



The Voice

December 2007

The Advent of our God....

Christmas Worship Schedule

Join us for the following special Christmas events:

Sunday School Prog 12/9 10:45 AM
 4-F's Cookie Making 12/9 1:00 PM
 Little Angel and St. John's
 Academy Program 12/9 4:00 PM
 Disney on Ice 12/15 5:00 PM
 Holidazzle Parade 12/16 2:00PM
 Advent 4 Sunday 12/23
 8/9:30/10:45 AM
 Christmas Eve Children's service
 12/24 4:00 PM
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 12/24 10:30 PM
 Bible Study 12/30 8:00 AM
 Worship Service 12/30 9:30 AM

One Worship Service Only on 12/30

Advent

Please join us for our Advent meals at 6:00 PM on Wednesdays to help send our youth to workcamp, followed by our Advent Worship Services at 7:00 PM. The meal schedule is:

Dec 5 – Scalloped Potatoes & ham, and Vegetable

Dec 12 - Chili, Grilled Cheese Sandwich

Dec 19 – Spaghetti, Salad, Bread

There will be a freewill offering. Thank you.

Pastor Al's Bible Study

Would you like to critique Pastor Al's sermon? Would you like to ask questions his sermon may have raised and left unanswered? Come to the Bible Study at 7:00 PM on December 9 at church. Pastor Al will lead the Bible study and the focus will be on the Scripture readings for that Sunday.

For four weeks in the month of December, our church turns blue. Blue is the color of hope in the church's rainbow of colors. The new banners, which were donated by Bill and Yvonne Mulry, decorate the walls of the altar area as a reminder of the time when we remember that Christ is coming again.

The Advent wreath has been placed in the sanctuary and will serve as another reminder that something special is about to happen. Four smaller candles will be lit, one for each week of Advent. One of the three darker candles will be lit on the first, second, and fourth weeks. The lighter colored candle will be lit on the third week in memory of John the Baptist's message of repentance.

Four evening meals will be served by our youth for a freewill offering in order to raise funds to go to Ohio and work in Jesus' name. These meals provide opportunities for members and non-members alike to share time together even in the midst of the Christmas experience frenzy.

Our Christmas tree will soon be raised for the Sunday School Program which will be on Sunday, December 9, at 10:45 AM and the Day School Christmas program on Sunday, December 9, at 4 PM.

The real meaning of Advent is to prepare a place in our hearts for Christ the King. We acknowledge that Jesus came once as a baby into our world on a mission to redeem the world from the curse of sin and death. We are mindful that He promised to come back into our world again to judge the living and the dead.

Whether we see Christ at our own individual death or at last on the final

Judgment Day, He has prepared a place for us. In the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus tells His disciples that He is going to prepare a place for them. Thomas, one of the twelve, asks how they can get to that place? Jesus responds with some of the best words of the Scrip-

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Tending the flock for 103 years

December 30 Bible Study

Pastor Chris Wheatley, chaplain intern at Abbott/Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, will lead Session 3 of Journey Together Faithfully at 8:00 AM on December 30th in the Fireside Room. The third Bible study is entitled "Sexuality, Culture and Freedom." Please join us after for the one worship service at 9:30 AM.

Lay Shepherd News!

It's time to get together again! There will be a healing service following the 10:45 AM service on Sunday, December 2. Pastor Ed would like the lay shepherds to attend. We will follow with a potluck and more training with the program. See you there!

Reach Work Camp 2008

Work Camp is filling fast. We will go to Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, July 6-12, 2008 (Jr. & Sr. High). This camp is already full with 523 students and adults. St. John's still has openings for 2 more youth. Qualifications to participate: Must currently be in 6th grade or older, parents and students are required to participate in fundraisers. Cost is \$300.00 per person with a \$50.00 deposit due December 2, 2007. Monthly payments of \$50 will then be made through April 15, 2008. The actual cost of the trip runs around \$700 per person. Please contact Pastor Ed, Linda Miller, or Lyle Johnson if you have any questions about Reach and the activities. If no one signs up for the last 2 spots, our group will just be smaller this year. Don't miss out on a wonderful opportunity to serve others and Jesus this summer.



Scholastic Bookfair

You are invited to attend a special reading event at our school.... a Scholastic Book Fair! A child's life can be positively influenced by exposure to quality books, and the Book Fair has many to choose from. The book fair is all day on Sunday, December 9 at St. John's.

Tree Trimming

On December 5, immediately follow Advent 2 service, confirmation students should meet with Pastor Ed to help raise the tree for decorating. All are invited to help decorate the Christmas tree followed with be spiced cider and cookies. When we trim the tree at home, it is usually a family function and everyone has their own job to do. The same is true with the church. Setting up and decorating the tree requires many different projects, so all ages and groups or people are expected. Make this a joyous beginning to the Advent Season. We will also enjoy Christmas music to help get us started. God Bless.



Christmas Gifts

Christmas is coming and the Christian Outreach Committee will again be gathering toys and presents for needy families in our area. Look in the Narthex for our Christmas tree decorated with ornaments, which give gift suggestions. Choose one or more of the ornaments, buy the gifts, and bring them (unwrapped) to place under the tree. The Committee will wrap them and get them to the families.

If you know of a family in the area that could use some help with gifts this Christmas, please call Pastor Ed at 462-5115 or 651-248-3469 with the name of the family and their specific gift needs. We'll keep the information confidential and try to make their Christmas extra special this year. Thank you for all your help!



Fruit Baskets

The youth will be making fruit baskets again this year. Baskets are \$30.00 for a large basket and \$20.00 for a small basket. In order to know how much to purchase, we will only be taking preorders this year. Please place all fruit basket orders by December 9. Order forms can be found on the youth table in the entrance area. Baskets will be available for pickup on Sunday, December 16. Saturday pickup is also available but prearrangements need to be made.

Food for the Poor

Pastor Ronald Dingal will preach for us on December 2 at all three services as a representative of Food for the Poor. This Christian non-profit organization specializes in helping developing countries address food concerns. They were most helpful to our own U.S. citizens after Katrina.

There will be a special video at the 9:30 service called "Love One Another." A freewill offering will be taken to support the ministry of Food for the Poor. Thank you.

Shalom

Join us for a trip for the Temple of Aaron Tour in the Highland Park area of St. Paul on Friday, December 14. The bus/van will leave St. John's at 6:00 PM. Cost is \$10. per person. We will stop for supper/dessert on the way home. Sign up in the narthex.

Wanted

Do you enjoy cleaning? Has God given you the gifts of attention to detail and the ability to "see" dust? Then the church needs you! We are looking for a new cleaning person/s. Call Pastor Ed for details.

CRAFT & BAKE SALE

The Stewardship Committee will be sponsoring their annual Craft & Bake Sale on Sunday, Dec. 2. We would appreciate any craft items and baked goodies that you would like to contribute. Pricing your items would also be helpful. For more information, please call Roxanne Berg at 462-1168.



Sunday School Christmas Program

Please join us for the Sunday School Christmas Program, December 9 at 10:45 AM. Regular services will be held at 8:00 and 9:30 AM. Our Christmas program will be *All I Want For Christmas Is Jesus!!* Rehearsal will be December 8 at 9:00 AM.

Disney Ice Show

Please sign up for the most popular Disney on Ice Show of all time: ***High School Musical on Ice***. The buses will leave the church at 5:00 PM on Saturday, **December 15**, and return at approximately 9:45 PM. Cost is \$20 per person for show ticket and transportation. Seating is on the club level at the Exel Energy Center. Sign up on the Youth table in the entryway.

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ture: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Light, no one comes to the Father but by Me."

Do not be afraid of the bad economy, rumors of wars, fear of violence, or sickness for people have faced these problems for centuries. Rather fear the Evil One who can lull you into believing that you have a lot of time to find Jesus. Fear the world which can distract your attention away from God while you concentrate on earthly stuff. Don't let fear, blame, shame, or guilt keep you from the kingdom now and in the world to come.

The truth remains: Advent is now! Christ has come! Christ will come again! Now is the acceptable time to worship our Lord and King. Please use these few weeks to seek the Lord while He may be found for your Judgment Day.

May God give you confidence and hope in this season of Advent.

Blessings! Pastor Ed



Choral Service

On December 16, the choirs will provide a choral service at the 8:00 and 10:45 services. They will also each sing/play one selection at the 9:30 Contemporary Service. Thank you, Lord, for your gift of music!



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, December 13 from 6:30-8:00 PM at Sis Frenning's house. All women are welcome.

Monthly Healing Service

Several members of the congregation have asked for us to have a monthly healing service. Hear what James 5:13-16 has to say: *Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.* In the spirit of that request, there will be a Prayer and Healing Service after the 10:45 Worship Service on the first Sunday of each month. This will be an anointed time of prayer and intercession. If you are troubled about anything or need to feel the love of God in a special way for your circumstance, please come confess your sins to one another, pray for one another, and be healed in Jesus' name. The service will begin in the fireside room 10 minutes after the conclusion of the last church service in the sanctuary. All Lay Shepherds are encouraged to attend.

Lifeline Screening

St. John's will host another Lifeline Screening on Thursday, December 20. Please call 1-800-324-1851. Stroke Screening, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening, Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening, and Osteoporosis Screening. All four tests are \$139 per person. Please get yourself checked.

Bell Choir Needs a Hand

Actually two! One more person is needed in order to play the bells well! Please contact one of the directors to volunteer. Vickey Nelson at 462-1709 or Kim Schmidt at 462-4179.



4-F's Cookie Bake and Exchange

Join the first through fifth graders for a cookie making party on Saturday, December 15 at 1:00 PM (just before the Disney on Ice Show at 5:00 PM) to help make cookies to share with one another and our shut-ins. Cost is \$2.00 per person for supplies and everyone will be able to take home some wonderful holiday cookies too. Games and fun for everyone. Sign up on the Youth table in the entryway.

Girl Scout Project

Hi, my name is Kim Humble. I am a Girl Scout Senior Cadette working on my Gold Award, which is the highest Girl Scout award. My project is to create a comfort bag with stuffed animals, small toys, coloring books, or small games. These bags will be distributed by the Fire and Police departments, Wyoming hospital, and Crisis Nursery. They will be given to children who have been displaced from their homes, **been in an accident, or experienced a fire.** These bags will be made from blue jeans. We are in need of blue jeans and small items to fill the bags. If you are interested in helping me complete my project, please give me a call at 651-674-0601. Thank you. Kim



Baptism

We join with Tanya Gibson in the joy of baptizing her son, Caleb Evan Alexander Smith. In Holy Baptism, God claims each of us as a child of His own.

Holidazzle Parade

Get on the bus/van/car to the Holidazzle Parade on Sunday, December 16 at 2:00 PM. Cost is \$12.50 per person. Cost with two food items for the local food shelf is \$5.00 per person. Space is limited. Sign up at the youth table in the entryway. Maximum cost per family is \$25.00. Bus returns at approximately 8:00 PM.

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