

Rector's Ramblings

Continuing with questions about the Liturgy.

Q: What is a Eucharistic Minister? How do you get to serve in this way?

A: A Eucharistic Minister is an individual who has been licensed by the Bishop to assist the clergy in the distribution of Holy Communion. The licensing of "EMs" has been a part of common life since the last century.

In previous editions of the Canons this role has been known as a "Chalice Bearer" with the underlying assumption that the assistance given was reserved to the distribution of the Cup. However, that was not a correct understanding, as those called to participate in this ministry are authorized to assist in the distribution of both the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Eucharistic Minister is an "extraordinary" minister. Yes, they are extraordinary in their service, but they are



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.

Instructed Eucharist

By request there will be an Instructed Eucharist on 10/6 and 10/13 at both services. This is an excellent opportunity to enter more fully the meaning of our liturgy and invite others who might have questions about what we do, and why we do it, to join you for worship.

We will do this over two Sundays in order to give proper attention to the Liturgy, as well as, ensuring we end at our normal time.

10/6--The focus will be on the Liturgy of the Word.

10/13--The focus will be on the Holy Eucharist.

Special Forum

October 20th at 9AM.

also "extra ordinary" in that EMs were authorized at a time when all liturgical Churches were full on Sunday and there were not enough clergy to distribute in a timely and effective manner. It is the ordained clergy who have responsibility, and authority, to handle and distribute Holy Communion in a reverential manner. When a Eucharistic Minister is present, he or she functions as a member of the "minor" order of the clergy. However, just as no one is entitled to be a priest or deacon, being an EM is a calling of the congregation to meet a specific need.

The qualifications to be a Eucharistic Minister may vary by congregation. At minimum you must be a confirmed member of the Church and undergo training by either the Deacon or the Priest. The Priest then requests the Bishop to grant a license that is valid for three-years.

The local priest can add other qualifications as he or she sees fit. My expectations follow.

Since Eucharistic Ministers function like a minor cleric, it is incumbent upon them to be people of faith, prayer, and study. They should be

John and Chrissy Stoffer will present on their recent trip to Kenya in support of Midwest Food Bank. You will not want to miss hearing about their amazing experience and the work that is being done by this local ministry in Africa.

Breakfast Fellowships

Women's Breakfast will meet on October 12 at 8:30 AM.

Men's Breakfast will not meet on October 19 due to the Diocesan Synod. However, we will meet on the 26th if agreeable to the men of the church. Please let Fr. Dave know if that date does not work.

Theology Uncorked

Will meet at 6PM on October 13th.

Visitation Change

Bishop Daniel's annual visitation date has changed to 10 November.

Adult Forum

An Adult Forum will be held at 9AM each Sunday during the time for Children's Catechesis. This is an informal gathering to answer questions and have discussion about the Church and its life in the world.

Sabbatical

In full disclosure, and with the MLT's support, I am preparing to take Sabbatical beginning 1 June 2020. Sabbatical time is included in every Rector's letter of agreement and can be taken anytime after the first five years.

A sabbatical is not a vacation, or even continuing education, but a time for clergy to focus on renewal for ministry. It is supposed to be a time for developing new skills and/or learning new things that can enhance our Parish life.

For my sabbatical I will be joining Bishop Elias in Tabora, Tanzania. Bishop Daniel has tasked me in this with learning

regular in their attendance at worship and participate in the wider life of the Community.

Since serving as an EM is an honor, a vocation given by the congregation, one so called should be ready to serve wherever and whenever needed, and like the regular clergy an EM gives up some control of their own liturgical life for the liturgical life of the Community. In other words it is not the Eucharistic Minister's need that drives the service, but the need of the community to which the EM responds. Of course allowance is made for vacations and work schedules, but if needed they should be ready to move between the different services to accommodate the needs of the worshipping community.

I also expect that the ministry of the Eucharistic Minister derives from other involvement in ministry. Serving at the Altar is a privilege and an honor, but it must be connected with serving Christ and His Church away from the Altar. Service at the altar cannot be the only ministry in an EM's life. An EM should be someone the congregation looks to as an example of ministry, faith,

how they are doing evangelism, clergy formation, and ministry development. The expectation is that a document will be produced outlining the above and how it might be beneficial to our Diocese and our Parish. Part of the plan is not just to preach and visit congregations, but to actively participate in clergy development through teaching Scripture to those in their formation program. I will also be teaching English at St. Peter's Secondary School in Tabora.

Supply clergy will support our liturgical life, and the Mission Leadership Team will support the administrative life of the Parish.

Unfortunately, some clergy misuse this time to search for other positions. However, please know that this is not appropriate nor will this be done.

Now, if anyone would like to join me for a portion of this trip, you are invited. A group portion would be appropriate for the first part of the time and would run roughly 1-19 June when Amy and Liam will be with me. If you are interested, please see me for cost estimate. I will need to make airline reservations by 1 November.

Thank you for your support and this opportunity.

Dave+

Outreach Opportunities

ITEMS-OF-THE-MONTH for October and November 2019.

MIDWEST FOOD BANK is asking for the following items for "The Big Give," its Thanksgiving meal giveaway for local residents in need:

Boxed stuffing mix, boxed mashed potatoes, pie crust mix; canned green beans, cranberry sauce, cream-of-mushroom soup, evaporated milk; envelopes of gravy (no jars, please); regular size cans of French fried onions; large cans of pumpkin pie mix, containing all sugar and spices.

Overall, 20 churches are collecting these items because so many are needed, for instance, 5,000 cans each of green beans and mushroom soup. Hy-Vee and Schnuck's are ready to assist people shopping for The Big Give. They also sell turkey cards.

and Christian life.

If you believe you are called to serve in this ministry, please see me or Deacon Tim. If you believe one of your fellow parishioners is called to serve in this ministry, please let us know so we can approach them.

Thanks for the questions, and keep them coming.

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

Please help The Outreach Committee provide St. Matthew's response to this vital community need. **THANK YOU!**

If you can, please bring your non perishable donations early in October so that MFB volunteers will have plenty of time to pack individual and family boxes for distribution.

Thanks again! The Outreach Committee

Updated ways to assist Oakland School are found on their [PTO News](#)

The Daily Devotional Reading

is available by clicking of the link below:

[Good News Daily](#)

Worship Serving Schedule

6-October 2019

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolyte: Alley Roberson

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Thurifer: John Stoffer

Lector: Ann Sokan

E.M.: Jack Pitts

Monday Counter: Pam Laws

Coffee Hour: Justin Brooks & Mark Smith

13-October 2019

7:30

Greeter: Ray Durham

Lector: Kathryn Morris

10:00

Acolyte: Liam Halt

Crucifer: Brad Bauman

Lector: Robin Levine

E.M.:

Monday Counter: Gary McGinnis
Coffee Hour: Phyllis & Dave Halt

St. Matthew's Weekly Activities as of October 6

Coffee hour follows 10AM worship in Parish Hall

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

9:00 a.m.-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (for Children)

10:00 a.m.-Rite II

5:30 p.m.-Evensong

Monday-9:00 a.m.-Home School Ed Classes *

11:00 a.m.-Private Music Lessons *

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

10:00 a.m.-Quilters

Wednesday-7:00 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-8:30 a.m.-Women's Breakfast

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

Office Hours: Monday 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 October 6, 2019

Hymns: #371, #574, #490

Old Testament

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,

and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"

and you will not save?

Why do you make me see wrong-doing

and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous--
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watchpost,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.
Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.
For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.
Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

Psalm 37:1-10

Noli aemulari

1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.
3 Put your trust in the Lord and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
4 Take delight in the Lord, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.
6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.
7 Be still before the Lord *
and wait patiently for him.
8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
10 For evildoers shall be cut off, *

but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.

The Epistle

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God-- whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did-- when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

The Gospel

Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather

say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

Birthdays & Anniversaries October 6 - 12

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Kelly Gray
Caroline Leighton
Kia Griffin

Dedications for this week:

*The Sanctuary lamp is lit in celebration of
Nancy & Dave Lareau's
40th Wedding Anniversary*

Collect for 17th Sunday after Pentecost, October 6th

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

