

Word



Service



We are heading into one of the most significant seasons of our life together as church!

I am put in mind of a recurring line in the movie, *The Truman Show*, where Truman greets friends and neighbors

with, "Good morning! And in case I don't see ya, "Good afternoon, good evening and good night!" This is our newsletter for December and January, so I can truthfully say:

"Happy New Year!" – Advent begins on November 29, and continues for four Sundays. This marks the beginning of the church year. We will make our way, preparing for the arrival of Jesus Christ, our One True Light. Each week we will light a new candle against the dark, until Christmas Eve, when we light our Christ candle, and welcome Jesus into our hearts yet again.

"Merry Christmas!" – The season of Christmas begins on Christmas Eve and continues for 12 days (yes, Virginia, there really are 12 days of Christmas), until Epiphany (Jan. 6). We will celebrate Epiphany in worship on Jan. 3. On Epiphany we remember the manifestation of Christ (the Light of the World) to the gentiles – represented by the Magi.

"Happy Anniversary!" – I'm sneaking this one in, as January 1, 2010 marks our first year together as congregation and pastor. The magic continues for me! Thanks for your warm welcome!

"Remember Your Baptism and Be Thankful!" – The Baptism of the Lord (Sun., Jan. 10) is a time for reflecting on what it means to be baptized. We will ordain and install our new church officers that Sunday, as we all re-commit ourselves to living into the new life of baptism.

Please come to church and join us in this rich life together.

Shalom,

Mary

December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

an Advent/Christmas Hymn Festival

Our choirs will be leading us, accompanied by organ and other instruments!

Fellowship lunch after worship

December 13 – Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3: 7-18

Sermon: "What Should We Do?"

Congregational Meeting to elect officers

Congregational potluck supper – 5:00 pm

Children's Christmas Program to follow

Youth Group Bake Sale

December 18 and 19

Greening of the Church – 9:00 am – noon

On the 19th – Children's Christmas Craft Festival

December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1: 39-55

Sermon: "Mary's Song"

Youth Caroling - afternoon

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Family service, with communion – 7:00 pm

Cookies and Cocoa between services

Candlelight service, with communion – 9:00 pm

December 27 – First Sunday after Christmas

Luke 2: 41-52

Sermon: "Growing in Wisdom"

January 3 – celebrating Epiphany

Matt. 2: 1-12

Sermon: "Home by Another Way"

January 10 – Baptism of the Lord

Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

Sermon: "Naming Names"

Ordination and Installation of Officers

January 17 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

John 2: 1-11

Sermon: "When Is It Time to Get Out the Good Stuff?"

January 24 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Cor. 12: 12-31a

Sermon: "Listening to the Pneuma"

January 31 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Cor. 13: 1-13

Sermon: "Living Love: a Parable"

HIGHLIGHTS