

North Shore Church News

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



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

December 2019

“A Few Thoughts On.....”

The Possibilities of Emptiness!

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



Loaves and Fishes	4
Worship Schedule	7
Christmas Devotions	8
Ladies' Luncheon	9
Benevolence	12
Advent	14
Children/'s Ministry	16
Youth Fall Retreat	19

Sunday Morning

8:00 Worship—Chapel

10:00 Worship—Sanctuary

10:15 Sunday School

11:00 Coffee & Fellowship

©North Shore Congregational Church,
Fox Point, WI

Vol. 37 Issue 12

As some of you know, a group of volunteers has been working, in recent months, on an update to the youth room on the upper level of the church building. Newer technology, updated colors and furniture, more flexible settings - these are all goals that are held in mind by those working on the space (some of which will be aided by the BCE evergreen/poinsettia fundraiser that was just completed). The first step among many, however, was to clear the space of what was there.

For this, a small group met this past Saturday, equipped with furniture dollies and a large box truck, to clear out much of the room. Six couches, two chests/bookshelves, a table, a carpet and more were all part what was removed in order to make room for what came next. When we were done the room looked like this...



Suddenly, as I snapped a few photos and headed out for the rest of the day, I was overcome by possibility that exists in the emptiness!

The Possibilities of Emptiness continued...

When we first began, that morning, the room was stuffed to the gills in a way that it was difficult to even imagine what the space might become. With furniture cluttered in the middle of the room so that walls could be primed and work could begin, it was difficult to see beyond the piles that were there and into the potential of what might be. Conversations had taken place, and some early thoughts were in mind, but it was hard to visualize what could be when I was so distracted by what had been. As the room stood more empty, however, the notion of what might be became far easier to see.

I was struck, in that moment, by the reminder it served for the Advent Season that stands before us. As we await the rejoicing of Christmas - as we look ahead to remembering what it is to have God with us in human form - how much of what can be is obstructed by the clutter of what is? How much of what we long to see in God will be clouded by the duties and obligations that overrun the season? How much of what God is looking to do, this Christmas, will be blocked by piles of what we already have in mind?

There is a beauty to emptiness and the possibility that it invites, and it is not hard to see those places where our crowded minds are the clutter that block it out. I wonder if, this Advent season, we might find ways to create a bit more emptiness in our own hearts and minds, allowing just a bit more of the possibility that God might have in store!

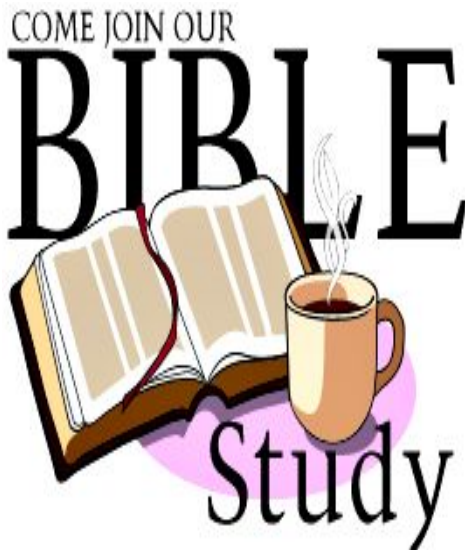
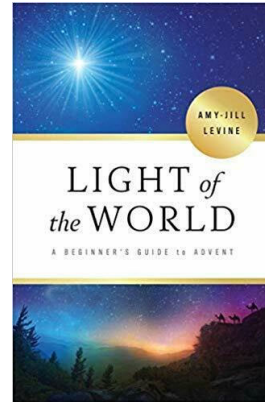
Your Pastor and Friend, ***Marty***



EDUCATION AND FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Book Group:

Meets in Friendship Lounge on **Tuesdays 10-11 am**.
Through Advent we are reading and watching the video for
Light of the Word by Amy Jill-Levine. Join us.



Join us in Friendship Lounge on Thursday **mornings from 9:30-11:00**, as we finish exploring the book of James, then discuss where we find, and don't find, Jesus' birth narrative - and why. We are growing and are glad to make more room at the table - Feel free to come. Please note - **we will not meet December 26.**

Sunday afternoon Bible discussion. In December we will meet from 4:30-6 pm Sunday afternoons: December 1, 15, and 29. We are exploring John's gospel through a combination of video presentation and discussion. You are always welcome.

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

FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



It's never too early to start planning for next summer!!!

SAVE THE DATE
Hosanna Industries Mission Trip
June 20-26, 2020

Contact David Schimpf or Rev. Julie if you are planning on serving!

Chair Yoga in Friendship Lounge

Chair Yoga continues in Friendship Lounge on **Thursdays, 11:15-12:15**. This is a gentle form of Yoga adapted to do while sitting on a chair or standing with a chair as support. Chair Yoga offers improvement for mobility and flexibility, overall health and relaxation. Drop in and try it out (\$10) or sign up for a 6 week session (\$54). Make checks payable to Erica Boos.



Anna Zimmer's much requested Graham-Cracker Crumb Cake Recipe

½ cup flour	1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp each baking soda and salt	1 ½ cups graham-cracker crumbs
½ cup butter, softened	2/3 cup granulated sugar
2/3 cup packed light-brown sugar	3 eggs
1 tsp vanilla	1 cup buttermilk
1 cup chopped walnuts (optional)	Powdered sugar for dusting

Stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Mix with crumbs; set aside. In large bowl cream butter and sugars. Beat in eggs one at a time and vanilla; beat until fluffy. Add flour mixture to egg mixture alternately with buttermilk, beating just to blend. Stir in walnuts (if using). Spread in a greased 9-inch square baking pan. Bake in preheated 350-degree oven for 40 minutes or until pick inserted in center comes out clean. Serve warm dusted with plenty of powdered sugar. Makes 10 servings.

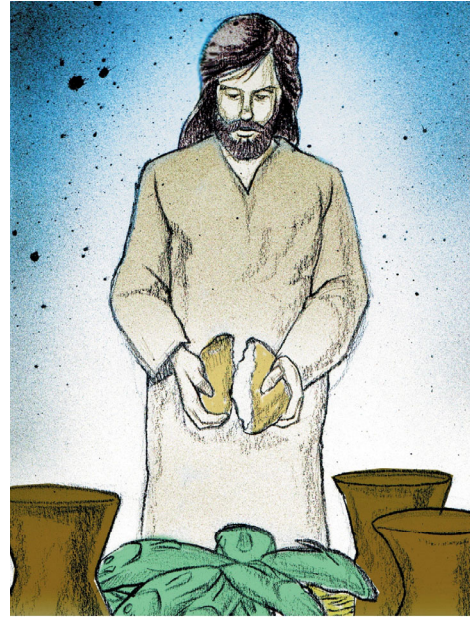
LOAVES AND FISHES

December 17, 2019

CASSEROLES

DESSERTS

Gaenslen	Clor
Cook	Dowsett
Slagle	Holmes
Slagle	Lemorande
Gorham	Petersen
Quilling	Wauck
McGinn	Weber
_____	Wink
_____	Zimmer
_____	Zganjar
_____	Block
_____	Jipson



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

DRIVERS

Osborne	Croysdale	Wauck
---------	-----------	-------

SERVERS

Slagle	Zimmer
Slagle	Zimmer
Slagle	Gorham
Slagle	Osborne



As December approaches, we are eagerly looking forward to our worship and fellowship opportunities throughout the Advent and Christmas Season. Please mark your calendars and join us...

- * **Sunday, December 8, Music Sunday:** Storytelling, the voices of our Chancel Choir, and an accompanying harp by our very own Kelsey Molinari! Note that there will be no early chapel service on this day.
- * **Sunday, December 15,** the joys of the season continue with our 8am chapel service, an **all-church carol-sing beginning at 9:30**, and our annual **Children's pageant at 10am**. The kids have been working diligently on this year's program...don't miss it!
- * We will join together at both 8am and 10am for our **final Advent worship** of the season on **Sunday, December 22**. A **Congregational Meeting** will follow the 10am service, at which time we will review and approve the 2020 budget.
- * On Tuesday, **December 24**, we will gather for two worship services. Our **early service, at 4pm**, will include **special music and candlelight** services. Our later service will start with **pre-service music and carols at 8:30**, which will lead into our **9pm Candlelight service** that will include special music, the Handbell Choir and the Chancel Choir.

Join us this season as we gather, in many times and ways, to give glory to the coming of Emmanuel - God with us!



Christmas Decorations and Dedications

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 fund plantings and decorations placed around the church building and campus throughout the year, will be gratefully accepted. We are also always looking for more helping hands and creative ideas, so please consider joining us in this special endeavor. Thank you, Jeannine George.



This is an opportunity to remember or honor someone, or something, by making a contribution and having your message printed in the order of worship on Christmas Eve. Please return the section below to the church office, with your check made payable to North Shore Congregational Church, by Sunday, December 15.

Name _____

I/We would like the wording in the Christmas Eve bulletin to appear (select one):

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In celebration of _____



NSCC Lydia Circle Christmas Luncheon

All Women Welcome!

Tues., December 10--gather at 11:30

for punch and conversation in Friendship Lounge

Luncheon at noon

Salads, croissant sandwiches, turkey roll-ups

Dessert bites

Adele Lund will present a program on Humor: How it can keep you feeling
young and healthy

Laughter can have a profound effect on our overall health and well-being.

Join us so we can all laugh together.

Sign up and pay by Sun., December 8

\$10, checks payable to NSCC Lydia Circle

BENEVOLENCE



Your Benevolence Board has selected the Flight to the North Pole as this year's recipient of our Christmas offering. The Flight to the North Pole mission is to provide families a happy memory, relaxing time together, and remove them from the day-to-day concerns they are dealing with.

Each year this organization provides a magical trip in December for children who are suffering from childhood cancer and their families. The Flight volunteers work with local hospitals, to give the families a memory of a happy time together, and to give them a break from the day-to-day treatment. The event lasts a few hours and programming consists of a "flight" for the children and families, lunch, games, entertainment and of course a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The children and their families are sent home with toys, gifts, and treats in Santa-sized bags.



The Benevolence Board has chosen to partner with Neighborhood House of Milwaukee (NHM) and the Nehemiah Project this coming Advent. Look for the Christmas Giving Tree in the church narthex on December 1. We will be granting Christmas wishes for children enrolled in two NHM pre-school programs and two NHM after school programs. The children and youth ages will range from three years old to twelve years old. The Nehemiah Project is requesting that we provide warm winter coats for sixteen young men. The Benevolence Board invites you stop by the tree, select one or more ornament, purchase a wish and wrap the gift . . . be sure to attach the ornament to the gift! All gifts must be returned to the church by December 15.

UPCOMING..

The Board of Christian Enrichment is pleased to host our Poinsettia and Evergreen Fundraiser. ALL proceeds go toward very needed updates for our Youth Room upstairs! Your items may be picked up at church starting Sunday, December 1. If you need to pick up during the following week, arrangements can be made to pick up during normal church business hours.



Due to the holidays, please note that the office will be closed from Monday, December 24 through Tuesday, January 1. Rev. Julie will be in town, but please call before coming in to make sure that she will be here to receive you at that particular time.

Save the Date: Women's Retreat

Mark your calendars for an overnight retreat at Christ Pond in Random Lake Wisconsin Friday evening, February 7, through Saturday afternoon. We will enjoy a warm fire, make and share meals together, and enjoy the beautiful surrounding grounds as we reflect on God's presence. More details to come.



ADVENT

Women's Advent Lunch: We are so excited to begin what we hope is a new tradition! Let's set aside the flurry of December, relax and reflect on the meaning of the Advent season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. **Saturday, December 7,** beginning at 11:30, gather around beautifully decorated tables in Friendship Lounge for a "Tea" style luncheon with Advent songs and readings. Make an Advent prayer bead bracelet to help you mark this season of preparation.



Do you have a special tea pot? Bring it for your table! This will be a sweet time to invite friends to join us. We are grateful to the Soupers for providing funds to host this lunch. Please RSVP to the church office or find the sign up sheet below the bulletin the hallway television. For those who would like to participate – there will be an ornament exchange as well (so fun!), bring one concealed in some kind of wrapping.



Advent Devotionals

Thank you to all who shared prayers and reflections which became a beautiful devotional booklet for the church. We draw closer to each other and God as we read each other's offering. If you have not picked up a copy yet please do so ~ copies are in the lower narthex!

Are you
connected?

Find us...



Follow us at
NSCChurchWI



Like us...
[Facebook.com/north.church.3](https://www.facebook.com/north.church.3)

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Be Mindful of Holiday Expectations

The holidays bring excitement and anticipation of many traditions with family and friends. Most of us happily plunge into the many preparations of the season, but any of us can become distressed by some of our expectations.

Some issues that may cause stress during the holidays include: time constraints, financial spending, family gatherings, travel, increased commercialization.

Our usual routines are often disrupted.

The key to coping is to assess your expectations: determine the top issues that distress you the most; plan one or two actions to diminish them.

You may need to thoughtfully lower your expectation. (I like to remember perfection is the enemy of good.)

Focus on what brings you joy in your holiday preparations: baking cookies, listening to or making music, volunteering...

Try to keep your usual routines as much as possible; get adequate sleep; eat (mostly) healthy; get some exercise and some relaxation; and prioritize social activities.

This year create a preset intention to promote the enrichment of your holiday.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Church school news at a glance:

- * **December 1, One Room Sunday School.** We will make an advent craft, read an advent story, have a snack, and play games! (No Children's Choir)
- * **December 8**
 - * **Pageant Dress Rehearsal from 9:00-9:50 in the large classroom!**
 - * 10 am: We encourage any children to attend worship and experience Music Sunday, and there will be a One Room Sunday School for our youngest students.
 - * **KidsConnect** - for kids in grades 3-5. 4:00-5:30.
BINGO NIGHT! Please bring a friend! Let Leslie know if you can be a second adult for this event.
- * **December 14, 9:30-10:30, MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL FOR ALL INVOLVED IN PAGEANT!**
- * **December 15, Christmas Pageant** during worship. No Sunday school, crib and crawler staffed.
- * **December 22, One Room Sunday School.** (No Children's Choir)
- * **December 29, One room Sunday School.** (No Children's Choir)



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 of adoption. In these next couple months of giving reach into your hearts and please consider making a donation!



Please join us for a **carol sing-along** on **December 15** from 9:30-10:00. Following the sing along and during the 10:00am worship service, the Children will present a musical, “**One Starry Night.**” This is **NOT** one you will want to miss. See you there!

Join us for **Advent Fest** on Sunday, **December 15.** Following our 10am worship service, please join us for lunch 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. Each crafter can make several crafts to take home or give as gifts!



**ADVENT
FESTIVAL**



Confirmation Class Update

We have discussed and journaled our thoughts about what we think about or believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit. Through November we learned some Bible basics learning how to use it as a resource, with an overview of how it is structured. Then we had an overview of Old Testament history and how that fits within the pages. We have learned about the Gospels- 4 stories yet 1 story, and the distinct voice each one carries. For December we will look into the Parables and Epistles and begin a discussion on prayer.

You will see some of our Confirmation student families doing the Advent Candlelight readings.



On **December 8** we are **plating cookies, writing notes, and delivering cookies** to some of our more home bound members, and some of us will be helpers at the craft tables for Advent Fest on December 15 - we hope to see you there!



YouthConnect

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 candles. 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!



Tri-Y Christmas Fiesta, Friday, December 13.

*Uniting 6th-12th graders from North Shore, Ozaukee
Congregational & First Church Tosa!*

At First Congregational Church — 1511 Church St., Wauwatosa.

***Food at 6pm! • Games, including Name That Christmas Song!
Christmas-themed videos! • And, the Blind Gift Exchange!***

(Bring a wrapped gift, as goofy as you want to make it, \$5 max.)

Abby and Nick are offering a different kind of Hangout on December 14, from 1-3pm. The plan is to go skating, the place to be determined (Indoor Pettit Center or outdoor rink)! Save the date and time and we will stay in touch.



Agape Table

Wednesday, **December 11**, Rev. Julie and Rev. Rob Fredrickson head out to UW Madison for dinner and conversation with our college students there. If you know of students in that area, please let Rev. Julie know- we would be so glad to invite them.



Winter Retreat for Young Adults Dec. 27-29, at Mt. Morris Camp & Conference Center through the Wisconsin Congregational Association. 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 along with free time, games, fellowship and of course, food. Register through wiscongregational.net/winter-retreat Any questions, contact Rev. Julie.

414-352-6123
North Shore Congregational Church
7330 N. Santa Monica Boulevard
Fox Point, Wisconsin 53217



Staff Member:	Email Address:	Church Extension:	Outside Phone:
Rev. Dr. Martin Hall	martinhall@NSCChurchWI.org	x15	248-245-0415
Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith	juliesmith@NSCChurchWI.org	x14	414-588-8693
Kerrin White	kerrinwhite@NSCChurchWI.org	x12	
Leslie Krueger	lrcook@uwm.edu	x13	
Rick Kieffer	RLKieffer1@gmail.com		414-698-6252



Phone (414) 352-6123
Fax (414) 352-8320
www.NSCChurchWI.org
www.facebook.com/north.church.3

*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
Leslie Krueger, Director of Children's Ministries
Ellen Hacker Organist
Leslie Krueger, Children's Choir Director
Mike Fugarino, Custodian

Rev. Julie Sheridan-Smith, Associate Minister
Rick Kieffer, Music Director
Meike Pampalone, Organist
Kerrin White, Office Manager
Eric Detienne, Katie Lennie and
Adam Penno, Sunday Custodians