

WILDERNESS WORDS

Editors

If there is anything that you would like to have included in the Newsletter: 313-673-6519 and dmc@chem.wayne.edu or pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu

This Sunday:

Leading:

Preaching: Bob Padzieski

Presiding: Mary Ellen

Readings this week:

Twenty Third Sunday After Pentecost, 12 November, 2017

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 and Psalm 78:1-7 **OR** Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-24 and Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or Psalm 70

Psalm: Above

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13
(To link directly to the readings (click) <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=168>



Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

Changing the World, Starting Here

As I sit in my usual spot, looking out over the big lake, our Tamarack tree is bright gold. It's always the last to go. Days have shortened and will continue to do so for some time. This is a hard time of year for many.



Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.

So here are some bright sparks:

- Yesterday's baptism was quite wonderful—despite Freddie trying to hide under the table at the relevant moment! A great moment in our faith family....and our fifth baptism this year!
- Empty Bowls is coming up on November 13th—a fabulous opportunity to come together with our friends and neighbors to fight hunger.
- Ruby's Pantry is November 14th—our monthly opportunity to serve our neighbors.
- We heard yesterday in church about someone in our community who responded to "Spirit of the Wilderness" by expressing her deep gratitude for our holiday grocery card gift, related to our Good Samaritan Fund.
- On November 19th, we will host Ted Lewis, Restorative Justice specialist and trainer, (with the Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking in the School of Social Work at the University of MN.) He'll do a adult forum presenting an introduction to Restorative Justice, followed by a guided discussion: *Restorative Justice in Cook County: Next Steps for 2018*. (2-4, Cook County Higher Ed). This visit is a response to the community's desire to respond to racism and bullying here in Cook County.



Forums: 2016 - 2017

Forums — immediately following services we grab our coffee and treats and spend an hour learning.

Nov. 19th: Ted Lewis, Restorative Justice Specialist and Trainer, on “Restorative Justice.” See Mary Ellen’s *Reflection*.

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From Ritalee: It was a wonderful celebration and we are grateful to all. Arriving 30 minutes early we were able to see the many hands and work it takes to put on a service each week. If you have time to put in our thanks, we would appreciate it!

Photos by Karl H. and from Ritalee.

- Meanwhile, we have our brilliant stewardship co-chairs working on our annual campaign with vim and care.
- Further, the *North Shore Makers Collaborative* is moving forward on finding ways to connect under-employed folks with local retailers who want to sell crafts made in Cook County.
- And we’re starting to plan our annual community art show...
- Our worship committee and musicians are working toward advent...

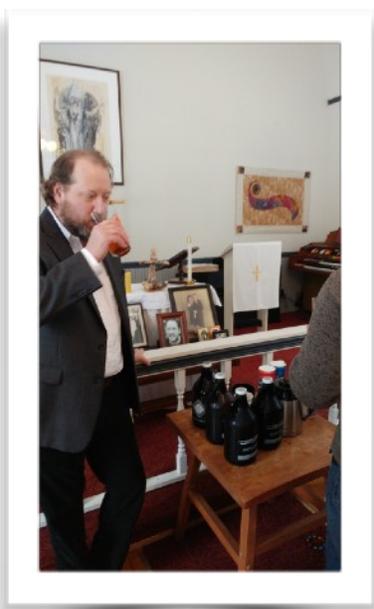
So, while it’s getting darker and chillier, *Spirit of the Wilderness*, you are shining bright out there.

Notes:

- 1.) For a few days at the end of November, a consulting group called ARTSPACE is visiting and working with various art groups to get input for a more comprehensive art plan. On Wednesday, Nov. 29th, there will be a public meeting at the courthouse, and you are encouraged to come. I’ve (MEA) volunteered us to bring treats! 7-8:30 in the Commissioners Room.
- 2.) Care Center is Nov. 26th.
- 3.) Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at Bethlehem Lutheran--more details to follow.
- 4.) Save the Date: **Enneagram Retreat** Friday and Saturday, Dec. 1 & 2. Location: Lutsen Resort. Led by Marcia Hyatt and Mary Ellen Ashcroft Early bird sign up: \$150.00. Space will be limited, so if you’d like to do the retreat sign up early with Mary Ellen.
- 5.) **Jay Hansen's** brain tumor has come back, and he is in hospice: Little Hospice 7019 Lynmar Ln, Edina, MN 55435. I’m sure he and Madge would appreciate cards.
- 6.) Next Tuesday, **November 14** is **Ruby’s Pantry!** Please let me know if you can help out. We’ll be in the school hallways again so will need as many volunteers as we can get. We had over 70 last month, and needed everyone. Setting up is a bit more involved, but went well, thanks to all of you who helped! We have a few tweaks, so distribution should go even better! Volunteers should park in the church parking lots, and enter through the main entrance of the school at 3:30.







And our Pilgrims, Rolf and Layne, have finished their epic journey. We are all waiting to hear so many tales.

