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St. George's Episcopal Church

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December 2024

This is a free publication for members and friends

Volume 31, No. 12

God Is Working in Our Waiting

By Fr. Tom Gehlsen



Most parents would agree that their children don't want to wait for anything. The last thing kids want to hear is Mom say, "Not now." It can prompt anger, frustration, even hopelessness. This "dis-ease" of waiting follows most of us into our adult years. We may not respond with the same emotional outbursts as children, but most of us still hate waiting for what we want.

Our modern society just makes it worse. We want everything done quickly – and new devices constantly spring up to meet those demands and encourage our impatience. We are not used to waiting, and the more our technology caters to our immediate desires, the less we feel willing to wait.

Such is our dilemma as Christians. While society makes every attempt to make our life easier and faster, God works on a very different timetable. In His mind, nothing is wrong with waiting. In fact, waiting can be a positive good that He often uses to make us more like His Son.

THUS, THE SEASON OF ADVENT!!

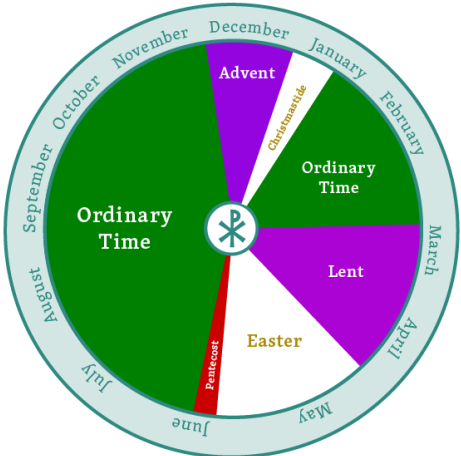
Adult Forum

Following the 10:00 am service

December 1 & 8

Advent and the Liturgical Year

presented by Fr. Tom Gehlsen



From the Office

By Marion Hunner,
Parish Administrator



Links in the Newsletter - To follow links in the electronic copy of the newsletter, hold down the Ctrl key and click on the link. If you are reading a paper copy, look at the bottom of page 8 for instructions on how to find the links.

Office Hours - The office is closed from December 24-31.

Special Donations - As we head into the holiday season, donations are made for Advent, Christmas, Memorials and Thanksgivings, etc. **Please help the office by writing a separate check for these donations rather than including them in your pledge check.**

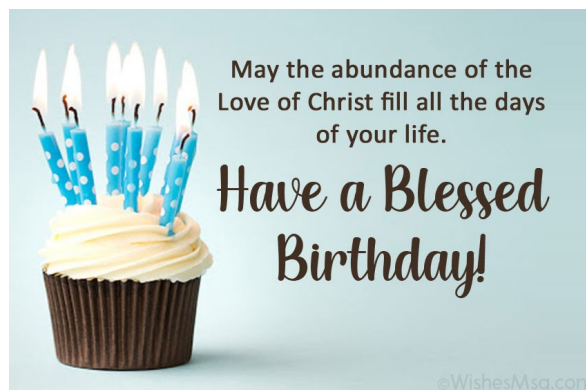
Early Newsletter Deadline

Because the office is closed December 24-31, please have all January Newsletter items to the office by Wednesday, December 11th.

Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings

By Marion Hunner, Parish Administrator

Would you like to remember loved ones or share your blessings in the Christmas Eve bulletin? Paper forms are available in the Sunday bulletin, and an electronic copy is available [here](#). It will also be linked in the weekly emails. **Forms are due by Sunday, December 15th.**



December Birthdays

1 - Al Kotula	16 - Pamela Moore
Matt Lex	17 - Claudia Hoffacker
6 - Lou Michelich	27 - Patricia Janke
7 - Jan Tysk	29 - Blossom Tsang
12 - Laura Harmon	31 - Ed O'Donnell
14 - Suzy Garland	

Financial Updates

By Kathie Brown, Treasurer



The following financial information is through October. When November information is approved at the December Vestry meeting, we will post it in the January monthly newsletter.

Net Income = Income minus expenses
YTD = Year to date
Numbers in parentheses are negative

Pledges Received in October	\$17,052
Percent of the Monthly Budget	144.7 %
Total Pledges Received YTD	\$119,209
Percent of the Annual Budget	84.3%
Net Income for October	\$5,033
Net Income YTD	\$ (16,748)
Budget Net Income YTD	\$ (31,326)
Actual Net Income compared to Budgeted Net Income YTD	\$ 14,578*

*Reflects \$5,000 taken from the General Investment Fund as income

Greening of the Church Sunday, December 22

PLEASE JOIN US

By Carole Leonard

The annual “Greening of the Church” will be held on Sunday, December 22, following the 10 a.m. service. Everyone is welcome to join us in making St. George’s beautiful as we prepare for Christmas. There’s plenty to do; a tree and lights to put up, boughs and lots of poinsettias. Many hands make light work and a fun time. If you have questions, please check with Carole Leonard at carole2hike@gmail.com, or 612-999-3519.



Stewardship

By Jane Jacobson

Do you consider yourself a member of St. George’s? What does being a member mean to you?

We have received pledges from just under 50% of member households. Any amount pledged goes to the greater good.

Scripture tells us to feed the hungry, house the poor, and take care of the sick. Your commitment to St. George’s enables our congregation to remain active in Community Engagement: supporting STEP with food, clothing and toys; contributing to refugee organizations; reviving the LEV ministry, which brings communion to our shut-ins, and more.

Thank you to all who have already made a commitment. Your monetary gift allows St. George’s to continue its mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus.



Stewardship
a way of life



STEP

By Camille Schroeder

The holidays are fast approaching, and with that, the STEP Holiday Gift event is also happening. Each holiday season, STEP provides an opportunity for their clients to choose gifts for their children. This means that we have an opportunity to help by providing those gifts. Suggestions for gifts can be found by clicking [here](#). On this site you can access Amazon or Target for suggested donations. Of course, you can always make your own choices. Gifts are provided for children aged 0 to 8. For those children aged 9 through 17, Target gift cards are provided. If you are buying gift cards, please buy \$10.00 ones. Also, it would be a help if you would label the cards with the amount. While you can bring your donations to church any time, the last day to bring them is Sunday, December 8th. Sooner is better. Many thanks for your donations, which will go a long way to helping make the holidays a success.



Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 19, 2025. The Annual Meeting will take place in the Parish Hall following the regular Sunday Service.

Parish Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10 am Holy Eucharist Adult Forum: <i>Advent and the Liturgical year</i>		10 am Staff Liturgy Meeting		6:30 pm AA		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10 am Holy Eucharist Adult Forum: <i>Advent and the Liturgical year</i>	7 pm Finance		EARLY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	6:30 pm AA		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 am Vestry				6:30 pm AA		10 am Choir Rehearsal
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 am Greening of the Church		Office Closed				
		4 PM Christmas Eve Service		6:30 pm AA		
29	30	31				
Office Closed						
10 am Holy Eucharist	11:30 am Women of St. George's					

Sunday Ministries



	Sunday December 1 Advent 1	Sunday December 8 Advent 2	Sunday December 15 Advent 3	Sunday December 22 Advent 4	Sunday December 29 1st Sunday after Christmas
Lectionary Readings	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-9 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Baruch 5:1-9 Canticle 4 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Canticle 9 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Micah 5:2-5a Song of Mary Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 147 Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 John 1:1-18
Lectors	Mary Weekes Charlie Hample	Sarah Schulte Cyprian Troyer	Mark Schulte Fran Bly	Kathie Brown Devin Snyders	Tom Harmon Camille Schroeder
Chalice Bearers	Kathie Brown Jane Jacobson	Adele Cormier Laura Harmon	Rachel Santos Kris Kelley	Leslie O'Donnell Cyprian Troyer	Kathie Brown Rachel Santos
Acolytes	Jayden Odihambo	Elena Schulte Lilly Schulte	Elena Schulte Lilly Schulte	None	None
Ushers	Bob Jones	Tom Harmon	Tom Zaun	Jane Jacobson	Jane Jacobson
Altar Guild	Jane and Gregg Jacobson	Jane Jacobson	Kris Kelley Rachel Santos	Laura Harmon Heather Whitesell	Jane and Gregg Jacobson
Coffee Servers	Don & Patricia Janke	Bob Jones	John & Jane Carlson	Betty Bauer Carole Leonard	Betty Bauer Carole Leonard
Christmas Eve 4pm	Lectors John R. Carole L.	Chalice Bearers Laura H. Kris K.	Acolytes Jayden O.	Ushers Tom H.	Altar Guild Jane J.

ECMN Convention 2024

By Jane Jacobson, Delegate



“Who do you say that I am?” This was the big question 116 Lay members and 134 Clergy prayed on over 3 days as we gathered in Bemidji for the 167th Convention of the Episcopal Church of Minnesota. To quote Bishop Loya, “This year at convention, we will be focused on how we are answering this question in our own day. Who do we say Jesus is by our lives as individuals, as congregations, and as a diocese? In every generation, in every context, the church of Jesus thrives when it looks and acts like Jesus. How can we most faithfully confess, follow and bear witness to this Messiah in our own unique moment?”

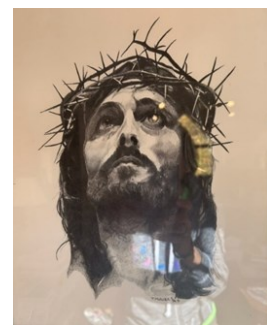
My Spirit was renewed being surrounded by faith-filled people who came from all over Minnesota to attend to the business of the Church; we heard stories which inspired us to seek Kingdom opportunities and solutions within our church communities, we broke bread together, sang hymns of praise and among other agenda items, passed two important resolutions. The 1st, Migration with Dignity, endorsing and engaging the commitments of the C031 Migration with Dignity resolution from General Convention 2024. The 2nd, NorthStar Act, supporting and endorsing the continuing legislative actions of adopting the NorthStar Act, which supports progressive immigrant and refugee rights legislation in Minnesota.

Fran Bly and I invite you to join us for an Adult Forum on January 12 to watch and hear Bishop Loya’s full address to the convention; it is a thought-provoking message, one that can initiate a rewarding discussion.

Missing Picture

By Leslie O'Donnell

Ed loaned a framed picture of Jesus to the choir, and it has been hanging in the choir room for the last several years. It is now missing. A friend of ours did the drawing. If anyone in the parish knows where it might be, please contact Ed or return it to the choir room.



St. George's Makes Donations from Community Engagement Fund

By Kathie Brown

With the approval of the Finance Committee and



Vestry, we have given \$1000 to STEP in time for Give to the Max Day on November 21. Donations to STEP between October 21 and November 21 are being matched dollar for dollar up to \$65,000.

Also approved was \$1,000 to Razia Panahi. She is one of the Afghan women we have helped over the last two years. Her husband Jawad was finally able to join her here (arrived November 25) after a long and difficult process. They need to find an apartment and furnish it, so our donation will help in that regard. Sarah Schulte continues to be very involved with the Afghan refugees, including other family members who have arrived since we assisted the original six women.



Christmas Eve at 4 pm

By John Hoffacker

Let's celebrate hope, love, joy, and wonder together in candlelight and carols of Christmas. We'll hear the story of a humble birth, sing the songs of the season, and feast in the eucharist.

St George's offers a traditional service of lessons and carols — the nativity story interspersed with singing by choir and congregation. Jesus, the light of the world, was greeted with angels singing.

After the eucharist, we will share the light, each of us holding a candle. We receive the light from our neighbor in the pews and pass it along. Dip your un-lighted candle to receive the flame, and always hold a lit candle up straight up.

A silent prayer follows, and then you blow out your candle. In the Eastern Orthodox tradition, the smoke of a candle carries your prayer to heaven.

After the eucharist, come to the Parish Hall and enjoy warm cider and cookies!

Who do you know who'd enjoy a lovely afternoon like this?



**December Supper Club at Camille's
house has been cancelled.**



Episcopal Advent Resources

The Episcopal Church is pleased to again offer special resources this Advent and Christmas to help you and your congregation share the “good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2:10).

Click here for all Advent resources.

Advent Calendars and Family Resources

As part of her ministry at St. Christopher's, Marion has curated several Advent Calendars for both families and adults. [Click Here](#) to access them. She also has many additional Family Advent Resources [here](#).

Adult Forum Advent Resource

On December 1st, Fr. Tom will have a handout for his presentation on Advent. This will be an excerpt from *Living Well Through Advent*, by Living Compass. [Click here](#) to see that entire resource.

Service of Loss & Remembrance Trinity Episcopal Church, Excelsior December 8 at 3pm

The Christmas season is not always happy. If you have lost someone you love, a job, your good health, a special relationship, or anything else recently and are grieving and struggling to find joy in the midst of the Christmas merriment, this service is for you.

This lay-led service will speak to your hurt and offer hope for the future. Join us as we gather together to acknowledge our losses and find comfort through readings, music, and candle lighting. You're invited to bring whatever is weighing on your heart, mind, and spirit into this service and to know that God sees you and stands with you this Christmas season.

For more info, contact office@trinityexcelsior.org

About St. George's

5224 Minnetonka Boulevard
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-926-1646

www.stgeorgesonline.org

Office hours Tuesday-Thursday
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

PARISH STAFF:

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

tomg@stgeorgesonline.org

Deacon: The Rev. Diane McGowan

smarl@aol.com

Parish Administrator, Marion Hunner

office@stgeorgesonline.org

Music Director, John Hoffacker, D.M.A.

johnh@stgeorgesonline.org

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE:

Monica Murray, soprano

Alexis Winters, mezzo-soprano

Luke Slivinski, tenor

Vanessa Vaughn, bass

INTERIM WARDENS:

Jane Jacobson and Lou Michelich

VESTRY:

Members at Large: Iris Alexander, Suzy Garland,
Charles Hample, Camille Schroeder, and Roxy
Zaun

PARISH TREASURER:

Kathie Brown

LINKS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

There are many links in this newsletter. If you would like to follow them, please begin by going to our website, www.stgeorgesonline.org and then clicking on News and Docs at the top. There you will find the online version of this publication. Press the Ctrl key as you click on the links, and that should take you where you need to be.

**Sunday Worship at
St. George's 10:00 am**

**Sunday Services
are offered in person
and available on St. George's
YouTube Channel**

**NOTE: If you would like to receive
a printed copy of the church
newsletter, please contact Marion
in the office.**