

## **E-News for the Week of Sunday, January 3**

Second Sunday of Christmas

Contemporary Worship

### **Readings**

Sirach 24:1-12

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18

### **Participants**

**Celebrant:** Pr. Nancy Wright

**Altar Guild:** Lucy Beck

**Communion Assistant:**

**Lector:** Vicki Lemley

**Liturgical Assistant:** Kathe Bruno

**Organist:** Denise Puisto

**Greeters:** Marilyn Johnson and Suzanne Furst

**Ushers:** Charlie Cutting and Jake Hansen

### **Upcoming Week**

#### **Wednesday, 12/30**

6:15 p.m. Contemporary

7:15 p.m. Bells

#### **Sunday, 1/3**

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

**NOTE: The office will be closed the week of Monday, December 28th-January 1st.**

Click [HERE](#) for a long-range calendar.

### **Upcoming Birthdays**

12/30 Bill Harrison

12/30 Nathan Lombardi

1/ 4 Illiana Bruno

1/ 4 Sharon Sturm

1/ 5 Jacob Gottschalk

### **Daily Advent Reflections\***

#### **Wednesday, 12/30**

Cook and eat dinner in candlelight and silence tonight, with someone you love. What can you learn about each other without speaking?

#### **Thursday, 12/31**

Pray a doodle prayer—draw people instead of writing names, and surround them with lines suggesting light, and other symbols.

#### **Friday, 1/1**

Walk a labyrinth today, if you have one nearby, or walk an imaginary one in living room or yard. You are a new creation.

\*Shared from an Advent calendar prepared by Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette (Keynote speaker from the 2015 New England Synod Assembly)

## Sunday School News

### Children

Pictures from the Children's program are up! (May have video soon too) [CLICK HERE FOR PHOTOS](#)

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 27 or January 3.**

### Adults

The class is reading Pope Francis I Encyclical Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home. Anyone can join at any time; you can purchase a book from Pr. Nancy or read the Encyclical on line for free. No class preparation is needed, as we read aloud and discuss each paragraph. **Adult classes are currently on break, but will resume on Sunday, January 17.**

## HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

### Christmas and Epiphany

We will continue to celebrate Christmas until Epiphany, January 6. Pr. John Lemkul will preach and celebrate on Jan. 10 with a focus on Epiphany, which will conclude our Christmas celebrations.

### Study Leave

Pr. Nancy is on a week's study leave (Jan. 6 to 15th), for the third course in the Doctorate of Ministry program. During that time Kelli Tylenda, council president, is "in charge" with pastoral backup. Pr. Nancy can be reached by her cell phone 347-525-4060.

### Coming Soon: Beat the Winter Blahs

Mark the evening of January 30, 2016 on your calendars. That's the date that you will have an opportunity to celebrate a little Scandinavian flavor here in Vermont. You will not only enjoy an evening of fun, laughter and wonderful food, but you'll be supporting Lutheran World Relief at the same time. This event will take place in the Ascension Social Hall and open to ALC members, their families and friends. There will be no charge but you will be given an opportunity to help pay for the festivities and make a donation to a very important cause. We thank Thrivent for their generous support of this event.

In true Scandinavian tradition there will be exciting entertainment and plenty of delicious food including, but not limited to, lutefisk. Come and enjoy some of your favorites or discover some food you've never tasted.

Look for a signup sheet in early January, but what we're looking for now are a few volunteers to help with planning and food preparation. If interested, or if you have question, contact one of the following:

Kris Peterson-Ishaq and Mousa Ishaq at [mkishaq@comcast.net](mailto:mkishaq@comcast.net)

France Leblanc at [france316@hotmail.com](mailto:france316@hotmail.com)

Jake Hansen at [organic343@hotmail.com](mailto:organic343@hotmail.com)

### Quilt top kits available

If you would like to help make mission quilts for Lutheran World Relief but cannot join us on the first and/or third Thursday or the month at church, you can assemble quilt tops at home. There are kits that consist of cut fabric squares (11" x 11") along with directions. Let Karen Martin know if you are interested.

### Pastor's Piano Policy

Ascension received a piano, gratis, from a family in Montpelier and paid to have it moved to ALC through funds originally given by Lynne Dapice. Thank you Lynne. We have the joy of the piano for parishioners (including children) who wish to enjoy playing while at church or taking piano lessons; as well as for public performances and regular teaching. Daimon Ferrante, the composer and piano instructor who rents space from ALC to teach, is personally paying for ongoing tuning. He asks that the piano not be moved, as it upsets the tuning (it is not a young piano). Also, when children play, under gentle supervision of their parents or teachers, they are welcome! We are all respectful of others in the building, who may be praying, worshiping, practicing, talking, etc. Closing doors and making sure the sound system (above the piano) is turned on or off depending on whether the sanctuary practice or service needs to be heard in the fellowship hall, will all help. Let the music sound!

### **Men's Breakfast**

There will be no Men's Breakfast for the month of December. Worry not, Men of Ascension, we will continue in January!

### **ELCA World Hunger Matching Funds Challenge**

Until December 31, 2015, friends of ELCA World Hunger are challenging one another with a \$150,000 match. Gifts received by December 31 can help meet the match. To take advantage of this match, please give online at [www.ELCA.org/WorldHunger](http://www.ELCA.org/WorldHunger)

### **COFFEE HOUR NEEDS YOU!!!**

Thank you for the great response to the new Coffee Hour sign-up sheet. If you were unable to sign up for a week or two, please check out the list hanging on the bulletin board in the fellowship room. There are several empty dates to be filled in yet. Coffee Hour is fun for members but also a very important time for us to greet visitors and new members. We often joke about coffee, food and Lutherans going together as a natural....and they do....so please sign up for Coffee Hour and let's continue this wonderful tradition. Also, the Coffee Can (to defray costs) is on the table to help pay for the coffee. Thanks.

See Beth Dreibelbis with questions.

### **Church Mouse**

The Mouse is available by email on a quarterly basis. But you can tell the office if you prefer to have the Mouse mailed to you. There are always extra copies of the Mouse on the table in the Fellowship Hall. A sheet next to the copies gives spaces for you to sign your name if you wish the Mouse to be mailed to you in future.

## **Additional News and Opportunities**

### **Tai Chi at Ascension!**

Tai Chi for All Generations, Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. with Elizabeth Wiris

Classes are ongoing and everyone is welcome to come as you are, whenever you wish. All generations are welcome! Please note that we have decided to offer these classes on a "pay as you can" basis. That way everyone who is interested will be able to join us! For more information, see the attached brochure and feel free to contact Elizabeth in the church office, 862-8866

[CLICK HERE](#) for full brochure.

Tai Chi will break for the holidays soon. There will be no classes on December 23rd, 30th, or January 6th.

