

# ST. TIMOTHY'S HAPPENINGS



Youth Justice Pilgrimage



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The youth and chaperones on this summer's Justice Pilgrimage



Kyle's first Sunday



Kyle's first Sunday



Kyle's first Sunday



Abigail Livingood's ordination to the priesthood



Kyle's first Sunday

## ST. TIMOTHY'S CONNECTIONS A SEASONAL NEWSLETTER

### REPRESENTING CHRIST

*"So we are ambassadors of Christ, since God is making his appeal through us." (2 Corinthians 5:20)*

In my first few sermons at St. Timothy's, I've referenced the idea of us as Christ's ambassadors and of the church as an embassy for the Kingdom of God. This image has struck me as one that fits aptly with our parish's mission statement to be the hands, feet, and voice of Christ in the world. It also feels deeply relevant at a time when there is so much uncertainty about what it means to be the church in the world.



Christians have used many images for the church over the years—a ship carrying her passengers on a journey to their final home, a temple in which God's Spirit dwells, a human body composed of different parts with different functions—but this image of the church as an embassy can, I hope, give us some important perspective about our role in the world. Our calling as a church is neither to be closed off from the "secular" world around us, nor, on the other hand, to be so identified with the world that the distinctiveness of our Christian witness is lost. In a similar way, an embassy is actively engaged in the country where it has been established, but it still has something from the "outside" that that society needs to hear. If this is how we are to see ourselves as a church, there are a number of implications for how we are to live. I'd like to highlight three briefly.

First, an embassy serves as a kind of "home base" in a foreign land. One reason I've emphasized the concept of the embassy rather than just using Paul's image of ambassadors is that we are not merely called as individuals. Our mission has a communal dimension. In the church, we gather for fellowship and refreshment so that we can better carry out the mission God has given us.

Second, we are sent out as ambassadors to represent Christ through our actions, with our hands and feet. Jesus calls us to care for the needs of those who require our help. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we not only address these needs, but also the systemic issues that created those needs. The God of justice calls us to tear down the walls that divide our society based on characteristics like race or sex or sexual orientation, to name only a few.

Third, we are also sent out to be Christ's voice. Ambassadors carry a message. We are called to share the good news of what God has done for us in Christ and to invite others to come experience the transforming power of God's Spirit as we have.

As I've begun my ministry at St. Timothy's, I've been so encouraged by how seriously this parish takes its mission. I'm looking forward to exploring together how we can continue growing into our calling to represent Christ in the world around us.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## MEET THE RECTOR GATHERINGS

Come spend some time with Rev. Kyle Carswell and enjoy an opportunity for fun and fellowship with Kyle and other members of St. Timothy's. Small bites and beverages will be provided.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6 | 7 PM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 | 7 PM

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31 | 6 PM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 | 6 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 2 PM

You can sign up online or check out the sign up sheets in the parish hall each Sunday.



## PROGRAM YEAR KICK-OFF AND PARISH PICNIC SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

“Christian Formation for all ages kicks off the Sunday after Labor Day. Please join us for a picnic in the Parish Hall following the service. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and enjoy fellowship as our program year starts.

## FIRST SUNDAY BREAKFASTS RESUME OCTOBER 2 AT 9 A.M. IN THE PARISH HALL

Our First Sunday Breakfasts are back after a long hiatus! Join us for wonderful food, fellowship, and a chance to hear from that month's Second Offering Partner.

# ADULT FORMATION THIS FALL

## ADULT FORUM

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 IN ROOM 131 ON THE LOWER LEVEL

SEPTEMBER 11 AND 18

### IMAGES OF GOD

led by Rev. Kyle Carswel

What does God look like? On the surface, that seems like a ridiculous question. God is invisible. Yet we believe that in Jesus, the invisible has become visible. Throughout the history of the church, many Christians have used the incarnation as a launching point to creatively portray God through art. Over the course of two Sunday Forums, we'll take a look at some of the ways artists have depicted God and Jesus. We'll discuss the impact these images have on us and the role they can play in our spiritual lives.



SEPTEMBER 25, OCTOBER 2, 9, 16 AND 23

### EMBRACING AN ADULT FAITH: MARCUS BORG ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CHRISTIAN

led by Deacon Jeanie Smit

There are five sessions to this DVD-based study. They are: Who is God?, Who is Jesus?, What is Salvation?, How do we Practice our Faith?, and How do we Live in Community? In each session, Marcus Borg stimulates heartfelt conversation among a small group and then turns it over to us.

October 30: No Adult Forum because of Diocesan Convention

## BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Resumes August 18. Contact Jeanie if you are interested in joining by Zoom

Starting on August 18, we'll be reading and studying [the book of Genesis. Here are our foundational stories, and good stories they are too! But where do we find the truth in these stories? Truth that transcends time and geography and speaks to our lives in the here and now.

# SECOND OFFERING PARTNERS

OUR LINE-UP OF SECOND OFFERING PARTNERS FOR THE REST OF 2022

AUGUST

### DSM AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL

DMARC operates 14 food pantry sites in the Des Moines metro area. It also operates mobile food pantries that travel around the metro area to underserved locations.

SEPTEMBER

### YOUTH JUSTICE INITIATIVE

YJI not only supports this restorative justice program for youthful offenders, working to keep them out of the criminal justice system, but also provides the Wings program for elementary school-aged kids.

OCTOBER

### BELOVED COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

BCI is an organization of our own Diocese of Iowa. Their mission: “Dismantling racism through love in action. Creating justice with dignity and respect.”

NOVEMBER

### JOPPA

Joppa helps homeless people survive, find housing and rebuild their lives.

DECEMBER

### FAITH + FOOD FUND / ANGEL TREE WDM HUMAN SERVICES

In December, we'll be “adopting” families for Christmas through our Angel Tree with families provided by WDM Human Services. And we'll raise some funds for our own Faith and Food Fund, which supports our needy neighbors in dire need.

