



## St. Augustine Episcopal Church

Rev. Meredyth Albright

[northwoodsanglican@gmail.com](mailto:northwoodsanglican@gmail.com)

715-420-0066 (church); 262-309-3880 (cell);

715-420-0672 (home)

**December, 2024**

Hello St. Augustine's family;

I have realized that I use the phrase "my favorite," quite frequently in reference to church services, readings, hymns, etc.

I really do have that many favorites, but perhaps I need a new term because I don't know how many favorites one can have.

It is true: Advent is one of my favorite church seasons. It's such a beautiful preparation for Christmas. It is its own season, but gets swallowed up by the commercialism of Christmas.

Advent could be considered a preview to Christmas. It sets the stage for Jesus to enter our lives. This happens every year, but by the time Advent rolls around we have forgotten about its role as an introduction to Christmas.

As you listen to the stories of the next month, and begin to get impatient about when Christmas will arrive, pay attention to the details and anticipation that happen in so many different ways during the holiday season. They paint a picture of what Christmas means to each of us.

Blessings,

Meredyth +

### **Craft/baked goods bazaar**

Our ECW group will sell craft items and baked goods at the bazaar and cookie walk at Nativity Catholic church on Saturday, Dec. 7. The bazaar begins at 10 a.m., and ends at 2 p.m. All members of St. Augustine's are welcome to donate baked items, or crafts for the sale. All are invited to visit on Saturday.

### **Holiday Light Tour and soup supper**

Our annual tour of the light display at Hodag Park and through the residential neighborhoods of the city will be held Friday, Dec. 13. The bus will leave the church at 5 p.m., so please arrive by 4:45. A sign-up sheet is in the Guild Hall for those who would like to bring soups, and accompaniments to the supper.

This annual event has become popular among members and their friends and families. Actually, it may be the soup that is the draw. Feel free to bring a guest.

Reports are that Frosty may be recovered enough from his surgery to be our driver that night.

### **Blue Christmas**

A Blue Christmas service and time for reflection will be held on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church. This event is sponsored by the Rhinelander Ministerial Association.

Winter is long, and difficult; the holidays can also be difficult for people who have less than pleasant Christmas-time memories. Blue Christmas services give people an opportunity to sit in the quiet, candle-lit room and pray, reflect, meditate

or simply be. There will be a reflection, some music, and prayer opportunities. St. Augustine's hosted last year's Blue Christmas.

### **Angel Tree**

This year, our Jesse Tree is becoming an Angel Tree. There will be tags on the tree that you can take to use as a guide for buying a Christmas gift for an individual. If you would like to provide meal items for a family, that opportunity is available, just talk to Mother Meredyth.

Details coming soon.

### **Office Hours during the holidays**

Office hours will vary between Dec. 26, and January 2. Please call the church before you come to the office, to make sure someone is present.

### **New Years' Day service (tentative)**

Mother Meredyth is in the process of planning a New Year's Day service. It will be at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 1.

### **Special December Services**

**Thursday, Dec. 19: Blue Christmas, 7 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church.**

**Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve.** Hymn sing at 6:30 p.m., followed by Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. For those who would like to join in, we will process outside with candles, singing Silent Night.

**Wednesday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day** service, 9 a.m.

**SUNDAY:** Worship 9 a.m.

The Meeting ID: 812 8610 0297. Passcode: 94205

**To connect through video:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84626513503?pwd=TTVoVWxmbExJMGZVUnhCYWNCSnhxQT09>

**To connect by telephone:** 1-312-626-6799.

---

### **Office Hours**

Office hours are generally 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Mother Meredyth is in the office during the office hours, on Monday, as well as additional times. If you are planning to stop in to see her, please call first to make sure she is available.