

December 2019 Innovator

News



December 1: First Sunday in Advent

9:15am – Refreshments and Fellowship

9:30am – Worship

10:30am – Birthday Celebration & Hanging of the Greens

Celebration of Holy Communion at both services

December 8: Second Sunday in Advent

9:15am – Refreshments and Fellowship

9:30am – Advent Drama with Adults, Youth & Children

December 15: Third Sunday in Advent

9:15am – Refreshments and Fellowship

9:30am – Traditional worship with music from the Sanctuary Choir

9:30am – Children's Christmas Celebration

10:30am – Hands-On Mission

December 22: Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:15am – Refreshments and Fellowship

9:30am – Traditional worship with music from the Northern Bells





CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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

DECEMBER 29th SERVICE

9:30am ~ Celebrate the approaching new year at one service in the Sanctuary.

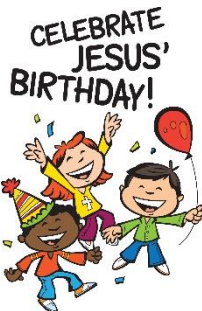
~No refreshments will be served this Sunday~



HANGING OF THE GREENS

Kick-off the Holiday Season with your church family at the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, **December 1st**! Join us after worship to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas!

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 and North Metro Flex Academy. All donations will be packed up and delivered before Christmas.



Children are invited to a Christmas Celebration on Sunday, **December 15th**, at 9:30am. Please join us for a morning of crafts, games, singing, goodies as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday!



Celebrate the eternal gift of hope found in the past, present, and future presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus! *Hope of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come* guides you through daily Advent prayers focusing on the long-ago promise of the coming Christ, the present coming of Christ into our daily lives and the hope of Christ's glorious return and our eternal home. These prayers lift your spirit throughout the Advent season with a daily reminder of the infinite ways God has, is and will continue to bless us all.

Children will love the *2019 Advent Calendar* filled with Scripture verses, activities, thought starters and Advent images for every day of Advent. Each mini-meditation helps children focus on the coming Savior.

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

HYMN LEADER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for volunteers to step forward and act as Hymn Leaders. This new ministry will allow us to be more flexible when it comes to singing new or unfamiliar hymns, call-and-response hymns, songs that have unfamiliar introductions or interludes, etc. You would be singing from the lectern at the front of church. Hymn leaders should be at least 14 years old. You can do it as an individual, as a husband / wife team, parent / child, siblings or any two people who want to sing together. If you want to try it as a duo, but don't have someone to sing with, we can arrange for hymn leading partners. The goal is to have enough hymn leaders that each person or duo will sing once every 4 to 6 weeks. To find out more about this opportunity, contact Mary Livingston at 651-331-1089 or mary.livingstonmusic@gmail.com.

HOUSES FOR HAITI

It's been a year since we implemented the *Change For Haiti* jars on the first Sunday of every month. In the first year, we collected \$188.24. Thank you to everyone who saved their change and brought it in on the first of each month. Please remember to keep saving your change and to pray for Haiti. Currently, they are in the midst of civil unrest and protests. All schools have been closed since the end of September and people are unable to go to work. There is a huge gas shortage and people are unable to get food and water. Thanks for your continued support!



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 and North Metro Flex Academy.

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 Christmas Eve Service. Any plants or flowers not picked up will be delivered to North members and friends who are sick or homebound.



LET'S END THE FISCAL YEAR IN THE BLACK!

The 2019 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.

STATEMENT 2019 Year-to-Date Activity (Detailed report available in the church office)

Total Income	\$249,446
Total Expenses	<u>\$267,136</u>
Overall Total (Deficit)	<u><u>(\$17,690)</u></u>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held **January 5th**. The schedule for this Sunday will be the following:



9:15am	Refreshments
9:30am	Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30am	Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary
11:00pm	Lunch in the Hall

Thank you so much for all of your wonderful work in packing shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child with Samaritan's Purse. We packed 71 boxes this year all on our own. This is something to really be proud of! All of the kids had so much fun picking out presents, and it looked as though the adults were having a good time too. If you are on Facebook, check out pictures from the event. Otherwise, you should see some scrolling through the front entrance way sign as well.



HANDS-ON MISSION



On Sunday, December 15, Hands-On Mission will be writing Christmas cards to every resident at Polar Ridge Senior Living in North St. Paul. We will write 175 Christmas cards for all of the seniors in our community at Polar Ridge after worship this day!

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

Thank you for your continuing support of the Elementary Schools food shelf mission. As we move through the holiday season, please remember the needs this mission fulfills and support us if you are able.



Roy Ginn	December 3		Sharon Nowak	December 13
Shelly Willar	December 3		Susanne Meyer	December 14
Vicki Carvelli	December 4		Charles Brabender	December 15
Juanita Etter	December 5		Betty Achtering	December 16
Lorraine Riebe	December 6		Tom Clark	December 17
Bryant Abanei	December 6		Scott Zoya	December 18
Mark Tiffany	December 7		Chuck Williams	December 19
Bruce Beck	December 11		Beth Haukom	December 23
Laura Hurt	December 12		Allison Etter	December 31
George Smith	December 13			



Sunday, December 1

9:15am Refreshments
9:30am Worship
10:30am Fellowship & Fun
10:45am Kerygma
12:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 2

7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 3

7:00pm 12-Step Program
7:00pm Northern Bells

Wednesday, December 4

5:30pm Youth Fellowship
7:00pm Choir Practice
7:00pm Praise Band

Thursday, December 5

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 6

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, December 7

3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 8

9:15am Refreshments
9:30am Christmas Pageant
10:45am Kerygma
12:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 9

8:00am ARM Breakfast
7:00pm Personnel

Tuesday, December 10

7:00pm 12-Step Program
7:00pm Northern Bells

Wednesday, December 11

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

Thursday, December 12

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

Friday, December 13

4:00pm Carol Mathey's Christmas
6:00pm Boy Scout Lock-In
7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, December 14

9:00am Choir Rehearsal
3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 15

9:15am Refreshments
9:30am Children's Christmas Party
9:30am Choral Worship
10:30am Hands-On Mission
10:45am Kerygma
12:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 16

1:00pm Ruth Circle
3:00pm Guild Meeting
6:00pm Quilt Guild

Tuesday, December 17

7:00pm 12-Step Program
7:00pm Northern Bells

Wednesday, December 18

5:30pm Youth Fellowship
7:00pm Choir Practice
7:00pm Praise Band

Thursday, December 19

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

Friday, December 20

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, December 21

3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 22

9:15am Refreshments
9:30am Choral Bell Worship
12:30pm El Shadai

Tuesday, December 24

5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 25

Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

6:00pm El Shadai

Friday, December 27

7:00pm El Shadai Bible Study

Saturday, December 28

3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 29

9:30am Worship
12:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 30

Innovator Articles Due
7:00pm Boy Scouts

Office Hours will be limited
December 24 – January 1.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Hours
(Monday-Thursday 8:30am-1:30pm)
north@northchurch-mn.org
651-777-4044
(Voicemail is not checked Friday or Saturday)

The fastest way to reach Pastor James after hours is to send an email to
4theyorks@gmail.com with a call back number.

Emergency Pastoral Care

In the absence of the pastor or when contact with the session is desired,
the elder on call for the month of December is Ann Bearth, 651-788-0381.

Custodian

Nelson Portillo

Nelson has limited English, therefore we contact him through his son at 651-278-1831
or Pastor Arcenio's son, Christian, at 651-428-8107 from 3pm-9pm Monday-Friday.

Emergency Building Contacts

Thor Sellie (Home: 651-770-5943 or Cell: 612-840-0144)
Mike Gerhardson (Cell: 651-808-0307)