

WILDERNESS WORDS

Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter: 313-673-6519 and dmc@chem.wayne.edu or pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu

This Sunday:

Leading: Karen H.
Preaching: Mary Ellen
Presiding: Mary Ellen

Readings this week:

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost, 8 October, 2017

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Psalm 19 **OR** Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15
Psalm: Above
Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

(To link directly to the readings (click) <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=162>



Reflections:

By Ritalee Walters

Trouble

These are some thoughts I've been thinking over the past few years. When faced with serious concerns about health or livelihood, I realize that there's never been a time when life has felt free of problems. I can only feel a nostalgia for more superficial troubles, like what work to pursue or what to do with my hair. When it takes a long time for a problem to resolve, I wonder if it's possible to keep being transformed and improved by suffering, or if you simply get worn down, like a crayon on paper. It seems like your banks become so flooded that you enter the ocean of all suffering, which both opens you to compassion but contains a risk of drowning. Bobbing up and down in your life preserver while waiting for help can make you numb or focused only on yourself. When your own crisis subsides, there's a residual awareness that others' pain has not ended. I'm reminded of Mary Ellen writing about her awareness of other kinds of pain and grief in peoples' lives at Steve's memorial service. Feeling pain gives you a universal translator to other pain.



Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.

And what does prayer do, exactly? Can you transmit health or money or insight to another being by wishing it? Sometimes it seems like praying confers benefit to the person praying rather than the recipient. I've come to think that prayer softens the sinews of the world, breaking down the perceived separations between us, dissolving our default settings and opening our ears and eyes. They are words that go inward, but mysteriously come out in speechless form. During this bruising political time, it has taken a lot of effort to listen and not judge and not automatically "like" some of the hilarious commentary that confirm my opinions. It's important to remain vigilant against fascism and hate, but I'm also aware that I can hurt other people with buttons on my computer, as they sometimes hurt me. One strange side effect of being hurt by opinions is that I've consciously tried to release some of my more frivolous ones, like my dislike of country music. I've enjoyed feeling smug about my own tastes, but there are people I love who love country music, and enjoying music is a wonderful thing. It's too easy to find differences.

Forums: 2016 - 2017

Forums — immediately following services we grab our coffee and treats and spend an hour learning.

Oct. 8th: Potential impacts of climate change on the local level — by the Nordic Nature Group — young naturalists including Olya Wright.

Oct. 22 — *Evolution and Faith* MEA

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

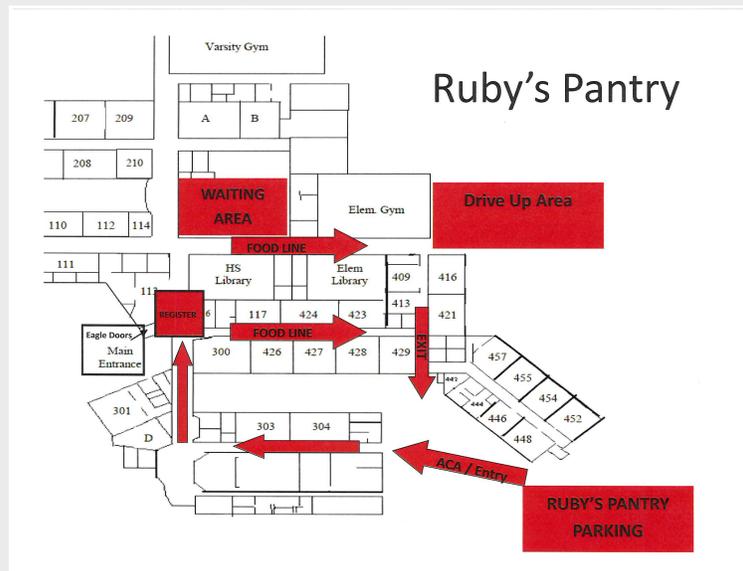
<https://www.facebook.com/SpiritoftheWilderness>

Box 1115 Grand Marais, MN 55604

Christianity’s main symbol is a man nailed to a cross by the hands and feet. Pain, and waiting for it to stop. It can frighten and disturb people. In some of my moments of anguish, I have felt deeply grateful for the image of a suffering God. I know I will still foolishly hurt others and squander attention on trivial concerns, but when we suffer we become aware of our fragility and proximity to loss. Pain is not something we can stop, but something we can feel for each other.

Notes:

- 1.) **On Saturday Oct. 14**, women from Holy Apostles Episcopal Church in St. Paul (who will up here on retreat) will be in attendance. Check with Mary Ellen to see if room remains in their egg roll class, and dinner.
- 2.) **Preaching Class** — please let MEA if you are interested and we'll set up a good time....
- 3.) We would like to have more different voices in our newsletter **Reflections**. Would you like to sign up--perhaps for once a month or once every two months? Please let Mary Ellen know.
- 4.) **Ruby’s Pantry, Tuesday, Oct. 10** - From Barb Spaulding: I wanted to make sure the word got out th at we NEED extra volunteers for the October 10 distribution. We are back at the school, but in the hallways. We can do no preliminary table set up because of the students using the hallways/lockers. We have to get all pallets unloaded and split up between two locations, and distribution lines set up, from 3:30 – 5:00. Because of product location behind each table in the lines, in most cases each item must have a volunteer to hand it out. There will not be room for multiple items behind a table to be handed out by one volunteer.





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TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Christian Spirituality | begins October 9

The Creeds and Practical Theology | begins October 9

Prayer Book I: The Sacraments | begins November 6

Family Systems and Human Awareness | begins November 6

Missional Management | begins November 6

Sign up now! Space is limited.

schoolforformation.org

**Unity in Christ
PRAISE & WORSHIP**

...make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Philippians 2:2

**Thursday, October 5, 2017
Hovland Town Hall**

6:30 Snacks and Chat time
7:00 Praise and worship!
Prayer afterwords

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1

For more information please call Treg or Denise at 475-2314
Love, your brother and sister in Christ!