

December 2021 Innovator

News



December 5: Second Sunday in Advent

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

10:30am – Refreshments and Fellowship

December 12: Third Sunday in Advent

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

10:30am – Refreshments and Fellowship

December 19: Fourth Sunday in Advent

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

10:30am – Refreshments and Fellowship

10:30am – Hands-On Mission

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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



The service will also be livestreamed on Youtube. You can find the links via our webpage northchurch-mn.org. Click on the red YouTube icon in the upper right corner. To access North Church's YouTube Channel, follow this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFxRhCSCfSL8Ru5T3aV1Asw?view_as=subscriber



DECEMBER 26th WORSHIP

9:30am ~ Join us for online worship from the comfort of your home.

JANUARY 2ND WORSHIP

9:30am ~ Celebrate the beginning of 2022 with our Praise Worship in the Hall.



Celebrate Advent and draw closer to our Savior through the daily reflections and prayers inspired by Scripture and the spiritual writings of Henri J. M. Nouwen. *The Fullness of Time* invites readers to pray each day and encounter Emmanuel, God-with-us. Each devotion begins with a Scripture verse, followed by the words of beloved theological master Henri Nouwen and a reflection from contemporary writer and retreat leader Amy Ekeh. A prayer closes each daily reflection, leading readers to experience a fullness of faith in Christ Jesus.

Children will love *How Do They Celebrate Christmas?* booklet and advent chain. Families will make new connections with children in other countries and learn to say “Merry Christmas” or “Happy Birthday, Jesus” in 24 different languages. Each day of Advent, read and reflect on the ways that kids around the globe celebrate Jesus’ birthday. Each devotion ends with a prayer that people all over the world will know the joy of Jesus at Christmas and always!

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

The Mitten Tree will be in the Narthex/Gathering Space during December. Please help decorate the tree with mittens, gloves, scarves, and hats that will be donated to a local charity. All donations will be packed up and delivered before Christmas.



Sunday, December 12 @ 10:30-11:30am

Fireside Room

Love to bake over the holidays but don't have time to make a variety of cookies? Participate in our cookie exchange! Each participant will make batches of one cookie type (number of dozens to be determined based on participation level). We'll meet on December 12th to exchange cookies and sample the baked goodies! Please email or text Shelley by November 30th if interested in participating and what cookie you plan to make. Once we have a head count, we'll let you know how many dozens to make. Email: shell.ross@comcast.net or text 612-804-3450. Happy baking!!



HANDS-ON MISSION

Thank you to everyone who helped pack hygiene kits to donate to Involve MN for our November Hands-On Mission. These kits will help those struggling with being unsheltered on our Minneapolis and St. Paul area streets. Our next Hands-On Mission will be on **December 19** at 10:30am.

As always, if you have ideas that you would like to share with our Mission's Coordinator, Lisa Diez, please contact her at diezlisa@gmail.com or by phone at 651-808-4226.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY HOSPITALITY SERVICE

Are you enjoying the return of Sunday refreshments in between services? It has been nice to see people start to enjoy fellowship with coffee and snacks in the hall again after such a long break. As we continue with hospitality service on Sundays, volunteers are needed in the future to help in preparing the refreshments and cleaning up afterwards. If you can help by volunteering once a month, or even once every other month, that would be appreciated. Please reach out to Greg Hickman if you are willing to help at greghickman@hotmail.com or 651-206-4438. Thanks!



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

You can make a monetary donation through the church to satisfy the hungry that may live just down your street.

Mitten Tree

Help fill a tree with mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for local charities.

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.





HELP STOCK UP THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Have you noticed the little library box at the entrance of North Church? The Little Free Library was recently installed, and I'd like your help to fill it up with books. The Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in Hudson, Wisconsin. They have a mission to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries. You can learn more about their organization by visiting their website at littlefreelibrary.org. If you have any books, preferably children's books, that you would like to donate, please bring them with you to church and place them inside our little library at the entrance to the church parking lot. Your book donations will help to bring the community closer to North Church and hopefully inspire others to read and learn. Thank you to Sam Hickman for donating the library to North Church.



Our next *Change for Haiti* Sunday is **December 5**, so please save your extra change to put in the jars on this Sunday.



Facebook Viewing Option

Recordings of our traditional worship service dating back to September 19, 2021, are available for viewing on the North Church Facebook page.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held **January 23rd**. The schedule for this Sunday will be the following:

- 9:00am** Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:00am** Refreshments
- 10:00am** Congregational Meeting in the Hall
- 10:45am** Praise Worship in the Hall

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Pumpkin Patch. It was a successful project that will greatly benefit our youth mission trips.



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	Eleanor Hurt	December 23
George Smith	December 13	Allison Etter	December 31



Wednesday, December 1

6:30pm Praise Band Practice
7:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 2

8:00am FCHE
6:00pm El Shadai
6:00pm Life Commission
6:30pm Faith Commission
7:00pm Stewardship Commission

Friday, December 3

7:00pm El Shadai Youth Fellowship

Saturday, December 4

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

Sunday, December 5

9:15am Childcare
9:30am Choral Worship
10:30am Advent Drama Filming
10:30am Fellowship
1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 6

7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 7

6:00pm Martial Arts
6:30pm Northern Bells
7:00pm Deacons
7:00pm 12-Step Meeting
7:00pm Nurture Commission

Wednesday, December 8

6:15pm Wednesday Women
6:30pm Praise Band Practice
7:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 9

8:00am FCHE
6:00pm El Shadai

Friday, December 10

6:00pm Boy Scout Lock-In Begins
7:00pm El Shadai Youth Fellowship

Saturday, December 11

6:00am Boy Scout Lock-In Ends
3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 12

9:15am Childcare
9:30am Northern Bell Worship
10:30am Advent Drama Filming
10:30am Fellowship
1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 13

7:00pm Personnel

Tuesday, December 14

6:00pm Martial Arts
7:00pm 12-Step Meeting

Wednesday, December 15

10:00am Choral Bells
6:30pm Praise Band Practice
7:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 16

8:00am FCHE
6:00pm El Shadai
7:00pm Session

Friday, December 17

7:00pm El Shadai Youth Fellowship

Saturday, December 18

3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 19

9:15am Childcare
9:30am Advent Drama
10:30am Fellowship
10:30am Hands-On Mission
1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 20

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

Tuesday, December 21

6:00pm Martial Arts
7:00pm 12-Step Meeting

Wednesday, December 22

6:30pm Praise Band Practice
7:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, December 23

6:00pm El Shadai

Friday, December 24

5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 25

3:00pm El Shadai

Sunday, December 26

9:30am Online Worship Only
1:30pm El Shadai

Monday, December 27

Innovator Articles Due

Tuesday, December 28

7:00pm 12-Step Meeting

Wednesday, December 29

6:30pm Praise Band Practice

Thursday, December 30

6:00pm El Shadai

Friday, December 31

7:00pm El Shadai Youth Fellowship

STATEMENT 2021
Year-to-Date Activity
(Detailed report available in the church office)

Total Income	\$232,307
Total Expenses	<u>\$227,516</u>
Overall Total Surplus	<u><u>\$4,791</u></u>

DECEMBER OFFERINGS REMINDER

If you wish that your December contributions to North Church be included in the calendar year 2021, your donations must be received by **December 30**. Counters will make their year-end count early on December 31. Thank you for your continuing support! ~ Stewardship Team

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office Hours
(Monday-Thursday 9:00am-12:00pm)
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.

Please respect Renee's family time by not calling her cell phone. For an emergency,
please send an email to rlkristensen@gmail.com.

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 Mike Gerhardson, 651-808-0307.

Custodian

Nelson Portillo

Nelson has limited English, therefore we contact him through his son at 651-443-6612
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)