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# THE AMBASSADOR

ST. MATTHIAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN

February 2020

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## Winter Talk

Winter in Wisconsin is always an adventure. In many Native traditions, winter is also time for gathering to share stories. Out of this tradition came Winter Talk, sponsored and facilitated by the Office of Indigenous Ministries of The Episcopal Church. The annual retreat for American Indian, Alaskan Native and Native Hawai'ian Episcopalians, lay and ordained, also provides welcome for non-native lay and ordained individuals who work in relationship with them. The OIM pays for travel, food, and lodging for all participants.



At Winter Talk gatherings ministerial resources are shared, the community is strengthened, and all worship together. This was my second Winter Talk gathering. The hope is that each diocese which serves communities of Native American peoples will send people. From our diocese, Richard Ackley (senior warden) and Vicar, Roger Patience from Holy Apostles, Oneida, also attend. Our own, Rev. Isaiah Brokenleg, has been one of the key planners for several years. Once Isaiah left for seminary and a future in ordained ministry, I was invited to attend at her suggestion. The first time I went was in 2017, just after our then young adult members Isaiah, Clinton, Christina and Emily had received a Young Adult Grant to offer healing circles in Lac Du Flambeau for those who'd been affected by the boarding schools, and do some information and healing sessions at St. Matthias', for those in our own community who were interested in learning about their effects. Cheryl Boyd, who worked with Clinton and I implementing the circles at LDF, also attended (Clinton had another conference that week). When we arrived we were welcomed by Isaiah who'd come in from seminary. The feedback we received on the preliminary format for our healing circles, and thoughtful guidance, from those who had done something similar in their own contexts, was invaluable.

Beyond the importance of an annual gathering of Indigenous lay and ordained to support one another, I also discovered that Winter Talk is a top notch ministry conference. When the Indigenous Ministry division of The Episcopal Church is tasked with a conference to support their clergy, and growing the church they take that charge seriously. No less than three bishops of our church were in attendance as well as missionaries and staff officers from The Episcopal Church (TEC) Offices, all of whom gave reports and presentations or led worship. Isaiah was one of these top level TEC representatives this year - you can all be very proud of Rev.'d Brokenleg! Sessions included the continued development of licensed worship leaders in rural and underserved areas in the Episcopal Church, by Bishop Mark Lattime, Alaska; Fr. John Floberg's presentation on reaching out to youth in his interestingly titled, "How to Build Active and Engaged Youth Groups When There Are No Youth in Your Parish"; Creating Welcoming Intercultural, Multilingual Parishes in surprising places; Racial Reconciliation and the Healing of Systemic Trauma in TEC by Fr. Paule Sneve+(TEC); Creation Care and the Climate Crisis by Bishop Mark Lattime (Alaska) and the Rev. Powell (Diocese of California); and sharing the new Episcopal Church's resource for teaching the Doctrine of Discovery (which I hope to share with all of you in an adult forum as soon as I edit the power point for our own context). All of that was just on Monday! For our own church, I hope to gather those interested to talk about the vibrant youth group idea for churches of mostly elders, first and to continue to explore the effects of the Doctrine of Discovery on our collective consciousness with this new resource.

## Winter Talk (continued)

Finally, an important part of Winter Talk is building the altar during the first session. The altar remains at the center of all proceedings during the gathering. Each participant is invited to present one or more items of significance, to them or their community, to be blessed and, in many cases, given away to someone on the final evening of the proceedings. Both the creation of the altar and the act of taking it down as stories and gifts are shared are powerful moments for those gathered. I both gave, and was surprised to receive, a gift of the heart as the altar was dismantled for another year. The two gifts I placed on the altar this year included one gift for Isaiah,



to celebrate her new post as Staff Officer for Racial Reconciliation in The Episcopal Church, and a second gift to give to someone yet undetermined, which was a generous supply of local, traditionally harvested Wild Rice, to honor the Anishinaabe people, on whose traditional lands St. Matthias' exists today. The Wild Rice was inside one of my daughter Ashley's beautiful hand felted bowls and the gift for Isaiah was a drawing she did with Isaiah in mind of a dreamcatcher, with a star passing through the net representing (to me) how God's dream for Isaiah passed through many barriers to encourage her, and inspire her own light to shine for so many.

Rev. Dr. Erin Kirby

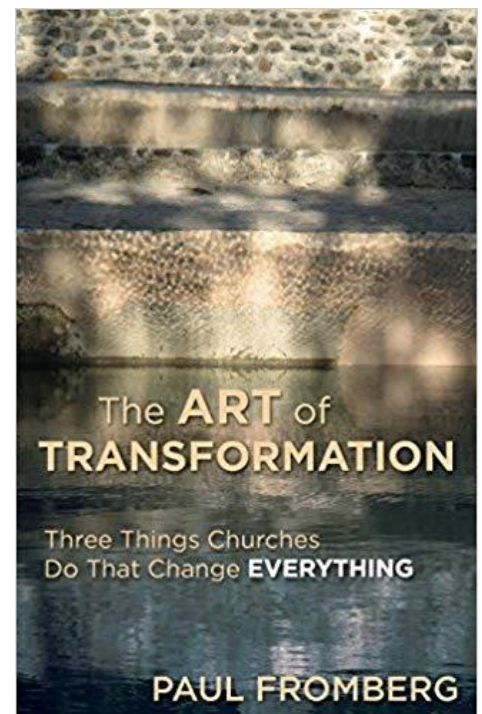
## Upcoming Parish Read: **The Art of Transformation: Three Things Churches Do that Change EVERYTHING**

by Rev. Dr. Paul Fromberg, St. Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco ( copyright 2017).

From the book:

"Church is different. It's distinct. It's hard to put into words how it's different. It's not business. It's not school. It's not neighbors. It's a different kind of chosen relationship with people." Janet T.

"Transformation is a discipline, like training for a marathon. Transformation is an art, like practicing calligraphy. Transformation is a process, like cultivating relationships with people we love. Transformation doesn't happen over night; it takes time. It is a discipline that communities and individuals must accept consciously. And transformation has the power to change everything about people's lives and the congregations that they comprise." Paul Fromberg



## Caritas Impact Statement - 4th quarter 2019

The fourth quarter remained busy with the largest number of clients requesting help with transportation. Five clients were assisted with car repairs. A client received help to buy a new battery; another with a radiator purchase. Two sets of tires were provided to clients. We made one car payment. Two clients were assisted with towing bills. Seven clients received help with registration, title, plates or a drivers license. Gasoline vouchers helped seven clients with necessary transportation to work, school and medical appointments.

Three recently displaced clients received checks to the St. Matthias Furniture Annex. We provided checks to St. Matthias Thrift Shop to six additional clients for clothing and household items.

To ensure continuing service, four clients were assisted with electricity bills and one with a propane bill. In most cases arrangements were made with other organizations to provide additional assistance.

Emergency housing was provided to two clients with three nights each in a hotel while they pursued more permanent housing solutions. Caritas also paid one security deposit and five rent payments, often with the help of other agencies.

In addition to numerous referrals to the food pantry, Caritas provided many Save More gift cards and bags of groceries. Two phone cards were provided to clients who needed them to keep in touch with family members or look for jobs. One couple was provided partial funding for a new water heater. We helped another client with a U-Haul bill so he could retrieve his belongings. Many clients received personal products and five clients were delighted with their hand knitted hats, scarves and mittens.

Caritas is better able to assist many of our clients by working together with other agencies in the community. We greatly appreciate the collaborative relationships that we have with the charitable organizations run by the Holy Family Catholic Church, the Salvation Army, LDF Tribal Services and others.

Of course none of this would be possible without generous donations from our supporting organizations and our amazing group of volunteers who arrive each week with open and giving hearts.

## Happy February!

Lent will be upon us before you know it and we say farewell to the "Alleluia" during this time of the liturgical year. Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting and almsgiving. Lent is a time to turn inward and reflect.

Musical offerings are pared down as well during Lent. The choir and I hope to treat you to the simple, profound beauty that is found in solos, duets, and trios through the season. Our congregational liturgies will include refrains sung with the psalms, cantors leading us in the Kyrie and other equally beautiful practices that lend themselves to Lenten worship. Come prepared to find rest for your soul in our worship this Lent. Meanwhile, on Thursdays, the choir will be working hard to prepare the joyful, substantial, pieces that will help us spring into the Easter season! Wouldn't you like to be a part of that preparation? Come! Join us. We practice on Thursdays at 5:00-6:30. It is my hope that those reading this will see it as a means/calling to help invite people, to not only come and sing but more importantly, be apart of St. Matthias' community. So go ye therefore into the community, find choir members and let them know they need not sing all the time, just some of the time.

It has been about two years since the last hymnal project (2017). In that time I have gone through the hymns multiple times, with the exception of Lift Every Voice and Sing, (1982 Hymnal, #599). Oddly enough, since we have not sung it yet, give me the opportunity to give you an insight: It was written by the African-American poet James Weldon Johnson in 1900. It was written to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, as the president who helped African-Americans achieve freedom from slavery. Johnson's brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, set the poem to music. So when the time comes we will sing it and have a better understanding of this hymn. Look for it in the upcoming months to be sung.

*Ihre Kapellmeister, George Ackerman-Behr*



### Favorite Hymns

Have we missed your favorite hymn? We are planning for the upcoming liturgical seasons, and would love to know what hymns you would like to sing. There's a red hymnal in the Narthex – please take the time to mark your favorite hymn (or twelve!) with a post-it note. Thank you!



### Easter Flower Donations

Is there someone you would like to remember in this year's Easter bulletins? Donation envelopes are available in the church office.





# Providence St. Mel Choir Concert



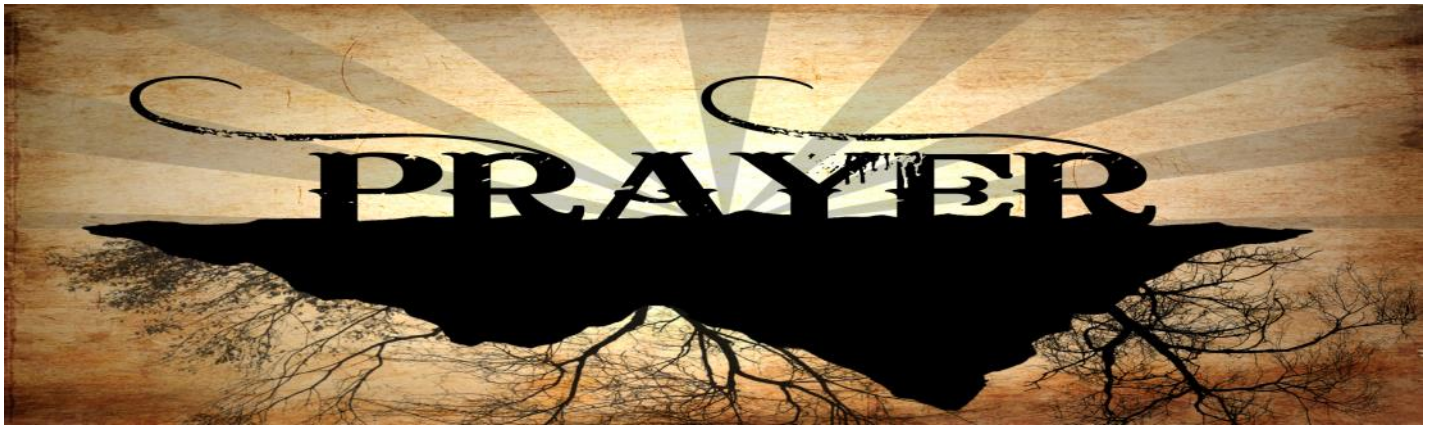
Renowned Providence St. Mel School Choir (Chicago) will perform a variety of music including several selections in the popular Black Gospel style, with featured soloists, under the direction of David Baar.

Saturday, February 8 at 7:00 pm

St. Matthias' Episcopal Church, Minocqua

FREE ADMISSION—Donations will be accepted to offset expenses of the choir.

Call 715-358-0355 for more information



## To Stand or to Kneel?

*A Liturgical Dilemma*

BY THE REV. JAY SIDEBOTHAM

The Prayer Book is a wondrous tool.

Liturgically, it sets the rule.

But it sometimes makes it tough  
when it doesn't say enough.

In the Eucharistic Prayer,  
there is not enough help there.

Cause it gives two ways to go.  
Stand or kneel: who's to know?

Do I stand or do I kneel?

Is it up to how I feel?

How to tell which posture fits?

Maybe I should simply sits?

It can make me feel so dumb  
to be E-pis-co-pal-i-an.

Maybe I should not be proud  
and find a less aerobic crowd.

Here's a principle to heed  
if you're looking for a lead:  
(If you're not, ignore this cue,  
and pray the way you always do.)

Rite I says to kneel or stand.

(Kneel preferred, but not commanded.)

Rite II puts that in reverse:

Stand or kneel (Note: stand is first).

Rite 1: You may want to kneel,

Rite II: Standing has appeal.

But here's the deal,

it seems to me,

We don't all have to agree.

Some can only pray on knees.

Some must stand to make their pleas.

The bottom line, as I see it,  
whichever stance you choose, so be it.

The thing to stress, I would say,  
is that you've found this place to pray.

If you kneel with folded hands,  
Don't worry if your neighbor stands.

If you're standing and next door,  
your neighbor has just hit the floor,

(Or if you stand but wonder who  
sits behind deprived of view),

keep right on standing.

It's okay. It was the early church's way.

Kneeling has its precedence.

It specially helps with penitence.

Relax and worship as seems best.

Some will kneel. Stand the rest.

The thing that matters most, it seems,  
to the rector, is the dream

that worship can be rich and deep,  
that sermons will not make you sleep,

that if you stand or kneel in place  
you'll meet God here in this space.

We're like a great big family.

We differ, and that makes us see  
that while this fine point we discuss,  
the main thing is that God loves us.

*Copyright 1998 by Jay Sidebotham for St. Luke's Episcopal Church*



# Lakeland Union High School

Co-Sponsored by  
Healthier Community  
Action Team (HCAT)

Join Us For A  
Special Showing Of

# INDIAN HORSE

On February 7, 2020  
6:00 PM  
LUHS Auditorium  
FREE



## Contact Information

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www.stmatthiasminocqua.com



## Winter Survivor Party

February 22nd at 5:30 Pm (Dinner at 6:00 PM)

Hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, soda, tossed green  
salad, choice of tenderloin steak or chicken  
breast, baked potato, mushrooms, bread,  
assorted cakes, coffee/tea.

Entertainment by Transfusion Jazz – Bob Holt,  
Beth Jacobson, and Rob Way.

**\$13 per person!**

*Sign-up sheet is on bulletin board or email dinner  
choice (steak or chicken) to nicwel@nnex.net*



## LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

February 2020

DATE	CHALICE	LECTOR	PRAYERS	USHERS	GREETERS
02/02	B. Diederich K. Amour	S. Reshan	D. Sengstock	R. Coleman N. Coleman	-----
02/09	S. Brant L. Glowac	B. Schjoneman	N. Coleman	B. Diederich D. Diederich	-----
02/16	B. Holt C. Clark	T. Orling	R. Ganschow	M. Pecore D. Schillinger	-----
02/23	M. Wisner-Holt C. Chabalowski	J. Randolph	J. Heeren	J. Brant C. Clark	-----

### Watch out for Ice Dams!



What an up and down winter weather season we are having this year. Beautiful snows began early, thrilling our skiers and snowshoers, then the extra warm, warm ups showed up, providing us with spring like ice to skate across on parking lots and sidewalks here in beautiful downtown Minocqua - be careful out there, when you go shopping or come to church. I don't know about you but I love the sight of snow falling. I am glad, however, that we aren't (so far) experiencing the polar vortex we had last year. I'm also tremendously grateful to our facilities team for keeping tabs on St. Matthias' entrances and walkways to keep them as safe and cleared as possible! Please do note the "watch for falling ice" signs on our main entrance - the unusual melts and freezes have created quite an ice dam, so please stay clear of those areas where the roof ice might slide down unexpectedly.



# February 2020

1-Feb		13-Feb		23-Feb	
11:30 AM	NA - Edgar's Place	8:00 AM	Men of Matthias	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
2-Feb		8:15 AM	Women of Matthias	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM	Caritas Outreach Ministry	4:00 PM	Small Group Bible Study
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	1:00 pm	Beta Sigma Phi Sorority	7:00 PM	NA Parish Hall
4:00 PM	Small Group Bible Study	3:30 PM	Northwoods Farm Share	24-Feb	
7:00 PM	NA Parish Hall	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	9:30 AM	Morning Prayer
3-Feb		14-Feb		10:15 AM	Monday Morning Discussion
9:30 AM	Morning Prayer	10:30 AM	Yoga	3:30 PM	Yoga
10:15 AM	Monday Morning Discussion	1:00 PM	Line Dancing	5:00 PM	EFM Meeting
3:30 PM	Yoga	7:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place	12:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place
5:00 PM	EFM Meeting	15-Feb		25-Feb	
4-Feb		11:30 AM	NA - Edgar's Place	4:30 PM	Healing Eucharist
4:30 PM	Healing Eucharist	16-Feb		7:00 pm	NA - Edgar's Place
7:00 pm	NA - Edgar's Place	9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal	26-Feb	
5-Feb		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	9:30 AM	Morning Prayer
9:30 AM	Morning Prayer	4:00 PM	Small Group Bible Study	12:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place
12:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place	7:00 PM	NA Parish Hall	27-Feb	
6:00 PM	Grief Support Group	17-Feb		8:00 AM	Men of Matthias
6-Feb		9:30 AM	Morning Prayer	9:00 AM	Caritas Outreach Ministry
9:00 AM	Caritas Outreach Ministry	10:15 AM	Monday Morning Discussion	3:30 PM	Northwoods Farm Share
3:30 PM	Northwoods Farm Share	3:30 PM	Yoga	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	5:00 PM	EFM Meeting	28-Feb	
7-Feb		18-Feb		10:30 AM	Yoga
10:30 AM	Yoga	4:30 PM	Healing Eucharist	1:00 PM	Line Dancing
1:00 PM	Line Dancing	5:00 PM	Tom's Community Table	7:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place
7:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place	7:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place	29-Feb	
8-Feb		19-Feb		11:30 AM	NA - Edgar's Place
11:30 AM	NA - Edgar's Place	9:30 AM	Morning Prayer		
4:00 PM	Godly Play Children's Service	12:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place		
7:00 PM	Providence St. Mel Choir Concert	4:00 PM	Faithful Innovations		
9-Feb		20-Feb			
9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal	9:00 AM	Caritas Outreach Ministry		
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist	3:30 PM	Northwoods Farm Share		
4:00 PM	Small Group Bible Study	5:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal		
7:00 PM	NA Parish Hall	6:00 PM	Evensong		
10-Feb		21-Feb			
9:00 AM	Pastoral Care Team Meeting	10:30 AM	Yoga		
9:30 AM	Morning Prayer	1:00 PM	Line Dancing		
10:15 AM	Monday Morning Discussion	7:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place		
3:30 PM	Yoga	22-Feb			
4:00 PM	LEV Meeting	11:30 AM	NA - Edgar's Place		
5:00 PM	EFM Meeting	4:00 PM	Godly Play Children's Service		
11-Feb		5:30 PM	Winter Survivor's Party		
4:30 PM	Healing Eucharist				
7:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place				
12-Feb					
9:30 AM	Morning Prayer				
12:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place				

