



NEWSLETTER...November 2011

Welcome to the first quarterly Newsletter of WFLAG which hopes to become a communication tool for all the Altar Guilds to share, learn, and have an opportunity to ask questions, offer advice, and traditions. This first issue will be mailed to all the Altar Guilds. This issue and future issues will be posted on the website....www.WFLAG.org.

PASTOR SCHROEDER... Hope and Change

This was a message that was spoken of repeatedly during the last Presidential Campaign. Each individual may have an opinion concerning the fulfillment of such a campaign promise.

The Season of Advent is a season of Hope and Change. It begins with the hope of all Christians of the final coming of our Lord and Savior. It continues with the proclamation of the Word of God, of ministry that assures us of the hope that begun in us when we came to faith, when we were baptized. And it culminates in the Hope of the Nations, the babe whose birth would be celebrated in the Christmas season.

Change is also a theme of Advent. Change is what happens to us when confronted with the preaching of the Law, as was witnessed in the ministry of John the Baptist. Even Jesus' proclaimed, "Repent! For the kingdom of God is at hand!"

It is my prayer that you will enjoy this season of Advent – a season that delivers to the believer hope and change!

To God be the glory!!

PREPARING FOR JESUS.....The Advent Wreath

The season of Advent is a time for preparation for the coming of Christ, both his coming in the incarnation at Christmas and for the second coming at the end of the world as King and Judge.

The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches with four candles set equally apart. The Advent wreath marks the four weeks of the season, lighting one candle on the first Sunday, two candles on the second, three candles on the third and four on the last Sunday in Advent. If the church's paraments are blue, blue candles should be used; if purple paraments, purple candles. Many churches use a pink or rose colored candle for the third Sunday.

As Advent is a preparation for Christmas, many churches remove the Advent wreath before Christmas Eve. Other churches light the "Christ" candle, which is a white candle set in the center of the Advent wreath on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. The Advent wreath should then be removed from the Chancel.

The meaning of the Candles:

The first candle... is called the prophecy candle in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle... is the incarnate coming of Christ in Bethlehem symbolizing Christ's manger. This candle typically represents love.

The third candle... customarily is called the Shepherds' candle and represents joy.

The fourth candle... is called the Angel's candle and represents peace.

As Christmas gets closer, the light gets brighter and the Church prays....

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus"....

Revelation 22:20

PRAYER....to use at your meetings.

Heavenly Father,

Grant us all the spirit of reverence and devotion
that all things may be done reverently and in order.
as we seek to fulfill our privileged duties
in the care of Thy sanctuary,
in the dressing of Thy altar,
in the care and preparation of the sacred vessels for
the celebration of the blessed Sacraments and
all other duties entrusted to our guild.

In the name of Christ, our Lord.

Amen

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!!

The next Annual Meeting
will be held on

Saturday, April 14th, 2012

at

**Trinity Lutheran Church
501 Stewart Avenue
Wausau, WI**

DO YOU.....

.....HAVE A QUESTION?

.....HAVE A SUBJECT YOU WOULD LIKE DISCUSSED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING?

.....HAVE SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IN THE NEWSLETTER?

.....WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WFLAG?

EITHER CONTACT JUDY WEBER – PRESIDENT at 414-354-3511 or email her at
~~~~~altarguilds@wflag.org

**ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS**

- Beautiful Savior - Milwaukee
- Benediction - Milwaukee
- Bethlehem - Milwaukee
- Divine Redeemer - Hartland
- Divine Savior - Hartford
- Elm Grove - Elm Grove
- Faith - Merrill
- First Lutheran - Rice Lake
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- Trinity - Wausau
- Zion - Neshkoro

***NEED A LITURGICAL COLOR CHURCH YEAR CALENDAR 2011-2012?***

***Go to [www.nph.net](http://www.nph.net), scroll to the bottom of the page: Quick Links;***

***click on church calendar 2011-2012.***

## DIRECTORY OF CHURCH SUPPLIERS...

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Northwestern Publishing House  
1250 North 113 Street  
Milwaukee WI, 53226  
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[www.nph.net](http://www.nph.net)

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### BAPTISMAL NAPKINS...

Third World Hand Craft Shoppe  
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414-445-2065 – call for hours

### PUBLICATIONS...

The Altar Guild Manual  
Lee A. Maxwell  
Can be ordered at Northwest Publishing or  
Concordia Publishers  
\$18.99

Gathered Guests  
A Guild to Worship in the Lutheran Church  
Timothy H. Maschke

I Love To Live The Story  
A Guide To Understanding & Celebrating  
The Christian Church Year  
by Arden Med and King Schoenfeld