

## From Father Nik

*Jesus said, "I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished!"*

~Luke 12:50

After his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, Jesus doesn't mention baptism again until he has set his face to Jerusalem. In Mark and Matthew, Jesus asks his uppity disciples, James and John, if they can *drink the cup that he will drink, or be baptized with the baptism he will be baptized with*. Here in Luke's Gospel, he makes a similar statement, but it's not addressed to anyone in specific and is much more cryptic. In all three gospels, it's clear that the baptism to which Jesus refers is his impending execution at the hands of the powers-that-be.

At his crucifixion, Jesus took upon himself the fullness of sin and death. We will all die, and in becoming one us, our fate became Christ's own. Because of sin, death became for us an enemy and tyrant. But Christ, *who knew no sin, became sin for us* (2 Corinthians 5:21). Christ, who is one with the source of life and being, became subject to death and the grave for us. That was the baptism of which he spoke. A baptism once and for all time by which he put on the fullness of human nature, even the consequences of our fall. Therefore, when we are baptized, we put on Christ. His divine righteousness becomes our own. His resurrected life promised to us who live in fear of the grave. Just as Christ's baptism was once and for all, so also is our own. Hence, we say in the Creed, "We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins." Still, we can—and should—return to our baptism again and again to remember that we have been joined with Christ in his death and now *live to God* (Romans 6).

We have several different ways to return to our baptisms. One way is to repent, confess, and hear Christ's words of forgiveness and absolution. Another way is to receive the holy communion of the Eucharist. But there is a third, less common way to intentionally return to the grace of baptism—Reaffirmation of our Baptismal Vows. This is a process much like Confirmation that is open to any Christian who has been baptized as often as they choose to do it. It involves a period of preparation followed by a profession of faith at the bishop's visit. I invite and encourage you all to consider Reaffirming your Baptismal Vows. A class for preparation will begin this autumn.

## Godly Play for the Summer

We will be telling stories from the Old and New Testament which have to do with water.

- June 26 – God created water
- July 3 – No class
- July 10 – Noah and the Ark.
- July 17 – Our own baptism.
- July 24 – Moses and the parting of the Red Sea,
- July 31– Jonah and the Whale
- Aug 7 – Jesus' baptism,
- Aug. 14 – Jesus calling the disciples at the Sea of Galilee,
- Aug. 21 – Jesus' resurrection appearance at the Sea of Galilee.
- Aug 28 – No class
- Sept 3 – No class

### Today we Celebrate and Give Thanks for the Baptism of *Jacob Brandt Netherwood*

into the Body of Christ, the everlasting communion of saints, the Church.

**We pray for his parents,**

*William Matthew Netherwood & Erin Elizabeth Netherwood,*  
and his godparents:

*Susan & Greg Harkins, Cary & Shawn Ralston,*  
and *Jason Yannitello,*

that God will give them the grace to love, support, and raise Brandt in the Christian life and faith, so that he may grow into the full stature of Christ.

*Ann Nerí is hosting a Reception in the Parish Hall.*

### **CARITAS**

Thank you to all who participated in the *CARITAS* ministry:

Howard Anderson for organizing; Chris Hawks for staying overnight; Paul Jalbert for grilling; Jenny Smith and Boo & Jim Smythe for covering breakfast; Barbara Woods, Mike & Drew Thomas, and the Berry family for serving; and all who provided food & made sandwiches for the guests.

### *Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont*

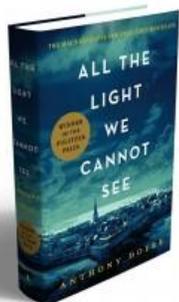
Together with Church of Our Savior, Montpelier – Sept 16 to 18.

# SUMMER READING

## The Women's Small Group

The Women's Group is reading *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr.

This novel won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction & Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. A #1 *New York Times* Bestseller, the *New York Times Book Review* had this to say about it:

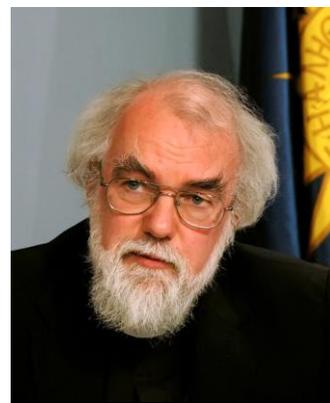


“Tackling questions of survival, endurance and moral obligations during wartime, this book is as precise and artful and ingenious as the puzzle boxes the heroine’s locksmith father builds for her. Impressively, it is also a vastly entertaining feat of storytelling.”

## The Men's Small Group

Beginning in July, the Men's Small Group will be reading *Being Christian* by Rowan Williams, The 104<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury.

“What are the essential elements of the Christian life? not thinking in terms of individuals leading wonderful lives, but just in terms of those simple and recognizable things that make you realize that you are a Christian community. This little book is designed to you think about four of the most obvious of these baptism, Bible, Eucharist and prayer. . . . In this book shall be looking at what those activities tell us about essence of Christian life, and what kind of people we might hope to become in a community where these things are done.”



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*-from the Introduction*

July 7 – Finish Discussing Bonhoeffer’s *Discipleship*

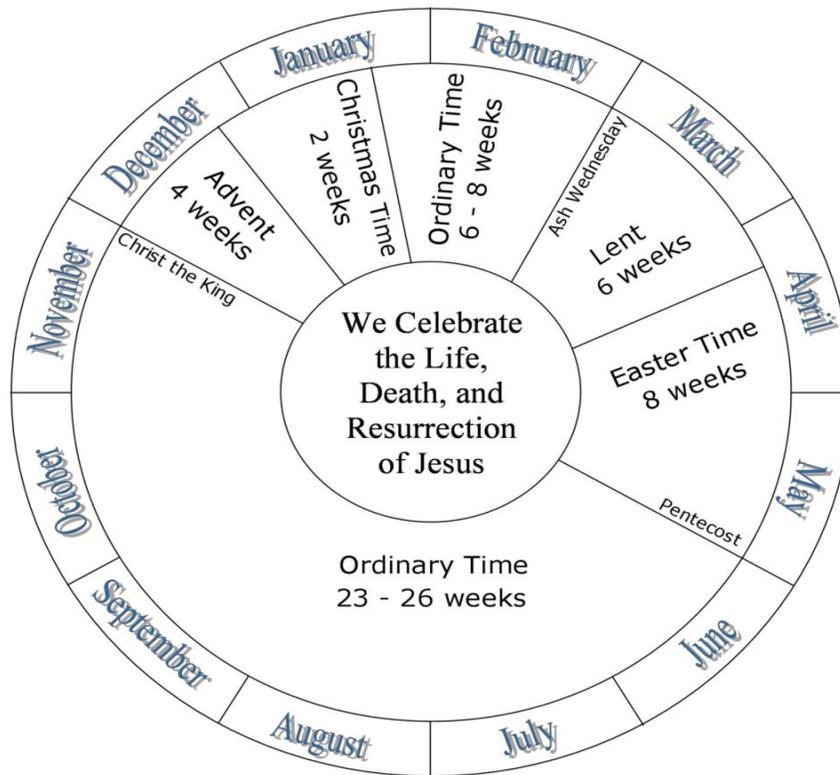
July 21 – *Being Christian*, Chapter 1, “Baptism,” pp 1-19

August 4 – *Being Christian*, Chapter 2, “Bible,” pp 21-40

August 18 – *Being Christian*, Chapter 3 “Eucharist,” pp 41-60

September 1 – *Being Christian*, Chapter 4, “Prayer,” pp 61-82

# The Liturgical Year



## Nik's Calendar

Friday, July 15 – Lunch with Dr. David Holmes, “Church Historian”  
Monday, July 18 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm  
Wednesday, July 20 – Clergy Cluster Meeting, 11:30am-1:30pm  
Thursday, July 21 – Meeting with Fr Phil & Fr Ben, 9:30-10:30am  
Friday, July 22 – Young Rectors Group, Culpepper, 10am-noon  
Monday, July 25 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm

## Looking Ahead

Thursday, July 21 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am  
Thursday, Aug 4 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am

**Office hours:** Jacquie Alleva, our office administrator, works Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday afternoons. If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by noon on Thursday.