

North Shore Church News

g r o w i n g G o d ' s c h u r c h

A Season of Joy



OUR PURPOSE IS TO GROW AND DEEPEN
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP
IN A FAITH COMMUNITY GUIDED BY THE
HOLY SPIRIT.

December 2017

“A Few Thoughts On.....”

Taking the Time for Christmas

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IN A FAITH COMMUNITY GUIDED BY THE
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Sunday Morning

8:00 Worship—Chapel

10:00 Worship—Sanctuary

10:15 Sunday School

11:00 Coffee & Fellowship

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Fox Point, WI

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Dear Friends,

Have you ever sat back and actually watched as the people set up their outside lights over the course of the first couple of weeks of November? It seems that every year I end up catching a glimpse of someone straddling pumpkins and climbing over hay bales in the garden as they seek to lay nets of Christmas lights on the bushes. It strikes me, every time, as a simultaneously humorous, and yet quite telling, vision to witness people having to literally climb over the remnants of one holiday in an effort to get ready for the next.

It seems to be the nature of the season. Before you’ve as much as sorted through the candy from Halloween, the store displays are already selling you treats for Christmas. By the time the Turkey is roasting in the oven for Thanksgiving dinner, we’re already pulling out the boxes of Christmas decorations. And, the barrage of busyness only exaggerates as the holidays progress. We sit at family dinners, but our minds wander to the gifts that still need to be purchased. We attend holiday parties, but our thoughts trail back to the stack of packages that still need to be wrapped. We go to be with our family for a Christmas celebration, but we can’t stop thinking about how much cleaning we need to do before people come over for New Years.

It’s the nature of the season. Our schedules get so full, our responsibilities so extensive, our traditions so many, and our obligations so overwhelming, that it seems our hearts and minds are perpetually engaged in making sure the holidays ‘happen’ - all the while, however, we struggle to make time to actual rest in the true wonders, joys and promises that stand at the foundation of the season.

John 1:18 tells us that, “No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.” Behind all the tinsel and toys, surrounding the food and frivolity,

Taking the Time for Christmas cont...

beneath the cookies and carols, is the story of a child who came to make God known to His children. Amidst all of our celebrations and obligations, we need to take time to remember that!

It seems I end up writing the same thing, at this time, every year. But, every year, it seems to be a reminder that we so desperately need. This is a wonderfully busy time of year for all of us. It is filled with family, celebrations, presents, decorations, and many of the most meaningful and special traditions we have in our lives. It is also, however, the time of year that started with the story of a child who came to make God known to us. So, while we're busily engaged in the hoopla of the season, let's all make sure we take a little time to remember what that season is all about.

Your Pastor and Friend, **Marty**

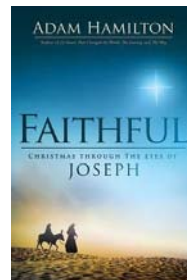
Christmas Worship Schedule

- ❖ **December 3:** Join us at 8am and 10am for our monthly worship with Communion and stay after the 10am worship service for our annual Advent Fest with a brunch hosted by the Fellowship Committee.
- ❖ **December 10:** With our usual 8am and 10am worship schedule, our 10am worship service will feature our Chancel Choir's annual Music Sunday (see p. 13) for more information.
- ❖ **December 17:** Stay a bit after our 8am worship service to join us for an all-church caroling in the sanctuary beginning at 9:30am and then enjoy the Sunday school's annual Christmas Pageant during our 10am service.
- ❖ **December 24:** The day will begin with morning worship at 10am (no 8am service). Then, join us for some, or all, of our worship opportunities on Christmas Eve as we gather around the manger and reflect on the wonders of His birth.
 - ❖ Our **4pm Twilight Service** will include readings, carols, and a candlelight service.
 - ❖ **8:30pm** will mark the beginning of **special pre-service music** provided by our talented musicians, and the 9:00pm Candlelight Service will include readings, handbells, the Chancel Choir, and a beautiful candlelight service to cap off a wonderful evening of worship.
- ❖ **December 31:** We resume our normal worship schedule at 8am and 10am.



EDUCATION AND FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Tuesday Morning Book Group meets in Friendship Lounge on Tuesdays from 10-11 am. In December we are taking an Advent Journey with Adam Hamilton's book (and video) *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph*. Beginning January 2 we will discuss Gregory Boyle's *Tattoos on the Heart*. Read this summary: Gregory Boyle distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith. Arranged by theme and filled with sparkling humor and glowing generosity, these essays offer a stirring look at how full our lives could be if we could find the joy in loving others and in being loved unconditionally.



Please let Rev. Julie know if you would like a book ordered for you.

**Please note that there will be no book group meeting on December 26*



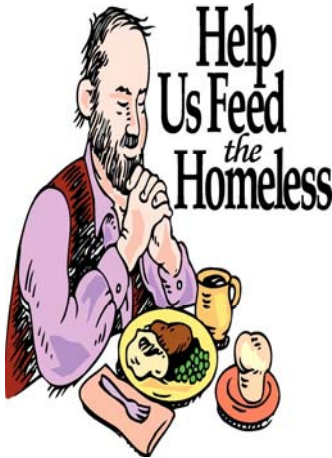
Thursday Morning Bible study: Join us in Friendship Lounge on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00 in December as we discuss "the beginnings" of each of the four Gospels: If and how they offer the birth story of Jesus! Feel free to come. *Please note - there will be no Bible study meeting on December 28.*

If you have any questions or thoughts about Bible studies and book groups, please contact Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith at 414-588-8693 or juliesmith@northshorecongl.org.

Advent-Epiphany Devotional! Thank you to all who shared prayers and reflections that became a beautiful devotional booklet for the church. We begin the journey with the first Sunday of Advent on December 3. If you have not yet picked up a copy, please do so. Copies are available in the lower narthex! Grow in Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Light each day during this season by reading NSCC's daily devotional.



FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



Repairers of the Breach Lunch Making

For December 3 the Confirmation youth will make Bag Lunches for Repairers of the Breach daytime homeless shelter. We look forward to having you join in the ministry for all ages on the first Sunday of January.

Agape Table at College

Friday, December 1 Rev. Julie and Rev. Rob Fredrickson head out to the University of Wisconsin, Madison campus to share dinner and conversation with our college students there. Ask Rev. Julie about this when you see her.



Annual Ornament Exchange

Join other moms and ladies of the church for a festive get together and ornament exchange on Friday, December 15, 6:30 PM at Mary Kramer's house: 4027 N. Richland Ct. in Shorewood. Please bring a dish or drink to share and an ornament to exchange! Call or email Mary with any questions: 312-515-3289 or email mewkramer@sbcglobal.net.



LOAVES AND FISHES

December 19, 2017

CASSEROLES

DESSERTS

Gaenslen	Dowsett
Gorham	Lemorande
Quilling	Lennie
Papineau	Levatich
Petersen	Reimer
Ritke	Sweet
Slagle	Wauck
Slagle	Weber
Lange	Zganjar
	Jipson
	Westfahl
	Smith



MAN DOES NOT LIVE ON
BREAD ALONE BUT ON
EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM
THE MOUTH OF THE LORD.
DEUTERONOMY 8:3

DRIVERS

Gorham	Osborne	<i>Smith (If needed)</i>
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SERVERS

Gorham	Slagle
Papineau	Slagle
Papienau	Slagle
Papineau	Slagle

SAVE THE DATE...

Hosanna Mission Trip dates set for 2018

We'll travel to Pennsylvania on Saturday, June 16, and return home on Friday, June 22.

Anyone interested in serving on the mission team or the food prep team, please contact David Schimpf (dschimpf@wi.rr.com). Since we will be teaming up with Ozaukee and Wauwatosa Congregational Churches, we need a headcount of workers before December 31. Please consider this opportunity to do God's business in Western Pennsylvania! For more information please visit <http://hosannaindustries.org/>.



Lydia Circle will have their December meeting on Friday, **January 5** at 10am at Barb Holzhauser's house, 11464 N. Lake Shore Dr. Mequon.

Since the "Christmas Luncheon" was dropped for a variety of reasons, we're planning a post-holiday brunch to allow everyone to share Christmas stories, take a breath and enjoy the warmth of the fire and the warmth of friendship. Please feel free to bring a friend --we need add'l members. Also, to assist with planning, please let Barb know if you're planning on attending and if you're bringing a guest. Email response is preferred, bgh11464@gmail.com, but any form of communication will be accepted!



Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendar for a Congregational Meeting immediately following our 10am worship service on **December 17**. The proposed budget for 2018 will be presented and voted upon at this meeting.

Christmas Eve Morning Worship...

Please note that, due to the Christmas Eve schedule, there will be no 8am worship service on Sunday, December 24.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

PREVENTING SEASONAL FLU WITH VACCINATION



The FLU or INFLUENZA is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness and at times can lead to death.

Are you ready for the flu season? We are all busy but it is very important for us to get our Influenza vaccinations either from our doctor's office or any commercial pharmacy that provides the vaccinations.

Vaccinations should be administered ideally by the end of October but it is better to receive a vaccination than to acquire the illness and pass it on to others. In 2016, the peak months for the flu activity was December to March.

Vaccinations are available for those 6 months of age and older. Children to age 8 will require two vaccinations four weeks apart, in order to develop antibodies. It takes two weeks for the antibodies to develop and begin to protect the spread of disease to the community.

Influenza vaccinations are not to be given to those allergic to eggs, egg proteins or known allergic reactions to previous influenza vaccinations. You should consult your physician regarding the type of vaccine you receive and any precautions needed for chronic illness.

Signs and Symptoms

- ❖ Fever
- ❖ Cough
- ❖ Sore Throat
- ❖ Runny or stuffy Nose
- ❖ Muscle or Body aches
- ❖ Headaches
- ❖ Fatigue
- ❖ Some people might have vomiting and diarrhea



(continued on next page)

Contagious period - People have the greatest contagious period the first 3-4 days after the illness begins. However, children and those with weakened immune system might infect others for a longer period.

Complications of the Flu can include Bacterial Pneumonia, ear or sinus infection and worsening of chronic medical conditions such as congestive heart failure, asthma or diabetes.

It is very important for each of us to obtain our FLU injections – SOON!



shawl Ministry

SOS - The Health Committee has just a few prayer shawls left in the office. If you have one in the works please finish it as quickly as possible. If you don't have one started, please start one. We would like everyone who is in need of one to receive one. Thanks for your willingness to help. God Bless.



Your Decorating Committee is once again making plans to adorn our beautiful building for the upcoming Christmas season. We always look forward to seeing our sanctuary in all its glory as we worship at this very special time of year. Being mindful of the financial strains on both the church budget and our own personal budgets, we do our best to help you experience the true joy and blessings of Christmas at North Shore Church. Donations to our flower/decorating fund, which is made available to support decorations and plantings placed in the building and around the church campus throughout the year, will be gratefully accepted. The dedications you share with your gift will be listed in the order of worship on Christmas Eve. Dedications can be completed in the insert available each Sunday, or by emailing KerrinWhite@northshorecongl.org with the precise wording of the dedication.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

THE NORTH SHORE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CRECHE

My parents Dr. Val and Charlotte Lang were founding members of North Shore Congregational Church in 1949. I remember going to early services and classes at Country Day School on Santa Monica Blvd. just south of School Road, the dividing line between Whitefish Bay and Fox Point. We lived on Berkeley Blvd. and in early days before the building boom we could see the school from our house. I also attended Kindergarten there and it was a comfort to my mother to be able to see the school.

My older sister Frances' wedding was the first wedding in the new sanctuary on August 20, 1955 and the first funeral, August 7, 1957, was my father's. There was no air conditioning in those days and I remember both events as being almost unbearably hot. My father was a well loved physician and the crowds turned out. The reception seemed to go on forever.

Two years later my mother took my younger sister Suzanne and me to Europe. One of the highlights was visiting Oberammergau, Germany and touring the theatre where the famous Passion Play is staged every ten years. While there my mother decided to order a crèche set in memory of Dad. She wanted something larger than a table model but not too huge. Finally the size and type were decided on and the order placed with the crèche to be delivered to North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point before Christmas. The wording on the plaque was later determined after we got home.

Mother remained in Milwaukee until my younger sister left for college out west. Then, being widowed and her children gone, she decided the Wisconsin winters were too harsh for her arthritic joints. After I and my younger sister were married at North Shore, she made Arizona her home, with the exception of returning to our Port Washington cottage a few summers. She lived in Carefree, AZ until her death in June of 1989.



Celebrate Our Heritage

I returned to Port Washington early 1991 and stopped in to see the crèche. I was saddened to see that two of the sheep had broken legs and asked if I could find someone to fix them. I found a craftsman in the industrial area of South Milwaukee who accomplished the task and the sheep were returned intact to the manager setting.

Without any of my family in the area and attending North Shore, for many years people thought another Lang family had given the crèche but that was not the case. It is a joy to know the crèche my mother contributed in loving memory of my father is still displayed at Christmas time for all to enjoy!

(written by Mimi Lang Mead – November, 2017)

DON'T MISS!

Music Sunday

Don't miss the opportunity to hear our Chancel Choir and other musicians present "The Snow Lay on the Ground" by Julian Wachner. Choir, harp, brass, organ and more will bring to life this wonderful compilation of carol settings throughout our 10am worship service.



Christmas Eve Dinner

Join your church family for dinner on Christmas Eve! Staying through both services on Christmas Eve? Only coming to one service but want to join others for a church family dinner? The Hall and Sheridan-Smith families are sharing in a simple meal between the two services, and we want to invite any church members and friends to join in. We will gather to eat around 5:45, and will be done well before choir rehearsals and other evening preparations begin. To sign up, or with any questions, please contact Sharon Hall at disneyfamily01@gmail.com or (248) 872-2449.



BENEVOLENCE—CHRISTMAS

We will be sharing our Christmas joy with children and teens in need by bringing presents to put under our Giving Tree once again this year. Please take a tag (or two!) from the tree. Most of the tags show the name, age and gift requests of young children who attend the Next Door Foundation. The Next Door Foundation is a nationally recognized program that provides early education and support services

for at-risk children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old in Milwaukee's central city.



Other tags are for at-risk boys ages 13 to 17 who live at Nehemiah House, a group home that offers boys educational support and life skills training. These boys need warm winter jackets, sizes L to 3X.



Please pick one of the gifts requested on the tag. The recommended price limit is \$25. Wrap the gift and put it under the Giving Tree by Sunday December 10. Members of the Benevolence Board will sort and deliver your gifts to Next Door Foundation and Nehemiah House before Christmas. Thank you for your generosity. Your gifts will bring joy, comfort and warmth to many children and young people in need this holy season.



MINISTRY OF THE MONTH



Our life at North Shore is so deeply enriched by the musical gifts shared by many dedicated and talented members who participate in **Chancel Choir**, **Handbell Choir**, **Children's Choir**, and as individuals who share as soloists, including **Dr. Rod Loren**, **Meike Pampalone** and some of our favorite regular instrumentalists: **Carol White**-flute, and **Tom Smith**-cello.

Rick Kieffer and **Leslie Krueger**, our two directors, are truly privileged and blessed to serve along side these many wonderful souls, those young and young at heart.



Chancel Choir: Molly Allen, Steve Anderson, Melissa Block, Jon Butt, Midge Croysdale, Kurt Dew, Sue Dew, Carlin Gabby, Myla Hadcock, Walt Hadcock, Marty Hall, Pat Jipson, Jean Lemorande, Gail Perlick, Tom Rehm, Donna Ritke, Rick Ruenzel, Mary Streich, Ted Strong, Debra Warejcka, Doug Wermuth, Carol White, Dona Wininsky, Evie Zganjar. Section Leaders: Cynthia Mathcette-soprano, Christine Kieffer-alto, Cameron Smith-tenor, Scott Jonas-bass, Elizabeth Jonas-soprano(short term).

Handbell Choir: Carrie Bell, Sharon Clappier, Kurt Dew, Amy Gallinger, Marty Hall, Cindy Journey, Judy Miller, Chuck Peterson, Tom Smith, Sue Wood, and regular substitute ringers Sarah Wood and Kathy Schill



Children's Choir: Our church has been so wonderfully gracious in sharing your appreciation for our ministry. As we lead worship, we feel and hear your strong voices during our hymns—one of the greatest things about worshipping here---YOU ALL SING!! Many congregations do not share that gift—we are BLESSED!

Music in Ministry

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Advent Fest

Sunday, December 3, 11:00-1:00. Following 10am worship service, please join us for an all-church brunch and stay for crafts. It's a fun afternoon for those who like to craft and a great opportunity to slow down and socialize with church friends. The theme for this year's advent festival is the four virtues of Advent: Love, Joy, Hope, and Peace. Each crafter can make a craft to take home or give as a gift.



Pageant Sunday

Sunday, December 17, during the 10:00am worship service. You won't want to miss this one! "On Our Way to Bethlehem" will be presented by our Sunday School children and youth. Join us in celebration of his birth and remember that it is his light alone that enlightens out lives.

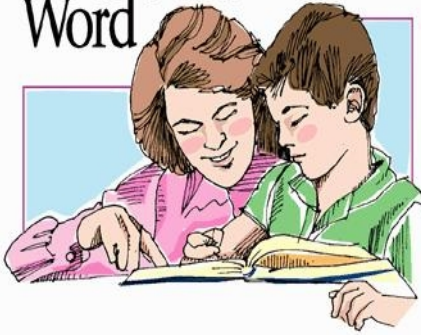


Church school news at a glance

- ❖ **December 3:** An Angel Announces Jesus' Birth (Luke 1: 26-38; Matthew 1: 18-25) and Advent Fest.
- ❖ **December 10:** Pageant Dress Rehearsal from 10:00am until 11:15 in the large classroom!
- ❖ **December 17:** 9:30 Caroling in the Sanctuary followed by the Christmas Pageant at 10am.
- ❖ **December 24:** All children welcome to attend worship. Worship bags and binders with drawing items and puzzles are prepared!
- ❖ **December 31:** All children welcome to attend worship. Worship bags and binders with drawing items and puzzles are prepared!



Share God's Word



Consider developing a deeper relationship with your children and their church school education. **Please sign up to be a teacher or 2nd adult in one of the classrooms this month.** Responsibilities as a second adult include, sitting back and enjoying the awe and wonder that only children have as they learn about the birth of Jesus. What better place is there to get into the Christmas Spirit than in one of the Sunday school classrooms? It's an experience you won't want to miss. Please feel free to sign up in any classroom at <http://signup.com/go/eKorrV> Or contact Leslie Krueger to sign up or to find out more.



Acolytes

Acolytes: We are grateful for the children that light the sanctuary candles at the beginning of worship each Sunday. We are growing this team so if your child would like to be an acolyte, but needs a brief "training" session, please contact Leslie Krueger.

Happy Life Children's Home

Each week, during Sunday School, we take an offering. 100% of the money we collect goes directly to Happy Life Children's Home in Africa. Less fortunate children are given a home, in hope for adoption.

In these next couple months of giving and being thankful, reach into your hearts and please consider giving more to this amazing place!



HAPPENINGS WITH YOUTH!

Confirmation Class Update

During Advent our Confirmation Class families will be leading our prayers and lighting the **Advent candles**. If you haven't met these great kids yet, stop and introduce yourself!

December the group takes a break from lessons to reach out and take part in several ministries.

December 3: You will find some of the class members helping with Advent Festival crafts or helping with clean up after the All Church brunch. (don't miss it!)

December 10: The students, mentors and some parents will gather after church to package up delicious home made cookies, write cards, load up into cars and head out to visit some of our senior members. Such a joy!

December 24: There are several opportunities for our youth to carry the light for our Christmas Eve services. The 10am service will include the normal Advent wreath lighting and prayers, and at both the 4 pm and 9 pm services youth help pass the light throughout the sanctuary near the end of the service of worship.



HAPPENINGS WITH YOUTH!

YouthConnect@Church!

Pizza, Music, Trivia and Minute to Win it Christmas style – Friday, December 8, 6:30-8:30.

This is for grades 6 – 12 (but I always need another adult to help)! Let Rev. Julie know how many friends you are bringing so we have enough pizza and prizes.

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting! At the close of our beautiful Christmas Eve service (both 4 pm and 9 pm) the room will be lit up by each person's candle. We need a team of 6-8 *youth and adults* to help start the light at the end of each pew. Contact Rev. Julie to sign up. First come first in!

Agape Table: Friday, December 1, Rev. Julie and Rev. Rob Fredrickson head out to the University of Wisconsin, Madison campus to share dinner and conversation with our college students there.

Winter Retreat for Young Adults, Dec. 27-29, at Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center. Join us for the third annual Wisconsin Congregational Association Winter Retreat. This two-night, three-day retreat is open to young adults (high school grads/college grads/under the age of 30). There will be faith based programming (facilitated by Rev. Julie) along with free time, games, fellowship and of course, food. Contact Rev. Julie with any questions. Register through <https://www.wiscongregational.net/events> or on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/wcayouth/

*Parents: We would like to keep a bulletin board and newsletter notes of special events, plays/musicals that the school age people of the church are part of so we join in as able!
Please contact Rev. Julie with dates and events!*



414-352-6123

North Shore Congregational Church

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NORTH SHORE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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*A member church of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
and the Wisconsin Congregational Association.*

MINISTERS

All members of North Shore Congregational Church

ASSISTED BY

Rev. Dr. Martin Hall, Senior Minister	Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith, Associate Minister
Leslie Krueger, Director of Children's Ministries	Rick Kieffer, Music Director
Dr. Rodney Loren, Organist	Meike Pampalone, Organist
Leslie Krueger, Children's Choir Director	Kerrin White, Office Manager
Mike Fugarino, Custodian	Connie Mullins, Volunteer Office Assistant
Brian Hanrahan, Katie Lennie, Nicole Lennie and Abby Schill, Sunday Custodians	