

December 2014

The Messenger

St. John's Episcopal Church | 123 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602

www.stjohns-saginaw.org | 989-793-9575 | Care, Share, Worship, Celebrate & Love

IN CHRIST WE ARE HELD TOGETHER

This month, as a parish, we continue through the season of Advent and prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ. Our anticipation of Christ's advent and our Christmas celebrations reminds us that our Lord's physical presence on this earth is a gift from God. This reminder of God incarnate in Christ is also a call to connect with our fellow brothers and sisters who make up the Body of Christ, the Church. So this time of year, I like to look beyond our parish. I want to share with you a few excerpts from The Archbishop of Canterbury's speech at the General Synod in London this year. May they inspire you for the holiday season:

"Anglicanism is incredibly diverse. ... Within the Communion there are perhaps more than 2,000 languages and perhaps more than 500 distinct cultures and ways of looking at the world. Some of its churches sit in the middle of what are literally the richest parts of the globe, and have within them some of the richest people on earth. The vast majority are poor. Despite appearances here, we are a poor church for the poor. Many are in countries where change is at a rate that we cannot even begin to imagine. I think of the man I met in Papua New Guinea who is a civil engineer and whose grandfather was the first of his tribe to see a wheel as a small aircraft landed in a clearing in the forest.

At the same time there is a profound unity in many ways. Not in all ways, but having said what I have about diversity, which includes diversity on all sorts of matters including sexuality, marriage and its nature, the use of money, the relations between men and women, the environment, war and peace, distribution of wealth and food, and a million other things, underpinning us is a unity imposed by the Spirit of God on those who name Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. This diversity is both gift and challenge, to be accepted and embraced, as we seek to witness in truth and love to the good news of Jesus Christ... In Christ we are held together. In Christ the barriers are broken, peace is held out to us as a gift established, which needs living. In Christ there is hope of a life that provides hope of peace."

May Christ indeed grant us His peace during this holy season.



DECEMBER EVENTS

Living Nativity

Sunday, December 7, at 6:00pm

Sponsored by Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church in Frankentrost Township, a visit to the Living Nativity is a Christmas walk to Bethlehem.

What can you expect? Join the pilgrim throng on its way to Bethlehem to be counted; listen to the shepherds recount the angel's message proclaiming the birth of Christ; hear the words of the prophets recall the ancient promises of a savior; experience the city alive with villagers living out the daily life of an ancient marketplace; realize the terror of Roman rule and subjection to a foreign power; feel poverty and homelessness as you make your way from the inn to the stable and see how God comes to you in human flesh – a baby lying in a manger. **There is no cost. So that we can travel as a group, a carpool will leave St. John's at 5:30pm.** See The Rev. Pam Renna for details.



A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Friday, December 19, at 7:30pm

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 at King's College in Cambridge, England. It was planned to provide a more imaginative worship service during the Advent season. Sometime in the early 1930's, the BBC began broadcasting the service on the World Service. *It is estimated that millions of listeners tune in every year.*



This year at St. John's, we continue Anglican tradition. Nine lessons are read beginning with the creation story and ending with the birth of Jesus. Each lesson is paired with special choir anthems and carols that complement the readings. A reception will follow.

This service also has a rich history for including both civic and church leadership. This year, we will be joined by **Saginaw City Police Supervisor, Lt. David Kendziorski**, who will be be one of our guest lectors!

Music will be organized by our Director of Music and Organist, Kevin Simons, who is also Director of Choirs at Saginaw Valley State University. **The Choir of St. John's will be joined by the Saginaw Arts & Science Academy Choir.**

Follow the event on Facebook for more fun facts and sneak peeks!

OUTREACH...

Christmas Outreach Baskets

We've been getting ready since November and now we're in the home stretch!

Mark your calendars and plan to help pack our Christmas Outreach Baskets following each of the services on Sunday, December 21. We'll also need some volunteers to help load and unload baskets on **Monday, December 22 at 10am.**

Forget to bring a few items? No Problem! Sunday, December 14 is the deadline to bring any items that may have missed your shopping basket!

As of December 1st we've reached half our goal so keep filling those baskets!

Shopping List

Shampoo

Kleenex

Bar soap (2-4 pack)
& lotion

Peanut Butter & jelly

Mac & Cheese

Soup & crackers

Cereal

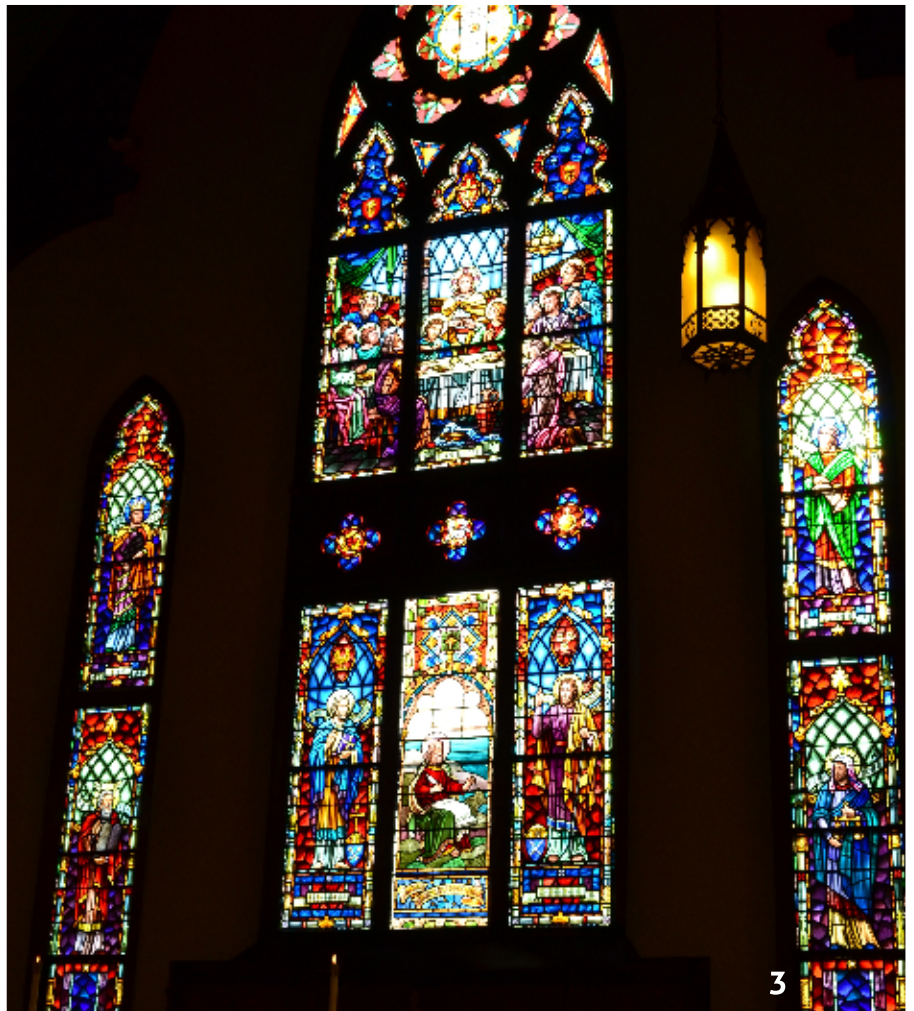
Canned fruit & vegetables

INREACH...

Stained Glass Window Cards

If you haven't seen them already, St. John's is selling beautiful stained glass window cards that can be used for Christmas, notes or thank-you all year. By purchasing and sending these cards, you help support our **Window Restoration Fund** and create awareness about these beautiful historic treasures in our city.

Boxes of 5 cards with varied designs including the nativity and Tiffany window are available for \$5.00 after Sunday services or by calling the church office.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Services

6:30pm - *Holy Eucharist*

Be among the first to sing our beloved Christmas hymns and celebrate the birth of our Savior with this family oriented service we've come to love in the Christmas season.

10:30pm - *Musical Prelude: Choir & Guest Musicians*

The Choir of St. John's as well as guest musicians will help prepare our hearts for worship with a wonderful moment of calm before the Festive Choral Eucharist.

11:00pm - *Festive Choral Eucharist*

Bolstered by our choir and guest musicians, we celebrate Christ with this traditional Festive Choral Eucharist.

Christmas Day

10:30am - *Holy Eucharist*

Celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas morning!



Silent Night 2013

Birthdays

- 2 - Paul Ilkka
- 2 - Tanya Brown
- 4 - Samantha Barshaw
- 4 - Olivia Corcoran
- 6 - Herb Spence IV
- 8 - Ellen Redfield
- 8 - Jane Vondrasek
- 9 - Ben Donaghy
- 15 - Myrna Endean
- 16 - Dennis Thom
- 21 - Jerry Lockhart
- 23 - Christopher Corcoran
- 24 - Tyler Rump
- 26 - Laurie Seibert

Anniversaries

- 18 - Chris & Paul Schaub
- 26 - Dennis & Betsy Greenwood
- 27 - Tanya & Jim Brown
- 31 - Sonni & Jim Magyar

DECEMBER 7

Living Nativity @ 5:30pm

DECEMBER 14

Christmas Flower & Music Fund Donations Due

DECEMBER 19

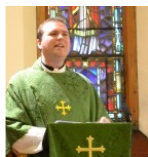
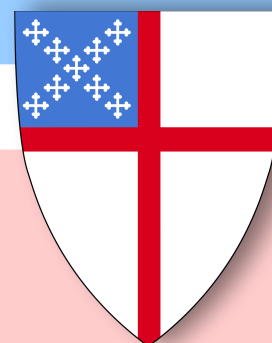
Lessons & Carols @ 7:30pm

DECEMBER 21

Christmas Outreach Basket Donation Due

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- 12/24 - 6:30pm - Holy Eucharist
- 10:30pm - Musical Prelude
- 11:00pm - Festive Choral Eucharist
- 12/25 - 10:30am - Holy Eucharist



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CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC FUND

Donations to the St. John's Christmas Flowers or Music Fund provide the flower arrangements, wreaths, poinsettias, and guest musicians that we enjoy during the Christmas season.

(Gifts of \$100 or more will be given special designation.)

DEADLINE: Sunday, December 14th

- I would like to contribute \$ _____ to the St. John's **Flower Fund**.
- I would like to contribute \$ _____ to the St. John's **Music Fund**.

Please make checks payable to St. John's Episcopal Church. Indicate on the check "Christmas Flowers" or "Music Fund."

Name:

This contribution is given in (check one):

- In grateful thanksgiving for...
- In loving memory of...



(The above will be noted in Christmas bulletins.)