



The Angelus

December 2024

From the Rector's Desk

*O come, O come, Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel...*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind;
bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
and be Thyself our King of Peace.*

*Rejoice, rejoice! Immanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

This Advent hymn is for us now. For us who yearn for peace now, perhaps more than in many years past. For us who know we and the world are lost in the brokenness that is sin, in division, oppression, isolation, hatred, war, fear, distrust that truth abides—with little sign that God is with us.

This is the yearning for God's gracious and peaceful Rule—the Kingdom—that the Jewish exiles knew in captivity in Babylon. Far from the land of their ancestors and the place God promised to be with them. It is a yearning God had, too, for restored oneness with God's own people. The yearning God spoke of boldly through the prophets, like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah.

This yearning is about so much more than resolving issues or devising solutions for whatever frightens or enrages in a given moment. Because this is a yearning that springs from the deep awareness of epochal events beyond our control, a yearning that springs from the penitential awareness of our own role and responsibility in the sinful brokenness that enslaves us, that springs from the joyful hope of wholeness and restoration when God will be with us. We simultaneously desire and dread the birth pangs that are the beginning of the Rule of God's own Anointed One, or Messiah, here on earth. "And they shall name him Immanuel,' which means, 'God is with us'."

We await the advent, the arrival, of this Messiah or Christ, in penitence and joy, fasting and rejoicing, confessing and praising. “For there is forgiveness with you;/therefore you shall be feared.” Such a subdued and yet vibrant way, a way of hope and contrition, a way of joyful sorrow and sorrowful joy, is the only way to the Kingdom. It is the very way illuminated by that growing, truthful light of God’s own promises.

The Angelus 2 The promised peace of the Kingdom is ours for the taking if we only choose life. For ourselves and for the life of the world. “For the creation waits in eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.” The Kingdom of God is at hand! Repent and believe in the Good News!

Weep and rejoice!

Welcome to Advent.

Peace,
WLB+

Epiphany Open House at the Rectory

Please join Fr William and Tomomi Kanemaru for Epiphany Eve/Twelfth Night of Christmas at the Rectory, Friday, January 10, 5 pm-Whenever.

Some food and drinks will be provided, but please bring something to eat, drink, and share, potluck style, to close out the Twelve Days of Christmas and usher in the showing of Christ to the nations of the world, the Epiphany. There will be a brief seasonal blessing of Tomomi and Fr William’s home along with an evening of friendship and warm belonging.

No need to RSVP. And bring a friend or two who don’t yet know our delightful congregation or might be nervous about approaching Church otherwise. Questions? Contact Fr William: wbulson@gracesheboygan; 920.452.9659



Stewardship: Reaching Forth Our Hands in Love



Some years ago, a fellow Grace member, Jane Hanson, wrote a meditation about supporting and enhancing our faith and parish. She titled it “You Are On Holy Ground, and You Are A Holy People!” To paraphrase, it was about how we are surrounded with icons and art depicting the faithful, the saints, those who had a vision to carry forth Christ’s commandments. These gifts came to our parish owing to the generous faithful, the saints who were here before us. She concludes with the observation that in our receiving this holy place, we are compelled to tend it and further it for others around us, and for those who come after us.

As we consider those thoughts, also consider that our benefactors literally “reached forth”, they reached into the future with their gifts. Please prayerfully consider how much you are able to reach forth in love with your pledge.

(Copies of the original meditation may be found on the Narthex table)

Mary Snyder, *Senior Worden*

Give more to the church AND pay less tax



At the same time! Recent years have seen enormous increases in stock prices which makes giving appreciated stock an excellent way to pay your pledge to the church. When the church sells it they will pay no tax, while you would have paid 15% or more.

For example, If you donated stock worth \$10,000 which you bought for \$1,000 you

would have given the equivalent of about \$8,000 after tax income, plus you could deduct the whole \$10,000 if you itemize. It is essential that your broker transfer the stock directly to the church without selling it.

Even better – if you are over 70 and a half and thus required to take minimum required distributions from your IRA, having the holder of the IRA (a bank, a mutual fund, etc) send the pledge directly to the church. Then you pay NO tax on that income, which would otherwise be taxed at your rate for normal income.

So here is how it works, if you have been giving 6,000/yr, you could give \$7500/yr (at a middle income rate of 25% for fed and state tax) directly from your IRA and have the same amount of actual income.

If you have questions or need help, call or email Jean-Margret Merrell-Beech.

THE WIDOW'S MITE



The story of the widow's mite as told in the Gospel of Mark has touched my heart for many years. Maybe because I come from a large family of 9 children where money was sometimes very scarce and I was aware that putting food on the table or gifts under the tree at Christmas was a very stressful time for my parents. We were often helped by churches or friends who would help in those times of need. I remember especially one season where we brought a little box home from church in which we would put a few pennies or change into it and we were supposed to bring it back as our gift to help others. Mom needed to buy groceries and had to use the coins to cover the cost. A lady that did not know the circumstances made a very disparaging remark to Mom that it was shameful to spend the money that was meant for the "church". She cried for hours.

We don't always know the situation of persons that enter our open doors during the week. Many come to sit quietly and pray and perhaps light a candle in St. Joseph's chapel or the Shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham or simply to rest in the Presence of Christ. Some to breathe in the beauty and Holiness that is found there. Some need a place to stay warm or to feel safe. Regardless of the reason they are welcome.

It has been my habit for a number of years to look in the wooden box at the back of church for prayer card requests and to check in the side chapels where votive candles are lit and to empty the little metal boxes where donations are offered. Sometimes there will be a couple pennies or dime or a dollar bill tucked into them. Recently a 1903 nickel was found. Did they know it was worth more than a nickel? Was it all they had? It was their gift to us. Each little "treasure" reminds me of the "Widow's Mite".

May God's Peace be with you,
Pat Ford Smith

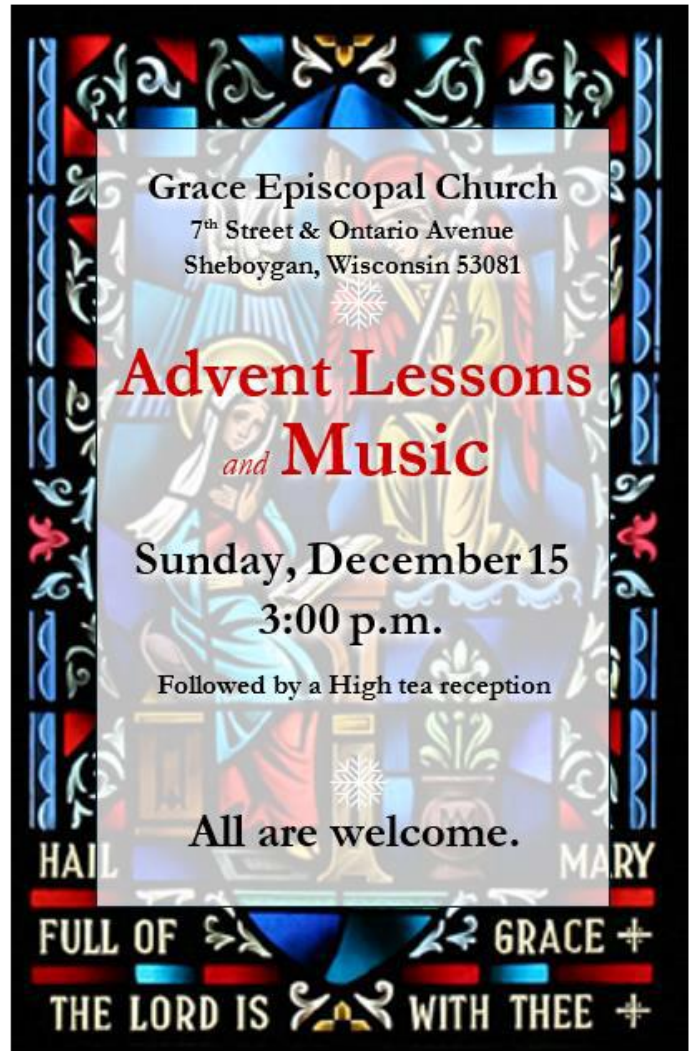


Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 15, 3:00 p.m.

The Anglican tradition of Lessons & Carols was created after the end of World War I by The Rev. Eric Milner-White, King's College, Cambridge. White, Chaplain of King's College, volunteered to serve as military chaplain at the Western Front when the War broke out in 1914. Upon his return to Cambridge at war's end, he created the service with two aims: to grieve and commemorate those lost to the war (23% of the members of King's College), and to "reform liturgical practices so that the simple beauty of Christian worship would shine through and attract those who had lost their faith in the horrors of war...."*

We invite you to join us for this simple service, and the High Tea Reception following. If you wish to participate in this Advent tradition at Grace, you will find a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to contribute sweets or savories for the reception.

*More detail on Lessons & Carols may be found at anglicancompass.com, *Nine Lessons and Carols: An Rookie Anglican Guide*



Organist, Caleb Klinzing



Organist Caleb Klinzing will play a 30 minute recital on January 5, 12 noon, at Grace Episcopal Church. The program includes pieces by Brahms, Peeters, Held, Dupre, Manz, and Reger. Everyone is invited to attend.

Caleb currently serves as Organist and Assistant Choirmaster at Saint Philip's Episcopal Church in Joplin, Missouri. Caleb holds an Artium Baccalaureus Degree in Music (Organ) from Ripon College, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude with honors in the major. His principal teachers include Dr. R. Benjamin Dobey, Dr. Sarah Mahler-Kraaz, and Dr. Andrew Schaeffer.

Christmas Joy 2024!



We will be meeting Tuesday, December 17th at 10am, in the church kitchen to assemble floral arrangements and sweets to be delivered to our elderly, sick, homebound parishioners, and refugees. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to indicate who you would like to deliver to, on that day. We are also in need of cookie bakers. We need LOTS of goodies this year! Please see sign-up sheet.

If you are unable to help that day but would like to be a part of this important ministry, we do accept monetary donations to cover the cost of flowers. Please note “Christmas Joy” on the check memo line.

This year, we have added a special feature. We would like to give our seven refugee families a small gift certificate from Walmart or other stores. If you can help, please contact Barb MacEwen (920) 912-4505 to coordinate by December 15.

Christmas Flowers for Twelve Days of Christmas!



If you would like to contribute to the Christmas flowers fund for memorial or Thanksgiving, please fill out the form located in the pews. Please place it in the offering plate by the Mass on December 15th, or return it to the office by noon on Wednesday, December 18th. You may use the 7th Street door mail box when the office is closed.

Guild of Saint Alban Update

In the last few months, the Guild's work with refugees has grown. In total, six families have been supported by this work and each family is in a different stage of building their new life in America.

To aid in this work, the Guild established a sharing closet in the former nursery downstairs. The intention is to offer new and lightly used clothing and household items to support the families in their financial savings as they pursue employment.



Restarting a new life in America is challenging and often starts with very little. Very little in financial wealth and belongings and also very little in relationships and social connections. The Guild continues to discern how to exercise the act of radical hospitality along with the practical elements of resettlement. I offered details of this action grounded in scripture and the early church experience over the month of November at Adult Formation. We learned that this action is not bound for a select group of people but rather best lived out with all that we encounter and sustained throughout our whole lives.

Grace is in a new season of loving the least that points back to the legacy of our faithful ancestors in Christ from the last century and points towards the possibilities of our parish growing in new ways with multiple cultures and languages. With the Christmas Season upon us, we are reminded of the Holy Family's flee into a foreign land away from persecution. The Guild has been acquiring, in collaboration with the Sheboygan County Historical Center, Christmas trees as a symbol of hope for the families. I pray that they continue to have hope in their new life here and that as we continue to kneel alongside them in the pews, we may discover how each of us can embody radical hospitality by loving them and in turn loving Christ Himself.

In Christ,
Deacon Paul Aparicio

Here is the Love INC update

Every year, Love INC of Sheboygan County connects its partner church volunteers to over 500 families in their community. Together, we are able to not only meet over 1,000 needs, but meet each person where they're at. Caring for them holistically, our neighbors are met with dignity and respect, while partner churches are free to focus on serving according to their strengths. The result? Transformed lives. Transformed churches. And transformed communities.

The conclusion of the New Way Community classes in November warranted a celebration ceremony at which Kwik Trip gift cards were awarded to class participants. Thank you to all who donated.

Transitions can be one of the hardest journeys in life. Moving is one of those difficult journeys, but with loving, kind, and patient support, the move can become a lighter load. The Love INC Moving Ministry does just that, becoming the hands and feet of Christ, with an open and willing heart, Consider becoming a member of this vibrant team .



Love INC has an Amazon website listing products needed by the GAP ministries of our local Love INC. You can also check out the products needed and buy locally. You can reach this website on the Love INC website

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2BLRA1BV1E3HY/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex

Blessings of the Season.

Constance Schneider

October Vestry Highlights

Overview of the Walsingham Pilgrimage:

- Attendance was similar to last year's.
- The Guardians and Oblates would like to create a museum the signage for the shrine and entrance.
- John Davis's grandson was trained to stream the Walsingham services, vestry approved \$75 honorarium for his five hours of service.
- Fr. Bulson will send out a rule of life for the Guardians and Oblates of our Lady of Walsingham.
- Newspaper and other forms of marketing are under review.

Door painting project has been delayed and another painter will be contacted.

Work on the rectory roof has not been completed due to some continued leaking.

Fire alarm check for church and rectory is scheduled for Nov. 1.

The inspection of kitchen hood fire suppression was good.

Grace will host Community Cafe operations week of Nov 10-17. Volunteers to greet visitors will be needed.

October Financial Focus

October Income

\$ 30,393

YTD Income

\$ 266,973

Annual Budget 2024

\$ 309,921

October Expenses

\$ 32,836

YTD Expenses

\$ 256,130

Annual Budget 2024

\$ 332,298



Mark Your Calendars

- December 1st Sheboygan Holiday Parade! – 5pm on 7th Street
- December 8th Visit from St. Nicholas
- December 15th Advent Lessons & Carols
- December 17th Christmas Joy
- December 24th at 4:00 P.M. - Christ's Mass with Children's Pageant
- December 24th at 10:30 P.M. - Prelude of Christmas Music
Lindsay Patterson and her string quartet will play.
- December 24th at 11:00 P.M. - Christ's Mass: Eve of Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ
- December 25th at 10:15 A.M. - Christ's Mass: The Nativity of our Lord
- January 10th Epiphany Open House at Rectory
- January 19th Annual Meeting at St. Nicholas Hall

December Birthdays

Andrea Aparicio	12/1	Dee Crouse	12/21
Htoo Taw	12/1	Kree Hae	12/25
Bob Wood	12/4	Katy Larson	12/27
Shannon Luckey-Mueller		Wayne Knocke	12/27
	12/6	Pat Ford Smith	12/28
Christian Smith	12/8	Robert Beech	12/31
Steve Larson	12/9		
Roman Klinzing	12/10		
Lilly Lee	12/10	December Anniversary	
Tom Wright	12/11	John Throop and Cindy Ford	
Paul Aparicio	12/17		12/31
Margaret Aparicio	12/17		
Zach Sorenson	12/17		

Parish Staff

The Rt. Rev. Matthew A Gunter, *Bishop*
 The Reverend William L. Bulson, *Rector*
 The Reverend Paul D. Aparicio, *Deacon*
 Clayton Logue, *Organist-Choirmaster*
 Crystal Lopez, *Parish Administrator*
 Javier Delgado, *Sexton*

The Vestry

The Reverend William L. Bulson, *Chair*
 Mary Snyder, *Senior Warden*
 John Davis, *Junior Warden*
 Brian Heck, *Treasurer*
 Helen Mullison, *Chancellor*
Vestry: Jean-Margret Merrell-Beech,
 Jack Britton, Fr. Jack Connelly, Tasha
 Crouse, Jane Hanson, Mary Gallimore,
 Shannon Luckey-Mueller,
 Connie Schneider, and Steve Weinert



Grace Episcopal Church

1011 N. 7th Street

Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081

920.452.9659

Email: office@gracesheboygan.com

www.gracesheboygan.com