

## **St. Alban's E-Blast** **Week 1 of Advent**

### **Adventures in Advent**

Advent – a time when God breaks in on us; a time when He disrupts our well-planned, ordered lives; a time of waiting for the stagnant waters of our life to be flushed away and replaced with fresh, streams of living water flowing in and out of us. Yes, it is a season of waiting. Waiting for whom?

When Zechariah went to work that day, taking his turn keeping the incense burning in the holy of holies, he did not expect or even hope to encounter a messenger from God. He was just fulfilling his duty, his call and yet, God had something wonder-filled for him. And he has the nerve to question, "Are you sure that is what God has planned? My wife and I are way past the child bearing thing." And we know what happens next when you question a messenger of God– your words are gone! Zechariah waited nine months before he found his voice again and when he did, what did he do? He praised God!

And Elizabeth, cherishing those first few months alone with the knowledge a child was being knit together in her old, unused womb, waiting for the promised John to be revealed to all. She, too, praises God when the child in her womb jumped at the sound of Mary's voice. And she was filled with the Holy Spirit as was the child she conceived.

I need times of waiting, even when I don't particularly like it. I need time to withdraw, to see my sins for what they are; to seek His voice as He births something within me – a deeper longing for Him, and a full acceptance that I am a child of God. I find myself singing these words from Hillsong's "Who You Say I Am":

Who am I that the highest King would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh, His love for me, Oh, His love for me.  
Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God. Yes I am.  
I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who you say I am.  
In my Father's house there's a place for me  
I am a child of God. Yes, I am!

May you, too, discover you are a beloved child of God. And together we will build up the Kingdom of God. But first we wait; after all it is Advent.

**Judith+**

### **Stewardship and YOU**

**What is a steward?** "In the Christian sense, a steward is the manager of the affairs of God on earth. God has made each us a steward and has given us the abilities and talents that are unique for each of us to use in that work. A Christian steward serves God out of love and gratitude for these gifts knowing that it's not how much we have but what we do with what we have that is important. Everything we have-time, health, talents, relationships, property, and the Gospel-is given to us by God.

Giving money to the church is a symbolic act – the offering of ourselves in service and devotion to God. Giving is a practical matter, too, because the offering makes it possible for the church to pay its bills and carry out its mission in Christ's name." (Words from "A Scriptographic Booklet by Channing L. Bete Co.)

How much should I give? This is a question that needs to be answered as we begin our stewardship gatherings and seek the Lord's plan and direction for St. Alban's. I encourage you to pray about your answer and come to the gatherings, seeking His answer.

## Advent Soup and Video

Join us on **December 4<sup>th</sup>** for an evening of Adventures in Advent as we share a bowl of soup, some bread, and sit back to watch a video. A lively discussion will surely follow. **5:30 to 7:30 PM**. All are invited and encouraged to be part of this Advent practice of reflection and spiritual growth.

### Other Happenings this week at St. Alban's

Monday – Saturday	Noon	AA
Monday	Dec 2	8:00 PM AA
Tuesday	Dec 3	5:30 PM AA
Wed	Dec 4	1:15 PM Silver Crest Service 5:30 PM Soup & Video
Thurs	Dec 5	7:30 AM T.O.P.S. 5:30 PM AA 7:00 PM Choir
Friday	Dec 6	Handel's Messiah Sing Along Trinity Cathedral 7:30 PM
December 6-8	RICM's Renewal Weekend in Southern Illinois	

### Upcoming Events

<b>Dec 15</b>	<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Caroling with St. Alban's Singers</b>
<b>Dec 22</b>	<b>10:15 AM 11:30 AM</b>	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols Decorating for Christmas Chili and Hot Cocoa</b>
<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>5:00 PM 10:30 PM</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service Midnight Mass (early)</b>

### Stewardship Gatherings

Have you **RSVP** to your Host yet? If you did not receive an invitation, call Judith+ 309-269-4401. If you can't make the date to which you were invited, call Judith+ to make a change. You won't want to miss this gathering and conversation!

### Readers, Readings and More

#### 2 Advent

**December 8, 2019**

**8:00 AM**

#### Morning Prayer with Holy Communion

Officiant	Judy Murdock
Lighting of Advent Candles	Judy & Vern Murdock
1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson & Psalm	Don France
	Isaiah 11:1-10
	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Vern Murdock
	Romans 15:4-13
Gospel	Matthew 3:1-12
Prayers	Ann Capion
Euch Visitor	Crossen/Murdock
Altar Guild	Judy Murdock

**10:15 AM**

#### Morning Prayer with Holy Communion

Worship Leader	Charlie Rodriguez
Lighting of Advent Candles	Julie & Kent Williams
1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson & Psalm	Laura Showers
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Jon Burgstrum
Sermon	Karrie Dvorak
Prayers	Kim Feeney
Euch Min	Karrie Dvorak
Acolyte & Altar	Michelle Dierickx
Usher	Christophe Cash
Counters	Kent & Michelle

### **ADVENT FLOWERS**

Please fill out the form, found on the Narthex table for the Advent flowers that will be placed in the Nave for the Christmas Eve service. There is space for “in thanksgiving for” and “in memory of”. We are requesting a donation of \$10.00 to help cover the cost and will of course, gladly accept more! Decorating the Nave will be on December 22 after the Lessons and Carols service. There will be lots ‘o chili afterward for the laborers!

### **SIGN-UP SHEETS**

Please look over the sign-up sheets found on the bulletin board. We NEED service participants for both services at 5:00 and 10:30.

The other sheet is for the Christmas families. There are plenty of spaces that need filling. These are 2 families of veterans that need our help. Please have them gift wrapped with the recipients name on the tag and “from Santa” on the giving.

We also need soup and Texas toast for the soup supper/video study for December 18.

### **CHURCHES UNITED COMMUNITY EVENTS**

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| Dec. 6 7:00 pm   | Chordbuster’s Annual Christmas Show   |
| Dec. 7 7:00 pm   | Warm Winter for the Quad Cities Benefit concert by Hersong will be held at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 4501 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Rock Island. Admission is new blankets or a cash donation.                                 |
| Dec. 7 9:00 pm   | The Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will make a stop at the corner of Western and River Drive. There will be a collection for Churches United. Entertainment will be provided by 3 singers. The train alone is worth seeing! |
| Dec. 13 10:00 am | Winnie’s Wishes Resale Shop Volunteer Brunch will be from 10:00 to 11:30 am at First Lutheran Church, 1230 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Moline  |