

The Saline Psalter

HOLY FAITH CHURCH

6299 Ann Arbor-Saline Road
Saline, MI 48176

734-429-2991

www.holy-faith-church.org

December 2015

A note from the Pastor



*Peace came to earth
at last that chosen night*

*When angels clove the sky
with song and light*

*And God embodied love
and sheathed his might--*

*Who could but gasp: Immanuel!
Who could but sing: Immanuel!*

~Jaroslav J. Vajda

One of the themes of the Advent/Christmas seasons is the hope for peace. We long for peace not only in our world but also in our homes and hearts. We could probably safely state that the overwhelming majority of people on our planet desire that peace. However, it doesn't take too many unsavory characters to shatter that vision. Peace seems to be a fleeting possibility for our world.

We also strive for personal peace. We might think that if I only do this or that I'll know myself and find self-fulfillment. We instead find ourselves in a state of worry about how we are doing in comparison with others. This illusion can set us on the road to competition, envy and rivalry. We can become competitors who will fight for our place in the world even at the cost of others.

Henri Nouwen once wrote that "we are not who we know ourselves to be, but who we are known to be by God. We are not what we can acquire and conquer, but what we have received. We are not the friends we make, or the results we achieve; rather, we are who God made us in God's infinite love."

Mary experienced uncertainty when she said yes to the angel. She knew what oppression was when she didn't find a hospitable place to give birth to Jesus. She lived as a refugee in a strange land with a strange language. She knew what it meant to have a child who does not follow the regular ways of life. She knew who she was in God's infinite love.

The story of Jesus' birth reminds us that he came into a world that was not at peace and lived amid tension from his first days. To our eternal gratitude Mary accepted God's invitation even though it was inconvenient at best (Nouwen).

As we journey through this hopeful season may we remember that our personal peace comes as we recognize that all that is, is a divine gift born out of love and freely given to us so that we may share it with others.

Peace and strength,
Pastor Eckermann

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 31, 2016

Following the 10am service

Please make every effort
to attend this year.

Besides approving the 2016 budget, we will discuss important budgetary issues affecting the future of Holy Faith; such as whether we will be able to call a full time or part time pastor.

Mark the date on your calendar!



Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve

5:30pm and 9:00pm

Holy Eucharist and Candlelighting

Sunday, December 27

10:00 a.m.

Lessons and Carols for Christmas

Sunday, January 3

8:15 and 10:00a.m.

Epiphany of Our Lord

Christmas Food Baskets for SASS

Again this year Holy Faith will be preparing five (5) baskets for Christmas to be distributed by SASS to families in our community. There will be a sheet on the bulletin board for you to sign up for items needed to make those holiday dinners a festive event for a family.

All items for the Christmas baskets need to be brought to the church by 10am on Sunday, December 20.

Thank you for your generosity.

Questions??

Rosemary Brodie, or Marianne & Brian Blevins.

DELONIS CENTER

Tuesday, December 29, 2015

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.

Please sign up by Sunday, December 20

Food Gatherers holds up to 5 spots for us from Holy Faith on each shift—they cannot take more. They need to know how many are coming a week in advance. Therefore, you need to sign up 2 Sundays before the 5th Tuesday. Numbers will be called in the Tuesday before our date.

Our next service opportunity is March 29, 2016

Friends-in-Deed

*Redecorating your humble abode for the holiday season?
Trying to decide what to do with your old furniture?*

You may call Friends-in-Deed, an interfaith organization that responds to needs of low-income Washtenaw County residents that are not met by other organizations. Yes, they'll even provide a good home for your used car. Call Friends-in-Deed at 485-7658.

Alternative Christmas

Don't know what to give the person who has everything? Check out the Alternative Gifts catalogs on the small table near the entrance. There is information for Episcopal Relief & Development, ELCA Good Gifts, etc.

Episcopal Relief and Development is celebrating its 75th anniversary so take a look at the 2015 Advent Poster in fellowship hall for more information.

Purchase a Poinsettia for the Christmas Altar

Sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, December 20.



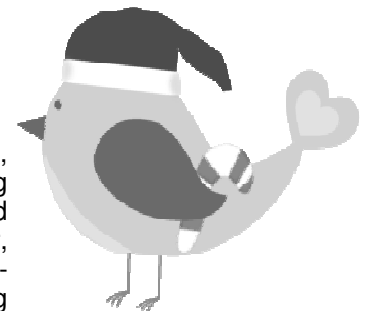
You may order red, pink or white flowers.

- 1 stem \$8
- 2 stems \$12
- 3 stems \$19

Make your check out to Holy Faith and note "poinsettia" on the memo line

Blue Christmas

While many are shopping, singing carols and getting together with family and friends at this time of year, there are those finding themselves feeling "blue" during the Christmas season.



Perhaps you are suffering from a broken relationship, employment insecurity, economic worries, health concerns, loneliness, or the loss of a loved one.

Each of us reacts to these stressful feelings in different ways. A Longest Night Service offering encouragement, healing and hope takes place Sunday, December 20, at First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor in Monteith Hall (main floor, just inside the north door of the church, not the main sanctuary). There will be a service at 5:00 and one at 7:00.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR TABLE



The Holy Faith Cookbook

Cookbooks are available for purchase
They are still only \$5 each.
See Joan in the office.

Special Gifts Offering Dec. 2015 Safehouse Center

Safehouse Center provides support for those impacted by domestic violence or sexual assault. Their services are free and confidential for any person living or working in Washtenaw County. The services include emergency shelter for those in danger of being physically assaulted, counseling, legal advocacy, support groups, and especially HOPE. This is all possible because of community donors, business and volunteer partners, and grants. Over 5,000 survivors are served every year. The goal is to build a community free of domestic violence and sexual assault

Volunteers provide many thousands of hours every year staffing the 24 hour response teams, shelter, the hotline, the children's program, and the Teen Voice program. The help line, 4734-995-5444 is staffed 24 hours, 7 days per week. This is an important service organization in our community doing quiet but tremendous work serving our neighbors in their pain and fear

All donations are appreciated, well used, and necessary to keep all their services functioning. Make your check out to Holy Faith and note Safehouse on the memo line.

Lunch Bunch!

Everyone is always invited to Lunch Bunch!
You just have to come!

**2nd Monday of Each Month
Carrigan's in Saline at Noon**

Please see Barbara Arnold with questions.

*There is no class on
December 22 and 29, or January 5.
The first class of 2016 will be January 12.*

**Tuesday Morning
Adult Study Class**
10:30-11:30am

*Have you ever had questions about other denominations?
Have you wondered what they believe, how they began?*

This has been great fun! So far we have discussed the Amish, Christian Scientists, Quakers, Mormons and many others—and there are many more to go!

Join us! Everyone is welcome.
Questions?

See Tish Dersnah or Wendy Amstutz

Special Gifts Offering Jan. 2016 Saline Area Social Service

Saline Area Social Service (SASS) has traditionally been our special charity for the month of January. After the holidays the needs of our local neighbors increase and donations decrease. Warmth and transportation and adequate food become greater problems in the winter months. Please also continue your "Three on the 3rd" donations and add a monetary gift as you are able.

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

Search Update

The Search Team has been meeting on a weekly basis and is making good progress completing the lengthy forms required by the Synod and the Diocese. They have been referencing the information the Transition Team put together and researching for the rest.

They anticipate that things will slow down during the Christmas season and then Lent begins in early February; so they are hesitant to give out any kind of timeline. But rest assured that this will be done thoroughly, thoughtfully and we will find the right pastor for Holy Faith.



The Paper Pantry collects and distributes necessities that are not covered by Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards such as toilet paper, paper towel, detergent, hand soap, shampoo, tooth paste, deodorant, etc. We pass out between 40 to 100 paper

grocery bags that contain the needed items. Currently we are responding to the Seniors at Mill Pond Manor in Saline, the Independent Living Adults at Chidester Place Apartments in Ypsilanti and to low income families in the Milan area who come to the food pantry at Calvary Bible Church. The Paper Pantry is a partnership between Holy Faith, St Paul UCC and the Liberty Club, all from Saline.

Paper Pantry is funded with grants through the Episcopal Diocese, Lutheran Thrivent Financial and donations. All funds have gone to purchasing items. We also get donated items which are very much appreciated.

We need volunteers and donations. Delivery dates in January are 1/30 at Calvary Bible Church and for February 2/20 at Chidester Place, in Ypsilanti.

Volunteers bring in and pass out donated and purchased items. It is a lot of fun and takes about 1-1/2 hours on a Saturday morning.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Reifert at 734-255-1684 or lisareifert76@gmail.com

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 2 Advent 9:15am Choir Practice 8:15 & 10:00am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	7 <i>Office Closed</i> AA Mtg. 7pm	8 Adult Study 10:30-11:30am	9 OA Mtg. 6-7pm	10 <i>Office Closed</i>	11	12 OA Mtg. 8:30-9:30am
13 3 Advent 9:15am Choir Practice 8:15 & 10:00am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	14 <i>Office Closed</i> Lunch Bunch Noon @ Carrigan's AA Mtg. 7pm	15 Adult Study 10:30-11:30am	16 OA Mtg. 6-7pm	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18	19 OA Mtg. 8:30-9:30am Paper Pantry 9:30am
20 4 Advent 3 on the 3rd 9:15am Choir Practice 8:15 & 10:00am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	21 <i>Office Closed</i> AA Mtg. 7pm	22 <i>Adult Study cancelled</i>	23 OA Mtg. 6-7pm	24 <i>Office Closed</i> Christmas Eve 5:30 & 9pm Eucharist and Candlelighting	25 <i>Office Closed</i> Christmas Day	26 OA Mtg. 8:30-9:30am
27 1 Christmas 10:00am Lessons & Carols 11am Coffee Hour	28 <i>Office Closed</i> AA Mtg. 7pm	29 <i>Adult Study cancelled</i> Delonis 3-7pm	30 OA Mtg. 6-7pm	31 <i>Office Closed</i>		

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 OA Mtg. 8:30-9:30am
3 2 Christmas Epiphany of Our Lord 9:15am Choir Practice 8:15 & 10:00am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	4 <i>Office Closed</i> AA Mtg. 7pm	5 <i>Adult Study cancelled</i>	6 Epiphany OA Mtg. 6-7pm	7 <i>Office Closed</i>	8	9 OA Mtg. 8:30-9:30am
10 1 Epiphany Baptism of Our Lord 9:15am Choir Practice 8:15 & 10:00am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	11 <i>Office Closed</i> Lunch Bunch Noon @ Carrigan's AA Mtg. 7pm	12 Adult Study 10:30-11:30am PLT Mtg. 7pm	13 OA Mtg. 6-7pm	14 <i>Office Closed</i>	15	16 OA Mtg. 8:30-9:30am Paper Pantry 9:30am
17 2 Epiphany 9:15am Choir Practice 8:15 & 10:00am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	18 Martin Luther King Day <i>Office Closed</i> AA Mtg. 7pm	19 Adult Study 10:30-11:30am	20 OA Mtg. 6-7pm	21 <i>Office Closed</i>	22	23 OA Mtg. 8:30-9:30am
24 3 Epiphany 9:15am Choir Practice 8:15 & 10:00am Worship 11am Coffee Hour	25 <i>Office Closed</i> AA Mtg. 7pm	26 Adult Study 10:30-11:30am	27 OA Mtg. 6-7pm	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29	30 OA Mtg. 8:30-9:30am
31 4 Epiphany Annual Meeting 9:15am Choir Practice 8:15 & 10:00am Worship Potluck						

SUNDAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	2 Advent December 6	3 Advent December 13	4 Advent December 20	Christmas Eve December 24	1 Christmas December 27 <i>Lessons & Carols</i>
8:15 Reader	Mary Fatchett	Cicely Johnson	Art Witbart	TBD	Mike Centlivre Suzanne Buchalski
10:00 Asst. Min.	Harold Tinsey	Carolyn Schneider	Molly Hilton		--
10:00 Reader	Wendy Amstutz	Katie Garvey	Carolyn Schneider		TBD
10:00 Ushers	Sam Proud Ingrid Smart	Talle and Steve Jolliffe	Judie and Rick Wales		David Dubay
10:00 Greeters	Tish Dersnah Alice Kitchen	Jane Darling	Tish Dersnah		Clarke Flewelling Dan McGraw
10:00 Acolyte	Elyse Narbut	Nels Erickson	Tim Custer		--
Coffee Hosts	Darling/Smart	Braun/Tinsey	Beaubien/Berry Determan		<i>All of Us</i>
Altar Guild	Mary Fatchett	Mary Fatchett	Mary Fatchett		Mary Fatchett
Counters	Rick/Carolyn	Fritz/Mike V.	Andy/Steve		Harold/Rick

	2 Christmas January 3	1 Epiphany Baptism of Our Lord January 10	2 Epiphany January 17	3 Epiphany January 24	4 Epiphany January 31 Annual Meeting
8:15 Reader	Mary Hogan	Mike/Suzanne	Mary Fatchett	Cicely Johnson	Art Witbart
10:00 Asst. Min.	Noelle Milkey	Ann Mayers	Susan Cummings	Sandy White	Katie Garvey
10:00 Reader	Barbara Arnold	Christen Mitchell	Sandy Dindoffer	Noelle Milkey	Tish Dersnah
10:00 Ushers	Sam Proud Ingrid Smart	Talle and Steve Jolliffe	Judie and Rick Wales	David Dubay Ingrid Smart	Sam Proud Sandy White
10:00 Greeters	Tish Dersnah	Norlaine and Harold Tinsey	Tish Dersnah and Alice Kitchen	Jane Darling	Clarke Flewelling and Dan McGraw
10:00 Acolyte	Ashley Schneider	Bethany Mitchell	Branden Amstutz	Elyse Narbut	Nels Erickson
Coffee Hosts	All of us	Hilton/Dersnah	Czyrka/Dubay	Schneider/Mitchell	Annual Meeting Potluck
Altar Guild	Savages	Savages	Savages	Savages	Savages
Counters	Carolyn/Kent	Steve/Fritz	Harold/Rick	Andy/Mike V.	Kent/Steve

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2016

If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar for specific Sundays, please use on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please note that altar flowers are scheduled for two consecutive Sundays.

The cost for two vases is \$40.

Flower selection is at the discretion of the florist. If you wish to make a special request, arrangements can be made with the florist, Maureen's Designs, at 429-0700. Maureen will quote on an individual basis at that time.

Payment for flowers is to be made by check to Holy Faith Church, memo: Altar Flowers

Questions? Please contact Jane Darling at 734-323-9486 or jldarling44@yahoo.com.

Episcopal and ELCA Lutheran
6299 Ann Arbor - Saline Road
Saline, MI 48176



The Rev. Stan Eckermann, Interim Pastor

pastor@holy-faith-church.org

The Rev. Donald Dersnah, Deacon

don@holy-faith-church.org

Joan Barbret, Office Manager

joan@holy-faith-church.org

Jesse Morgan, Church Musician

Eric Doucette, Choir Director

Claire Amstutz, Nursery Care

Samantha Bartolet, Nursery Care

Parish Leadership Team (PLT)

Steve Jolliffe, President (1/'17)

jolliffes@aol.com/944-5678

Vicki English, VP (1/'18)

vjj01@live.com/686-1883

Ann Mayers, Secretary (1/'17)

ann.mayers@gmail.com/223-7259

Susan Cummings (1/'16)

a2pinkaster@gmail.com/429-5324

David Dubay (1/'16)

doobieone@comcast.net/657-7953

Clarke Flewelling (1/'18)

cflew2@hotmail.com/944-6069

MISSION STATEMENT

Seek God Together.

Grow in Spirit and Love.

Reach Out to Our Neighbor and the World.



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