Office Hours
Monday–Thursday  8:00am–4:30pm
Friday  8:00am–12:00pm

Mass Schedule
Weekend Masses
Saturday    5:00pm
Sunday  9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm
Nursery available at all weekend Masses.
Interpreter for hearing impaired at 11:00am.

Weekday Masses
Mondays  8:30am
Tuesdays  8:30am with Rosary to follow
Wednesdays  6:00pm
Thursdays  8:30am
Fridays  8:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation  (private)
Saturdays    4:00–4:30pm

Mission Statement: Pax Christi Catholic Community, in company with God, and guided by the Spirit of Vatican II, welcomes all as leaders in faith for service to the world.

Vision Statement: Pax Christi Catholic Community will be a community guided by a cooperative spirit that supports growth in faith and calls for each member to engage in active and generous service to each other, our community and the greater world.
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I THINK ABOUT THE EPIPHANY OFTEN WHEN I DRIVE AROUND EDEN PRAIRIE, CHANHASSEN, AND SHAKOPEE. I ASK “WHO’S MISSING?” FROM OUR PARISH FAMILY.

WHO’S MISSING?

NEXT TO the Christmas tree, a gaggle of kindergarteners was staring intently into the Nativity crèche. “Who do you see next to the manger?” I said. “Mary and Joseph!” a few yelled at once. “And what kinds of animals do you see?” “A donkey! A cow! A sheep!” “And who is on top?” “The angel!” “That’s right!” I smiled.

A final question: “And who’s missing?” The class thought for a while. A few squirmed and looked blankly into the air.

Then came the answer, almost as a suggestion, “The three wise men?”

“Bingo! But where are they? Here’s a hint: they’re somewhere in this room.”

The youngsters all sprang to life again. They looked high and low, stood up from their seats, peered behind the stable scene, and darted under the tree, until the cry: “There they are!” A girl pointed to a very high bookcase in the back of the room. There Father Kevin and I had ever so carefully placed the caravan of camel riders the night before, almost out of visual range. The magi! They were coming – slowly, ploddingly even, but they would arrive one day. They were in search of the newborn King of the Jews. They came offering their gifts and their homage.

I have to admit that in my liturgical delight I asked the 6-year-olds what day in the church year we celebrate the arrival of the three wise men. All I got back was dumbfounded silence. It turns out that “Epiphany” just doesn’t feature largely in the fledgling lexicon of a kindergartener. Maybe it would, if it involved presents to be unwrapped.

The magi are a mysterious and captivating phenomenon in salvation history. Whatever their number (the gospels actually never give us a precise count), these travelers were from the “land of sunrise.” The term magi, in the ancient world, could mean many things. Magi could be priests from the land of Persia. Their religious ideas were tied up with Greek philosophy. Magi could also mean men learned in supernatural arcana. Finally, the concept of magi could refer to magicians, deceivers, and seducers. The Acts of the Apostles (13:10) records an instance of a magician named Bar-Jesus. He tried to prevent others from coming to know Jesus, as proclaimed by Paul. For that, Paul calls him a “son of the devil,” and he is temporarily struck blind.

So, it seems that the magi can be righteous or wicked, enlightened or darkened. Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his series, Jesus of Nazareth (Image: 2012):

The ambivalence of the concept of Magi that we find here illustrates the ambivalence of religion in general. It can become the path to true knowledge, the path of Jesus Christ. But when it fails, in his presence, to open up to him and actually opposes the one God and Saviour, it becomes demonic and destructive.
It is clear from the gospel accounts that the magi of the Epiphany were seekers of truth, and not abusers of religion. They were probably Persian religious philosophers who contained within themselves an aspiration toward salvation. In whatever form the astronomical event of the star manifested itself, the magi understood that it pointed to the land of the Jews, and hence salvation coming from Israel. The Hebrew Scriptures themselves prophesied their coming: “May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!” (Ps 72:10).

The magi represent the movement of human religion and human science above and beyond themselves toward Christ. Every nation, every culture, every human being seeks true and lasting wisdom. What an epiphany when it is found within the child in the crib! Today as our culture becomes increasingly post-Christian, there are many modern day magi who are seeking salvation and do not yet know its name: Christ. Today also there are still religious sects and religious leaders who use the name of God for deceit. Yet, for the most part, the contemporary magi who are roaming the world – physical or digital – are really seeking the truth that will liberate them for freedom and fulfillment. They bring wisdom and experience that can be baptized into Christ and which vivifies the Church, which is the Body of Christ.

I think about the Epiphany often when I drive around Eden Prairie, Chanhassen, and Shakopee. I ask “who’s missing?” from our parish family. As our area’s demographic makeup changes, Pax Christi will be blessed with many “people [who] will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the Kingdom of God” (Luke 13:29). They will bring their families, their heritage, their cultural wisdom. Are we as a parish ready to receive these “modern magi?” How will we present Christ to them, for them not only to hear but also to do homage? What are we willing to do to make straight the path for them to enter into God’s family? They are here. They are coming. They are seeking. They might be a little farther away than the top of the bookshelf, but they may be near enough that the nearest ambassador of the King they will meet – is you.

In this month’s magazine, you’ll find stories of people of Pax Christi who call this parish their home. Some have come from faraway lands; some grew up right here. All of them have seen the light of “his star” and have come to worship him. May all of us receive Christ into our hearts this Christmas season, and welcome the magi in our midst.

God bless you!

Father Marc Paveglio
In these cold winter months, I think often of this past summer’s high school mission trip to Detroit, where eight youth and three adults served at a soup kitchen for a weeklong service/justice immersion experience. I remember the feeling of our minivan flying down Interstate 96, all of us singing along with the soundtrack to 2016’s Disney film *Moana* at the top of our lungs:

*See the line where the sky meets the sea? It calls me,
And no one knows how far it goes!
If the wind in my sail on the sea stays behind me,
One day I’ll know...if I go there’s just no telling how far I’ll go!*

Over the course of these two pages, I’m going to make some connections between the movie *Moana*, the art and science of wayfinding, the Feast of the Epiphany, and our high school youth ministry efforts. Stick with me here!

**FIRST,** some background on *Moana*: The film’s titular character is next in line to become chief of her island village in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Her father has forbidden the villagers from traveling beyond the reef on the edge of the island, but Moana has always felt a pull to sail toward the horizon. She’s an adventure-seeker and a firecracker. She has an independent spirit, a pure heart, and an unwavering loyalty to her family and her people.

For reasons that become clear when you watch the movie, Moana makes the decision to sail past the reef of her island, trying to teach herself how to navigate as she makes her way across the open ocean toward her destination beyond the horizon. Eventually, she meets the demigod Maui who becomes her unlikely teacher in the “ways” of wayfinding. Hijinks ensue, conflicts arise, and challenges befall the duo, and in true Disney fashion, everyone lives happily ever after.

But what does any of this have to do with the Epiphany or the youth of Pax Christi? Maybe you’re starting to put the pieces together already. If not, let me explain.

According to Liesl Clark, “the ancient Polynesians navigated their canoes by the stars and other signs that came from the ocean and sky. Navigation was a precise science, a learned art that was passed on verbally from one navigator to another for countless generations.” At its core, a wayfinder is a person who pays attention to the stars and their surroundings to navigate, but it’s much more than that. In *Moana*, when the teenage chief-to-be asks Maui to teach her to sail, he responds, “It’s called wayfinding, princess. It’s not just sails and knots. It’s seeing where you’re going in your mind, knowing where you are by knowing where you’ve been.”

And isn’t this exactly what the magi were doing when they visited the newborn Christ? (See, I told you we’d get there...stick with me!)

In the second chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, the magi follow the star of Jesus on their journey from the east. On the way, they visit King Herod and are instructed to return to him once they have found Jesus so Herod can ostensibly go and pay homage to the newborn King. Of course, we know that his intention is actually to eliminate the
threat of a new power by killing Jesus, and the magi are “warned in a dream” to go home by a different route. They know where they’ve been, they see where they are, and it helps them to know where to go next. Now that they have completed their first mission, they shift from following the literal star of Jesus to following the metaphorical star of their conscience, of justice, of life.

And today, the young people of our parish follow the same star of justice as they seek to live out Jesus’ gospel call of peace, love, and service.

When the high schoolers returned from their service trip to Detroit, they knew they wanted to continue the mission when they got back home. After encountering those in need and opening their eyes to the struggles of others, the youth decided to create a group that would provide opportunities for Pax Christi high schoolers to gather several times a year to do service and justice work in the Twin Cities area. They named it the Wayfinders.

One youth, Hannah Boyles, has been on several mission trips with Pax Christi, and was inspired to take on a leadership role in the Wayfinders. “We decided to start the Wayfinders as a way to get more youth involved in our parish, for them to come together to give back to the community around us,” she says. “We can take the skills and experiences we learned from the mission trip and apply them to something greater.”

She continues: “We chose the name ‘Wayfinders’ because we wanted something that would represent us as one. As we grow as people and in our faith, we want to find and connect to the people around us. We may not always know the way or path that God wants for us, but as Wayfinders, we want to connect to the community around us and really search for our personal faith paths that help us become better people.”

The Wayfinders have big plans for the future. “We want to get as many youth involved as possible, and we want it to be student-driven,” Hannah explains. “A large percentage of people at Pax Christi are youth, and the youth represent who we are as a church. We want to make a difference in the lives and communities around us, and the only way to do that is by taking action and getting involved. Although you may feel like your work is something super small, it may create a greater impact on someone else. We want to change lives and create a community full of support and inspiration.”

Taken separately, Moana, wayfinding, the Epiphany, and youth ministry may seem like several stars floating in different parts of space. But when we look with a wayfinder’s eye, we can see a constellation of justice that stretches across the sky and guides us on our path toward the Reign of God. May we have the courage to follow this constellation! May we have the conviction to take risks and sail beyond the comfortable island reefs of our lives and out into a vast ocean—a world just waiting for us to make some waves.

Written by Jessie Johnson, Youth Formation Minister.
ON THE ROAD TO JERICHO
CONTINUING OUR FAITH COMMUNITY JOURNEY TO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PLIGHT OF IMMIGRANTS, MIGRANTS, AND REFUGEES

“YOU SHALL TREAT THE STRANGER WHO SOJOURNS WITH YOU AS THE NATIVE AMONG YOU, AND YOU SHALL LOVE HIM AS YOURSELF, FOR YOU WERE STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT: I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.” LEVITICUS 19:34

THUS BEGINS the Holy Father’s message inviting us all to participate in in the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees on January 14, 2018, a day devoted to “welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants and refugees.”

In the August issue of The Pax Christi News, we introduced the initiative known as On the Road to Jericho, an effort to gain a deeper understanding of Catholic social teaching related to immigration, immigrants, migrants, and refugees, and to bring that information to our entire parish community. We have had several events, speakers, and documentary movies reflecting the more personal side of the immigrant/refugee experience. On the Road to Jericho will offer more opportunities for all of us to join the conversation and become more informed, involved and proactive in this important issue.

Following the admonition of St. Paul (Romans 15:7), “Welcome one another then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God,” we are called to understand how that “welcome” can be exercised. As a first step, those who have participated in On Road to Jericho events have found a deeper understanding of this issue through the personal stories of those affected. As Christians, we are encouraged through the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, “The Love of Christ Toward Migrants,” to “…promote an authentic culture of welcome capable of accepting the truly human values of immigrants over and above any difficulties caused by living together with persons who are different.”

To this end, the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States issued a Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration, “Strangers No longer Together on the Journey of Hope” in 2003. After introducing the many human, religious, social, political, and legal challenges inherent in globalization and its impact in the Americas, the bishops stated five principles from Catholic social teaching which may guide our view of migration:

1. Persons have the right to find opportunities in their homeland. People have a right to work and work that provides a just, living wage is a basic human need.

2. Persons have the right to migrate to support themselves and their families. The goods of the earth belong to all peoples. When life-sustaining employment cannot be found in their country of origin, people have the right to migrate and nations should provide ways to accommodate this right.

3. Sovereign nations have the right to control their borders. While granting this right of control, such control is rejected when it is exerted merely for the purpose of acquiring additional wealth.

4. Refugees and asylum seekers should be afforded protection. Those who flee persecution have a right to claim refugee status without incarceration.

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JUSTICE GRANTS BOARD MINISTRY FAIR: JANUARY 6/7

DID YOU KNOW that a portion of your annual monetary gifts to Pax Christi also goes to help individuals and families who are dealing with homelessness and poverty in our greater community? Below you will see the names of current Pax Christi Justice Grant recipients and what services their organizations are providing to the needy. Also listed is the Pax Christi Grants Board liaison for each grant recipient.

We invite you to attend the Justice Grants Board Ministry Fair after all Masses on the weekend of January 6/7, 2018. You will get to meet representatives from the organizations who have received grants and who look forward to thanking you in person. Information regarding volunteer opportunities in connection with each grant recipient will also be available for you.

Your generosity and support of these eight organizations is very much appreciated. We look forward to seeing you at the Justice Grants Board Ministry Fair weekend in January!

YOUTHLINK
Liaison: Jim Pare, 612-308-2190, jimpare.jp@gmail.com
At any given night in Minnesota, 4,000 young people will experience homelessness. Pax Christi’s grants and volunteers help provide meals and supportive services to open new pathways for those who face barriers and to help them build more stable futures.

CENTRO GUADALUPANO
Liaison: Amy Abercrombie, 952-934-2839, amy_downunder@hotmail.com
Justice grants support after school programs for children ages 5 to 12 from low-income Latino immigrant families.

BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Liaison: Mary Stapleton, 952-443-2232, momstapes@hotmail.com
Grants provide scholarships to low-income families (40% do not have English as first language) to ensure continued academic access and growth through Catholic education.

CABRINI PARTNERSHIP
Liaison: Bryce Fier, 952-846-9140, bslkfierfamily@msn.com
Grants and volunteers help adults experiencing homelessness, mental illness and chemical dependency with housing, support services, and training needs.

SMALL SUMS
Liaison: Katie Frodermann, 952-944-6367, katiefrodermann@gmail.com
Homeless individuals who have recently accepted a job offer are provided with work clothes, shoes, tools, bus passes, licenses, or dues to help get them started.

RISEN CHRIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Liaison: John Rogoz, 612-741-0419, rogozi@yahoo.com
Grants provide help with scholarships to K-8 low-income, bilingual, multi-cultural students. Volunteers provide tutoring and assistance with other needs.

ST. STEPHEN’S
Liaison: Jessica Blair, gopherreturn@gmail.com, 713-870-1547
Grants help support emergency shelter for adult males with beds, meals, laundry, and support services. Volunteers provide monthly meals and assistance with other needs.

ST. ANNE’S PLACE
Liaison: Molly Patil, 612-520-1857, mollycmalone@gmail.com
By supporting St. Anne’s Children’s Programs, Pax Christi grants help alleviate effects of trauma to promote learning, healing, and healthy development of children living in a shelter environment.

Written by Jeannie Campbell, Justice Grant’s Board member.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8.

We have learned firsthand the stories of people from our own community and have learned the nature and reach of the issues embedded in immigration. We invite you to join us in learning and conversation guided by our faith. We have opportunities to assist our neighbors and to be compassionate ourselves on this journey, just as the Good Samaritan... on the road to Jericho.

On The Road to Jericho participants invite you to visit with us after all Masses January 13/14, during the Justice Ministry Showcase. We will have suggestions for actions this parish can undertake to support our brothers and sisters, and “to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate.” Written by Mary Beth Buckman, Lay Leadership Development Council.
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

IN HIS Christmas sermon on peace given at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta on December 24, 1967, Martin Luther King Jr. said:

*If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective.*

In a world that is riddled with real news stories of division between races, tribes, classes, national politics, and religion, we can often wonder what faith communities have to offer to the conversation. Perhaps not so ironically, faith communities can also be a reason division is upon us because ideologies can feed into a human desire to categorize people to avoid dealing with the complexities of who we are in our humanness. Yet we are not called, because of God’s Spirit within us, to remain in that space of division, but to seek unity where we can. The great wisdom of Pope St. John XXIII, expressed it well when he said in his encyclical *Ad Petri Cathedram* (To the Chair of Peter), before the beginning of the Vatican II Council, where he said “in necessary things unity; in uncertain things freedom; in all things love.”

From January 18–25, 2018, the Christian churches around the world celebrate a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a practice first observed in 1908. While it had its own rocky history in misunderstanding the difference between unity and desiring uniformity, the effort became more solidified to its present practice of the Christ-desire that “all may be one” (John 17:21).

The material for this year’s week was created by the Christian Churches of the Caribbean. This coalition of churches explain how they came to bring forth their vision of unity for this year, according to the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute:

*Caribbean Christians of many different traditions see the hand of God active in the ending of the enslavement of their past. It is a uniting experience of the saving action of God which brings freedom. For this reason, the choice of the song of Moses and Miriam (Ex 15: 1-21), as the motif of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018 was considered a most appropriate one. It is a song of triumph over oppression. This theme has been taken up in a hymn, The Right Hand of God...which has become an “anthem” of the ecumenical movement in the region, translated into a number of different languages.*

Franciscan priest Richard Rohr said, rather profoundly, in a statement regarding ecumenism: *On the other hand, openness to other traditions can and should deepen our commitment to our own faith and practice. This is one of the primary fruits of obeying Jesus’ simple command to “love our neighbor.” I presume loving others means listening to them and respecting them as brothers and sisters.*

We are blessed with the unity that expresses our diversity and oneness simultaneously, and is reflective of our lives as families in a local and global community.

*Written by Jane Schmitz, Parish Director.*
RESOLVE TO SHARE MORE OF YOU THIS YEAR

RESOLUTIONS. Some people love them, others, not so much. Some believe that resolutions are made to be broken. Case in point, consider how full the local gym and fitness centers are in January vs. March, when the sound of a couple of crickets can easily drown out the drone of exercise equipment. The proverbial “they” as in “they say that a habit needs to have a period of repetitive behavior in order to “take hold.” That estimate of how long you need to keep it going differs from 21 days to 5 months, but the gist of the concept is to find something to do, keep doing it, and soon you will build that activity into a habit. I would like to add one important ingredient to the Successfully Forming Habit Recipe, find something you love, or at least like to do. Perhaps that missing ingredient is why so many exercise resolutions fail; it’s missing the love. According to those same experts, adding a habit is much easier than breaking a habit. That makes sense, too, as some of our bad habits are things that we like to do, sometimes to the extent of overdoing. Maybe the secret in getting rid of the bad habit is to remove that love ingredient. If there’s no fun in an activity, why pursue it?

Pulling all these ideas together, I propose the following: Reflection, Election, (perhaps Correction or Rejection), resulting in a shiny, new habit formed, one that is worthy of you and your gifts. First, take some time for REFLECTION on what you like to do, what your gifts may be, and where your gifts and your interests intersect in the world of volunteering. There are so many opportunities out there; start by talking to friends or taking a spin on the “Google-verse.” Both can provide you with ample options worthy of consideration. Once you check it out, see how this opportunity can fit into your schedule. For many, that may be the deal breaker — the lack of time. But don’t give up before you start. Try to see what’s the most regular block of time you can find on your calendar. If there is not a moment of unscheduled time to be found, then is there anything that can be put on hold or shortened, at least for one month? ELECT or choose the option that provides the best fit and take that leap of faith and start doing it. As long as that activity brings you joy, repeat as often as you can find the time. If there’s no joy to be found, it’s time to re-evaluate. That is the CORRECTION/REJECTION step. Not every opportunity works out the first time. That’s the beauty in volunteering, if you don’t like it, try something else. If this new activity is a good fit, you may find that you suddenly DO find some more room in your schedule to make it workable. Keep on keeping on, and somewhere in between 21 days or 5 months, your new gift of YOU will be bringing happiness to you and to those recipients of your gifts.

In the last few years we have helped members of this community find ways to share their “you” with other members or to people and organizations in the greater community. They have found a way to carve time to give in their calendar. In fact, over 100,000 hours of time has been shared EACH year for the past three fiscal years. Some people shared an extra 15 minutes praying for someone on our prayer chain, others giving 10 hours a month in a leadership role, and everything in between, but each gift made a difference to the people served and most importantly to the giver. Knowing that you made a difference in someone else’s life is a gift worthy of repeating over and over again. Resolving to share more of YOU this year is what we are called to do as Disciples on a Mission. You can be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, doing what you love to do in the time you have available.

In celebration of all of the gifts shared by our members, plan to attend our Shared Ministry Celebration, the Minnesota Mardi Gras, on Saturday, January 20, 2018. We will celebrate Mass with Archbishop Bernard Hebda and then enjoy tasty appetizers, beer and root beer, rollicking music, and plenty of fun. Let’s chase away the winter blues and enjoy all the gifts of “You” that make this awesome community of faith. Hope to see you all there, we could not do what we do without YOU! Written by Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development.
WE ARE ENGAGED

A MEMBER of Pax Christi (meaning you, dear reader, and myself and the other 10,000) is engaged when he or she has a connection to God and others in this community. The Christian faith is meant to be lived out in community, as Jesus modeled for us. He went among the poor, the persecuted, the reviled.

Let’s review how living in community unfolds day-in and day-out at Pax Christi:

- 100,000+ hours gifted by members three years in a row
- 17 new ministries formed in the past year; there are now 155 opportunities to contribute and help others
- 9 gallons of honey produced by Pax Christi hives — good work, bees!
- 2 youth serve on ministry councils
- many youth are involved in committees and service projects
- the October issue of PaxNews, pages 6-12, recaps many of the ways we have contributed time, talent, and treasure
- 170 guests attended Thanksgiving Dinner, many of them not members of Pax Christi
- 465 ministers donated time and talent to Faith Formation Ministry
- 444 ministers donated time and talent to Care and Support Ministry
- 128 ministers donated time and talent to Arts, Campus, and Gardens Ministry
- 61 ministers donated time and talent to Communication Arts Ministry
- 70 ministers donated time and talent to Finance Ministry
- 45 ministers donated time and talent to Lay Leadership Development Ministry.

The generosity of engaged members has positively affected many lives, both within our parish and elsewhere in the larger community.

As written in the Vatican II document Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. “Today, there is an inescapable duty to make ourselves the neighbor of every individual, without exception, and to take positive steps to help a neighbor whom we encounter...by calling to mind the words of Christ: ‘As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers or sisters, you did it to me’” (Mt 25:40).

We, the members of Pax Christi, continue a long tradition, dating from the parish’s founding, of doing just that. And we keep this tradition alive as we invite and welcome; accept and include; and share, love, and grow.

An Invitation: If you do not currently serve as a shared minister and would like to get involved, there are many rewarding opportunities available! To get started, please call Mary Kennedy, Director of Stewardship and Development, 952-405-7220.

When we build community within Pax Christi and in the broader community, and when we generously donate time, talent, and treasure, we are also growing in spirituality and relationship with God. Yes, we are engaged!  

Written by the Member Engagement Committee.
LISA AND MARK COX:  
MAKING A HOME AT PAX CHRISTI

THIS MONTH, we’re catching up with Lisa and Mark Cox, members since 1992. Read on to learn about their unusual road to Pax Christi, the amazing variety of ministries they’ve been a part of, and their hopes for the future of the parish.

AN UNCONVENTIONAL PATH TO THE DOOR

The Coxes joined Pax Christi in 1992. The parish was booming, but their journey to it was a little less than traditional. “A coworker of mine lost his daughter to cancer,” Lisa says, and when she attended the service at Pax Christi, she “came out of that funeral feeling really good,” in part because of “an incredible sermon” by Fr. Tim. She recruited Mark to join her and check out Mass the following Sunday, and they’ve been coming back ever since.

AN EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP WITH PAX CHRISTI

The Coxes were looking for ways to get involved. And at Pax Christi, there was no shortage of opportunities. First, they joined the Welcoming Ministry.

However, after attending a Marriage Encounter weekend retreat, they decided to volunteer for the PREPARE ministry, which helps engaged couples get ready for marriage. They’ve learned a lot from the young couples, they say, but it was also a great way to meet other facilitators and “other healthy married couples who have great marriages.”

When their son Kevin started school, Lisa became a faith formation catechist. Mark started serving as a Eucharistic Minister, and Lisa became a lector and altar server as well. When she was a child, girls weren’t allowed to be altar servers. When the 9:00am Mass was looking for more volunteers, they encouraged adults to sign up as well, and Lisa jumped at the opportunity.

WHAT ELSE ARE THEY INVOLVED IN?

“Oh, and we’re on the Triple G,” Lisa says. “Greet, Gather, and Goodies,” Mark explains with a grin. It’s their name for the Hospitality Ministry. Once a month they “set out all the muffins and donuts and coffee, and all that jazz.”

COUNCIL MEMBER MVPS

In addition to their roles in different ministries, the Coxes have also served on a number of Pax Christi councils. Lisa has served on the Finance Council, Mark on the Facilities Council, then the Community Council, and finally the Stewardship Council. Mark is on his first year of his three-year Stewardship Council term, where Lisa recently joined him for her third year as a Stewardship Council member.

AN EYE FOR THE FUTURE

Since January, Lisa has also served on the Strategic Planning Team, which is in the middle of a year-long process to develop goals for Pax Christi. The team is currently focusing on defining key challenges the parish faces, and then proposing strategic goals to address these challenges.

The biggest challenge for Pax Christi and the Catholic community as a whole? “We’re losing some youth,” Mark says. “The research,” Lisa says, is showing that they’re just not going to church.

How can the Church do a better job engaging with young people? One strategy that’s worked elsewhere in the Archdiocese is groups for young married couples. Pax Christi has recently started a similar group. Now, Lisa says, “they just have to branch out, start more.”

“Engage the parents,” Lisa says, “and you’ll get the children to come as well.”

Written by Anne Daly, Staff Writer and Technical Editor.
If you’ve stopped by the front desk at Pax Christi some time over the past four years, chances are you’ve been greeted by a front desk shared minister.

How did this ministry begin? “In 2013,” says Director of Operations Ken Reineccius, “our long-time receptionist decided to move on to another career. While we were contemplating her replacement, we struck upon the idea that this might be a great volunteer opportunity.” Ideas were discussed, an interest survey went out, and soon there was a regular contingent of volunteers working 2-3 hour shifts at a time. “Four years later,” Reineccius says, “we are still enjoying the welcoming presence of 21 shared ministers and have a waiting list of others that would like to join the crew.”

What’s the attraction of serving as a front desk receptionist? We asked some to share their perspective on this thriving ministry.

**Building Community**

Many of the 21 volunteers are retired.

“From a personal standpoint,” says Bernadette Kelly, “I had been working part-time and stopped […] and I really missed having that contact with people.” “That was my incentive,” Kelly says, “and then, once I got here, it was like, I really like doing this, you know, this fits!”

Mary Loew, a substitute at the front desk, had a similar experience. “I just liked it immediately,” Loew says. At such a big church, she says, “It’s just a wonderful way to feel like you’re really part of the whole organization.”
**SO, WHAT DOES A FRONT DESK SHARED MINISTER DO?**

Front desk receptionists are the face of Pax Christi, greeting everyone who walks in, answering phones, and helping out the staff with projects as needed.

It’s also a great way to get a pulse on some of the great things happening at Pax Christi. Shari Steffen, for example, has the Wednesday noon–2:30pm shift, and comes on when Moms ROCK and Chair Yoga are just finishing.

What exactly is Chair Yoga? It’s a “regular yoga class, Steffen says, except that “you don’t get down on the floor.” It’s good for people who are a little older, who can’t do regular yoga, or who “can get down but can’t get back up again.”

Once in awhile, Steffen says, she subs on a Tuesday, and has the chance to see the St. Mary’s Health Clinic in action. The clinic is a way for people without medical insurance to get care for free, Steffen says, and “it’s staffed all by Pax Christi parishioners, including the physicians.”

**CREATING SPACE FOR SPIRITUALITY**

Volunteering at the front desk isn’t just a social activity, either. Receptionists also note that it’s great for their spiritual lives. “It’s a beautiful atmosphere to just be in,” Bernadette Kelly says, “quiet, and kind of a prayerful atmosphere.” “I wouldn’t sit down for two hours at home,” she laughs, but at Pax Christi, if she doesn’t have phone calls to answer or a project to work on, she finds it rewarding “just to be able to sit there and read in the quiet, or journal, or write a birthday card.”

**TOUCHING LIVES**

Front desk shared ministeres aren’t just enriching their own spiritual lives, either. Although it’s harder to measure the impact they have on others, it exists nonetheless.

Receptionists at the front desk see people of all ages who come through the doors of Pax Christi for all different reasons. From the mailman delivering packages to grieving families planning funerals, there are “a lot of different reasons why people come in,” says Bernadette Kelly. Pax Christi staff, she says, does an exceptional job of helping families through the grieving process, walking them through everything they need to know. They “kind of put [their] arms around you and help you through the process,” she says.

Reflecting on her experience as a shared minister, Kelly says, “there’s one lady that comes every week and prays while I’m here.” Kelly would chat with the woman regularly, but didn’t think much of their encounters until the week before Thanksgiving, when the woman came around the desk, hugged Kelly, and said, “I want to thank you for always listening to me […] life is better than it was.” At first, Kelly says, she thought, “what did I do? Just sat there and listened,” she continues, answering her own question, and “it means more to people than you realize” when you are simply present with them.

It’s impossible to always know the impact you make. This is something that Hermes Cervantes, a volunteer and retired mental health provider, knows well. “One cannot always assume that what you think you see is actually what you see.” What’s important is treating everyone who walks through the doors at Pax Christi with care. As a front desk receptionist, you never know the ways in which you may touch someone.

**CARRYING ON THE LEGACY**

For Shari Steffen, volunteering at the front desk is by no means the beginning of her engagement with Pax Christi. She’s also a founding member of the parish and one of the parish’s two trustees.

Her dream for Pax Christi? “That it will continue to be as welcoming as it is, that it will continue to broaden itself in terms of ethnic diversity and age diversity, and that it will continue to keep the two main values of justice and lay leadership at the forefront.”

With front desk shared ministeres at the helm, welcoming and lay leadership seem well poised to continue far into Pax Christi’s future.

*Written by Anne Daly, Staff Writer and Technical Editor.*
READINGS FOR JANUARY

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 7, 2018
Sunday: Is 60:3-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ab/Mk 1:21-28
1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8ab/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 14, 2018
Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42
Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 1:18-22
Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12
Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 21, 2018
Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20
Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Acts 23:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18
Friday: 2 Trm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28, 2018
Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9,[8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28
Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30--19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: 1 Kgs 21:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bc/Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34

PARISHIONER NEWS

NOVEMBER BAPTISMS
Joann Paul Fernando 11/5/2017
Joshua Paul Fernando 11/5/2017
Max Lawrence Johnson 11/5/2017
Griffin Oscar Dobson 11/12/2017
Amelia Ann Grupe 11/12/2017
Astrid Wren Hanson 11/12/2017
Oliver Garcia-Arce 11/19/2017
Greyson Paolozzi Bannach 11/22/2017
Sydney Lin Huang 11/25/2017
Analynn Noelle Peters 11/26/2017

NOVEMBER FUNERALS
Janice K. Cox 11/10/2017

NOVEMBER NEW MEMBERS
Jack Cullinan and Carrie Schweyen
John and Mary Dillon
Myron and Marion Helget
Garth Johnson
Peggy Koegler
Mason and Sandra McClellan
Matthew McMullen and Thelma Saldivar
Kathy Nelson
Donald Norwich
Ken and Gretchen Preimesberger
Terry Wilharm
WHAT’S GOING ON AT PAX CHRISTI JANUARY 2017

Sign-up at www.paxchristi.com/boomers to receive info on upcoming events.

Upcoming events include:
January 5: First Friday Coffee and Conversation
January 24: Movie “The Shack” @ 1:00pm
February 21: Half Day Retreat at Franciscan Retreats and Spirituality Center

MINISTRIES OF SUPPORT:

COMPASSIONATE CARE LISTENING CIRCLE
Third Thursday of each month 3:00–4:30pm
The listening circle provides a safe place for reflection and meaningful conversation for those who find themselves at a crossroad in life, such as loss, caregiving responsibilities, mental illness, grief, chronic illness, or any life transition.

SOUTHWEST GRIEF COALITION WINTER SESSION
Mondays beginning January 8, 5:30–7:30pm
A seven-week winter series, Living and Growing Through Loss, will be hosted at Immanuel Lutheran Church. The evening will include a light meal followed by a speaker, and then small group supportive sessions specific to your type of loss. If you or someone you know has suffered the loss of a loved one, you are invited to participate. You do not need to attend all sessions.

ON-SITE 12-STEP SUPPORT GROUPS
Alcoholics Anonymous, Saturday Sisters AA for Women, Al-Anon/Prairie Peace, and Overeaters Anonymous. These support groups each meet weekly to offer listening, guidance, and hope for those working to overcome a specific addiction interfering with their lives.

RESOURCES
Written resources on prayer, grief, relationships, illness, aging, education/support opportunities, and more are available in the racks at the rear of the worship space and at the kiosk inside the main entrance. Offerings include Living Faith, a booklet of Catholic devotions, and CareNotes, informative and inspirational pamphlets on a wide variety of topics.

For additional information visit www.paxchristi.com/careandsupportministry.
WHAT'S GOING ON AT PAX CHRISTI JANUARY 2017

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY
January 1, 9:00am in the Sanctuary
The Solemnity of Mary acknowledges and celebrates Mary's role as the mother of Jesus Christ. It is a holy day of obligation.

TRANSFORMING PAIN
Tuesday, January 2, 6:30–7:30pm, Thomas Merton Chapel
The pain of living and the pain of dying have many things in common. How can we teach us compassion? We will look at physical, social, psychological, and spiritual pain, and learn some healing strategies. Our evening presenter, Patricia Hughes Baumer, has been a lay minister in multiple settings including hospice chaplaincy, and since 1991 has focused on the ministry of lay liturgical preaching. She and her husband, Fred, have been members of Pax Christi since 1989. No need to RSVP. Questions? Contact Jean Thoresen, Director of Care and Support Ministry, jthoresen@paxchristi.com, or 952-405-7211.

LABYRINTH WALK: SETTING INTENTIONS AND LIVING FULLY
Monday, January 8, 6:30–8:30pm RSVP
With the new year comes a desire to set intentions for new behaviors, attitudes, and positive changes. Setting intentions is the easy part, carrying them out is often the challenge. The process of carrying out our intentions is like walking a labyrinth. A labyrinth provides space and time to reflect and to open to clarity so we can bring our intentions to life. The labyrinth is a space of meditation and prayer. It’s a powerful way to deepen our understanding of who we are and what is true for us. Join us for a brief workshop and indoor candlelit labyrinth walk. An introduction will be available for those new to the labyrinth. Contact Carrie Chevalier Mosher at Carrie@cycleofwholeness.com to register.

SHARED MINISTRY CELEBRATION: MINNESOTA MARDI GRAS
A Shared Ministry Celebration with Archbishop Hebda
Saturday, January 20, 6:00–9:30pm
Our celebration is an adult-only evening of fun and frolic beginning with Mass celebrated with Archbishop Hebda at 5:00pm. After Mass, we will continue celebrating all of Pax Christi’s adult Shared Ministers with appetizers, desserts, soda, beer, music, and plenty of opportunities for conversation, mingling, and fun. If you are an adult member of Pax Christi and are committed to sharing your gifts of time, talent, and treasure with this community, you are invited to attend. We are all DISCIPLES ON A MISSION, and this event will help us celebrate the myriad ways each of us has responded to that call. No RSVP is needed; just come and join in the celebration! For those who might need childcare, the nursery will be available. Please make reservations via www.paxchristi.com/childcare.

EXPLORING MIGRATION: A FAITH JOURNEY
Eight weeks beginning Sunday, January 21, 6:30pm, $18 RSVP
Exploring Migration: A Faith Journey, invites participants to formulate a personal response, inspired by their Christian beliefs, to the 21st-century reality of migration. The module is designed for small groups of 8–12 and explores some of the central questions related to the reality of migration on a global level and in the U.S. context. The sessions provide historical, biblical, and theological perspective and suggest ways participants can take faithful action for God’s people. The cost is $18.00. Scholarships are available. Register online.

ANNUAL CANA DINNER: A NIGHT IN THE TROPICS
Saturday, January 27, 6:00–9:30pm, $75
Tired of the cold? Make it your mission to escape to “A Night in the Tropics.” Warm breezes welcome all couples, of all ages, to the annual Cana Dinner. The evening begins with a hosted wine reception, followed by a Fabulously Catered festive dinner. Following dinner, enjoy coffee, wine, and dessert while you are entertained by Stan Bann, host of the always popular “The Not-So Newlywed Game.” A couples photo op will be offered during the evening, so be sure to dress up – cruise wear is encouraged! Tickets are available at $75.00 per couple and includes a hosted wine reception, dinner, dessert, entertainment, couple’s photo, and loving childcare, which should be arranged online at www.paxchristi.com/childcare. Register now at www.paxchristi.com/eventregistration.
MAKE PLANS NOW

SILENT SATURDAY – RETURN TO ME
Saturday, February 24, 9:00am–11:30am RSVP

"Return to me with your whole heart. For gracious and merciful is God, slow to anger, abounding in loving kindness," (Joel 2:13). Care and Support Ministry is hosting another “Silent Saturday,” and invites you to spend a few hours of quiet, uninterrupted time in prayer and solitude in our beautiful Pax Christi campus. We will create a peaceful environment for prayer time, journaling, walking, or just resting in God’s presence. Silent Saturday is an opportunity to step away from the sounds and distractions of our lives and enter into nourishing silence. How you spend the few hours is up to you. Our hope is that you will leave feeling refreshed. The morning will begin with a short prayer followed by a simple tour of the facility to highlight quiet places and spaces available to you. We will conclude our time together with a short prayer and an optional group sharing time. There is no fee, but we do ask that you notify us if you plan on attending. Contact Jean Thoresen, Director of Care and Support Ministries, jthoresen@paxchristi.com.

HOLY LAND AND JORDAN WITH FR. BILL MURTAUGH
April 16–27, 2018 RSVP

Travel to the Holy Land and Jordan with Fr. Bill Murtaugh and walk in the footsteps of Jesus throughout this special pilgrimage. To learn about this special pilgrimage, please visit www.magitravelinc.com.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SPEAKER SERIES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 12:30PM, ROOM 212
Transforming Your Life, Parish, and the World through “Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home”

Marybeth Lorbiecki offers a path to understanding the opportunities for us in Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si, with stories, science, and practical actions to start integrating key elements into our lives, parish, and world.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 12:30PM, ROOM 212
Honoring the Inherent Dignity of the Human Person: A Mother’s Story

Television writer/producer, Joan Rater, will share her experience as the mom of her transgender son, Tom.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 12:30PM, ROOM 212
The Journey Home: Honoring Community and the Common Good

Clare Housing will be here to tell us about their extraordinary mission of providing affordable, supportive housing and compassionate care for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 12:30PM, ROOM 212
Fostering Human Rights and Responsibilities: The Food Group

The Food Group will be here to talk about how equity work is fundamental to their mission to fight hunger and nourish the community.
## JANUARY

### Events

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See pages 18–19 for details or visit us online at www.paxchristi.com.
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STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT
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Nursery and Hospitality Coord. Janell McBean  952-405-7242

WORSHIP AND MUSIC
Director Donna Kasbohm  952-405-7240
Liturgy and Funeral Coord. Joan Howe-Pullis  952-405-7247
Teen Choir Angie O’Brien  952-405-7243

COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Fr. William Murtaugh
Jane Schmitz, Parish Director
Fred Baumer
Sara Byerley
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Bob Martinka
Mark Rabogliatti
Laurie Ritz
Jeff Schuh
Sandra Towey
Phil Trovato
Dave Wagner, Chair
Wayne Ward

PARISH TRUSTEES
Shari Steffen
Bruce Koehn

FINANCE COUNCIL
Sandy Towey, Chair
PAX CHRISTI’S MINISTRY SHOWCASE

JANUARY’S MINISTRY SHOWCASE FEATURES JUSTICE.

The Justice Ministry Council exists to serve and speak for the marginalized, to serve the parish as its primary resource and catalyst for the work of social justice, to educate the community on social issues and Catholic social teaching, to provide opportunities for social action, and to foster awareness that social ministry is integral, not optional, in the life of the parish. Join us at the Justice Ministry Showcase following all Masses on the weekend of January 13/14. Learn the many ways in which Pax Christi serves, speaks up, educates, acts, and fosters awareness of our collective mission to love the world.