

The Cross & the Sword

The monthly newsletter of Saint Alban's Parish
Family

Vol. XXXVI No. 12

December 2018



**The virgin will be with child and
will give birth to a son, and
will call him Immanuel.**

Isaiah 7:14

CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS BORN!

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2: 4-7)

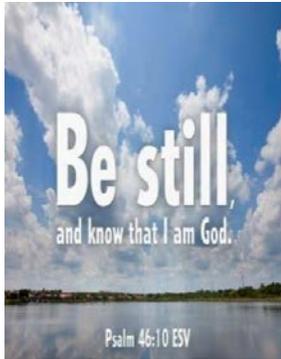
Aww. Isn't that cute? When we hear the Christmas story we usually feel all warm and cuddly. Often we are in a church or a nice comfy bed as we hear it. We think of how special it was, and it was special. However, I do not think it was warm and cuddly. The great truths of the birth scene are that God breaks in no matter what and that this was no ordinary event. As anyone who has ever given birth can tell you, nothing about giving birth is ordinary or easy. On top of this, Mary and Joseph had to travel far and wound up in a stable laying the child in a feeding trough. We have heard the story so many times we glaze over or glorify the parts that are not so glorious. Once again the truths of the story are that nothing can stop God from breaking in and it was no ordinary event.

How many of us tend to do the same thing every Christmas? If you can't see, I am raising my hand right now. Often we get in a routine every Christmas. After all routines are

familiar and generally the things we do are meaningful every year. Although there are a few things we force ourselves to do. My wonder though is do we miss the grace of the season if we do the same thing as always. In fact my challenge to you is to do something out of the ordinary this Christmas. Reflect on the long trek to Bethlehem and giving birth in a stable. Pay attention to how God breaks into your life in unexpected ways. God won't be stopped, but God can be ignored. Perhaps spend a half a day in prayer. Perhaps help someone in need. Perhaps take time with a devotional in advent. Whatever it may be for you, shake things up just a little. This I think will also help us to see where God is in the things we do every year as well. We may appreciate time with family more. We may hear Christmas songs in a new way. We may notice the love placed in our hearts a little more clearly.

One of my favorite things every year has to be the Christmas pageant. Yeah it is the same thing every year, but is it? The thing I love about the Christmas pageant is that new people play the characters every year, and you never know what a small child might do. The gospel

lesson is the same every year as it should be, but the people taking part in the story changes. Walking down the aisle to see the Christ child is an amazing thing to do. How will you do that this year?
God bless,
Dan +



ADVENT QUIET DAY

Saturday Dec 8, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m... Please come and join us for a quiet day in the season of Advent. This is always a hectic time for many and we forget to take the simple time to reflect on what is important. There will be simple reflections and quiet throughout the afternoon. We will end our time with a simple light supper provided for you. Please sign up if you plan to attend. If you have any questions please contact Dan+

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH INVITES YOU TO HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

Beginning Wednesday evening, December 5th, Grace Episcopal Church will again have its weekly Advent Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer is a form of traditional Vespers developed in 1986 at Holden Village in Chelsea, Washington. This beautiful setting, by Marty Haugen, is easily sung by the congregation, includes scripture readings and prayers, and the service lasts about ½ hour. Holden Evening Prayer has been an integral part of Grace's Lenten and Advent seasons for many years. We hope you will join us on Wednesdays, December 5th, 12th, and 19th. This is the perfect way to prepare your hearts and minds for Christmas. if you plan on going to the soup dinner before then they need to know ahead of time. To assure they have enough. Let me know if you have any questions. Cindy Spice



YOUTH PLAY "HUMBUG": Mark your calendars now for our annual Youth Play on Sunday December 16th at 6:00 p.m. This year's play is called "**Humbug**" It is filled with funny characters that will prove to be inspirational as well as hilarious. We will start off the evening once again with dinner. This year the youth will be serving homemade beef & noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans accompanied with a dinner roll and of course lots of delicious desserts. Then sit back and relax for a fun filled show with our very talented youth. Tickets go on sale Sunday, November 18th, and will be sold every Sunday up to and including the day of the show. We will sell after the 8:00 services and before and after the 10:15 services. Prices are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for ages 4-10, with 3 and under free. If you have any questions or would like to help in any way please contact Cindy Spice (348-7061)

YOUTH GROUP PLAY PRACTICE. will meet at 6:30 on Sunday, **December 2 and 9**. Will meet at noon **Decemer 16**. **THE PLAY WILL BE AT 6:00 p.m. on Sunday December 16**. The cast will report December 16 after church.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals



Program Rehearsal

Calling all children! Christmas will be here before we know it and it's time to start preparing for the annual St. Alban's Christmas pageant held on Christmas Eve. If your children are interested in being a part of this wonderful pageant, please plan on joining us on the practice dates listed below. **The pageant practices will be as follows: December 2nd, December 9th, December 16th, and December 23rd. All practices will be held immediately following the 10:15 service and will last approximately 30 minutes. Pageant will held at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service.** If there are any questions, please contact Megan Spice-Frede at 260.515.1888. Thank you.

Monthly Activities

Wednesday Bible Group meets on Wednesdays mornings at 10:30 for a study of the next Sunday's Bible readings. We set aside time for prayers and at 12:00 noon we have Holy. Eucharist. Please consider joining us for this wonderful time of sharing and learning.



Women's Bible Study and Fellowship meets at 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 6**, at the home of Marilyn Rafter.

Men's Night Out will meet **Thursday, December 6 at 6:30**. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Daughters of the King gather for Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. on **Tuesday, December 18**, followed by a meeting.



The Heart and Hands group meets at 10:00 a.m. on **Fridays December 7, 14, 21..**

THE LUNCH BUNCH will meet at the home of Marilyn McClure on **Tuesday December 11** for a Christmas Open House at 1-4 p.m. Please sign the poster on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you need to cancel your reservations, contact Anita Grams at 449-9682.



Bible Study and Fellowship Group meets at 7:00 p.m. on **Thursday, December 13** at the home of Jack Rademaker.

Altar Guild

Altar Guild members will clean and prepare the sanctuary for Christmas on Saturday, December 22 at 10:00 am. We will decorate and hang the greens for Christmas after the 10:15 a.m. service December 23. Many hands are needed Please join us as we work together to prepare for the joyous Christmas season



SPECIAL SERVICES:

Christmas Eve Holy Communion and Pageant - 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eucharist will be at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24.



At this service our children will share with us the good tidings of great joy, the news of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion - 11:00 p.m.

On this solemn night in the life of the Church we gather together

At 11:00 p.m. for a service of worship, adoration and wonder at the great love of God in sending his Son into the world to be our Savior. Incense will be used at this service.

Christmas Day - 9:00 a.m.

Worship with us at 9:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. This simple and peaceful service is a great way to start your Christmas Day.



Church Directories



Updated directories have been sent electronically to all members for whom we have e-mail address. If somehow we have missed your contact information, then please tell us. We want the directory as complete as possible. A few hard copies of the directory will be available in the narthex

Contribution Statements

Contribution statements will be mailed the first week of December to all who pledged for 2018.



Altar Flowers and Candles for 2019

Altar Flower and Sanctuary Candle charts for 2019 will be posted in the narthex. Special envelopes are found beneath the charts. **Please include on the chart in the narthex the information you would like listed in the bulletin** More than one family may sign for the same Sunday. Not every Sunday is sponsored by a specific family or person. If you would like to donate to the flower fund in general for the open Sunday, please submit any amount of gift to the flower fund. We will hopefully then be able to cover the expense of the open Sunday. Make your check payable to St. Alban's and place your envelope in the offering plate. Cost of flowers is \$35.00. Cost of sanctuary candles is \$5.00.

Vestry Stewardship

Operating Fund

Operating income October	\$14, 095.27	Operating inc. for 2018	\$134,071.30
Operating expense October	12, 931.07	Operating exp. for 2018	135,188.85
		Transfers for 2018	3,750.00
Net gain for October	\$1,1642.00	Net gain for 2018	\$ 2,632.45

December Birthdays

4 Sonja Primeau
7 Gary Pink
10 Norm Grams
11 Jane Spice



14 Melissa Renner
18 Jo McMahan
23 Laura Michael
25 David Krockner
27 Larry Shaw

and Anniversary

21 Ed & Mary Brooks



*If your birthday or anniversary has not been listed,
please notify Debbie at 485-8022, so that we may add your date to our records.*

**Paul Barker
Ray Brandes
Dick and Bonnie Camp
Dick Donnelly
Alexa Foland
Denise Frede
Abbie Gillig
Greg Gillig**



**Tammy Gillig
Norm Grams
Vicki Irvine
Cindy Spice
Rick Spice
Bill Townsend
Carlen Trujillo
June Williams**

For those unable to worship with us: Ed Brackmann, John Diver, Frances Krauskopf, LuAnn Kleinschmidt, Tom Kurtz, Gene Pettibone, Paul Wiseheart

Food Bank

In October we served 22 families, 77 individuals, and 1155 meals served.

Deadline for the January newsletter is Thursday, December 13.

Christmas Reminders

May the Christmas presents remind you of God's greatest gift - His only begotten Son.

May the Christmas candles remind you of Him, who is the Light of the World.

May the Christmas tree remind you of another tree on which He died for you.

May the Christmas cheer remind you of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."

May the Christmas feast remind you of Him, who is the Bread of Life.

May the Christmas snow remind you of the cleansing power of Christ.

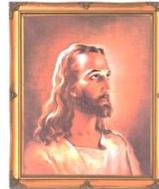
May the Christmas bells remind you of the glorious proclamation of His birth.

May the Christmas carols remind you of His glad tidings which we are to proclaim to all

mankind.

May the Christmas season remind you in every way of Jesus Christ our King.

Author Unknown



ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
10:15 a.m. Holy Communion
Sunday School (Sept-May)

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Bible Study
12:00 noon Holy Communion

Vestry

Cindy Spice	Senior Warden
John Lorenzen	Junior Warden
Norm Grams	Property
Tammy Gillig	Fellowship
Pat Stath	Worship
Josh Miller	Finance
Jordan Trendelman	Membership
	Stewardship
Phil Mayer	Outreach
Megan Spice-Frede	Christian Formation
Judy Wall	Care Connection
Christina Connelly	Communication Director

Church Staff

Rector	The Rev. Daniel K. Layden
Office Administrator	Debbie Grosjean
Organist(s)	Judith Palmer & Pat Stath

Office Hours

9:00 - 1:00
Monday through Friday

Office phone	485-8022
Fr. Layden's cell phone	579-5555