

WILDERNESS WORDS

Interim Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter: 218-388-9903 and dmc@chem.wayne.edu or pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu

This Sunday:

Leading: Lee
Preaching: Carol
Presiding: Mary Ellen

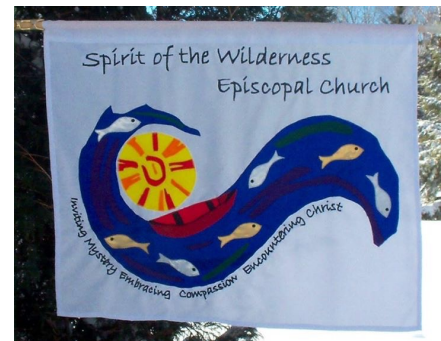
Readings this week:

First Reading & Psalm:
 Proverbs 1:20-33 and Psalm 19
 or *Wisdom of Solomon* 7:26 - 8:1
Alternate First Reading & Psalm:
 Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 116:1-9
Epistle:
 James 3:1-12
Gospel:
 Mark 8:27-38

(Click on citation to go to the reading.)

From Sarah Holt Stover:

I will admit that I had great difficulty writing this piece this week. I couldn't decide between writing about the Syrian refugee crisis, World Suicide Prevention Day, or something else. So, in response to all of this, I figured I'd touch on all of it. I started looking for common threads. I found one - community. Community is the common thread that I kept coming back to again and again, and for many good reasons.



Community changes lives. It is the difference between being lonely and isolated and knowing that even in the loneliness, we aren't truly alone. It is the difference between being a stranger in a strange land and being invited into a new homeland. Community is the thread which weaves us together and helps us get through this quandary that is called life. Community is the tangible expression of our faith - messy, human, and full of surprises.

So, where am I going with all this? Truth is, I don't know, so please bear with me. I figure if I can't focus on one, I'll pull it together as a hodge-podge of thought.

Let's start with the refugee crisis: We have all seen the gut-wrenching photos in the news. More than 11 million people have been displaced from their communities due to conflict. As followers of Christ, we are called to love our neighbor, which means that we cannot sit idly by in the face of this. How do we, as a community, help in the midst of the greatest humanitarian crisis since World War II? What needs to happen for these refugees to find a community where they feel welcome and safe, where they have their needs met? How can we be the hands and feet of Jesus in this time of need?

Ruby's Pantry is *THIS* Tuesday, September 8.

PLEASE NOTE: Ruby's new hours! Please pass the info on! We are now going to be open 5:00pm til 6:30pm. School is starting! We want to be sure kids are safe. We need to let buses get out of the parking lot before Ruby's people come to school. Volunteers, we will start at 2:30 pm (<- update!!) -- Please park at church parking lots not at school. Pick up a badge at front desk. We expect a large turnout of people coming to get food so we need lots of volunteers.

Save these Dates:

Sept. 13: Forum after Church:
Carolyn: "Why I am an
Episcopalian"

Oct. 18: Annual Meeting after
Church.

Vicar:

Mary Ellen Ashcroft

Phone: 218-387-1536

<maryellenvicar@gmail.com>

Assisting Priest:

Carolyn Schmidt

Phone: 218-387-1806

<madrecj@aol.com>

www.spiritofthewilderness.org

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritoftheWilderness)

[SpiritoftheWilderness](https://www.facebook.com/SpiritoftheWilderness)

Box 1115 Grand Marais, MN 55604

Next up, World Suicide Prevention Day:

Thursday, September 10th is World Suicide Prevention Day. While suicide claims over 800,000 lives worldwide annually, it is still a taboo subject. Oftentimes, in the throes of mental health crises and suicidality, people feel isolated and alone; no one cares, no one would notice if they were gone (or worse, that everyone would be better off without them.) It is in silence and isolation that these issues grow. It is often in the absence of a caring community where these issues spiral out of control. All too frequently, people who have survived the loss of a loved one to suicide grieve alone; the communities to which they belong are too afraid or uncomfortable to be present with them, further stigmatizing the issue. I write this in hopes that we at Spirit of the Wilderness have the courage and the compassion to break this silence and be a community that helps heal. (In light of this, if you are reading this and struggling with suicidal ideation, please reach out for help. If you don't feel comfortable talking to someone in the community, PLEASE call 1(800) 273-8255.)

Both of these issues provide interesting opportunities to build community both near and far.

We can partner with Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services, either in prayer or by donating and volunteering. This is one way we can build community both here and abroad while addressing the refugee crisis. We can work to raise awareness about mental health issues and mental health resources within our community to combat suicide in our community; we can also respond with love instead of judgement when people who are suicidal confide in us. We can offer love and support for those who are grieving a loss by suicide by providing a safe and caring community.

It all seems silly and convoluted until you think of the impact having a good community has on your own life. It is in community that we are able to live vibrantly, pool our resources and make a greater difference. It is in community where we can be the tangible expression of the grace of God, working together to make the world (or only our little corner of it) better.

Sarah

Pastoral Care Committee Assignments: (week starting) September 13, Layne; September 20, Layne; September 27, Beth; October 4, Beth; October 11, Lee; October 18, Lee; October 25, Dave + Shawn