

THE PULSE



December 8, 2019 Second Sunday in Advent

St. Charles Episcopal Church

*A church with a big heart, shining the light of Christ,
joyfully serving others.*

WHY GLOBAL MISSION? A CHRISTMAS STORY: Last month Hugh Robinson approached me with the idea of leading a mission group from SCEC to La Florida, Peru to build homes with The Fuller Center. Hugh has led a number of home building trips to various parts of the world and the United States for more than twelve years, and his enthusiasm for serving Christ in this way is clear after talking with him for just a few minutes. I understand his passion for global mission, because I experienced a similar joy when I have served as a short-term global missionary: building a home with a family in Juarez, Mexico, and building relationships with my home diocese's companion diocese of Kinkiizi in Uganda. Not to mention the delight of greeting missionaries from around the world over the years in global encounters right in my own backyard.

Why global mission? This is often a question asked in the Episcopal Church. Why go to Peru when there are people in need in Kane County? If mission is only about giving out of our abundance, then this is a good question. But to have pity on the less fortunate is a misguided mission. Mission is about encounter across cultural borders and building relationships in our shared humanity rooted in Christ. I say that global mission is a Christmas Story because the God of our understanding is a missionary God. Think about it! God saw the brokenness of the world, and so God sent the Son--a part of Godself--to take on flesh and live with humanity. God crossed that great cultural divide and befriended humankind by becoming human in nature as well as retaining his own Divine nature. God arrived in the world as a helpless infant with a lofty name: Jesus--"God saves!" In truth, the infant Jesus needed the help of the

human family into which he was born to protect him, raise him up, and teach him what it means to be a man. Then he was able to fulfill his mission of reconciling all the world to God and teaching us what it means to be truly human.

Global mission is about encounter and relationship building among equals. Sometimes it looks like building a house or digging a well. More often it looks like working alongside the family who will live in that home and learning from them what God looks like. And sharing a meal with the family and their neighbors, and sharing what God looks like to us. Praying together, playing together, sharing a warm Coke under a tarp in the heat of the day and becoming human to one another. This is the way God still works in the world today and heals the world but helping us see one another as members of one human family. We are all God's kids!

The mission continues at home when the missionaries return and tell the story of these holy friendships formed and new glimpses of Christ experienced. Telling the story of God at work in the world is central to living our faith. The shepherds told the story. And certainly the magi too. Of the wonder of that holy, helpless child born in a barn who was surely God up to something new in the world. And how can we keep that a secret?

In this season of Advent, I ask for your prayers as God prepares a team of short-term missionaries from SCEC to go to Peru in June 2020. Perhaps God is calling you to be a part of that team! Perhaps it's not quite time yet. Perhaps you are called to stay here and eagerly receive the story upon our team's return. **Even if you are unsure, I encourage you to talk to Hugh, me, and any member of our Vestry, who is solidly behind starting a ministry of global mission here in our parish.** I am certain the Holy Spirit is stirring us up and inviting us to encounter Christ Jesus somewhere new and bring our own stories of faith to share abroad and at home. ---Rev. Stacy+

ALL PARISH FORUM ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 TO FEATURE YOUTH CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES:

Our Middle School Youth Confirmation class students had as a part of their preparation for confirmation a class on discerning and selecting verses in scripture that is an inspiring word for each student in their life in faith today. We call these confirmation scripture life verses. Our High School confirmation candidates liked this idea so much they also wanted to participate! At 9:45A.M. to 10:30A.M. on Sunday, December 8th, our middle school and high school youth confirmation candidates will share their confirmation scripture life verses with you and a few words about why this portion of God's word is a guiding light in their life. Thanks be to God to the middle school confirmation mentors, teachers, parents, and other caring adults who helped our students through this process of study and discernment. You are a blessing!

Here are the verses selected by each youth confirmation candidate: Oscar Frontjes (2 Peter 1:3-10); Keara Richardson (Proverbs 2:20-3:8); Rowan Frontjes (Phillipians 4:4-13); Zoe Ulaszek (Matthew 7:1-14); Eli Balisi (Matthew 22: 35-40); Zach Petersen (Isaiah 40:29-31); Ava Victor (James 2:14-17, 24-26); Miranda Victor (Luke 10:25-37)

OUR 2019 CHRISTMAS APPEAL goal is \$40,000.00 This will balance our 2019 budget. We have already received gifts totaling \$900.00. When you give a Christmas gift above and beyond your 2019 pledge before the end of the year, your gift will be matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous donor up to \$15,000.00. Please know that a gift in any amount is treasured and appreciated!

UPCOMING HOLIDAY FLOWER REMINDER

If you are interested in flower donations for the holiday season, it's not too soon to think about a donation. Write 'Christmas Flowers' on your check memo line and indicate on your envelope either a memorial or honorarium. Please have these returned no later than December 15th. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SIGN UP NEEDED

Dec. 24th 5 pm is in need of 2 Lay Eucharist Ministers, 1 lector, 2 ushers, 3 acolytes and 1 intercessor.

Dec. 24th 10 pm is in need of 2 Lay Eucharist Ministers, 2 lectors, 2 ushers, 3 acolytes and 1 intercessor.

Dec. 25th 10 am is in need of 1 usher, 1 acolyte and 1 intercessor. Please sign up if you are able. Signup sheet is in Ludtke Hall.

NEW OFFICE HOURS are as follows:

Mon. & Wed. 12pm-5pm, Tue. & Thur. 9:30am-2:30pm

The office will be closed on Fridays.

DECEMBER 1, 2019 ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTION REPORT

91 members were in attendance between both services and donations received totaled \$8,062.26. Thank you! Loose plate offerings are designated in the following ways:

Week 1 – Building Fund

Week 2 – Operations

Week 3 – Rector's Discretionary Fund

Week 4 & 5 – Operations

2020 ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE. Thank you to the 52 households who have returned pledge cards so far. We are at 66% of our goal, which is \$316,250.00. Thank you for your support in Sharing our Faith Securing Futures 2020!

ACOLYTES FOR 8:30 AM AND 10:45 AM HOLY EUCHARIST Don't forget to include on your calendars serving God at the altar at St. Charles. Please log on to Sign-up Genius today to see the many opportunities available for you to serve in this important ministry. Any questions please ask Regan Jancauskas.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0e4baea92eabf94-acolyte>

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS. Have you ever been curious about reading/leading the prayers of the people at our services? Now's your chance to get involved. We're seeking additional volunteers

for the intercessors' ministry, especially for the early service. If you feel led to this special ministry, or have questions, please call Bo Smith at 630-263-9512.

LAST CALL! This Sunday, Dec. 8 is your last chance to order gift cards. They make popular Christmas gifts, so plan now to buy yours to support the church's ministries and mission. The Fundraising Committee will again be selling gift cards in Ludtke Hall after both Sunday services. Choose from a huge inventory of nationally recognized brands including Jewel, Target, Kohl's, Walmart, Meijer, Amazon, Starbucks and more, all at just regular face value prices. Save shopping time. Cards will be delivered Sunday, Dec. 15 after both services in time for Christmas. For a complete list of cards available, visit www.shopwithscrip.com.

COOKIE EXPRESS- BAKERS NEEDED!

It's become a tradition here at SCEC to spread some holiday cheer to those amongst us who have had some troubles over the last year. We plan to be gifting homemade cookies mid-December. Would you be able to contribute 2-4 dozen homemade cookies or provide us the name of someone you know who might appreciate being a recipient? If so, sign up in Ludtke Hall. Cookies should be dropped off by December 13.

BREAD BAKERS NEEDED! We are getting ready to create our Altar Bread bakers' calendar for 2020 and would like to add a few more names to the list of weekly bakers. You don't have to be a master baker to be a part of this important ministry. You will be provided with a simple bread recipe and will be scheduled to bake and deliver the Sunday morning Altar Bread three or four times per year. There is a signup sheet in Luedtke Hall. Please contact Phyllis Otto if you are interested being a part of this ministry or would just like more information. Call 630-251-1431 or email proda3@yahoo.com. Thanks!

UPCOMING SAVE THE DATES: 12/15/19 Bishop Lee will be visiting for confirmation services. Christmas Eve Services 5pm and 10pm,

Christmas Day service 10am. Free Spaghetti Dinner 12/29, Lent retreat 2/29/2020

BELLRINGING! SCEC has volunteered to man the Salvation Army red kettles to help the needy for many years, and we're doing it again Saturday, Dec. 14 at the Walgreens at 2751 E. Main St. in St. Charles. We intentionally chose that date as it is Match Day, which means everything donated that day will be matched by a generous donor. We still have some time slots to fill. Start a new family tradition! Sign up in Ludtke Hall. If you have questions, please call Bo Smith at 630-263-9512.

PRAYERS FOR THE COMING WEEK

For Thanks and Gratefulness:

Jennifer & Brian Sloan, Chaz & Hannah

For Healing and Intercession Rosa F., Dave F., Linda & Carl C., Steve and Vicki. We also include all those who are being prayed for by the Daughters of the King.

For the Homebound

Darlene Gillis, Norma Strait, & Judy Clark

For those Seeking Employment

Jessica Birk

For Discernment

Tara Osborne

For the Church Commissions *of the Diocese:* Congregations Commission; Commission on Ministry; Anti-Racism Commission
And our Companion Dioceses of SE Mexico and Renk

SCRIPTURE LESSONS for December 8, 2019

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=2>

Isaiah 11:1-10 • Romans 15:4-13 • Matthew 3:1-12

SCRIPTURE LESSONS for December 15, 2019

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=3>

Isaiah 35:1-10 • James 5:7-10 • Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday Worship Servers Schedule

	December 7 2 nd Sunday of Advent	December 15 3 rd Sunday of Advent
Lay Eucharistic		
8:30AM	Deb Sturges	Diana Brown
10:45AM	Becky Kruse Jim Bachman	Holly Parks
LECTORS		
8:30 AM	Barb Wolfrum	Diane Edwards
10:45 AM	Mike Ditch Catherine Huber	Melinda Oakey John Coffey
USHERS		
8:30 AM	Barb Wolfrum Jeff Victor	Larry Engel Fay Viverito
10:45 AM	Ed Manning Open	John Coffey Paul McNassar
ACOLYTES		
8:30 AM	Oliver Ulaszek	
10:45 AM	Rowan Frontjes	K.Thomson/ Oliver U.
INTERCESSORS		
10:45 AM	Carol Woods	Bo Smith
ALTAR BREAD	Katie Thomson	Regan Jancauskas
ALTAR GUILD		
	Diana Brown Diane Edwards Katie Thomson Open	Barbara Haase Regan Jancasukas Sandy Parsons Sandy Peterson

6:15pm Education for Ministry Meeting
7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 10

5:00pm AA
7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

10:30am Healing Prayer Team Meeting
2:00pm Music Rehearsals & Preparation
5:00pm AA
6:00pm Music Rehearsals & Preparation
6:15pm Men's Cursillo Group
6:30pm Fox Valley Knitters Guild

Thursday, December 12

Friday, December 13

6:00am Church Cleaning
9:15am Morning Prayer
5:30pm Al-Anon
8:00pm AA

Saturday, December 14

8:00am AA
10:00am DOK
12:00pm Labyrinth Walk

Sunday, December 15 BISHOP LEE VISITATION

8:30am Family Style Holy Eucharist Rite II
9:30am Coffee Hour 1
9:45am Choir warm-up, Bishop Lee meets with confirmands
10:45am Confirmation with Holy Eucharist Rite II
12:00pm Coffee Hour 2

A prayer for the election of a Bishop

The Standing Committee requests your prayers during this time of transition in our diocese for those who serve on the Search & Nomination Committee and all who may be discerning a call to be our next bishop. Please pray for them during weekly worship through the election convention in June of 2020.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Morning

As I rise, O God, I give you thanks for safety in the night, for rest from my labors, for another day in this creation. Turn my eyes toward what is noble. Teach me to see hope where it is veiled. Give me the wisdom to desire the good. Help me to love not only those I encounter but myself as well, for with you, I know my many frailties and failings. Let peace reign. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

As I end this day, Holy One, I give you thanks for the richness of my hours; for family and friends, for people with whom I work and play, and for my neighbors, for those who fill this world with music and art, for those whose needs remind me of my blessings and whose skills make me grateful for differences. Guard us all, O God, and keep us in your embrace until the daylight comes. Amen.

Prayers of the People & Household Prayers from Feasting on the Word

RULE OF LIFE

at St. Charles Episcopal Church

Our Rule of Life is how we live the Gospel daily.

- ❖ Christ is the cornerstone of the church, and prayer is the foundation of our life together.
- ❖ We come together in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on a regular basis.
- ❖ We listen to one another with the compassionate heart of Christ and ask questions for clarification.
- ❖ We respect one another's stories by listening and keeping their confidence.
- ❖ We strive to practice forgiveness as we have been forgiven through Jesus' death and resurrection.
- ❖ We behave knowing God is in our midst.
- ❖ We seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.
- ❖ We respect the dignity of every human being.
- ❖ We actively build worship, education service and giving,

The Right Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop
The Rev. Stacy Walker, Rector
The Rev. Deacon Steve Lowe
Dallas Heikkinen, Sr. Warden
Mark Downey, Director of Music
Kim Cole, Parish Administrator

bishop@episcopalchicago.org
RevStacy@stcharlesepiscopal.org
deaconsteve@stcharlesepiscopal.org
heikki1205@sbcglobal.net
MusicMark@stcharlesepiscopal.org
AdminCarla@stcharlesepiscopal.org



St. Charles Episcopal Church

994 N. Fifth Avenue, St. Charles, IL 60174-1227 (630) 584-2596
www.stcharlesepiscopal.org