



MARK TIMES

December 17, 2017 + The Third Sunday of Advent



From Your Pastor...

Some of you know that I grew up Roman Catholic and felt the call to ordained ministry from a young age. Being that as I grew I also discerned a call to be married, this was problematic. I attended Catholic seminary for a time and loved it, but I still felt the call to be married and knew I couldn't truly be "myself" by denying part of who I was. I moved to St. Louis from Washington, DC, met Melanie the following year, started attending an ELCA church with her, and the rest is history. I remember about a year into attending church with her, we attended our pastor's wedding. This was the first "a-ha" moment that would lead eventually to my pursuing ordained ministry as a married person (and as a Lutheran).



Believe it or not, a person who played a role in this was none other than the wife of Martin Luther, **Katharina von Bora**, whose feast day is commemorated on the day of her death, **December 20**. She was born on January 29, 1499 and entered a convent as a nun at the age of 10(!). In 1523 she and 11 other nuns left the convent in secret, stowing away in a wagon. Luther's close friend, Philip Melancthon, thought that Martin marrying Katie would cause a scandal and damage the Reformation, but Luther went through with it, because "his marriage would please his father, rile the pope, cause the angels to laugh, and the devils to weep."

The woman Martin called "my lord Katie" managed the family's complex household, which at times resembled a hotel, and its extended farm. **Thanks largely to her success, the phenomenon of married clergy and a socially significant parsonage became the ideal for most Protestants.**

I give thanks for Katie and for all spouses who support their partner's ministry – **especially my own.**

Pastor Brian

Blue Christmas Service

We will hold our **Blue Christmas** service **THIS Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00PM** in the church. This is a special worship service for anyone who finds it difficult to rejoice this Christmas. All will have the opportunity to listen, pray, sing, and be comforted by God in our community. Healing prayer with laying on of hands will be offered as part of the service.



Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal and pizza

party is **TODAY Sunday, December 17**, starting at **12:00PM** in the Church. Rehearsal is expected to last an hour and the pizza party will follow in the Parish Hall!



Our last Church Decorating Day

is Saturday, **December 23** at 9am. Lighten your busy schedule by including an hour of work to help prepare both the church and the chapel for Christmas. Let it be a part of your anticipation during this Advent season. –*Kathy R.*



Christmas Flower donation envelopes

are in the hymnal racks. **Donate any amount & take the flowers with you after worship.** Please make all checks out to **St. Margaret's Altar Guild**. Thanks for making our church especially beautiful for the Nativity of Our Lord.



December 24 Services

The Fourth Sunday of Advent this year falls on December 24. Thus, we will hold a joint service of **Advent Lessons and Carols with St. George's Episcopal Church at 9:30AM in the chapel.** Our Christmas Eve liturgy will be in the evening at 7:00PM as usual.



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Wednesday	7:00PM	Blue Christmas Service
Thursday	7:00PM	Bell choir
	8:00PM	Voice choir
Saturday	9:00AM	Church Decorating
Sunday, 12/24	9:30AM	Joint Advent Lessons & Carols Service – chapel
	10:30AM	Coffee Hour
	10:30AM	No Education Hour
	7:00PM	Christmas Eve Liturgy

Offerings for December 10, 2017

Sunday worship attendance:	81
General Fund Donations	\$2,046
Christmas Flowers	\$25
Parish Nurse/Doris Grab Mem.	\$50

Date	Offerings	Expenses	Difference
12/3-12/9	\$3,379	\$172.48	\$3,506.52
12/10-12/16	\$2,046	\$633.35	\$1,412.65
YTD	\$151,480.70	\$158,504.23	-\$7,023.53

Sack Lunches for Franklin School



This Tuesday (December 19), we will meet in the Parish Hall to make sandwiches & pack lunches for 12 needy Franklin School students to cover the Christmas holiday. A sign-up sheet is on the counter in the Parish Hall by the coffee stand. We can still use donations of protein items such as individual servings of mac 'n cheese; chicken salad and crackers; cheese and crackers; peanut butter and crackers; Slim Jims, etc. There are 12 children, so 12 of anything helps us greatly. All of the food & materials will be ready and waiting in the church kitchen. THANK YOU!

Sunday, December 24, 2017 – MORNING (9:30AM)

LOOKING AHEAD

LESSONS:

Isaiah 40:3-5
 Exodus 6:2-7a
 Isaiah 11:1-5, 10
 Isaiah 42:6-9
 Isaiah 9:1-3a
 Ephesians 2:12-18
 Isaiah 7:13-15

WORSHIP SERVERS

Co-President: The Rev. Brian M. Robison
 Assisting Minister: N/A
 Acolyte: Jackie Lynch
 Crucifer: TBD
 Chalice Bearer: No Communion
 Lector: Multiple
 Ushers: TBD

Sunday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE (7:00PM)

READINGS:

Isaiah 9:2-7
 Luke 2:1--20

WORSHIP SERVERS

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison
 Assisting Minister: Greg Guenther
 Acolyte: Renee Southers
 Crucifer: Keith Kniepkamp
 Chalice Bearer: Mike Murakami & Barb Wurdinger
 Lector: Charlie Duncan
 Ushers: Roland Jacquot & TBD

Food Pantry Needs...



The food pantry spotlight items for December are soap products. Bar soap, dish detergent, and laundry detergent are needed. You can bring donated items to the Welcome Area on Sundays or to the church office during the day. Thank you!

Come enjoy the video *Rick Steves' European Christmas* following our fellowship hour after worship!

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