

**Sunday 12/13**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

8:45AM Synoptic Gospel Study  
9:00AM Kinderchurch  
10:00AM Worship  
Greeters/Ushers: 2nd Sunday Team  
Acolyte: Mary Jean Reckelberg  
Eucharistic Ministers: Dianne Wilson, Richard Hall  
Readers: Skip Cole, Dianne Wilson  
Prayers: Karleen Cole  
11:15AM Fellowship - Saints  
11:30AM Rule of Life - Part 2

**Monday 12/14**

**Tuesday 12/15**

10AM/2PM Madison School Concerts  
3:00pm Homework Club  
5:00PM Healing & Worship in Chapel  
6:00PM Miracle League

**Wednesday 12/16**

8:30AM RUTH Meeting  
5:00pm Choir  
6PM Book Club Potluck  
6:15pm Grief Support Group

**Thursday 12/17**

1PM Crafting  
3:00 PM Homework Club Party  
6:00PM Girl Scouts #8420

**Friday 12/18**

6:30AM Morning Prayer

**Saturday 12/19**

**Sunday 12/20**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

8:45AM Synoptic Gospel Study  
9:00 Kinderchurch  
10:00AM Worship  
Greeters/Ushers: 3rd Sunday Team  
Crucifer: Geri Walker

**Financial Donations for Christmas Flower**

If you would like to financially contribute to the Christmas flowers that decorate the church for the Christmas services there are flower envelopes in the info center at the rear of the sanctuary. You may designate your offering to a loved one or friend if you choose. Names will be published in the Christmas service bulletins.

**Fond du Lac Rule of Life - Dec. 13, 11:30 - 1:30**

The Bishop, as part of his presentation at the 141st Diocese of Fond du lac Convention offered us a Rule of Life that we may follow as a way to become more open to living into God's mercy and delight. Copies of this Rule are available in the info area at the back of the church. Bishop Matt's hope is that we learn to "lighten up and get serious" about being people of God.

Amy Healey, Sudi Johnson, Dianne Wilson and Amma Diane will present a short course explaining the 5 aspects of this rule:

December 6 topics were: Worship, Sabbath, Fasting

December 13 topics: Examination, Prayer

A simple lunch will be served.

**St. James Book Group Meeting - Pot Luck on Wednesday, December 16**

The St. James Book Group will end the year with a pot-luck on Wednesday, December 16 at 6PM in the Fellowship Hall at St. James. Anyone who likes books and reading is invited to attend to share some Christmas cheer and vote for the books we'd like to read together in 2016. Some of our members have already submitted suggestions and Amy Healey is in charge of compiling the selections. We plan to vote for our favorites at the December meeting. If you would like to suggest a book for the coming year please email Amy at [aaah@alumni.northwestern.edu](mailto:aaah@alumni.northwestern.edu) or call Anne Schuette (242-2819.)

Our January Book Group selection is *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt and copies are already available. Please sign out your copy from the box in the lower level cloakroom. We will be discussing this book on Wednesday, January 13, at 7PM.

**Finding Our Way Through Grief - Wed. Dec.16 - 30th 6:15PM IN THE UPSTAIRS CHAPEL ON THE 16th**

St. James is offering a grief support group that began on Dec. 2. The group is for people who would like some help in sorting through the many emotions and feelings we often find ourselves trying to sort through after the loss of a loved one or close friend. The group is not limited to members of the St. James congregation.

The group will meet at St. James Episcopal Church, from 6:15pm - approximately 7:30pm. Transportation can be arranged for those requesting it. Confidentiality regarding what may be shared among participants will be maintained. There is no cost to participate.

Eucharistic Ministers: Clarence Carbon & Mary Jean Reckelberg

Readers: Ruby Gunderson & Peggy Turnbull

Prayers: Richard Hall

11:15AM Fellowship - Disciples Team

11:30AM Christmas Caroling  
6pm Taize Carpool

### Milestones

#### December Anniversaries

Dec 13 Randy & Cindy Hronek

#### December Birthdays

Dec 2 Todd Reckelberg

Dec 4 Chris Couris

Dec 5 William Schultz

Dec 11 Geri Walker

Dec 14 Grace Valli

Dec 15 Kelly Handl-Schultz

Dec 20 Nancy Sim

Dec 24 Mary Flint

Dec 25 Sharon Meany

Dec 27 Pat Byrd

Is your date missing? Please tell Amma Diane

#### Quick Links...

- [E-Mail St James](#)
- [E-mail Pastor Diane](#)
- [Our Website](#)
- [Diocese of Fond du Lac website](#)
- [The Episcopal Church website](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Shop at Office Max?  
Use the Max Perks  
#331931799 and help buy  
school supplies for the *KAN*  
*Cool for School* program

**To submit info for the weekly announcements, please contact Amma Diane Murray BEFORE 3PM on Thursday**  
[dianemarie.murray@gmail.com](mailto:dianemarie.murray@gmail.com)

920-860-5152

## December Homework Club News

Our Madison School St. James Church Homework Club holiday party is Thursday, December 17. The party will include a visit from Santa, and he will distribute gifts, donated by members of St. James, to each of the children who attend Homework Club.

Thanks to all of you who have already selected a name-tag from the Christmas tree at the back of the church sanctuary, and signed out the child's name on the clipboard next to the tree. Please place your gift for that child under the tree by Sunday, December 13. Gifts should have a value of no more than \$20. All members of St. James are invited to attend the party on December 17, starting at 3:30PM.

The Madison Elementary School Winter Concert is Tuesday, December 15 at 10AM and 2PM in the school gymnasium. It is a special treat to watch and listen to these young children perform.

The first day of Homework Club in 2016 is Tuesday, January 5 - volunteers are always welcome - talk to Mary Burckle (905-9690) or Anne Schuette (242-2819) if you would like to help out and we can arrange an orientation for you. Homework Club also welcomes volunteers from outside of St. James, in fact a majority of our helpers are not members of the church. If you know someone who has a talent for working with elementary age students please tell them about our Homework Club. THANKS!

## Christmas Caroling, Sunday, December 20

Help us spread the joy of Christmas! We'll gather at the church during Fellowship on Sunday, December 20, and plan to depart at 11:30AM. We'll carpool to Shady Lane & Laurel Grove to sing Christmas songs for residents there, and will also possibly arrange caroling at the homes of some of our senior church members. Caroling will take about 1-2 hours, depending on how many visits we can arrange. All are welcome to be part of the fun as we share God's love! If you have any questions please talk to Anne Schuette or Tony Karl.

## Help the Altar Guild "Green the Church" on Dec. 22

All are invited to help the Altar Guild with preparations for our Christmas worship services on Tuesday, December 22. We will be polishing brass, shining silver, setting up candles, hanging wreaths and doing other special duties. Poinsettias will be delivered and we will arrange the flowers and take care of any last minute details on that day. Anyone is welcome to join us, and we appreciate your help. Please talk to Liz Gordon (248-762-8679), Sudi Johnson (682-4599), or Anne Schuette (242-2819) with any questions.

## Visual Arts Board--"Art Among Us"

The Visual Arts Board, located in the front foyer, presents and celebrates the seasons and lessons of the church in art. Individuals are invited to feature their creative gifts of the Holy Spirit in a variety of media (paintings, crafts, photography, etc.) to share with our community.

The December theme is: "**Angels Around Us**" (as depicted in photos, paintings, drawings, or multi dimension items.)

Thank you to Audrey Bean and Liese and Clarence Carbon for sharing their special angels with us.

For more info, talk to: Amma Diane, Liz Gordon, Sally Hunner, Sudi Johnson, Tony Karl, Chuck Wernecke, Dianne Wilson

### **Advent Devotions Are Available**

Advent began Sunday, Nov. 29 and continues until Christmas Eve. This year we have available an Advent devotional from the Living Compass ministry entitled "Practicing Patience With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind". Devotionals are located at the back of the church and are offered at no cost.

### **Nominations for Vestry, Endowment Trustee & Diocesan Convention Delegates & Alternates**

The nomination committee for the placement of names for openings for next year's Vestry and Endowment Trustees includes: Richard Hall (Sr. Warden) chair of this committee, Dianne Wilson (Jr. Warden), Andrew Hooker & Sally Hunner (Vestry whose terms end), and Donna Franz (from the congregation). Anyone can nominate someone provided the nominee meets the qualifications. Nomination forms and instructions are available at the Info area at the back of the sanctuary. People remaining on the Vestry include: Skip Cole, Tammy McVeigh, and Murray Sim. Dan Hornung and Mark Hunner remain as Endowment Trustees, Joanna Sanchez's Endowment Trustee term ends.

### **St. James Prayers of the People**

Let us each keep those in need in our prayers this week:

#### **For healing, comfort and strength, we lift up . . .**

Alison, Jim, Steve and Mary Beth, Susie & Dave, Mary, Barbara, Caroline(Tiger), Joe, Bill, Del, Pat, Matthew, Mary Anne, Becky, Dale, Dorothy, Steven, The family of Lynn Prucha, Clayton, Bethany, Mike & Laura, Duane, Al, Dale, Lisa, Andrew, Jerry, Wade, Pat, Judy, Matthew, Mary, Audrey, Karen, Bob, Robin, Rita, Randy, Connie, The Shaw family, The family of Ray Westerdahl, The Peter Jenkyn family, the Henderson triplets (born three months early) and their parents, Henry, The family of Gwyneth Hronek.

#### **For guidance and discernment we lift up. . .**

Bill, Tim, Kyle Kurschner and Zach Truett, Shane Rosenthal, Jordan Rosenthal and Brady, in the military, Kathy & Gary, Guy & Mary, Susan, Caleb.

#### **Additional prayers we offer include...**

Peace in our world. . . The people of Ukraine, Israel, Gaza and Sudan and missionary families. In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for all persons Baptized, Confirmed and Received this past year. In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for Windward Islands - (West Indies). The Bible Challenge Participants. The incarcerated in Wisconsin - especially those in solitary confinement. For people living with mental illness.

#### **We offer thanks for...**

Diane our Rector, Richard & Dianne, our Wardens, our Vestry and other ministry leaders, staff, and every person in this congregation. Our Bishop Matthew Gunter, his wife Leslie and family. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his wife Sharon

#### **We remember the departed...**

Paul, Tom, Joe, Myrna, Janice, Bill, John, Dorothy, Isabel, Howard, Bob, Cindy, Stan, Dale, Paul, Ray, Ken, Emily, Peter, Gwyneth.

If you would like prayers to be offered as part of The Prayers of the People, please fill out the written Prayer Request Form and place it in the PRAYER BOX. All are located at the back of the church. Prayers will remain on our active prayer list for one month and can be extended by filling out a new request form.

Thanks and praises to the Lord for answers are most welcome also!

### Looking Ahead: December Calendar Dates

December can be a busy month so here are some dates you might want to have on your calendar:

December 13 Rule of Life  
December 15 Madison School Winter Concert, 10AM/2PM  
December 16 Finding Our Way Through Grief  
December 16 RUTH 8:30AM  
December 16 Book Group Pot Luck, 6:00PM  
December 17 Crafting - Rainbow Acts  
December 17 Homework Club Party  
December 20 Christmas Caroling 11:30AM  
December 21 - 23 Meals on Wheels  
December 22 Help decorate the church for Christmas, 9AM  
December 24 Christmas Eve 6:30PM Music 7PM Service  
December 25 Christmas Day Service 9AM  
January 1 Morning Prayer 9AM

For a full calendar visit our website [www.stjamesmanitowoc.com](http://www.stjamesmanitowoc.com)

### VESTRY NOTES

Your St. James Episcopal Church Vestry met at 5:30pm on Thursday, December 10. The meeting opened with prayer, and a discussion of Luke 1 (the angel visiting Mary and making a holy proposition) led by Tammy McVeigh. Other meeting highlights include:

- Received various written and oral reports, including financials, and approved Nov. minutes
- Received a stewardship update: 41 pledges have been received, totaling \$90,279
- Discussed and revised a draft of the 2016 budget; estimated 2016 income is \$99,400 and estimated 2016 expenses are \$105,100; our budget is very lean, but we'll continue to try to reduce that deficit
- Formed a sub-committee to research money counting policies to help us comply with best practice recommendations from insurance, diocese, and other professionals
- Scheduled the Annual Meeting after worship on Sunday, January 31; snow date is Feb.7
- St. James will host a meeting of the diocesan Executive Council on April 14 14
- Nomination update: Richard Hall, Dianne Wilson, and Sally Hunner have been nominated for Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Vestry member; nominations are still open and forms are in the back of the church
- Continued discussion on developing various policies
- Cameras have been ordered for safety/security, and will be installed soon
- Work on the new shed is almost complete

The next Vestry meeting will take place in the Church Library at 5:30pm on Wed. January 20. Meetings generally last 90-120 minutes, and all are welcome to attend.

~Tony Karl, Clerk