

## WILDERNESS WORDS

### Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter:  
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### This Sunday:

**Leading:** Beth  
**Preaching:** Patsy  
**Presiding:** Carolyn S.

### Readings this week:

#### Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

**First Reading:**  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
**Psalm:**  
Psalm 71:1-6  
**Epistle:**  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
**Gospel:**  
Luke 4:21-30

(Click on citation to go directly to the reading.)

### Reflections:

How do you know when you have Encountered Christ? The Gospel for last Sunday and for this Sunday share the story of Jesus' visit to his home synagogue.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing  
Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

Everybody knows him. He is the son of Joseph and Mary from down the street. They know him so well. Maybe they know him too well. They reject him, he cannot be The One. How did they not know? He was standing right there.

Sometimes what I know gets in the way of what I need to experience and learn. The Season of Epiphany invites us to let down our guard and be prepared to learn something that we thought we already knew.

It's tricky this knowing. I know what I like. I know what is true. I know who I love. I know what I want. I know which way is up. I know who deserves help. I know who the cause of the problem is. I know the solution. If I don't know something I can Google it, then I will know. Get It?

There is a lot to know. And yet sometimes all this knowing closes me off to the Christ sitting right next to me. It is not easy to let go of what I know. It is risky. But I have Encountered Christ when I have taken that risk in a situation I thought I knew. My experience changed and I learned a new way to see the same old thing. Christ was there all along. Finally I knew it.

When did you last Encountered Christ, how did you know? Who, what, where, and when was it? I want to hear your story. When we gather, let's tell one another about our Christ Encounters.

Carolyn Schmidt  
23 January, 2016

## Save these Dates

**Wednesday, Feb. 10th:** Ash Wednesday Service @ Schmidt's house.

**Sunday, Feb. 14th:** Forum after Church. Bob P. "Benedict of Nursia - a Realistic Spiritual Leader"

**Sunday, March 6th:** SOTW @ the Care Center.

**Sunday, March 20th:** Forum. Carol Mork on the Passion Narrative .

**Thursday, March 24th:** Seder @ Hillary's.

**Friday, March 25th:** Good Friday Service @ the Dental Office.

**Sunday, April 3rd:** Forum after Church by Inger Andress (President of Kai-Zen Solutions LLC). Discussion of sexual predation by older men in Cook County

## Notes:

We have buttons!! Thanks to the efforts of Karen K, Ellen, and Dave C. we now have 60 very nice 1" diameter SOTW buttons to proudly wear and display as you choose. It would be especially nice to wear them at events such as Ruby's Pantry and to help identify ourselves as the official host! They are available at Church.



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**NOTE:** During Mary Ellen's sabbatical leave Carolyn has graciously agreed to be contacted as needed.



Best wishes to our own Ella Hedstrom as she continues to compete for a State seed in Varsity Swimming. She has been doing outstanding in regional competition to date.