



## Hanging of the Green Tonight!

Sunday, Dec. 2nd at 5 p.m. Sing carols, decorate the Christon Tree. Enjoy an impromptu Christmas drama by the children, seasonal readings by older youth and a light-hearted kick-off to the season!

**Cookie & snack reception after the service. Please bring something to share!**



## Green is Good!

In keeping with this year's theme for Advent, which is Hunger/Feeding the World, we are doing a "directed" food collection for The Matthews HELP Center. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, which is Hanging of the Green, please bring a green item for "Green Goodness" week and place it in the special sleigh just inside the door. Suggested items include canned green beans, peas, collards, and soup.



## Need a Christmas Gift Idea?

Do you have enough ties? Enough sweaters? Do you need more chachkies to dust? Do you struggle when someone asks what you want for Christmas? The ELCA Good Gifts Fair is your answer. Share your abundant blessings with others through alternative gifts.



This year we will offer not only the ELCA Good Gifts to make a difference in World Hunger, but also four local charities will benefit from your generosity: Matthews Medical Clinic, COS Kids Single Parent Program, Charlotte Men's Shelter, S.A.F.E. Animal Haven. **Dec. 2nd between services and after Hanging of the Green Dec. 5th before, during and after Wednesday Night Happenings**  
Thank you for your generosity!



**Last Sunday to Order Poinsettias for Christmas! Order your Christmas Poinsettias today! They are \$12 each. Order forms are in the bulletin.**



## Schedule of Holiday Services

- \* Dec. 23rd--Lessons and Carols
- \* Christmas Eve:  
4:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service with candlelighting (nursery available)
- 8:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

\* Dec. 30th--One Service at 10:00 a.m. Please see the revised list of Worship Assignments in the bulletin this week. (The December calendar listed 2 services by mistake.)

## More Devotional Guides Available

Remember our recent series on Roads to Transformation? Copies of the three devotional booklets offered then are available now, in case you missed one or would like a new set. Pick up a set in the narthex.

Road to Emmaus, Road to Damascus, Road to Jericho



## C&C Weekday School Christmas Program

Join the Cross and Crown Weekday School students and teachers on December 18th as they perform various Christmas songs and carols. We will begin at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

## NEXT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

Come and help with Cross & Crown's Roadside Clean-Up!

We have adopted several highways around the church needing a quarterly clean-up. **Please be at the Church at 8:45 a.m.! We should be finished around 10:30 a.m.** Bring along gloves and appropriate clothing for being outside! Please contact the church office with any questions. (Rain date is Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> - same time.)



The Middle School Youth would like to invite people of all ages to join them for Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 15th from 1-4 p.m. Help us spread Christmas cheer to our homebound members. We will meet at the church at 12:30 to organize and launch. Afterwards, we will return to the church for cookies and cider. To help us plan transportation, please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, December 12th.

ATTENTION BAKERS... We are in need of cookies to take to our homebound members! If you can bring a plate of cookies, please drop them off at the church before caroling.



We are at 37 coats and counting with our Men's Group Coat Drive! Keep bringing in those coats! The plan is to deliver them to Crisis Assistance Ministries on Tuesday, December 4th, so you still have a few more days! Transform those unused coats in your closet into a blessing for someone in need!



**Wednesday Night Happenings 12-5-18: Chicken & rice casserole, California vegetables, salad, rolls & dessert**

## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

There's still time to turn in pledges for 2019.

**IF YOU HAVE MISPLACED YOUR STEWARDSHIP PACKET, ADDITIONAL PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.**



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

### SUNDAY MORNINGS:

- **Book of Faith class** is studying the book of Revelation. Meets in the Cross room.
- **Contemporary Issues class** continues the study of "Simply Christian" by Bishop N. T. Wright. Today we focus on Christian relationships. For more information go to [goo.gl/y9SiaU](http://goo.gl/y9SiaU) and click on "Simply Christian." New participants are welcome. Meet in the parlor.
- **Young Families Group** is studying the DVD series "Nooma." Meets in the Crown room across from the library.

**Be Still & Know**, our Contemplative Prayer group, will meet today from 12:15 until 1:45 p.m. Participants are invited to bring a bag lunch and new participants are welcome. This is an opportunity to learn more about Centering Prayer and spend time in silence as we open to God's Presence. For more information go to [goo.gl/y9SiaU](http://goo.gl/y9SiaU) and click on "Be Still & Know."



**Advent is HERE....**and we're getting ready, all over again, to receive a new thing. "Prepare the way of the Lord," John the Baptist shouts! Our word for Advent is "PREPARE." On Sunday mornings...in worship, we'll be encouraged to open our eyes, ears and hearts to the Good News of Jesus—and respond to this gift.

On Wednesday evenings...in song we'll enjoy the lovely Evening Prayer that Randall has written. Using an Advent devotional guide we'll consider how our Advent hope moves us to respond to the world's deepest need, the need to be fed. We'll see that spiritual food (God's promise) and daily bread (Christ's call to feed others) go hand in hand.

**Advent Resources** on spiritual food and daily bread, available in the narthex:

- Advent Devotional Booklet, in four parts for the four weeks of Advent
- Advent Calendar, with a scripture, prayer or activity for each day
- A Social Statement from the ELCA, "Sufficient, Sustainable, Livelihood for All," offering faithful ways to consider and respond to a world in need. Study guide is attached. These resources will enliven your Advent preparations, and they're free! Pick up a set for your family.

## NOVEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Motion to donate money to the four non-profits featured in our Good Gifts Fair.

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH

- Thanks to the small group who came out to help spread the mulch and trim trees on Property Day. Please consider coming out next spring!
- Thanks for the steering committee of the OWLS. Planning has begun for a variety of activities.
- Thanks to all who attended the Community Thanksgiving service at C&C, and welcomed our visitors. An offering was collected for COSKids!
- Thanks to all who attended the training sessions for Assisting Ministers. Thanks to the new acolytes who were recently trained and to their trainer.
- Thanks to all those who helped prepare and decorate for the Hanging of the Green.



## The OWLS Celebrate!

("Serving Seniors Serving Christ")

All adults 60+ are invited to the OWLS' first official event: **Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, noon.** We'll enjoy an impromptu Christmas Story, starring some lucky lottery winners, as well as a Christmas Carol sing-along. Tea sandwiches, Ben's special potato salad and Christmas cookies will be provided, as well as eggnog. Mark your calendar and get ready for some early Christmas fun!

Remember to PRAY for those on our Church Prayer List

## Readings for 12-9-18

Luke 1:68-79  
Philippians 1:3-11  
Luke 3:1-6



Don't forget when you're making purchases on Amazon, go through Amazon Smile and select Cross & Crown. We receive a percentage of purchases!