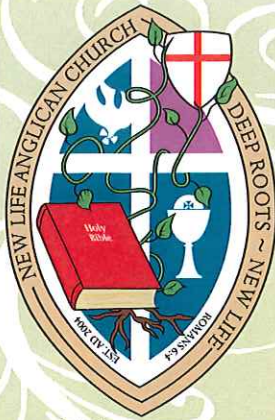


JOYOUS NEWS

December 2021

219 State Street - Petoskey, Michigan - 49770 - 231.347.3448

*We will glorify God by deepening the roots of our Anglican faith,
and bringing people to new life in Jesus Christ.*



I saw a great meme today that said, "For those that don't want to hear Christmas music in November, maybe you should start writing some good Thanksgiving songs." What a true statement. One of the reasons that Christmas music starts so early (outside of businesses trying to get us to start

spending money on Christmas as early as possible) is that Christmas music is good. There are so many good Christmas songs, and Christmas music is the one time that we actually want to hear bands or singers cover our favorite songs. Very few people are waiting for Josh Groban to cover Black Sabbath's "Iron Man." But everyone wants to hear him sing "What Child is This?"

Sure, there are Christmas songs we could all do without. "Last Christmas" by Wham! comes to mind. On the other hand, I can't get enough "O Holy Night". There is also the singular memorable Advent song that gets lumped in with Christmas, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". I have searched high and low for a good cover of that song, but nothing ever really compares to singing it in church.

I know a lot of people will listen to Pandora, Spotify, Amazon Music, or the radio and listen to whatever Christmas music comes on. I like to collect songs I love, put them on a playlist, and then put that playlist on repeat and shuffle. I also prefer when I can find an entire cd worth listening to instead of something with just one or two good songs on it. With that in mind, let me recommend my current favorite Christmas album, Christmas Spirit by Richard Marx. It isn't a new album, as it came out in 2012, but I just started listening to it yesterday for the first time this season and it reminded me of how great the album really is.

I will admit that I have a soft spot for Richard Marx. His song "Right Here Waiting" is one of my all-time favorite songs. My mom loved it when I was younger and so did I. Because of that, and because I was leaving to move to Kansas right after my honeymoon, my mom and I danced to that song at my wedding. I don't think there was a dry eye in the house.

Given all of that, several years ago, when I saw that Richard Marx had a new Christmas album, I bought it without hesitation or reservation. I was not disappointed. Many artists cover secular Christmas songs, or they try to get cute and make changes to songs we otherwise love. Richard Marx does neither. There are a few of the less religious songs on the album, such as "The Christmas Song" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town". There is also "White Christmas", which is a classic, but not particularly religious. And there is a great song, "Christmas Mornings", that will be meaningful to anyone with kids. He also has an original, "Christmas Spirit", which is a Christmas love song.

Beyond those, he has some fantastic Christmas hymns, including going a little deeper into the collection of classics than many singers do. Going down the list, he sings, "O Come All Ye Faithful", "Little Drummer Boy", "O Holy Night", "What Child Is This?", and "Silent Night", then after a few songs that aren't hymns, rounds it out with a stirring "Alleluia." Each of these songs is good and worth listening to in their own right, though none of them are going to be the best version of the song you have ever heard. There are two others that are tremendous, aren't covered nearly as often, and are deeply Christian songs. They are "I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day" and "Let There Be Peace On Earth".

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December 2021 at New Life



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Sun. School 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour Brenda & Ginny FIRST ADVENT SUNDAY	29	30	Men's 1 Breakfast 8:30am @ JW Filmore's 6:00pm Pizza 6:30pm Bible Study	2 Morning Prayer 8:00am Women's Birthday Lunch Noon in Blanz Hall Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	3	4
5 Sun. School 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Bowmans SECOND ADVENT SUNDAY	6	7	Men's 8 Breakfast 8:30am @ JW Filmore's Men's Bible Study 11am @ The Davis 6:00pm Pizza 6:30pm Bible Study	9 Morning Prayer 8:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Men's Ministry Group 5:30pm @ The Davis Home	10	11
12 Sun. School 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Zakos THIRD ADVENT SUNDAY	13	14 December Vestry Meeting 6:00pm	Men's 15 Breakfast 8:30am @ JW Filmore's Men's Bible Study 11am @ The Davis 6:00pm Pizza 6:30pm Bible Study	16 Morning Prayer 8:00am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm	17	18
19 Sun. School 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Christmas POTLUCK FOURTH ADVENT SUNDAY	20-28 Christmas Tree		22 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ JW Filmore's	23 Joyous News Deadline January Issue	24 Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm	25 WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
26 Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Hour The Dielmans	27	28	29 Men's Breakfast 8:30am @ JW Filmore's	30	31	1 happy New Year Church office closed

*New Life's Local Outreach
Community Connection Glove Drive
~ Large Men's Gloves Are Needed ~
(Please add your donations to the box in Blanz Hall.)*

*The Nehemiah Project is a faith-based shelter
serving homeless men, women and children
in our community.*

Thank you for supporting their mission.

*New
Life's*

*Christmas
POTLUCK*

Sunday, December 19th

following the church service.

Please see the sign up sheet in Blanz Hall



NLAC Christmas Dinner Box Outreach

WE ARE COLLECTING FOOD

TO PROVIDE CHRISTMAS DINNERS FOR 10 AREA FAMILIES.

PLEASE SEE THE SIGN UP SHEET IN BLANZ HALL TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN DONATE.

WALLY'S GALLERY —

This Christmas eve our church will end the service as it always has with a Christmas hymn familiar to us all. A hymn of humble origins written and composed by individuals who have mostly been forgotten.

Joseph Mohr was born in Salzburg, Austria in 1792. Unlike Wolfgang Mozart, who had lived only a few doors down, Mohr composed the words to only one song; yet that hymn became one of the best loved Christmas carols of all time.



In 1816 Joseph Mohr was an assistant priest in Mariapfarr, Austria. As the story goes, one winter evening Father Mohr was returning from the blessing of a new born child at his grandfather's when he stopped by a river and was overcome by the beauty and simplicity of the evening and what he had just witnessed. His thoughts carried him back to another night many years prior; to the birth of our Savior.

Later on returning home he could not escape the awesomeness of that evening and what it must have been like some 2,000 years prior when holiness came to earth. With paper in front of him and a pen in hand, he pondered the words for a poem that might capture his thoughts. As the hours passed he began to write. At the poem's completion it had six verses and began with these words in German; Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht (Silent Night, Holy Night).

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In 1817 Father Mohr was transferred to St. Nicholas Church in the town of Oberndorf just south of Salzburg. A year later, as Christmas Eve approached he was faced with the certainty that he would not have music for the service. The church organ is unusable having been damaged by recent flooding. Without a solution, he prayed.

Later that evening he came across the poem he had written two years before. Reading over the words he is filled with emotion sensing that the LORD was answering his prayer. Father Mohr gathered up the pages and rushed to his friend, Franz Gruber; a school teacher and a modest musician who attended St. Nicholas Church. Father Mohr explained the situation and asked his friend if he could come up with a melody on his guitar that could be quickly learned by the choir as it would be needed for the Christmas Eve service that very evening. As Franz Gruber studied the poem, Father Mohr left and returned to St. Nicholas. Several hours later his friend arrived and played a beautiful four part tune that had the simplicity of a folk song.

Had the organ been usable at St. Nicholas the music most likely would have been composed differently and Silent Night, as we know and love, would have been silent. Instead, Father Mohr's prayer was answered. That Christmas Eve the choir at St. Nicholas sang and the world began to listen.

According to a document written by Gruber, the song soon became popular in a nearby valley. From there it was picked up by two traveling folk singers, the Strassers and Rainers causing it to grow in popularity across Europe. In 1839 the Rainers took it to America and sang it on Wall Street.

Quoting from one of the web pages I reviewed, "Perhaps at no other time in the song's history was this message more important than during the Christmas Truce of 1914, when at the height of World War I, German and British soldiers on the front lines in Flanders laid down their weapons on Christmas Eve and together sang "Silent Night."

Its spread across the globe should not surprise us. Its lilting melody and peaceful lyrics reminds us of a universal sense of grace that is at the core of our faith and lives within each person's soul whether recognized or not.

~ Wally's Gallery

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S MONTHLY LUNCHEON – meeting at noon on the first Thursday of the month in Blanz Hall. Bring your own lunch. Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship!!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – join us for the last 3 weeks of our DVD study by Priscilla Shirer, "Elijah - Faith and Fire Bible Study" on Thursdays at 6:30pm in the annex lower level classroom.

MEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST – meets each Wednesdays at 8:30am for food and fellowship at J.W. Filmore's.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY – Davis's Home @ 902 Howard St., Petoskey

MEN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM – meeting is Thursday, Dec. 9th at the Davis Home. Our meetings will include fellowship 5:30 – 6:30p.m., dinner 6:30 – 7:30p.m. and a short teaching 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. Bring your own beverage of choice. I hope you will join us.

Take a minute and check out our new website @ <https://newlifeanglicanchurch.org>

"I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day" is originally a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, written in 1864 (with a few additional verses added later). The words to the song and Marx's version of it are both incredible. While many of you may be familiar with the song, I will admit that hearing this version was the first I recall ever hearing it myself. While I would love to print the entire song, I will just list the middle here so you can see how profound they are.

And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men

But the bells are ringing
Like a choir singing
Does anybody hear them?
Peace on earth, good will to men

Then the bells rang more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor does He sleep
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men

I love the imagery and the feeling that the Christmas bells ringing serve as a reminder that God is alive and well, that wrong shall fail, and that right will prevail. And this in response to the early verse of hanging his head in despair at the evil in the world. We see hate everywhere. We live surrounded by evil. But God lives, he is in control, and Christmas should be a time of hope as we remember that God prevails over evil in his Son, Jesus Christ.

All of this leads to the next song, "Let There Be Peace On Earth":

Let There Be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me.
Let There Be Peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be!
With God as our Father, brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath I take, let this be my solemn vow;
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me!

I love the song, and I love that he put this right after "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day". When we are in despair at the evil, hate, and mockery of this world, we turn to God for the hope found in Jesus. But we can also work to improve the condition of this world by letting peace on earth "begin with me." We can wait for others to change the world, but we have the Holy Spirit, we have the gospel of grace, and we have the mercy of Christ. Let there be peace and let us be the agents through which it comes.

Anyway, check out Christmas Spirit by Richard Marx. You won't be disappointed. And may this season be one of joy and hope in Christ.

December 2021 Service Calendar

If you are unable to fulfill your service duties on the dates listed, please try to rearrange and find your own replacement.

	December 5	December 12	December 19	Christmas Eve	December 26
ALTAR GUILD	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman	Karen Dielman
SOUND/MUSIC	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes	Ferd & Wes
USHER/COUNTER/GREETERS	Dan W./ Randy F./ Taylor DuBois	Don L./ Dan W./ The Bowmans	Randy F./ Don L./ The Flynns	Volunteers Needed	Dan W./ Randy F./ Sally Stump
LECTOR	Dan Wandrie	Erika Dielman	Mary Jane Zako	Volunteers Needed	Gretchen Lucky
LAY MINISTER	Wally Stansbury	Mickey Bridge	Karen Dielman	Howard Bates	Mary Jane Zako
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL	Darlene Wandrie	Darlene Wandrie	Darlene Wandrie	N/A	Darlene Wandrie
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	The Bowmans	The Zakos	Christmas Fellowship Dinner	N/A	The Dielmans



Thursday
Morning Prayer
8:00am in
Fr. Mike's Office



ALTAR GUILD

Dec..... Karen Dielman
Jan..... Ginny Poquette
Feb..... Gretchen Lucky
Mar..... Liz Ostrander

Birthdays

John Ostrander 12/6
Bonnie Bridge 12/7
Sam Bridge 12/17



December



Wedding Anniversaries



May the Lord richly bless you on your special day and all year!
Please let us know if we have missed your Birthday or Wedding Anniversary
so that we may celebrate with you and remember you in prayer.

Congregation — We Need You!

To volunteer to serve, please contact the Team Leaders listed below.

Altar Guild:	Karen Dielman..... 231/347-3532
Altar Flowers:	Karen Dielman..... 231/347-3532
Music/Sound:	Ferd Dielman 231/347-3532
Ushers:	
Greeters:	Carol Bowman 231/459-4566
Lectors:	Tracey Jepsen 231/347-3448
Lay Eucharistic Ministers:	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
Acolytes:	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
Prayer Team:	Betty Stansbury..... 231/439-0773
Children's Sunday School:	Darlene Wandrie .. 231/347-5871
Youth Sunday School:	Don Lucky 231/622-2058
(middle & high school)	
Adult Sunday School:	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
	Wally Stansbury ... 231/439-0773
Nursery:	Bonnie Bridge 231/445-1810
Fellowship/Hospitality:	Liz Ostrander 231/348-2802
Prayer Chain:	Ron Davis 517/617-5015
Women's Ministry:	Karen Dielman..... 231/347-3532
Study Leader	Bonnie Bridge..... 231/445-1810
Men's Ministry:	Mike Bridge..... 231/330-0689
Inreach:	Gretchen Lucky 231/622-2057
Outreach:	Lacy Bates231/373-7997
Evangelism:	Betty Stansbury..... 231/439-0773
Missions:	
Building and Grounds:	Don Greenwell..... 231/347-1808
Art and Architecture:	Susan Davis 231/881-3106
Church Historian:	Liz Ostrander 231/348-2802
Communications:	Bonnie Bridge..... 231/445-1810
(newspaper articles, etc.)	
Student Visitor's:	
(Recreational Liaison)	
Treasurer:	Wes Ostrander 231/330-4930
Assistant Treasurer:	Susan Davis 231/881-3106
Assistant Treasurer:	Sally Stump 231/881-2818
Stewardship:	Dan Wandrie..... 231/347-5871

New Life Anglican Church 2021 Vestry

Sr. Warden ... Howard Bates
Jr. Warden ... Dan Wandrie
Treasurer Wes Ostrander
 Susan Davis
 Toni DuBois
 Don Lucky

Our Joyous News Needs You!

Please consider submitting an article or item of interest for the next issue of the Joyous News.

Submission deadline
is December 23rd.



SAVE YOUR

OLESON'S RECEIPTS

We appreciate grocery receipts from Oleson's Food Stores. You may leave your receipts in the coffee hour donation basket, in the Outreach shopping cart or on Tracey's desk.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

LITURGICAL SEASON — by Karen Dielman

We have now entered the season of Advent. Awaiting the coming of the Messiah, Jesus, our Lord and Savior. The color has been changed to purple and will change to white Christmas Eve, His coming. The Advent wreath is standing in the nave. Four candles, three purple and one pink, in the center the Christ candle, all surrounded by evergreens. Each Sunday a candle is lit representing Peace, Love, Joy, and Hope. As we reflect, let us not forget....Jesus is the reason for the season. Our most treasured gift from a Father who loves us. Merry Christmas

New Life

Anglican Church

P.O. Box 481

PETOSKEY, MICHIGAN 49770

office@newlifeanglican.net

<https://newlifeanglicanchurch.org>

We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:4

New Life Family & Friends



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

JOYOUS NEWS

December 2021

219 State Street - Petoskey, Michigan - 49770 - 231.347.3448

*I have grown old
in Christmas,
but it has not
grown old in me,
for the Babe
newborn on Christmas night
arrives from God to set
our plundered world aright.*

*It is His birth
that gives us blessing*



*and grace
for all to see
God's far reaching vision
that spells "peace"
for you and me.
We all grow old
in Christmas,
but Christmas still will be
that holy and most blessed time
of God's eternity.*

BES

