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Rector's Ramblings

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" Do you remember being asked that question as a child, or even as an adult?

Not a bad question, is it? It tells us that there is an expectation that we will find and discover a purpose for our life. It informs us that that there should be a passion that drives us forward to a goal, an end state, that leads to fulfillment. We are all to pursue a "purpose driven life".

So, what is your purpose? What is the objective goal of the Christian life?

For those of us who are baptized into Christ, the purpose, the goal, of our lives is to become saints. We are called to grow into the full stature of Christ, claiming the scriptural promise that "we shall be like him".

No matter what we choose to do as our occupation, our purpose in life is to become a saint. This is what the life of worship, prayer, and service is all about.

So what do you want to be when you grow up?

Blessings,

Dave+
309-660-8515

Ministry Links

St. Matthew's Webpage
The Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield
Rector's Blog

The Good News

December 9, 2016



Christmas Book reading/signing and meet and greet with the Author.

Enjoy a family event for the Advent season! Bring your family, and friends with young children to the fellowship hall at St. Matthews on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. to hear a reading of a creative story of the first Christmas, *The Star Who Almost Wasn't There*. Learn how a tiny star who could not glow became the Star of Bethlehem and share messages of love with the children, messages that: God loves everyone, that He provides each of us with gifts, and how we can honor His name by sharing our gifts.

Meet and greet the author, Pamela Hahn Hieser, and get your books signed! Get copies for your children, copies to give away as gifts, and copies (for donations) to be distributed to other children who may not otherwise be learning about relationship with God.

Remember Christ this season and share His love with children everywhere! To learn more about StarGift Project, Inc. visit www.stargiftproject.org

Light refreshments will be served following the event.

Christmas Eve & Day Schedule

Since this is a year when Christmas and the Lord's Day coincide, it makes planning a bit difficult. Do we keep a regular Christmas Eve schedule, or do we keep a regular Sunday Schedule? The only easy answer is that Christmas is a major feast day and should be celebrated on the day of the feast, in addition to any vigil/evening celebrations.

In planning, we have decided to treat the Christmas feast like

Easter Day, with a liturgy on the Eve and a regular schedule of Sunday liturgies.

Candlelight Christmas Eve will be celebrated at 10:30. Sunday will have both a 7:30 Rite I liturgy, and a 10AM Rite II sung liturgy with carols. Children are invited to bring any gifts they wish to be blessed to the 10AM liturgy.

We pray you are experiencing a blessed Advent as we prepare for His arrival.

Parish Education

Continues meeting on 12/14.

Funeral Planning

Fr. Dave is holding a Funeral Planning Session, Sunday December 18th, following the 10 AM Service.

The Rev. Matthew Dallman

will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests on 13 December at St. Paul's, Pekin. The service begins at 6PM.

Evensong.

Evensong will be celebrated at 5:30PM on Sundays during Advent. This is a time for meditation and prayer. Coffee and conversation will follow, for those interested.

Morning Prayer - Standard Schedule

Morning Prayer is offered at 7AM on Monday and Tuesday, 8:30 AM Wednesday and Friday, and at 7:30 AM on Thursday. The fourth Thursday at 7:30 AM is often Holy Eucharist. Fr. Dave will not be available for Holy Eucharist on 12/22, so this will be a regular Morning Prayer.

Intercessory Prayer - Fall Schedule

Intercessory Prayer is offered at 8 p.m. on Monday, and on Thursday at 12:15.

Guild of the Holy Rosary

Meets immediately after the 10:00 service on Sunday morning and Wednesdays at 5:30pm.

Outreach Opportunities

Help keep someone warm this coming winter by donating your

discarded but gently used coat to the **Salvation Army's annual coat drive**. It's easy - just place the coat(s) and any used gloves, mittens and hats in decent condition into the big white box in the hallway across from Pat's office. The outreach committee will deliver them to the Army's west Washington St. headquarters. Thank you for helping those in need.

Mitten Trees

It is tradition at St. Matthew's during the Advent and Christmas seasons to collect new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for children in need. Please help decorate the "mitten trees" located in the narthex and in the hallway outside the parish hall.

Quilters News

The Quilters want to thank everyone who participated in the "Secret Auction" of Peggy Blackley's quilt. It was nice to have so many people submitting bids. You all helped to make this a successful project. As you know all of the money has gone to the Outreach Committee to support their community projects. Thank you everyone for your participation.

Parish Schedule for the week of December 11

Coffee Hour follows worship, in the Parish Hall

Sunday-11:00 a.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Sunday-5:30 p.m.-Advent Evensong

Sunday-6:00 p.m.-Book Party

Monday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Monday-8:00 p.m.-Intercessory Prayer

Tuesday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday-8:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-Guild of the Holy Rosary

Wednesday-5:30 p.m.-pot-luck supper

Wednesday-6:00 p.m.-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd & Adult Bible Study

Thursday-7:30 a.m.-Morning Prayer & Breakfast

Thursday-6:00 p.m.-Cub Scouts

Friday-7:00 a.m.-Morning Prayer

Saturday-8:00 a.m.-Men's Breakfast

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: Mornings, 8:00 a.m.- noon

If you have anything you would like added to the schedule or announcements in the bulletin and news letter please send an email reply to the newsletter, or call the office.

Good News Daily

This Week's Good News Daily is [here](#).

Readings & Music for December 11, 2016

Hymns: #76, #72, #438, #640

Old Testament

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools,
shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm 146:4-9

Lauda, anima mea

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
*

who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *

he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Hallelujah!

The Epistle

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A

prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'
"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Ministry Assignments for December 11 & 18

11-December

7:30

Greeters: Ray Durham

Lector: Julie Bennett

E.M.: Chris Bennett

10:00

Acolytes: Jack White & Nolan White

Thurifer: Bill Johns

Crucifer: Christian Pitts

Lector: Karyn Smith

E.M.: Bob Kohlhase

Monday Counter: Susan Clark

Coffee Hour: Baughan Family

18-December

7:30

Greeters: Doug & Dede Dyson

Lector: Mark Gibson

E.M.: Diane Gardner

10:00

Acolytes: Jack White & Nolan White

Thurifer: Sarah Halt

Crucifer: Brent Baughan

Lector: Chrissy Stoffer

E.M.: SB Carter

Monday Counter: Roy Laws

Coffee Hour: Martha Lakin & Linda Stawick

Birthdays & Anniversaries December 11 - 17

Birthdays

Collect for December 11th

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let thy bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Contact Information

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

