

Vision Statement

**We are a Christ-centered community,
joyfully making a difference by....
Worshipping, Loving, Welcoming, Including, Supporting**

LAY MINISTERS' SCHEDULE DECEMBER 23, 2018

7:45am Service- Greeter: John Mabry; **Usher:** John Mabry; **Lay Reader:** Jordan Hankins; **Healing Prayer Team:** Lois Westfall

9:00am Service- Greeters: Camille Culp; **Ushers:** Shaun Rife & Susan Menter; **Lay Readers:** Don Peeler & Sharon Kryger; **Acolytes:** Grace Spence & Sophie Spence; **Healing Prayer Team:** Nancy Ponec & Karen Ekholm

10:30am Service- Greeters: Janice Nelson; **Ushers:** Lee Hammond, D.J. O'Shea, Scott Nelson; **Lay Readers:** Tara O'Shea & Kaitlan Pettiford; **Acolytes:** Liam O'Shea; **Healing Prayer Team:** Janice Nelson

ALTAR GUILD: Jane Hoover, Susie Trupp, Christina Harter

COFFEE HOUR: St. Monica's Guild

LAY MINISTERS' SCHEDULE DECEMBER 30, 2018

7:45am Service- Greeter: Laraine Crane; **Usher:** John Mabry; **Lay Reader:** Keith Ross; **Healing Prayer Team:** Lois Westfall

9:00am Service- Greeters: Dana Coonce; **Ushers:** Steve and Lauren White; **Lay Readers:** Fred Gottschalk & Melissa Peeler; **Acolytes:** Paige Rife; **Healing Prayer Team:** Andy Hawekotte & Jamie Baker

10:30am Service- Greeters: Lisa Hammond; **Ushers:** Charley and Nancy Pugsley & Dave and Anne Gambal; **Lay Readers:** Bert Van Blerk & Kelly Bourne; **Acolytes:** Ron Dunic; **Healing Prayer Team:** Janice Nelson

ALTAR GUILD: John and Carolyn Curtis, Doug and Karen LeClair/Terrie Saunders, TBD

COFFEE HOUR: Lay Readers & Liturgy Team

*Please wear your name tags, as we have new people and visitors. Please let erin@standrewsmaha.org (402-391-1950) know if you need one.

THE GREETER: The **green December** calendar is out as well as the **December** issue of The Greeter. Please pick up a copy at the back of the Sanctuary or Chapel. **Articles for the January edition are due Tuesday, January 1.**

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given by Loree MacNeill in loving remembrance of her parents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 23, 2017

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

The Service with contemporary music will be at 5:00 pm with music beginning at 4:30 and the Service with traditional organ music and choir is at 11:00 pm with music beginning at 10:30.

PLEDGE CARDS

If you have not yet turned in a pledge card for 2019, you will them at the back of the church and chapel.

2018 DONATION DEADLINES

The office will be closed December 24, 25, 26, and 31. The office will be open December 27 from 9am-1pm if you want to bring a donation by the office, otherwise, please make sure that your mailing is post-marked by December 31 or you put it in the December 30 Offering Plate.

CRAFT FAIRE UPDATE

We are happy to report that our 1st annual St. Andrew's Art's & Craft's Faire was a resounding success! It took each of you. We offer a huge THANK YOU to volunteers, vendors, organizers, those that donated time, money, baked goods, those that shopped & our community. We truly appreciate your time, money & love. It is because of you that between our Arts Faire and our participation in The Holy Spirit Craft Show in Bellevue on December 8th that we were able to raise a net profit of \$5,700.00. These proceeds will benefit Magdalene House, St. Monica's Home, and other charities helping women and children in need. We hope to improve on this event in the future. Please help us by sending suggestions to Lisa: lisasartstustudio@centurylink.net or Angela: admciver@outlook.com.

Dean Fricke Memorial Episcopal Food Pantry Role Changing

The role of the food ministry carried out by seven Omaha-area Episcopal churches is becoming a fully collaborative effort to provide food for the hungry.

Because Food Bank rules won't allow us to continue our current arrangement of filling sacks for other agencies to distribute, the Dean Fricke Memorial Episcopal Food Pantry's board of directors is ending our agency's partnership with the Food Bank for the Heartland. Unfortunately, this means the end of a long tradition of faithful volunteers filling thousands of sacks with food balanced and planned to last several days.

But this change also means opportunity. Now our ministry of multiple Episcopal churches can focus on selecting agencies with effective programs to receive food security grants. Already we've given grants to Project Hope (a Lutheran initiative), Youth Emergency Services (agency serving young people), COPE (a combined effort of churches in Elkhorn), Holy Family Door Ministry (a Roman Catholic program) and the Family Dinner Table at The Salvation Army's Kroc Center. We welcome applications from other agencies.

One thing hasn't changed. The Fricke pantry continues to need your support. Please consider offering this ministry your stewardship dollars, praying for our transition, and sharing our mission with others.

If you'd like to donate foods to an Episcopal pantry, we suggest the Pantry on Blondo at All Saints Episcopal Church, 9302 Blondo St.

If you have questions about this change in your Episcopal food ministry, please contact Noreen Witty.

OUTREACH MITTEN TREE

This Advent our mitten tree will be up once again. We encourage everyone to decorate it with warm mittens, hats, scarves, and socks. All of these gifts will be delivered to the Siena/Francis House, the region's largest shelter serving individuals experiencing homelessness. (<http://sienafrancis.org/>). Thank you for your generosity.

CALENDAR THIS WEEK- DECEMBER 23, 2018

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Holy Eucharist Rite I	7:45am
Contemporary Holy Eucharist	9:00am
Children's Choir	10:00am
Sunday School	10:15am
Holy Eucharist Rite II	10:30am

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24

OFFICE CLOSED

Musical Prelude	4:30pm
Contemporary Christmas Eve Service	5:00pm
Musical Prelude	10:30pm
Traditional Christmas Eve Service	11:00pm

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25

OFFICE CLOSED

Holy Eucharist Rite II	10:00am
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Wednesday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, December 27, 2018

OFFICE OPEN	9:00am-1:00pm
Adult Choir Practice	7:00pm

Friday, December 28, 2018

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday December 29, 2018

Men's Book Study	8:00am
Holy Eucharist	5:00pm

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Holy Eucharist Rite I	7:45am
Contemporary Holy Eucharist	9:00am
Children's Choir	10:00am
Sunday School	10:15am
Holy Eucharist Rite II	10:30am

Stay in contact with St. Andrew's during the week with our electronic newsletter. To sign up, email erin@standrewsomaha.org.

The Daughters of the King will pray daily for the people on our prayer list.

Prayer Requests: The O'Shea Family, Sabrina, Sue Menter, Susan Palmer, Herbert Hartman Jr., Pat Addison, Harry Koch, Melissa Peeler, Peter Hill, Emerson

Special Intentions: For those in transition and unemployed. For those deployed in the military and all of those who serve our country. For those afflicted with depression, alcoholism, and other forms of mental illness or addiction.

Parish Cycle of Prayers: Justin, Anna, & Charlotte Pratt; Amy Preister and Nick Kerwin; Charley III and Nancy Pugsley; Charley IV, Melody, Charley V, & Tommy Pugsley

Birthdays: Donald Wagner, Rita Murphy, Mae Ahrendsen, Tyler Williams

Anniversaries: Herbert Jr. and Cyndi Hartman, Dan and Anna Sitzman

Travelers: Joey Gulizia, Baker Family

Deceased:

Our long-term prayer list: Virginia James, John, Isabella Artman, Gail Koch, Hillary Pierce, Clarine Black, Mark Peterson, Diane Taylor, Emerson, Gay, Danny Dolan, Pat Weber, Jake Palmer, Ken Hileman, Chuck, Jim Kozak, Bob Tritsch, Ben Steiner-Wright, Ray Buhr, Mary Gayle Baker

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PEW BY DAN SITZMAN

For many chores, like grocery shopping, I want to complete the task efficiently and quickly. Sunday afternoon in the produce aisle, three of us (a woman about my mother's age, a man a generation younger than me, and me) each were trying to open plastic bags so we could contain our selection of lettuce. Ever the competitive person, before I could say "I'll race you!" to the strangers around me, the woman offered her now open bag to the younger male. I joked that I have never figured out how to unstick the thin bags. Smiling patiently, she demonstrated to me how she touches her fingers on the bunch of lettuce she wants, rubs her wet fingertips over the plastic ("because the lettuce always has a little moisture on it"), separating the thin plastic layers so she could insert the lettuce into the now billowing bag. Amazed to learn something that I had not expected, I thanked her not only for her Martha-Stewart like tutorial, but for sharing her quickly opened bag with the astonished man. She smiled and softly explained, "People are surprised by kindness."

In this Sunday's lessons, we hear that people were filled with expectations, hoping that John might be the Messiah. But John says "one who is more powerful than I is coming."

In a culture and a season when speed and efficiency is expected, whether the "next day delivery" of the item ordered on-line, or just trying to get through our daily tasks, when am I creating unnecessary complexity with my current way of thinking? What act can I demonstrate for letting gentleness be known to everyone?

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The Rev. Dr. John Schaefer-----Rector
The Rev. Robert A. Gross-----Assisting Priest
The Rev. Tony Anderson-Bishop's Society Curate