

MINISTRY OF THE SAINTS THIS WEEK - December 31, 2017

WELCOME VISITORS. If you have come as a stranger, may you depart as a friend. If you come with heavy burdens, may you leave knowing Jesus is supporting you. If you have come in joy, may you leave celebrating God's love for you through Jesus Christ, the Risen Son. Please do us the favor of signing our guest book, so that we may respond to your being with us. Please join us after worship for fellowship.

NURSERY IS PROVIDED during this worship service. Parents are encouraged to worship with their children. This begins the good habit from an early age of worshipping with others. However, if you feel your child's behavior may be distracting to you or others please feel free to speak with an usher for guidance to the staffed nursery.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION TRACK 1: We will NOT meet today. We will begin a new study on January 7, *Questions for Jesus: Studies in Mark*. For more details speak to Sven Allenbach-Schmidt.

G.I.F.T. classes will NOT meet the next two Sundays. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION will be offered by Pastor Gary in January and February. The sessions will be on *TUESDAY evenings*, January 27, February 6, 13, 20. Those instructed will receive Holy Communion for the first time on Sunday, February 25. Each session will include a Bible story, a video, conversation, and a take-home sheet for parents and children to continue the discussion. If you would like to be part of the class or have your child in the class please talk with Pastor Gary.

REMINDER FOR ALL MINISTRY LEADERS! Annual reports are due to Jean by January 2. All reports should be sent in a Word document in Times New Roman 12 pt. font. Please email your report to church@allsaintsbowie.org.

ALL SAINTS RESPONDS GENEROUSLY TO 2017 GIFTS OF HOPE PROGRAM: Warmest thanks are extended to all who so graciously responded to the needs of others through the 2017 **Gifts of Hope** program sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod. Contributions from the Saints totaled over \$9000. Through the generosity of members and friends of All Saints, more than 200 gifts will be given to support local social ministry organizations, Lutheran camps, and our synod's companion synods abroad.

2018 FLOWER CHART is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please sign-up to honor or remember a special person in your life. A donation of \$40 is requested to cover the cost of the flowers and should be put in the offering plate around the date you have selected. Please put Sunday Flowers on the memo line of your check.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available for you to pick up. They are in boxes alphabetically on a table in the narthex. Please take a moment to stop at the table and take your box with you. Please note that envelope numbers have changed for 20187. Please discard any old envelopes and use the new ones. Thank You.

TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE: Thanks be to God and to all the Saints who completed the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey. Our final tally was 120 responses, 15 more than our goal. Dr. James Pence, our Walkalong consultant, will share the survey findings with the congregation on **Sunday, January 14**, following each worship service. Mark that date on your calendars. Based upon the survey results, the Transition Team will begin drafting the MSP (Ministry Site Profile) that will guide our search for Pastor Gary's successor. In the interim, do not hesitate to contact the Transition Team members with your questions or concerns about any aspect of the Pastoral Succession process.

JANUARY JUST GRACE BOOK DISCUSSION: We invite you to join in a discussion of Reggie Williams' *Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethic of Resistance* on **Saturday, January 6, 9-11 am** or on **Wednesday, January 10, 7-9 pm**.

ASLC WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP TO MEET FEBRUARY 10: The next meeting of the ASLC Women's Book Group will be held on February 10, 2017. (Please note that the group will not be meeting in January.) The book we will discuss on February 10 is Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*. The gathering will be held at the home of Louise Waynant, 12616 Kinder Place, Bowie MD. 20715. Emily Summerlot will lead the discussion.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be Sunday January 28. It will begin with a catered meal at 12:30 pm. The business of the meeting will begin at 1:00 pm.

During the meeting you will:

- Approve amendments to the All Saints Lutheran Church as required by the decisions of the 2016 ELCA Church-wide Assembly.
- Approve an amendment to the ASLC Constitution initiated by the Governance Committee.
- Elect 3 people to the Congregation Council
- Elect the Treasurer and Financial Secretary
- Elect 2 people to attend the Synod Assembly
- Celebrate the Mission and Ministry during 2017
- Elect 4 people to the Nominating Committee
- Elect 3 people to the Mission Endowment Fund
- Adopt the 2018 Spending Plan

Please plan to be part of the decisions that will be made as the mission and ministry for 2018 is decided.

OUR THANKS FOR THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY:

11:00 am
 Usher: Larry Floor
 Altar Service: Angela Sichelman
 Acolyte: Joshua Sichelman
 Assisting Minister: Gus Wolf
 Communion Assistant: Susan DeHart
 Director of Music: Dr. Hyojin Ahn
 Nursery: Kim McDermott
 Counters: Sharron Sample



Thank you to Angela Sichelman for baking the communion bread for today.

TODAY: Christmas Lessons and Carols
 11:00 am Worship

MONDAY: New Years Day - Office Closed

TUESDAY: 7:00 pm 2nd Star Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY: 6:30 pm Girl Scouts

THURSDAY: 7:00 pm 2nd Star Rehearsal
 7:00 pm SonShine Choir Rehearsal
 7:45 pm Combined Choir Rehearsal
 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

SATURDAY: 9:00 am Just Grace Book Discussion
 9:00 am Synod Stewardship Training
 11:00 am 2nd Star Rehearsal

NEXT SUNDAY: Epiphany of Our Lord
 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship
 9:45 am GIFT in Sanctuary
 9:45 am Adult Education Class Track 1 in SW Classroom



Request for Prayers

Prayer is an important part of this congregation. We invite you to share your prayer needs and concerns with us. Give to ushers or mail to church.

Today's Date: _____

Please check if for All Saints Day _____

I request prayers for Name(s): _____

Description of the Concern or Celebration: _____

Requested by: _____ Your Telephone Number: _____

Please check all that is applicable:

- _____ Public Prayer (shared with the congregation in worship)
- _____ Praying Team (shared with Prayer Team and Staff)
- _____ Pastor Only

- _____ Prayer Shawl requested
- _____ Pastoral Visit requested
- _____ Pastoral phone call requested