

St. Mark's Messenger

December 1, 2020

3502 CLAIREMONT DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92117

Vol. 47 Issue 48



Rev. Jeri Newell-Davis
Associate Pastor



Sunday, December 6, 2020

9:30 a.m. Streaming at

vimeo.com/stmarkssandiego

and on our
Facebook page.



858-273-1480

Keeping In Touch

Dear friends,

Here we are in Advent, the beginning of a new church year. Unlike our Gregorian calendar year, this new year doesn't begin with merriment, parties, or parades. Instead we begin by waiting with longing hearts. And in this year, it seems even more so.

I write this letter on Sunday night after Tom and I went to Point Loma Lighthouse to wait for the sunset and a moonrise. It seemed fitting on this Advent to close the Sabbath with golden sun light and embrace this new season with the bright light of a full moon.

As our daylight hours grow shorter, we know that there is light in the darkness. God's light sparkles even in the gloom that may seek to envelop us. We are never left without God's radiance. Although we may not always see it, God's light is here – here in the words of Scripture, the greeting of a neighbor, the signature on a card. We are not alone. God is here.

This Wednesday, Dec. 2, and again on Dec. 9, Diane Moreno and I will be hosting a gathering for those who feel a shadow of grief surrounding them. This grief may be due to the loss of a loved one, the sadness of isolation, the anxiety of a diagnosis, or grief of any other sort. These gatherings are designed to connect you to God and one another. **Please call the church office for the Zoom link (858-273-1480).** We will begin at 6:30 PM.

In addition, each Monday during Advent, St. Mark's will offer other events to connect you to God and one another. Each event will begin at 7 PM. Zoom information will be emailed to everyone on our MailChimp list.

Dec 7: Evening Communion and Prayers for the World

Dec 14: St. Mark's Favorite Holiday Memories

Dec 21: Longest Night Service

During this season of Advent, I pray each of you will see God's light in your life.

Jeri

Grief During the Holidays

Dec. 2 and 9, 2020

6:30 – 8:00 PM

If you wish to participate in the Zoom meetings with Pastor Jeri and Diane Moreno, **please contact the church office: 858-273-1480 or by email office@stmarksumcsd.org.**

A Zoom link will be sent the morning of the session. And if you need pastoral care outside of the meetings, we are here for that, too.

Christmas Poinsettias



While we may be celebrating Christmas a bit differently this year, one tradition that will continue is St. Mark's altar of beautiful red poinsettias.

If you would like to order a poinsettia, **please submit your order to the church office no later than December 9.** Cost will be the same as last year -- **\$8.00** per poinsettia. Please indicate on the order form if the plant is being given in honor of, or in memory of, someone.

Since the Christmas Eve service will be taped on December 22, you are welcome to **pick up your poinsettias from the north parking lot on December 23, between 11a.m. and 1p.m.** Volunteers, wearing face masks and gloves, will be there to greet you. Please remain in your car.

If you are unable to pick your poinsettia up, and would like home delivery, please indicate that on your order form & delivery will be arranged.

A Gift For The Staff

During this holiday season the Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) wishes to offer you the opportunity to thank the hard working church staff and ministers with a monetary gift. If you would like to contribute to this gift from the congregation, please send your donations to the church office. Make sure to designate your contribution as "Staff Gift" so they get handled appropriately. Thanks from the SPRC.

Advent Mondays:

7:00 p.m. Each Monday via Zoom

Dec 7: Evening Communion and Prayers for the World.

An extended communion service with special prayers for a world that waits in darkness.



Dec 14: St. Mark's Favorite Holiday Memories.

Grab your favorite holiday beverage and join your friends (via zoom) to share your favorite holiday traditions and memorable stories of Christmases past.

Dec 21: Longest Night Service. Whether you are grieving the loss of a loved one, the laying aside of plans or dreams for now; or you want to be present for the dark before the dawn, come, o come.

ST. MARK'S YOUNG PEOPLE

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

ELEMENTARY

Cherub Choir

Thur. Dec 3, 10, 17 @ 3:30p
K-8th over Zoom

Sunday School

Dec 6 @ 11a
K-6th over Zoom

JR & SR HIGH

Youth Group

Dec 13 @ 12p
6th-12th over Zoom

FAMILY

Cookie Decorating Party

Dec 20 @ 11a
Everyone over Zoom

Christmas Eve

Dec 24 Churchwide

Movie Day

Dec 27 @ 11a
Everyone over Teleparty

Prayers, questions, and sign ups:
amanda@stmarksumcsd.org



The Making of a Virtual Living Nativity

by Sherry Miller

2020 has been a year of extraordinary adaptation and this year's Living Nativity is no exception. From the get-go we knew that we couldn't gather to do our usual Living Nativity and cookie gathering. Our Plan B idea was to stage nativity tableaux, sequentially, along the periphery of our church parking lot. The fact that we couldn't mix families, complicated matters then the up-spike in COVID cases officially nixed that plan.

For Plan C, we hatched the idea of doing a Living Nativity video. Again, using family or safe "bubble units" to cast our scenes, we have taken social distancing to a whole new level. It has been pretty challenging at times and certainly not without some pretty funny goofs and bloopers.

We are blessed to have Amanda, our youth director, helping with the videotaping and editing. Like a jigsaw wizard, she is somehow going to put all the pieces together for us. It is doubtful that we will be nominated for an Oscar. It is our hope, though, that seeing members of your church family, in costume and acting out the Christmas Story, will bring you great joy, and probably a chuckle or two.

A Virtual Living Nativity

by Karen Scanlon

During Christmas week of December 21 you will receive the link for the St. Mark's Annual *Living Nativity*. You will recognize the beloved characters: The Levite in the Temple, the Holy Family, Magi and their entourage, shepherds, angels, and the fellow who caused such a stir ordering a census, the Roman governor. But due to God's particular order of events, the census was part of the plan. Had sojourners not been at the busy crossroads of Bethlehem and throughout the town, shepherds hearing the news from angels would have had only townsfolk to tell. The news of the Savior's birth would not have gone much farther than Bethlehem. It was the World-as-they-knew-it-Wide Web of the day, word of mouth. All those people leaving Bethlehem to other cities and towns spread that news like wildfire.

For now, enjoy these lyrics of the song, "Joseph's Lullaby" and the photo of our Joseph and Baby Jesus, portrayed by Greg and James Peer.

Go to sleep my Son. This manger for your bed. You have a long road before You. Rest Your little head. Can You feel the weight of Your glory? Do You understand the price? Or does the Father guard Your heart for now, so You can sleep tonight?

Go to sleep my Son, Go and chase Your dreams. This world can wait for one more moment. Go and sleep in peace. I believe the glory of Heaven is lying in my arms tonight.

But Lord, I ask that He, for just this moment, simply be my child. Go to sleep my Son. Baby, close Your eyes. Soon enough You'll save the day. But for now, dear Child of mine, Oh my Jesus, Sleep tight.



Lyrics by Fred Pratt Green and Russell Schultz-Widmar

Christmas Eve Offering

Over the past few years St. Mark's has received your Christmas Eve offerings and donated them for a mission ministry program. Because we are a community of peace and compassion, St. Mark's will again receive an offering for our neighbors in need through the work of CCSA.

St. Mark's Missions will match your funds received for this year's Christmas Eve offering. Mission ministry has designated \$2000 to accompany your gifts for our neighbors who rely upon CCSA for their support. Each dollar received will be sent to CCSA for their on-going work in Clairemont and PB. Please put Christmas Eve in the memo line so we can match your gift with the mission ministry designated matching funds.

Pastor's Bible School Wednesdays @ 1 p.m.

Join Rev. Jeri Wednesdays in November at 1 p.m. via Zoom as we explore the Lectionary Passages of the week. A Zoom link will be sent by email each Wednesday morning. Here are the passages for next week:

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

- Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- Psalm 126
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- John 1:6-8, 19-28

In Our Prayers

Please keep all those in prayer who are experiencing grief, chronic illness, addiction, loss of direction and disenfranchisement. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Our military personnel:

- ♡ Brook Bossen, Coast Guard
- ♡ Kris Brendal, Army
- ♡ Robert S. Chisholm, Navy
- ♡ Craig Clemans, Marines
- ♡ Paul Clemans, Air Force
- ♡ Blake Cross, Navy
- ♡ Nathan Streeter, Navy
- ♡ Lenny Hezelett, Navy
- ♡ Henry Hoadley, Navy
- ♡ Milo Riegler, Marines
- ♡ Adam Shelar, Navy
- ♡ Robert Tarango, Navy



You are invited to participate in the St. Mark's prayer chain via email. Prayer requests will be sent to you via an email account you provide; you will not be asked to do anything other than offer your private prayers for requests you receive. **To participate, please email Carol Brown at carol.brown@cst.edu.**

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Next Week @ A Glance

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

- 1:00PM Bible Study w/ Rev. Jeri/Zoom
- 6:30 PM Grief During Holidays/Zoom

Thursday, December 3, 2020

- 3:30PM Cherub Hallelujah Choir/Zoom

Sunday, December 6, 2020

- 9:30AM Worship broadcast from St. Mark's
- 11:00AM Sunday School (4yo-6th gr)/Zoom

Monday, December 7, 2020

- 7:00PM Advent Monday: Communion/Zoom

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

- 1:00PM Bible Study w/ Rev. Jeri/Zoom

Thursday, December 10, 2020

- 3:30PM Cherub Hallelujah Choir/Zoom



Rides Needed

From time to time, a church member will reach out for a ride to and from a doctor appointment. If you are able to help, please call or email the office so we can put you on our resource list. Thank you!