



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 2019
Volume 26, No. 12

This is a free publication
for members and friends.

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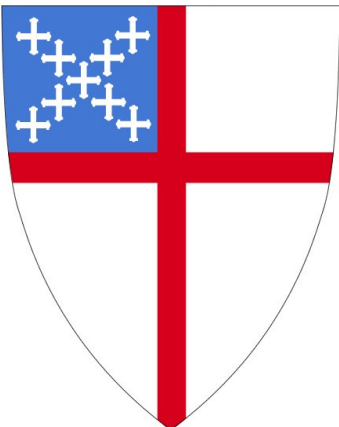
CONTACT

5224 Minnetonka Blvd
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

952-926-1646

Office Hours: 9am - 2pm
Monday - Friday

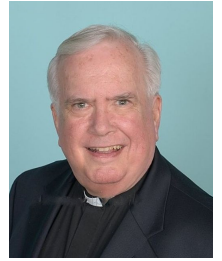
info@stgeorgesonline.org



Uniting in Worship. Welcoming in Grace.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS: WE ALL WAIT FOR SOMETHING

by Rev. Tom Gehlsen



It seems that as the world becomes supposedly less complicated through recent technological advances, we still find ourselves waiting...

Waiting for that package to arrive that we ordered online in record speed. Waiting in line at the self-checkout station at the supermarket, designed to eliminate the evils of waiting. Waiting a few extra seconds for that text to send when the signal isn't great. Waiting for that great job to come along. Waiting for that elusive perfect relationship. It never ends!

Researchers tell us that the average person will spend 5 years of her or his life waiting in line, 2 years playing telephone tag, and six months sitting at red lights. That's over 7 and a half years of waiting, at best doing nothing, or at worst experiencing great aggravation!

The bottom line is that even in our fast-paced world, with postmodern conveniences, we are all waiting for something. However, as strange as it sounds, during the Advent season, we discover a purpose to our waiting.

During the Advent season we symbolically participate in the waiting of the patriarchs, kings, prophets, and priests, as we await Christ's final and glorious return. Through prayer, liturgy, Eucharist, and the signs and symbols of Advent, we groan with Isaiah for a day when weapons will be turned into agricultural instruments. We cry out with Zechariah, rejoicing that the dawn from on high is breaking upon us. We pray with the likes of Adam, Job, Hannah, Solomon, Micah, and millions of others, named and unnamed, many whose expectations of the future kingdom may have been hazy, yet who still yearned for something more complete and more "real" than what they knew. "O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in Yahweh's light" (Is. 2:5).



EDUCATION UPDATE

by Heather Whitesell Education Coordinator

Children's Chapel

The kids really enjoy talking about the origins of Halloween and participating in our All Saints paper chain activity. We looked up our birthdays in the Book of Common Prayer to find out if there is a Saint day that corresponds. It is hard to believe that fall is nearly behind us and the season of Advent is approaching. The kids especially have the feelings of anticipation and excitement. Look for the All Saints paper chain to be displayed on our parish hall tree during Advent.

Youth News

Last month the youth and I went shopping and bought items to fill shoeboxes that will be distributed to needy children in developing countries. They learned how to buy on a budget and what items kids of different cultures might not have access to.

ADVENT

Soon we will begin the season of Advent, already the days are shorter and darkness. We are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. He is the light of the world! In the darkness we can take time to becoming "aware" of our longing for light. As we know, Advent means "arrival." In the season of Advent, the church prepares to celebrate the coming of Jesus.



We recall the past, celebrate the present, and look to the future with hope. We prepare to celebrate not only the birth of Jesus but also His presence in our families. We wait for the return of the Lord at the end of time when all hopes will be fulfilled. We await the coming of the light that will shine in the darkness, shining light on our path to peace.

On each Sunday of Advent we will begin each Eucharistic service with a prayer at the Advent wreath as we move from anticipation to welcoming!

ADULT FORUM

December Birthdays

- 1 Al Kotula
- 2 Olivia Seifert
- 3 Shannon Engel
- 6 Lou Michelich
- 11 Robert Holbach
- 12 Laura Harmon
- 16 Pameal Moore
- 17 Mari Mejia
- 18 Dr. Hope Thornberg
- 24 Loren Dwyer
- 27 Patricia Janke
- 29 Blossom Tsang
- 31 Ed O'Donnell

Adult Forum		December 2019	
Date	Topic	Synopsis	Presenter
December			
12/1/2019	Renewing the Mind	Wrap up & celebration	Rev. Dr. Alison Bucklin
12/8/2019	Advent teaching		Rev. Diane McGowan
12/15/2019	History of Christmas legends		Mary Kuhfeld
12/22/2019		Community Coffee	
12/29/2019		Community Coffee	

In keeping with the By-Laws of St. George's, it is time to call for those who are interested in being on the Vestry to submit their names to the Nominating Committee. Please notify Marilyn Clark or Lou Michelich of your interest to be placed on the ballot.



December Supper Club

December Supper Club will be at Camille Schroeder's on Friday, December 6, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

Located: 23750 Lawtonka Dr
Shorewood, MN

Please call Camille to RSVP and what food you will be bringin. Hot dishes, salads, desserts and appetizers are needed.

For those of you who have never attended a supper club and have wondered if you should, please consider this. We would love to have you come, get to know you better and just have you enjoy a relaxing evening with the people of St. George's. Here is the offer: please decide to come, but come as a guest. You do not need to bring food. This is not to be missed.

RSCVP: 952-470-5730 or
pacam@mchsi.com



STEP ANNUAL TOY SHOP

by Camille Schroeder

The St. Louis Park Emergency Program's annual Toy Shop will be open the week of Dec. 15th. This will take place at Peace Presbyterian Church on Cedar Lake Road in St. Louis Park. St. Louis Park families pre-register their children for this program and last year over 500 children received holiday gifts.

In order for this to happen we need to donate toys and Target gift cards. Target gift cards should be in amounts of \$10, \$20, or \$30. These are used as gifts for children ages 11 to 18. Toys with a value of \$15 to \$40 are gifts for children ages birth to 10.

Gift Suggestsions:

Infants/Toddlers: colorful toys that stimulate the brain, bouncy seats, trucks, multi-cultural dolls and building blocks.

Ages 4-7: Toys that encourage creative play, dress-up clothes, Legos, Num Noms, trolls, finding Dori, mulit-cultural Barbie Holiday dolls.

Ages 8-10: little Live Pets, Legos, Plkemon cards, Shrinky Dinks Book, selfie mic music set, bop it! game.

Ages 11-18: Target gift cards

Please donate your new, unwrapped toys or gift cards no later than Sunday, December 15, 2019. To help sort the toys easier, please attach the retail value of each donated item. Do not donate stocking stuffers, decorations, make-up, guns or violent toys, balls or used toys.

You can also order toys online from Target or Amazon. Click on the STEP wish list site for information.

Another way to help is to volunteer to work the project. Days and times can be scheduled through Mari at STEP: 952-925-4899, ext 18.

Many thanks for your generous donations.





Key: GBD – Gospel Based Discipleship HE – Holy Eucharist CEB – Christian Education Building
LL – Library Lounge DAYD – Dinner at Your Door

NOTE: The Second Sunday offerings collected during the year for St. George's Charitable Outreach Program will be distributed in the fall of 2019 when they will be matched through the Give to the Max Day.

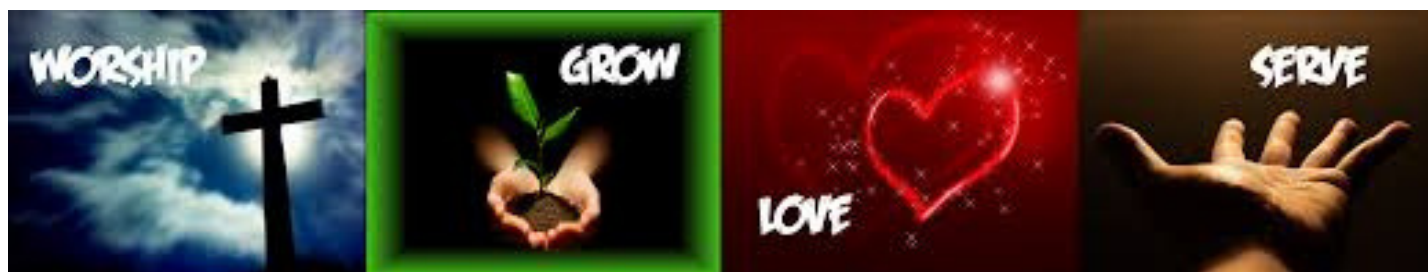




MINISTERS OF THE EUCCHARISTIC ASSEMBLY

The Christmas Eve Services are TBD at this time

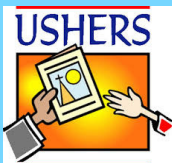
	December 1 First Sunday of Advent	December 8 Second Sunday of Advent	December 15 Third Sunday of Advent	December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent	December 29 First Sunday after Christmas
Readings	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:4-9 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 174 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18
Lectors 8 am	Mary Kuhfeld	Laura Harmon	Jean Wayne	Tom Harmon	Marilyn Clark
10:30 am	Kathie Brown Mary Poulsen	Cyprian Troyer Mary Weekes	Jessica Olson Mike Oiler	Darlynn Benjamin Ron Ottsen	Sarah Schulte John Rash
Chalice 8 am	Marilyn Clark	Laura Harmon	Jean Wayne	Laura Harmon	Marilyn Clark
10:30 am	Kathie Brown Leslie O'Donnell	Amanda Turgeant Cyprian Troyer	Mike Oiler Jessica Olson	Kathie Brown Amanda Turgeant	Kris Kelley Jessica Olson
Ushers: 8 am	Tom Harmon Bruce Becker	Ron Holbach Gregg Jacobson	Mike & Jane Sandmark	Tom Harmon Bruce Becker	Ron Holbach Gregg Jacobson
10:30 am	Bill Stromberg Sarah Schulte	Tom Zaun Lou Michelich	Bob Jones Mark Schulte	Deb Rash Tom Zaun	Deb Rash Tom Zaun
Acolytes: 10:30 am	Ian Rash, Sarah Rash	Calista Snyders, Ian Rash	Calista Snyders, Nolyn Snyders	Lilly Schulte, Ian Rash	Lilly Schulte, Sarah Rash
Altar Guild	Geri Alberg, Barb Behrens	Kitty Reese, Bill Stromberg, Kris Kelley	Kathleen Boe, Katy Campbell, Rachel Santos	Nancy Becker, Bruce Becker	Geri Alberg, Barb Behrens
Coffee Hour: 8 am	Ron Holbach	Mary Kuhfeld Mike & Jane Sandmark	Betty Bauer	Carole Leonard Geri Alberg	Carole Leonard Geri Alberg
10:30 am	John & Jane Carlson	Alan & Mary Poulsen	Bob & Bonnie Jones	Don & Patricia Janke	John & Jane Carlson





JOIN US

Want to join a group or committee at St George's? Get in touch with the contact in the directory for more information



Christmas Eve Services will be at 4 pm & 10 pm. There will not be a service on Christmas Day.



NEW FRONTALS FOR ADVENT:

by Kathleen Boe

With the start of Advent on December 1, you will see new "Sarem Blue" liturgical colors in our altar frontals and vestments.

The use of Sarem Blue, instead of the purple that we have used in the past, is a way to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent. The color symbolizes preparation, penitence and royalty to welcome the new King.

Each liturgical season has its own set of "colors" that we use on the altar. However, the use of "Sarem Blue" as a color has become more accepted in recent years. The color is connected to the development of the Sarem Rite, a medieval rite used in England before the reformation. I read that, in the 19th Century, the Church of England began using some of the Sarem Rite colors as a way of distinguishing the Church of England practices from the Roman Catholic services.

The frontals are funded by our Altar Guild Vestment fund, including a gift from Nancy Becker in memory of her mother.

ANNUAL MEETING AND VESTRY NOMINATIONS

by Kathleen Boe

The Annual Meeting for St. George's will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2020. At this meeting, new Vestry members will be elected.

The Vestry will appoint a Nominating Committee, in November, to develop a list of candidates for the open Vestry seats. This committee is composed of people whose terms are expiring in February.

In addition, according to our bylaws, persons may be nominated by petition signed by no fewer than 15 voting members of the congregation. This must be delivered to the Vestry Clerk (Laura Harmon) not fewer than 30 days before the Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions on this process, please see either me or Father Tom.

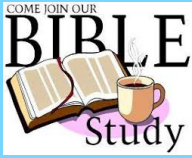
HOLIDAY TRAIN

by Camille Schroeder

The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will be arriving at the St. Louis Park Emergency Program site on Wed., December 11 at about 6 pm. The purpose of the train is to point out food insecurity issues in our city as well as in the country at large.

To attend you should plan to be at the site anytime after 4 pm in order to grab a good viewing spot. Food and beverages will be available for sale. Although the event is free you are encouraged to donate food or dollars to help with the holiday food needs.

The concert from the train will only be viewable from the west side of the tracks. Once the train pulls in it will not be possible to cross to the other side of the tracks so be sure to plan ahead. you can check for further up-to-date details on STEP's event page. Oh, yes, Santa will be there too. Hope to see you there.



During the construction of the bathrooms next to the Parish Hall, Scripture Study will be held in the conference room in the Education Building from 10:30am - 11:30am.



All Ladies of the Church
Are cordially invited to attend
the St. Mary's Circle
Annual Christmas Luncheon
Monday, December 16
at Deacon Diane's home
8941 Hidden Oaks Drive
Eden Prairie
RSVP
952-303-3259 or email
Revdianedarby@gmail.com

Each
guest is asked to bring 6
Christmas cookies

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY, SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER, 2019

by Kathleen Boe

I mentioned in my September update that the Vestry has been discussing how to best use the monies from the insurance settlement we received when the large cross fell down a few years ago. At our October meeting, the Vestry did vote to proceed with installing a cross on the south side of the church, over the red doors. The cross will be backlit so that it will be easily visible at night. There are still some final cost details to nail down on the backlighting. Once that is done, the financial approval will be submitted to the Finance Committee and Vestry. And then, installation can proceed. Leslie O'Donnell and Cathy Asgian have been diligent in finding contractors and looking at the best options for installation. I appreciate their attention to this.

The Vestry also approved contributions of \$1,200 each to STEP and Perspectives. The contributions are made during Give to the Max days to capitalize on matching funds.

In our September meeting, we discussed the implementation of the Diocese's new Safe Church Policy at St. George's. Heather Whitesell has agreed to lead this for our Parish. This will be rolled out over the next several months.

In November, the Vestry's attention will turn to the budget for next year. This budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting in February, after careful review by the Vestry.

The Vestry meets the third Monday of every month at 7 PM. We typically meet in the Parish Hall. Vestry meetings are open to the Parish. Please contact me if you have any questions.

There were pledges that were handed in with no names on them, if you think that this may be you, please contact the office at office@stgeorgesonline.org

PARISH STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Thomas J. Gehlsen, Ph.D.

tomg@stgeorgesonline.org

Deacon: The Rev. Diane

McGowan smarl@aol.com

Parish Administrator: Heather Grieger

office@stgeorgesonline.org

Music Director: John Hoffacker, D.M.A

johnh@stgeorgesonline.org

Children and Youth Coordinator: Heather Whitesell

heatherw@stgeorgesonline.org

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Cristina Czaia, Soprano

Christina Christensen, mezzo Soprano

Don Moyer, bass

Benjamin Jeitz, tenor

VESTRY

Kathleen Boe, Rector's

Warden; TBD, Parish Warden;

Cathy Asgian, Lindsay Benjamin,

Marilyn Clark, Jane Sandsmark,

Sarah Schulte, Cyprian Troyer,

Lou Michelich, and Jessica Olson.

CLERK OF THE VESTRY

Laura Harmon

PARISH TREASURER

Connie Kotula

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES WILL
BE HELD ON CHRISTMAS
EVE, TUESDAY DEC. 24TH
AT 4PM AND 10PM**

