

Asbury
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
A Place For All. No Exceptions.

6822 Grand Avenue
Duluth, MN 55807

**The Reverend
Katherine Cornell**

Sunday Worship — 10:00 am

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am—1:30 pm
Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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"The Star of Christmas"

On Sunday, December 15, the children and youth of Asbury UMC presented the Christmas Story "The Star of Christmas." There were UPS deliverers, Salvation Army bell ringers, a Christmas tree salesman, ballerinas and "Mom" all vying to be the "star" of Christmas. Right in the middle of deciding on who the "star" was, the question was posed, "Are



Our Sunday school choir sang "Little Star" and "Twinkle Twinkle"



Leo Lambert

you sure you have considered everyone? I think you missed one...the real Star of Christmas!



"Mom"

Our Christmas Story went on to reveal who the real star is and his story was shared with the congregation. As the story was shared (based on *The Manger Miracle* by Erin R. Floyd, adapted by Pastor Katherine and read by Leo Lambert), angels, shepherds, wisemen and, of course, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus presented themselves. When the story concluded, everyone was in agreement, that the "real" Star of Christmas is Jesus.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this program possible, especially the Sunday School teachers and helpers who faithfully spend time with the children and youth. And, a huge thank you to our children and youth for their work on this program. We could not do it without you!



UPS deliverers



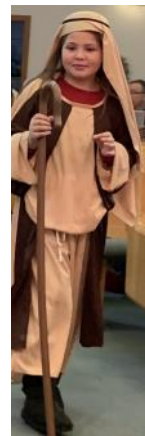
Tree salesman



Salvation Army bell ringers



Ballerinas





A Penny For Your Thoughts

2020 Vision

Happy New Year! A lot has been said about entering the year 2020 with 20/20 vision and having clear sight as our focus. So what does having clear vision for Asbury UMC mean for us this year?

I believe to take a good look at where we're going, we need to consider the basics of who we are. We are people who follow Jesus Christ and join God's work bringing the Kingdom to earth. We are tasked to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus sends us as disciples out into the world with the message of love, forgiveness and reconciliation. And, Jesus reminds us the way in which we follow Him is by caring for the least, the last, and the lost.

These are the Biblical imperatives guiding everything we do. The Minnesota Conference's vision statement "Grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world" is grounded in these Biblical principles.

Here at Asbury, our mission statement also leads us with this vision. "Asbury United Methodist is a caring, Christian community which welcomes all people 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."

It's always important, and also difficult, to keep the vision as we enter into work and appointments, cares and trials of everyday life. So to begin this year, we are going to build a playlist to keep us going and remind us our everyday work can be filled with God sightings and God moments. I'm calling it the New Year Jesus Play List. I've heard it said 'singing is like praying twice'. So let me invite you to be like the person we've all seen driving down the road, singing like no one's watching and there is no tomorrow. My husband, Brian and I have designed a playlist that



— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

might be a little unusual but I PROMISE does tie in to our scripture and behavior as Christian disciples.

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/12r64TdpbgaHHDvK65mLq>

I realize not all of us use technology in the same way so let me tell you a bit about the link above. Titled "New Year Jesus Playlist", you will find songs we will be using in worship in the coming months to flesh out our scriptures and sermons. Taking a cue from John and Charles Wesley, we gathered popular secular music to move the message of Christ into our ears, hearts and actions. I know, it's not from the hymnal, but none of the current hymnal songs were in the Catholic or Church of England's regular play list 200 years ago either.

In case you can't open the link, some of the songs are from Led Zeppelin, U2, Adele and Katy Perry, among others. We even slipped in some Cash, though the song isn't original to him. And, if these scriptures/sermons remind YOU of songs not in the canon of religious songs, please let me know. My hope is we are all invited into creative ways of taking secular voices and use them to remind us of eternal truths in the Good News.

As we enter the new year, may we be reminded of God's vision for us all and find reminders in our daily lives. Join us for worship as we sing and dance our way into the new year!

Blessings and Peace,
Katherine

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 case of emergency and there is no answer at the church, please contact Pastor Katherine at 828-263-2035 or email at kcornell@wnccumc.net.

Asbury News

Thank You!

Dear Asbury Outreach Volunteers:

A HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who have participated in Asbury's Outreach activities during 2019. We have had great response from congregation members for: Second Harvest NAP food distribution, the Damiano Center and several others. — Outreach Team

Dear Asbury Members and Friends:

Thank you to everyone who donated toys to the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Your generosity will make Christmas a bit happier for many children. — Dennie and Sharon Parendo

Dear Asbury United Methodist Church:

We are grateful for your gift to the Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota on behalf of the Bethany Crisis Nursery. With this gift, you join a growing movement of neighbors helping neighbors — caring individuals who open up their homes, share their time and talent and, like you, give generously so that all people can have opportunities to thrive. Your generosity makes a difference. — Christine Empanger, LSS NE MN Development Officer

Dear Pastor Katherine and Asbury UMC:

Thank you so much for hosting my first workshop, "Overwhelmed"! I appreciate the love, support and encouragement from those attending and look forward to the possibility of another workshop. — Debbie Merrick, InHarmony

2020 Lay Scripture Readers' Practice Sessions

Since we are having some technical difficulties with some of our congregants being able to hear our Lay Scripture Readers reading scripture, members of the Worship Team are offering practice sessions to all readers for 2020. The sessions will be held following Worship every Sunday at 11:15 am during the month of January (January 5, 12, 19 & 26). Please make every effort to attend at least ONE of these sessions. It will only take a few minutes to practice tips on how to use the microphone, project your voice and speaking slowly and clearly. We will meet at the front of the church following "Shalom." If you need to schedule a different practice time, please speak to a Worship Team member.

Thank you for all of your efforts and for participating as a Lay Scripture Reader. God has chosen you to share in this way. — Pastor Katherine, Ruth Thorpe, Debbie Merrick, Phyllis Kruell, Leo Lambert, Kim Herrig & Julie Brackett

2020 Offering Envelopes Now Available For Pick-Up

Offering envelopes for 2020 are in alphabetical order on the table the Narthex. If you don't see your name, or if you don't have an envelope number assignment but would like one, please let Shirley know.

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like your contributions to be reflected on your quarterly/annual giving statements, checks should be made out to Asbury UMC, instead of the individual charity, etc.

For tax purposes, all 2019 year-end giving must be in the church office no later than January 5, 2019. Thank you!



Outreach/ Communion Offering . . .

December's offering of \$120.00 went to the Asbury Discretionary Fund. January's offering will go to AEOA Heating/Energy Asst.

Attendance . . .

December 1	77
December 8	75
December 15	118
December 24 (4:00 pm)	135
December 24 (10:00 pm)	31
December 29	25

Scripture Readers . . .

Jan. 5	Leo Lambert
Jan. 12	Jan Akervik
Jan. 19	Sue Soder
Jan. 26/7	Ruth Thorpe

JANUARY Birthdays

- 9 Debbie Merrick
David Stromgren
- 17 Jim Gimpel
- 18 Ron Brosdal
Sue Soder
- 20 Mike Akervik
Phyllis Mullen
- 23 Audrey Johnson
Angie Thibault
- 26 Kaylee Randa
Cathy Strunk
- 27 Michael Cornell
Aidan Thibault
- 28 Kathy Downs
- 31 Alice Brenny

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

Asbury News

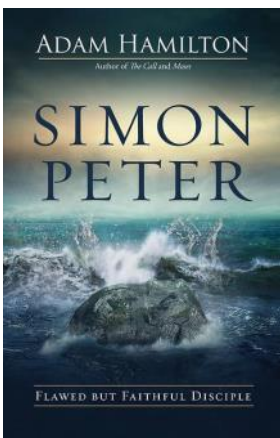


Thank You For Your Pledge Cards!

We have a total of \$114,515.00 pledged so far for our 2020 Operating Budget from 61 pledge units! Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the ministry, people and programs of Asbury United Methodist Church!

Six-Week Bible Study Starts January 9

A six-week study of *Simon Peter, Flawed But Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton will begin Thursday, January 9 from 11:00 am to noon in the Wesley Room and will continue on subsequent Thursdays for 6 weeks. (January 16, 23, 30, February 6 & 13.)



This class will be led by Pastor Katherine and Ruth Thorpe. A sign-up sheet will be available so books may be ordered. Cost is \$14.00. The cost may be covered by other resources if necessary.

Please join us even if you are not able to attend all of the classes. And, since some of you are coming during your lunch

break, you may bring a brown bag lunch if you wish. These studies are thoughtful, looking deeply into our own faith. We look forward to studying with you!

—Pastor Katherine and Ruth Thorpe

Scouting Sunday – February 2

The Boy Scouts of America is one of the nation's largest and most prominent values-based youth development organizations. The BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and develops personal fitness.



Boy Scout Troop 16 meets here at Asbury UMC. The youth of Troop 16, along with their leaders, will be helping with various parts of the worship on February 2 as part of Scouting Sunday. Please come and meet some of the boys.



2019 Christmas Poinsettias

In Memory of
Myron "Mike" Akervik

In Celebration of
My Family
Jan Akervik

In Memory of
Our Parents

In Celebration of
Our Grandchildren
Clark & Patty Bennett

In Memory of
Our son Mike
Bob & Carol Cherne

In Celebration of
Family & Friends
M. George & Barbara Downs

In Celebration of
Family & Friends
Greg & Sheila Fox

In Memory of
Charlie Gokey & Roy Stromgren
Karen Gokey

In Memory of
Eli Kokotovich
Steve & Barb Kokotovich
& Family

In Memory of
Our fathers
Don Lutz & Leo L. Lambert, Sr

In Honor of
Our Families
Cheryl Lambert
Marilyn Lutz
Donette Bushman
Pastor Katherine
Asbury Church Family

In Celebration of
Jesus

Thankful to Asbury for
prayers & support.
Leo L. Lambert, Jr & Family

In Celebration of
Family & Friends
Pat Nelson

In Memory of
Our Loved Ones
Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi
& Duane Palmi

In Memory of
Loved Ones

In Celebration of
Family
Joyce Park

In Memory of
Loved Ones
Tom & Kendra Sharkey

In Memory of
Fedro, Simmons & Soder
Families

In Honor of
Our Service Men & Women
Susan Soder

In Celebration of
Lois Stromgren will be a Great
Grandmother twice in 2020!
David Stromgren

In Memory of
Loved Ones

In Honor of
Family
Lois Stromgren

In Memory of
Loved Ones
In Honor of
Jesus' Birth
Dale & Ruth Thorpe

In Memory of
Grandparents
Roy Stromgren
Barbara Tollefson

In Celebration of
Lois Stromgren
Zak & Sofia
Max & Kayla
Scott & Lynn Tollefson

In Memory of
Our Parents & Grandparents

In Celebration of
Our Daughter Lisa Greene/
Stroke Survivor
Gary & Sandy Winklesky

Our Advent and Christmas bulletins were provided by Jan Akervik in memory of her husband, Mike.

Calendar

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Praise Team practice is on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Asbury Singers Rehearsal is on Sundays at 9:00 am. YOGA classes are held Wednesdays (unless there is an event conflict) at 5:30 pm in Asbury's Fellowship Hall. Contact Cheryl Zupiec, 218.343.4478 or czupiec@hotmail.com for more information and/or to confirm class meeting.			1  OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 10:00 to 11:00 am, 2nd Harvest Food Dist	3 Ron Stevens Funeral Visitation @ 10:00 am w/ funeral at 11:00 am. Luncheon follows. Dumpster Pick Up	4
5 EPIPHANY SUNDAY 9:00 am, AS Rehearsal 10:00 am, Worship/ Communion/Sunday school 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 11:15 am Lay Reader Practice	6	7 9:00 am, SVFC, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 5:30 pm Finance, WR	8 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 9:30 am UMW Board, WR 6:30 pm Praise Team	9 9:00 am, Pastor Katherine @ West Duluth Clergy 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 11:00 am Simon Peter, WR	10	11
12 UMW SUNDAY BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9:00 am, AS Rehearsal 10:00 am, Worship/B'day/CC 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 11:15 am Lay Reader Practice 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	13 6:00 pm, CS Pack 16, FH	14 9:00 am, SVFC, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR 7:00 pm Ad Council, WR	15 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 8:30 am, Pastor Katherine @ CHUM Clergy 6:30 pm Praise Team	16 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 11:00 am Simon Peter, WR 1:00 pm Faith Circle, WR	17	18 8:30 am-1:30 pm Damiano Volunteers
19 10:00 am, Worship/Praise/ Sunday school Leo Lambert preaching 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 11:15 am Lay Reader Practice 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	20 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day 6:00 pm, CS Pack 16, FH	21 9:00 am, SVFC, FH 9:30 am, BB, WR 1:00 pm Love/Hope Circle, WR	22 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team MESSENGER DEADLINE	23 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 11:00 am Simon Peter, WR	24 PASTY SALE	25 9:00-10:30 am Free Community Breakfast, Our Savior's Lutheran
Pastor Katherine on vacation 1/19 to 1/22			PASTY WEEK			
26 9:00 am, AS Rehearsal 10:00 am, Worship/SS 11:00 am Coffee & Fellowship, FH 11:15 am Lay Reader Practice 6:00 pm, BS Troop 16, FH	27 6:00 pm, CS Pack 16, FH	28 9:00 am, SVFC, FH 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 2:00 pm Knitting Klub, WR	29 8:30 am Men's Coffee, FH 6:30 pm Praise Team	30 9:30 am Bone Builders, WR 11:00 am Simon Peter, WR MESENGER EMAILS/MAILS	31	Dumpster Pick Up

Asbury News

Outreach Opportunity — January 18

Asbury volunteers will be helping prepare, serve and clean up a Saturday meal at the **Damiano Soup Kitchen on Saturday, January 18 from 8:30 am until 1:30 pm.** There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the Narthex. Five to six volunteers are needed. Volunteers need to be able to stand for long periods of time, work the entire 5-hour shift and be at least 16 years old and have a heart for serving others.



Opportunities to volunteer also will be available on February 22 and March 21. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.

The Soup Kitchen was the Damiano Center's founding program, beginning in March 1982 and is currently the largest on-site meal program in North-eastern Minnesota. Eight hot meals are served each week, plus a continental breakfast five days a week.



Christmas Eve Memorial Vigil

CHUM clergy and member congregations hosted a candlelight vigil on Tuesday, December 24 to remember and honor 37 men and women and one child who died in 2019. They had experienced homelessness and were part of CHUM's community at the Emergency Shelter, CHUM Center, Steve O'Neil Apartments or Street Outreach. Those in attendance also honored the passing of seven advocates for the homeless. The vigil took place at noon on the steps of the Duluth City Hall. Deb Holman, CHUM Street Outreach Worker, and Tiffany Gunderson from Life House, read the names of each individual and lit a candle in their honor.

The average age at death of the adults being remembered was 42, well below the average age at death in the U.S. (78.7 years), an indication of the vast health disparities associated with extreme poverty and homelessness.

CHUM Center Open 24/7

Staying warm during the cold winter months is a harsh reality homeless people face every day. "We think that there are about 150 people at any one time who are living on the streets of Duluth," said Lee Stuart, CHUM's executive director.

In an effort to help, CHUM's drop-in center at First Avenue West will now be open 24/7. Companion animals will also be accepted at the center. CHUM

TREASURER'S REPORT: 11/30/19

GENERAL FUND:

Beginning Cash Balance, 10/31/19	\$ 7,820.52
Deposits	\$ 17,646.55
Total to Account for	\$ 25,467.07
Checks Written	<\$ 19,617.68>
Balance on Hand, 11/30/19	\$ 5,849.39

Unpaid Bills through 11/30/19 (includes apportionments)	< \$ 6,960.00>
Net Ending Balance at 11/30/19	< \$ 1,110.61 >

received help from the state with \$200,000 for additional overnight staff to operate their 24-hour warming center and additional outreach staff to support people experiencing chronic homelessness on the street and in the shelter.

The drop-in shelter is especially in need of as many sleeping bags and blankets as possible. Hats, gloves, socks and tents also are welcome. Donations can be dropped off at CHUM, the Damiano Center or Loaves and Fishes. All three non-profits work together in services for the homeless population.

For more information on CHUM or to donate please visit: <https://www.chumduluth.org/>



Welcoming New Participants

The Victory Chorus, an inclusive choir for persons living with memory loss and their care partners, is welcoming new participants for 2020.

The Chorus is a joy-filled, supportive and inclusive community choir where persons living with memory loss sing together with their care partners and volunteers from the community. No audition, no pressure -- just a great time!

We welcome anyone living with Alzheimer's or other dementias who want to make great music, create positive memories with their care partners and make new friends!

The Chorus rehearses weekly from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth, 835 W. College St. Session 1 begins on Sunday, January 12. We conclude on March 15 with a performance.

For more information, or to register for Session 1, please contact Beth Kaiser at vcjoybethk@gmail.com or 218-343-8145. We look forward to meeting you!

Advent Tea Thank You!

Asbury's 23rd Advent Tea was held Tuesday, December 10 and was a great success! Thank you to the Just Friends singers that provided the wonderful music for the evening's entertainment. A huge thank you to our organist, Phyllis Kruell, Pastor Katherine and all of our hostesses and the beautifully decorated tables they set -- we couldn't do this without you! A special thank you to Dick Warner and Terry Olson for their help. A free-will offering of \$786.00 went to the Valley Youth Center.

UMW Sunday — January 12

The UMW Awards will be presented on UMW Sunday, January 12. The Special Recognition Awards will be presented to Cathy Sampson, Pat Nelson and Phyllis Wolden. Thank You Awards will be presented to Deb and Tom Houle and Ted Plys. Gifts made in Memory are for Carol Lonetto, Queneth Youngren and Florence Brosdal.

Pasty Sale January 24-25

Cost: \$4.50 each Gravy: 65¢ each

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Many volunteer opportunities available!
A sign-up board will be in the Narthex soon.

Pre-order/sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Order deadline is January 19.

Pasty Pick Up Dates/Times:

Friday, January 24 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Saturday, January 25 from 10:00 to Noon

NOTE: Pasty orders not picked up by NOON on January 25 will be sold.

Work Schedule For Pasties

Thursday, January 23

8:00 am Mix crust.
9:30 am Men and women peel veggies.

Friday, January 24

6:00 am Preparation and baking of pasties.
10:00 am **2-3 people** needed for clean up.

Saturday, January 25

6:00 am Pasty baking
10:00 am **4-5 people** needed for clean up.

**COME AND WORK WHEN YOU CAN AND
STAY FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN!**

UMW Meetings

- UMW board members will meet in the Wesley Room on Wednesday, January 8.
- Love/Hope Circle will meet at 1:00 pm on January 21 at G. B. Schneider, 4602 Grand Avenue, for our belated Christmas lunch.
- Faith Circle will meet following the church service on Sunday, January 12. **Get yourself a cup of coffee and a treat and come up to the Wesley Room.** We will collect annual pledges for 2020 and discuss "Soup"er Bowl Sunday which is February 2.
- 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. Next meeting is January 20.

New Books Added to Reading Library

Thank you to Jan Akervik for generously donating three new books to the UMW Reading Library:

- Pushout, the Criminalization of Black Girls in School by Monique W. Morris.
- Practicing Resurrection, the Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship, by Janet Wolf.
- What About Our Money? A Faith Response by Susan K. Taylor.

You can find these three books and many other good reads in the UMW Reading Library, which is located in the Wesley Room.

"Soup"er Bowl Sunday — February 2

Save the date! The UMW Faith Circle will be serving its "Soup"er Bowl luncheon following services on Sunday, February 2. Mary DeMars' famous soups will be served along with freshly baked rolls. Ice cream and cookies for dessert and a beverage will be available. A free-will offering will be collected and held until matching fund month (March) for the Food Shelf.



Asbury United Methodist
PO Box 7135
Duluth MN 55807

Return service requested

Meet Our Staff



Pastor:..... Katherine Cornell
Administrative Asst.: Shirley Brandt
Music Coordinator/Organist: Phyllis Kruell
Children's Music:..... Ruby Slennes
Praise Team Leaders..... varies
Custodian: Dan Mokros
Ad Council Chair: .. Bonnie Schroeder-Palmi
Treasurer: Pat Anscob
Lay Leader: Steve Kokotovich
Trustees: Nancy Wagner
..... Tom Houle, Dale Thorpe
UMW President..... Jan Akervik
SPRC Chair Cathy Sampson
Worship Chair .. Ruth Thorpe/Debbie Merrick
Christian Education: Cheryl Parendo
Christian Education: Sandy Winklesky

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

EDITORS: The Rev. Katherine Cornell; Shirley Brandt, Admin. Asst.

CHURCH OFFICE:

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

NEXT MESSENGER DEADLINE: January 22 for February 2020 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.*