

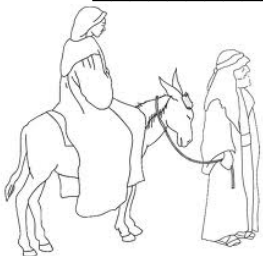
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Church - Newsletter

Year 2011 Newsletter #4, December 2011 – February 2012



1. Devotion

*Spread love everywhere you go.
Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.
Mother Teresa*

Dear members and friends of St. George's congregation!

During the time of Advent we hear many readings from the first two chapters of the gospel of Luke. Nearly all of them speak about people meeting someone.

The angel Gabriel met Zechariah and told him about the birth of John the Baptist, the same angel announced the birth of Jesus to Mary, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, went to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist.

After the birth of Jesus, the angels met the shepherds in order to bring the great News about the birth of the savior. In the same night the shepherds went to see the Messiah, Mary and Joseph. Many things happened in the first two chapters of the book of Luke.

Sometimes we can experience God's presence when we meet other people.

How do we meet each other?

During Advent we invite each other and celebrate together.

We want to be good towards one another so that it can be Christmas for everyone.

It should be an essential part of an encounter to carefully listen to each other and to learn how the other person is doing. In this way it becomes much easier to take care of one another and help each other. Therefore we follow the words of Mother Teresa and someone who came to see us could leave happier.

When we radiate God's love we are making a difference in our world.

We share joy and sorrow pray for one another and are connected in many special ways.

I want to tell you a true story:

A pastor once asked an elderly man of the congregation if he would be able to drive a few congregation members to the senior's home once a month.

The pastor regularly held services there.

The elderly man, who was a man of few words and was rather withdrawn, consented to the driving.

In the chapel, he always sat in the last row in order to observe the service and wait for the time when he had to drive people home again.

Suddenly an old man in a wheelchair came into the chapel.

He drove his wheelchair right beside the other man.

It didn't take long until the man in the wheelchair took his hand and placed it in the hand of the other man.

The other man let it happen and their hands remained like this during the service.

Once in a while, the man, almost without being aware of it, squeezed the hand of the man in the wheelchair.

In the following months this was repeated again and again.

The two of them never talked but they always held hands during the service.

Once, the man in the wheelchair did not attend the service.

The other man asked about him and learned that he was not doing well at all.

The man visited him in his room. He sat by his bedside, took his hand and squeezed it from time to time. He saw, that the man would not live much longer.

After quite some time, he left. On the way out he met some relatives of the sick man.

They started talking and he told them about the encounters that the two men had had.

The family members listened with interest.

Then they told him, that their father had always said that he did not want to die before Jesus had held his hand one more time.

For the sick man this encounter with the man of the congregation was an encounter with Jesus. For him, it had become the most important thing.

Sometimes we serve Jesus without really noticing it.

Often, things do not depend on the number of words we use, but on our deeds.

Sometimes it may only be a gesture that shows that we care about another person.

We are on the right path when we do what we sense in a certain situation, for example: looking at someone with sympathy, smiling, hugging, listening, or praying. It is important to be attentive to others and keep our eyes open so that we may see where we can bring joy and happiness to someone else. There are different levels of encounters.

We do not know which one is the most important in a certain situation.

When people really listen to each other and care for one another, the joy of Christmas can be found every day of the year.

We often feel God's presence in places where we have had good experiences with others.

We feel peace within ourselves, when we were able to help where it was needed or when we were involved in changing something for the better.

We ask for God's blessings that we may share his joy, love and peace with all people whom we encounter.

We pray that people who meet us may feel that they are important to us and, finally, may leave happier. AMEN.



Right here, after this devotion I would like to thank you, for being there for others and for our congregation in so many ways!

Thank you for the small gestures, that are so important and also for all the small and large tasks, which you undertake in our congregation.

THANK YOU to all of you for helping, and for making this congregation feel like one big family, which sticks together and warmly welcomes guests!

2. A Word from the Church Council President

Dear members and friends of St. George's congregation!

The First Advent, which this year falls on November 27th, marks the beginning of the church year. It is a very busy time of year in many people's lives and also in our church. It is a time of hustle and bustle, shopping and preparing but ideally also a time for reflection, relaxing, connecting, reconnecting, prayer and the counting of one's blessings.

As you will read in our newsletter, again this year there are many special things planned in our congregation. We look forward to celebrating Christmas with our regular church attendees, as well as those we don't see that often, in addition to welcoming new friends and visitors. Everyone is welcome, so please do not hesitate to bring along a friend, a neighbour or a family member. The joy of Christmas needs to be shared!



The first day you should mark in your calendar is November 27th. There will be a joyful advent concert at 1pm, as well as our annual bazaar and bake sale. I already have my eye on a new cookie recipe that I hope will make my contribution to the bake sale a hit.

The first Sunday in December we will be holding our German Advent celebration. We are trying something new, we will be holding the celebration upstairs in conjunction with our worship service.

The second Sunday in December, during our bilingual service, we will again be delighted by the Nativity Play presented by our children and young adults. This is a Sunday not to be missed!

For more details and events please read the rest of the newsletter.

Come and let us celebrate Advent and Christmas together in our church!

I would like to wish all our members, friends and family a very blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year full of joy, peace, health and goodwill.

Sincerely, Erna Brusch

3. Announcements and Information

You are invited to our upcoming Services and events:

Our English Sunday Services are held at 10 am. German Sunday Services are held at 11am.

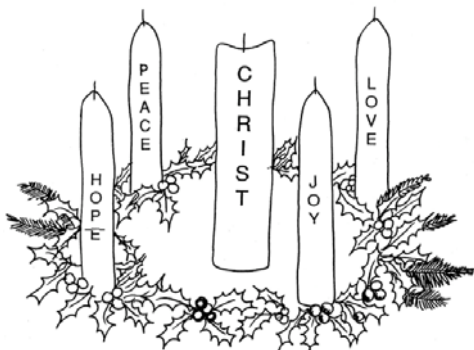
1st Advent - November 27, 2011

10 am English Service, 11am German Service
after the service **Bake sale and Bazaar of the Women's Group**

at 1pm:

German Advent Concert

Listen to the members of the German Torontoer Kantatenkreis and sing along with Advent and Christmas songs.



2nd Advent - December 4, 2011

10am English Service
11am German Service with Advent Celebration

3rd Advent - December 11, 2011

Bilingual Service with Nativity Play for the entire congregation at 11am

4th Advent - December 18, 2011

10 am English Service with Holy Communion
11am German Service

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2011 (Saturday)

3:30pm German Christmas Eve Service
5pm bilingual Christmas Eve Service (German - English)

Christmas Day - December 25, 2011 (Sunday)

Last Service of the year
11am bilingual Hymn Service with Holy Communion



Church Services in the new year - 2012:

January 1, 2012

10am English Service, 11am German Service

January 8, 2012

11 am bilingual service for the whole congregation
after the service: *potato salad and sausage lunch*

January 15, 2012

10am English Service with Holy Communion
11am German Service

January 22, 2012

10am English Service
11am German Service

January 29, 2012

10am English Service
11am German Service with Holy Communion

February 5, 2012

10am English Service, 11am German Service

February 12, 2012

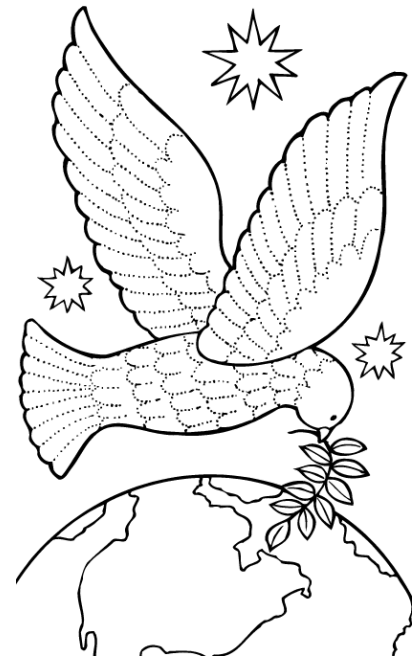
11am bilingual service for the whole congregation

February 19, 2012

10am English Service with Holy Communion
11am German Service

February 26, 2012

10am English Service
11am German Service with Holy Communion



The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Sunday March 4th after the service.

Please mark the date in your calendar now!

4. Events during Advent

In Advent we have planned many events. We would be pleased if you could join us and also invite family members and friends to attend.

The 1st Advent, November 27th, 2011 we will have our **Bazaar and Bake sale** after the service. The Women's Group would be pleased if you could bake something to contribute to the bake sale, cake or cookies would be most welcome. You could also bring new or gently used Christmas items to sell at the bazaar (no clothing or books please!).



The 1st Advent at **1pm** you are invited to the:

German Advent Concert for Listening and for Singing along

The musical program will be presented by the members of the "Torontoer Kantatenkreis", conducted by Burkhard Moeller. We would be very happy, if you could join us.

The 2nd Advent, December 4th, we invite you to the German Advent celebration, which will start during the worship service. We want to hear and think about God's word, see pictures, sing hymns and carols requested by attendees, read poems, stories, etc.

On **Thursday December 8th** at 11am we will be celebrating a Christmas service (in German) in the Danube Swabian Club.

On the **3rd Advent, December 12th**, the **Nativity Play** will be presented during the **bilingual church service** for the whole congregation.

Christmas

C - is for the Christ child, our Saviour and our King
H - is for the Hope that our faith in Him will bring.
R - is for Rejoicing in the wonderful Christmas story.
I - is for Inspiration to do everything for His glory.
S - is for our Saviour, God's only Son,
T - is for Telling the Good News to everyone.
M - is for Music, the carols we like to sing.
A - is for the Angels who made the heavens ring.
S - is for Sharing the Gospel near and far.
and living our lives for Him wherever we are.

Audrey Smith 2009



5. Sunday School

We are holding Sunday School every Sunday during the English service. We are happy to welcome every child that joins us for Sunday school, all children are welcome! Currently, we are rehearsing the Nativity Play. Please let us know **as soon as possible** if you, your child or grand-child would like to participate. (905 277 2631)



6. Confirmation Class

In the upcoming months we will be starting a Confirmation class with a new group. Please register all future students for the Confirmation class with Pastor Moeller. Further questions will be discussed with the families of the confirmands.

7. Women's Group (conducted in German)

The Women's Group is meeting every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11am in St. George's Church. The next meetings are planned for December 13th 2011 (crafting circle), January 10th 2012 and February 7th 2012. Everyone, even men (!) are warmly invited.

We are pleased to welcome all who come.

Please call Mrs. Pohlmann if you are concerned that the meeting might be cancelled due to bad weather conditions.

8. Bible Study - Course on Faith

On Tuesday November 22nd at 11am, we will again be starting a German Bible Study group, in the church, addressing questions of faith.

Future meeting dates will be selected by those interested in attending. Together we will select questions and themes that we wish to discuss. Please call Pastor Moeller or let her know on Sunday in church if you have time and would like to join.

In January 2012, we may start an evening course about Faith. This course would be conducted in English. Please let Pastor Moeller know if you are interested in participating.

9. Repairs to the Church Roof

written by Andrea Read, member of the Church Council

Some of you may have noticed the damage to the church ceiling on the right hand side of the church. This was caused by water damage due to some problems with the roof. Repairs will be made soon to the roof, then to the ceiling.

The cost is approximately \$5,000.

Thank you for helping us out to cover these costs.



10. Parking near the Church



In the vicinity of the church there is one Handicapped Parking space on Lippincott Street, just north of the church.

On the south side of College Street directly in front of the church there is a handicap drop off/pick-up spot, this is **not a parking spot**.

11. Joy and Sorrow in our Congregation

We bid farewell to:

Mrs. Cecilie Spiegel, nee Jeske, 99 years

Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life." John 11:25



12. Request

Please call me,
*if you would like to be visited, to receive Holy Communion,
or when you are in hospital.*

Please let me know,
if you have time to regularly telephone or visit a congregational member.

Please don't forget,
to let us know when you move.

We want to be in touch and stay in touch with one another.

Please also let me know,
if you want us to pray for you or a family member during Sunday services.



I wish you and your family
a blessed Advent and Christmas time
and God's guidance, health, and happiness for 2012!
May God protect you on all your ways!
Your Pastor,

Katharina Stiller

13. Wisdom for the New Year

I said to the angel,
who stood at the Gate of the Year,
"Give me a light
that I may tread safely into the unknown."
And he replied,
"Go out into the darkness,
and put your hand
into the hand of God.
That shall be to you
better than light,
and safer than a known way."

Ancient Legend



