

Calvin Connection



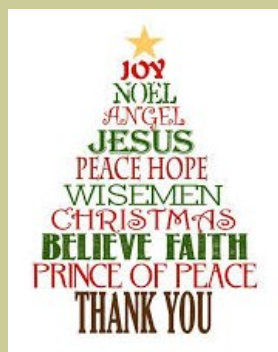
December 2017

Note:

Page 2 - Pastor Carol's
corner

Page 5 - PW Annual
Christmas gathering

Page 7 - December calen-
dar of events



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The Season of Advent

And the Word became flesh and lived among us...

John 1:14

Advent is the time of preparation for the birth of a Savior into our lives

*Advent reminds us that God comes to our lives just as God came to the lives
of our ancestors in the faith so long ago*

*We celebrate each Sunday in December,
beginning with the lighting of Advent candles*

Christmas Eve - 4:30 pm candlelight worship service



We light the Christ candle and the entire sanctuary fills with light

Some ideas for making this a meaningful Advent season:

- * Volunteer somewhere as a family or with a group of friends, even after December 25th.
- * Try giving an alternative gift – a donation made in someone's honor to a program or agency they would like to see supported
- * Give the gift of your time with someone – who wouldn't like that!
- * Give handmade gifts or gifts from a local artisan or craftsperson (for instance, Minnetonka Center for the Arts sells items from local artisans), or purchase from any number of fair trade shops in the area.



Stained glass window at St. Paul's Church of Withington, Manchester, England

Pastor Carol's Corner

O Holy One of Blessing, prepare us once again to come into your presence, as we prepare once again to welcome your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

www.TheThoughtfulChristian.com

This year Thanksgiving fell earlier in the month than usual, meaning we had an extra week before Advent begins. I'm not convinced however, that it will make December feel any less rushed. Black Friday took place as usual the day after Thanksgiving, and most of us still have an impossibly long list of expectations we place on ourselves: find the perfect gift, get through all the extra baking and entertaining we hope to accomplish, get cards written and decorating done.

Staying centered on Jesus during December is a serious challenge. Christmas has truly become a significantly secular celebration in our country. Even for those who are cognizant of preparing for the birth of their Lord, it is hard not to get sidetracked by all the expectations we place upon ourselves. It is so easy to get stressed while striving to have the perfect, most meaningful holiday ever. December becomes loaded with such unrealistic expectations. It takes effort to let the birth of Christ be at the center of our reason for the season.

The church moves towards the celebration of Christmas with the season of Advent. By definition Advent is the arrival of something or someone, an expectation.

I was talking with a clergy friend who asked: If Advent is a season of expectation, what is it we expect? We already know we expect to be too busy, eat too much, and for many people, deal with emotions of disappointment or sadness in the midst of all the emphasis on having a perfectly wonderful celebration.

So here is a thought for this Advent: be intentional about what you expect this year. As that clergy friend said to me: perhaps we should stop wishing we could make things different and instead start expecting God to do something new within us. That makes sense; if Advent is about waiting for the arrival of Emmanuel, God with us, to be born into our lives, why not look to see where God is doing something new in our lives?

Blessing to you in this season of preparations and expectations,

Carol



Calling all Holiday Helpers!

We are pushing back the date for the Hanging of the Greens again this year. It is on Saturday, December 2nd at 3:00pm, followed by a potluck supper and a carol sing in the sanctuary.

Greeter/Liturgist Schedule

December 3 - Communion

Greeter - Margot Garin
Liturgist - Anita Goman

December 10

Greeter - Belinda Breit
Liturgist - Belinda Breit

December 17

Greeter - Ron Bowman
Liturgist - Candy Bowman

December 24

Greeters - The Berbig Family
Liturgist - Krista Berbig



STEWARDSHIP

Pledge cards are still being received. They may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday, mailed to church, or given to the financial secretary.

The Presbyterian Church is a connectional church, meaning we aren't an independent entity but part of a denomination. To support the ministry of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, Synod of Lakes & Prairies, and General Assembly (the entire denomination), we are required to pay a yearly fee for each confirmed member.

The Per Capita amount per confirmed member for 2018 is \$34.50. That amount is then divided as follows: \$21.37 to the Presbytery, \$7.73 to the General Assembly, and \$5.40 to the Synod of Lakes & Prairies.

Winter Schedule

9:00am Adult Education, Fellowship Hall

9:30am Chancel choir practice, Choir Rehearsal Room

10:00am Worship

10:00am Sunday school (for the 1st Sunday of the month), all other Sundays the children will be in worship until the children's message

11:00am Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

Weekly Activities

Sunday

9:00am Adult Education
9:30am Chancel choir rehearsal
10:00am Worship/Sunday school
11:00am Fellowship time

Tuesday

3:00pm SPARKS program

Wednesday

6:00pm Handbell practice
7:00pm Chancel choir practice

Thursday

3:00pm SPARKS program

Monthly Activities

Men's Breakfast	1st Monday	8:00am
Feed My Starving Children	1st Tuesday	2:30pm
Session Meeting	1st Tuesday	6:30pm
Lunch Bunch	1st Wednesday	12:00pm
PW Meeting	3rd Monday	9:00am
Ruth Circle	2nd Thursday	2:00pm
Mary & Martha Circle	4th Wednesday	9:30am



Thank you to Kathy Berg for all her work and creativity making the cornucopia and creating such a beautiful arrangement that we enjoyed on the Communion Table this November.



The Christmas Story

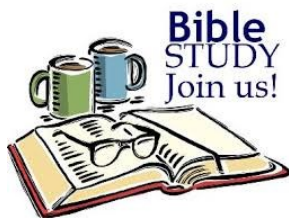
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U	E	U	Y	E	N	R	X	S	I	Y	N	P	A	R
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ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
CAMELS
CATTLE
DONKEY
EAST
GIFTS

MANGER
MARY
MYRRH
SHEEP
SHEPHERDS
STAR
WISE MEN

GOLD
HOLY SPIRIT
EMMANUEL
INCENSE
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI

©ActivitiesForKids.com



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

ADULT EDUCATION

Fellowship Hall - 9:00am
Everyone is welcome!



A Bible Study Series on the theme
FAITH IN ACTION
Unit One: Faith in Christ

Led by Rev. Dwight Chamberlain and Rev. Dr. Carol Reed

Sunday, December 3 - Lesson 1, Faith in Jesus-- Acts 3:11-21
Sunday, December 10 - Lesson 2, Faith to Discern -- Acts 13:1-12
Sunday, December 17 - Lesson 3, Faith to Persevere -- Acts 14:8-11, 19-23
Sunday, December 24 - Lesson 4, Faithful Seekers of the King -- Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, December 31 - Lesson 5, Faith to Unite -- Ephesians 4:1-16



Christmas Party



The annual Christmas Salad Supper is on Monday evening, December 11th, beginning with refreshments at 6pm. Our special entertainment will be the music of Arlo Vande Vegte and Phil Berbig (Phil is Zach's father). The meal is provided by the PW planning team as a gift to the women of the church (and their spouses/friends) as a gesture of appreciation for all the many things the women do for the church and its members. Mark your calendars for this fun evening!



Adopt-A-Family (IOCP)

Please check out the registration list on the "Giving Table" in the Gathering Hall. There are copies of the wish list on the table for you to take. Please help if you can. All gifts need to be returned by Wednesday, December 6th; and they will be wrapped on Friday, December 8th.



Community Sewing Day

A group is meeting on Wednesday, December 6th from 9-3pm (lunch is provided) to sew liners for menstrual hygiene kits for the organization Days For Girls International.

Soft flannel liners are super absorbent when tri-folded like a letter, and can be layered for extra coverage. Unfolded they are square, so they dry fast and wash with very little water, AND girls can dry them without risking taboos, because they don't look like traditional pads.

We need volunteers that can sew and also could use some sergers. The group will also be tying polar fleece blankets for the Adopt-a-Family program. Contact Belinda Breit with any questions.

Birthdays



Celebrate!

December 7

Sarah Settles
Darwin Swanson

December 8

George Funk

December 13

Jim Dillman
Charlotte Oliver

December 16

Glen Fry

December 21

Jennifer Schadewald

December 23

Krista Berbig

December 30

Angela Coccoluto

Anniversaries

December 8

Joel & Sarah Settles

December 21

Dave & Gay Kearin



Thursday, December 21, 2017

5:30-6:30pm

St. George Catholic Church

ALL ARE WELCOME - Bring the kids! These meals aim to bring people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities together for a meal so that people who might never have met otherwise will have the opportunity to get to know one another. We hope these meals provide an opportunity where old friendships are strengthened and new friendships are formed.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Ruth Circle No December meeting

PW No December meeting

Mary & Martha Circle No December meeting





Lunch Bunch is Wednesday, December 6th at 12pm. Bring a dish to share, **but no need to bring your own place settings**. We use kitchen supplies from church to simplify clean-up afterwards. Joyce Anderson has stepped down from her Lunch Bunch hosting duties. We are now rotating host responsibilities every month. Please sign up for hosting on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Hall.

Lunch Bunch hosting duties include:

- Make coffee and set out hot pads/paper products (plates, napkins, plastic utensils)
- Clean-up (wash any dishes, wipe off tables)



Poinsettia orders and payment are due to the church office by Tuesday, December 5th. Plants are \$11.00 and order forms are available in the Gathering Hall (as well as in Sunday's bulletin announcements). We will have an assortment of poinsettia colors to choose from again this year.



Mitten Tree - Bring warmth to families this winter by donating hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to hang on our mitten tree. All items will be taken to Interfaith Outreach.



Advent Calendars - There are advent calendars available for anyone that would like one. They can be picked up in the Gathering Hall.

**S
P
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S**

Orono Community Education is looking for SPARKS volunteers! We have students waiting to start the SPARKS program but we need more volunteers to mentor students. The role of the SPARKS volunteer is to encourage students to succeed in school, to assist with homework or reading activities, and to be a caring adult in their lives. Volunteers work one-on-one or in small groups with elementary or middle school students. The time commitment is approximately 2 hours (3-5pm) on Mondays and Wednesdays, or Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Specifically we have:

- A group of kindergarten and 1st graders looking for a mentor to lead a small group to read, do crafts, and play educational games on Tuesdays/Thursdays in Long Lake from 4-5pm.
- Two students who need help with beginning level math and reading on Mondays/Wednesdays in Maple Plain from 4-5pm.
- A few 5th grade girls who need help with homework on Mondays in Maple Plain from 4-5pm.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Genna Torney at #952-449-8338 x6350 or gtorney@orono.k12.mn.us



MUSIC
News



Greetings from the Music Department! The Advent and Christmas season are some of the busiest here at our church, and the Music Department is no different! We had a fantastic service on Thanksgiving Eve where we combined with Trinity Lutheran choir in a more than 30-person ensemble. It was a beautiful service, and I'm grateful to all those who helped plan, organize and participated in the event. Our Advent season begins with a new candle lighting ceremony we will use throughout December, as well as new anthems every week. It is my hope that in supplementing with our traditional Advent and Christmas hymns, we are able to expand and find new perspective on our Advent experiences. A huge congratulations are in order for our choral scholars Brian and Sabreana who both successfully performed their senior recitals this month, and who begin their formal student teaching in January. I'm so grateful for their contributions, and equally as grateful for the congregation's contributions which make our coral scholar program possible. With many thanks, Mark



DECEMBER 2017



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><i>Fellowship Time is on Sundays at 11:00am (following worship)</i></p> 					1	<p>2 3pm Hanging of the Greens/ Supper/Carol sing</p> 
<p>3 Communion</p> <p>9am Adult Education 9:30am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship/ Sunday school</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8am Men's breakfast</p>	<p>5</p> <p>3-5pm SPARKS</p> <p>6:30pm Session Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9-3pm Community sewing day</p> <p>12pm Lunch Bunch</p> <p>7pm Choir practice</p>	<p>7</p> <p>3-5pm SPARKS</p>	8	9
<p>10</p> <p>9am Adult Education 9:30am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship/ Sunday school</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>6pm PW Christmas Party</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3-5pm SPARKS</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7pm Choir practice</p>	<p>14</p> <p>3-5pm SPARKS</p>	15	<p>16</p> <p>5pm Suzuki violin recital</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9am Adult Education 9:30am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship/Sunday school</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>3-5pm SPARKS</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7pm Choir practice</p>	<p>21</p> <p>No SPARKS</p>  <p>5:30pm Community Meal @ St. George</p>	22	23
<p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>9am Adult Education 9:30am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship/Sunday school 4:30pm Candlelight worship service</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Office closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office closed (Angela - vacation)</p> <p>No SPARKS</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7pm Choir practice</p>	<p>28</p> <p>No SPARKS</p>	29	30
<p>31</p>  <p>9am Adult Education 9:30am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship/Sunday school 11am Potluck</p>	<p>NOTES:</p>					

**CALVIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

177 Glendale Drive
Long Lake, MN 55356

Phone: 952-473-5419

calvinchurch.net

Connect with us!



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
10:00am - 2:00pm

*Pastor Carol is in
the office Tues - Fri
(or can be reached at
her home phone #)*



Please recycle

Calvin Connection

December 2017

*We extend a most cordial invitation
to you to participate in worship,
study and the many other activities in
the life of our Calvin family.*

Church Staff

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Carol Reed
Parish Associate - Rev. Dwight Chamberlain
Pastor Emeritus - Rev. Douglas Potter
Clerk of Session - Walter Baker

Music Director - Mark Bilyeu
Handbell Director - Mark Bilyeu
Choral Accompanist - Taylor Burkhardt

Office Administrator - Angela Coccoluto
Treasurer - Pat King
Financial Secretaries - Marj Eisinger & Tammy Wenz
Custodian - Dave Zajac

Email address contacts:

Carol Reed carol.reed@calvinchurch.net
Angela Coccoluto angela@calvinchurch.net



Calvin Connection deadline: Second Friday of the month

Sunday Bulletin announcements deadline: Thursdays at 10am

*Email articles and/or announcements for the Calvin Connection & Sunday bulletins to Angela
(see email address above), or drop them off in the church office. Any questions, please call
Angela at 952-473-5419.*