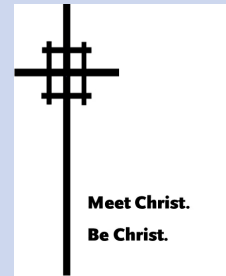


St. Christopher's

# e-Traveler

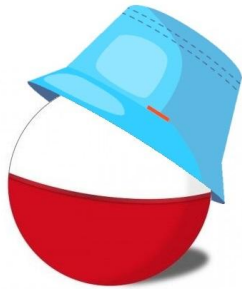


[Visit our Website](#)

*This month is a very FULL e-Traveler. Some email services will cut off some of the bottom of the email. Check the bottom to see if it says "read full email" or something similar. AND, of course, a PDF of the full e-Traveler will be on the Publications page of our website.*

---

## From the Rector



**The Rev.  
Randy W. Johnson**

**Rector**

### **Preparing for Jesus** *by Fr. Randy+*

*The word Advent is derived from the Latin adventus, which means "the approach" or "the arrival." The verb is advenio: "I arrive. I come. I am coming."*

*Who is coming?*

As a season of the Christian year, Advent is ancient. It goes back at least to the middle of the sixth century. Already then its observance defined not only the One who was coming, but also those who were faithfully and self-consciously waiting. It defined a particular people who looked forward to the coming of that One.

*Who is coming? Who awaits him?*

By the thirteenth century, the Church universal had recognized the season of Advent as the beginning of its year. Advent consists of four Sundays, the first of which was New Year's Day for Christmas everywhere—and so it was that Advent also defined the times, endings and beginnings, the past and the present, as well as the future when the Blessed One would come.

*Who is coming? Who awaits him? And when will he get here?*

For nearly one thousand five hundred years Christians have spent the days of Advent not in passive inaction, but in activities strenuous and profitable: they have prepared themselves by scrubbing and cleaning their lives, by examining and repairing their souls—even as people generally prepare themselves body and home to receive a visitor of ineffable importance.

*Who is coming? Who awaits him? When will he get here? And how shall the people prepare?*

The Son of Man—he is coming. Jesus. That One. Him.

And we are the people who await him. You and I. Since it was for us he died, we are the ones who wait in love. And since he ascended to heaven with promises to return, we wait in faith—for at the next and final Advent. Jesus will take us as friends, as sisters and brothers into his house to abide forevermore.

*And when will he get here? Like any New Year's Day: at the end and the beginning.*

But that Advent to come—the final arrival of Jesus in glory—will itself cause the end of this present age and the beginning of our eternal joy. When will that be? No one knows its day or hour. Therefore, Jesus commands us to “Watch. Stay awake. Get ready. Prepare, prepare—and watch!”

*Finally, how shall we prepare? In these days, while yet there are days and time, by what activity should we make ourselves ready?*

We prepare by meditating on his first coming—for though the future may be hidden from us, the past is not, and the one can teach the other.

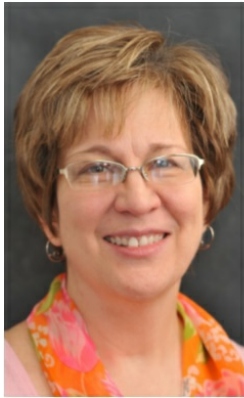
The story of the birth of Jesus is open before us. We have a spiritual and holy account of the time when God himself directed preparations for that first coming of his Son into the world. What God ordains is always good. Therefore, those preparations may be the perfect pattern for our own this year again, this year too.



Wait in wonder and joy. In peace and love. Prepare the way for the newborn King! God bless you this Advent season. *Randy+*

---

## Music Notes



**Karla Cole**

**Director of Music  
Ministries**

As the days draw in and the temperatures drop, the people start to freak out a little. I don't live close to the mall, but I live close to the route and over the time that we have lived here, I've noticed that the traffic becomes more and more congested throughout the fall. By December, it has reached a fever pitch and one must fling oneself into the constant stream of cars on Fairview, Lexington, or the Countys B and B2 if one wants to go that direction. It's nuts. I have a personal No Mall Policy and assiduously avoid going there.

Of course, I have plenty of other things to do in December. The clock is ticking on preparations for Christmas and don't forget Lessons & Carols! And then this year, we've been blessed with the arrival of our new Rodgers digital organ, so that has meant a steep learning curve for me as I try to comprehend its multitude of computer-driven features. The owners guide has become as important as my organ shoes when I head off to the sanctuary to practice. So, it is with ~~fear and trepidation~~, and great joy that I invite you to attend our organ dedication on **Advent 1, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 10:30 service**. Yes, even you 8:00ers. One late Sunday morning won't kill you. We will sing and celebrate and give thanks. Peggy Bartunek, a frequent substitute and by now, a great friend, will be there representing Rodgers Classic Organs as well. So please come and join us for this very special service of thanksgiving.

December is full of special services. In the choir room, the greatest effort goes toward our annual Lessons & Carols service. This year's blessed event will be on **Sunday afternoon, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**. The lessons begin with Genesis and wend their way through Old Testament prophecy and into the New Testament stories of Christ's birth, each accompanied by a carol. If you have a tradition of listening to the annual service from Kings College, you know that it's an all morning affair, but ours is kept pretty much to an hour, followed by a festive reception in the parish hall. The service will of course, feature the choir, and also the handbell choir and recorder ensemble, as well as a special musical surprise from our section leaders. Additionally, the St. Mary's Recorder Trio is joining us to beef up the recorder sound. I always say the service is not to be missed, but it's especially true this year. You'll want to be there for this lovely gathering of St. Christopherians and our visiting musical friends.

Christmas gets all the attention and Christmas music takes up more space in my library than even Easter does. But we have four weeks of Advent first and there's lots of beautiful music for Advent as well. We're heading into a time in the church calendar that totally captured the imagination of musicians throughout the centuries and each generation added timeless melodies and

great masterworks. There is so much more to it than “Santa Claus is coming to town”. I hope you’ll be able to hear past the mall muzak and enjoy the music that truly amplifies the season.

Karla Cole

---

## Footprints DECEMBER 2023 News from Children's Ministries



**Marion Hunner**

**Director of  
Children's Ministries**

**Sunday School:** In December we will be learning about Advent, and preparing for our Epiphany Presentation.

**Suggested Advent prayers and activities for home-** during this very busy season, I hope that families will be able to find some quiet time to prepare their homes and hearts for the coming of Jesus. Traditions that you begin when they are young can last a lifetime. There are several Advent resources on St. Christopher's website under [Learn/Resources/Family](#) - please take a look. In addition, look elsewhere in the e-Traveler for the recap of our What Do You Do During Advent? discussion.

### **Epiphany Presentation – Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30**

We will be looking for folks interested in reading and/or donning a costume for our Epiphany Presentation on January 7th. The commitment is a rehearsal on January 6<sup>th</sup>, followed by supper and cookie decorating, as well as the 10:30 service on January 7th. If you are interested or want more details, please let Marion know.

---

## **Advent and Christmas Worship**

**December 3: Advent 1.** Holy Eucharist at 8 AM, and Organ Dedication and Holy Eucharist at 10:30 AM.

**December 10: Advent 2.** Holy Eucharist at 8 AM and 10:30 AM. "Talent Table" follows each service, and the "Event Fair" opens.

**December 17: Advent 3.** Holy Eucharist at 8 AM and 10:30 AM. The "Event Fair" closes. A Service of Lessons and Carols is at 4 PM!



**December 23: Greening of the Church!** Join us at 1:00 PM!

**December 24: Advent 4.** ONE service of Holy Eucharist at 9:30 AM.

**December 24: Christmas Eve.** Holy Eucharist at 5 PM.

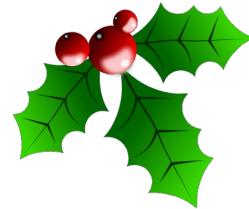
**December 25: Christmas Day.** Holy Eucharist at 9:30 AM

**December 31: Christmas 1.** Holy Eucharist at 8 AM and 10:30 AM.

---

## Greening of the Church

Save the Date! Greening of the Sanctuary at St. Christopher will be Saturday December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM. All are welcome; there will be hot beverages and Christmas cookies. Bring an ornament to help decorate the tree. At the Christmas Eve service, there will be an opportunity to place ornaments on the Christmas tree in the nave. Whether homemade, purchased new, or with a long family history, any and all ornaments are welcome to help decorate our tree. If you are unable to attend but still wish to supply an ornament, bring it with you to St. Christopher and give it to Deacon Christopher, or drop it by the church office. If you wish to have your Christmas ornament back, please put your name on the ornament. If you do not want to have it returned, we will keep it for next year.



---

## Stewardship Campaign Update

We are *On the Road!* 74% of pledges have been received (through 11/28). Please prayerfully consider responding with a pledge for the coming fiscal year. The Vestry, with input from the Finance team, has requested a 3% increase to keep us *On the Road*.

If you need a Pledge Form, please call the office, or go to: <https://www.stchristophers-mn.org/publications.html> and scroll down to "Here is the 2024 Pledge Form."

---

## Advent Traditions Discussion Recap

*By Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director*

**Many thanks** to the great group who participated in this lively conversation on November 26<sup>th</sup>. As promised, I have typed up all of the wonderful suggestions, and you can click here to see them on the Family Resources page of our website. I added lots of links to help you find more information on the different ideas that were presented. Try something new this year!



Here's the link: <https://www.stchristophers-mn.org/family.html>

---

## St. Christopher's Event Fair!

Mark your Calendars for St Christopher's Event Fair! Come see all of the fun social opportunities donated by fellow parishioners and sign up for those that sound fun to you. The event fair will launch December 10<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Talent Table. All event sign-ups will be located in the Parish Hall and sign-up sheets will continue to be available through December 17<sup>th</sup>. First Come First Serve – don't miss your chance to meet new people, enjoy the company of your St Christopher's community, and try something new! All events will occur in 2024 with proceeds going to the Mission Opportunity Fund. Contact Ann Trapnell or Kim Johnson.

---



## A Little Help from Our Friends

I am here again to ask all of you to volunteer for a week of snow shoveling for the church!

Shoveling weeks are Monday-to-Sunday (because no one wants to wake up to snow on Sunday and not remember that it's the START of your week).

Anything over 2 inches is covered by our plowing service when they plow, BUT, we do need help sometimes mid-day to keep things safe before they arrive. Sand and salt are in (or near) the entries. Call the office if you have questions!

THANK YOU to each and every person and family who helps out, and to all of those who have helped in the past!

---

## Sunday Ministries Invitation

*By Marion Hunner*

We have so very many ways to serve at St. Christopher's on Sunday mornings, and this is a great time to jump in and start something new! Here are just a few of those opportunities:

- **Ushers (Greet folks, pass out bulletins, etc)**
- Lectors (read scripture)
- Crucifer (lead the procession, help set the table for Eucharist)
- Intercessor (read prayers of the people)
- **Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM – serve the consecrated wine)**

These opportunities are scheduled on a quarterly basis, and each person serves approximately once a month. While there is always room for more people in each area, we are especially hopeful to have more LEMs and Ushers as we begin a new calendar year. For more information, please reach out to Marion Hunner. She will be working on the new schedule (January, February, March) very soon.

---

## Hearts and Hands News

At the November Hearts and Hands meeting, we packaged home baked pumpkin loaves for delivery to our homebound parishioners, and made cards

for Letters of Love, a non-profit organization that provides emotional support for patients in Children's Hospitals across the world. We'll meet again on December 14th - Come join us! Everyone is welcome!



---

## Vestry Shorts

The vestry met on November 20th and here's a bit of what was discussed.

- We are exploring having some signs made which would be hung at the entrance of the parking lot to bring attention to St. Christopher's.
- The budget for 2024 continues to be updated and fine-tuned. If you have not returned your pledge for 2024 please do so at your earliest convenience.
- Ruth continues to receive checks for the Organ Donor Fund. Thank you to all who have contributed thus far. A final total will be shared in the near future.
- The final clean-up of the giving garden has been completed. 900 pounds of produce was harvested (200 pounds more than in 2022) to help feed those in need!!
- The Daycare will take possession of the youth rooms on the first of the year. Furniture and boxes will need to be moved and the room cleaned out.
- Our new Directory is moving ahead and should be available soon!

### Upcoming Events:

- 12/3 Organ dedication at 10:30 am service:
- 12/10 Fellowship Talent Table
- 12/17 Lessons and Carols at 4:00 pm.
- 12/17 Final Adult Ed for Advent.
- 12/23 Decorating of the church for Christmas- stay tuned for more

information

- 12/24 Christmas Eve services: there will be 2 services. Advent 4 (Day) Service will be at 9:30 a.m. & Christmas Eve service will be at 5:00 p.m.
- 12/25 Christmas Day Service at 9:30.

Shout Outs to:

Matt Cole, Jeff Jensen, and Don Shiek, who worked with the Rodgers team on the installation of the new organ speakers; and Bruce Warkentien, who rebuilt the retaining wall near the choir door!!

---

## Green Team News: GotSneakers?

The Green Team is collecting used athletic shoes. The sneakers will be sent to the company GotSneakers? and the shoes will be either recycled or reused. St. Christopher's will get paid for the shoes we recycle. The Green Team tried it out by recycling 18 pairs of sneakers. The results were

### Sustainability Impact

**Landfill:** 18 pairs displaced from the landfill

**Carbon Dioxide:** 540 pounds displaced

**Water:** 40,626 gallons saved

And, the church received a check for \$13.50!

So, ask your neighbors, friends and relatives-- and look in your own closets for any athletic shoes you don't wear anymore or are too old and worn out to wear. The company will take **Any** athletic shoes in **Any** condition. Look for collection bins around church to put your shoes in. (The company does not accept nonathletic shoes).

If you have any questions, ask a member of the Green Team – Joel and Leslie Norton, Larry Jones, Joan Hoium, Karen Hartman, Sally Brown, and Jean Crow

---

## DECEMBER Calendar

### 1 Friday

**2:45 PM** Cello - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM

### 2 Saturday

**9 AM** Flute Lessons – Music Room

**2 PM** NorthStar Cello Student Recitals – Church – to 4 PM

### 3 Sunday – Advent 1

**8 AM** Holy Eucharist

**9 AM** Fellowship

**9:15 AM** Adult Forum – The Magnificat

**9:30 AM** Sunday School

**10:30 AM** Holy Eucharist with Organ Dedication

**11:30 AM** Fellowship

### 4 Monday



## **5 Tuesday**

**8:30 AM** *Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM*

**10:30 AM** *Meals on Wheels – Offsite*

**1 PM** *Private Spiritual Direction – Library*

**7 PM** *Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall*

## **6 Wednesday**

**9 AM** *Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room*

**10 AM** *Private Spiritual Direction – Library*

**11 AM** *Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room*

**12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church**

**4 PM** *Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM*

**6 PM** *Bell Choir – Balcony*

**6:30 PM** *Wednesday AA – Gathering Room*

**7:15 PM** *Choir – Music Room*

## **7 Thursday**

**3:30 PM** *Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM*

## **8 Friday**

**2:45 PM** *Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM*

## **9 Saturday**

**9 AM** *Flute Lessons – Music Room*

## **10 Sunday – Advent 2**

**8 AM Holy Eucharist**

**9 AM** *Fellowship – Talent Table – Event Fair*

**9:15 AM** *Adult Forum*

**9:30 AM** *Sunday School*

**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**11:30 AM** *Fellowship – Talent Table – Event Fair*

## **11 Monday**

**3:30 PM** *Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:30 PM*

**5:30 PM** *Finance Team – Parish Hall*

## **12 Tuesday**

**8:45 AM** *Private Spiritual Direction – Library*

**10 AM** *SG Peer Group – Gathering Room – to 12 PM*

**4 PM** *Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM*

**7 PM** *Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall*

## **13 Wednesday**

**10:45 AM** *Private Spiritual Direction – Library*

**12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church**

**4 PM** *Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM*

**6 PM** *Bell Choir – Balcony*

**6:30 PM** *Wednesday AA – Gathering Room*

**7:15 PM** *Choir – Music Room*

## **14 Thursday**

**10:30 AM** *Hearts and Hands – Parish Hall*

**3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM**

**15 Friday**

**2:45 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:45 PM**

**16 Saturday**

**9 AM Flute Lessons – Music Room**

**17 Sunday – Advent 3**

**8 AM Holy Eucharist**

**9 AM Fellowship – Event Fair (last day)**

**9:15 AM Adult Forum**

**9:30 AM Sunday School**

**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**11:30 AM Fellowship – Event Fair (last day)**

**4 PM A Service of Lessons and Carols - Church**

**18 Monday**

**3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:30 PM**

**6:45 PM Vestry – Parish Hall**

**19 Tuesday**

**8:30 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Gathering Room – to 5 PM**

**10 AM Tuesday OA – Room #218**

**4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 6:15 PM**

**7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall or Outdoors**

**20 Wednesday**

**12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church**

**4 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219 – to 7:15 PM**

**6 PM Bell Choir – Balcony**

**6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room**

**7:15 PM Choir – Music Room**

**21 Thursday**

**3:30 PM Cello Lessons - #218/219**

**22 Friday**

**23 Saturday**

**9 AM Flute Lessons – Music Room**

**1 PM Greening of the Church!!**

**24 Sunday – Advent 4/Christmas Eve**

**9:30 AM Holy Eucharist**

**10:30 AM Fellowship**

**5 PM Festive Holy Eucharist for Christmas Eve**

**25 Monday – Christmas Day (Office Closed)**

**9:30 AM Holy Eucharist for Christmas**

**26 Tuesday (Office Closed)**

**e-Traveler Deadline**

**7 PM Brian Boru Irish Pipe Band – Parish Hall or Outdoors**

## 27 Wednesday

12:15 PM Holy Eucharist – Church

6 PM Bell Choir – Balcony

6:30 PM Wednesday AA – Gathering Room

7:15 PM Choir – Music Room

## 28 Thursday

## 29 Friday

10 AM Private Spiritual Direction – Library

## 30 Saturday

9 AM Flute Lessons – Music Room

## 31 Sunday – **Christmas 1**

8 AM Holy Eucharist

9 AM Fellowship

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

11:30 AM Fellowship

**Please note** that MOST of our outside groups have returned to meeting in the building. Those groups are now on this calendar (*in italics*) to avoid over-scheduling. Always check with the church office before scheduling a meeting. Days with no activity scheduled have been left off this calendar.

---



## Last Words

Here we are beginning another season of Advent, Winter arrives (ha!) on the 21st, and the days will begin to get longer again. Happy Advent, and Merry Christmas!

I hope you have enjoyed reading this December **e-Traveler!** There are so many things going on, I kept adding and adding to this edition. It is a good thing the the email system just grows with me!

Ruth Thillen

Parish Administrator

---

## St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

### VESTRY:

Karen Hartman, Sr. Warden; Barb Hovey, Jr. Warden  
Robert Williams, Clerk; Jean Crow, Treasurer

Ross Ackerman; Patrick Ahern; Cheryl Bailey;  
Darlene Cross, Madisen Crow; Eric Hedican;  
Leslie Norton; Rich Pieper; Ann Trapnell

### STAFF:

Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator

Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Director  
Karla S. Cole, Director of Music Ministries  
Rev. Christopher Haack, Deacon  
Rev. Marilyn Baldwin, Assisting Priest  
Rev. Randy W. Johnson, Rector

### **Our Schedule:**

*Recorded Sermons for each Sunday are on our website.*

#### **Sundays through May 2024:**

**8:30 AM Holy Eucharist**  
9:30 AM Fellowship  
9:15-10:15 AM Adult Forum  
9:30-10:15 AM Sunday School  
**10:30 AM Holy Eucharist**  
11:30 AM Fellowship

**Wednesday: 12:15 PM Holy Eucharist** in the Sanctuary

#### **Office Hours:**

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 4 PM

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave. N.  
Roseville, MN 55113  
651-633-4589 | Fax 651-633-7361 | [www.stchristophers-mn.org](http://www.stchristophers-mn.org)

STAY CONNECTED



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church | 2300 Hamline Ave N, Roseville, MN 55113

[Unsubscribe \[office@stchristophers-mn.org\]\(mailto:unsubscribe@stchristophers-mn.org\)](mailto:unsubscribe@stchristophers-mn.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [office@stchristophers-mn.org](mailto:office@stchristophers-mn.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!