**New Life Presbyterian Newsletter**

**December and January 2018**

God has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. To guide our feet into the way of peace. – Luke 1:69, 78-79

Dear Church,

Peace be with you. The season of Advent is upon and with that a New Year just over the horizon. Advent like the season of Lent that it is modeled after, is a time of expectant waiting and of contemplating our faith. What are we called to do as disciples of Christ and how we actually live that out in the midst of the challenges of life, are just some of the questions for us to ponder. To put Advent in its proper context it can be said that it is an in-between season. I say this because Advent is a time between that which has already occurred (the birth of Christ) and the yet to come (the second coming of Christ). That being said we dwell in the space in-between memory and hope.

Hope is the theme for the first Sunday of advent, followed by Peace, Joy and Love. These are all themes that are found throughout are holy scriptures. Hope is critical to living a healthy life in a stress filled world that offers us dejecting news just about everywhere we turn. There are many people who are just barely hanging on as they can’t find hope for the future. The prophet Jeremiah sent a letter to the Israelites during the Babylonian exile when all seemed lost for them and in it he give them a word from the Lord that says, “I will give you a future with hope.” That word of the Lord was fulfilled when as we are told in Luke that, “God raised up a savior” for the people so they who are bereft of hope might again imagine a future in Christ our Savior.

Living into the ways of Christ gives us hope for tomorrow as we deepen our discipleship by living for a broken world in need. My challenge for all of us as we look ahead to the New Year is to ask ourselves this question. How will we bring the Kingdom of God closer this year by living with hope, peace, joy and love? Christ has done the heavy lifting thru the salvific work of the cross, but Christs call to all of us to, come and follow, requires a response. We are not without direction regarding these matters however. The ways of Christ as documented in scripture is as the Psalmist says, “A lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” Live with hope so that others who do not have hope may see that there is indeed a future ahead that includes them regardless of the darkness that surrounds us. Cultivate peace in our hearts so that we might be agents of peace in a divisive and hostile world. Where it is possible speak up for peace especially when it concerns the vulnerable and the least in our midst. Rejoice always for we are resurrection people! Joy, like other emotions can be contagious so spread the joy of the Lord with the world. When you do these things you bring the kingdom of God closer, loving one another as we love ourselves. I pray that in this New Year your hearts may be filled with the love and light of Christ that may sustain you during the darkness and thru hope, peace and joy manifest the Kingdom of God to the world.

Advent Blessings,

Pastor Riz

Advent Mitten Tree – Plus Family Fun!

Let’s cover our Advent Mitten Tree with warmth and love again this year! The tree will sit in the atrium during December, ready for colorful new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for children of all ages. They’ll be donated to kids at Como Park Elementary School and to Project Home family shelter. And UNDER the tree this year, we’ll collect Project Home Family Fun items including family games, puzzles, coloring & activity books, arts & crafts items. December’s Change-the-World offering (loose change in the offering plate) will fund extra Family Fun items for Project Home. Thank you for remembering children and families in need this holiday season by sharing gifts of warmth and joy!

Christmas Joy Offering during December Supporting past, present and future leaders of the Church

Our gifts at Christmastime bear joyful witness to God’s gift of boundless love in Jesus. Our gifts to this Presbyterian offering support leaders in our Church and world. For some, these gifts take the form of emergency Assistance Grants for active and retired pastors and other church workers with critical financial needs. For others, it is in the form of scholarships to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, allowing students to not only receive an excellent education, but to explore their faith to become better leaders. Use special envelopes in the pew or mark your check or envelope for Christmas Joy Offering. Thank you for helping our sisters and brothers in Christ in times of great promise and times of great need.

**Thank You, Everyone**! For an enjoyable and successful Fair Trade Market. Huge thanks to everyone who helped with November’s Holiday Fair Trade Market! Fair trade artisans and food producers all around the world will benefit from the money raised from sale of their products. Big THANK YOU’s to all who helped prepare, run, clean up, AND shop at the market



Helping Hungry Kids at Como Park Elementary

What’s a perfect gift this Christmas for those on your list who “have everything?” And how can you fight childhood hunger at the same time? Give gift donations in honor of your friends and loved ones! It’s easy! Just donate your chosen amount to: New Life Presbyterian Church; Memo: Sheridan Story Fund. Place your donation in the Offering Plate or in the Church Administrator drawer in the office. You can pick up a Sheridan Story brochure on the Church & Society table to give to your honored friend or loved one with a note that you have donated to this program in their honor. How much to give? It’s up to you, but here are some facts: Our church supports 25 students with a prepared bag of nutritious food to take home each weekend. We donate ~$140 per student per school year, or ~$15 per month.

If you’ve been thinking about signing up to distribute weekend food bags at our neighborhood school (or even if you haven’t!), we will soon be opening sign-ups for January-May 2019. The school is at 780 Wheelock Parkway, just east of Como Lake. The time is 1:30 PM on the last day of the school week. It takes about 30 minutes to deliver bags to the classrooms. Full instructions when you sign up. One or two volunteers from New Life join one or two volunteers from St. Timothy Lutheran. Please sign up in the atrium or contact Jan Hubbell (janhubbell2@gmail.com; 651.489.4713). Those who have volunteered have found it easy, enjoyable and rewarding.

**KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is warning residents about the negative impacts de-icing salts used on driveways and walks can have on our state’s lakes, rivers, & streams.

As you know, many places we are about are being affected including McCarron’s Lake. According to a recent release, it takes just 1 teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water!

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The MPCA offers tips for more environmentally-safe salt-spreading. They include:

* Scattering salt so the gains are about three inches apart. The MPCA says a coffee mug full of salt (around 12 ounces) should be all that is needed for a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares (roughly 1,000 square feet).
* Using a hand-held spreader to apply the salt consistently, and only using salt in critical areas.
* Keeping in mind the importance of shoveling. The more snow and ice that can be removed manually, the less salt that will be needed.
* Remembering most salts stop working at 15 degrees and below.

 **THOUGHTS for 2019**

“Humanity is part of all creation. We are meant to live in an interconnected, interdependent relationship with God and the whole of creation, acting as stewards of creation. And as we care for the earth, the earth cares for us.”

“Caring for creation is an act of social justice. Because humanity is part of creation, and because we are designed for interdependence with the whole of creation, caring for creation means caring for humanity. Caring for humanity, in turn demands protecting and restoring creation.” (Green Bible, pp.1226 & 1229)

**“HAPPPY NEW YEAR!”**



Such a blessing to be able to have the little people of North Como Preschool share their school day with Someone Special.  On November 19th and 20th, we did just that.  We opened our classrooms and shared our preschool day with grandparents, aunts, uncles, moms, dads and favorite grown - ups.  We ended the day sharing a bag lunch with that loved one.  I'm not sure who smiled more the little people or the grown - ups!

We had our annual winter program and gingerbread making event on December 12th and 13th.  Then the hallways and classrooms of preschool will be quiet for winter break from December 14th through January 1st.  School will resume on January 2nd

**Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support North Como Preschool – Parent Engagement Group**. **Come in to the Chipolte** at 869 Rosedale Shopping Ctr Ste 1029 in Roseville.

 **33%** of the proceeds will be donated to North Como Preschool- Parent Engagement Group.

Tuesday, January 15th from 4pm - 8 pm at the Rosedale location.  I've attached the flyer!

**UPDATE: Project Home Permit**
City Council (*tentative*): January 7, 2019 6:00 p.m. Thank you to all who appeared and supported Project Home. Over 20 people showed up for the meeting. A big thank you to the Planning Commissioners, James Daire, James Bull, Chuck Gitzen, Wayne Groff, Peter Sparby and Thomas Paschke, Community Development. Their contact information can be found [HERE](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?NewLifePresbyterianC/c3ffdeb2bb/7eb9b0e487/41c0b57749), is on the City of Roseville's web page.
The city planning board voted unanimously to recommend approval of the interim use permit (for 5 years) to the Roseville city council. This item will be on the agenda for the Roseville City Council meeting on January 7. Here is a link to the video of the meeting: [Roseville Planning Commission December 5, 2018](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?NewLifePresbyterianC/c3ffdeb2bb/7eb9b0e487/c378bb950a/streamid=3300). If you weren't able to attend the December 5th meeting, a copy of the agenda and a video of the meeting is available on the City of Roseville website. The portion of the meeting that is related to the interim use permits for both New Life and Roseville Lutheran starts at about 17:15 in the video. It contains some good background information if you are interested in attending council meeting if you weren't able to attend the city planning commission meeting.
This issue goes before the City Council on January 7th, mark your calendars. Commissioner Bull (Planning Commission) did suggest a social media campaign. The City Council members are Mayor Dan Roe, Jason Etten, Lisa Laliberte, Robert Willmus, Wayne Groff, and Mayor Dan Roe. Their contact information can be found [HERE](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?NewLifePresbyterianC/c3ffdeb2bb/7eb9b0e487/a24d6cc5b8), on the City of Roseville's website. We are requesting a waiver of all fees and boldly asking for either an exemption from a permit or a permanent permit so that we can continue to operate as an overnight emergency shelter for Project Home every April. Please continue in prayer for this process.

**HAPPY DECEMBER AND JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

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| --- | --- |
| Cook, Marti 12/2Fombe, Walter 12/2Jones, Dawn 12/6Mackinnon, A. J. David 12/6Ngu, Helen 12/7Bogen, Stephen 12/8Hubbell, Nathan 12/8 Fairbanks, Sheryl 12/9Silliman, Jan 12/9Ihlenfeldt, Sonja 12/11Hansen, Isabel 12/13Lee, Karen 12/18Hoekman, Alexandria 12/19Baumann, Carol 12/19Holbrook, Heather 12/20Peterson, Karen 12/20Schoon, William 12/22Barraclough, Scott 12/25Pohl, Christopher 12/26Lind, Jackie 12/28Nelson, Char 12/31 | Irsfeld, Jerome 1/1Nofsinger, Amory 1/1Wanna, Victoria 1/2Buckley, Mckenna 1/3Pohl, McKenzie 1/6Serveriano, Gabriela 1/10Wolfe-Jensen, Kate 1/12 Lane, Amy 1/14Wall, Peaches 1/16Finkelson, Dorothy 1/21  Kachel Jack 1/22Laizans, Hope 1/24Sargent, John 1/28Nelson, Bruce 1/30 |



***Thank you for your patience and understanding of the lateness and combination of the December and January Newsletter.***

***It has been and busy time of year! Ann Bursch 12/14/2019***