

- A GRAIN OF MUSTARDSEED -

Dear Friends in Christ:

September 2023

As we return from summer breaks and vacations and anticipate the beginning of a new program year, we heed Christ's command heard in Trinity XII's gospel from *St. Mark*, ch. 7, to "be open" to His Word and to communicate it faithfully and obediently. Thus it's a good time to remember how important it is to 'spread the word' about the rich diet of worship, teaching and fellowship offered to God's glory and our neighbors' benefit in this place. Word of mouth, personal invitation and the encouragement of a friend to come to church and partake of fellowship have always been and will continue to be the most effective way of growing the congregation, not to mention personal discipleship and the cultivation of the faith of our children and young people. Of course the internet and social media are a big part of how younger people learn of our being here nowadays (we have had a website since 1999) and so we strive, not always successfully but striving nevertheless, to improve our offerings in this regard. And yet nothing, not even the tools of our digital age, will ever replace the fellowship of one person ministering grace to another person and drawing them into the Body of Christ. Regular fellowship, in worship, study and service, is the key...as it always has been.

In Christ, Edward L. Rix

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – YOUTH & ADULT

Sunday School returns at 9:00 on Sept. 10th. The Tuesday Morning Group resumes at 7:00 on the 5th, continuing their study of *The Book of Judges* and the Thursday Bible Study at 11:00 am on the 7th continuing their study of *The Second Book of Samuel*. Sunday Adult Forum starts on the 10th at 11:30 am. As a complement to last year's study of seventeenth century Caroline Anglican History using the authors of The Anglo Catholic Library of Theology we will be looking at the divines of the sixteenth century English Reformation using the authors whose works were reprinted in the Parker Society series of 1841-1853. Like last year, this weekly study will be complimented by a four-week series of evening talks in October's mid-week School of Religion on the history of the English Reformation. James Altena, Ph.D. candidate in Church History at Westminster Seminary, will be giving those addresses which, given the excellence of his lectures last year, ought not to be missed.

CHOIR RESUMES

We are blessed over the summer months to have weekly soloists who are given a small stipend through a gracious gift of a friend of the parish. Nevertheless we eagerly anticipate our full choral program's commencement on September 17th. We are blessed with music that complements our reformed catholic beliefs, adorns our worship and draws others into our fellowship. We have many familiar friends continuing with us (Bonnie Fix-Keller, Luciana Piovan, Rachel Zigman, Maximiliano Marques, Edmund Meyers and James Altena) and some new people singing Alto (Rebecca Sacks), Tenor (Mark Doncic) and Bass (Kyle Chastulik). Paul Marchesano, while not singing with the choir on Sundays, continues to assist with Music Librarianship. You will find the music schedule for the remainder of Trinitytide published on the parish website. This season's full complement of singers would not be possible without the generous support of many within and without the parish: Parishioners past and present; Daughters and sons of the parish; Friends from the local community. All of these good folks believe strongly, the central place music plays in our worship. As many of them have donated anonymously, we thank them as a group and give the glory to God for putting it into their hearts to be so very generous. As ever, thanks go to Dr. Radu, our organist and choirmaster, Ms. Fix-Keller, assistant organist and Paul Marchesano, choir librarian for their diligence in the selection and preparation of our music.

CONFIRMATION DELAYED

The Confirmation service with Bishop Jackton Lugumira of Tanzania was cancelled in August. He was unable to procure a visa in a timely way due to the inundation of visa requests at the American Embassy in Tanzania from refugees from civil wars in neighboring countries who have fled there for safety. Their interview for visas is now scheduled for December, so we do not anticipate Confirmation until the New Year. Until then those who are 'ready and desirous' of being confirmed have been admitted to the fellowship of the Holy Communion in anticipation of their public profession of faith and the Bishop's laying on of hands for spiritual renewal.

SEPTEMBER FELLOWSHIP

A Rectory Potluck (723 Braeburn Lane) is planned for September 24th at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a covered dish, salad, dessert, appetizer, wine, etc. These are great opportunities to increase our fellowship. All are welcome.



"The kingdom of God...is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it." *St. Luke 13:18-19*