

THE CLOAK

DECEMBER 1, 2008



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WORDS FROM WINNIE,

“For God alone my soul in silence waits;

from him comes my salvation,” say the opening words of Psalm 62. It seems that silence is one of the least common things we encounter as we launch into the holiday season. Christmas music is already playing in every store; bells ring for the Salvation Army, and all the advertising for gifts and “pre-holiday sales seem to almost scream for our attention along with blinking Christmas lights. At church, however, we may find things a little more peaceful while we are suspended in the quiet waiting of advent, preparing for the feast of our Savior’s birth. Then, at last we will have the celebration of the incarnation, for which, as St. Paul says, “the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now.” (Rom. 8:22) It sometimes feels like that, doesn’t it, when you finally arrive at Christmas Day. There has been so much holiday preparation, shopping, cleaning, baking; and sometimes I have even sat in church on Christmas Eve thinking, “When I get home I still have to dobefore morning.” But,

as we know, our true reward as Christians is not the holiday dazzle and bustle but that wondrous gift, silently, silently given, *Silent Night* says, “when God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.”

So I wish you a quiet, contemplative advent. I hope you will be able find some space for prayer in this busy season and some time to remember that at least at church, even if no where else, Christmas does not end on Dec. 25, but begins a joyful 12 day celebration of the incarnation. This celebration will outlast all the holiday trim and treats and carry us through the Church year as we get to know the “good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God,” as Mark (1:1) introduces Him to us on the second Sunday of Advent. May this Good News fill any places in your hearts that are left empty by the impossible dreams of the ideal “white Chirstmas.” Know that you are perfectly loved and protected by God, even in midst of frantic holiday preparations and the on-



slaught of a Minnesota winter.

Peace and blessings,
Winnie+

NOTICE:

**January Cloak
dead line
December 17th**

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

**WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?**

As a child I learned this song: “What can I give him poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb. If I were a Wise Man I would do my part. But what can I give him? Give my heart.”

Last Sunday I heard someone say “it seems like the church is always asking us for something.” I suppose that is how we hear it –give! As members of St. Martin’s you **have been** giving from your hearts. We have been blessed with many riches, our church, our priest, our church community, our families, our friends, shelter and food. **Above all we have a loving God who GAVE his Son.**

On behalf of those receiving help from the Episcopal Community Service I thank you - for providing School Bags, Thanksgiving food cards, and now responding to the Christmas Star project. If you wish to share in the blessing of giving this year by helping our ESC families please let me know. Several of you already have.

- You may provide the full amount (\$50) Or share with someone (\$25)
- You may do the shopping Or request that Jennelle does

_____ I will provide the full amount _____ I am able to provide half of the amount

_____ I am willing to do my own shopping _____ I wish to have Jennelle do the shopping

Please check the option above that fits if you can partner with ECS in providing Christmas Gifts this year. You may call Jennelle on Wednesdays (235-9320) or return this form to the ECS office by Dec. 10th. Jennelle will match your preference with a child/student when their requests have been returned to the office. Don’t forget to sign your name.

Thank you and may you be blessed this coming season.

The dead line for the January Cloak is **December 17th.** Your articles need to be in the Cloak mail box in the Guild Hall or emailed to cloak@smecmn.org

The
communications
Committee:
Chuck Johnson
Rev. Winnie
Mitchell
Thom Peterson
Jackie Ziemer

DECEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Choir Practice 6:15pm	5	6
7 H.E. II 10am Spanish services	8	9	10 Acolyte training Time TBA	11 Choir Practice 6:15pm	12 Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe	13
14 H.E. II 10am	15	16	17 Acolyte training Time TBA Vestry	18 Choir Practice 6:15pm	19	20
21 H.E. II 10am Spanish services	22	23	24 Lessons and carols at 10:30 pm; Festive Eucharist at 11pm	25 H.E. II 10:30 AM	26	27
28 H.E. II 10am	29	30	31			

Please check the Half Cloak each Sunday for updates to the Calendar events!

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

7 Sandy & Lauren Ettesvold
 13 Jan Horman
 16 Jim Simpson
 16 Mark Ingledew
 18 Jennelle Cunning
 18 Mary Whiteman
 31 Georgia Theobald
 31 Michela Ziemer

December 7th
 Head Usher: Michi D.
 Lector: Sheryl C.
 Intercessor: Chuck J.
 Chalice: Thom P.

December 14th
 Head Usher: Doug W.
 Lector: TBD
 Intercessor: Rob L.
 Chalice: Connie K.

December 21st
 Head Usher: Randa S.
 Lector: Pat Gimm
 Intercessor: Bob L. Jr.
 Chalice: Sheryl C.

December 24th
 Head Usher: Bob L. Jr.
 Lector: Bob L. Jr.
 Intercessor: Thom P.
 Chalice: Michi D. & Doug W.

December 25th
 Head Usher: Chuck J.
 Lector: Les H.
 Intercessor: Les H.
 Chalice: Les H.

December 28th
 Head Usher: Randa S.
 Lector:
 Intercessor: Pat G.
 Chalice: Tom H.

If you are unable to serve please find a replacement.



Picture of our flood donations being delivered to Cedar Rapids by the Congregationalists.



ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN MINUTES

DIANE LUEDTKE: YOUTH GROUP

Youth group to meet November 30th, at 5:30 pm. We will decide the food drive plan and have some food and games at this gathering. We will also do a Secret Santa for the month of December, or through advent. Please bring your friends, all are welcome.

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The Halloween lock-in was a great success. We had nine youth and friends. Movies, making pizza and calzones, an Alter for "The day of the dead", and many brought there photo's of loved ones and or pets that have passed and shared

a nice story. Mother Winnie educated them on the traditions of the Alter and I taught them to meditate (many fell asleep at this class). Thanks to those who brought fun snacks and cookies in, this is always a big issue, feeding them and they loved all the eat's. They want to do the lock-in once a month, however, I need much more time for recovery after these all-nighters. So we will do another this summer and again next fall. The new friends who attended, definitely want to revisit. We must support these events and a parent needs to chaperone also. Our youth are the future of St. Martin's and this is where we

should be applying more efforts. Thanks for your support, keep it coming. ~~~Diane Luedtke

## DIOCESE NEWS

Thanksgiving Reflections: "Amen, thank you, amen."

The Rt. Rev. James L. Jelinek

Dear Friends,

Before taking a few days with family, I want to share with all of you. I was in Haiti last week with the Presiding Bishop as she did a pastoral visit and I, and members of the standing commission on which I serve, had our own conversations. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Honduras is the second poorest, and recalling my visit to Honduras in February, Haiti has marked differences in every dimension of the infrastructure. In Haiti, people live on less than \$2 US per day, and all the things we take for granted in our society are available to only a few. If you wish to read my record and observations from that trip, [it is posted on our website](#).



As we hear more and more bad news on the economy both in our country and around the world, I know many of us may find it harder to be thankful this year on our national holiday. I am deeply moved by the losses of many who have worked hard to build a good business and are losing it, by others who have saved carefully and invested as carefully and are losing much of their retirement income. I am more aware than ever that the poorest of the poor in our society are probably going to suffer the most because of fewer contributions to the church and other social service organizations that are often their safety net.

There is an opportunity in this crisis, an invitation to look at our values and our lives with a more caring and careful eye than the pace of our lives usually affords. When we go from one thing to another so quickly, we do not begin to take in the meaning, the magnitude and the wonder of the moment. It is often in the face of tragedy or a terrible health scare that we are most reminded of what counts most to us, particularly those intangible dimensions of life that come without price tags, love, family, community, shared memories, shared dreams, and laughter with those who tease us because they love us and help us to see ourselves with grace and humor.

I expect that most of you will be having dinner this Thanksgiving with family and beloved friends, as Marilyn and I will. May I urge you to pause a little longer for grace before the meal and ask everyone to name those dimensions of life for which they are grateful. (As someone who loves to cook and eat it hot, perhaps you could do this before the food is served!) You might especially want to recall times when you had less, holidays when you were alone or in a strange place, and bring to mind what you have now, particularly the people around you, the faith community which nurtures your soul, and the God who indwells us all. After the sharing, let the host or the best pray-er in the house open her heart and sum up the thanksgivings of all, ending together with a simple "Amen, thank you, amen."

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James L. Jelinek".

## YOGA FOR ANYONE ////

My next class starts up in January , on Saturdays at 2:00 PM, they run for five weeks. Please join me in this journey of mind, body and spirit. You'll find this to be a great tool for stress relief, fine tune your balance and your body. If you can breath, you can do yoga. Call Diane Luedtke or sign up through CER at the high school. 507-238-2012

**We are on the web**

**Smecmn.org**

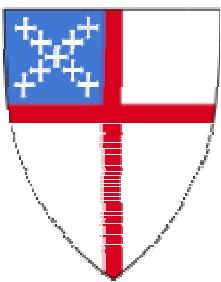
**DECEMBER 1, 2008**

**ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

102 N Park ST  
Fairmont, MN 56031

Phone: 507-238-2686  
E-mail: [info@smecmn.org](mailto:info@smecmn.org)

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5



**St. Martin's is a reconciling community of Christian people striving through worship, love and service to be a family in God and to bring others into the fellowship.**