjoyable memory from serving?**

*Ellie:* I enjoy reading at the Easter Vigil with my dad.

*Frosty:* Same as Ellie... very powerful for me!

**How did you get into this ministry?**

*Ellie:* I was encouraged by my parents and saw my dad doing it.

*Frosty:* I'm a teacher... speaking in front of people is what I do.

**Why should others serve?**

*Ellie:* It helps me to feel a part of something bigger.

*Frosty:* There is a sense of belonging and giving back in some small way.



**LECTOR:**

**Tammy Santander**



**Why do you volunteer?**

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. The Mass and the liturgy are a treasure and grace and I see it as my responsibility to participate and assist where I can so that any and all are able to come and worship and receive God's love in this way.

**What do you enjoy about your ministry?**

I enjoy my own personal exposure to Scripture. It makes me take time to think and pray about what God is saying and why the Catholic Church paired these readings together.

**Can you share a meaningful, funny or enjoyable memory from serving?**

I especially enjoy lecturing on Marian feast days. Mama Mary means a great deal to me and I always feel honored to share the gift God has given us in His mother.

**How did you get into this ministry?**

A professor in college commented that I had a strong reading voice so I joined the college chapel's lector ministry. The training was helpful and I will always remember that I was told that every word of the Bible is God's good news and we proclaim it as such - whether it is a lamentation, a chastisement, or a song of joy, it shows a facet of God's love for us.

**Why should others serve?**

We are all called to participate in the liturgy. Doing so in such a hands-on way really helps me to concentrate and be drawn into God's work. It can also be a good opportunity for families to serve together!

**USHER:**

**Marsha Mason**



**Why do you volunteer?**

It allows me to be involved in the Mass, more than just being there.

**What do you enjoy about your ministry?**

I like helping people and meeting new people. It is not a difficult job, to usher, and there is teamwork involved with ushering.

**How did you get into this ministry?**

My husband asked me... he invited me to help.

**Why should others serve?**

As an Usher you meet, help and make coming to Mass more enjoyable and create a friendly environment. I feel I am contributing to make our parish a community where people feel wanted and know they are welcome.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:**

**Bob Stage**



**Why do you volunteer?**

I enjoy volunteering as a Eucharistic Minister (and as Lector) at various weekday Masses.

**What do you enjoy about your ministry?**

It gives me the feeling of participating in the Mass versus just attending.

**Can you share a meaningful, funny or enjoyable memory from serving?**

I feel it's an honor to assist Father Kevin in celebrating the Mass.

**How did you get into this ministry?**

The parish we belonged to prior to Christ Our Light was very small with few volunteers, so I volunteered as Eucharistic Minister and Lector.

**Why should others serve?**

It gives you the feeling of actually participating in the Mass.

**USHER:**

**Dave Sorenson**



**Why do you volunteer?**

I like to help out.

**What do you enjoy about your ministry?**

Meeting new people.

**Can you share a meaningful, funny or enjoyable memory from serving?**

One Ash Wednesday, I accidentally dropped a glob of ashes on a parishioner's nose.

**How did you get into this ministry?**

A friend talked me into it.

**Why should others serve?**

It's nice to help out.





## HOSPITAL MINISTER: Sandie Barthel

### Why do you volunteer?

I volunteer as a liturgical minister at an assisted living/memory care facility because our seniors really miss being able to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist.

### What do you enjoy about your ministry?

I enjoy visiting with the seniors before offering the Eucharist. They have lived such interesting lives! It is also a blessing to see the reverence and appreciation on their faces when they receive the Eucharist.

### Can you share a meaningful, funny or enjoyable memory from serving?

The seniors always thank me for coming when I feel like I should thank them for letting me minister to them. I have been working with many of the same individuals for over a year, so it is easy to tell if they are having a good day or a bad day. One special memory I have is praying the rosary with Millie when her brother was very sick and she was very sad. Due to Covid protocols, I was wearing a mask under a face shield, which was very hot and I could hardly get enough air to talk! But we made it and she was so appreciative.

### How did you get into this ministry?

My mother was living at this assisted living facility when Covid hit and the facility went into lockdown. I was calling her 3-4 times a day and driving to the facility many times during the week to bring her goodies. I told the office if they had any part time jobs available, I would be willing to do any job to be able to get in. It was a huge answer to my prayers to get hired.

As an employee of the facility, I was trained in their Covid protocols. One day, a Lutheran Church volunteer dropped off communion in sealed packages for a couple of residents. It was like a light bulb went on — and I asked the facility if they would allow me to distribute Eucharist if it could be done with safe Covid protocols. They said yes, and then I contacted Fr. Kevin. With his permission, and assistance from Jenifer Rindels to get everything going, I started sharing the Eucharist every week until my mother passed away (5 months later). I stopped serving for a while, but I had missed the residents, so I went back.

### Why should others serve?

A few years ago. I would have never thought that I would be a good candidate for this ministry, but our seniors need us! Many are so very lonely. Many feel so guilty that they can't get to church. Some day we may be in their shoes.



# Everyday Stewardship

By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## "What's in it for me?"

I think we've all been guilty of looking at a situation and wondering what's in it for us. It doesn't matter if it's a particular work assignment, someone at the parish asking for help with the mission trip bake sale, or your spouse asking if you'll take over the grocery shopping this week. Often, our first reaction to one of these requests is a heavy sigh and the thought: "If I do this, what will I get?"

Sometimes it surprises us to realize that the Apostles were no different. We tend to idolize these contemporaries of Christ as giants who walked with the Savior. But in reality, these individuals were merely human beings struggling to commit to the task of everyday stewardship.

In the Gospels, we see glimpses of them longing for praise and affirmation. We see them jockeying for positions of power within the group of twelve. We see them expect earthly rewards like honor and admiration. We see them acting a lot like us.

But in the end, we see them transformed by the grace of God. Like all the saints, their holiness stems from their commitment to their call. They stumble through, and as they stumble, they keep trusting God. They keep turning to Him. They keep asking for help. They don't give up just because they keep failing at it.

We are defined by what we give when we have no hope of being reimbursed, rewarded, or recognized. The Apostles understood this, eventually, and they gave accordingly. Most of them gave their very lives.

Remember, they're just like us. If they can do it, we can too. ©LPI

## ALTAR SERVER: Isaac Peterson

### Why do you volunteer?

Because it is fun to be active helping with Mass.

### What do you enjoy about your ministry?

I enjoy meeting other people in our church who also volunteer. I also like being up near the altar during Mass.

### Can you share a meaningful, funny or enjoyable memory from serving?

My first time as an altar server was for the evening Ash Wednesday service and at first I was a little scared because of all the people there. But I did it and it all went really well. Father Kevin was helpful to me.

### How did you get into this ministry?

I saw other kids doing this service and I thought that I could do it too.

### Why should others serve?

I think people should serve because they would enjoy being an active part of the celebration of Mass.





# Trusting in the Spirit

By Fr. Kevin Anderson, Pastor



The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt that the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?" Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island. It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man to his rescuers. They replied, "We saw your smoke signal."

At times, the journey to sell our church buildings has felt like we are abandoned on an island, or even that our plans have "gone up in flames." I know that I have felt this way. However, through this entire process, I believe that our primary focus is to TRUST GOD.

As of my writing this article (September 1, 2021) neither church building has been sold. Nevertheless, currently there is a congregation interested in purchasing the Zimmerman Church. And there is a different entity interested in purchasing the Princeton Church, with the possibility to lease it back to us, until we finish construction of our new building.

Our realtor team from *Edina Realty* continues to aggressively work with any and all prospective buyers. They, likewise, continue to list both properties on the appropriate listing sites.

It was unfortunate that the two previously interested entities for South could not make their plans come together, with the high cost of building materials for their renovating ideas. But lest we feel like the man on the uninhabited island, we are NOT alone. God is with us. God has always been with us. We just need to trust that the right group(s) will make our church building(s) their new home.

## ALTAR SERVERS:

### Alexander, Andrew & Ashlyn Rindels



#### Why do you volunteer?

Ashlyn signed up to start this Fall after the fun altar server training last month. Alexander and Andrew have both been altar servers for four years. We chose to be altar servers because it is one way that kids our age can be involved in our church and in the Mass. After serving a few times, we realized that serving gives us the unique opportunity to participate in the Eucharist from a place in church where no one else but Fr. Kevin is, which is pretty cool. Altar servers really have the best seats in the house (that's what their mom says anyway)! We enjoy all of the responsibilities that come with serving.

#### What do you enjoy about your ministry?

We like lighting the candles before Mass and talking with the other ministers who stop by the sacristy. We've met a lot of parishioners just by being altar servers. Once Mass has begun, we enjoy setting the table during the Preparation of Gifts. Alexander and Andrew try to get everything taken care of before Fr. Kevin gestures for us to do it. Being an altar server has helped us to pay attention more to what is going on during the Mass and to understand what is happening because they are a part of it.

#### Can you share a meaningful, funny or enjoyable memory from serving?

The majority of what you do as an altar server never changes but there are many times that there is something new or special to do like cleaning up the props that Fr. Kevin uses, holding the chrism oil during baptisms, lighting everyone's candle at the Easter Vigil, and carrying the cross for Stations of the Cross. Once we had to clean up goat poop because Fr. Kevin had goats visit during an Easter Vigil. That wasn't much fun, but it sure was memorable!

#### How did you get into this ministry?

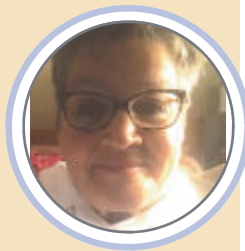
Alexander continues to be an altar server, even though he considers himself "one of the older kids" because he likes teaching others all of the tricks that he knows, which helps them remember what to do. Alexander is excited for altar servers to be back at Masses again because he will be able to help his sister, Ashlyn, learn about serving.

#### Why should others serve?

The Rindels' shared that everyone should give serving a try!

## GREETER:

### Sue Maurer



#### Why do you volunteer?

I feel good about giving back to church.

#### What do you enjoy about your ministry?

I enjoy meeting and talking with members of other liturgical ministries on weekends and answering questions that some newer parishioners or visitors may have.

#### Can you share a meaningful, funny or enjoyable memory from serving?

I have met many great members of Christ Our Light. I've enjoyed hearing some of their stories and have made new friendships through volunteering. It is very rewarding.

#### How did you get into this ministry?

After I retired, I called the parish office and said I had time to help out wherever needed. On a Sign Me Up Weekend, I signed up! I started with greeting, then I was asked to help in the office with mailings, registrations, and more.

#### Why should others serve?

Our parish depends on members to help out wherever needed. It leads to meeting new friends and feeling a part of our church community.



# CHRIST OUR LIGHT CATHOLIC PARISH

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## CALLED TO MINISTRY

By Jenifer Rindels, Ministry Coordinator

It took me quite a bit of reflecting on this topic before I was able to write this article, which surprised me. When Jenny asked me to write about ministry, I thought “easy peasy!” I mean, how hard could this topic be considering my role here at Christ Our Light and the multitude of ministry opportunities we foster. As I struggled with my approach, I reached out to my friend, *Google*, for help.

*Google* says that ministry is the action of ministering to someone. Hmm... *Google* also says that minister means attending to the needs of another. We have all heard that a million times. Nothing new here, *Google*. Still feeling rather discouraged, I found myself staring at these two words on my computer screen, before noticing a profound difference between the two glaring back at me! The Y! That is the difference!

The Y stands for YOU! YOU are the difference between a ministry and a minister! The commitment YOU make is the difference between someone’s needs being attended to or not. YOU make our liturgies welcoming, joyful, vibrant and Christ-filled by your commitment to liturgical ministry. YOU bring hope, companionship and the light of Christ to those in our care facilities and those who are homebound by your commitment to social outreach. YOU mentor and facilitate the deep connection to Jesus that our youth seek by being a catechist. YOU share your hope and vision for the future of our faith family through your involvement in our development teams.

What is holding YOU back from ministry? On the weekend of **Sept. 25/26**, we are hosting Sign Me Up Weekend. YOU will have the opportunity to volunteer in one or a multitude of areas for which there is a great need. Please prayerfully reflect on how YOU can make a difference here at Christ Our Light. We need YOU!

Contact us at **763-389-2115** | or visit **www.christourlightmn.org**

### GREETERS:

## Grammond Family

#### Why do you volunteer?

We volunteer as Greeters so that people feel welcome. It just simply feels good to volunteer.

#### What do you enjoy about your ministry?

Greeting! We greet because we enjoy talking to people or at least saying “hi” and giving a quick smile.

#### Can you share a meaningful, funny or enjoyable memory from serving?

When Violet, our daughter, was little she loved to hand out worship aides and it seemed to make people smile.

#### How did you get into this ministry?

On a Sign Me Up Weekend... We decided it was a ministry we could do as a family.

#### Why should others serve?

We think it simply feels good to volunteer. There’s a saying that people who serve others get just as much out of it as the people that they serve, and we couldn’t agree more!

