

The Beacon

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

December 2018



From the Rector's Desk

Advent is the most counter-cultural season of the Church year, and therefore one of the most difficult to observe. While all the world is blaring holiday songs like “Frosty the Snowman,” Christians are singing quiet and contemplative Advent hymns like “Sleepers, Wake” and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” While the rest of the world is fighting the mall crowds and getting pictures taken with Santa, Christians are expected to stay calmly centered and prayerfully preparing for the birth of Jesus. While the rest of the world is cheerfully decked out in green and red, church hangings and vestments are a serene blue.

Each year Church Publishing puts out an Advent calendar containing suggestions for observing each day in Advent. Here are a few:

- ❖ Write a letter you’ve been postponing.
- ❖ Buy a CD of Advent music and listen to it whenever you listen to music. Sing along to your heart’s delight.
- ❖ Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, this year is Year C in our lectionary, the year in which we read the Gospel of Luke in church. Read the book in its entirety. Think about the good news it conveys.
- ❖ December 6 is the Feast of St. Nicholas. In honor of St. Nick, a generous fellow, give yourself a gift, as a reminder that God loves you, too.
- ❖ Do something to help God’s good creation—walk or take the bus, buy “green” products, skip the paper and plastic and carry reusable bags.
- ❖ Trouble seeing God’s love in the news? Pray for the people and situations that trouble you.

- ❖ Love silence.
- ❖ Be on the lookout for simple acts of kindness. See Christ in them.
- ❖ Invite Jesus to heal whatever is broken in your life.
- ❖ Reread Psalm 121 (“I lift up my eyes to the hills”). Better yet, memorize it.
- ❖ Holiday visits and events can be quite complicated. Pray that love—and your sense of humor—will not desert you.
- ❖ Advent is about waiting. Use the moments when you are forced to wait (like in those long checkout lines) to pray for someone in need.
- ❖ Read Matthew 1:18-25. It tells us about Joseph who got a visit from an angel. Give thanks for Joseph who teaches us how to respond faithfully, even when life happens instead of what you plan.
- ❖ Mary is often called “Theotokos,” which means “God-bearer.” But remember that we are all God-bearers, carrying Jesus’ love into the world.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (BCP 212)

Peace and many blessings,

Ann +



The 2019 Stewardship Pledge *Ingathering* is almost completed. Listed below are all of the pledges received, not including those who wished to remain anonymous. The total pledged dollars to date are \$155,554. This is a significant increase over last year as 68% of the pledging units were able to increase their pledge. This response is going to enable St. Thomas to continue our work within our church family, help provide a stable resource for the St. Thomas Preschool and Community Counseling Center, as well as giving us an opportunity to reach out to our neighbors in the greater Eugene area.



Community of Christ

2019 Pledges as of 11/20/2018

Mary Adams
Laurinda and Andy Andrist
Susan Bartlett
Dick and Joan Braun
Sandra Bristow
Eloise Bushnell
Len and Janet Calvert
Shirley Collard
Sue and Paul Colvin
Keri Davis
Rev. Ann and Lee Gaillard
Charlotte Heltman
Barbara Hemphill
Karl and Erika Hente
Beverly Jackson
Gary and Cindy Jensen
Edward Johnson
George Lamont
Diane Landon
Florence Litzenberger
Olympia Minard
Lindy Moore
Duncan and Sandra Murray
Kathy O'Neal
Phyllis O'Neal
Mark and Debbie Pezzoni
Dave and Kelly Phillippi
Sally and Burt Schwarz
Jeannie Shields
Merle and Jane Spencer
John and Holly Spruance
Larry and Nancy Thompson
Anne VanDerveer and Joe Konieczka
Lyn West
Patty O'Neal
Tom and Linda Whitehead
Don and Carol Williams
Larry and Judy Wilson
Barbara Root
Jim & Julia Keizur
Dan Paulson
Ryan Baker-Fones

December Birthdays



21 Larry Wilson

25 Dave Fredmonsky

31 Emily Hente

Involving Parish Children in the Worship Service



The Sunday School curriculum for this fall has focused on the Anglican church year and the service of Holy Communion. The goal is to give our younger parishioners a better understanding of our worship service and the best way to do that is to involve them in the service with meaningful participation roles. While in Sunday School the children have studied the service order, the church calendar and identified the colors of the church year. In addition, they have been practicing the duties of torch bearer and ushers. On September 30 and November 4 some of our young parishioners participated in the processional, ushering and recessional. They are gaining confidence and understanding as they are involved in these special roles in our worship service. Our youngest acolytes are told to *lift high the cross*, as the popular hymn directs, and they are doing just that as they enthusiastically demonstrate their faith.



GrassRoots Garden Happenings!

Join in the Family Fun! GrassRoots Garden will stage its annual Carrot Harvest Day on Saturday, December 8. This special day is a wonderful opportunity for many people who grew up at GrassRoots as home school students or garden participants and for Master Gardeners who have been connected to the Garden over the years. We re-connect with friends, acquaintances and the diverse, welcoming community that is GrassRoots.



Plan to arrive at 10:30 AM to select your spot for harvesting the biggest carrots. We start to pull at 11:00 AM sharp. We'll enjoy carrot ginger soup, carrot cake and hot chocolate while the carrots are judged. Prizes will be awarded for the heaviest, longest and most unique carrots. And we will reflect on the challenges and successes of the year and talk about goals for the New Year. It's great family fun!

“Give a Gift that Grows!” “Our Adopt-a-Plot Program at FOOD for Lane County GrassRoots Garden can fill many of your holiday needs. This worthy GrassRoots fundraiser allows you to select and sponsor a 40 foot vegetable bed from over 100 producing beds while honoring a friend, relative or associate with a gift that grows throughout the 2019 gardening year. You may want to visit the Garden and choose a bed from sections with names such as Ladybird Beetle, Dragonfly, or Damselfly or other beneficial insects. Apple, Pear, Asian Pear, Cherry and Plum trees also make a great gift, heralding the seasons with blossoms in the Spring and lovely fruit in the Fall. Choose a specific tree from over 100 trees in the orchards and if you wish create your own garden tag or marker to give with your gift.

Each bed, tree, or compost bin can be sponsored for a one-year fee of \$50 that includes name placement on our Donor Recognition Wall and a card acknowledging your gift. A new kiwi arbor, blueberry patch, greenhouses and other structures are also available for adoption in 2019 from \$250 to \$1000 each and include a donor or gift recipient's name plaque on the structure. We can send you an Adopt-a-Plot brochure and donation form via e-mail: Please contact Zoë Livelybrooks at zlivelybrooks@foodforlanecounty.org.

Winter Garden Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. GrassRoots Garden is located at 1465 Coburg Rd., across from Safeway, behind St. Thomas Episcopal Church. For more information contact Merry Bradley at 484-7144 or merrybradley@yahoo.com. Thanks for your caring and support!



It is with much love and appreciation that we recognize Lindy Moore for her years of service to our St. Thomas publication ~ *The Beacon*. Lindy has thoughtfully dedicated herself to this important communication ministry for several years, all while wearing many other “hats” for our St. Thomas community. With this edition of the Beacon Lindy has graciously handed off editorial duties to Cindy Jensen. When you see Lindy take a moment to thank her for all the wise, wonderful and loving words shared with her fellow parishioners.

Going forward, please send your Beacon submissions to Cindy at LAJotKDK@aol.com. Unless otherwise noted, all submissions will be gratefully received by the 25th of the month.



Journeying the Way of Love

This Advent series will take place on the four Sundays in Advent (December 2, 9, 16, and 23) at 11:30 a.m. in the St. Thomas Library. The series, *Journeying the Way of Love*, introduces the Way of Love within the context of the Advent readings and themes from the Sunday Lectionary. In his sermon at the opening Eucharist of General Convention last summer, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry formally invited members of the Episcopal Church to embrace spiritual practices that can help lead them to a Jesus-centered life. Called the “Way of Love,” the seven spiritual practices provide a Rule of Life that all Episcopalians are encouraged to adopt in our daily lives. The Presiding Bishop offered this Rule as a way for us as a church together to grow more deeply with Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to his way of love in and for the world.



Advent and Christmastide at St. Thomas

Sundays, December 2, 9, 16, 23

11:30 a.m. Journeying the Way of Love

This 4-part Advent series introduces the Way of Love within the context of the Advent readings and themes from the Sunday Lectionary.

Wednesdays, December 5, 12, 19

5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

A brief, quiet, meditative service for spiritual respite during the holiday busyness.

Saturday, December 15

9:00 - 12:00 The Greening of the Church

Come join the fun of decorating the church for Christmas, and then enjoy a potluck lunch!

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, December 18, 19, 20

12:15 p.m. Pre-School Christmas Pageant

Celebrate an early Christmas with the children of St. Thomas Pre-School.

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

A festive, joy-filled celebration of the Nativity with music and children's pageant.

8:00 p.m. Choral Sing

8:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

A candlelight service with choir to joyfully usher in the birth of our Lord.

Sunday, December 30 – Christmas I

9:00 a.m. Festival of Lessons and Carols, followed by a celebration of Holy Eucharist

Please note: There is only one service this day.