

# News



## **December 3: Second Sunday in Advent**

**9:15am** – Traditional worship with special music by the Northern Bells.

**9:15am** – Sunday School for all ages.

**10:10am** – Refreshments and Fellowship in the Hall.

**10:45am** – Praise service in the Hall.

Celebration of Holy Communion at both services.

## **December 10: Third Sunday in Advent**

**9:15am** – Traditional worship in the sanctuary.

**9:15am** – Sunday School for all ages.

**10:10am** – Refreshments and Fellowship in the Hall.

**10:45am** – Our Youth will present an Advent Drama, "Classic Christmas Mash-Up!"

## **December 17: Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**9:30am** – Refreshments and Fellowship in the Hall.

**10:00am** – Explore God's gifts of Creation, Mary, Joy, Love, Hope and Jesus through music by the Sanctuary Choir.

**10:00am** – Children's Christmas Celebration.





## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

*Each service is unique. We hope you will join us in worshiping God at both services.*

**10:00am** – Reflections on the grandeur of Christmas through scripture, meditations from Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Christmas Carols.

**5:00pm** – Celebration of the Christmas Story, Candlelight Worship, the Sacrament of Holy Communion and special music by the Sanctuary Choir.

## DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> SERVICE

**10:00am** ~ Celebrate the approaching new year at one service in the Hall.

*~No refreshments will be served this Sunday~*



## HANGING OF THE GREENS

Kick-off the Holiday Season with your church family at the Hanging of the Greens on Wednesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>! Bring the whole family! We'll begin with a meal at 5:30pm followed by crafts for children and the Hanging of the Greens at 6:00pm.

The Mitten Tree will be in the Narthex/Gathering Space during December. Please help fill the tree with mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for the Union Gospel Mission. All donations will be packed up and delivered before Christmas.



## CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

You are invited to the Christmas Luncheon to be held on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. Join us for fellowship, a traditional Scandinavian meal, and music! Folk singer and instrumentalist Ross Sutter is joined by Cheryl Paschke, nyckelharps and fiddle, and Marya Hart, piano. Scandinavian music and song will fill the air. The delightful program blends traditional and fun music, dances, and stories for *all ages*. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 10. Please sign-up in the Gathering Space or call the church office at 651-777-4044 by December 4<sup>th</sup>.

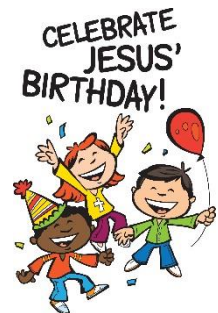


Echoing the declaration of the angels on the night of Christ's birth, *Glory to God in the Highest* daily devotions by Chad Bird explores and highlights the way God's glory was revealed in an unexpected way—the birth of Christ our Savior. As we will see during this Advent season, God continues to reveal himself in unexpected ways.

The angels are God's special messengers. *Angels We Have Heard on High* invites children to receive, celebrate and share their most exciting message of all: the good news and great joy that comes to us through Jesus' birth. Each day in Advent, an angel sticker is added to the Bethlehem skyline. When Christmas arrives, we join in singing the angels' first Noel!

Devotionals for adults and children can be picked up in the Gathering Space.

Children are invited to a Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am. Please join us for a morning of crafts, games, singing, goodies as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday!





## **ALTERNATIVE GIVING**

### **Presbyterian Giving Catalog**

Please give a gift of hope: from a mule to a well; from seeds to scholarships; from ending slavery to bunk beds, your gift will make a life-changing difference.

### **Remember Niger**

Your gift could provide education resources, scholarships or school lunches. Donations can be made in the name of someone you love.

### **Houses for Haiti**

All gifts are used to build houses for homeless people in Cite Soleil, Haiti, the poorest slum in the Western Hemisphere.

### **North St. Paul Food Shelf**

Bring food items for the grocery cart in the Gathering Space or make a monetary donation through the church. Your donations satisfy the hungry that may live just down your street.

### **Mitten Tree**

Help fill a tree with mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for the Union Gospel Mission.

### **Christmas Joy Offering**

The Christmas Joy Offering is distributed equally providing racial-ethnic, educational opportunities and support for church workers.

### **Christmas Flower Program**

To honor or remember a loved one or friend and to celebrate Christ's birth, plants have been purchased to first decorate the church, adding special meaning to our celebration of Christ's birth, and second to brighten your home after Christmas! You may pick up your plant or flower after the 5pm Christmas Eve Service. Any plants or flowers not picked up will be delivered to North members and friends who are sick or homebound.



For choirs and other musicians, Christmas preparations have already begun! Music makes Christmas even more special for performers and listeners. This is your invitation to join the Sanctuary Choir as we prepare for Advent and Christmas. There is no obligation to continue into the new year. Join us at rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7 - 8:30 p.m. with an extra rehearsal on Saturday morning, December 16. The enhanced choir will sing for Advent on November 26, December 10 and December 17 (choral service) plus Christmas Eve. Contact Mary Livingston at [mary.livingstonmusic@gmail.com](mailto:mary.livingstonmusic@gmail.com) or at 651-331-1089 so we can have music ready for you.



Do you have Christmas shopping you need to do? If you are a parent of a child under the age of 5, we invite you to enjoy a Parents' Night Out on **December 6**. You can feel comfortable knowing that your children are being watched by your church family as you enjoy an evening of adult time. You can drop your children off anytime between 5:30pm – 7:00pm in Room 21.

**LET'S END THE FISCAL YEAR IN THE BLACK!**

The 2017 fiscal year will end in less than a month. Summer is over and programs are ramping up, and cold weather and snow have arrived. As a result, expenses for heating, lighting and snow removal, to name a few, have increased. The Stewardship Commission needs your help to end the fiscal year in the black. Many of us have been absent from church during the summer and autumn and may have fallen behind on our giving. We would like to encourage you to bring your pledge payments and other contributions up to date so that we can maintain the positive financial health of North Church. Thank you for supporting our wonderful faith community at North.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held January 7th to approve Pastor James' Terms of Call and vote on revisions to our by-laws. The schedule for this Sunday will be the following:

- 9:30am** Refreshments
- 10:00am** Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:00am** Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00am** Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary
- 12:00pm** Lunch in the Hall

Thank you everyone who donated items for Operation Christmas Child. We assembled 38 boxes on November 19<sup>th</sup>, and they are now on their way to children around the world.



### HANDS-ON MISSION



We are so excited about your response to Hands-On Mission Sundays. You are truly showing you want to be the hands and feet of Christ. We have served in some very different ways, and been part of some pretty amazing ministries. Your participation does make a difference! Do you have suggestions about Hands on Mission? Please contact Lisa Diez at [diezlis@gmail.com](mailto:diezlis@gmail.com) or 651-808-4226. Or maybe you have a project you would like to do with your family and friends. I am happy to help set up something for you based on your passion area. In December, we will be packing hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Response. Save **December 17<sup>th</sup>** after worship to plan to help!



Thank you to Billie and David Novy for cleaning, repairing, and reattaching the many loose envelope holders in the pew racks. ~ Faith Commission

Houses For Haiti would like to thank all those who participated in the bowling fundraiser and/or contributed to it, on November 5<sup>th</sup>. We were able to raise \$2,400 towards 2 new houses. We would also like to thank those who purchased items at the Haitian market on November 12<sup>th</sup>, an additional \$300 was raised, and lastly we would like to thank the church for the \$313 donation. Because of your generosity we were able to meet our goal of \$10,000 to build 2 new houses. ~ Diane Albright, Houses For Haiti

A sincere thank you for your donations during the Presbyterian Women's bake sale on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Your generous donations have helped us purchase a few high need items for Solid Ground's Santa Shop. ~ Mary Morrisette

Thank you for your contribution of \$500 to PeaceMaker Minnesota. Our goal is to create a more peaceful, less violent, world through anti-bullying education. ~ Dan McNeil, Executive Director

Thank you for supporting our boy scout troop by purchasing wreaths and popcorn. ~Troop #188

Thank you for your donation of 36 pounds of food items in October to the North St. Paul Food Shelf. Your gift will enable us to continue serving families in North St. Paul and Oakdale. God bless you. ~ Dave and Linda Zick, North St. Paul Area Food Shelf

In the absence of the pastor or when contact with the session is desired, the elder on call for the month of December is Scott Zoya, 651-748-9784



Roy Ginn	December 3	Sharon Nowak	December 13
Shelly Willar	December 3	Susanne Meyer	December 14
Vicki Carvelli	December 4	Jeff Sandager	December 14
Juanita Etter	December 5	Charles Brabender	December 15
Lorraine Riebe	December 6	Betty Achtering	December 16
Mark Tiffany	December 7	Tom Clark	December 17
Marion Owens	December 10	Scott Zoya	December 18
Bruce Beck	December 11	Chuck Williams	December 19
Mia Ruiz-Lennertson	December 11	Chase Burkhart	December 20
Clark Kristensen	December 12	Beth Haukom	December 23
Laura Hurt	December 12	Allison Etter	December 31
George Smith	December 13	Amelia Hanna	December 31



**Friday, December 1**

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

**Saturday, December 2**

10:00am El Shadai Bible Study

3:00pm El Shadai

**Sunday, December 3 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

9:15am Sunday School

9:15am Traditional Worship with

Northern Bells

10:10am Refreshments

10:45am Kerygma

10:45am Praise Worship

1:30pm El Shadai

**Monday, December 4**

9:30am PW Coordinating Team

7:00pm Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, December 5**

9:00am Comforters

7:00pm 12-Step Program

7:00pm Northern Bells

**Wednesday, December 6**

5:30pm Parents' Night Out

5:30pm Youth Group Fellowship

6:00pm Children's Fellowship

7:00pm Choir Practice

7:15pm Youth Band

7:30pm Praise Band

**Thursday, December 7**

6:00pm El Shadai

6:30pm Faith Commission

6:30pm Music Sense Band

7:00pm Deacons

7:00pm Life & Stewardship

7:15pm Nurture Commission

**Friday, December 8**

5:00pm Carol Mathey's Christmas Party

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

**Saturday, December 9**

11:30am Holiday Luncheon  
**Sunday, December 10 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

9:15am Sunday School  
9:15am Traditional Worship  
10:10am Refreshments  
10:45am Kerygma  
10:45am Youth Advent Drama  
1:30pm El Shadai

**Monday, December 11**

8:00am ARM Breakfast  
9:45am Ruth Circle  
7:00pm Personnel  
7:00pm Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, December 12**

9:00am Comforters  
7:00pm 12-Step Program  
7:00pm Northern Bells

**Wednesday, December 13**

5:30pm Youth Group Fellowship  
6:00pm Wednesday Women  
7:00pm Choir Practice

**Thursday, December 14**

5:30pm Great Rivers District Meeting  
6:00pm El Shadai  
6:30pm Cub Scouts  
6:30pm Music Sense Band

**Friday, December 15**

6:00pm Boy Scouts Lock-In  
7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

**Saturday, December 16**

9:30am El Shadai  
3:00pm El Shadai

**Sunday, December 17~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent  
Hands-On Mission**

9:30am Refreshments  
10:00am Children's Christmas Party  
10:00am Choral Worship  
10:45am Kerygma  
1:30pm El Shadai

**Monday, December 18**

3:00pm Guild Meeting  
6:00pm Quilt Guild  
7:00pm Boy Scouts

3:00pm El Shadai

**Tuesday, December 19**

9:00am Comforters  
7:00pm 12-Step Program  
7:00pm Northern Bells

**Wednesday, December 20**

5:30pm Youth Group Fellowship  
6:00pm Children's Fellowship  
7:00pm Choir Practice

**Thursday, December 21**

6:00pm El Shadai  
6:30pm Music Sense Band  
7:00pm Session

**Friday, December 22**

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

**Saturday, December 23**

3:00pm El Shadai

**Sunday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve**

9:30am Refreshments  
10:00am Traditional Worship  
1:30pm El Shadai  
5:00pm Christmas Eve Worship

**Monday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day  
OFFICE CLOSED**

**Tuesday, December 26**

7:00pm 12-Step Program

**Wednesday, December 27**

7:30pm Praise Band

**Thursday, December 28**

6:00pm El Shadai

**Friday, December 29**

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

**Saturday, December 30**

3:00pm El Shadai

**Sunday, December 31**

10:00am Worship in the Hall  
1:30pm El Shadai

**Monday, January 1**

Innovator Articles Due

**Office Hours will be limited  
December 25 – 31.**