



St. Augustine Episcopal Church

Rev. Meredyth Albright

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Hello St. Augustine's family;

The other day after the Table Board meeting, we were chatting and the conversation somehow got to the topic of gambling. I don't know how we got there but we did, so I told a story from earlier in my ministry. When I was serving as interim rector at St. Paul's, Marinette, there was a member who worked every other weekend, so he would often come to mass on Thursdays. One day he told me he was not going to be at the next service, because he was going out of town. He then said, I don't think you'll like where I'm going. Of course, that made me curious. But I said nothing. He then said he was going on a bus trip to the Chicago area to go to a race track, and hoped I wouldn't be mad.

I stayed quiet for a minute or so, and then said "what you do is between you and God. All I'm going to say is, 'ten percent.'" What I meant was that he needed to tithe ten percent of any winnings to the discretionary fund. He laughed and left.

I had sort of forgotten about that conversation until I went into my office a couple of days later. An envelope had been slid under the door; in it was \$25, ten percent of his winnings at the track. That money went into the discretionary fund. Every time he did any form of "gambling," the discretionary fund got boosted by some of his winnings.

On occasion he won \$10 in the football pool at the diner where he had breakfast frequently. That meant \$1; \$50 at the Lion's bingo enhanced the discretionary fund by \$5. We often had a chuckle about the whole situation, but it had its good points.

Retelling that story reminded me there is a message or two in it. One is the part that reads "that's between you and God." That is one phrase I often use to help define "sin." I don't know whether I was exactly thinking in those terms when I used it with the man in my story. But when you do or say things that you think are not quite right, you might want to have a bit of a conversation with God. Of course, you can talk with me and other folks, but a conversation with God is often the gold medal of processing.

There are times, sometimes too often, when we get too busy to remember to pray, or to talk with God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit. Making time to pray has a pay-out greater than ten percent of your time.

Blessings,

Meredyth+

ECW September Events

ECW will host a craft and bake sale at the Hodag Farmers' Market on Saturday, Sept. 7. All are invited to contribute and of course to shop. Craft and baked good donations are welcome; as are shoppers! The Farmer's Market is held at Pioneer Park, beginning at 8 a.m., winding up around noon; earlier if all of our delectable treats sell out. Contributions should be brought to the church Friday afternoon, or Saturday morning to the park by 8 a.m. Contact Donna Zimmerman for more information.

Planning ahead

Some folks are trying to figure out their calendars for the remainder of the year; so here is information on a couple of things already on our calendar.

Saturday, Oct. 12: Pet Blessing. This outdoor service will begin at 10 a.m., near the church columbarium. If the weather is less than delightful, the blessing will take place in the Guild Hall.

Saturday, Nov. 2: All Souls Day. We will have a service at 9 a.m., at which time the names of the deceased we would like to remember will be read. The service will include Eucharist.

Those who would like to, are then invited to stay and we can watch the consecration/installation of Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe on-line together. The service is being live-streamed.

Sunday, Nov. 10: Ecumenical Music Festival. This annual event will be held at 3 p.m. at Nativity Catholic Church. The festival will feature music by groups and individuals from area churches, and general community participants. Free will donations, and proceeds from a chili supper will benefit NAMI, Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence, and The Boys and Girls Club. Members of St. Augustine's have been asked to contribute baked goods. There will be a signup sheet in the Guild Hall as the festival date approaches.

Wednesday, Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Eve. Service details not yet available.

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve. Hymn sing will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day. Service will be held at 9 a.m.

Poverty Simulation

We are all very generous when it comes to helping people. But sometimes we miss the mark on exactly what their needs are. Much background, or overarching factors affect individuals. These may be situations we don't understand because we are not familiar with them.

You'll have an opportunity to get a better understanding of the challenges of the poor during a Poverty Simulation on Friday, Oct. 11, at Ascension Lutheran Church, 7937 Highway 51, Minocqua.

Caritas -Minocqua (the outreach program at St. Mathias Episcopal Church) and Ascension Lutheran are hosting the event.

The session will promote poverty awareness; increase understanding of what it is like to live in poverty; inspire local change to help battle poverty and transform perspectives of people in and out of poverty.

Check in begins at 12:30 p.m. The program begins at 1 p.m., including a simulation, round table discussion and planning for the future.

Register online at <http://www.stmatthiasminocqua.com/caritas.html>

SUNDAY: Worship 9 a.m.

The Meeting ID: 812 8610 0297. Passcode: 94205

To connect through video:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84626513503?pwd=TTVoVWxmbExJMGZVUnhCYWNCShxQT09>

To connect by telephone: 1-312-626-6799.

Office Hours

Office hours are generally 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Mother Meredyth is in the office during the office hours, on Monday, as well as additional times. If you are planning to stop in to see her, please call first to make sure she is available.