

## *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](mailto:dmc@chem.wayne.edu) or [pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu](mailto:pcoleman@chem.wayne.edu)

### This Sunday:

**Leading:** Beth  
**Preaching:** Ellen  
**Presiding:** Mary Ellen

### Readings this week:

**REIGN OF CHRIST - PROPER**  
**29, 26 November, 2017**

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 100 **OR** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 95:1-7a

**Psalm:** Above

**Epistle:** Ephesians 1:15-23

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-46

*(To link directly to the readings (click)*

<https://>

[lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=170)

[texts.php?id=170](https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=170)



### Reflections:

By Mary Ellen

Advent 2017—

Advent is a time for preparation— preparation for both the first and second coming of Christ. So often the pressures around Christmas treats and presents have overtaken a season meant to be deep and reflective.



*Inviting Mystery, Embracing  
 Compassion, Encountering Christ.*

At *Spirit of the Wilderness*, we have decided to focus on the ideal of ‘the beloved community’ during this advent season. This was the theme for the annual convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota; Karl and Lee have written and will write some reflections around this theme.

To bring all of us into this theme, we want to have people respond to some advent-ish questions about your place in this beloved community. Karen Kobey has made a tri-fold cardboard piece labeled ‘the beloved community.’ Week by week we will write or draw our responses to some questions on construction paper circles which will be put up on this board. (We invite you to bring your response, or we will have a few minutes at the beginning of the service to write your answer. If you are one of our distant members, feel free to send your response to me, and I’ll make sure it’s written on a circle and included.)

Here are the questions:

**Advent One: Dec. 3**

**How have you been ‘enriched’ by being part of this community here at SOTW?**

**Advent Two: Dec. 10 (John the Baptist)**

**How might we ‘prepare the way’ for others to become part of the community of SOTW?**

**Forums: 2016 - 2017**

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

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[www.spiritofthewilderness.org](http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org)

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**Advent Three: Dec. 17 (John the Baptist)**

How might we 'preach good news, open the eyes of the blind, feed the hungry' in our community of Cook County?

**Advent Four: Dec. 24 (Mary Sunday)**

What do we bring to help extend--bringing others into our community and caring for those on the outside--with a God 'for whom nothing is impossible?'

Looking forward to Advent!

*Mary Ellen*

**Schedule of Christmas Services:**

Sunday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve

10:30-11:15 Advent Four Morning Prayer

5:30-7:00 Candle Lighting Christmas Eve, Eucharist

Monday, Dec. 25th No service.

Sunday, Dec. 31st, New Year's Eve

10:30 Christmas I Eucharist.

**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. Would be great to have SOTW folks there, with our interests in the arts. Bring cookies if you can. 7 - 8:30 in the Commissioners Room.
- 2.) Care Center is Nov. 26th after Church. This is the Sunday after Thanksgiving.
- 3.) Wednesday evening Thanksgiving service--6:30-7:30 at Bethlehem Lutheran.
- 4.) Dave and Shawn Howe are planning an open house/house warming for Dec. 17th ... save the date.
- 6.) Congratulations on hard work for Empty Bowls--over 18,000 dollars raised!!

Photos by  
Ellen Stubbs



