

Vision Statement

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

LAY MINISTERS' SCHEDULE DECEMBER 9, 2018

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

9:00am Service- Greeters: Dana Coonce; **Ushers:** Stephen Haakinson, Andy Hawekotte, & Dan Coonce; **Lay Readers:** Beth Summers & Camille Culp; **Acolytes:** Ella Haakinson; **Healing Prayer Team:** Nancy Ponec & Lance Baker

10:30am Service- Greeters: Lisa Hammond; **Ushers:** James Schreiber & Dave Gambal; **Lay Readers:** Kelly Bourne & Ken West; **Acolytes:** John Dodge & Laura Dodge; **Healing Prayer Team:** Janice Nelson

ALTAR GUILD: Polly Goecke, Susie Trupp, Aileen Henry/Betty White

COFFEE HOUR: Stewardship & Nearly New Shop

LAY MINISTERS' SCHEDULE DECEMBER 16, 2018

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

9:00am Service- Greeters: Barb Jackson; **Ushers:** Stephen Haakinson & Dan Coonce; **Lay Readers:** Jenny Else & Karen Conrad; **Acolytes:** Connor Smith; **Healing Prayer Team:** Andy Hawekotte & Karen Ekholm

10:30am Service- Greeters: Anne Gambal; **Ushers:** Charley and Nancy Pugsley & Dave and Anne Gambal; **Lay Readers:** Ron Dunic & Benji Pettiford; **Acolytes:** Nate Gottschalk; **Healing Prayer Team:** Janice Nelson

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Hillman, Karen Ekholm, Mina Witherspoon/Mary Schreiber

COFFEE HOUR: Caring Community & Daughters of the King

*Please wear your name tags, as we have new people and visitors. Please let erin@standrewsomaha.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

Given by Mr. and Mrs. William Ponec in memory of their son, Jason Ponec, and with thanksgiving for their grandson, Brett Jason Ponec & Bryce Andrew Ponec.

ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 9, 2017

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS TODAY

Our Annual Candlelight Advent Lessons and Carols Event is **Sunday, December 9 at 4pm** followed by a reception. The nursery will be staffed during the service. We hope to see you there.

CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS

It is time to start turning in your Dedications for Christmas Eve Poinsettias. Look for the green insert in today's bulletin.

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. On a practical level, we ask our members to turn in these cards each year so that our Finance Committee is able to set an accurate ministry budget for the coming year. This allows us to make the most of every dollar given to the church. On a personal level, the commitment card is an opportunity for you to spend time in prayer and reflection, considering what offering you will make to God through our church in the coming year. Please turn in your card as soon as possible, so we can work on the 2019 budget.

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://sienaf Francis.org/>). Thank you for your generosity.

BLUE MASS DECEMBER 16

Our second annual *Blue Mass* is a time set aside when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time. For many who have lost a loved one, this is a time of sharp loneliness. For others, who have lost a relationship, health, a job or had a financial setback it may be a time of pain, confusion, or fear. This is not a joyous season for everyone. We hope you will join us for this candlelight service of quiet, prayer, and Holy Communion Sunday, December 16 at 5pm.

FATHER JOHN

Fr. John is at Church of the Resurrection this Sunday. As you may know, St. Andrew's has partnered with COR to provide pastoral oversight this year. Fr. Tony will be taking over there as the Bishop's Society Curate starting January 1st. This is the last Sunday Fr. John will be at COR.

ALTAR GUILD THIS WEDNESDAY

The Altar Guild will meet for its December meeting on **Wednesday, December 12** at 9:30 in the chapel followed by the meeting in the conference room. We will discuss Christmas preparations.

Angels Among Us

Thank you to St. Andrew's "wine angels." Due to their generosity, St. Andrew's is supplied with all of its communion wine.

ERIN IS ON VACATION

Erin is on vacation this week, so please send all of your prayer requests and announcements to Fr. John

john@standrewsomaha.org or 402-391-1950. Wednesday, December 12, the office will close at 1pm.

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.

ADVENT MEN'S STUDY THIS MONDAY

The St. Andrew's Men's Group is doing a four-week Advent study!

*He started his journey as an unknown carpenter, but Joseph became the earthly father of Jesus. For his part in the nativity story, he faced a situation much like our own - encountering life circumstances he didn't choose or understand. His courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God's salvation plan for humanity. In **Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph**, Adam Hamilton teaches about Joseph and what we as Christians can learn from him.*

There's no book to read for this group, just come watch the short video each week and discuss while enjoying some good refreshments and good company!

The group will meet in Haviland Hall from 7-8pm on Monday nights for four weeks, starting November 26th, and ending December 17th.

CALENDAR THIS WEEK- DECEMBER 9, 2018

Sunday, December 9, 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
Advent Lessons and Carols 4:00pm

Monday, December 10, 2018

Men's Advent Study..... 7:00pm-8:00pm

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Bible Study 10:00am

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Holy Eucharist 9:30am
Altar Guild..... 10:00am
Office Closing at 1pm..... 1:00pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal..... 6:00pm

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Nearly New Shop..... 10:00am-4:00pm
Adult Choir Practice..... 7:00pm

Friday, December 14, 2018

Nearly New Shop..... 10:00am-4:00pm
Office Closes at 12 pm

Saturday December 15, 2018

Men's Book Study..... 8:00am
Nearly New Shop..... 10:00am-1:00pm
Holy Eucharist 5:00pm

Sunday, December 16, 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
Sunday School Party 11:00pm
Blue Mass..... 5:00pm

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: Jessie Gross, Paula, Nelly, The O'Shea Family, Sabrina, Sue Menter, Susan Palmer, Herbert Hartman Jr., Pat Addison, Harry Koch, Melissa Peeler

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: D.J., Tara, Luke, Liam, & Lily O'Shea; Mark and Robin Owdom; Don and Melissa Peeler; Mavis Peterson; Benjiman, Kaitlan, & Cecilia Pettiford

Birthdays: Thomas Hill, Nathan Else Jr., Max Malnack, Joe Engle, Nathan Gottschalk

Anniversaries: Rick Freed and Missy Kozak-Freed

Travelers: Joey Gulizia, Billie Lee, Shane and Erin Rhian

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

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
925 So. 84th St., Omaha, NE 68114
402-391-1950
www.standrewsomaha.org

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

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PEW BY DAN SITZMAN

In the week leading up to last Sunday, the meteorologists had forecasted a significant snowfall coming our way. As the low pressure system started to move over the western United States, more data could be gathered and entered into the various computer models, with observations and experiences also guiding the meteorologists' predictions. By Saturday morning, the National Weather Service in Valley predicted 3 to 5 inches of snow for Omaha.

Our snow blower is challenged by 5 inches of wet snow, even if I had prepared the machine for the season. So, Sunday morning, I exited our garage, armed with my sturdy corn shovel to use in situations like this. The removal progressed slowly, as I methodically heaved each scoop of snow to the side. But as I heard the neighbor kids discover the snow's ability to form snowballs and other shapes, my perspective changed. Even though I was challenged by extra work that morning, I witnessed ways the heavy, wet snow brought joy, laughter, and the sense of community.

Advent is a combination of anticipation of the known and unknown. In the coming week, what can I better attend to, preparing for a lengthy amount of "heavy lifting" ahead, while remembering to celebrate the joy of God's gift for us?

