

St. Andrew's Anglican Church  
18001 94<sup>th</sup> Ave., Tinley Park, IL 60487  
(708) 614-7404 [www.andrewrec.org](http://www.andrewrec.org)

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**SHEPHERDS  
and ANGELS**

**St. Luke 2:8-20**

**By Bishop J.C. Ryle**

WE read, in these verses, how the birth of the Lord Jesus was first announced to the children of men. The birth of a king's son is generally made an occasion of public reveling and rejoicing. The announcement of the birth of the Prince of Peace was made privately, at midnight, and without anything of worldly pomp and ostentation.

Let us mark *who they were to whom the tidings first came that Christ was born.* "They were shepherds abiding in the field near Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks by night." To shepherds—not to priests and rulers, to shepherds—not to scribes and Pharisees, an angel appeared, proclaiming, "unto you is born this day a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The saying of St. James should come into our mind, as we read these words: "Hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which He hath promised to them that love Him" (James 2:5). The want of money debar no one from spiritual privileges. The things of God's kingdom are often hid from the great and noble, and revealed to the poor. The busy labour of the hands need not prevent a man being favoured with special communion with God. Moses was keeping sheep, Gideon was threshing wheat, Elisha was ploughing, when they were severally honoured by direct calls and revelations from God. Let us resist the suggestion of Satan, that religion is not for the working man. Let us mark, secondly, *the language used by the angel in announcing Christ's birth to the shepherds.* He said, "I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

**DECEMBER  
2014**



The Very Reverend  
**Frank M. Levi, M.A.**  
*Rector*

The Rt. Reverend  
**Franklin H. Sellers, D.D.**  
*Rector Emeritus*

**Rev. Derrick Hassert,**  
*Ph.D. Curate*

**Rev. Phil Tjoelker,**  
*Assisting Minister*

**Mr. William Nash,**  
*Lay Reader*

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The way to pardon and peace with God was about to be thrown open to all mankind. Liberty was about to be proclaimed to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind. The mighty truth was about to be proclaimed that God could be just, and yet, for Christ's sake, justify the ungodly. Salvation was no longer to be seen through types and figures, but openly, and face to face. The knowledge of God was no longer to be confined to the Jews, but to be offered to the whole Gentile world. If this was not "good tidings," there never were tidings that deserved the name.



Let us mark, thirdly, *who they were that first praised God, when Christ was born.* The first hymn to the honour of "God manifest in the flesh," was sung by "a multitude of the heavenly host." It shows us what good servants the angels are. All that their heavenly Master does pleased and interests them. It shows us what clear

knowledge they have. They know what misery sin has brought into creation. They know the blessedness of heaven, and the privilege of an open door into it. Above all, it shows us the deep love and compassion which the angels feel towards poor lost man. They rejoice in the glorious prospect of many souls being saved, and many brands plucked from the burning.

Let us strive to be more like-minded with the angels. Our spiritual ignorance and deadness appear most painfully in our inability to enter into the joy which we see them here expressing. Surely if we hope to dwell with them for ever in heaven, we ought to share something of their feelings while we are here upon earth. Let us seek a more deep sense of the sinfulness and misery of sin, and then we shall have a more deep sense of thankfulness for redemption. Let us mark, fourthly, *the hymn of praise which the heavenly host sung in the hearing of the shepherds.* They said, "Glory to God in

the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men."

Now is come the highest degree of glory to God, by the appearing of His Son Jesus Christ in the world. He by His life and death on the cross will glorify God's attributes, justice, holiness, mercy, and wisdom, as they never were glorified before. Creation glorified God, but not so much as redemption. "Peace of earth!" the song goes on. Now is come to earth the peace of God which passeth all understanding, the perfect peace between a holy God and sinful man, which Christ was to purchase with His own blood, the peace which is offered freely to all mankind....

"Good will towards men!" the song concludes. Now is come the time when God's kindness and good will towards guilty man is to be fully made known. His power was seen in creation. His justice was seen in the flood. But His mercy remained to be fully revealed by the appearing and atonement of Jesus Christ.



# A Parish of the Reformed Episcopal Church



Let us mark, ere we leave the passage, *the prompt obedience to the heavenly vision* displayed by the shepherds. We see in them no doubts, or questionings, or hesitation. Strange and improbably as the tidings might seem, they at once act upon them. They went to Bethlehem in haste. They found every thing exactly as it had been told them. Their simple faith received a rich reward. They had the mighty privilege of being the first of all mankind, after Mary and Joseph, who saw with believing eyes the new-born Messiah. They soon returned, "glorifying and praising God" for what they had seen.

May our spirit be like theirs! May we ever believe implicitly, act promptly, and wait for nothing, when the path of duty is clear! So doing, we shall have a reward like that of the shepherds. The journey that is begun in faith, will generally end in praise.

## PARISH NEWS

Woman's Guild Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fund-Raiser for missions had a wonderful turnout. Thank you to all our cooks, those who helped with the dinner, and those who attended. Much appreciated!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *Feast of St. Andrew*

Monday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>,  
Pot Luck at 6:30 p.m.  
Service at 7:30 p.m.

## December VESTRY MEETING the 14th



and  
**Christmas Bazaar**  
Sunday, December 14,  
after church



**CHRISTMAS  
EVE CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE**  
Wed., Dec. 24, 2014  
Service at 10:00 p.m.  
Refreshments following  
in Parish Hall.



## CHRISTMAS NATIVITY MUSICAL PAGEANT

**Sunday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> after  
church beginning at  
12:15 p.m. downstairs  
in the Parish Hall**  
Parishioners, please bring a  
sandwich to eat quickly right  
after the service, so we may  
begin the play on time.

**DRESS REHEARSAL**  
**Sat., Dec. 20 at 10 a.m.**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jamal Sellers, Cordelia  
Olotu, Sunny Stiklius, Renee  
Hassert, Loretta Sellers,  
Jeremiah Nyboer, Barney  
Reagan, Robyn Poole,  
William O'Brien, Joseph  
Tjoelker

**Missionary of the Month:**  
Bishop Gearhard & Grace  
Myer Youth/Camp/ Pastoral  
Ministries in Germany.

*MERRY CHRISTMAS!*

[www.andrewrec.org](http://www.andrewrec.org)  
Mark A. Levi, Webmaster

# DECEMBER 2014 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle Meal 6:30 p.m. Service 7:30	<b>2</b> Youth Instrument Practice with Sunny	<b>3</b> Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.	<b>6</b> Decorating church 10 a.m. Play Practice 12:30 Kids 4:30 Youth
<b>2nd Sunday</b> in Advent MP & SS 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Youth Instrument Practice with Sunny	<b>10</b> Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.	<b>13</b> Play Practice 10:00 Kids 4:30 Youth
<b>3rd Sunday</b> in Advent MP & SS 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m. Vestry Meeting Coffee Hour	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Youth Instrument Practice with Sunny	<b>17</b> Bible Study 7:30 p.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.	<b>20</b> Dress Rehearsal Kids & Youth 10:00 to 12:00 Ember Day
<b>4th Sunday</b> in Advent MP & SS 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m. Pageant 12:15 p.m.	<b>22</b> St. Thomas the Apostle	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Service 10:00 Refreshments following	<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b> Choir Practice 9:00 a.m. St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr	<b>27</b> St. John Apostle and Evangelist
<b>Holy Innocents Day</b> MP & SS 9:30 a.m. HC 10:30 a.m.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Bible Study 7:30 p.m.			