



**Proclaiming God's Grace,
Creating Community,
Serving our Neighbors**

Pastor

Rev. Dani Forbess

Organist

Eric Johnson

Christian Ed Lead

Ally Pexa

Choir Director

Miriam Anderson

Board of Elders

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Lars Carlson

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Dana Hammer

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Jan Olson

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Katherine Voyles

Ann Wightman—Clerk of
Session

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Trisha Wirta

Board of Deacons

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Nancy Ingle

Jennifer Jensen

Julia Miller

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Sheila Striegl

Dawn Thornhill

David Voyles

Northminster News

Volume LVIII, No. 12

December 2017

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Northminster Family,

Advent marks the beginning of everything. For the church, it is where our roots are. We return to the central message of our faith, that in the beginning was the Word - the Word was with God, and the Word was God, and the Word became flesh and lived among us. We cannot have Easter without Advent. We cannot have resurrection without incarnation. The Christian faith is an enfleshed faith. The wonder of Advent is that we worship an enfleshed God. This is our center.

This is good news because it means that we find God in the mess. The enfleshed one was not above human life, not peripheral to human life, but in it. In all the mess. I appreciate this fundamental of our faith because we often run the risk of concluding that Christians should have it all together. We expect the church to be better than it is. We expect our fellow congregants to behave differently than they do. We expect our pastor to see something that she doesn't.

Despite our best intentions, we run the risk of thinking that God exists in our perfections rather than our blemishes. The incarnation is there to prune this sort of thinking at every turn. Not in our grand plans, it calls, but on an unplanned road to Bethlehem. Not surrounded with convenience, it whispers, but in the corner of an over-crowded city without adequate housing. Not heralded with religious understanding, it reminds us, but with the wonder of the shepherds and Magi on the outside. These are practices not just for our culture, but for our heart. Advent invites us to open our very lives to situations that we don't understand. It invites us to try to make sense of how God is working, even when the language is not familiar to us. And always, at every step, Advent invites us to worship.

This Advent is a welcome invitation for Northminster. We are in a season of change. Many of our oldest members are not able to join us in weekly worship. Our newer friends are finding their stride within our community. Along the way, we may hear from other voices we don't even know yet. Change has the potential to make us fearful. We wonder what we will lose

News Editor

Stacy Kern

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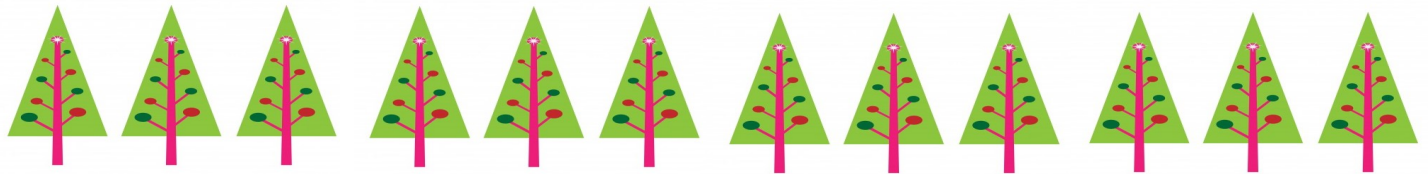
206-783-3402

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“look for us on facebook!”

in the process. It can be uncomfortable, and sometimes even disheartening. But change can also provide an opportunity for growth. By growth, I mean expanse. Internal growth makes us bigger people on the inside. It stretches us to open so that we can see more of God in places that we least expect. Every single one of us can grow, no matter what age. In this sense, we can offer change a warm, perhaps messy, welcome.

Advent is a messy welcome. It offer us a chance to lean into both of these ideas: messy and welcome. Embrace the awkward hand shake. Breathe in the moment as you find yourself stuck behind someone in line. Smile, even when its not necessary. Say no to the things that are not giving you life. Say yes to the places that feel risky. We are all worried about the future. We are all scared it won't go the way we want. So was Mary. So was Joseph. Somehow, God was fully present, full of wonder, offering God's full self in the messy welcome manger.

Welcome to Northminster Miriam!!

We are so grateful to have Miriam Anderson join us as Interim Choir Director this December. The Interim position will run through May, with an opportunity to pursue the permanent position. Miriam recently graduated from the University of Washington with a Master of Music in Choral Conducting. She previously received her BA in Music and Peace and Conflict Studies from University of California at Berkeley. She has led various choirs both in California and in the Pacific Northwest, most recently co-directing the Piccolini Choir of the Seattle Girls' Chorus. Miriam is also a percussionist, and played principal timpani in the UC Berkeley Symphony Orchestra. Miriam is also a composer (we hope to see some of her personal work!). She enjoys baking, yoga, and is working on developing her own dog walking business called 'Wag!'.

Welcome to Northminster, Miriam! As a community that loves music, we are so glad to have you with us!



Children and Youth Happenings

Christmas Pageant

Join us on December 3rd during Sunday morning worship for our annual Christmas Pageant. Call time for children and youth is 9:15

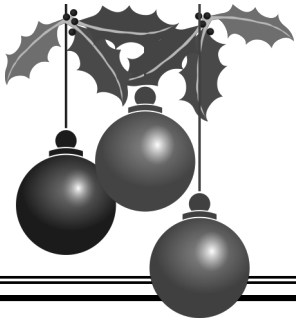
Gingerbread houses

Tis the season for gingerbread houses. Children and youth are invited to stick around after our community night meal on the 6th and the 13th to bake and assemble ginger bread houses!

12/6- baking night

12/13- assembly night

Ally Pexa



Alternative Christmas Fair

Northminster's annual Alternative Christmas Fair will be on December 10th and 17th in the library after worship. The ACF gives service organizations and non-profits an opportunity to offer unique gifts and information about their mission during the holiday season.



2017 Christmas Schedule

Advent begins Sunday 12/3

Christmas Eve services:

No morning service

5:30 pm—Family oriented service

9:00 pm—Service of Carols and Readings

Cookies after each service!

No Christmas Day service

New Years Eve back to regular schedule at 10:30 am

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Christmas	Mark 13:24-37	Luke 1:46-55	Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:22-40
Pageant	Isaiah 64:1-9	Isaiah 61:1-4, 6-11	Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 61:10-62:3

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a village church in the city

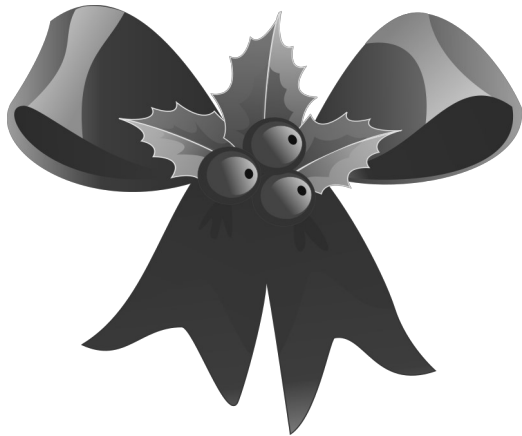
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The Northwest Chorale, directed by Lynn Hall, will perform Handel's *Messiah* in concert this holiday season on Saturday, December 2nd at 6:30pm at Epiphany Parish of Seattle, [1805 38th Ave Seattle](#), and again on Saturday, December 9th at 6:30pm at Edmonds United Methodist Church, [828 Caspers St. Edmonds](#). Admission is complimentary, and a free will offering will be taken to benefit local area food banks. It will feature an orchestra and professional soloists, and will be a full performance of the entire work.

This tremendously popular oratorio has become an essential holiday tradition. *Messiah* encompasses the whole of human experience – hope and fulfillment, suffering and death, resurrection and redemption. Handel composed the oratorio in just twenty-one days, and gave annual performances of *Messiah* to benefit his favorite charity, the Foundling Hospital. It is never hard to find people around us struggling with economic hardship, whether from ill health, long term unemployment or simply the high cost of living here in Seattle. We offer our performance of this moving work as Handel did – to feed those in need.

Please join us this holiday season for a performance of this beloved masterpiece. For additional information, please visit our website www.nwchorale.org or call [206.696.1222](tel:206.696.1222).

