

Sunday News – December 1

Church Tour, Sunday Dec 1: If you would like to know more about the church's history meet at the main doors on the west side of the sanctuary following the 10:30 a.m. postlude.

Giving Tree: The Giving Tree stands in our sanctuary ready to accept our gifts of warm hats, gloves, mittens, scarfs, fleece blankets and underwear for men and women. Toiletries for both men and women are also good choices. Soon the tree becomes a wonderful Symbol of Giving and Gratitude as the branches fill with our gifts to our breakfast café neighbors. The children of our parish and their families will fill gift bags with these and other gifts the week of Christmas, and we will distribute them on the morning of Sunday Dec. 22. May our Giving Tree be a reminder of all that we have been given and of our promise to Jesus that we will love our neighbor as ourselves.

Sacred Sounds: A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols: Dec. 8: Anticipate Christ's birth in this service of scripture readings and new and traditional carols sung by the St. Mark's Choir under the direction of Gregory Crowell.

St. Mark's Caroling Party, Dec. 15: Meet at the church at 3:45 p.m. for a fun evening of caroling. Caroling teams depart at 4 p.m. Chili supper in the parish hall starting at 6 p.m. Chili, Mac N Cheese and Cider provided. Please bring a side or dessert to pass. Festive holiday attire encouraged (break out those Christmas sweaters). Come spread some cheer. See Kelley Stoppels or sign up at the welcome desk.

St. Mark's Liturgical Calendar: Free wall calendars are available for you on the resource table in the north transept. These calendars include the dates for the Principal Feasts, Holy Days, Days of Special Devotion and Requiem Eucharist. The book of common Prayer guides the usage for each entry in this Ordo Kalendar.

Women's Spa Day, Dec. 19: Please consider volunteering to help with this day in which we open up the doors and parish house to pamper women in need. Women are invited in for a boutique, foot care, dental care, hair care, crafts, massage and a delicious meal. Many hands are needed to make this a great day. A signup sheet is located on the welcome desk. If you have any questions please contact Mother Sue.

Greening of the Parish Church, Dec 22: The tradition of decorating the Church for Christmas, "Hanging of the Greens" will take place on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 3 p.m. If you wish to help, please come!

Grants Ministry Update: The Grants Ministry group has been meeting for about the last 16 months. In the last fiscal year (2018-19) we received grants from the Frey Foundation for \$8,000 (for the building planning feasibility) the Cook Foundation for \$14,000 (for food for the Cafe) Meijer Donations for \$2,000 (for Cafe food) and the Whittemore Foundation for \$8,039 (for security personnel). We are happy to announce that this week we learned that the Wege Foundation has committed \$35,000 over the next two years. This new funding will pay for a (15 hour per week) kitchen coordinator and for additional food for the Breakfast Cafe. As we have let the community learn about our outreach efforts in the downtown neighborhood, they are willing to assist us in this effort and are helping us plan for safety, other needed training, and the necessary building enhancements at the same time. We are so grateful to all of our partners and thrilled to have the Wege Foundation join us in this work.

Advent Wednesday Series: Please, join us as we join our sisters and brothers at St. Andrew's for three Wednesdays in December. The series will be entitled, "Hope for the Present" and the youth will follow an Advent Curriculum of Journeying the Way of Love. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a potluck dinner; Program to begin at 6:15; Evening Prayer to conclude the evening at 7:00. 12/4 at St. Luke's (3215 4 Mile Rd NE) - Mark Smeby playing piano; 12/11 at St. Andrew's (1025 3 Mile Rd NE) - Pastor Dave Blank talks about Hope in the Community; 12/18 at St. Luke's -- Mother Molly Bosscher talks about Hope in the City. There is parking in the rear of the church property. All are welcome!

Advent Prayer Materials: Please help yourself to the 2019 Advent Meditations. Thank you so much to Anne and Mike Armour who edited and compiled the meditations and all of the writers who gave of their time and talent to give us these meaningful devotions. Two other prayer resources are available as well and all of these materials may be found on the resource tables.

Breakfast Café Volunteers Needed: If you can help with dishwashing and cleaning on a Sunday, please consider volunteering. We are in search for a new staff person for six hours to assist with kitchen and other cleaning duties. Please, help if you can, and if you know of anyone, please let me know. We are also hoping to have parishioners involved with welcoming and security from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. ~Christian+

Vestry 2020: A number of Vestry positions will be filled in 2020. If you are interested in serving, please, see Chris Trevathan, Senior Warden, or Fr. Christian for qualities and qualifications needed for this important ministry.