
THE AMBASSADOR

ST. MATTHIAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MINOCQUA, WISCONSIN

DECEMBER 2019

How fortunate we are to belong to a liturgical tradition; our calendar is circular rather than linear, allowing our worship year to carry us through the Christian story as it is set, within the broader history of God's relationship with humankind. The church year begins and ends, and begins again, each season in Advent. Readings during Advent remind us of the time when the world lay in waiting for the Word of God who would begin the healing of our hearts. For Christians, who know that the story does not remain one of endless waiting, the season leading up to Christmas is one we spend in reflection and hope. This time of remembering helps us prepare to receive Christmas, not just as a day of giving gifts and eating festive meals, but as the day God entered the world in human form to remind us that not only are we not alone, we are each beloved, if wayward, children and worthy of this Great Gift.

The counter cultural message of our Advent readings and hymns challenge us to slow down instead of rushing. We are compelled, by them, to look away from the craziness of "last chance offers" with the constant pressure to join in the retail frenzy (and all the stress that can bring) and towards a time of quiet; settling into the stillness instead, watching and waiting on the Advent of God Incarnate. Though it may seem strange, to think in a non-linear fashion, our settling-in begins with readings that remind us of all we have, and all we will have, by starting with the end of Christ's earthly ministry, the ending that comes before beginning of the story. Advent starts at the time of the Cross and ends on Christmas day. As we prepare to welcome the Christ child into the world, we are reminded daily that there is much to be thankful in our lives because of this continuing cycle.



Ways to Welcome and Feel Welcomed

Advent and Christmas at St. Matthias

Thursday December 19, 6pm: Taizé Evensong in partnership with Marywood, held at St. Matthias' and followed by warm fellowship and a potluck. Perfect, as a way to slow down and be present during Advent, Taizé services are designed to encourage stillness of heart and receptivity to the voice of God. These short, meditative services include song, scripture, prayer, and silence, set in candlelight. .

Saturdays in December. Our second and fourth Saturday Family Services are on the 14th and the 28th at 4pm. Godly Play based homilies this month explore the stories Advent and Christmas.

Sundays during Advent

December 1, Advent I, Lessons and Carols 10am

Join us on the first Sunday of Advent as we celebrate the beginning of this season of hopeful anticipation. During the service, scriptural readings are interspersed with reflections, Advent hymns and chorale music, all of which recall mankind's longing for liberation from sin and death, and our hope and expectation for the both the first and second coming of Christ the Lord. Following the service join us during coffee hour for the first of three sessions on *Advent in Narnia*, Heidi Haverkamp's delightful exploration of C.S. Lewis' classic, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

Sunday, December 8, Advent II, Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10am

Join us on the second Sunday of Advent. We will light the second candle of the season, sing beautiful Advent carols and worship together as we await the birth of the Christ child. Following the service will be the second of our three *Advent in Narnia* forums.

Sunday, December 15, Advent III, Native American Service, 10 am

Join us on the third Sunday of Advent for our quarterly Enculturated Native American Liturgy. The third Sunday of Advent is often called Gaudeté (Rejoice) Sunday, let the heartbeat of drums, music, and dance in this service lift your heart as we come nearer to Christmas and our celebration of the Incarnation of God. After the service we have a potluck and will delve into the final session of *Advent in Narnia*.

Sunday, December 22 Advent IV, Holy Eucharist Rite II, 10am

There is no Adult Forum this week, instead, you are invited to stay and help with the "Greening of the Church" in preparation for Christmas. Decorating our worship space for Christmas is a truly enjoyable experience and no experience is necessary! There are lots of jobs for everyone young, and old, and in-between to place a bit of greenery, set up the Nativity scene, arrange the poinsettias, polish the candle sticks, and, oh so many other ways. Join in the fellowship and fun of preparing our church for the day of Christ's birth. As always, a delicious Chili meal will be served to hungry helpers afterwards.

Advent to Christmas in nothing flat but sharp enough

As I drive south from Wakefield to Minocqua on this snowy day, I am happy that I have winter tires to tackle more than fifteen inches of snow! Along the way, I am given a rare opportunity to listen to , and pray with the Rosary on CD, while looking out on the beautiful wintery landscape. This gives quiet time birth to an idea to make a great Advent memory. As we start our journey in Advent, awaiting our Savior's birth, the choir can gift time at the beginning of the service for meditation as we all make ourselves ready to prepare the way of the Lord! To help you enter into the season the choir will offer a Bach chorale, prior to the service each Sunday in Advent. We invite you to come to church a little early this season to steep yourselves in peaceful music of the season.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting half hour of music planned for Christmas Eve before our beautiful festival Eucharist. This pre-service musical offering includes much congregational participation, with favorites such as When Blossoms Flowered 'mid the Snows and It Came Upon a Midnight Clear . Try not to miss it and come to the Christmas Day service too, as you wonder as you wander out under the sky...

Grant unto us communion with you, O Star abiding One. Come unto us and dwell with us, bless us with life that has no end. (Wakantanka take nitawa)

Pax, Ihre Kapellmeister George

Advent Native American Service

Sunday, December 15th at 10:00 am

DRUMMING • DANCING • MUSIC

Please feel free to bring a dish to pass for the potluck feast afterward.

St. Matthias' Episcopal Church

Downtown Minocqua • All are welcome



Education for Ministry group begins in January

The continuing Education for Ministry (EfM) group at St. Matthias—which includes Kathleen Holmes, Molly Chabalowski, Bill Dickens, Pat Billimack, Naomi Bruesehoff, Jane Trotter and Dick Bruesehoff—invites you to become an EfM participant. In a small, mentored group we have found a place where we can explore our lives and actions as they are shaped by Christian faith. Through study, reflection, conversation and prayer, EfM helps us live more fully, guided and shaped by God's dream for us and God's beloved world. If you'd like to learn more about EfM, please ask any of us! We'll begin a new year together in January.

Opportunities for Fellowship



Blue Christmas Service

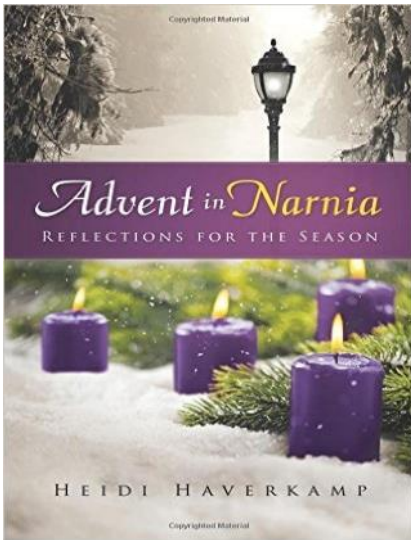
Wednesday, December 18, 12:00 pm

United Methodist Church of the Pines, Downtown Minocqua
and

Wednesday, December 18, 5:30 pm

St. Matthias' Episcopal Church, Downtown Minocqua

The Blue Christmas Service is a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the “blue” feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. We will invite you to reflect on the pain, the loneliness, and the sadness you may feel and offer it all to our great sign of hope, the Christ child. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.



Advent in Narnia

Beginning on December 1 and continuing on the 8th, & 15th, you are invited to join in a delightful Advent series in the Parish Hall. We will meet from 12:00-1:00, each Sunday to read a little, watch a clip from the film version (or two!) and explore Advent through the wonderful world of Narnia.



Evensong

Thursday, December 19 6:00 pm

An Evening Service of Prayer and Music of
Taizé



Greening the Church

Sunday, December 22nd
11:00 am

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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Evening grief group

Minocqua

This is a drop-in support group for anyone who is experiencing grief at this time in their life. You are welcome to bring friends with you to help in the healing process. This FREE support group is facilitated by hospice staff and requires no registration.

When:

First Wednesday of the month
6-7 p.m.

Where:

St. Matthias Episcopal Church
Parish Hall
403 E. Chicago Avenue, Minocqua

Contact:

For more information or questions please contact Barbara Schjoneman, Ascension at Home Bereavement Coordinator at 800-234-3542.

ascensionathome.com



Contact Information

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10:00 am to 3:00 pm

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Office Closures in December

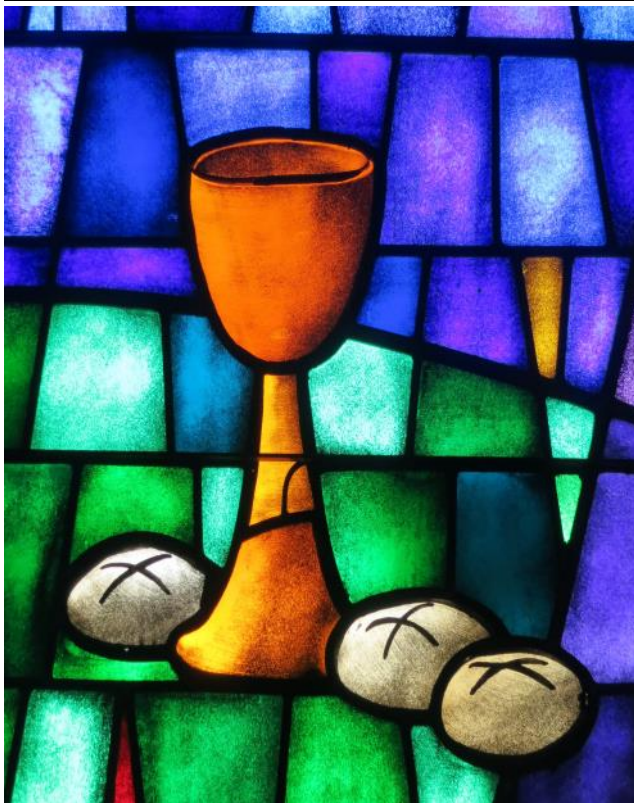
December 13th, December 25th and 26th,
December 31st



LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December 2019

DATE	CHALICE	LECTOR	PRAYERS	USHERS	GREETERS
Dec 1 – 10:00	Diederich, B Heeren, J	Guy, B	Walker, M	Pecore, M Schillinger, D	-----
Dec 8 – 10:00	Chabalowski, C Holt, B	Randolph, J	Herren, J	Coleman, R Coleman, N	-----
Dec 15 – 10:00	Diederich, B Brant, S	Guy, B	Sengstock, D	Brant, J Clark, C	-----
Dec 22 – 10:00	Holt, B Clark, C	Ackerman-Behr, G	Coleman, N	Coleman, R Coleman, N	-----
Dec 29 – 10:00	Brant, S Clark, C	Clark, C	Ackerman- Behr, G		



Opportunity to Serve

Cheryl Boyd let us know that Maryellen Baker is beginning her annual Christmas Food Basket, and New Toy, drive for 2019, for families in need in Lac Courte Oreilles.

Last year she and her volunteers gave out 39 baskets and over 400 toys to 40 families. Many of these families were Grandparents taking care of grandchildren of parents in jail, or who have custody due to parents on drugs or from death. For most this was all they had for the holidays.

The LCO Police Department helps deliver the baskets now, which Mrs. Baker reports is a lot of help. She is grateful for the food and monetary donations we have been able to send the past three years. Any donations of perishable foods and monetary donations for this year will be appreciated. Toys are already taken care of, this year.

Cheryl will be collecting our donations for delivery to Mrs. Baker on December 15 after the Native American Service. Monetary donations can be dropped off at church anytime before then, but please bring perishable, holiday meal, foods only during that week, or on the day.

Checks can be made to Maryellen Baker, or to St. Matthias with her name on the memo line.

DECEMBER 2019

1-Dec

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist for Advent
12:00 PM Advent in Narnia
4:00 PM Small Group Bible Study
7:00 PM NA Parish Hall

2-Dec

9:30 AM Morning Prayer
10:15 AM Monday Morning Discussion Group
3:30 PM Yoga
5:00 PM EFM Meeting

3-Dec

4:30 PM Healing Eucharist
7:00 PM NA - Edgar's Place

4-Dec

9:30 AM Morning Prayer
12:00 PM NA - Edgar's Place
6:00 PM Grief Support

5-Dec

9:00 AM Caritas Outreach Ministry
3:30 PM Northwoods Farm Share pick up
4:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

6-Dec

10:30 AM Yoga
1:00 PM Line Dancing
7:00 PM NA - Edgar's Place

7-Dec

11:30 AM NA - Edgar's Place

8-Dec

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist for Advent
12:00 PM Advent in Narnia
4:00 PM Small Group Bible Study
7:00 PM NA Parish Hall

9-Dec

9:30 AM Morning Prayer
10:15 AM Monday Morning Discussion Group
3:30 PM Yoga
5:00 PM EFM Meeting

10-Dec

4:30 PM Healing Eucharist
5:00 PM Facilities Team Meeting
7:00 PM NA - Edgar's Place

11-Dec

9:30 AM Morning Prayer
12:00 PM NA - Edgar's Place
6:00 PM Vestry Holiday Party

12-Dec

8:00 AM Men of Matthias
8:15 AM Women of Matthias
9:00 AM Caritas Outreach Ministry
11:30 AM Beta Sigma Phi Sorority
3:30 PM Northwoods Farm Share pick up
4:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

13-Dec

Church Office will be closed
10:30 AM Yoga
1:00 PM Line Dancing
7:00 PM NA - Edgar's Place

14-Dec

11:30 AM NA - Edgar's Place
4:00 PM Family Service

15-Dec

9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist for Advent
12:00 PM Advent in Narnia
4:00 PM Small Group Bible Study
7:00 PM NA Parish Hall

16-Dec

9:00 AM Pastoral Care Meeting
9:30 AM Morning Prayer
10:15 AM Monday Morning Discussion Group
10:30 AM LEV Meeting
3:30 PM Yoga
5:00 PM EFM Meeting

DECEMBER 2019



17-Dec		24-Dec	Christmas Eve
8:30 AM	Volunteer Day at Lakeland Pantry	5:00 PM	Family Christmas Eucharist
3:00 PM	Personal Products Pantry Distribution	7:00 PM	NA—Edgar's Place
4:30 PM	Healing Eucharist	9:00 PM	Music of Christmas
5:00 PM	Tom's Community Table	9:30 PM	Festival Christmas Eucharist
7:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place		
18-Dec		25-Dec	Christmas Day (Church Office Closed)
9:30 AM	Morning Prayer	10:00 AM	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist
12:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place	12:00 PM	NA—Edgar's Place
12:00 PM	Blue Christmas		
5:00 PM	Blue Christmas	26-Dec	Church Office Closed
		8:00 AM	Men of Matthias
19-Dec		9:00 AM	Caritas Outreach Ministry
9:00 AM	Caritas Outreach Ministry	3:30 PM	Northwoods Farm Share pick up
3:30 PM	Northwoods Farm Share pick up	4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
4:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal		
6:00 PM	Evensong	27-Dec	
		10:30 AM	Yoga
20-Dec		7:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place
10:30 AM	Yoga		
1:00 PM	Line Dancing	28-Dec	
7:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place	11:30 AM	NA—Edgar's Place
		4:00 PM	Family Service
21-Dec			
11:30 AM	NA - Edgar's Place	29-Dec	
		9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
22-Dec		10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
9:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal	4:00 PM	Small Group Bible Study (Erin's House)
10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist for Advent	7:00 PM	NA Parish Hall
11:00 AM	Greening of the Church		
4:00 PM	Small Group Bible Study	30-Dec	
7:00 PM	NA Parish Hall	9:15 AM	Morning Prayer
		10:15 AM	Monday Morning Discussion Group
23-Dec		3:30 PM	Yoga
9:15 AM	Morning Prayer		
10:15 AM	Monday Morning Discussion Group	31-Dec	New Year's Eve (Church Office Closed)
3:30 PM	Yoga	7:00 PM	NA - Edgar's Place