

The Saline Psalter

HOLY FAITH CHURCH

Episcopal and ELCA Lutheran

6299 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Saline, MI 48176

phone: 734-429-2991 fax: 734-429-4520

www.holy-faith-church.org

December 2011/January 2012

THE PASTOR PONDERERS

Fill the Stable

I recently received an email from Peggy Lynch, one of the MISSION board members who works with the self-governing homeless tent community, *Camp Take Notice* (CTN), in Ann Arbor. She writes that CTN has had a continual, steady influx of people "including three pregnant women in the last few weeks." This is because "Delonis cannot house all of the homeless who need shelter" and is "referring them nearly daily" to CTN. "They nearly always arrive with nothing -- no sleeping bag, blankets, tent or flashlight, except bus tokens Delonis gave them and perhaps winter clothes from Delonis." So the needs are immense, and CTN is having difficulty even meeting its modest goal of providing "a tent, sleeping bag and/or blankets to everyone who comes." Then she goes on to tell this story:

Last week, I went to camp late one night to pick up blankets to launder them, because camp was totally out of blankets. When I arrived, a new 23-year-old camper who'd been sent by Delonis was trying to sleep in a community tent but had no blankets. I pulled two tablecloths off of the dinner tables to put on him, together with a large woman's coat and a scarf, to keep him warm on that 30-degree night. As I was leaving with the laundry, two more campers came up to beg for the wet, nasty blankets I was trying to take to launder. While they were speaking, an established camper on the Executive Committee came up and offered to let them stay in his tent and share his blankets for the night so I could launder the nasty ones. It was heartbreaking to not even have used blankets to give folks who had nowhere else to go.

It was just amazing to watch yet again a homeless camper, who probably owns nothing but a tent and blankets, share it with newcomers. Camp resources are super stretched, but I'm confident these basic humanitarian needs will somehow be met.

Of course I can't help thinking of Mary and Joseph--pregnant, poor, and functionally if not literally homeless in Bethlehem—looking for a warm, safe place to give birth to Jesus, and having to make do with an innkeeper's stable. Where would they be sent if they came to Ann Arbor in that state in 2011? Like the "three pregnant women" who have come to CTN in recent weeks, would they receive even the minimal shelter of a tent and blankets?

Friends, I cannot ignore this need. I realize that we are a congregation of great generosity which is already being exercised, especially in this season of SASS Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, special gift offerings to Heifer, congregational pledging, etc. I don't want to detract from those wonderful ministries, or add to anyone's sense of burden. But I do invite those of you who are so moved to join me in a little Christmas giving project I'm calling "Fill the Stable." Here's how it works:

Below is a list of items the camp particularly needs. Holy Faith will be taking up a collection on the "stage" area at the front of the Fellowship Hall. This area is our Advent "stable" to be filled with clean, used or new items. Got unneeded sleeping bags or coats or tarps in your basement or attic? Bring them in. Want to spend a little for CTN at a local thrift shop or camping supply store? By all means! Let's see how full we can make our stable. I, and anyone who wants to help me, can deliver the items to the camp on December 18.

Why? Because the "reason for the season" is one who was born poor, with nothing, in a stable, for us.

1. Clean sleeping bags, quilts, blankets and the camping pads that are used under sleeping bags
2. Winter coats (especially large men's sizes), hats, boots, mittens, gloves, scarves
3. Tarps, tents, and 1-pound cannisters of propane
4. Money, of course, is always needed, as are AATA bus tokens. Checks can be made out to MISSION.

SASS Holiday Baskets

Items must be at Holy Faith by Sunday, December 18

Items that must be provided for each basket are:

- turkey or ham or gift card to cover meat cost at a Saline grocery store (please be sure the dollar amount of the gift card is clearly indicated)
- potatoes (raw or boxed)
- fresh salad ingredients and dressing
- fresh vegetables
- oranges or apples
- stuffing mix
- gravy (in jar or can)
- rolls or biscuits
- margarine or butter
- milk or juice
- dessert (ready-to-eat; boxed cake mix and frosting, etc.)

We Have Committed to Providing FIVE Baskets.

A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board so you can sign up for the items you'd like to contribute.

Thank you to Rosemary Brodie, and Marianne and Brian Blevins for coordinating & delivering the baskets again.

**SAVE
RECEIPTS!**

Thrivent will match up to \$300 of the cost of the basket items.

That's another \$300 for SASS!

Please highlight the items you purchased for the baskets on your receipt and put them in Joan's mailbox.

Hanging of the Greens



Sunday, December 11, 1:00pm

Come help decorate Holy Faith for the Advent & Christmas seasons!

Questions?

Susan Cummings at 429-5324

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve—Saturday, December 24

5:30pm—featuring a "Paper Bag Pageant".

Everyone is part of this pageant—your part will be handed to you in a paper bag!

8:30pm—join the Choir for a carol sing before the 9pm worship service

9:00pm—featuring the Christmas Eve Choir, directed by our own Jeri Shumate

Christmas Day—Sunday, December 25

9:00am—a nice way to begin your Christmas Day

New Year's Day—Sunday, January 1

9:00am—Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve Choir

Directed by Jeri Shumate

**This is an intergenerational choir.
Children are most welcome!**

Rehearsals:

Sunday, Dec. 4th—10:00-10:45am

Sunday, Dec. 11th—10:40-11:00am

Sunday, Dec. 18th—10:00-10:45am

Saturday, Dec. 24th—8:00-8:30pm

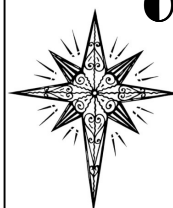


Special Gifts Offering Dec. 2011 Heifer International

For several years our special gifts offering for December has been Heifer International. Again this year we are focusing on this special organization. Your gift to Heifer International buys animals like goats, sheep, rabbits, chickens, bees or plants that become the fuel for hope and give people, not a handout, but rather a way out of the cycle of poverty and hunger.

These are living gifts that not only provide families with the dignity of feeding themselves, but also with the means to pay for clothing, education, doctors visits and decent shelter. Heifer also uses our funds to train and educate families to use and care for their animals, to use sustainable farming methods, and to find access to veterinary care and markets for their products. Finally, because each recipient family must pass on the first offspring of the animal they received, or the equivalent, each gift is multiplied again and again with each new generation.

Please make your check out to Holy Faith, and note "Heifer" in the memo line.



0001: A Faith Oddity

The 2011 Advent Pageant

Sunday, December 11, 2011

At 10am, followed by coffee and treats

Starring

The Holy Faith Youth

Written and Produced by Pastor Ian

Directed by the Sunday School Teachers

Pageant Rehearsal: Saturday, December 10, 10am—noon

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2011						
				Pastor's Class 7-8:3pm		Prayer Bead Event 10am—noon
2 Advent 8:00, 9:00 & 11:00am Worship 10:30—11:00am Sunday School Coffee from 10—11am Youth Group 7-8:30pm				Pastor's Class 7-8:3pm		Pageant Rehearsal 10am-noon
3 Advent 8:00, 9:00 & 11:00am Worship 10AM ADVENT PAGEANT <i>No Sunday School</i> Coffee from 10—11am Youth Group 7-8:30pm	AA Mtg 7pm	PLT 7pm	Et Al 7pm			
4 Advent Mission Sunday 8:00, 9:00 & 11:00am Worship 10:30—11:00am Sunday School Coffee from 10—11am	AA Mtg 7pm		<i>Joan not in office</i>	<i>Joan not in office</i>		CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30pm 9:00pm
Christmas Day 9:00am Worship ONLY <i>No Sunday School</i>	AA Mtg 7pm					

Holiday Office Hours During the week of December 26 and January 1, the office will be open intermittently. If you plan on stopping by, please call first to make sure we are here.

January 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Christmas New Year's Day 9:00am ONLY LESSONS & CAROLS <i>No Sunday School</i> Coffee from 10—11am	AA Mtg 7pm				Epiphany	
Baptism of Our Lord 8:00, 9:00 & 11:00am Worship 10:30—11:00am Sunday School Coffee from 10—11am Youth Group 7-8:30pm	AA Mtg 7pm	PLT 7:00pm	Et Al 7pm	Pastor's Class 7-8:3pm		
2 Epiphany SASS "Three on the Third" 8:00, 9:00 & 11:00am Worship 10:30—11:00am Sunday School Coffee from 10—11am	Youth Group Service Project AA Mtg 7pm			Pastor's Class 7-8:3pm		
3 Epiphany 8:00, 9:00 & 11:00am Worship 10:30—11:00am Sunday School Coffee from 10—11am	AA Mtg 7pm			Pastor's Class 7-8:3pm		
4 Epiphany 8:00 and 9:00am Worship <i>No 11am Worship</i> Annual Meeting Youth Group 7-8:30pm	AA Mtg 7pm	Delonis Center 3-7pm	<p>Mark the Date in your Calendar! 2012 Annual Meeting <i>There is no Sunday School that day, but childcare will be available.</i></p>			

SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	2 Advent December 4	3 Advent December 11	4 Advent December 18	Christmas Eve December 24	Christmas Day December 25
8:00 Reader	Stein	Leonard	Buchalski/Centlivre	5:30pm Asst. Min. Reader Jean Dodge Usher Greeter 9:00pm Asst. Min. Reader B. Hubbard Usher C&G Francis Greeter	9:00am Asst. Min. Reader Cathy Berger Usher Greeter
9:00 Asst. Min.	S. White	S. Cummings	H. Tinsey		
9:00 Reader	M. White	J. Cummings	B. Hubbard		
9:00 Ushers	G&C Francis	K. Cummings	S. Proud		
9:00 Greeters	J&L Darling	S&M White	D. Goble		
11:00 Asst. Min.	M. Ledford	J. Dodge	H. Herrick		
11:00 Reader	B. Wake	L. Baker	N. Reed Twiss		
11:00 Ush/Grt	W. Determan	M. Barber	L. Kaufman/G. Donovan		
11:00 Cantor	B. Wake	J. Shumate	B. Wake		
Flowers	No Flowers during the Advent Season				
Altar Guild	Mary Fatchett/Margaret McIvor				
Coffee Hosts	Francis/Goble/ Kemeny	English/Dubay/ Garvey-Erickson	Gridley/Frank/Frank/Baker		

	1 Christmas January 1	Baptism of Our Lord January 8	2 Epiphany January 15	3 Epiphany January 22	4 Epiphany January 29
8:00 Reader	9:00am Asst. Min. Reader Barbara Johnston Usher Greeter	Buchalski/Centlivre	Leonard	Stein	Buchalski/Centlivre
9:00 Asst. Min.		Sandy White	Lisa Reifert	Susan Cummings	Sandy White
9:00 Reader		Milo White	Cathy Sigler	Jeff Cummings	Milo White
9:00 Ushers		Judie and Rick	G&C Francis	Keith Cummings	Sam Proud
9:00 Greeters		N&H Tinsey	J&L Darling	Doris Goble	Brooks Hinerman
11:00 Asst. Min.		Marcia Ledford	Heather Herrick	Jeri Shumate	Carolyn Schneider
11:00 Reader		Larry Kaufman	Katie Garvey	Liza Baker	Nan Reed Twiss
11:00 Ush/Grt		Wayne Determan	Larry Kaufman	Mary Barber	Wayne Determan
11:00 Cantor		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flowers					
Altar Guild					
Coffee Hosts	Baker/Wake	Beaubien/Berry/ Tinsey	Mission Café Blevins/Brodie	Braun/Cummings	Herrick-Zilka/Sigler

Adult Christian Formation Committee

Stations of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross have long been used during the time of Lent to meditate on the suffering of Christ as the worshipper makes a walking pilgrimage in church as a substitute for a traveling pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Members and local artists will have the opportunity to depict a station which will be hung in the Fellowship Hall through the Lenten Season. There will be sign-up in January, but anyone who would like more information on the format requirement in advance may contact Roxane Chan.

Four stations have been adopted already!

News from Ohio



Scott, Christopher and Stephanie Goodrich
Scott and Stephanie were Holy Faith members and moved to Ohio about a year ago.

Things are going well for us. The big news in our lives is that this past summer we adopted a son, Christopher, from the foster care system. He is 17! We just really felt called to start our family by giving one to a kid who really needed one and was very close to never being able to have one. Where would any of us be without our family? We found Chris in Texas and visited him a couple of times and it was just clear from the very beginning that he was the kid that God had called us to adopt. He came home with us in late July and we're now already preparing to finalize his adoption in late January back in Texas (you have to wait 6 months to do that). He is doing so well and it's added so much to our lives to have him. We're hopeful that in time we'll adopt more children from similar circumstances.

We hope that everyone at Holy Faith is doing well and had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

DELONIS CENTER

Tuesday, January 31, 2012

Come help prepare or serve dinner to the homeless and/or hungry. Holy Faith helps at the Center in Ann Arbor in months that have a 5th Tuesday.

Sign up on the bulletin board to help prepare from 3:00 - 5:00 or to help serve from 5:00 - 7:00.

**Our next service opportunity is
 May 29, 2012**

Did You Know ?

Did you know that over the past eight months Holy Faith has had a small group of dedicated parishioners meeting as a Congregational Discernment Committee with Marcia Ledford? Marcia is sensing a call into the ordained priesthood in the Episcopal Church. This committee's job was to meet, discuss, and test this call with her once-a-month for at least six months. They have recommended that she move on to the next stage of the ordination process, and the PLT has affirmed their recommendation. Congratulations, Marcia! And thanks to Liza Baker, Larry Kaufman, Lisa Reifert, Norlaine Tinsey, Bill Wake, and Jim Toy for your important work with Marcia.

From here, Marcia will go to a meeting in January for some interviews which will help the Bishop determine whether or not to make her a "Postulant" to holy orders. Then there are several stages yet after that before priesthood. Meanwhile, Marcia is attending seminary at Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit. She and her partner, Linda, are 11:00 attenders at Holy Faith, where Marcia now serves as an Assistant Minister.

Special Gifts Offering Jan 2012 Saline Area Social Services

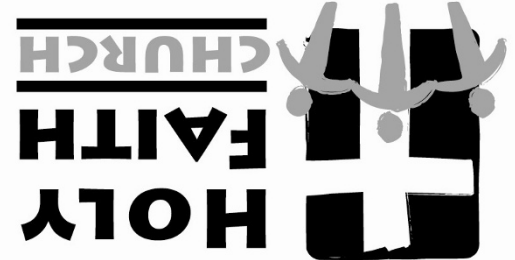
Saline Area Social Services is our special gifts offering for January. We have traditionally chosen to help our local neighbors at this time because needs continue after the holidays and SASS funding decreases. Warmth and transportation, as well as adequate food become greater problems in these winter months. Please also continue your generous contributions of paper goods and food, and add a monetary gift as you are able.

Please make your check out to Holy Faith and note "SASS" on the memo line.

Letters Home compiled by artist Susan Clinthorne

Beginning January 29, Holy Faith will host this project for two Sundays. It's an exhibit of signs and other items made by homeless people and offers a chance to reflect on homelessness in the spiritual context of the church as we prepare for Lent. More information can be found at lettershomeproject.com.

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Saline, MI 48176



The Rev. Ian Reed Twiss, Pastor
ian@holy-faith-church.org

The Rev. Donald Dersnah, Deacon
don@holy-faith-church.org

Joan Barbret, Office Manager
joan@holy-faith-church.org

Jessica Whitaker, Nursery Care

Parish Leadership Team (PLT)

Kris Paggett, President (1/'13)
kpaggett@hotmail.com/810-355-2988

Rick Wales, Vice President (1/'12)
riccow656@yahoo.com/944-7439

Gillian Donovan (1/'12)
gillian1524@gmail.com/944-8432

Milo White (1/'13)
mrwjr33@comcast.net/429-7688

Mary Barber (1/'14)
mary.barber56@gmail.com/353-9583

Cathy Sigler (1/'14)
cathrinesigler@yahoo.com/929-5185

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Grow in Spirit and Love.
Reach Out to Our Neighbor and the World.

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