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First Sunday of Advent Year A

From Katherine Almquist, Senior Warden

This is the season to give thanks and be grateful for what we have. And, old story, sometimes we don't know what we have until we've lost it.

I will explore that last statement by way of a Finnish cookbook.

A couple of weeks ago, David and I were having dinner at Le Gamin. Delicious, and oh-so-French. There were a number of books stacked on the window sill, and we browsed through them, waiting for our food to arrive. One in particular caught my attention: "Natural Cooking the Finnish Way." This volume bore no resemblance to the lavish life-style cook books of today. It was published in 1962 and had nary a sketch, let alone beautiful photographs of beautiful food. The recipes were pretty basic, like Fried Pork (Tirriipaisti): ingredients are 1½ pounds pork butt, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 cup water. Cook until the fat melts.

One recipe caught my eye: Stuffed Cabbage Rolls. My Aunt Evelyn used to make them; a Swedish version, since she was a full-blooded Swede. She was a superb cook—the kind who never looks at a recipe. It is one of the regrets of my life that I never learned to make her limpa bread. I remember her Cabbage Rolls as divine morsels. My father loved them. My mother never mastered them. She had many talents, but cooking was not one of them. So, those Cabbage Rolls were a special treat.

When Chef Robert stopped by to say "Hello," I asked him if I may borrow the book. He urged me to keep it.

Food can trigger memories (ahh, those madeleines!) and I found myself thinking about Aunt Evelyn. I did not know her well. She never married, was reserved, a Lutheran, did not drink and was the polar opposite of my mother's Irish Catholic sisters—the aunts my sisters and I were close to. It was not until I was an adult that I made an effort to get to know her. She was long retired and living in Arizona. During one phone call at the holiday season, I told her how much I loved her cooking—the Swedish Meatballs, various breads, Rice Pudding, Christmas Cookies, and yes, those Cabbage Rolls. She said she learned to cook at her mother's knee, and that good woman never used a cook book either.

A day or so before Christmas, a large envelope from Arizona arrived. Aunt Evelyn had carefully, painstakingly, typed out each recipe. She was well into her 80's at the time. She enclosed a note that said how happy she was that we are close now. She wanted me to carry on the Swedish culinary traditions. She remembered all the dishes as her mother taught her and was passing them on to me.

I was overwhelmed with gratitude and also guilt. Guilt, that I had waited so long. I was so touched at what was clearly an enormous undertaking for her. I was keenly aware that my efforts at friendship were a lot too little, too late. Truly my loss.

At this stage of the game, I want to give roses now to those I love. Not wait.

Now is the season to give thanks. Say "Thank You." Don't wait.

And my Cabbage Rolls (Kaldolmar) do not begin to touch Aunt Evelyn's.

This Week at St Andrew's

Sunday, 27 November :: 8:30 am

Holy Eucharist: *The First Sunday of Advent* (spoken)

Sunday, 27 November :: 9:15 am

Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, 27 November :: 10:30 am

Church School

Sunday, 27 November :: 10:30 am

Holy Eucharist: *The First Sunday of Advent* (with music) (*in-person and live-streamed*)

Sunday, 27 November :: 11:40 am

Coffee Hour

Sunday, 27 November :: 4:00 pm

Sherman Chamber Ensemble Concert: *Jazzing It Up!*

Monday, 28 November :: 4:00 pm
Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, 28 November :: 8:00 pm
LGBTQ+ A.A. meeting

Wednesday, 30 November :: 6:00 pm
Mid-week Eucharist

Wednesday, 30 November :: 7:00 pm
A.A. for Women (*Zoom meeting; email us for info*)

Thursday, 01 December :: 7:00 pm
A.A. meeting

Thursday, 01 December :: 7:00 pm
Al-Anon meeting (Old Vestry Room)

Mark Your Calendars for These Events...

**Details about many of these events can be found later
in this issue of the *Epistle***

Friday, 09 December, 8:00 pm
Music in the Nave presents our
Annual Messiah Sing-in!

Sunday, 18 December, 3:00 pm
Blue Christmas Service
*Our friends at First Congregational will host us
for a service of remembrance and reflection for those
who find Christmas is a challenging time of year as they mourn the loss of
loved*

A Wonderful Success: The Annual Christmas Bazaar



A huge thank-you to **Marel Rogers** and the entire band of Christmas Elves who made this year's Bazaar a total success! They included **Lynn Perry, Michael Ward, George-Ann Gowan, Jane Farnol, Ron Marasco, Joan Cassel, Barbara Psarakis, Louisa LaFontan, Randy DiPentima, Evelyn Bhumgara, Anne Everett, Kathie Clynes, Judy Perkins, Bonnie Rosborough, Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick, Bill Dillon, Melissa Schipul, Andy Sehl, Rita Kho, Janet Downes, Maggie Stearns, Bob McDowell, Irene Coe, Dan Campbell, Sarah Marshall, Elise Cieplik, David Lindley, Kathy Fricker, Jane Mullen, Sue Edgerly, Rusty Jennings, Mark Hanley** and **Margie O'Brien**. Thank you, too, to everyone who donated merchandise, door prizes and food!

We raised more money for Mission & Outreach than last year ... we hosted scores of people from the community ... and it was a great time of fellowship and friendship for one and all. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

This Year's *Messiah* Sing-In: Friday, 09 December



Hallelujah! Music in the Nave will offer our 11th annual *Messiah* Sing-In on Friday, 09 December at 8 pm. James Sinclair leads the Sherman Chamber Ensemble and guest soloists in a performance of Part One (The Nativity) and the Hallelujah Chorus of Handel's glorious *Messiah*.

And who did we get for a chorus? You! If you so desire, sit up front: we'll lend you a score and you lend us your voice. Or sit anywhere else and just enjoy the show. Either way, it's going to be an evening of beautiful music and good times.

Tickets are \$20 and available at <https://bit.ly/messiah11> or the door. Students are free. For more information, call 860-927-3486, email saintandrewskent@gmail.com, or visit www.standrewskentct.org/mitn.html.

An Advent Practice to Try On: The Reverse Advent Calendar



We're all probably familiar with the traditional Advent calendar: Each day, you open a little window to read a verse or a thought ... or maybe get a small toy or piece of candy. Well, this year for Advent (which begins this Sunday), we're suggesting something a little different: a *reverse* Advent calendar.

Here's how it works: First, obtain a copy of the calendar (they're in the Narthex of the church and the Parish Office, and also available on the parish web site and Facebook page) and purchase the items listed. Also, create a space in your home—a box, a bag or a table—to be your 'calendar.' (The photo above is the first calendar we made in the Rectory a few years ago, on Day 3.) Then, each day in Advent, place one item in your calendar, perhaps saying a little prayer of thanksgiving or "O come, O come, Emmanuel" as you do. Finally, after Christmas, gather up all the items in your calendar and either bring them to the church or take them directly to the Food Bank on a Friday morning.

Among the many rich strands of Advent is the call to tune our hearts to Jesus in *expectancy*: in eager, loving anticipation of His Coming and His Coming Again. Spending four weeks joyfully and quietly preparing a gift that will help sustain a family during the cold, dark weeks of winter is surely a beautiful way to open our hearts to the Christ Child and His Peace.

Oh No!

No Christmas Tree Sale This Year



We recently received the disappointing news that our supplier will not be able to provide us any Christmas trees this year, and thus we'll need to cancel this year's sale. **Steve Morocco** has heroically canvassed scores and scores of tree farmers and distributors across the northeast United States, but no luck: Every tree out there has been spoken for, alas.

So, *just for this year*, please make plans to purchase your tree from another local source ... and share the word with neighbors and friends who purchase from St Andrew's, as well. We do plan to return next year, however! We're already laying the groundwork to have a bumper crop on-hand in 2023.

St Andrew's Current COVID Status

THE PARISH IS OPEN.

We have now resumed all of our usual pre-COVID practices except the sharing of the Common Cup; we distribute the Wine in individual portions.

We will continue to livestream our 10:30 liturgy on Sundays and our mid-week services.

Help Support the Kent Food Bank



Please help our parish family continue to support of the Kent Food Bank by sending a check in any amount to:

Kent Community Fund
P O Box 262
Kent, CT 06757
memo: Food Bank

These funds will be used to purchase vouchers for local families in need, under the direction of Kent's new Social Services Director, Samantha Hasenflue. In addition, it is useful for the Director to have IGA gift cards to give to families who are in need. Please consider purchasing a card, for \$25 or \$50, and taking it to Samantha's office in Town Hall or dropping it in the donations basket in the Narthex. (You can also place it in the offering plate, marked for the Food Bank.)

The Kent Food Bank also accepts food donations. They are especially in need of staples such as **beans, rice, tea, coffee, sugar, nuts, hot & cold breakfast cereals, peanut butter, jellies, jams and tuna**. Make certain that the 'Best by ...' dates are not past! Please remember that the Food Bank accepts pet foods as well!

You may drop off food items on Fridays from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon in the back of the Community House on Main Street. You may also place donations in the basket in the church Narthex or in the bin in the breezeway at the rear of the Rectory.

Lectons for this Week

The First Sunday of Advent
Year A

Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44



Past Services and Homilies

Please click on the link below in order
to view
past services on YouTube and to read homilies from previous Sundays
located on our website.

[Homilies and Past Services](#)

Worship Services

-Sunday-
Holy Eucharist
8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
(Rite I at 8.30, First Sundays)
In person
(10.30 a.m. available live
stream on YouTube)



-Wednesday-
Holy Eucharist
6.00 p.m.



-Holy Days-
Holy Eucharist
9.00 a.m.



12 Step Meetings

Mondays

LGBTQ+ A.A. - **new**
(Parish House)

Wednesdays

A.A. for Women 7:00 p.m.
Zoom meeting
email us for info.

Thursdays

Al-Anon. at 7.00 p.m.
(Old Vestry Room)
A.A. at 7:00 pm - **new**
(Parish House)



Parish Staff

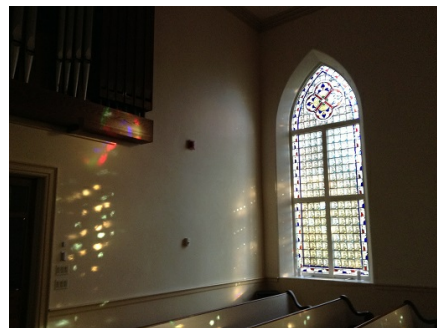
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Joan I Cassel
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Parish office open every day except Friday and Saturday from 10 am- 5 pm

Visit St Andrew's website at
www.standrewskentct.org

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut
www.episcopalct.org/

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