

**Rector's
Ramblings**

Since last Sunday and the reading about Jesus healing on the Sabbath, I continue to think about how we define "rest" and "labor" in our daily lives, especially in the light of "Labor Day" on Monday.

Two thoughts have surfaced and continue to grab my attention. The first, is that "labor" has become synonymous with "work" which seems to be something we do, but may not enjoy. So, we need time off of our work. To that end, we "rest". The second is that "rest" seems to be linked, now, with the idea of "recreation", or doing something fun, which is not "work". So "rest" and "work" are opposed to each other. So, weekends, times off, and vacations are times to rest from work, or to accomplish things that we cannot do since we are "working".

I find it interesting that "rest", when it is synonymous with recreation also contains an element of "work", but it is work that we enjoy. We can "re-create" ourselves in doing those activities that we enjoy outside of "work".

In this, there is still a kernel



Midweek Ignatius of Antioch

We are moving quickly through some of the New Testament Apocrypha. This week we will be reading from the Epistles of St. Ignatius of Antioch, one of the most influential members of the second generation of the Church.

Copies of the Epistles will be available on Sunday.

Theology Uncorked

Meets next Sunday, 8 September, at 6PM.

Requests for topic should be sent to Fr. Dave by Wednesday.

Outreach Opportunities

Items of the Month

In August and September the Outreach Committee will be collecting school supplies for Oakland School. The supply list includes items for individuals for grades Kindergarten through 5th grades. For example, the First grade list includes: Elmer's white glue, large box of facial tissues, large washable classic Crayola markers and backpack (no wheels). Please see the complete list for supplies for all grades. The supply lists will be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office and near the collection baskets. Place your supplies in the baskets in the vestibule between the sanctuary and the parish hall.

In addition, the PTO at Oakland School collects Box Tops for Education. Every valid Box Top clip is worth 10 cents for Oakland School. Some participating companies are: Nestle, Annie's, Nature Valley, Pillsbury and Paper Mate. You can cut out Box Top labels from packaged items and place them in the designated box in the Narthex. Or, you can download the Box

of the Biblical idea of rest. That idea that rest is functioning, living, being, as we are designed and created to be, is especially important for us. The difference between the secular, and the Christian, is that we do not need to "re-create" ourselves, but "labor" in our lives to be like Jesus. The paradox is that this "labor" produces true rest.

As you enjoy this three day weekend, may you be refreshed from your daily labor, and find your rest in Christ and his Life.

Dave+
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield
[Rector's Blog \(new\)](#)

Find us on Instagram--stmattsblm
Twitter--@BloomingtonSt

Top app, scan your receipts, and start earning that way. Eventually, the Box Top clips will be phased out of production. Thank you for supporting Oakland School & Outreach Comm.

Catechists of the Good Shepherd

Have you seen the work going on in the basement? Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is coming soon! We're getting ready for a new year, and we are excited to be opening a new space for elementary-age children. Maybe you've seen the first preschool-age classroom we've created, or perhaps some of the material that the children use in the program. This first room was designed to help young children discover and live into the covenant relationship we have with God in Christ, especially as it can be understood through the Parable of the Good Shepherd from John 10. The main question in the heart of a young child is, "Who are you, Lord?". Our first classroom provided materials to help children find answers through scripture, liturgy, and the sacraments.

Now, we are in the process of creating a space in which 6-9 year olds can encounter God with their more social understanding of the world. Elementary age children want to know, "Who am I, in light of who You are, Lord?" They want to know what their place is in God's Kingdom, in bringing all of creation to a fullness of life in Him. They also want to know how to live in the covenant relationship with the Good Shepherd with others. How do they remain connected to God and love others? Come find out how we are seeking to aid their growth in the Christian life. We hope you are able to join us in preparing the materials for our children in the coming weeks. Our program will officially begin with an introduction to the church on September 15th, 2019. We hope to see you there!

Pray for the Cure

The ninth annual Bloomington/Normal area PRAY for the CURE will be held, on Thursday, September 5, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church. It is a special evening dedicated to prayer, praise and worship for cancer survivors, their families, friends and health care providers, as well as prayer for researchers, labs and funding agents working toward a cure for breast cancer. *Their announcement poster-reminder is posted on the Hallway bulletin board.*

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

Worship Serving Schedule

1-September 2019

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Kathryn Morris

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Thurifer: John Stoffer

Lector: Jim Cooper

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis

Coffee Hour: Linda Stawick & Matt Matsuda

8-September 2019

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Bill Johns

E.M.: Bill Johns

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Chrissy Stoffer

E.M.: Emily Lavikoff

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Dedee Champion, Janet Hoffman, Martha Carroll

St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of September 1

Coffee hour follows 10AM worship in Parish Hall

Sunday-7:30 a.m.-Rite I

10:00 a.m.-Rite II

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-Office closed for Labor Day holiday

Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m.-Quilters

6:00 p.m.-Zumba *

Wednesday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer

2:00 p.m.-Private Music Lessons *

5:30 p.m.-Mid-week Holy Eucharist

6:00 p.m.-Adult Study

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer & breakfast

9:00 a.m.-Moms in Prayer *

2:00 p.m.-Private Music Lessons *

Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Zumba *

Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

** Authorized Group--St. Matthew's guests*

If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.

Readings for September 1, 2019

Hymns: #296, LEVASII #121, #637

Old Testament

Proverbs 25:6-7

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great;
for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Psalm 112

Beatus vir

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *

and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

10 The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

The Epistle

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels

without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Birthdays & Anniversaries September 1 - 7

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Bill Johns

Dede Dyson
Sarah Halt

Dedications for this week:

*The Memorial lamp is lit in loving memory of
Bruce Boyle
by Deacon Tim & Debbie Leighton*

Collect for 12th Sunday after Pentecost, September 1st

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reignth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

