

# Logoi from Theo



December 2012

*Lo-gos* (lo'gos; n. pl. lo'goi) [Greek: speech, word, reason]

I don't know a single priest who isn't frustrated with the ever-increasing challenge of encouraging their congregations to keep Advent. As the malls are blaring Christmas music and everyone is having Christmas parties, as the Christmas lights come out at Halloween and everyone dons special Christmas clothes, we are charged with preaching a message that urges restraint from celebrating the coming of the Christ child until Christmas Eve. Why do we cling to this message? And how is it possible?

Let's begin with why. Christmas is the time to celebrate the coming of the Light into the world. It is the time to proclaim with joy the birth of the Savior of the Nations. It is the time to shout out with Isaiah, *"Unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."* But how can we appreciate the magnitude of this gift if we have not spent some time meditating on the darkness, on our need for a Savior, on our longing for peace?

Advent gives us the time to reflect on just how much our world waits with eager longing for the coming of the Messiah. As we gather on these Sundays, we are stepping toward the darkest days and longest nights of winter. Amid this gathering darkness, we hear the prophet cry out, *"See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight— indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts."* (Malachi 3:1, read on the second Sunday of Advent this year). *"Do not fear, O Zion; the LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love."* (Zephaniah 3:16-17, read on the third Sunday of Advent). Only when we encounter the world's ache for salvation will we be able to celebrate with joy the birth of the unlikely baby Savior.

Advent is about preparing for three ways that Christ comes into our lives. The first is as the Christ Child who came in history. In the watered down guise of *"Baby Jesus,"* this gets the most play in today's commercialized presentations. But the season of Advent is also about preparing our hearts and minds for the many ways Christ enters our lives every day as well as being about the Christ who will come at the end of time. This is the both/and of our Catholic tradition. We are preparing to observe a past event, but we are also taking time to prepare for that future event as well.

Here are some suggestions for keeping Advent and creating a sense of mystery and anticipation, even in the midst of the Christmas rush:

- **Advent calendar.** Children like Advent calendars because it gives them a chance to do something every day. This is something they look forward to and it is faith-focused.

- **Advent wreath.** Pray with an Advent wreath each night. Children can take turns lighting and blowing out the candle and in between sing simple Advent songs, read and discuss the Scripture of the day and offer intercessory prayers. Even little ones catch on quick. (And the discipline of prayer is good for adults as well!)



- **Jesse Tree.** Put up a small tree decorated with ornaments that tell the story of our salvation, starting with creation (earth, sun, moon and stars) at the bottom of the tree and continuing with Old Testament stories like Noah (ark, animals and rainbow) and finishing with the symbols of the Holy Family and Jesus at the top of the tree. Swap out the Advent ornaments for Christmas ornaments at Christmas and keep the tree up through the Church's Christmas season, which ends with the Feast of Epiphany (January 6). Here's a good Jesse Tree web resource: <http://www.crivoice.org>.

- **Celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas.** The Church remembers St. Nicholas of Myra, a fourth-century bishop whose acts of charity and kindness inspired our current-day depiction of Santa Claus, on December 6. Start a family custom that encourages children to leave their shoes outside their bedroom doors on **December 5**. Let them awake to find small gifts like candy or fruit. This gives parents a chance to talk to their children about the saints. Then when people ask, *"Is Santa coming to your house?"* the child can say, *"He's already come. Did you know he was a bishop of the Church?"*

- **Straw for the manger.** Another activity is to set up the nativity scene without the Holy Family and leave the manger empty. Each day, let a child put straw in the manger if they have done a good deed or offered a special prayer. This can help them make Advent an intentional time to prepare our hearts for Jesus through small sacrifices and acts of love.

- **Advent chain.** A variation on straw for the manger is to write good deeds on pieces of blue paper and link them together into an Advent chain to go around the tree. Or have children make the chain by writing Scripture passages on pieces of paper and discussing it as they add it to the chain. The chain could also be made in advance with families removing a *"link"* each day to study and discuss the Scriptures of the season.

- **Traveling nativity figures.** When you set up your nativity scene, place all the figures (Mary and Joseph and the donkey, the shepherds, the Magi) at various distances around the room. Then (as we do in church) have them approach the manger as Christmas draws near. This gives children a sense of journey, a sense of going somewhere that takes time.



- **Participate in the Seasonal Giving Activities.** There are many ways to help those who are less fortunate during the holidays. Children are anxious to reach out and there are many ways that they can do something to benefit others. Having them pick out a gift that they would like to receive and giving it to the needy helps them to understand that the season is more about giving than receiving.

I have focused here on activities geared at families, but any of these suggestions will work for adult households as well, especially those that involve holding back the Christmas onslaught and intentionally setting aside time for meditation on Scripture and the meaning of the season: which in the words of a classic Advent hymn is to *"...let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come."* (*The Hymnal 1982:776*)

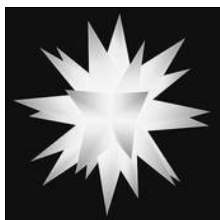
A blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas to you.

*Theo+*



## Advent Materials

There are Advent packets for all families with young children and an Advent booklet for all households on the table in the Mission Hall. Be sure to pick up these handy seasonal worship aids and use them to help steady your "quiet time" this Advent!



## "Lucky 13"

### Year End Campaign

In September the Bishop's Committee asked each household to consider if you could make an additional contribution this year to help St. Andrew's reduce our budget deficit. We suggested that as there are 52 weeks in the year, dividing by four weeks in a month comes out to 13 months instead of 12. If everyone contributed a 13th month's pledge, it would increase our pledge income by \$6,000.



As we near the end of the calendar and fiscal year, we've decided to make "Lucky 13" an Official campaign. If you have not already done so, please pick up a form in the Mission Hall and use it to indicate whether you will make an extra contribution for 2012. You may mail it to the office or place it in the collection plate at any time until the end of the year.

- If you have already made a 13th month commitment, **let us know.**
- If you plan to do so, **let us know.**
- If present circumstances mean that you cannot do so, **let us know.**

- Any response assists us in planning how best to create a balanced budget in 2013.
- Finally, if an extra month's pledge is beyond your means, any offering you can make will be gratefully received.

Faithfully and in gratitude,

your Bishop's Committee:

Tim White, Ellen Pillsbury, Ginny Berger, Mark Bovee, Bob Carmack, JoAnn Carmack, Margaret Handley, Liz Maeshima, Bob Owens, Fr. Theo Park

## Volunteers...

### for Bishop's Committee and Other Positions Needed Soon

With the new year coming soon, please prayerfully consider your interest in serving as:



- **Senior or Junior Warden** (two-year terms)
- **Bishop's Committee Member** (three-year terms)
- **A delegate to the Episcopal Church in Minnesota Convention** (three-year terms)

Then please share your interest with Tim White, Ellen Pillsbury, or Fr. Theo. Ideally, it would be helpful (but not required) if you can-in writing-share the qualifications you believe that you have for the position you're interested in and any goals you're interested in accomplishing or issues that you're interested in addressing. This will help the congregation know more about the person for whom they are voting. A brochure on the table in the Mission Hall spells out the duties of the Bishop's Committee and the Church's canonical expectations.

Thank you, Tim, Ellen and Theo+

# St. Andrew's Youth Group

## Revised Activities Schedule

(The asterisk indicates a change)

### December 2012

#### **\*Wednesday 12/5**

Family Fun Night  
(St. Andrew's), 6 p.m.  
to 8 p.m. Make bars and  
treats for coffee hour and  
CHUM bag lunches on 12/9,  
play games.



#### **\*Sunday 12/9**

9:45 a.m., Family Church Worship, 10:45 a.m.,  
Host Coffee Hour and make CHUM bag lunches,  
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., movie (Elf), popcorn and  
pizza at St. Andrew's.

#### **Wednesday 12/19**

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Family Fun Night, meet at St.  
Andrew's at 6, carpool to Bentleyville, tour  
Bentleyville and meet at DQ afterwards for treats.

### January 2013

#### **Sunday 1/6**

12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at Incline Station for  
Bowling. \$7.00/ person includes two hours of  
bowling and pizza.

#### **Wednesday 1/9**

6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Baking at St. Andrew's. Bake  
bars and treats for CHUM lunches and Coffee  
Hour on 1/13.

#### **Sunday 1/13**

9:45 a.m. Family Church Worship,  
10:45 a.m. Host Coffee Hour and make CHUM  
bag lunches.

#### **Sunday 1/20**

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Pancake Breakfast  
Fundraiser.



# Holiday Service Project

The Youth will be teaming up with the Peace and  
Justice Committee to sponsor a "Life Aid" kit  
fundraiser for homeless youth at LifeHouse  
beginning Sunday, December 2 through Sunday,  
January 27.

We are asking for monetary donations to purchase  
and make kits to give to the LifeHouse outreach  
workers to hand out to youth on the streets. The  
kit contains:

- Tooth paste
- Tooth Brush
- Shampoo
- Soap
- Deodorant
- Hand sanitizer  
wipes
- Mini first aid kit
- Tampons
- Nutri Grain bar
- Encouraging messages from Parishioners at  
St. Andrew's



Each kit costs approximately \$10.00. Our goal is to  
make 50 of these kits so we hope to raise \$500.00  
throughout the Holiday Season.

This fundraiser is in addition to the Pennies for  
LifeHouse...

We will be inviting you to decorate bags for the  
kits and write encouraging notes throughout the  
month of December and January to be added to  
the kits. We will have reminders in the weekly  
bulletin.

Peace!

Brian



## Christian Formation for Children and Youth

The Christian Formation for the children of St. Andrew's By-The-Lake continues for this session through December 30.

We have a few openings later in the year for middle and high school. Teachers are needed for two month segments (6-8 classes). A schedule of lesson plans and activities are provided using the Reform videos and discussion. Please consider signing up for a two month segment or split 4 months with someone and divide the schedule as convenient.



Advent Calendars are available for children and youth. Please see Father Theo or Sally if you haven't received one yet. At the December 9, family service, we'll have an activity for children and families to celebrate St. Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra. He is the patron saint of children and sailors and was generous to others.

Submitted by Sally Buck

## Peace and Justice

On Monday, October 29, we cooked and served dinner at CHUM. Ginny Berger cooked, with help from Helen and Paul Hanten. JoAnn Carmack and John and Margaret Handley transported the food to CHUM. Dessert bars were donated by many people! Fresh fruit was donated by JoAnn Carmack, Jenny Peterson, Rita Bovee, John and Margaret Handley and Adelaide Cline. JoAnn Carmack, Jenny Peterson, Mike Oliver, Patti Peters, Karen Nichols, John and Margaret Handley, and Ellen Pillsbury came to serve at CHUM.

Ginny cooked for 70 to 80 people. The menu consisted of Chili Mac, green beans, cole slaw, dessert bars, fresh fruit, and milk. There was a real rush in the first twenty minutes, and the staff counted 44 people served. We thought that might be it, but then more people started coming through. Some were repeat customers (coming back for seconds is encouraged!) and some waited until after the rush to come. We were given many compliments and thanks for the dinner. The food was just about gone by the end of the hour.



*We are on CHUM's calendar to make and serve dinner on January 22.*

Please notice Brian Lundberg's article about the youth service project to benefit the youth at Life-House. Help them with a Christmas outreach gift, if you can. In the recent past we have collected gloves and mittens for LifeHouse and gifts for the kids at the women's shelter during Advent. These gifts make a difference...

Submitted by Margaret Handley

## Holiday Concert December 1

The 17th Annual CHUM Holiday Concert will be held at 7 p.m. at Mitchell Auditorium, College of St. Scholastica. Free admission with a free will collection during the concert.



Performers include:  
Bill Bastian, Clergy Quartet, Lon Weaver, Choir of Choirs and Windchill Brass.

Submitted by Sandy Carlson

## **Reader's Choice Book Club**

December 7

Our next meeting will be on Friday, December 7 at Noon at Porter's. Please join us for lunch and a lively discussion about the books we love. For more information call Sandy Carlson at 723-1181 or Heather Pitschka at 218-591-5667. All are welcome!

Submitted by Sandy Carlson

## **Berger's Annual Advent Lunch**

December 13



It is almost time for the Berger's Annual Advent Lunch. You are all invited to join us on Thursday, December 13 at 12 noon. A sign-up sheet is available in the Mission Hall so we have an idea of numbers. Everyone is welcome. Bring nothing but your appetite and voice (if you want to sing, but we also welcome listeners). Donations to the food shelf are also welcome.

Submitted by Ginny Berger

## **Friday Prayer Group**

December 14

In recent years the Prayer Group has invited residents of Bayshore to come to SABTL for a service of Eucharist and a luncheon. This year Bayshore does not have a transport making the visit to SABTL impractical. So if Bayshore cannot come to the church, the church will go to Bayshore! At 1:30 p.m. on December 14 we will visit Bayshore to sing Christmas carols, share the Eucharist, and, yes, share our largesse of

Christmas cookies. Again, one and all are invited to join us.

When you are baking your cookies, consider saving a dozen for us to serve at Bayshore or pack in the Christmas baskets we make for our own



members who may not have a wealth of Christmas treats. There is a sign-up sheet in the Mission Hall and cookies can be brought to St. Andrew's any time before December 14. Thanks in advance, for your generosity and participation in these activities.

Submitted by Joanne Blyler

## **SABTL Saturday Stitches**

December 15

Our next meeting is Saturday, December 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Mission Hall. Mike and Sharon Oliver will host the gathering. Please bring a side dish to share. It's the last chance in 2012 to stitch with friends from your church community!

Submitted by Sandy Carlson

## **Adult Formation**

December 16



A meeting to discuss our next adult formation series will be held after our Sunday church service. Options previously discussed were: Forgiveness, Progressive Christianity using a video series and a study on Luke. Other suggestions are most welcome.

Submitted by Fr. Theo and Sandy Carlson

## Gems from the Beach...

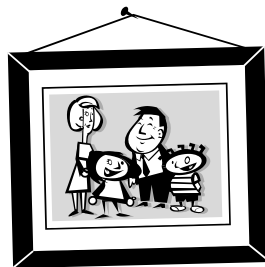


- Wyatt Carter West, son of Stephanie (Gaidis) and Chris West was born September 28 at 4:30, 8.8 lbs., 21 in.
- Landon Everett Dotson, son of Jaina Thompson and Andrew Dotson was born November 18, 7.5 lbs. All are doing great!
- Gene Carlson has retired from the DTA.
- Have you noticed? Our crosses are back on top of the church!

## Photo Exhibit

We hope the St. Andrew's congregation has been enjoying the photo exhibit. We have been pleased with the response and are appreciative of the corrections made on some of the photos that had little or no information.

These photos were gathered and for the most part, enlarged, matted and framed. Each photo was selected with story interest along with historic reference. An attempt was made to show how the parish grew, changed, and took on amazing projects.



The exhibit will stay on the walls of the Parish Hall until late winter or spring. Until then please feel free to bid on your favorite framed photo in the three ring binder. All but two or three of the photos are for sale in a silent auction allowing each photo to go to the highest bidder. Proceeds will go to defray the cost of the exhibit.

Submitted by Ellie Alspach, Arlene Renken and Donna Grover

## "Share the Love" Concert February

Coming Soon!! The annual St. Andrew's "Share the Love" concert is being planned for February, 2013. We are just in the beginning stages of planning, but in addition to great music and luscious desserts we will be having a "Silent Auction" to help St. Andrew's in its activities. Soooooo.....this year, when you get that unusual/tacky/unwanted gift that you can't return, save it and donate it to the silent auction so that someone else can be as ??delighted?? as you were.



Submitted by Ginny Berger

## Membership Directory Correction



Mary Gaidis spells her last name with an "is" not in "as."

## A Prayer for St. Andrew's

In trust that God has heard our prayers and will fulfill them as may be best for us, we pray:

Nurturing God, your love is free,  
your compassion unconditional,  
and your mercy infinite.

You have called us to be *a people on the Way to knowing, loving, and serving you.*

As a community ever striving to grow more fully into the likeness of your Son,  
you shower upon us gifts abundant  
to empower us in our calling.

Grant that we may know and trust these gifts,  
that we may discover the joy they bring,  
and inspire us to live and love out of that joy.

In the name of the Risen Christ  
and in the power of the Spirit we pray.  
Amen

**The Episcopal Mission  
of St. Andrew's  
By-The-Lake**

**2802 Minnesota Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55802**

**Office:** 218-727-1262

**Interim Vicar:** The  
Reverend Dr. Theo Park  
salamander.park091  
@gmail.com  
612-206-4455

**Editor:** Sandra Carlson  
carlzimm@msn.com  
218-723-1181

Suggestions/comments appreciated.

*A People  
on the Way  
to  
Knowing,  
Loving,  
and  
Serving God*

We're on Facebook  
and the Web!  
[standrewsbythelake.org](http://standrewsbythelake.org)



**December/January Calendar of Events**

(Greater details of these events and the Youth activities will be found inside.)

- 12/1 The 17 Annual CHUM Holiday Concert 7 p.m. at Mitchell Auditorium
- 12/7 Book Club 12-1 p.m. at Porter's
- 12/9 Family Service, CHUM Bag Lunches
- 12/12 Bishop's Committee Meeting 5:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's
- 12/13 Berger's Annual Advent Noon Luncheon
- 12/14 Prayer Group 1:30 p.m. at Bayshore
- 12/14 Website training 5:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's
- 12/15 Saturday Stitchers 9-2 p.m. at St. Andrew's
- 12/16 Meeting after church to discuss the next adult formation series
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service 4:30 p.m.
- 1/6 Epiphany Pageant
- 1/20 Pancake Breakfast
- 1/22 Make and serve CHUM dinner



December 20 is the deadline for the  
January Grains of Sand. (Please note the early date.)