

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: Milan
Preaching: Lee
Presiding: Carol Mork

Readings this week:

First Sunday of Advent, 3 December, 2017

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalms: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

To link directly to the readings (click)
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/texts.php?id=48>



Advent One: Dec. 3

How have you been 'enriched' by being part of this community here at SOTW?

Reflections:

By Lee & Karl

Convention - #3



Inviting Mystery, Embracing Compassion, Encountering Christ.

As the new church year begins, Advent is upon us this Sunday, the ECMN (Episcopal Church in Minnesota) has chosen a theme of Engaging God's Mission of the Beloved Community. Karl and I (Lee) began this discussion in the September newsletter and continued it in the October newsletter. Each year the church chooses an area to focus on. Two years ago, it was hunger. Last year it was storytelling as one way to connect with the wider community in which we live.

This year we focus on how we live differently together always working toward the Beloved Community, God's kingdom on earth whatever that means to you. We learn to speak differently together to be able to live differently together.

Martin Luther King expressed his view of the Beloved Community this way, "... in the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood..." (*The King Center "The King Philosophy"*)

How to begin? The four discussion points are:

Tell the truth - Who are we (who are you?) Hard work, much harder that it sounds.

Proclaim the Dream - What does the Beloved community look like where I am right now? I believe the Beloved Community is _____. Fill in your ideas. What fosters social justice? What are your hopes and dreams?

Forums: 2016 - 2017

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

Sunday, Dec. 3rd: Forum on Mark's Gospel.

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I am building the Beloved Community by_____. Again, fill it in however you see yourself in God's Kingdom. It's showing up, exposing yourself to learn and listen --- don't assume. Listen to another speak their truth, their story with no fixing, no suggestions, no answers, no directions. "to Listen another soul into life ...maybe among the greatest gifts we can offer to another." Douglas Steere

Practice the way of love - How can I grow as a reconciler, healer, and justice bearer? How can I prepare to look for relationships across dividing walls? We looked at the idea that there are four blocking surfaces (walls!) between you and me... not just one or two. I have my wall to protect myself from within and to keep you out - there are two sides to a wall. You have your wall to keep yourself safe and your wall to keep me a safe distance. There are two surfaces to a wall and the wall can be as thick as we make them.

Repair the breach - How can I repair? Restoration healing of people and institutions and systems with respect? It's somewhat like walking a labyrinth -- It doesn't ever stop you can pause but it's there to walk again. There will always be breaches while we are waiting. However, waiting doesn't mean doing nothing.

There will always be another divide somewhere. We don't just fix and be done. When we learn a process to work with "other" we have a way of operating in a world that is filled with "other" Remember the walls? Everyone has them. My wall is keeping me safe. Your wall keeps you safe.

This year (and always!!!) Be open to growth as a Beloved Community.

Notes:

1.) **Reminder:** please either mail in your pledge this week, or to bring it to church this coming Sunday. We want to have a thankful offering of our pledges during the service.

2.) **Dave and Shawn Howe** are planning an open house/ house blessing on Dec. 17th. It will start right after Church; but arrive as you are able up to 5:00 PM. Shawn will have a main dish prepared. Salads/sides/deserts are welcome. Bring your ice-skates, too.

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.





Photos by
Ellen Stubbs

