

THE HARVEST – DECEMBER 2018

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH LOCKPORT, NY 14094

HOPE

This Sunday marks the First Sunday in Advent. I like Advent because of its overriding theme of hope and expectation. It is hope, after all, that keeps the human spirit moving forward: hope for a better tomorrow, hope for us as individuals and hope for us as a race. Hope is not wishful thinking, like I wish I could win the lottery, find the man or woman of my dreams, land the job of all jobs. No, there is nothing wishful about hope. Hope is certain knowledge of something which will happen in the future – for sure.

The Prophet Jeremiah announces that

*‘the days are **surely coming**, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.’*

The promise to be fulfilled was made back in the Garden when God promised to send a Savior to reclaim the human race as his own. Jesus was/is that righteous Branch who will save and redeem all of God’s creation. And we celebrate the fulfillment of that promise in the Birth of Christ (Mystery of the Incarnation: True God and True Man). We relive the fulfillment of that promise every Christmas. But there is another level in which this promise is fulfilled on a personal level.

One Christmas Eve I was working my regular evening shift at the hospital. One of my patients was a thirty something young mother with an 8-year-old daughter. Near the end of the shift, when all the treatments were done and the last patient was charted on, I entered her room to perform one last task before I called it a night. We exchanged small talk and I asked her if she was ready for Christmas and had gifts for her daughter. She said yes. She reached out her hand and I took it in mine. I sat down and we began a more serious and urgent talk about the day which was surely to come. Her eyes filled with tears as she said she would be going home for Christmas. I knew she was scheduled to be discharged home in the morning. We talked some more about her situation and impending death. She went home on Christmas Day and died on New Years Eve late in the evening: The promise God made to her was fulfilled, for sure:

‘The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made...’

We who follow the Christ are truly blessed with the baptismal assurance that we do not live in vain, that no matter how difficult our situation, it is never without hope - for God's promise to us is for sure. Christ has claimed us as his own – forever.

Fr. Thomas Mitchell

HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE

On the four Sundays during Advent we will light the Advent Candles each week. At the 8:00 AM service, a prayer from Loves Pure Light will be used for that week. For the 10:30 service, Loves Pure Light will be used as the Processional and will include handbells/music.

Our Christmas Eve celebration is at 5 PM. The service will include lessons and carols. The children will participate as characters from The Gospel readings that tell the story of Salvation History. Holy Communion will follow.

Christmas Day at 10:00 AM a said service of The Holy Eucharist will be shared.

Everyone is invited to come after the 10:30 service on December 23rd(the invitation includes those who worship at 8:00, too!), to help decorate the nave, cloister and parish hall.

The Rev. Abuid Sam

will become an Honorary Canon on December 16th. The service will be at 3:00 pm at the Cathedral. Carpooling is recommended. Please plan to attend and honor Fr. Sam as he is recognized by our Diocese..

Martha's Vineyard

I admire geese and often think what a wonderful example they provide. They're steadfast mates and diligent parents. One day while walking, I came upon a goose pacing, pinning, beside another; goose down, lying dead still on the gravel driveway, others keeping vigil near-by.

Geese fly in V formation to best utilize the wind currents and to stay together, able to view the others from the V configuration, changing "pilots" so that fatigue doesn't overcome one leader, encouraging each other with their honking voices. They seem to have a vision, to understand the journey, taking rest and nourishment along the way, and in unity, they fly high together.

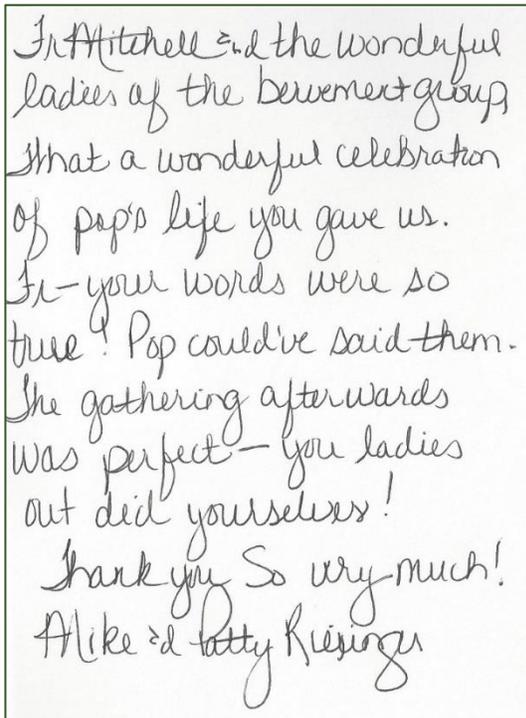
May we, too, remain steadfast in love, encourage one another, and with open hearts and minds have the vision to follow the example of Jesus as we journey.

Deacon Martha

Stewardship Update

Our stewardship drive began October 1st and ended on Sunday, November 25th. We received 44 pledges for a total of \$89,284. This is 58% of our \$154,295 budget for 2019. For all who have pledged we would like to thank you for your prayerful and generous gift to Christ Church. Your gift will help transform lives in Christ in our own community and beyond. We give God thanks and praise for blessing us with a renewal of Spirit during this year's campaign. If you have not yet pledged it is never too late and every amount is greatly appreciated.

Freely you have received, freely give. - *Matthew 10:8*



In Mitchell and the wonderful ladies of the beverage group what a wonderful celebration of pop's life you gave us. Fr- your words were so true! Pop could've said them. The gathering afterwards was perfect- you ladies out did yourselves! Thank you so very much!
Mike & Betty Kueinger

Earthly Matters

Here are some "Green-Gifting" ideas from the TreeHugger's newsletter:

- 1. Be sure your material gift will get used.** It may be the thought that counts, but a gift that the receiver doesn't use is simply wasted: not a very nice thought. Give material possessions only if you know the recipient well enough to pick something they really need and will enjoy using.
- 2. Give a consumable gift.** Your friend will love your consumable gift twice: once while enjoying the organic teas, fair trade coffee, fresh flowers, fresh or dried fruits and nuts, or other consumable gift; and again when they appreciate that your gift leaves them with no

guilty conscience about a gift left unused in the corner of their closet.

3. Share a piece of yourself. Avoid material consumption altogether. Instead, offer your services to baby-sit or provide respite while your friend enjoys a cozy date with their partner or time alone to enjoy an outing, give a gift certificate for a relaxing massage, or a winter's worth of driveway shoveling (in which case you just save that massage for yourself).

4. Make a gift of any service. You will reduce material consumption by giving a service of any kind. Especially heart-warming are humanitarian services, such as making a gift of a micro-loan.

5. Give a gift where it is needed on behalf of someone better off. Make a child smile when they get a card describing the child in another part of the world whose life will be improved by the gift of a llama, sheep, goat, or chickens or a fresh water supply. (For example via Episcopal Relief and Development, Heifer, Food For The Poor).

6. Creative gifts show you care. The baby sweater you knit yourself is more likely to become a family heirloom, extending the life cycle of materials in your gift.

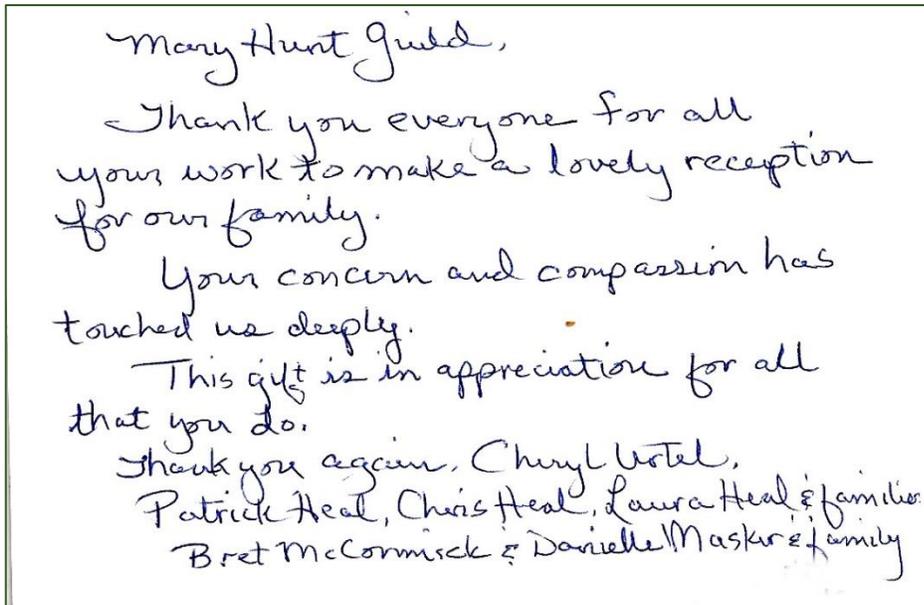
7. Buy a local gift. A gift made or grown locally can tell a story or share a unique product you have discovered on your own stomping grounds. Your locally-sourced gift will save the environment from the emissions involved in shipping.

Peace,
Deacon Martha

Lockport Cares Meals

Please consider preparing a meal for Lockport CARES Homeless Shelter. Quite some time ago, Christ Church committed to providing a meal on the second Wednesday of each month. The shelter, located at 188 Genesee St., has food items you can use to make the meal, if you choose to do that, or you can make something from your own ingredients. Most often there are nine guests and two-three volunteers you will need to

prepare for. Your meal can be dropped off before 9 a.m. or by 4:30 p.m. If you feel called to share in this ministry of feeding the hungry, please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen. Jean Taylor, Meg Wager, Debbie Bronschidle or Bill/Martha Farone can answer questions you may have.



Mary Hunt Guild,
Thank you everyone for all your work to make a lovely reception for our family.
Your concern and compassion has touched us deeply.
This gift is in appreciation for all that you do.
Thank you again, Cheryl Urtel,
Patrick Heal, Chris Heal, Laura Heal & families
Bret McCormick & Danielle Masko & family

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be January 13, 2019. We will have just on service at 9:00 am that day. Following the service we will have the meeting, and then we will be treated to a special taco lunch that Fr. Sam will organize.

All reports will be due January 6th. If you are interested in running for an office please see Judy Pauley or Sue Bauer by the 6th.

This Month at Christ Church

Wed., Dec 5th 6:00 pm – Men’s Group:

Sat., Dec 8th at 9:00 am – Outreach: We’ll be packaging all the food and getting organized for our Christmas Outreach; Give Debbie Bronschidle a call if you can help.

Sun., Dec 9th 11:30 am – Outreach Distribution Day: Our Coffee Hour will be hosted by Outreach. Please stop by after church for some cookies and to welcome some of the people our Outreach helps.

Wed., Dec 12th – Women’s Christmas Silly Sock Dinner: Cammarata’s at 6:00 pm; bring a wrapped pair of crazy Christmas socks – there will be a gift (sock) exchange after dinner.

Sat., Dec 15th – Cookie Exchange: Bring 4 dozen cookies of one kind; we’ll create plates of cookies for our shut-ins and you’ll go home with 3 dozen cookies (a variety of everyone’s favorites).

Sun., Dec 16th 3:00 pm – Fr. Sam will become an Honorary Canon at the Cathedral

Sat., Dec 22nd, 1:00 – 4:00 – Relax and decorate a gingerbread house with Kelly Sam. Preregistration is required by Dec. 12th – there will be no walk-ins. Cost is \$45. To register or if you have questions call Kelly at (716) 523-3756.

Mon., Dec 24th 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service

Tues., Dec 25th 10:00 am – Christmas Service

Sun., Dec 30th – Brunch at DRI: After the 10:30 service we will go to DRI for brunch. Be sure to sign up (sheet is on the kitchen door) by 12/23 so we can give them a final count.

Weekly Events and Meetings:

Mondays, 7:00 pm – Lock City Glee Club
Tuesdays, 6:30 pm – Girl Scouts
Tuesdays – 7:00 pm – Lockport Chorale
Wednesdays, 10:00 am – Morning Prayer
Wednesdays, 8:00 pm – NA
Thursdays, 7:00 pm – Choir
Fridays, 8:00 pm – AA
Saturdays, 8:30 am – T.O.P.S.

Vestry Meeting

The Vestry meets at 7:00 pm on Monday, Dec. 17th. If you are considering running for the Vestry this would be a great time to check out a meeting.

During the holidays, the office will be closed:

December 24th and 25th
December 31st and January 1st

Are you looking for a fun “volunteer opportunity”?

St. John’s Episcopal Church in Wilson offers “MOPS” (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers) every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, through May, from 9:30 to 11:15 am. While the Moms get together to share ideas and experiences about their journey of motherhood, their children (newborns through kindergarten) are provided a separate area to play, create and be active.



The program has increased in attendance this year, and a good number of younger children (infants and toddlers) are attending with their Moms. The folks at St. John’s are looking for additional volunteers to assist with the children. Volunteers do not have to make a commitment to both Wednesdays of the month. One would be wonderful. If you would like to learn more, please contact St. John’s at stjohnswilson@juno.com or 716-751-6109. You may also ask for information from Robin Kozlowski at reo55@roadrunner.com or 716-434-4152.



Episcopal
Relief & Development
Working Together for Lasting Change

Looking for Christmas gift ideas for the special people in your life?

Look no further than the Episcopal Relief & Development website or catalog! How about giving the gift of nourishment and sustenance in the form of fruit trees or seeds for planting crops to a community of people striving to rise above poverty? Cows for milk and chickens for eggs will strengthen a family’s nutrition. Or maybe health and wellness programs for moms and newborns or mosquito nets to keep the children safe from disease? How about clean drinking water? We take all of these necessities for granted, while so many in this world need *our* generosity to receive those same necessities.

These gift ideas and more are at your fingertips at www.episcopalrelief.org/gifts. Shop at your leisure, and when you make your selection, you will have the opportunity to send a card (e-card or paper card) to your friends and loved ones letting them know that a gift in their honor was given to a community in need. If you would prefer to look through a paper catalog, there is one posted on the bulletin board outside the office at church, or phone ERD at (855) 312-4325 and they will gladly send you one.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Robin Kozlowski at reo55@roadrunner.com or (716) 434-4152. Peace and blessings to all.

December Birthdays

1 Sarah Porth
Benjamin Perez
Jim U'Ren
3 Julie Hinton
Brian Monaco
Kevin Miller
6 Fay Mrowczynski
7 John Urtel
8 Betty Phillips
9 Austin Hinton
Betty Stevens
12 Tom Lupo
13 Elizabeth Oehmler
Lila Rose
14 Diane Nelson
15 Gretchen Lang
Allen Richards
Joan Winter
18 Joelle Waters
20 Rick DeWaters
26 Fr. Joe Kozlowski
27 Stephanie Porth
29 Bonnie Witt
Sean Smith
Erica Kastel
30 William Muscato

December Anniversaries

1 Todd & Paula Shears
21 Gary & Linda Firkins
27 Jean Claude & Melissa Bernaer
Tom & Maggie Lupo

January Birthdays

1 Evan Wirth
Ron Steen
3 Cynthia Brant
Rob Jasinski
4 Patrick Heal
9 Ken Brant
Gail Urtel
10 Sandey Goodman
James Joseph U'Ren
11 Robert Strassel
12 Jacob Lepkyj
14 Martha Farone
Cindy Shaw
16 Christine Wirth
Seth Lamar
Angela Sammarco
17 Peter Slobodzian
Anna Michaud
18 Cindy Theurer
20 Gary Few
21 Barbara McHenry
Donna Richards
22 Debbie Bronschidle
Laura Baker
Taylor High
23 Ian Porth
24 Jim Goodrich
27 Katelyn Heal
28 Brenda Pichy
Amanda Milan
29 Linda Few
Marshall Taylor
Robin Kozlowski
Susan Morrison

January Anniversaries

6 Joe & Janice Fly



Joy to the World!

Celebrate Christmas with Us.

Christmas Eve – Monday, December 24th at 5:00 pm

Christmas Day – Tuesday, December 25th at 10:00am

Epiphany – Sunday, January 6th at 8:00 am & 10:30 am

Christ Episcopal Church
7145 Fieldcrest Drive
Lockport, NY 14094