

GATHER & SERVE

DECEMBER 2014

Opportunities for Fellowship & Christian Service at OFLC

Advent Health Ministry: Words and a Workout

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?" 1 Corinthians 6:19

During Advent, we become even more busy in preparation for celebrations. We eat deliciously rich food; we drink perhaps a little too much; we sacrifice sleep for checking things off our to-do list; and we don't exercise the body that God has given us. Instead of putting your self-care last this Advent, we invite you to come and put yourself first.

Start your work week off right with **"Words and a Workout:"** A 15-minute devotion followed by a 30 minute workout--suitable for ALL fitness levels.

Monday mornings through Advent (December 1, 8, 15 and 22), we will gather in the large education room at 6 a.m. We will be out the door ready to take on the day and the week by 6:45 a.m. If you have any questions, please call or text Liz Nuytten at 612-850-4799.



Help us "Deck the Halls" of our Sanctuary on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 3 p.m.!



Wright Hennepin Newsletter Labeling: Dec. 5-7

As we wrap up 2014, we give thanks to God for the Wright Hennepin labeling projects. Throughout the year, we have been preparing the WHE newsletter mailing in exchange for thousands of dollars that benefit our church and its ministries. This has also been an awesome opportunity for **relationship** while engaging in **service** to our church!

This month, we are stuffing and labeling newsletters Friday-Sunday, December 5-7 down in the education wing. Please consider dropping by to lend a hand. Children are welcome, and we would love for you to join us for as much or little time as you can spare. God bless!

Get Centered During Advent!

Centering prayer is a popular method of contemplative prayer—reminiscent of Christian meditation—which emphasizes calm and silence allowing God to be fully present with you. The atmosphere is deeply spiritual and calming, and can be a powerful tool to help you connect with God who loves you.

If you've never considered centering prayer, Advent is a wonderful opportunity to give it a try! Small group centering prayer meets

Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m. You will be led through reflections and intentions to help you feel grounded and experience silence for prayer. These gatherings are intended for individual connections with God, and you will not be "put on the spot" in any way. Just breathe, pray, and feel God's love!

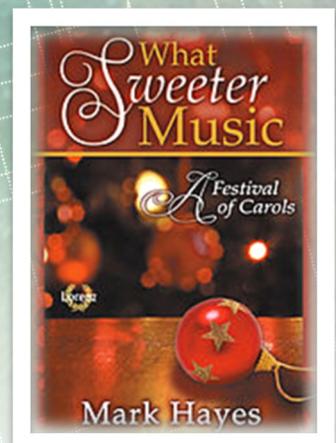
Enjoy the sounds of the season!

Our Father's Christmas Cantata: Sunday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

The Ringers of Light and the Rejoice Singers will be performing its annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 14 at 7 p.m.

The Ringers of Light will delight you with Christmas favorites and the Rejoice Singers will perform the cantata "What Sweeter Music."

Christmas can be a hectic time of the year! We invite you to slow it down, sit back, relax, and be reminded of the true reason for the season—Jesus' birth! All are welcome, so call a friend or neighbor and come on by. Punch, coffee and teats will be served following the concert.



To view the complete list of December events, [visit our online calendar.](#)



Cookie Walk, Silent Auction & Craft Fair

Stop by OFLC on Saturday, December 6 as we participate in our community's Crow River Christmas Celebration

Our Cookie Walk has become one of the highlights of Crow River Christmas—and with good reason! Where else can you buy a huge variety of delectable homemade cookies and lefse, then serve them to your friends and family taking all the credit...all the while never having messed up your kitchen?! Joking aside, the Cookie Walk is a highly anticipated event in our community, and the biggest Women's Ministry fundraiser of the year. Drop by to curate your own holiday cookie collection for just \$7/pound.

****BAKERS STILL NEEDED! DROP OFF YOUR COOKIE DONATION ON FRIDAY, DEC. 5.**

Love, INC needs holiday volunteers:

- Love, INC is looking for volunteers to help with their Old Fashioned Christmas event at the Delano store on Saturday, Dec. 6.
- Volunteers are also needed Friday afternoon, December 12 and Saturday, December 13 to help set up and staff Love, INC's Christmas Sharing/Toy Store event.

For more details on how you can support Love, INC with your time this holiday season, contact Ann at 763-972-6547.

Need Christmas gift ideas?

We've got you covered with something to give that person who has everything:

- Stop by our annual craft sale to discover a one-of-a-kind gift from a local artisan.
- Check out our silent auction filled with unique and eclectic gifts for all ages.
- Give the gift of good food by purchasing an Our Father's cook book for \$10.
- Purchase a red hymnal for our sanctuary and dedicate it to a special friend or family member. Hymnals are \$24.50 each and can be purchased using the envelopes in the back of the sanctuary.

- **Sewing & Knitting Group meetings in Dec.:**
If you have a gift with a needle & thread, check out the sewing & knitting group for fellowship and fun Monday, December 15 at 6 p.m. and/or Wednesday, December 17 at 9 a.m. This group gathers to work on individual projects together and they also make quilts that are donated in our community. If you do not know how to sew/knit/quilt but would like to learn, experts will be on hand to help you get started.
- **Blue Christmas Healing Service Monday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m.:**
The holidays can be tough for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Join us on Monday, December 8 for a Blue Christmas Healing Service focused on remembering those who have gone before us. We welcome you to bring photos of your departed, a candle, and we invite you to share a story about your loved one as part of the service (optional). We'll pray together, anoint with oil, and share some finger foods after the worship service as we find comfort in the company of one another.

We're throwing a birthday party for Jesus!

Join us on Saturday, December 13 from 10 a.m.-noon for a free family-friendly celebration of Jesus' birth!

Kids of all ages will enjoy crafts, a sing-along, a reading of the Christmas story, birthday cake, and much more!

We will be collecting Toys for Tots donations as well as items for our local food shelf. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated.

