

E-News for the Week of Sunday, November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

Worship Participants

Celebrant: Pr. Nancy Wright

Altar Guild: Barbara Sponem

Communion Assistant: Marcia Gustafson

Organist: Ann Gnagey

Lector: Cheryl Couillard

Liturgical Assistant:

Ushers: Jake Hansen

Greeters: Karen & Red Martin

Coffee Hour:

Upcoming Week

Wednesday, 11/25

6:30 p.m. Bells

Thursday, 11/26

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, 11/29 (NO SUNDAY SCHOOL for Children or Adults)

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Tuesday, 12/1

2:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry

Wednesday, 12/2

6:15 p.m. Contemporary

7:15 p.m. Bells

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

Upcoming Birthdays

11/27 Charlie Cutting (90 years!!!)

12/1 Jameson Keene (Wilhite)

12/2 Kristy Heppner

12/5 Gretchen Dreibelbis

12/6 Natalie Tylenda

12/7 Susan Moore Westney

12/8 Janet Schroeter

Pastor's Message

Dear Ascension parishioners,

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Giving thanks to God for all our **GIFTS** is a central part of our life of faith. I am thankful for you, for all our ministries, for our church building and beautiful woods, for friends, family. I am aware that so many people don't have food or a warm bed or a sense of security in their lives. As we consider gift giving this Advent, let us be mindful to extend our giving to those in need. Right now, Lutheran World Relief (www.lwr.org) has a Christmas matching gift challenge that can inspire us to give to our denomination's work around the world.

Meanwhile, I am thankful for our families and young people, and children. You will have noticed that we have a new (used) **PIANO**. (We paid to move it from Montpelier with the funds generously donated by Lynn Dapice.) Over the last few weeks, we have developed our flexible and open policy: All are welcome to play it. Some of our children are taking lessons and will be playing during our worship services. We ask that all players simply respect others in the building and play with their parents' and teachers' supervision. We will love to hear the joyful sounds of piano playing. (We are renting to a superb pianist/composer, Daimon Ferrante, who teaches youngsters on Mondays and Tuesdays and who personally, regularly pays to keep the piano tuned. Further, watch for news of a piano/vocal recital on Thursday, Dec. 17.)

Also, did you know that the sanctuary **SOUND SYSTEM** allows for services to be **AMPLIFIED** in the fellowship hall? Above the wall in the "classroom" at the south end of the Fellowship Hall is a box. Simply stand on a chair and turn the bottom knob one way to allow amplification of the worship service into the Fellowship Hall (very handy, if you are fixing coffee hour after the service begins but don't want to miss out), and turn the knob in the other direction to silence the amplification (e.g., while choir practices in the sanctuary and the SS class is meeting in the classroom).

Finally, this coming Sunday we will celebrate Advent 1 with the Service of the Word and the Hanging of the **CHRISMONS**. We will have our Christmas tree and Advent wreath in place!!!

We are a flexible building, and congregation. Thank you for your gifts, prayers, loving participation, forgiveness, and ministries to each other and the world. Together, we try to follow our Lord and Savior, day by day.

Faithfully, Pr. Nancy

Daily Advent Reflections*

Sunday, 11/29 First Sunday in Advent: HOPE

Sing, pray or chant this apophatic mantra: God is hope, God is not hope, God is *not* not hope.

Monday, 11/30

Subtract one thing from your day. Use the extra time to be quiet with God.

Tuesday, 12/1

Turn off the news today. You can do this! Make your world intentionally small, smaller, infinitesimal: a first-trimester baby.

Wednesday, 12/2

Today, pray by humming, low and deep, for at least 3 minutes.

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

HARK! IMPORTANT UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

Congregational Meeting

Please hold **Sunday, December 6**, for a congregational meeting immediately following worship. We will consider and vote on the Constitution and the Long-Range Plan, 2016-2018.

COUNCIL SUMMARY (meeting held 11/16/15)

Present: Kelli Tylenda, Steve Snook, Johanna White, Allison Hampson, Gene and Jane A'Lee Heyerdahl. Lydia Wisloski, Pastor Nancy.

Absent: Vickie Lemley, Richard Butz, France Leblanc Hansen, Bill Harrison.

- Council dealt mainly with the finalization of the Long Range Plan and how to monitor it to be sure of its implementation over the next three years. It will be presented to the congregation on December 6th.
- The Finance Committee reports that pledges continue to come in. With much gratitude, we have 41 to date including 6 new pledges. The Finance committee encourages you to turn in your pledges if you have not already done so to enable the council to come up with a budget for 2016.
- The treasurer reports that our finances are tight. ALC shows an operating loss of \$5,264.06 through October although this amount is significantly less than experienced last year. Investment values since September have increased by \$9,455.29.
- Council members who have completed their 3 year commitment are Steve Snook, France Leblanc-Hansen and Jane A'Lee Heyerdahl. Mousa Ishaq, Audrey Stone have agreed to run and Jane A'Lee has agreed to a 2nd term. Election will be held at the January Semi-Annual meeting.

- With the new chairs in place, the old chairs were donated to Habitat ReUse and to ReStore. The folding chairs, currently in the basement, will be used for all functions in the fellowship hall. Racks will be provided for storage in the fellowship hall.
- Pastor gave each council member a copy of the Papal encyclical *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home, as a Christmas present, and asked that each member read as much as possible and answer at least one question in the attached Study Guide to offer at the December meeting

Sunday School Update

There is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on **November 29**.

December 20 will be our Sunday School Christmas tableau presentation, in church. We will rehearse on **December 13 and December 20 at 9:00 a.m.** The theme this year will be the Little Drummer Boy, as a vehicle for the tableau. Volunteers with special talents are welcomed!

There will again be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on **December 27**.

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.

Next Quilter's Group Meeting is **Thursday, December 3**.

The Holiday Giving Tree!

We will be sponsoring families through Howard Center again this year. The tree is now up with tags in the Narthex! Gifts should be returned to church unwrapped by December 13. We will also have a cookie bake sale on December 13th with donations going to the giving tree families. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Couillard at checouillard@yahoo.com or 999-5512.

Women's Holiday Event

What: Cookie Baking and Holiday Movie Night

When: Friday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Leah Burke's House (see directory)

We will enjoy baking cookies and watching one or two holiday favorites. Cookies will be donated to the cookie sale for giving tree families. Questions? Contact Cheryl Couillard at checouillard@yahoo.com or 999-5512. Please join us!

Interfaith Prayer and Remembrance Vigil

Many participants in the interfaith prayer and remembrance vigil about gun violence will be Lutherans—ushers, musicians, and a prayer reader. The vigil will also include presentations by two faith leaders from the Burlington area:

- "Why We Gather." Right Rev. Thomas C. Ely, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Vermont.
- "A Call to Commitment, Action, and Sending Forth." Rabbi Joshua Chasan, Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, Burlington.

Please attend the vigil on Sunday, **December 13, 3 p.m.** at the Unitarian Universalist Society in Burlington. The bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall has more information about the vigil and copies of article, "Gun Violence and Christian Witness."

For more information, contact Marcia Gustafson at marciagus@earthlink.net, or call 864-5908.

Adult Class

All are welcome to join the 9 am adult class, regularly on even for one Sunday. The class is led by Pr. Nancy and the whole group. The class will study the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:1-11) through October. In November the class will study Pope Francis I's Encyclical on Climate Change and Inequality: On Care for Our Common Home.

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.

Additional News and Volunteer Opportunities

Gifts that Give

Sunday, November 29, 29 Church Street (formerly Borders and City Sports, corner of Cherry St.)

Gifts that Give offers an opportunity to buy "presents" that give twice, to the recipient of your gift and to the neighbors in need served by the local non-profit organizations.

Participating Non-Profits include:

JUMP
Habitat for Humanity
COTS
Women Helping Battered Women
Northern Friends for Haiti
Spectrum Youth and Family Services
Camp Agape Vermont
Kids for Peace
ANEW Place
Dismas House
Peace and Justice Center
Ghar Sita Mutu
Meals on Wheels
Vermont Interfaith Action

Shelburne Museum Volunteer Opportunity

Winter Greeters: Are you friendly, outgoing, easy to approach, and interested in welcoming visitors to our community? Shelburne Museum seeks volunteers for morning (10-12:30) and afternoon (12:30-3;

or 3-5:15) visitor greeter positions, year-round. Shifts available daily, however, volunteers may sign up for as few as 1 per week, or for more. For more information please contact Laura Need at 985-0865 or lneed@shelburnemuseum.org

Tai Chi at Ascension!

Tai Chi for All Generations

Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m. with Elizabeth Wirls

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.

Mindful Breath Tai Chi

Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m. through December 3 with Janet Makaris

Yang Style, for more information please visit her website:

<http://mindfulbreathtaichi.com/about.html>