# **CONNECTIONS**

## **All Saints Episcopal Church Monthly Newsletter**

## ADVENT AT ALL SAINTS



- **December 3-** ADVENT I, Advent wreath making for your home
- December 7- Music and Meditation, 5:00-8:00pm-Winter Walk hospitality
- December 8- 9:00-noon, Advent Quiet Day
- **December 10- ADVENT II, Vestry meeting**
- December 13- Reading Days Retreat- St. Olaf; Children's Pageant Rehearsal and Pizza Party
- **December 17-** ADVENT III- Children's Pageant, Festive Coffee Hour, Music and Greening
- **December 24-** ADVENT IV- Prepare for evening Christmas Eve Service

# CHRISTMAS AT ALL SAINTS



- **December 24- CHRISTMAS EVE, 8:00PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**
- **December 25- CHRISTMAS DAY, 10:30am Holy Eucharist**
- December 31- 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
  10:30am Holy Eucharist, Christmas Carols

#### What's inside?

- p.2 From the Rector
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#### Welcome to All Saints

Masks are welcome but not required during the service. The service will continue to be available at 10:30am at allsaintsnorthfield.org

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In Case of Emergency

Rector Cody Maynus
can be reached at
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cody@allsaintsnorthfield.org
Office hours;
Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9:00AM - 12:00PM
or by appointment

The Church Office is open Monday through Thursday 9:30 until 12noon Staffed by volunteers

All Saints Episcopal Church is a parish in the Episcopal Church of Minnesota ECMN Offices : 1101 W Broadway Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55411

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### From the Rector



Our Roman Catholic cousins will be celebrating a very important holy day on December 8th: the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Our Protestant cousins call that day simply... December 8th. True to our identity of being a 'middle way' between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism, Anglicans split the difference and call it the Feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We recognize that Mary was conceived and that her conception played a unique role in the history of salvation, but we're agnostic as to whether Mary was born without the 'stain of original sin,' as Pope Pius IX wrote in 1854.

Besides celebrating Mary's role in salvation as the one who literally bore God in her womb, this feast day is important to me because it is the birthday of a dear friend and mentor, Sister Mary Virginia, VHM. Sister Mary Virginia's mother had a dream during her pregnancy that she would give birth to a girl on December 8th and that she would name her daughter Virginia in honor of the Virgin Mary. As it happened, Mrs. Schmidt's dream came to fruition and Sister Mary Virginia, then just Virginia, was born on that feast and dedicated her life to the Virgin Mary and to her divine Son as a Visitation Sister.

My beloved friend was a contemplative, a healer, a writer, and a translator (she grew up in Mexico and spoke fluent Spanish as a result.) Sister Mary Virginia was a feminist through and through and hoped that her church would one day ordain women to the priesthood. After I was ordained, she called me her Padrecito (little Father.) She died on the one year anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. I miss Sister Mary Virginia and know that she's forever praying for me and for us.

I wrote this poem a few years ago and dedicated it to Sister Mary Virginia on her birthday. I'll share here below and will spend some more time talking about it on Friday at our Advent Quiet Day. I hope we'll see you there!

May Mary bring us all ever closer to her Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Take good care and be well, Fr. Cody

#### Immaculata, for once

For Sister Mary Virginia, VHM

For once—
ancient men,
bones brittle from sitting
before altars of stone and sacrifice
sigh in sore relief to high heaven:
"My eyes have seen salvation,
which grows now in your womb."
For once—
old women,
bent down from a barren life
of hearing their husbands speak to God
shout at the top of their lungs and with ecstasy
"blessed are you who brings us salvation
which grows now in your womb."

For once—
Immaculata lifts from Eve and from us the heavy burden of guilt and shame for she, fiery-eyed and with full belly, says to Man and Serpent alike: "No!" for once—never before and hardly since—blessed are we for salvation comes through that which grows now in our wombs

### Junior Warden Laura Kay Allen



There have been many things going on in the last few months at All Saints in reference to our buildings and property.

- **1.** The new bike rack was assembled, with Marshall Hansen's leadership and has already been put to good use. Our sincere thank you to Liz Truman and family for purchasing the bike rack as a memorial to Liz's son Jim. A dedication will be held in the spring.
- **2.** Our smaller bike rack has been moved to the lower Washington Street entrance and that is also being used.
- **3.** The play structure has been repaired and stabilized by handyman, Ron Eicher. Next spring, it will be sanded and stained.
- **4.** Red Doors! Ron Eicher painted the outside of both of our Washington Street entrance doors just in time for our big celebration.
- **5**. We are so grateful to our Sexton, Dave McGuire, for his extra efforts before and after our celebration. Literally, every part of the church was used and Dave had the building cleaned and ready to go!
- **6.** A big thank you to Bob Rowe for, once again, repairing our coffee maker here at church!
- 7. Pumpers Plumbing and Heating recently did our check up on our furnace units.
- **8.** We had a representative come and flush out our sprinkler units in preparation for the winter.
- **9.** Bob Rowe and Paul Pieper continue to buy supplies we use here at All Saints. Thank you, Paul and Bob.

And finally, thank you to EVERYONE for ALL you do to make All Saints run smoothly.

#### **ECMN Convention 2023**

Bishop Loya spoke boldly and prophetically during his address to the 166th Convention of the Diocese of Minnesota held at St Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie on November 10th and 11th. He also spoke beautifully about All Saints and the work that we are doing together. The video is posted on the Episcopal Church in Minnesota's Facebook page or here: <a href="https://vimeo.com/883613786">https://vimeo.com/883613786</a>, and the portion of the Bishop's address about All Saints begins around the 13:50 mark. Take a listen!

Fr. James, Fr. Cody, Deacon Cassandra and Lay Delegate Laura Kay attended the convention for All Saints. Our own Fr. Cody presided over Morning Prayer earlier in the day! Thank you all!









# **MUSIC AND MEDITATION WINTER WALK AT ALL SAINTS**



Winter Walk at All Saints! On December 7th, All Saints will open our doors during Northfield's annual Winter Walk celebration with an offering of Music and Meditation. Organ and piano music by several of our All Saints organists begins at 5:00pm, followed by violin (and other strings) music by Laura Geissler's violin students at 6:00pm, and ending with music by the Chamber String Orchestra at 7:00pm. Apple cider, hot chocolate and Christmas treats will be offered as well. Thank you to Betsy Brandt, Richard Collman and Laura Geissler for organizing the musicians and to Mark Krug for organizing the hospitality! If you would like to contribute treats or serve a 1 hour "welcome" shift (6:00-7:00 or 7:00-8:00), please give Mark a call at 612-209-7772.

### ADVENT QUIET DAY

You are invited to an Advent quiet day on December 8th from 9:00am until noon. Immerse yourself in silence and poetry as we explore the beauty of Mary's role in giving birth to God and our call to do likewise. This contemplative half-day offers a sacred space for reflection, prayer, and deep connection as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ. Come at 8:30am for coffee and rolls and, if you'd like, stay for Contemplative Prayer from 12:15pm-12:45pm. Please feel free to bring whatever helps you enter into contemplation (journal, knitting, art supplies, etc.) Contact Fr. James or Fr. Cody with any questions.

## ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The young people and children of All Saints will be putting on the annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17th during the 10:30 service. The children and youth will gather on Wednesday December 13, to rehearse and have their traditional pizza party!





FESTIVE COFFEE HOUR
MUSIC AND GARLANDS



Calling all musicians: After the Christmas Pageant and service on December 17th, anyone who plays a musical instrument is invited to join us for a jam session during and after coffee hour. We will gather in the church where music and stands will be provided. We'll play easy Christmas carols, both sacred and secular, while the sanctuary is being greened. Singers are needed, too. Do we have a Brenda Lee in the congregation who can belt out Jingle Bell Rock? Or a Nat King Cole to croon Chestnuts Roasting...? Dust off your old banjo or tuba, gargle some seltzer, and be there. Let's make joyful noise! Contact Marshall Hansen at 507-403-1048.

### **Advent Service of Peace & Healing**

Submitted by Richard Collman

An Advent Service of Peace & healing will be held on Wednesday, December 20th. Sometimes called a "Blue Christmas" worship service, this annual event will take place at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 418 East Sumner Street in Northfield, at 4:00 P. M. It is sponsored by the United Methodist church and St. Peter's and also supported by the Northfield Grief Support Coalition Community Support and Outreach. Pastors David Weeks and Rachel McIver Morey will preside, assisted by persons from each church.

Amid the glitter and lights surrounding the holiday season, there is often an undercurrent of sorrow, despair, and sadness that can block cheer and merriment. This can be due to difficult memories, depression, or encroaching darkness with the shortest day of the year - the winter solstice, which takes place around Dec. 21. Sometimes we just need a place for quiet, lighting a candle, and sitting still to listen to beautiful music. This service is designed for just that with optional anointing for healing for oneself or others. Grief takes many shapes and sizes - this worship can begin to address such feelings as we move from darkness to light.

The musical prelude will begin at 3:45 p. m. and include Richard Collman on Celtic Harp, Randall Ferguson on classical guitar, and Jane Reinhart on cello. They will also play during the time of anointing and after worship. All persons are invited to experience this solace before Christmas

#### LAURA BAKER CHOIR



All Saints Student Ministry Assistant, Sigrid Edstrom gave the sermon on November 12, delivering a wonderful message based on the Gospel reading of the day, Matthew 25:1-13. Thank you, Sigrid!







# ALL SAINTS ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 28 following the service. Details to come!



#### WINTER IS COMING!



All Saints is committed to ensuring that our sidewalks and entryways are safe for community members and parishioners. For heavy snowfalls, we have hired Tyler Green to clear the public ways and driveway to the lower Washington Street entrance. Tyler worked with us last year and was wonderful about clearing the snow and ice in a timely fashion.

Our Volunteer Snow Removal Team is still responsible for clearing the front stairs and 5th street entrances to the office and the kitchen, as well as the fire exit doors off of the Commons and the kitchen. Thank you to Marshall Hansen who is, once again, leading the team. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Marshall at 507-403-1048. Many hands (shovels!) make light work.

## December

3	Advent Wreath Making
7	Music and Meditation, 5:00-8:00pm
8	Advent Quiet Day, 9:00- 12noon
10	Vestry meeting
13	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, Pizza Party
17	Christmas Pageant, Festive Coffee Hour
24	Preparation for Christmas (following the Advent IV service)
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 8:00pm
25	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist, 10:30am

#### **KITCHEN UPDATES!**

Submitted by Pam Middleton

Thank you to Val and Greg, Belva and Kim, and Leann, the family of Marje Britton, for the gift of the new commercial-grade refrigerator and freezer which were given in Marje's memory. Marje loved being in the

kitchen and entertained many of us through the years at our FIrst Wednesday Steeple Suppers!

Thank you to Betsy and Tom who cleared out the old refrigerator in preparation for the new arrivals. Thank you to Greg and Val for moving the old refrigerator to the Youth Group room, where we are sure it will be put to good use!

The new equipment was delivered and set-up and is ready to use. One important thing that did not change is the request to label items with your name and date, so that we don't fill up all of the space with food and drinks that have passed their prime!











## **Thanksgiving Dinner at All Saints**

Thank you to Fr. Cody and Betsy Brandt for organizing the dinner and thanks to everyone who contributed food! Betsy even got to watch the Packers- who won!!









Penelope Stavenau celebrated her 11th Birthday with special treats during Sunday School and Coffee Hour!



#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**





Submitted by Rhonda Rowe



The people of All Saints are generous people!!! The Outreach Committee is proud to announce that a check was sent to UTO for \$1,400! The budget made up \$300 of the amount and YOU made up the balance 0f \$1.100!

Speaking of sending out checks, \$850 was given to CAC's Operation Joy program for gift cards for some of our community members who can use some help this Christmas.

We can't begin to tell you how much this is appreciated. We know there will be gifts under the tree for all!!

Outreach works hard to meet the needs of many. We would not have been able to do this without YOUR help! 2023 has been an awesome year of giving! We offer our sincere thank you for once again helping All Saints to reach our goals!!

Outreach Committee

Deacon Cassandra Cook-Quarry Bob Craig Marshall Hansen Mary Jones Fr. Cody Maynus Pam Middleton Rhonda Rowe Rachel Zoller

### From Sr. Makrina, Regenerate Shingal

Dear Cody, Outreach committee and parish of All Saints

27 Nov, 2023

Greetings from Dinklage! I returned from Shingal two weeks ago and wanted to send an update before too much time passes. I hope that all is well in Northfield and that Cody's installation as pastor was a joyful event for everyone involved.

Thanks to increased tensions in the region, this trip to Shingal required a lot of patience on my part but after eight days of waiting, I finally got to go to Shingal. Thankfully, I was able to use the time to work on our video project (completion expected early 2024), something which gave me a chance to listen carefully to recorded interviews and understand the Ezidi concept of blessing on new levels.

During this trip, I also gained insights on how life on Mount Shingal was before the population was displaced in the 1970s. Perhaps most importantly, I have a good sense of how to address pressing water and deforestation challenges. I have already begun sharing these with members of parliament here in Germany.

The farm that our partners are working is really taking form. It provides produce for twenty families and a much needed space of respite for many more. Two and a half years after they were planted, the first 500 pomegranate trees had their first real crop. When I was there, three goats were born: twins and a single billy goat. Understandably, our partners are chomping at the bit to expand.

Unfortunately, there was a small fire at the farm: the electrical box on the primary power pole caught fire. The farm did not sustain significant damage but this heightened our desire to switch to solar power as soon as we can finance it; one more point on the list of things to do to regenerate Shingal!

Our partners knew of my visit to you and asked about the parish when I was there, so I shared with them about your warm welcome. They are grateful for the support and prayers, and we all look forward to seeing where the spirit leads us in this venture together.

As I close, I will mention that Ezidis have begun their period of optional fasting which leads up to a three day fast in mid-December when the days are at their shortest. This is a way of accompanying the sun through the darkness and into the light; something that we as Christians are also doing as we await the birth of Christ.

With thanksgiving, every blessing and some impressions of Shingal as we enter into the mystery of the Incarnation in Advent,

#### **Outreach Continued:**

## **Pictures from Shingal!**











## **Gift Cards for Christmas Giving!**

All Saints is celebrating the season with a live evergreen tree in the sanctuary during Advent and the 12 days of Christmas. Everyone can participate in decorating our tree with gift cards from Cub, Kwik Trip, Target and Family Fare. The gift cards can be purchased in various denominations. We will collect the gift cards throughout Advent and decorate the tree at Christmas! As part of our Outreach efforts, CAC receives the majority of these cards, though several are entrusted to Deacon Cassandra and Fr. Cody to meet occasional needs that arise. Please consider contributing a card or more to our tree.



## Jesus Encounters Submitted by Fletcher Coolidge

What I have to offer is a series of dramatic monologues where I tried to imagine myself back into the first century and then into an encounter with Jesus (or a situation involving Jesus) without 2,000 years of dogma, theology, history, etc., to fall back on when interpreting the situation. Or, in other words, what would it have been like to encounter Jesus with no preconceived notions (except, maybe what you had heard at the marketplace or in the temple or some such place)? The attitudes of my protagonists may not be politically correct, but they are my attempt to be as accurate as possible in portraying real people, seen through the wrong end of the telescope.

#### **JESUS AND THE CENTURION: Matthew 8:5-13**

The Lance Corporal's Story

Hey, Cassianus! Come and have a beer!
I just got back from one of the strangest
Duties I have ever had!
The Old Man's a pretty decent old stick,
When you get down to it –
Look at the money he's given the local Jews
For their whatcha-ma-call-it – their synagogue –
And it paid off today!

Well, I guess you knew that old Flavius
Fell down In a fit the other day. He was
Just carrying in the Old Man's breakfast,
And there was food and crockery everywhere,
And right in the middle of it Flavius thrashing around
On the floor, until he stopped and went
Stone still. We thought he was dead,
But not quite, he could still breathe –
But his whole right side was paralyzed
And he seemed in awful pain, too.
Well, we picked him up and put him to bed
And called Doc over, and wasn't he tickled
To have to get up from his breakfast Just for an orderly!

But Doc couldn't help him, so he just Suffered for a couple of days.
Well, the Old Man thought
About it, and put up prayers and incense And all – nothing worked. So finally
He sends out for two of the old geezers
From the synagogue, and he asks them:
"Where is this Yeshua bar Joseph
We've heard so much about?"
Says they, "He'll be here today."
Says he, "Take me to him."

And then he calls the sergeant,
And me, and Aulus, and off we go.
And sure enough, there's this bar Joseph fella
Just coming In the city gate. Well, the Old Man
Rides right up to him, with us at his back,
And didn't his hangers-on look strange
When they saw us! Like we were about to
Arrest the lot of them – and I would, too,

For a denarius – but he stops and says right out "Sir ('sir', if you please!) wlll you heal my servant? He's dying and in awful pain, and I think a lot of him." Well, bar Joseph looks at him for a minute – That was interesting too, because It wasn't What you'd expect between One of them and one of us – More like two field officers meeting To discuss the battle plan.

After a minute bar Joseph says
"Yes, I'll come and heal your servant."
And the old Man says (this is where
It gets weird) "Sir (there's that 'sir' again),
I'm not that worthy: You don't need to come.
I know about authority.
I tell one man to come, and he comes.
I tell another to go, and he goes.
Just say the word, and he'll be healed."

And bar Joseph looks at him like he's
A new species or something, and then
Turns around and says to the crowd with him
"I tell you, I've never seen the like before,
Even in Israel!" and then to the Old Man,
"Be it unto you as you have believed."
And the Old Man looks at him for a moment,
And then does a sort of nod – not a bow, exactly,
More like bar Joseph was an equal – and turns his horse
And says, sharp, "Well, come on, boys, let's go home!".
And off we go one way, and off they go the other.
And it's just about straight up noon.

So when we get home, here comes old Flavius
Out the door, grumpy as ever (you know how he is),
And the Old Man says to him "When did you get out of bed?"
And he says "Right at noon. Sir." Like he does, you know.
And I swear the Old Man almost cried.

Well, I've gotta go, I've got laundry to do Before chow, and I've got the duty tonight. One thing about the duty, however dead and dull It gets, it does give you time to think!

# **Episco-Speak**A Guide to the Language of Episcopalians

Submitted by James Young

You say you don't know your apse from your clerestory? Well, don't despair! Help is here. Each month I will attempt to dazzle you with my command of the vocabulary of Anglicans and Episcopalians. If there is some term or concept about which you want to learn more, I will also take requests. Please contact me!!

#### This month: Christmas or Christ's Mass

Christmas (in old English, Cristes maesse) is a festival celebrated on Dec. 25, commemorating the Incarnation of the Word of God in the birth of Jesus Christ. In the BCP it is also called The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. In the United States it is also a popular secular holiday.

According to the Philocalian calendar, Christmas was first celebrated in Rome in the year 336. It gradually spread to the churches of the east, which already had a festival on Jan. 6 commemorating the manifestation of God in both the birth and baptism of Jesus. The date, Dec. 25, rests on no historical foundation. It was probably chosen to oppose the feast Natalis Solis Invicti, the birthday of the "Unconquerable Sun God" (Saturn), which took place at the winter solstice to celebrate the birth of "the Sun of Righteousness."

The customs associated with Christmas have developed from many sources. From early days the popular observance of Christmas was marked by the joy and celebration characteristic of the Roman Saturnalia and the pagan festivals which it replaced. It came to include the decoration of houses with greenery and the giving of gifts to children and the poor. In Britain other observances were added including the Yule log and Yule cakes, fir trees, gifts, and greetings. Fires and lights (symbols of warmth and lasting life) and evergreens (symbols of survival) were traditionally associated with both pagan and Christian festivals. Their use developed considerably in England with the importation of German customs and through the influence of the writings of Charles Dickens.

In the BCP, Christmas Day is one of the seven principal feasts. The Christmas season lasts twelve days, from Christmas Day until Jan. 5, the day before the Epiphany. The season includes Christmas Day, the First Sunday after Christmas Day, the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and may include the Second Sunday after Christmas Day. In many parishes, the main liturgical celebrations of Christmas take place on Christmas Eve. The Book of Occasional Services (BOS) includes a variety of resources for use during Christmas, including a form for a Station at a Christmas Crèche, a form for a Christmas Festival of Lessons and Music, and seasonal blessings for use during the Christmas season.

## **Next Month: Twelfth Night (a rerun)**Stay tuned for another thrilling installment of Episco-Speak!







Poinsettias and greens for the Advent and Christmas seasons have been ordered (and some are in place already!). If you would like to donate funds for the greens or poinsettias, in memory of or thanksgiving for a loved one, please email or mail your acknowledgement to the church (office@allsaintsnorthfield.org or PO Box 663) and send a check with "Christmas greens/flowers" on the memo line. The suggested donation is \$30.

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### **All Saints Vestry and Committee Chairs**

SR. WARDEN

JR. WARDEN

CO-TREASURER

CO-TREASURER

CO-TREASURER

CLERK

AT LARGE

Mark Heiman

Laura Kay Allen

Larry Archbold

Pam Middleton

Rhonda Rowe

Dick Brown

Bishard Collman

AT LARGE Richard Collman

AT LARGE Mark Krug
AT LARGE Liz Truman
AT LARGE Joe Peterson
COLLEGE REP Vania Liang

RECTOR The Rev. Cody Maynus

DEACON The Rev. Cassandra Cook-Quarry

ECMN DELEGATES Laura Kay Allen

Mark Heiman

ORGANIST Lucas Jindra
MUSIC DIRECTOR Sabe Dunlap
MINISTRY ASSISTANT Sigrid Edstrom
SEXTON Dave McGuire
SUNDAY SCHOOL Pam Middleton

Sigrid Edstrom

YOUTH GROUP Pam Middleton

Sigrid Edstrom

CONFIRMATION Rhonda Rowe

**Bob Rowe** 

ALTAR GUILD Bonnie Sherman
EPISCOPAL STUDENT Mark Heiman
ASSOCIATION Betsy Brandt

Sigrid Edstrom

CONNECTIONS Pam Middleton
OUTREACH Mary Jones
HOSPITALITY Pam Middleton
WEBSITE DESIGN Mark Heiman

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 **December** Mark 13:24-27 Psalm 80:1-7,16-18 **Readings** 10 Isaiah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8 Psalm 85,1-2,8-13 17 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 1Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28 **Canticle 15 The Song of Mary** 24 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Isaiah 64:1-9

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

**Isaiah 9:2-7** 

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

#### **December**

24, Christmas Eve



- 2 George Hardgrove
- 2 Jay Zoller
- 9 Liz Campbell
- 9 John Thomas
- 14 Chuck Perkins
- 20 Bonnie Sherman
- 22 Mike Allen
- 27 Barbara Hopwood
- 30 Stephanie Reymann
- 30 Sara Jaramillo



#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **December**

18 Joan and Chris Ennis

