



# THE CLOAK

A publication of

## St. Martin's Episcopal Church

December 2018

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Dear St. Martin's Church Family,

Once again we are in Advent counting the weeks and days until Christmas. Looking and waiting for the Christ Child to be born. On December 18, I will have been your "settled rector" for a year. I certainly was not in any way settled last year at this time, as I was busily shopping not only for Christmas gifts, but furniture and all household items needed, creating a new home here in Lebanon. On a steep learning curve I was here with you last Christmas. I feel settled in a number of ways this year. The Rectory is comfortably furnished, and I am settled there. I have an Oregon driver's license and have become a registered voter once again. Making family connections has been great. With family in Seattle and Portland, I even met a number of cousins in the area I did not know, before I came here. I now know your names and faces, and you have shared your lives with me. I have grown to love and care for you.

Advent gives us time to remember those who we love and see no longer, and welcome a number of new members to our congregation. What I enjoy recalling most, is our time of worship together, the privilege and a joy I feel when I am able to serve as your priest here in this place. It is an honor to offer up the Eucharist each week.

The lessons and discussions we have had on Wednesday mornings are inspiring. Many have come through our doors for help, which we were able to give, and that is rewarding. Knowing a great team of people who give of themselves on a daily basis for the church and the community is uplifting. We have a very musical church family, and I look forward to seeing and hearing them in the community chorus again this year as well as in our church services here at St. Martin's.

This season for us as Episcopalians is a full one. Each week we celebrate those from our Biblical history, and prepare the way of the Lord in our worship services, our church, our lives, in our homes, and in the community. It is a full and rich heritage of colors, ritual, celebration and worship all to the Glory of God for sending us his Son, born as a vulnerable baby. As we go through the Church Liturgical year we begin at this place each time recalling this magnificent event. The Birth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Looking all around us we see lights and trees, and those preparing to celebrate Jesus birth with those that they love. It is a time of great busyness.

Advent also gives us a gift. The Advent season gives us time to focus, make room, reflect, prepare, and recover some of the mystery and excitement that Christmas brings. Advent means coming or arrival. We know that the event has already happened, but we are able to re-live it and experience it once again to give life to the event and our lives. Christmas is a gift to us from God of his Son our savior Jesus Christ. We imitate this miraculous gift when we give each other gifts on Christmas. This story of Jesus is at the heart of our faith. The birth of any new baby gives us hope for the future. Jesus Christ was born on this day to bring us hope. My prayer for each of you is that you will find the Christ Child in your heart, your home and your life.

Wishing you love, joy and peace this Advent, and every Blessing of Christmas,

Rev. Melodie+

Are you feeling sad instead of rejoicing?  
Are you missing loved ones during the holidays?

**Come Join Us for Comfort at our Longest Night Service with Holy Communion  
On Thursday, December 21, at 7 p.m.**

December 21 is the longest night of the year, and the darkness can be hard for those who are sad and troubled when all around are the sounds and sights of joy – family gatherings, parties, and laughter.

We come together this evening seeking comfort and strength from each other and God. Through this service we will be confessing our profound need for God's mercy, love and healing presence.

This service of remembrance and the liturgy of candle lighting and sharing – of singing and quiet time can be very healing. You are invited to bring family and friends to this service and photographs or memorabilia of those whom you mourn.

We hope you will find hope and comfort in knowing you are not alone.



### **Join us in Worship**

Holy Communion on Sundays at 10 a.m.

Wednesdays Healing with Prayers and Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.,

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|----------------------------|---|
| ✦ Sun Dec 3 Advent 1       | 10 am Holy Communion & Healing Prayers              |
| ✦ Sun Dec 10 Advent 2      | 10 am Holy Communion                                |
| ✦ Sun Dec 17 Advent 3      | 10 am Holy Communion                                |
| ✦ Thurs Dec 21             | 7 pm Longest Night Service with Holy Communion      |
| ✦ Sat Dec 24 Christmas Eve | 3 pm Christmas Music Program<br>4 pm Holy Eucharist |
| ✦ Sun Dec 25 Christmas Day | 10 am Holy Communion                                |
| ✦ Sun Dec 31               | 10 am Holy Communion                                |

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story  
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the  
**ADVENT  
WREATH**



The Episcopal **Advent Wreath** is a circle of greenery, with four candles that represent the four Sundays in Advent.

- ✦ **Week 1:** The Candle of **Hope**, for the Patriarchs Abraham, The Old Testament ancestors of Jesus The first Sunday of Advent in which we recall the Hope we have in Christ. **Purple.**
- ✦ **Week 2:** The Candle of **Peace**, for the Prophets who foretold the Birth of Jesus. **Purple.**
- ✦ **Week 3:** Candle of **Love**, for **John** the Baptist, a son given to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age. **Purple**
- ✦ **Week 4:** The Candle of **Joy**, for Mary the Mother of Jesus. **Pink.**
- ✦ **Christ Candle in the middle on Christmas Day the Birth of Christ. White**

**Children** are invited and encouraged to participate in the 4 p.m. **Christmas Eve** service, bringing the Baby Jesus to the manger in the Crèche to join his Mother Mary, Joseph, and the angels, and to light the Christ Candle in the center of the Advent Wreath.



### **Children's Sunday School**

has several new leaders. Thanks to all who help our children grow with Jesus.

### **'TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING –**

As you think about gifts, remember local outreach projects, such as our Personal Care Kits ministry or the Lebanon Soup Kitchen; statewide help through Diocesan Commission on Poverty & Homelessness, and global work with Episcopal Relief and Development, for people still suffering from disasters. Help the needy in Jesus' name! What a birthday gift to our Savior!



**Wed Dec 20 @ 6:30**

**"One Buck Seminary"**, our lively monthly discussion group led by Bishop John Thornton, will meet Saturday January 13, 2018, at 8-9:30 am at the Parish Hall All are Welcome. Watch for the new reading packet.

### **Brief Vestry Notes**

#### **Stewardship**

**Pledge cards** are still available from the Office if you did not get one recently. This is a great opportunity for participating in the family of St. Martin's by sharing your time, talents, and treasure.



**ANNUAL Meeting** is coming on Sunday, Jan 28, after church. **ANNUAL REPORT** Input Due Jan 14 by email to St. Martin's Office.

Full Vestry minutes are posted on the bulletin board

### **Is Service to God and St. Martin's Vestry calling you?**

An election will be held at the Annual Meeting on January 28 to fill three 3-year terms on St. Martin's Vestry.

Please indicate your interest in serving our church family by placing your name on the sign-up sheet.

Vestry meets every 6 weeks to discuss the needs of the church.

To find out more, talk to one of your Vestry members – Jim Rutledge, Roger Munk, Larry James, Sam Blankenship, Patty Linn, and Barbi Thomson.

**ADVENT is HERE!**  
**Make a Joyful Noise**



Choir practice on Sundays after  
Coffee Hour, 11:35; Dec 3, 10, 17

Christmas Music Program  
3 pm Sunday Dec 24

**Thanks to Music Director Ray  
Hendricks for preparing us.**

**Greening of the Church**  
**Saturday December 16**



Meet at church by 9 a.m. to  
make wreaths, swags, bows,  
and bells; hang lights and  
prepare the crèche.  
All helping hands are welcome  
Coffee and Refreshments.

♪ **Winter Concert** ♪  
**Lebanon Community Chorus**

Sun, Dec 10, 3 pm Lebanon  
First Assembly of God,  
726 W. Oak Street

Buy tickets from Ray Hendricks,  
Bi-Mart, Lebanon Chamber of  
Commerce, or at the door.

**St. Martin's members  
will be performing**



Remember to call the church office if you or a loved one are ill or being hospitalized or have any special needs or wish to be added to the prayer list in the bulletin and/or prayer chain. You can make an appointment to chat with the rector, at the church or your home. You can also request pastoral visits from the rector and/or home communion.

The church office answer machine is checked in the mornings, Tues-Friday. 541-451-1159.

You can also email to: [stmatinslebanon@gmail.com](mailto:stmatinslebanon@gmail.com).

**SOUP SUPPER POTLUCK**

**~All are Welcome~**

If you can bring a soup, side, or  
dessert, sign up and/or please let the  
host / coordinator know.

**If not, that's OK too.**

Come, eat, and join the fellowship.

December Event

**Wednesday Dec 6**

At 6 pm

**And All Will Be Fed!**



**Directory Updates:** As we get new names and changes of address, the directory is updated. Ask us for a new copy. Some are posted on the bulletin board, and we can also email to you. STAY in touch and UP TO DATE!

**THE CLOAK** A publication of  
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