

**THE EARTH HAS YIELDED  
ITS PRODUCE; GOD, OUR  
GOD, BLESSES US.**

**PSALM 67:6**



Dear Friends,

How important is it for you to give thanks? What do you give thanks for? Covid has concentrated the mind a little bit. It's possible that we are even clearer now about what is important, and what we are thankful for.

Understanding the essential nature of gratitude has become one of the holiest innovations of the American experiment. As usual shortly after Thanksgiving comes Advent, as we prepare for and look forward to Christmas. Last year we decorated the exterior of the Church, week by week, until at length we completed our worship on Christmas Eve by gathering outdoors together on a very cold night, around a fire, listening to the carols Jackie and Ellie were playing for us through the open window. If you were there, you saw the smiles. People were so happy to see each other. It was clear what we were giving thanks for.

And this year? What are we looking forward to now? Clues may lie in our experience of the last year.

It may not be exactly clear what God has in store for us this year, but we know what we value, and after a year of self-examination, have confidence that our values mirror God's values too.

We will do the same things again: decorate the Church, piece by piece, but now we will add the Carolers and the Bishop and our shortened indoor services. It may be that when we get to Christmas Eve we will end up around the fire again, outside. To the glory of God, for old times' sake, and because we loved it.



Your friend in Christ,  
Michael

Jackie Warehime and Ellie Boisen, Christmas 2020

## READERS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>
Nov 28	Judy
Dec 5	Mary
Dec 12	Leanne
Dec 19	Andy
Dec 26	Judy
Jan 2	Maggie
Jan 9	Terri
Jan 16	Gary
Jan 23	Laurice

### ***Going to be absent?***

If you cannot read on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement. If you want to read in the future, please let Kristin Warehime know.

## COFFEE COMMITTEES

### ***Enjoy treats after the service?***

Then please consider helping on a Sunday! Sign-up sheets are in Upper Tanner or talk to Judy Erck or Terri Hottmann.



## CLEANING HELP NEEDED!

You don't have to do it all, and you don't have to do it every week. Below is a description of what needs to be done. When you sign up, Drew will contact you about dates. We have broken up the church into segments that would require only forty-five minutes to one hour of your time. These areas are:

### **Vacuum the narthex, nave and chancel.**

Normally, this can be done at any time during the week.

**Vacuum the upper and lower hallway, arrange tables and vacuum in upper Tanner.** It would be best if this was done before Weds, but it can happen at any time

### **Sweep and wipe down the bathrooms.**

You may also need to mop as well. These need to be done sometime between Wednesday and Sunday.

**Sweep and mop the tile and vacuum the carpets in the entrances and stairwells.** Once a month in summer, almost weekly in winter between Wednesday and Sunday.

**Other:** Dust mopping under the pews; dust mopping after a gathering in Brown Hall; Intensive dusting and polishing.

Please talk to Drew if you would like to help with these tasks or sign up on the sheets in Upper Tanner.

## VESTRY NOTES

Some of the things we have been discussing at vestry this fall include:

- The Bishop's visit, rescheduled to December 5
- Getting the new copier
- Repair and re-keying of the church doors
- Finding delegates to convention
- Keeping an eye on finances and our regular treasurer's report
- Stewardship--see elsewhere in this newsletter
- The repair to the AC--still waiting to hear from Owatonna Heating and Cooling about installing the custom-made drip pan
- Nominations for 2022's vestry—we have several outgoing members
- The role of worship videos now that we are back in person
- Wednesday evening Bible Study

If you have questions, please talk to a vestry member. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, our next meeting will be December 2 at 6:30.

## BAZAAR RECAP

We really weren't sure what to expect--with smaller numbers in church, would people still show up to help? Would people bake? If we didn't have the luncheon, would people still come to shop? Well, thanks to all your hard work and tremendous baking, Bazaar 2021 was a wonderful success! It was so nice to have this tradition back! And the number of baked goods was truly impressive! Our grand total this year was \$2,830.

## COOKIE WALK

Keep those ovens warm! The success of the bazaar has given us the courage to host our third annual cookie walk! The cookie walk will take place December 11 from 9:00am - noon. Look for sign-up sheets at church or use this sign-up genius link to share the cookies you will be baking. We will also need help setting up and working that morning. Promotional images and an event link to share can be found on our FB site after Thanksgiving.

# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Mark your calendars for these holiday events!

**Sunday, November 28:** First day of Advent

**Sunday, December 5:** Visit from the Bishop with Q & A afterwards. *If you would like to be baptized or received please let Michael know.*

**Saturday, December 11:** Cookie Walk 9:00am-noon

**Sunday, December 12:** OHS Carolers visit; "short women's" (and men's) meeting following the service to discuss the WoSP pledge to the church

**Sunday, December 19:** Covid-friendly Lessons and Carols in church

**Friday, December 24:** Christmas Eve service at 5:30.  
*We will be monitoring this current wave of Covid and decide closer to the day what the service will look like.*

**Sunday, December 26:** Regular Sunday service at 10am

Throughout Advent join us at **11 a.m. on Wednesdays** as we look at the Gospel of Luke — the birth and childhood of Jesus and on **Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.** for discussion followed by Advent evening prayer.

## How do I introduce my child to God?

"Answering children's questions, giving them helpful tools... " Coming soon during Advent, as we get ready for the Christmas story. If you'd like to know more contact Michael.





**Leaven** is published monthly to keep the people of St. Paul's informed and united in thought.

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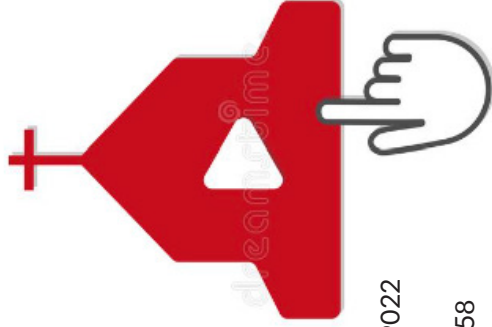
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