

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
W314 N7412 Highway 83
P. O. Box 267
North Lake, WI 53064



“Welcoming to Share God’s Love”

NOVEMBER — DECEMBER 2023

Laughter is Good Medicine—Thanksgiving & Christmas

- “I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage.” — Erma Bombeck
- “A new survey found that 80 percent of men claim they *help* cook Thanksgiving dinner. Which makes sense, when you hear them consider saying ‘that smells good’ to be *helping*.” — Jimmy Fallon
- “If you stand in the meat section at the grocery store long enough, you start to get mad at turkeys. There’s turkey ham, turkey bologna, turkey pastrami. Someone needs to tell the turkey, ‘Man, just be yourself.’” — Mitch Hedberg
- “I’ve learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights.” — Maya Angelou
- “Christmas is a box of tree ornaments that have become part of the family.” — Charles M. Schulz
- “I haven’t taken my Christmas lights down. They look so nice on the pumpkin.” — Winston Spear
- “There’s something about a Christmas sweater that will always make me laugh.” — Kristen Wiig
- “We elves try to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corn, and syrup.” — Elf



The Fisherman’s Net “Catch the Spirit”

**St. Peter’s Episcopal Church
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North Lake, WI 53064**

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NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2023

Pastor’s Pen *Fr. Thomas McAlpine*

Prepping my Kindle for vacation reading, I included Jacques Ellul’s *Reason for being: A Meditation on Ecclesiastes*. That turned out to be more relevant than I would have wished; Elvica and I tested positive for COVID mid-trip and had to abandon the tour, with all the scrambling of the itinerary that entailed. So Kohelet’s repeated admonition to receive whatever good came as God’s gift was important. Kohelet stresses how much we don’t know, but is nevertheless sure that the good we receive is gift. So, for November, whether the good we receive is as we expect or not, Kohelet’s “it is God’s gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil” (3:13) is useful encouragement.

December 3 marks our entry into Advent. Kohelet complained that there was “nothing new under the sun.” Well, careful what we wish for. “Now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us” probably counts as new. The characters in the nativity stories receive that as either good (e.g., Mary, the shepherds) or bad (e.g., Herod) news—or maybe a combination (e.g., Joseph). Advent: a time to wonder how we, if we’re taking it seriously, receive it.

176th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee

The Convention was held at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. The list of the election results and reports is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Notable elections are the Diocesan Treasurer, Ms. D’arcy Becker (St. Andrew’s, Madison), and Standing Committee for four year terms Mr. Tom Schlaefer (St. Aiden’s, Hartford) and The Rev. Miranda Hassett (St. Dunstan’s, Madison). The budget (posted in the Narthex) was passed with 96%. The important vote on the Resolution to affirm the process of ongoing discernment for reunification of the Dioceses of Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, and Milwaukee passed with 92%. The Dioceses of Fond du Lac and Eau Claire also voted to continue the discernment process. Pete & Mary Buerosse, Dan Rosa and Eric Dyrud represented St. Peter’s.

Celebrating 150 Years of All Saints' Cathedral

The Cathedral is the home church of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. The parish has been an active member of the Milwaukee community for the past 150 years. All Saints' will observe its 150th anniversary with several celebratory events open to the public which includes:

- All Saints' Cathedral 150th Choral Evensong & Reception
Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 4:00 PM www.ascathedral.org

"All Saints' Cathedral was designed in 1868 by Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix. As one of Milwaukee's oldest buildings, the Cream City Brick church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has Milwaukee City Landmark designation. It is one of the first cathedrals of the Episcopal Church in the United States." Pictures were displayed of the inside of the cathedral at the recent Diocesan Convention. The pews in St. Peter's, seen in these photos, came from the cathedral around 1900!

Outreach

Our Outreach Committee is interested in your ideas for giving help to organizations in the Lake Country area. The Outreach account has \$2,895.93 for our charitable donations. If you know of organizations that could use some help, please share them with Rick Luedke, Jan Schneider, or Kathy Marks. Thank you. Extra charitable giving for Thanksgiving or Christmas will be communicated via the Sunday bulletins.

All Saints' Day

The Lake Country Episcopal Churches are celebrating All Saints' together at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, W239 N6440 Maple Avenue, Wednesday, November 1 at 7:00 PM. All are welcome.

St. Peter's Advent Opportunities

St. Peter's will be offering an Advent Study opportunity on Wednesday evenings starting December 6 thru December 20 via ZOOM from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Our study will focus on the simple practice of pausing to reflect on the signs of wonder around us using the booklet from The Living Compass: Living Well Through Advent 2023 titled "*Practicing Wonder with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*". Jesus tells us that when we have eyes to see and ears to hear, we will see and hear God's love and wonder in ways both big and small. Booklets are available in the Narthex, as an eBook at Amazon.com for \$0.99 or as a free downloadable PDF on the website: livingcompass.org/advent. Thanks to Dan Rosa who will host the ZOOM meetings. Invitations to join the meeting will be sent in advance of the Wednesday evening study. If you do not receive an email invitation for the Zoom study, please contact Dan Rosa at: drosa829@gmail.com

Practice the Pause

Pause before judging.
Pause before assuming.
Pause before accusing.
Pause whenever you're about to react harshly
and you'll avoid doing and saying things you'll later regret. - Lori Deschene



Calendar & Times—December

		<u>Scheduled Reader</u>
Dec. 3, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist — 1 Advent	Susan Medd
Dec. 6, Wednesday	7-8 pm Advent Book Study ZOOM	
Dec. 10, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist — 2 Advent	Pete Buerosse
Dec. 13, Wednesday	7-8 pm Advent Book Study ZOOM	
Dec. 17, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist — 3 Advent	Dan Rosa
Dec. 20, Wednesday	7-8 pm Advent Book Study ZOOM	
Dec. 24, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist — 4 Advent	Katy Luedke
Dec. 24, Sunday	4:00 pm Christmas Eve H.E.	Volunteer
Dec. 25, Christmas Day	Monday—NO SERVICE	
Dec. 31, Sunday	9:30 am Holy Eucharist	Wanda Fobian
Jan. 7, Sunday	9:30 am H.E. Epiphany (transferred)	Mary Buerosse

Lessons for December

	<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Dec. 3	Isaiah 64:1-9	80:1-7, 16-18	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
Dec. 10	Isaiah 40:1-11	85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:108
Dec. 17	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 24	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Canticle 15	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 31	Isaiah 61:10—62:3	147	Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7	John 1:1-18
Jan. 7	Isaiah 60:1-6	72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesian 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12

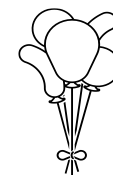
Let's Celebrate December

Happy Birthday!

December 12 Kathryn Medd
December 27 Eric Dyrud

Happy Anniversary!

December 30 Scott & Holly Moseley



Greening of St. Peter's — December 24

This is a unique year in that the 4th Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve Day. We will put up the Christmas tree, wreaths, garlands and place the poinsettias around the altar and in the windowsills. **Please bring a poinsettia to church either Sunday, December 17 or the 24th if you are able.** Thank you.

Christmas Services—December 24 & 25

Christmas Eve Day services begin with the 9:30 am celebration of the 4th Sunday of Advent.

After this service we will "green" the church (see above article).

Christmas Eve Service will begin at **4:00 pm**

There is no scheduled Christmas Day (Monday) service at St. Peter's. Please check area churches for Christmas Day services.



The Image of God

Reflections on Psalms 19 and 20

Let my story be the glory of your love,
 may I know my many blessings from above,
 not so much above this earthly sod,
 but above my understanding of myself, and God.
 Each day shares many wonders to behold –
 the clear blue sky, aspen leaves of gold,
 creatures who recognize that they are safe with us –
 ah! That I could have such trust!
 Help me to seek, not a rescue from this life;
 you reminded us there will be pain and strife.
 No, help me in each moment of each day
 to listen and look for treasure. And I pray
 that I may find You in all the joys and sorrows,
 give thanks for them today, and all of my tomorrows.



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Using Advent Well

by The Rev'd Michael Rowe, Estero, FL

Suppose for a moment that the Christian view of reality is basically accurate.

Suppose that the universe was put here on purpose for a purpose by God; that all of us were created on purpose for a purpose by God. Suppose that cars, companies, buildings, institutions have built-in obsolescence—they won't last; but that husband and wife, parents and children, neighbors, strangers, friends, and enemies live forever.

Suppose that we have a destiny in heaven; life with God, truly good, truly happy, truly worthwhile, truly satisfying, truly permanent; but that this destiny is not guaranteed: we can miss out of on it by our own choice and end up in hell; shadows of our true selves, empty, purposeless, gnawing away at one another in eternal bitterness.

Suppose that it were true that at the end of our time, and at the end of all time, our lives will be examined, weighed in the balance, judged; and that we are going to be asked two kinds of questions. The first kind goes like this. Did you grow to be the kind of person who: tells the truth and doesn't lie? Is generous and not grasping or greedy? Treats others with respect and not abuse? Helps those in need rather than ignoring them? Refrains from anger, violence, and exploitation and chooses kindness, courage, and self-sacrifice? In other words, did you grow to love your neighbor as yourself? And suppose that the second kinds of question to come from the king, the judge, the examiner, goes like this: Do I know you? As you lived your life did you allow us to be introduced? To get acquainted? Do you and I know one another well enough for you to move into my place permanently, forever? Did you grow to love God with all your heart and mind and soul and will? Just suppose for a minute that reality is basically like this and is going to turn out pretty much this way. What do we need to do about? Advent is part of how the Church says to us, "Wake up! Pay attention to how things really are, to who is really important. Because the savior and judge is right here now, just around the corner." What do we want to do about it? What gets top priority today and tomorrow and next month and next year? What has got to go out of our lives because it is turning us into the wrong kind of people? What do we need more of if we are going to grow into people who belong with the king in his kingdom? Let this Advent be a new beginning. Because it really is a matter of life and death.

—via The Anglican Digest, Winter A.D. 2020

Calendar & Times—November

November 1, Wed.	7:00 pm	All Saints'	
November 5, Sunday	9:30 am	Holy Eucharist	Mary Buerosse
November 12, Sunday	8:00 am	Vestry Meeting	
	9:30 am	Holy Eucharist	Kathy Marks
November 19, Sunday	9:30 am	H.E. & Stewarship Sunday	Andy Marks
November 22, Wed.	6:00 pm	H.E. Thanksgiving Eve	Volunteer
November 29, Sunday	9:30 am	Holy Eucharist	Dan Schneider

Scheduled Reader

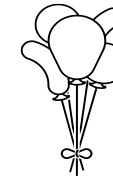
Lessons for November

	<u>1 Lesson</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Nov. 5	Joshua 3:7-17	107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12
Nov. 12	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	78:1-7	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
Nov. 19	Judges 4:1-7	123	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
Nov. 22	Deuteronomy 8:7-18	65	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Luke 17:11-19
Nov. 29	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	100	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46

Let's Celebrate November!

Happy Birthday

November 12	Andy Marks
November 15	Benjamin Luther
November 17	Wanda Fobian
November 23	Evan Medd



Remember in Your Prayers

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...."
 (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17)

- *Pray for PEACE in Israel and Gaza. Pray for the end of the war in Ukraine. Pray for those who have died in these terrible wars. Pray for all refugees fleeing their homes.
- *Pray for the thousands of people who died in Libya from floods. Pray for those who died in the earthquakes that hit Morocco and Afghanistan. Pray for those in Mexico in Hurricane Otis' path of destruction.
- *Pray for our doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers still battling the effects of COVID.
- *Pray for the homeless that they may find shelter especially during the bitter cold nights.
- *Pray for those with food insecurities. Pray for those who help at Food Pantries.
- *Pray for peace and social justice in the world. Pray for the peacemakers.
- *Pray for our leaders, both national and local, to make good and just decisions.
- *Pray for St. Peter's and its families, for the present and the future, that we may grow in Christ and be His light to the world.



Why the Incarnation?

O human, what should we do with you? When God remains in the heights, you do not seek Him. When He comes down and converses with you through flesh, you do not receive Him. But how will you be brought into affinity with God when you seek explanations? Realize that God is in flesh for this reason: because the flesh that was cursed needed to be sanctified, the flesh that was weakened needed to be strengthened, the flesh that was alienated from God needed to be brought into affinity with Him, the flesh that had fallen in paradise needed to be led back into heaven.

—St. Basil of Caesarea, 4th Century AD via The Anglican Digest, Winter A.D. 2020

The Spirit at Work!

- *Thanks to Pete Buerosse, Andy Marks and Dave Dlobik (and Fr. Tom) for supplying guitar music during the times of Matt's absence. We love all the music at St. Peter's!
- *Thanks to Fr. David Couper and Fr. Jim Kaestner for celebrating with us while Fr. Tom McAlpine was on vacation in October. St. Peter's is blessed with these faithful priests!
- ***Daylight Savings ENDS Sunday, November 5th. Set your clocks BACK!**
- *The next **Vestry Meeting is Sunday, November 12 at 8:00 am.**
- ***Stewardship Sunday** is November 12! An "Estimate of Giving" pledge sheet will be available for you in the Narthex.
- ***ADVENT begins Sunday, December 3 through December 24.**
- *There are no flowers on the altar during Advent. Poinsettias will adorn the altar after Christmas. There will be a new sign-up sheet in January!
- *Winter is coming! Remember to follow the winter parking rules: Park about two feet from the edge of the parking lot to allow individuals to walk in front of their vehicles.
- *We will be asking parishioners to bring Poinsettias Christmas Eve Day (Sunday, December 24) to adorn the altar and windowsills. More reminders will be in the Sunday bulletins!

Stewardship Sunday—November 19

Uncomfortable Generosity—Mark 12:38-44

A book titled "December" tells the powerful story of a little homeless boy and his mother as they spend Christmas Eve in a cardboard box on the streets, huddled together under an old coat to keep warm. They have the discarded top of a tree and two Christmas cookies. Just as the young boy is going to sleep, there is a knock on their "door" — a piece of wood covering the opening in their cardboard hut. An old woman, standing there seeking shelter from the colds, asks to come in. They invite her in and share what they have. The mother gives the old coat for the woman to keep warm. Although he hesitates, the boy holds out the plate of Christmas cookies and the woman takes one, smiling in gratitude. When the boy wakes up the next morning, the woman is gone and the coat is folded neatly on the floor. For the boy and his mother that night marked a transition. Over the coming months, his mother finds work, and the next Christmas they are celebrating in the warmth of their own apartment. That boy and his mother are a lot like the widow Jesus points out. They are generous, not because they have so much to give, but because they know that generosity is not about how much we give, but about HOW we give it. Jesus calls us to give — not as a way of showing the world how much we have, as many rich people do, but as a way of showing our true colors — showing that we are the good and loving people God created us to be. It can be tempting to think that giving of our money, or our time or our talents is just about giving from our surplus. It can be tempting to just give what we don't need. It is tempting because it is easy. But Jesus doesn't call us to live a life that is easy. If we only give what we won't miss, then how much does it matter? If it was only a matter of giving out of our abundance, there would be no story of the widow and her mite. Jesus holds her up as an example of what it means to be truly generous. It means to give in such a way that we feel the impact of our gift. Jesus calls us to a life that is generous not just in the impact it has on others, but in its impact on us as well. The fundamental lesson of "December" is that Jesus calls us to live beyond our comfort zone. Following him, living a faithful life, is not meant to be easy. It is meant to make us uncomfortable. In giving more of ourselves, more of our treasure, than feels easy or comfortable, we open up space in our lives for God to do a new thing. It is how we grow. It is how we learn, and it is how we make room for the abundance of God's love to fill our lives. —by Rev. Molly E James, PhD, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Northford, CT via The Anglican Digest, Winter 2014 — *condensed*

Reflections

By Andy Marks

With Thanksgiving and Christmas on the horizon, hopefully you are fortunate enough to either be invited or hosting a gathering of friends and family to celebrate these special occasions. If you are invited and planning on attending, the question that is most commonly asked is "What can we bring?", implying dessert, salad, drinks ...etc.

What Can We Bring?

Bring your hearts open and true
With all the love you dare to share
Knowing we won't always be there.

Bring the wisdom
That sees this precious moment
Delicate and sweet
one hard to repeat.

And in the midst of all the chaos and noise
Step back a bit and just enjoy.
Close your eyes for a moment and remember when
There were so many more of
Our family and friends.

So, bring your memories and stories too
The ones that make us laugh
The ones that make us sigh
For those are the ones
that enhanced our lives.

The True Meaning of Christmas

The great English etymologist, Owen Barfield, once wrote that "words may be made to disgorge the past that is bottled up inside of them, as coal and wine when we kindle or drink them yield up their bottled sunshine." When we uncup the sunshine that is bottled up in the many words that relate to the Christmas season, we discover that the light that streams forth illuminates centuries of human history and customs.

—*continued next column*

The True Meaning of Christmas

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The word *Christmas* comes from the Old English *Christes maesse*, meaning "the festival mass of Christ". *Christmas* is a fine example of a disguised compound, a word formed from two independent morphemes that have become so closely welded together that their individual identities have been lost. Christmas is the only annual religious holiday to have received official and secular sanction by all the states. The word *holiday* is another disguised compound, descending from the Old English *haligdaeg*,

The name *Christ* is a translation of the Hebrew word *messiah*, "the anointed one", rendered through the Greek as *Khristos*. *Jesus* also goes back to ancient Hebrew and the name Yeshua (Joshua), which is explained as Jah (or Jahveh, i.e. Jehova) is salvation". We learn about Jesus through the Gospels; *gospel* is yet another disguised compound, from the Old English *god* (good) and *spel* (news), The four Gospels spread the "good news" of the life and work of Christ. No surprise then that the four men who wrote the Gospels are called *evangelists*, from the Greek *euaggelion*, which also means "good news". - by Richard Lederer via The Anglican Digest, Winter 2019

