

HAMLIN CHURCH NEWS



DECEMBER 2014

A WORD FROM THE MINISTER

REV. MARIAH FURNESS TOLLGAARD

Dear Hamline Church family and friends,

"Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign." So begins the 19th century hymn by Christina Rossetti, who is also known for writing that more-familiar hymn "In the Bleak Midwinter. I've been humming the tune this past week. Turning it over and thinking about it.

Christmas is kind of an odd thing, isn't it? I've come to believe there are two distinctly different (though tangentially related) holidays that happen in December: One is the Christmas of Santa Claus and reindeer, kisses under the mistletoe, Bing Crosby on the speakers, frantic last-minute trips to the mall. The other is the Christmas of angels, shepherds, the birth of Jesus, the recognition of God incarnate in our midst. I concede that we live in the tensions of both, yet I count on my church to keep me grounded in the original Christmas.....the focus on Christ and the power of those nativity stories to turn our world upside down.

There are so many parts of that Christmas story to grab onto and ponder anew. What will it be for you this year? I always find myself catching my breath as I realize God has chosen Mary to be the bearer of this amazing gift – Mary, who is too-young, too-unwed, but willing. Willing to take on this enormous task. Willing to play her part in this grand drama. Willing to pull forward the Song of Hannah and sing it again in a new time and place. Willing to proclaim God's Reign on Earth where the rich are sent away empty and the poor are filled with good things.

And I contemplate with centuries of Christians what it means to name this tiny baby Emmanuel – God with us. What does it mean to say that God is present in human form? What does it mean to say Love Incarnate is here to stay? And how can I live my life so that I don't miss Love Incarnate in all those I encounter? I don't know about you, but I find that I need an annual reminder (at the very least) of God's real, flesh-and-blood presence with us – here and now.

"Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine; Love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign." It is my sincere hope and prayer that Love will come and bless you and yours this Christmas season. May the time of waiting be blessed. May your dreams of new life be blessed. May our eyes be open to see the coming of Christ in our midst and may our hearts be ready to grow as we experience that transforming Love.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Mariah



NEWS AND INFO

Thank You

Thank you to all those who participated in our Joy of Generosity Stewardship Campaign in November. Your pledge allows us to plan for and financially support the ministry of Hamline Church in the year to come. If you haven't turned in your Commitment Card for 2015, please submit this information to the Church Office as soon as possible.

Nice to Know - from the Trustees

We would like to thank the Barbara & Rolfe Leary family for their recent gift to upgrade the playground area. A very sturdy concrete table, paver patio and matching garbage bin have been added. Improvements were also made to the hand rail and the three steps leading to the play area from the top front yard. The enhancements to this community area ensure it's a space for us all to enjoy for many years to come. Thank you.

Update from the Trustees: Gift Received for Stained Glass Windows

An anonymous donor has gifted \$65,000 to Hamline Church for the restoration and protection of stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Deep thanks and appreciation for this act of generosity. The Trustees scheduled a stained glass window professional to do the restoration and a contractor to do the necessary tuck-pointing around the windows in spring 2015. This work is for the two large windows on the north side and east transept, as well as the five clerestory windows on the east side of the building. This will complete the project begun in 2010 when the window protection above the altar was completed, and further work done in 2012 for the windows on the west side. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$95,000, we are thrilled to be starting this project from such a strong financial position and look forward to your support in helping to raise the additional funds. Opportunities to give will be made available through the Christmas Memorial/Honorarium collection in December and additional opportunities in early 2015. For more information please contact Trustees Roger Greiling or Heidi Brezinka.

Office Upgrades

The Church office is undergoing some much needed upgrades including: A new phone system with voicemail for each individual staff person. The main church phone number remains the same: 651-645-0667. There is also a church database software for tracking membership information. Keep an eye for updates on how you can maintain your own information within this new system. Also, watch for a new look to our church website coming in early December!

Looking for a Christmas tree or decorations?

Gertens and Bachman gift cards can be ordered at any time. Just contact Virginia Anderson and Hamline Church will receive 15%.

SILENT AUCTION Coming in February!

Watch for future announcements about how you can participate in this fun event. If anyone would like to join the auction committee or have suggestions for donation items, please contact Virginia Anderson at 651-633-1820, or the church office at 651-645-0667



...NEWS AND INFO

Hamline Church Women/UMW Update

Hamline Church Women/UMW have had a busy fall and are looking forward to Christmas. We have Last **Chance Christmas Craft and Vintage Sale**, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday December 6 and 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sunday, December 7. There's a children's book reading at 1 p.m. Saturday and we've added Sunday shopping during and after hospitality for members' convenience. Some vendors are staying both days.

Women's Christmas party is 6 p.m. Monday, December 8 at the church. Bring a salad or dessert and enjoy some soup. Bring a present for a nursing home resident. Wear a favorite Christmas sweater, sweatshirt and/or jewelry. All church women are welcome for an evening of food and fellowship.

Christmas cookie walk is after church Sunday, December 14. We welcome cookie donations and we welcome cookie and snack buyers. We'll have cookie bags and boxes, cookie tins, cookie cutters and all things cookies for you to buy.

Hamline Church Women/UMW have had a busy fall. We've started Tot and Kid Time, and held our Last Boo-Rah Halloween party. Both were successes, as was the dinner night out at Davanni's. We look forward to continuing our outreach in the fall and winter and wrapping up Faith Families Fun. We've had good interest from the community and we watch as forms for the church go out the door. We hope that by being visible and welcoming, we can draw more people into the church.

We've been having our members who are interested in crafting meet twice monthly with a group of neighborhood women and that has gone over well. We're hoping this is a way to accommodate those who enjoy crafts and bringing in some new people.

We are also planning UMW Sunday for the last Sunday in January, which will feature Catholic Charities and the Dorothy Day Center.

Scrip Gift Cards just in time for Christmas!

Christmas is coming! Use Scrip Gift Cards or give them as gifts and support Hamline Church! Order Sunday, 12/7, and receive on 12/14.

This is a painless way to financially support our church. All that is required is a little bit of advance planning on purchases you may be making anyway. Scrip Gift Cards are available for DOZENS of retailers people use every day or you may want to give them as a gift to family and friends near and far. Each card has a percentage that goes directly to our church, no extra cost to you. No worries about data breaches. It's just that easy!

Retailers like Amazon, Groupon, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Cub, Target, iTunes, Home Depot, Kohl's, Walmart, Walgreens, gas stations, grocery stores, restaurants, clothing stores, hotels and more.

1. Pick up an order form in the Fireside Room.
2. Return to Virginia Anderson in person or by mail by 12/7.
3. OR register at www.shopwithscrip.com and order online. Get our church's code from Virginia.
4. Sunday, 12/14 pick up your order.

Orders are submitted the first Sunday of the month. Check out what cards are for sale each Sunday. Examples are – Cub, Target, Olive Garden, Holiday Gas, Subway plus several more. Check out www.shopwithscrip.com to see what cards can be used around the country to give as gifts. Thank you to everyone who has participated, especially those who order monthly!



The Bible tells us that God sent God's only child to be one with us, to take on our human form, in order that God might know and love us more fully. We anticipate and celebrate this love of God during the time of Advent.

During church, we light a candle each week to mark our journey through Advent. Our kids will be making Advent Wreaths on the first Sunday of Advent in order for the celebration to take place in the coziness of home. Below is a little devotional to do each week as you light your candles – divide the reading parts up any way you want. If you don't have a wreath, no worries, feel free to read these words and use them to contemplate the meaning of Jesus' birth.

December 7th, Second Sunday of Advent

Reader 1: Last Sunday we lit the candle of hope. Today we light the candle of peace. Jesus is the hope that we can live in a world of peace.

Reader 2: Isaiah spoke of the coming of peace through a Messiah. He said, For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Parent, Prince of Peace, His ever-expanding, peaceful government will never end.

Reader 1: Peace is having such harmony with God that we live lives without strife or division. Peace is a calm contentment that never goes away.

Reader 2: Isaiah sang a song with these words: You will keep in perfect peace, all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Light first and second candle while Reader 1 speaks.

Reader 1: Ever-hopeful and ever-peaceful God, Hold us in your perfect peace this Christmas, O Lord! Give us moments where we are amazed by the calm assurance of your great love. Amen

December 14th, Third Sunday of Advent

Reader 1: We have lit the candle of hope and the candle of peace. Today we light the candle of joy! Joy is the foundation of the Christmas story.

Reader 2: Psalm 30:5 reminds us, Weeping may go on all night, but joy comes with the morning!

Reader 1: Joy is that sense of pure delight that starts in the middle of your chest and infects your face.

Reader 2: David spoke about God saying, Those who look to God for help will be radiant with joy; No shadow of shame will darken their faces. (Psalm 34:5)

Light the first, second, and third candles while Reader 1 speaks.

Reader 1: This Christmas season Jesus came to bring you joy!! Look for the moments of surprise, when the joy of the Savior surrounds you and brings delight to your eyes.

Reader 2: Dear Jesus, We sure need your joy this year! We need to know that You will keep moments of delight in our lives. Fill us, renew us, and sustain us with joy that never ends. Amen.



...KIDS & FAMILIES

December 21st, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reader 1: The first candle we light is for hope. Light first candle. The second candle we light is for peace. Light second candle. The third candle we light is for joy. Light third candle.

Reader 2: Today's candle is for love. Love is the key to life. Writers write about love. Singers sing about love. Artists paint love. Dancers dance in love. Love is life.

Reader 1: The scriptures witness to love in this way: . . . Love covers all offenses. Love is patient and kind. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Love will last forever. . . Perfect love expels all fear. (Proverbs 10:12b, 1 Corinthians 13:4a, 1 Corinthians 13:7-8, and 1 John 4:18)

Reader 2: Love is the ultimate gift God gave us. Jesus came to the world because of love. He walked in our sandals because of love. He taught us how to live and died on a cross, all because of love. And Jesus overcame death because of love.

Reader 1: In Deuteronomy 6:4-5 a reading known as The Shema says, Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God With all your heart, All your soul, And all your strength.

Light the fourth Advent candle while Reader 2 speaks.

Reader 2: We light this candle as a reminder of God's great love for us, and of our desire to love God with everything we are.

Reader 1: Dear God, Light our hearts with love. Touch our souls and give us strength to follow You into a world and love them like You do. Make us to be examples of love to someone who needs it this week. Amen.

December 24th, Christmas Eve

Reader 1: The waiting is done! The baby has come to earth: Emmanuel, God-with-us! And we are filled with joy!

Reader 2: The prophet Simeon saw the baby Jesus and proclaimed: I have seen the Savior you have given to all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, And he is the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2:30-32)

Light the four candles while Reader 1 speaks.

Reader 1: We light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love. And tonight we light the Christ candle Light candle in center. For it is the night that our Savior, Jesus Christ, was born!

Reader 2: As the Scriptures tell us, I bring you good news of great joy for everyone The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord— Has been born tonight in Bethlehem, The city of David! (Luke 2:10b-11)

Reader 1: Dear God, Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for giving us this gift of hope, peace, joy and love – all contained in this little baby Jesus. May we live our lives with Christ in our heart, listening to him as he whispers these gifts in our ear. Amen



....KIDS & FAMILIES

Saturday, December 6th

Hangin' of the Greens: At 11am we will decorate the church for Christmas! Plan to come with your entire family for some creative fun!

Sunday, December 7th

Third Christmas Pageant Rehearsal: After the children's moment, the kids will join Stephanie Bowron, Amy Ireland and Heather Grantham in room 7 and 8 to work through the Christmas Program.

Saturday, December 13th

Christmas Pageant Dress-Rehearsal: Mandatory for all speaking roles. Join Stephanie, Amy and Heather in the sanctuary for a complete run through of the service.

Sunday, December 14th

Christmas Pageant as the Worship Service: Join us for this special worship where Hamline Kids will present the Christmas Story to the church through music, words, drama and movement. ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE even if you didn't make it to a rehearsal! We always have space for extra Shepherds, Angels and Animals of all kinds!

Sunday, December 21st

Advent Workshop / Christmas Craft Party: During the Sunday School hour, we will make all sorts of crafts designed to take home and give away. We will be in the Fire-side Room, continuing into coffee hour where all ages can join in!

January 23th-25th

2015 Family Retreat at Northern Pines Campground in Park Rapids: Come fellowship while skiing, sledding, and boarding!!! All are welcome! If you are interested in attending, please fill out this form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PYDMKRV>



2015 FAMILY RETREAT

We're excited about the opportunity to get out of the house, get out of town, and have fun with other Hamline Church families and youth. This year, the retreat is scheduled for *January 23-25* (when we know that there will be snow so that young and old kids are sure to have things to do). There is cross-country skiing at Itasca State Park and a nearby nordic ski center. There is sledding at the Northern Pines Camp, and there are plenty of snowshoes available for free to explore the Heartland Trail.

You can arrive at Northern Pines at any time on Friday, January 23rd. It takes approximately three hours to drive from Saint Paul to Park Rapids. Because people will be arriving at different times depending on work schedules and school, there will not be an organized dinner on Friday. There are, however, many places to eat along the way, including restaurants in Saint Cloud, Little Falls, and Wadena. In Park Rapids, there are a number of restaurants, including a McDonald's, a German restaurant complete with a model train chugging around the top of the room, Kahns Mongolian BBQ, and a pizza place. The next step is to finalize our numbers and iron-out the logistics. We still anticipate that the cost per family will be approximately \$100 to \$125, but we won't have a final number until we get folks to officially sign-up.

"How do I officially sign-up?"

Well, that's a great question. Just click this link and answer the questions. Then you are as good as sitting in front of that big stone fireplace sipping a hot chocolate. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PYDMKRV>

"What if I really want to go, but I'm not quite sure yet?"

Well, that's another great question. We know that sports schedules and other activities may still be up in the air. So, on the survey there is a place for you to sign-up, but not fully commit. That way, we know you are very interested but you just need a little more time. So please let us know, and we'll follow up with you later. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PYDMKRV>

Why do we go to Church?

Reflections for Advent

Because I work with young people, I have the privilege of never taking anything for granted—even church. I work with people at that stage of life when they are just figuring out who they are and who they want to become, and nothing is sacrosanct when you're trying to figure out the world. Constantly, I'm asking myself the question: Why do we do this? Why be Christian? Why does it matter?

There is a well-respected Youth Ministry book called *The Godbearing Life* that has been an important guide to me in the past months. The premise of the book is to call youth ministry away from flashy programs and cutting-edge curricula and to turn it more towards being a place where God is born. Kids have enough stuff to do, but what they crave is God—and remarkably, they're just like us. We've got lots of stuff to do, and we need some God.

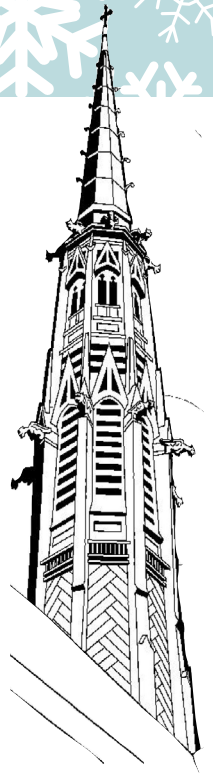
The word "Godbearer" is an English translation of *theotokos*, an ancient title for Mary, the Mother of God. It is she who 'bore' the incarnation, and literally brought God into the world through a lived faith. This book calls youth ministers to bear their own incarnation and nurture others into doing the same.

Especially in Advent, though, I am reminded that this is not a text just for Youth Ministers. All Christians are called by God to bear their own incarnation, and all Christians are called by God to help others incarnate God as well: to put some God into all that stuff we have to do.

For me, that's the answer to the question Why?

Right now, the Holiday Season is heavily upon us: family gatherings and advertisements, holiday parties and budget deficits, gifts and travel expenses. Amidst the joy and gratitude of the season, there's also a lot of stress and anxiety and the ever-present pressure to buy-buy-buy to keep the economy from imploding. The Holidays can be a rough time for a lot of people—and not just because it's dark at 4:30.

The season of Advent reminds us to be bearers of God, to be people that allow God's work and word to be present in the world. We stop, as the days get shorter and shorter, to pause and remember that God chooses us, just like he chose that homeless unmarried teenage mom, to be bearers of God's peace and love in a frantic and painful world. To choose to be Christian is to choose to make room to rejoice, reflect, and relate to people as incarnations of God. To choose to be Christian is to try to become a Godbearer too, to make space for God to do God's work through us.



HAMLIN CHURCH WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Karen & Bill Van Schyndel



Chip Stroebel



Evelyn Campbell



Stephanie & Gregg Hammerly



Jenn Kerin & Sharon Fields



Ryan Tollgaard

DECEMBER WORSHIP

December Prayer Focus

God of glory, we eagerly await the coming of our Savior. It continues to amaze us that the birth of this baby would change the world. Help us live as people of grace — people who are changed because we have encountered the living God. We celebrate in the hope of the One who will come again. We remember that he is Emmanuel, God with us. Always. That is what gives us confidence to unburden all of our fears,

Make this time of year extra special by joining us for the following events:

Advent worship – Sundays at 10am

Hanging of the Greens, Saturday, December 6 at 11am

Hamline A Cappella Choir Christmas Concert, Sunday, December 7 at 4pm

Christmas Eve Worship Celebration, December 24th at 5pm & 10pm

**December 7th, 10am
Worship, Holy Communion**

Second Sunday of Advent - Peace
Preacher: Pastor Mariah

December 14th, 10am

Third Sunday of Advent – Joy
Children's Christmas Pageant during worship

December 21th, 10am

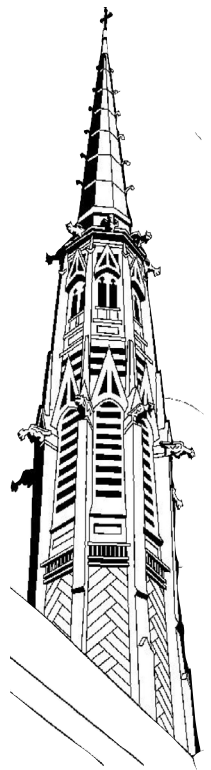
Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love
Hamline Church Choir Cantata

Christmas Eve December 24th, 5pm & 10pm

Family Christmas Worship, 5pm
Candlelight Christmas Eve, 10pm

December 28th, 10am

First Sunday After Christmas Day
Christmas Carol Sing
Preacher: Pastor Mariah



MAKE A DIFFERENCE: HOLIDAY GIVING

This year's Christmas Eve Offering will support three organizations.



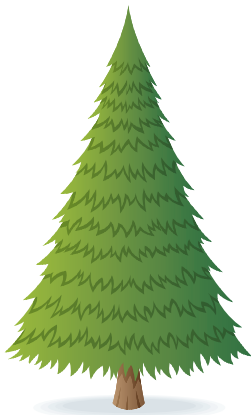
McCurdy Ministries/School.

McCurdy Ministries of Espanola, NM, a United Methodist National Mission Institution, works in partnership with McCurdy Charter School. (This public K-12 Charter School was formerly McCurdy School, established in 1912 by the United Brethren Church.) Its ministry programs include McCurdy Pre-School and After School Care; Project Carino (mental health counseling for students and families); and a summer camp which combines VBS with STEM education. Pat Alexander, a member of the Social Justice and Missions Committee, has volunteered at McCurdy Ministries/School for three years for 4 to 5 months each year and is currently serving in Espanola.



Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes is a nonprofit program in Minnesota that provides, among other services, hot meals to those in need. The Dorothy Day Center in St. Paul is one of over a dozen Loaves and Fishes dining sites. The third Sunday of even numbered months finds about 20 volunteers from Hamline Church at the Dorothy Day Center preparing and serving a hot meal to between 200 and 300 people. In 2013, with the support of business and community partners and more than 150 congregations, Loaves and Fishes provided over 350,000 nutritious meals!



St. Paul Area Council of Churches (SPACC)

The Council unites the people, resources and voice of the faith community to build a just, safe and livable East Metro for all. Hamline Church participates in a number of SPACC programs. We donate school supplies to its School Tools drive each August and Hamline Church volunteers serve as site hosts for Project Home. Project Home, working with dozens of area faith communities, provides 40 beds of emergency shelter in Ramsey County each night for children and their parents. This is a stand-alone program providing families with safe, comfortable overnight shelter until they are connected with appropriate housing. In addition, SPAAC's Department of Indian Work, which addresses needs and issues of the American Indian community, has been the recipient of food from Hamline Church's Minnesota FoodShare drive.

Submitted by Barb Edgar
Social Justice and Missions co-chair
Edgar002@umn.edu

Hamline Church Gifts and Poinsettias



This Christmas, you are invited to purchase a poinsettia or give a gift in support of a specific Hamline Church Ministry. Please fill out the form below indicating your choice, marking it clearly. You may pick up your plant after the Christmas Eve service on December 24th, or the worship service on Sunday, December 28th. Gifts will

Please order _____ poinsettia(s) for me (\$11.00 each). Amount: \$_____

In memory/honor of _____

Given by _____

Window Restoration Fund Amount: \$_____

In memory/honor of _____

Given by _____

Youth and Children's Ministry Fund Amount: \$_____

In memory/honor of _____

Given by _____

Music & Organ Fund Amount: \$_____

In memory/honor of _____

Given by _____

Neighbors in Need Benevolence Fund Amount: \$_____

In memory/honor of _____

Please return this form along with your check to the church office by December 8, 2014.

Payments can also be accepted online.

www.hamlinechurch.org



HAMLIN CHURCH

UNITED METHODIST

SUNDAY POTLUCK



On November 23, Hamline Church hosted an all church potluck in celebration of our new members and our annual commitment for 2015. It was so good to see so many of you there!



EVENTS

Tuesday, December 2nd - Dealing with Holiday Stress

Ted Bowman, noted educator and author, will speak on "Everyday and Holidays: Balancing Losses and Hopes" on Tuesday evening, December 2. This free event will be held at Hamline United Methodist Church (1514 Englewood Ave.). The presentation will include discussion of ways to find the balance in living as fully as possible while recognizing that grieving losses is challenging, especially at holiday times. Light refreshments will be served and the entire community is invited to attend.

Saturday, December 6th - Hanging of the Greens!

Saturday, December 6th at 11am -- All are welcome to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. All ages and ability are encouraged to participate. Contact Heidi Brezinka for more information.

Saturday-Sunday, December 6-7th - Last Chance Christmas Sale

Hamline Church Women/UMW are still taking donations, have a few table openings and need volunteers. Information is on the women's bulletin board in the Fireside Room. Contact hamlinewomen@gmail.com or Jane McClure at 651-646-3473.

December 7th - Church Conference

A Church Conference will be held on December 7, 2014, following worship at 11:30am for the purpose of adopting an endowment policy, approving pastoral compensation, and other annual church business. This is a Church Conference, so any one is welcome, however those eligible to vote must be members of Hamline Church. The Rev. Brian Hacklander will speak about the conference capital campaign Reach, Renew, Re-joice.

Sunday, December 7 - Food Shelf Sunday

Food shelf Sunday is officially the 1st Sunday of each month. However, you may bring food and other products for the food shelf any Sunday. Baby food and diapers, canned meats, flour, sugar, oil, & powdered milk are needed. Monies, in the form of cash, store gift cards, or checks can be noted for "food shelf" and put in the weekly offerings. If you have any questions you may talk to Bob or Jacquie Sellers. (rlsellers@usfamily.net or jksellers@usfamily.net) Thank you!

Monday, December 8 - Hamline Church Women/UMW Christmas Party

On Monday December 8th at 6pm is the Hamline Church Women/UMW Christmas Party We'll provide soup. Bring a salad or dessert to share and wear your favorite Christmas sweater, sweatshirt or jewelry. We'll bring little gifts for Walker nursing home residents. They'd really like new men's and women's socks, small lotion tubes, little packs of tissues, candy and new or gently used DVDs. RSVP by signing up in Fireside Room or contacting hamlinewomen@gmail.com

Tuesday, December 9th - Monthly Luncheon

The North Suburban Chorus (a singing group of senior citizens) will perform a wide variety of seasonal and holiday songs at our luncheon on Tuesday, December 9 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Free blood pressure checks will be provided and transportation for neighborhood seniors can be arranged with advance notice. Our second Tuesday monthly luncheons are held at Hamline Church, and thanks to Thrivent Financial for sponsoring this luncheon.

Thursday, December 11 - Caregiver Support Group

Open to anyone caring for older adults or persons of any age with special needs, this group is facilitated by HME's Monica Gallagher and trained volunteers. The group will meet on Thursday, December 11 from 6:30 to 8 pm (and routinely meets on the second Thursday of each month) at Hamline United Methodist Church (1514 Englewood Ave.). There is no cost and new attendees are always welcome.

...EVENTS

Sunday, December 14 - Christmas means cookies! Do the Cookie Walk!

Hamline Church Women/UMW will be selling cookies and snacks after church Sunday, December 14 in the Fireside Room. Minimum donation \$4 per dozen. Buy a tin or holiday container, cookie cutters and more! Proceeds go to the women's projects. Bring your cookie donations to Fireside Room before church. Contact hamlinewomen@gmail.com or 651-646-3473 with question

Sunday, December 14th - Christmas Pageant as the Worship Service

Join us for this special worship where Hamline Kids and Youth will present the Christmas Story to the church through music, words, drama and movement. ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE even if you didn't make it to a rehearsal! Contact Heather Grantham (hgrantham@hamlinechurch.org) for details.

Thursday, December 18 - Thirsty Scholars

Join us for a pint as we grapple with life's enduring questions, like what would Jesus brew? We are forming a new mens group geared toward young men and/or dads of children under 18 to explore the burgeoning micro-brewery scene. The tentative plan is to meet at 7:00PM the third Thursday's of the month, at a different local brewery each month. The first meeting will be December 18 at 612Brew in North East Minneapolis. O come, ye men of the barley. Signup with Ryan Tollgaard in person at church or via email at rtollgaard@gmail.com to receive further details and any audibles. Note they also have non-alcoholic beverages.

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Dinner

Some church members are going out for dinner at Fabulous Fern's between Christmas Eve services. If you would like to join them, contact Jim Schlaeppi after services. Space is reserved but we need a count by December 15.

Wednesday, January 14th - Hamline Midway Library Speaker Series

We're excited to be partnering with the Hamline Midway Library again for the upcoming winter series that will be held at the library and feature guest speakers on a wide variety of topics. Programs will be held on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 pm. New York Times bestselling author William Kent Krueger kicks off the series on January 14 - and folks of all ages are invited to attend any/all programs. Refreshments will be provided.



UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS

MATHEW MEHAFFEY
Director of Music

December 7, 4pm - Hamline University A Cappella Choir Christmas Concert

The Hamline A Cappella Choir presents its annual Christmas Concert, a delightful afternoon of music for the holiday season with student soloists, conducted by George S.T. Chu. Featured composers include Whitacre, Kedrov, Lauridsen, Ticheli, and Howell's Magnificat featuring organist Helen Jensen. Reverend Mariah Furness Tollgard will provide the Reflection. This event is free and open to the public. There is a freewill offering to support our international concert tours. Bring the family! Contact: 651-523-2296 or www.hamline.edu/music for more information.

December 18, 7pm - Tickets Required

The popular Cooper Street Brass Quintet makes its Hamline Church debut, with their popular family Christmas concert, "Christmas on Copper Street."

The CSBQ's popular holiday concert, "Christmas on Copper Street", celebrates the stories, songs, and sounds of the season. Through the quintet's original arrangements for brass, you'll revisit music from favorite childhood movies and TV specials like *The Nutcracker*, *The Grinch*, and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

The quintet will also perform traditional carols and songs like *Jingle Bells*, *Carol of the Bells*, and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* with unique touches that always get audience members singing along and tapping their toes. Not only are the members of the ensemble virtuoso musicians on their brass instruments, but they also perform on piano, guitar, and percussion.

Tickets are \$15/adult and \$10 for students and seniors. Available at <http://www.csbq.org/series/christmas.html> or by calling (612) 722-3667



December 28th, 10am - An Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

Come check out *Prophets and Angels: An Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols* by Aaron David Miller on December 28th. This wonderful musical service is based on the message of prophets and angels heralding the Good News of Christ. A lovely setting of Advent-Christmas lessons and carols for SATB choir, organ, congregation, and oboe. The work includes carols/hymns for choir, scripture readings, reflective texts and responses by Herbert Brokering, and a prelude and postlude. Featuring organist Kim Kasling and Merilee Klemp, oboe



TOURING HAMLIN CHURCH: THE NARTHEX

MARY BAKEMAN
Church Historian



The narthex (or lobby) at the Englewood entrance to Hamline Church serves as a transition from the outside environment to a space for worship. More than a place to pick up a worship bulletin and other materials or to wait to enter the nave, it provides connections to the Fireside Room downstairs, the rear balcony and a small chapel. At Hamline Church, we also display a flag to tell visitors that we are a reconciling congregation. From the greeters and ushers at the doors to the beams on the ceiling to the use of colored glass separating it from the nave, the narthex provides the worshipper an opportunity to prepare for the worship experience.

The doors themselves are symbolic, with the three panels above symbolizing the triune God and the two below the dual nature of Christ as human and divine. This symbolism also appears elsewhere in the gothic building.

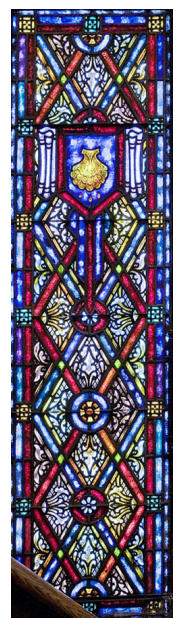
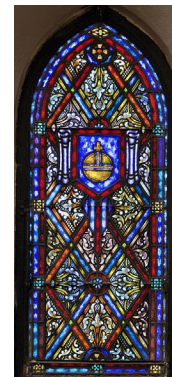
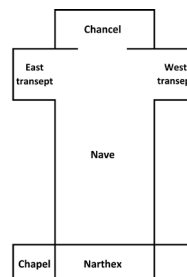
At the west end of the narthex is a set of steps, leading to a second set of doors and to the Fireside Room. Those doors are crowned by a welcoming stained glass window and lead to the lawn outside. At the time the structure was built, people coming to community dinners could have easier access to the dinners and community programs held in the Fireside room. They still provide building access for current events held on the lawn.

At each side of the Englewood doors are steps leading to the rear balcony where the antiphonal organ console resides. Stained glass windows with Christian symbols mark the ascent. Similar symbols, like the scallop shell used by John the Baptism to anoint Jesus, appear in other windows as well.



When listening to the prelude or postlude, the sound of trumpets can come from the organ pipes in the chancel (sanctuary) or from the horizontal pipes in the antiphonal organ in the balcony. This organ can be played from the balcony or from the organ console in the chancel. As with the other two nave balconies, you can get a close-up view of the stained glass windows. This one, the last on the lectern side, is often called the music window for all the images it contains.

The windows in the chapel are similar in design to those in the balcony stairwells. The chapel itself is an intimate space, with other memorials as well. It includes an altar and seating. It includes an altar and seating space for those who wish to meditate or pray in private. This window features a small cross resting on an orb, representing Christ's triumph over the sin of the world.



As with the chancel and the nave, attention to the finest detail is evident in the planning for this building.





An intimate Christian community, witnessing to the larger dimensions of life in Christ, in ministry, on the inward and outward journey



HAMLIN CHURCH
UNITED METHODIST



ALL ARE WELCOME
1514 Englewood Avenue
651.645.0667
www.hamlinechurch.org