



The Messenger

December 2023

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 1028
400 Highland Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Rector Reflection

One of the great liturgical things about Advent (besides the rich and vibrant colors of violet) is what is known as the "O" Antiphons". Beginning around the sixth century, these antiphons were composed from messianic titles from Scripture and set to plainsong. One antiphon is sung nightly at Vespers (Evening Prayer) right before the Magnificat Canticle for the last seven days before Christmas. Each night the antiphon begins with a title for Christ:

December 17: O Sapientia (*O Wisdom*), see 1 Kings 3:1-14, Proverbs 1:7, 8:22, 9:10, Luke 1:17, 2:40, 11:31 which describe wisdom as existing before creation itself, (pre-existent divine wisdom) as a virtue for the godly, and all the ways Jesus demonstrated divine wisdom beyond that of mortal man.

December 18: O Adonai (*O Lord*), based on Exodus 3, Isaiah 11:4-5, 33:22

December 19: O Clavis David (*O Key of David*), based on Isaiah 22

December 20: O Radix Jesse (*O Root of Jesse*), based on Isaiah 11:1, 10 referring to the redemption of the Israelites out of captivity.

December 21: O Oriens (*O Dawn of the East or 'Dayspring'*) - based on Isaiah 9:6, 22:22. See also- 2 Peter 1:19, Revelation 2:28, 22:16

December 22: O Rex Gentes (*O King of nations*), based Isaiah 2:4, 9:7 "Desire of Nations"

December 23: O Emmanuel (*O God with us*), based on Isaiah 7:14 See also Matthew 1:23

Interestingly, if you read the titles in the order of last to the first, you have: Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia—Looking only at the first letters it spells out Latin the words "ERO CRAS", meaning, "Tomorrow, I will come." I don't know if that is coincidental or an inspired intentional message, but it is really compelling either way!

I invite everyone to sing the O Antiphon verse for the listed day of hymn #56, perhaps before the evening meal as a grace to prepare our hearts for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

Blessings and peace, *Patti*+



Holiday Office Hours:

The parish office will be closed Monday, December 25 and Friday, December 29 in observance of the holiday. Please also note the parish office will be closing early at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, December 26 and Thursday, December 28.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to make an offering toward the poinsettias that decorate our church at Christmas time in memory of or thanksgiving for a loved one, please contact the church office, and your remembrance will be included in the Christmas bulletins. Administrator@episcopalcoosbay.org or 541-269-5829



Coos Food Cupboard

For the month of December, the food cupboard would appreciate donations of canned soup. Hearty soups make a comforting and filling meal for those neighbors of ours that are food insecure. In addition, the need for the Coos Food Cupboard has increased exponentially over the last year, and we had to make a change to our current policy of how often someone can visit the food cupboard. We had been allowing individuals/families to visit twice a month but beginning in 2024, this will change back to once per month. Please help us spread the word.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation to the Coos Food Cupboard, please make your check out to “Coos Food Cupboard” and mail it to P.O. Box 1028, Coos Bay, OR 97420.

Thank you for your continued and generous support of the Coos Food Cupboard!

~submitted by Brian Sullivan

LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

The work of the Coos Food Cupboard has been ongoing for many years. During COVID, the numbers of people served reduced because of the increase in financial support for those most vulnerable. But with the end of that increase in support, the numbers of clients the Cupboard serves has gone back to levels like the years before COVID. In 2023, the Cupboard has been providing food for over 1000 people each month.

This help for those in need depends upon a variety of sources of help. South Coast Food Shares and the Oregon Food Bank are a major source of food that we can make available. Some local businesses and individuals donate food items. And we also purchase a large amount of food from local stores who often give us great deals. These purchases are made possible by financial donations that we receive from organizations, faithful people who donate money every month, and other one-time gifts.

Receiving this financial and food support does not help people if we do not have volunteers to pick up the food, stock it on the shelves, and distribute it to the people who come to seek our help. We have some dedicated volunteers who have been with us for a long time. But we need some new volunteers who would be willing to help on a regular basis.

Emmanuel has a number of folks that help make the Cupboard happen. Brian Sullivan has been with the Cupboard for a long time and oversees the picking up of food and getting it stocked on the shelves. Nat Jaeggli is a part of the stocking team. Nancy Lee Stewart helps with the Friday distribution. Kent Sharman, Robert Cribbins, Basil Pittenger, the Wall Family, Kathleen Vineyard, Rick Mineau, and Rev. Patti help in a variety of ways. If you want to learn more about volunteering with these fine folks, please speak with them. Or you can give me a call. Fr. Doug Hale, 541-654-1020



Clothing Drive



In the Spirit of a New Year Off with the Old, On with the NEW

The Women of Emmanuel challenge the Men of Emmanuel to a used clothing drive. The result of the drive will be to benefit The ARK (At Risk Kids), a non-profit which assists the needy families of all the Coos Bay and North Bend school districts. Did you know that homeless families account for 13% of the children in our schools? The ARK Project is located behind Marshfield High School in a home that was donated to the school and now provides for the families with all types of assistance, from washing/drying clothes to small facilities for cooking meals, household items, cookware and food, clothing, bedding, and every assistance that is possible.

Their biggest need is clothing, especially during the winter months and ESPECIALLY Men's and Boy's clothing! But they can use Women's and Girl's and baby clothing too. Clean, used clothing is what we are looking for! So, the challenge will simply be based on pure pounds ... Team Men or Team Women, that brings in the heaviest load will be the winner! The prize will be a special coffee hour served by members of the team that LOST!

The dates for the drive will be January 8th to the 22nd. Clothes will be weighed, the winner declared at the Annual Meeting the following Sunday on January 28th!

Any questions or further information, please call Patti Nichols at 541-252-1076 or email her at pnichols@gci.net



From the Jr. Warden, A few words on security:

In recent months, the Vestry has worked to make Emmanuel a safer place by installing a new alarm system and door locks. We have also established a single point of entry. Now it is important that we all maintain a "situational awareness", and make sure doors and windows are all left closed and locked. If you are the last one out of the building, you should go ahead and set the alarm and lock the door. If you don't have a key and a PIN code, give me, or someone you know who has a key, a call. Security is something that concerns all of us at Emmanuel Parish.

I am learning that our church is a lot like an old house; there is always something that needs to be addressed. It was discovered recently, in one of the rooms in the education wing, that a window hidden behind some shelving had been quietly leaking for a while. Fortunately, it looks like it can be repaired with some sealant, and there has not been damage to the wall.

I have been asked about the pile of bark mulch. Spreading the mulch is a project in progress, and I am certain that by spring the flower beds around the church will look all that much better for the new mulch.

~submitted by Al Rumsch, Jr. Warden

Community Meal



Come enjoy a **Free** meal with us.

Community Meal available to all.

5th Saturday of December 30, 2023
11:00am – 1:00pm

At Harmony Methodist Church
123 Ocean Blvd SE, Coos Bay

Turkey Soup

Served by Emmanuel Episcopal Church



Also requesting support from 9:00am to 11:00am for preparing the meal and then from 11:00am - 1:30pm for serving and cleaning up.

Any questions?

Please contact Nancy Layne @ 541-435-0054.

2024 Episcopal Church Year Guide Kalendars are now available in the parish office. We ask for a \$3.00 donation. In addition, there is a selection of **FREE** 2024 calendars donated by several members of the congregation so stop by and check them out!



Save the Date, January 28, 2024 - Parish Annual Meeting

This is an official invitation for you to pray about whether you are called to serve on the Vestry, the leadership council for the parish. Vestry members serve a 3-year term. Vestry obligations include an active faith and participation in the life of the congregation, attending monthly meetings on the third Sunday at 11:00am-12:30pm, and a desire to share in the leadership of Emmanuel Parish. If you think you want to volunteer, let a member of your Vestry know. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rev. Patti at rev.patti.hale@gmail.com or 541-654-3758.

Gentle reminder:

If you are not current on your 2023 pledge, please become so before December 31st as it really helps the finance team in closing out the books for the year. All pledges/donations for the 2023 tax season must be received in the office postmarked by December 31, 2023.

THANK YOU!!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Knoll Gederos Birthday - December 8

Ali Nicholson Birthday - December 9

Tom Collins Birthday - December 14

Pat Cross Birthday - December 15

Violet Laird Birthday - December 16

Miranda Seldon Birthday - December 18

Wyatt Laird Birthday - December 21

Rev. Doug Hale Birthday - December 23

Gene Svatos Birthday - December 23

Brian & Ingrid Sullivan Anniversary - December 24

Carla Courtney Birthday - December 26

Diana Wall Birthday - December 31

If you don't see your name(s) on the birthday and anniversaries list, please let Kerri in the office know so we can add you to our parish list. *Thank you!*

****January Newsletter Submissions Deadline is Monday, December 18th****

DEAR SANTA,

My name is _____

This year I am grateful for:

PERSON _____

PLACE _____

THING _____

For Christmas this year I would like:

SOMETHING TO READ:

SOMETHING I NEED:

SOMETHING TO WEAR:

SOMETHING TO SHARE:

SOMETHING I WANT:

**THANK YOU,
SANTA!**



**SEE
YOU SOON!**

For more resources like this one visit: www.unitedthankoffering.com