

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SAINTS' E-LETTER

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2018



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



DECEMBER 24

4 pm: Holy Eucharist and Youth Christmas Pageant at All Saints'

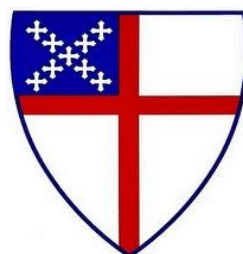
6 pm: Holy Eucharist and Hymns at The Springs

8:00 pm: Festival Eucharist and Hymns at All Saints'

CHRISTMAS DAY

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

10 am: Holy Eucharist/Hymns at All Saints'



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A LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I write this, the "annual Christmas Letter," I am aware that not unlike last year, and all the years previous in my memory, I'm one very fortunate person. Like everyone, our family has its challenges with uppermost on our minds this year being the health of my sister-in-law who was diagnosed with pancreatic

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR (cont'd)

cancer last summer. Amazingly, the Huntsman Cancer Clinic at the University of Utah is treating her with three drugs, one of which had only been developed and then approved a month prior to her starting chemotherapy. The physicians there believe she will not just go into remission but will be cancer free. And so, even though we heard devastating news some months ago, it looks like this case will have a happy ending. That is our hope and prayer.

Indeed, my family and I are profoundly fortunate.

Jesus came into a world in which a lot of folks did not know the life that I lead. Some were ostracized and excluded from anything resembling the comradery of a family or community. Others were judged sinful because they, which would have included me, had a disability or malady of mind that made them permanent residents of the outskirts of town. Some, including tax collectors, were just believed to be the scourge of the earth. And still others were those who found themselves judged by the law, unable to measure up. In short, misery abounded in the lives of way too many.

And then this happened.

Jesus came to us as God Incarnate and invited all the above misfits and dregs of society over for dinner, telling them they were his guests and he had the honor of their company because all of them, with no exceptions, were his beloved, the very reason he came into the world to save it, redeem it, and love it into everlasting life. By the way, since you hear it a lot from me, I've come to believe that "with no exceptions" maybe in the top ten most important phrases in the Christian vocabulary next to "He is risen," holding first place.

So here is the deal: Our Lord came into the world for all. That is the astonishing claim of the incarnation resulting in unmeasurable power found in the life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension. Not a single beat of the heart of the smallest creature in creation falls outside the focus of this love, this God becoming flesh in our time and among us. That is how significant and powerful Christmas is for the world. Such is the very truth we shout from the rooftops on Christmas.

The outrageous proclamation of Christ born in Bethlehem is this to the globe: *O come all ye faithful. And yes, O come all ye that find themselves not so faithful, as well as those otherwise imperfect in a myriad ways. I love you all. That is why I came into human existence in the first place. Having that settled, once and for all, let's have a cup of eggnog and then go out and love our neighbor and with our next breath, actually change the world.*

A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to you all, my friends, my brothers and sisters in Christ! May the commemoration of the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ, simply drench us with an awareness of the exuberant grace of God.

Faithfully, yours,

Bradley

ADVENT OFFERINGS

December 2nd, the first Sunday of Advent: **Stuffed Animals**

You are invited to bring teddy bears and other NEW stuffed animals, less than 12" tall, which will then be given to North Valley Hospital. Last year North Valley Hospital gave away thousands of stuffed animals to young pediatric patients who came to the emergency room. Often that can be a frightening experience and a soft stuffed toy can go a long way towards providing comfort.



ADVENT OFFERINGS (cont'd)

December 9th, the second Sunday of Advent: Food for Food Banks

We collect non-perishable food for local food banks as the offering for this day in a concerted effort to help well-stock these vital ministries. This is important as the need in our valley is so great.



December 16th, the third Sunday of Advent: Dog and Cat Food

On this day we will collect dog and cat food in an effort to provide food for the pets of people having difficulty making ends meet. The food you donate will be transported to the Flathead Valley Spay and Neuter Task Force for distribution to those who can use such help.



December 23rd, the fourth Sunday of Advent: NEW Warm Clothing

It is estimated, by one study, that there are around 500 chronically homeless people in Kalispell with another 500 homeless at one time or another during the year. Many of them use the services of Samaritan House to help them through this crisis in their lives. On this Sunday, we will be collecting **new** warm clothing, gloves, hats, mittens, and scarves to help those who need a break from the chill. Please warm your and their hearts by bringing this type of clothing to the crèche.



CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY

The reading of Bradley's Christmas story, "A Christmas Offertory", will be held on **Thursday night, December 6th, at 7 pm** at the church. Following the reading, there will be a reception in Memorial Hall with refreshments being served.

This is Bradley's original work which centers around a homeless man and a handful of animals who are drawn together in a most unlikely way on Christmas Eve.

In keeping with the theme of the evening's reading, an offering will be taken to benefit RezQ Dogs.

RezQ Dogs is a non-profit organization, located in north-central Montana, committed to helping the unwanted and abandoned dogs from the Fort Belknap and Rocky Boy Indian reservations.

Their mission is rescuing dogs in hopes that one day they won't have to.



ALL SAINTS' YOUTH CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

By Cynthia Benkelman

We have a pageant that will be fun this year looking at the Nativity from a different perspective! We have lots of parts: parts with lots of lines, parts with no lines, parts with one line or a few lines. We also need singers who would like to sing solo or with a group. We really have something for everyone, from the tiniest toddlers to our teens. **Please contact me** as soon as possible and let me know whether or not your child will be participating in our 4:00 pm Christmas Eve pageant. My contact information is: cgraine@montanasky.us, or 406-261-9636.

Below are some photos from our previous pageants:



DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
2 Services at 9 and 11 am	3	4	5 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	6 Noon service at AS Book Study following	7	8
9 Services at 9 and 11 am	10	11	12 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	13 Noon service at AS Book Study following	14	15
16 Services at 9 and 11 am Vestry 12:15	17	18	19 Bible Study 9:15 am at The Springs 10 am service at The Springs	20 Noon service at AS Book Study following	21	22
23 Services at 9 and 11 am 30 Services at 9 and 11 am	24 Service times on front page 31	25 Christmas Eucharist/Hymns 10 am 	26	27	28	29

CHRISTMAS SERVICE OFFERINGS

The loose offerings from the Christmas services this year will be split three ways and will be distributed to the Abbie Shelter, Samaritan House and RezQ Dogs.



ALL SAINTS' ANNUAL MEETING

The Church is required by its by-laws to give advance notice of its Annual Meeting. As usual for most Episcopal churches, we will hold our meeting on the Sunday between the NFL playoffs and the Super Bowl. So this year, please mark **JANUARY 27th**, on your calendars as the day for this important meeting in the life of All Saints'.

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION

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Christian Formation Minister/Children and Youth: Cynthia Benkelman
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Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus forever.

Find us here:

Just click on the link!

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmt>

YouTube link: http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPZ_oAI6n1GwSPS5dIAkzdA

Webpage link: <http://www.allsaintsmt.org>

Vestry members:

Rector: Reverend Canon Bradley Wirth
Senior Warden: Ben Pomerantz
Junior Warden: Grace Benkelman
Treasurer: Carl Thomas
Clerk: Kathy Thomas
Cynthia Benkelman
Shawn Sloan
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