

# Messenger



2017 Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 17 at 10:00 am

6822 Grand Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55807

The Reverend  
Cindy M. Rasmussen

Sunday Worship — 10:00 am

Office Hours  
Mon-Thurs 9:00 am—2:00 pm

## *The Miracle of a Christmas Snowflake*

Christmas comes just four days after the winter season officially begins. Since snow most often falls during this time of year in the Northern Hemisphere, snowflakes have naturally come to be associated with Christmas in America.

This year for our annual Christmas Program we have chosen the theme “The Miracle of a Christmas Snowflake.”

Come join us on Sunday, December 17, at 10:00 am. A potluck get together will be in the Fellowship Hall after the program. **Everyone is welcome!** A sign-up sheet will be on the table in the Narthex.

On Saturday, December 16, there will be a Christmas program dress rehearsal from 10 to noon. Pizza will be served.

### **The Season of Advent and Christmas at Asbury**

**First Sunday of Advent** — December 3 — “Welcoming Advent”  
Worship with Communion. New Member Sunday.

**Second Sunday of Advent** – December 10  
Worship and Birthday Sunday.

**Third Sunday of Advent** – December 17  
“The Miracle of a Christmas Snowflake” Children’s Program  
Praise Team. Potluck follows in Fellowship Hall.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent** – December 24 — Christmas Eve  
10:00 am Worship and the Christmas Story.  
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

**Christmas Eve Services: 10:00 am & 4:00 pm**

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# Cindy's Corner

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There is an ancient story about a conversation between a sparrow and a dove. “What is the weight of a snowflake?” asked the sparrow? “Nothing more than nothing,” said the dove.



“I was sitting on my favorite branch the other day,” said the sparrow. “It was snowing and because I had nothing better to do, I counted the snowflakes that fell on my branch.

There were 21,487. Then, one more snowflake fell on the branch, which you say, weighed nothing more than nothing, and the branch broke.”

With that the sparrow flew off and left the dove thinking. The dove, who had been an authority on peace since Noah’s time, thought long and hard on the sparrow’s words. “Perhaps,” said the dove, “there is only one person’s voice lacking for peace to come into the world.”

Sometimes I don’t think we realize the significance each person can and does have on the world, and what happens in it. We might think we are too old, or too young, or we don’t have enough experience. We

might think our soft voice, or our small contribution is not important. But like the snowflake, our voice may be the one someone listens to, or our action the one that will make a difference in even one person’s life. And because of that one small gift, part of the world will be changed forever!

As we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth and God’s great gift to us in Jesus, may our voices and our actions share the love, justice, hope and peace that Jesus brings.

And . . . speaking of snowflakes, I hope you will all join us on December 17 at 10:00 am as our children and youth share the miracle and gifts of Christmas snowflakes!

*Blessings in this  
sacred, holy season!*

*Cindy*

## **A Service of Hope and Healing ... from darkness to light**

Advent and Christmas happen during our season of least light. For many, it can be a difficult time with conflicting emotions of joy and sorrow, loneliness and connection, sadness and hope. It is good to remember that it was into such a world as this God’s love took on flesh in Jesus. What we hang on to and what we let go of, helps us prepare and celebrate the return of the Light to our lives and to the world. **Please join us on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:30 pm for this very special service of hope and healing.**



**Pastoral Care:** Because of the privacy act, hospitals no longer telephone churches to let us know that one of our members have been admitted. Please notify the church office (218-624-0061) if you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care for illness, hospitalization or surgeries. In the case of an emergency and there is no answer at the church, call Pastor Cindy at 218-464-0304.

# Asbury News



## DECEMBER

The Asbury UMC Finance Committee's responsibility is to manage and direct the financial affairs of the church and provide leadership for the Fall Financial Stewardship Drive. The committee meets quarterly to review the budget, both income and expenses, and more often in the fall during our stewardship drive.



The Finance Committee is happy to share information from our recent Stewardship Drive. We have received pledges from 62 giving units for a total of \$126,656. This compares with 67 pledges from last year for a total of

\$132,438. As the numbers show, we are slightly under last year's totals. A huge thank you to everyone for making the campaign a success this year. A gentle reminder to those of you who intend to pledge but haven't yet turned in your card, please do so as soon as possible as the Finance Committee will be working to finalize the 2018 budget soon. Other good news — we anticipate being able to pay 100% of our Apportionments this year.

Asbury UMC is a vital, spirit-filled community of faith. *Together we make a difference!* Thank you for your support!  
— The Finance Team

## THANK YOU

Dear Asbury Family:

Thank you to everyone for the thoughts and prayers, the cards, and the wonderful meals that were delivered while I was recovering from my knee surgery. I am so blessed to be a part of this caring church family.  
— Pat Anscob

## Gardening Team Thanks

Thank you so much to our dedicated group of volunteers who diligently met and participated in a wide variety of tasks to maintain our church grounds. Everything from weeding, watering, trimming, straightening landscape blocks, mowing, cleaning the garage and other repair projects as needed. Our gardening season seemed to end abruptly this year due to a multitude of rain followed by early, below-normal temperatures. Many plants, which were doing so well, didn't get cut down in preparation for winter because of it. I truly thought it was a temporary set-back but it seems to be a permanent one. Our work will be cut out for us this coming spring!

Many thanks to Dale Thorpe, Jeanne Rychlak, Dick Wolden, Mick Levinski, Jerry Smith, Tom Houle, Shelly Vanneste and daughters Lily Ann and Emma Jo for their much-needed help. It is truly appreciated!  
— Judy Pearson, Facilitator

## Attention All Choir Members

Starting in January there will be a change of the Sunday performance day for each choir.

### The new Choir Schedule is as follows:

- 1st Sunday Communion and NO choir
- 2nd Sunday Adult Choir
- 3rd Sunday Praise Team
- 4th Sunday Youth or Sunday School
- 5th Sunday To be determined

### Rehearsal times:

- Youth Choir 6:00 pm each Wednesday
- Adult Choir 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month and at 9:15 am on each 2nd Sunday.



### Outreach/

#### Communion Offering . . .

November's offering of \$112.10 went to the Bethany Crisis Nursery. December's offering will go to Asbury's Discretionary Fund.

#### Attendance . . .

November 5	110
November 12	84
November 19	101
November 26	98

#### Scripture Readers . . .

December 3	Barbara Little
December 10	Dave Stromgren
December 17	Carrie Sutherland
December 24	Jan Akervik
December 31	Ruth Thorpe



- 2 Karen Holm
- 6 Dawn Jones
- 7 Carol Smith
- 9 Sandy Winklesky
- 10 Denise Hinnenkamp
- 13 Carol Peters
- 15 Alayna McGraw
- 16 Ruth Thorpe
- 18 Dale Thorpe  
Bill Guldner
- 19 Andrew Kirkman  
Rod Ridgewell  
Max Thibault
- 23 Judith Skorich  
Shelly Vanneste  
William Winklesky
- 27 Aidan Thibault
- 29 John Strunk  
Max Tollefson
- 30 Blaine Green  
Bryson Green

*Not listed?  
Please contact the church office at 624-0061.*

# Calendar

## December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>3</b> <b>1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>NEW MEMBER SUNDAY</b> 9:15 am, Adult Choir 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion/Sunday School 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm BS Pack 3116, FH  6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH  9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  5:15 pm Outreach, WR	<b>6</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UMW Board Meeting, WR <b>10:30 am</b> <b>Adult Study,</b> <b>Norton Park UMC</b> 6:00 pm, Education, GR 6:00 pm, Youth Choir 6:30 pm, Adult Choir	<b>7</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  <b>10:00 to 11:00 am,</b> <b>2nd Harvest Food Dist</b>	<b>1/8</b>  Office Closed	<b>2/9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 10:00 am, Worship//Birthday/ Sunday School/Children's Program Rehearsal 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	<b>11</b> 6:00 pm BS Pack 3116, FH  6:30 pm Praise Team	<b>12</b> 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 10:00 am, P. Cindy @ North Shore Estates 2:00 pm, Knitting Klub, WR	<b>13</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH  6:00 pm, Youth Choir  DUMPSTER PU	<b>14</b> 9:00 am, P. Cindy @ West Duluth Clergy  9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  6:00 pm, Faith Circle @ Ruth Thorpe's	<b>15</b>  Office Closed	<b>16</b>  <b>10:00 am to NOON</b> <b>Children's Program</b> <b>Dress Rehearsal</b>  <b>Pizza for lunch</b>
<b>17</b> <b>3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>CHILDREN'S PROGRAM</b> 10:00 am, Worship/Praise/ 11:00 am <b>POTLUCK LUNCH, FH</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30 am Green Door Book Club @ Valentini's 6:00 pm BS Pack 3116, FH  <b>MESSENGER</b> <b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>19</b> 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 1:00 pm Love/Hope Circle @ Outback Restaurant	<b>20</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH  8:30 am Pastor Cindy @ CHUM 6:00 pm, Youth Choir <b>6:30 pm, Service of</b> <b>Hope and Healing</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR	<b>22</b>  Office Closed	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 10:00 am, Worship 3:15 pm, Adult Choir 4:00 pm, Worship  	<b>25</b>  Office Closed	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Kiwanis, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  2:00 pm, Knitting Klub, WR	<b>27</b> 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH  6:00 pm, Youth Choir  DUMPSTER PU	<b>28</b> 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR  <b>MESSENGER</b> <b>EMAILS/MAILS</b>	<b>29</b>  Office Closed	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>WATCH NIGHT</b> 10:00 am, Worship 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH	Youth choir meets each Wednesday at 6:00 pm Adult choir meets the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm and again on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 9:15 am Praise Team practice is every Monday at 6:30 pm. <b>YOGA classes are held Wednesdays at 5:30 pm in Asbury's Fellowship hall. Contact Cheryl Zupec, 218.343.4478 or <a href="mailto:czupec@hotmail.com">czupec@hotmail.com</a> for more information.</b>					

# Asbury News

## AUMC Administrative Council Meeting Highlights — November 14, 2017 — 7:00 pm

### Opening

Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi, Administrative Council facilitator, called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.

### Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the October 17, 2017, Administrative Council were reviewed. Terry Olson made a correction stating that only the flat part of the church roof will be replaced this coming April. Steve Kokotovich made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**Lay Leader's Report** – Steve Kokotovich - no report

### Treasurer's Report – Pat Anscomb

The October monthly summary was given. Balance on Hand, 10/31/17 is \$13,073.95.

For the October Treasurer's Report, our Apportionment payments total \$13,580.91.

Pat also reported that in November we have made three additional Apportionment payments, leaving us with two more payments left for this year.

### Staff Parish Relations Committee – Cathy Sampson

The annual staff reviews are complete. The committee is continuing to discuss staff positions and undertaking a thorough review process. On October 23, the committee had a very good meeting with Susan Neinaber, our district superintendent.

### Trustee's Report – Terry Olson

There have been temporary repairs to the roof to assure no water leaks this winter.

Tomorrow there will be some adjustments made to the security system. Also tomorrow, some valves will be replaced on the church boilers. Security at the church was discussed.

We also discussed that we need reflectors marking our parking lot entrances. Recommended that for safety reasons it might be best when coming to church in the evenings to turn on 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue and come in the back entrance to the church.

### United Methodist Women – Jan Akervik

\$3,635.40 was made this year on our meatball dinner.

The church kitchen has been professionally cleaned.

The UMW will be selling left over bazaar items after church next Sunday.

The next date for making pasties is January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Outreach and Missions Team – Steve Kokotovich

Serving meals at the Damiano Center began again this November.

Our church is participating in the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Drive.

Deadline for bringing in toys is Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our church will host the CHUM Fall Assembly this Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Coffee at 6:30 pm, program at 7:00 pm.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

10/31/17

### GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Cash Balance, 9/30/17	\$ 10,190.10
Deposits	\$ 15,590.17
Checks Written	<\$ 25,780.27>
Balance on Hand, 10/31/17	\$ 13,073.95
Unpaid Bills through 10/31/17 (includes apportionments)	<\$ 6,728.83>
Net Ending Balance at 10/31/17	\$ <u>6,345.12</u>

### Education Team – Cheryl Parendo and Sandy Winklesky

The Fall Fest after the church service went very well. Will continue the Sunday schedule for next year.

The children have recently heard from Kat and Cheryl will have Shirley print the letter in the Newsletter.

The Christmas program will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup>, with a potluck after the program. Rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting will be on December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm

### Worship Team – Ruth Thorpe

The committee met October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Thanksgiving Community Worship - Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, at Our Saviors Lutheran Church at 7:00 pm. Community choir will rehearse at 6:00 pm.

Hanging of the Greens – November 26<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent – December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sunday School Program – December 17<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve services – December 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am, 4:00 pm

The adult choir will be singing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month beginning in January. Choir practice will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays of each month.

The children's choir will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

The next meeting is January 10, 2018, at 6:30 PM.

### Nurture/Congregational Care Team – Sandy Winklesky

No Visitation Committee or Scholarship Committee report.

Patty Bennett reported that New Member Sunday will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Six people will be joining the church.

### Pastor's Report – Cindy Rasmussen

Pastor Cindy brought up that we need to decide how to use our Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings. It was decided that we give \$500 to CHUM, \$200 to Twin Ports United Methodist Ministry and the remaining of what we receive will go to UMCOR for hurricane relief. Jan Akervik made a motion to accept this offering plan. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved

### Old Business and New Business - none

### Closing

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, with the Charge Conference beginning at 7:00 p.m. and the regular Ad.

Council meeting to follow. Sandy Winklesky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Bennett, Recording Secretary



# Asbury News



## MEN'S RETREAT

### Men's Ministry Retreat — February 9-10

Enjoy time in the great outdoors at Camp Amnicon in South Range, WI (just a 45-minute drive out of the Duluth/Superior area). All men associated with, or friends of, the United Methodist Churches of the Twin Ports are invited. Times are 7:00 pm on Friday, February 9, and 3:30 pm on Saturday, February 10. The topic is "The Life You've Always Wanted" by John Ortberg. Cost is \$35. Great food, fellowship, faith learning and fun await your participation so mark the date on your calendar. This event is sponsored by Twin Ports United Methodist Ministries (TPUMMs).

Please contact Pastor Cindy, if you are interested in attending.

### Lay Readers For First Half of 2018

We are updating our list of people who are willing to read Scripture during Worship. If you would like your name to be added to, or remain on the Lay Reader list please call 624-0061 or [asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com](mailto:asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com) by December 11.

## Toy Collection

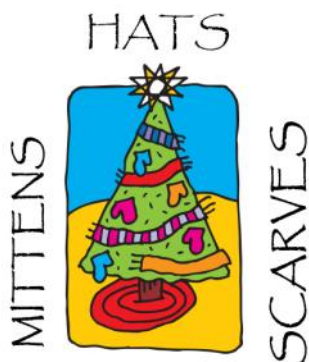


### Toy Drive — December 17 Deadline

The Salvation Army Toy Drive is underway. New, unwrapped gifts for infants/toddlers/children/teenagers may be placed under the Christmas tree at the front of the sanctuary **through December 17**. As in year's past, please no toys suggesting violence such as guns or war toys. — Outreach Committee

### Children's Hats, Mittens & Scarves

The Mitten/Hat Tree is once again in the Narthex. Please consider donating purchased or handmade hats, mittens and/or scarves for our area school children. Our thanks to all who participate in this much needed ministry.



The children thoroughly enjoyed Fall Fest held on Sunday, October 22.



### All Saint's Day Service of Remembrance

On Sunday, November 5, we gave loving tribute to the members and friends of Asbury United Methodist Church who have died this past year. In Christ's love and with deep gratitude for the lives of our loved ones, we lit a candle in remembrance of:

*Georgia Elaine Kokotovich  
Lena Pat Johnson  
Myrtle Magnolia Carlson  
Debra (Simich) Krampf  
Mary Anne Behn*

### PLEASE NOTE Praise Team Practice

The Praise Team will not meet for practice on December 18 or December 25.



## Asbury Kitchen Cleaned

Our kitchen was professionally cleaned on Friday, November 3. Please help keep it clean! Take home used towels to wash them and return. Wipe up counters and stove when used. Put items back in place after use. Every person using the kitchen can help to keep it clean. Thanks!

**January 27**  
**Spring Pasty Sale**  
**February 4**  
**"Soup"er Bowl Sunday**  
**April 10**  
**Meatball Dinner**

## UMW Meetings

- UMW board members will meet in the Wesley Room at 9:30 am on Wednesday, December 6.
- Love/Hope Circle is lunching Tuesday, December 19, at 1:00 pm at the Outback. If you need a ride or wish to carpool, call Phyllis at 624-5042.
- Faith Circle will meet for a Christmas potluck supper on Thursday, December 14, at 6:00 pm in the Community Room at Ruth Thorpe's home at 1902 St. Louis Ave., Duluth. Further directions will be sent to members before the celebration.
- Knitting Klub members meet at 2:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month in the Wesley Room. Come join us!
- Green Door Book Club members meet at 9:30 am on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Wesley Room. The Club will hold its December 18 meeting at Valentini's at 9:30 am. Ruth Thorpe will be acting as hostess and making the reservations.

## Asbury News

### A Letter From "Kat"

To my dear sponsors Friends with lots of joy I write you hoping that you are fine and that you are blessed from the Lord. On this occasion I want to tell you about my hope for the future. In the future I want to learn about computation. I hope to travel to Brazil and I hope to learn to play the keyboard, the guitar and worship the Lord with these instruments also I hope one day to be like Samson because he was strong and brave. Which country would you like to travel at? I am attending to the English workshop in the project and I am learning the months of the year in English and the numbers and the alphabet, how to say hi. In the school we are celebrating the independence month and today I will dress with a traditional dressing doing a dance from the culture of my country. I ask you to please always



Drawing by Katerin

keeps me in your prayers and God helps me to achieve everything I hope for my future. I say goodbye with lots of hugs. Katerin Paola. *Translated by Ana Lopez. Presented here verbatim.*



Three children received their bibles on October 15. From L to R: Fletcher Wrazidlo, Logan Peterson and Nathan Nylund.



Knitting Klub members (L to R) Phyllis Wolden, Shirley Brandt and Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi worked together on a 6-foot long mat crocheted from plastic grocery bags for donation to a homeless shelter.

Asbury United Methodist  
PO Box 7135  
Duluth MN 55807

Return service requested

## Meet Our Staff



Pastor:.....Cindy M. Rasmussen  
Administrative Asst.: .....Shirley Brandt  
Choir Director: .....Ruby Slennes  
Organist .....Phyllis Kruell  
Praise Team Leader .....  
Custodian: .....Dan Mokros  
Ad. Council Chair: .Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi  
Treasurer: .....Pat Anscorn  
Lay Leader: ..... Steve Kokotovich  
Trustees: ..... Terry Olson  
UMW President.....Jan Akervik  
SPRC Chair .....Cathy Sampson  
Worship Chair ..... Ruth Thorpe  
Christian Education: ..... Cheryl Parendo  
Christian Education: .....Sandy Winklesky

This newsletter is e-mailed/mailed monthly by Asbury UMC, Duluth MN.

**EDITORS:** The Rev. Cindy M. Rasmussen; Shirley Brandt, Admin. Asst.

### CHURCH OFFICE:

218-624-0061 ~ asburyumcduluth@hotmail.com ~ www.asburyduluth.org

**NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE: December 18 for January 2018 Messenger.**

Please submit all articles of interest to Shirley in the church office by the deadline listed above.  
Items may be dropped off, e-mailed or mailed. Thank you.

## Worship With Us

Every Sunday at 10:00 am.

### NOTE:

1st Sunday of each month we share Holy Communion,  
2nd Sunday we recognize those celebrating birthdays.  
3rd Sunday our music is led by our Praise Team.  
***Every Sunday we give thanks and celebrate  
God's great gifts and presence in our lives.***



### Asbury's Mission Statement

*Asbury United Methodist is a caring, Christian community which welcomes all persons as God's children.  
We will strive to grow in spirit and seek God's vision of hope, love and peace in the community and world.*