



The In Touch

Volume 54, Issue 12

Our Mission: To Seek, Know, Love and Serve Christ in all Persons and in all Creation

Ramblings from the Deacon Lee...

I like to keep abreast of what Christian clergy and others have been saying outside of the church walls recently about our American culture and the role of churches in our society. Jim Wallis, the founder, president and editor-in-chief of *Sojourners* is a globally respected writer, preacher, justice advocate, commentator on ethics and public life and has been a teacher of faith and public life courses at Harvard and Georgetown University.

In his new 2019 book, **Christ in Crisis: Why We Need To Reclaim Jesus**, Wallis argues that we are in a cultural and political crisis largely stemming from how the American church has become disconnected from the teachings of Jesus Christ. His book builds on the “Reclaiming Jesus” declaration church leaders wrote in May 2018 to address America’s moral crisis (“[Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis](#)” on the Web). Our Presiding Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry is part of the “Reclaiming Jesus Movement” and wrote the Forward to the book and considers it, “A real soul food dinner.”

Wallis discusses 8 radical questions central to Jesus’s teaching: 1. The Neighbor Question, 2. The Image Question, 3. The Truth Question, 4. The Power Question, 5. The Fear Question, 6. The Caesar Question, 7. The Peacemaker Question and 8. The Discipleship Question. He challenges us to ask these questions and measure whether we are thinking and acting “in Jesus name.” His writing convinces us that following Jesus’s teachings identified in those 8 questions emboldens and empowers us to act in courage and hope.

How To Be An Antiracist, by Ibram X. Kendi 2019-Founding Director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University has also written **Stamped From The Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America**- 2016. He dedicated the books To survival and To the lives they say don’t matter. Both books reached the New York Times top sellers lists.

Kendi says we know how to be racist and how to pretend to be not racist. His book however is all about knowing how to be antiracist. “The only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it- and then dismantle it.” Kendi takes us through many antiracist ideas that deal with power, biology, ethnicity, body, culture, behavior, color, white, black, class, space, gender, sexuality, failure and success.

He defines a racist as one who is supporting a racist policy through their actions or inaction or expresses a racist idea. An antiracist is one who is supporting an antiracist policy through their actions or expressing an antiracist idea. Racism has spread to nearly every part of the body politic, intersecting with all kinds of bigotry, inequalities, victim blaming, exploitation and hate. He says, “The source of racist ideas is not ignorance and hate but self-interest.”

Eleven steps that can be taken to eliminate racial inequity in our spaces are identified in the last chapter on Survival. Two of them are, “1. Admit racial inequity is a problem of bad policy, not bad people and 2. Identify racial inequity in all its intersections and manifestations.”

When Kendi discovered he had stage 4 metastatic cancer he compared racism to metastatic cancer in his essay that argued the heartbeat of racism is denial. He argues the denial of cancer and racism is suicidal. But the heartbeat of antiracism is confession, so to the heartbeat of recovery from metastatic cancer.

One book review states, “This work helps readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.”

Reverend Peter Jarrett-Schell is a writer and priest of Calvary Episcopal Church near the Capitol in Washington, DC. He published **Seeing My Skin: A Story of Wrestling With Whiteness** in 2019. He is a White pastor of a historically Black congregation, the husband of a Black women priest, and the father of a biracial son.

His book is all about him wrestling with the question of Whiteness for the better part of 15 years. Jacob Slichter, a book reviewer said, “Schell recalls a series of haunting encounters with friends, family, and strangers and considers the seductive power and incalculable costs of his Whiteness.” The story is, “A riveting, all-too-convincing testimony to the endemic and institutionalized racism in which all White Americans still participate, regardless how pure our motives or whether we notice or not,” according to reviewer Alan Venable.

Paul Soupiest, the books cover designer wrote, “In recent years, White institutions, congregations, and individuals have begun to wrestle with their racial legacy, but these reflections often get lost in abstractions: “White Privilege,” “White Fragility,” and “Structural Racism.” By examining how Whiteness has distorted his own his perceptions, relationships, and sense of self, Reverend Schell argues for the personal stake that White people have in dismantling racism and offers some creative possibilities that emerge.”

These four books I’ve read offer exciting and riveting examples of how we can follow “The Way of Jesus.” I highly recommend them as examples of what our fellow humans are saying outside of the church walls recently about our American culture and the role of churches and Christians in our society.

In Luke 6 Jesus says, “But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those that hate you, bless those that curse you, pray for those who abuse you. Do to others as you would have them do to you.” Peace!

Deacon *Lee Grím*, HTEC

Unable to attend? View our livestream on
Facebook every Sunday !



Christmas Greetings 2019

This is Deacon Lee Grim of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, International Falls writing to area businesses, churches and organizations around the International Falls and Fort Frances areas. We want you all to know that citizens of the area are conducting the 14th annual Christmas Day Dinner on Wednesday December 25th from 1:00-4:00 PM at the International Elks Lodge #1599 at 215 3rd Street. Elks Lodge #1599 and friends of the Falls Hunger Coalition are partnering to put on the dinner this year. This is a truly ecumenical and community event.

The dinner is free and open to ALL in our community. Our purpose is to spread the Gospel of love and peace of the Christmas spirit and raise voluntary donations for the Falls Hunger Coalition. Last year we provided dinners for about 650 people. This dinner is meant for everyone who wishes to attend or is in need of a delivered meal. **Anyone who eats qualifies to participate.**

We will be serving a delicious Christmas dinner with all of the trimming and desserts. Local businesses and volunteers have contributed food, supplies and volunteer labor to make this a wonderful event. Local community musicians will provide music, so we can all enjoy Christmas songs. This is an opportunity for all who want to be with others to share this Christmas festival together.

“Meals on Wheels Dinners” will be delivered on Christmas day from the Elks Lodge at 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Email ravenlhg@gmail.com by December 23 to sign up for meals to be delivered on Christmas Day. Or call 240-5125 at 11:00 am on Christmas Day to request a meal delivered during the noon hour. People wanting takeout meals after 12:30 pm need to come to the Elks Lodge to get them.

Rides will be provided to and from the Elks Lodge on Christmas day for those who do not have transportation. Call the 240-5125 for a ride from 12:30 PM-3:30 PM.

Volunteers will be needed to help carry out this event. Call 240-5125, or email ravenlhg@gmail.com to sign up for a variety of volunteer jobs.

We are also asking volunteers to provide dessert bars and pies for the dinner. They can be delivered to the Elks Lodge starting late Monday afternoon or early Christmas Day morning.

If you do not attend the event, we encourage businesses, churches and organizations to send outreach money to the Falls Hunger Coalition to support this activity. Make checks out to Falls Hunger Coalition-1000, 5th Street International Falls, 56649, which is the fiscal agent for the event. Note that the donation is for the Christmas Day Dinner Fund. If you attend the dinner and are able, you may leave a free will offering in the donation basket at the Elks Lodge. Make checks out to Falls Hunger Coalition. This event is free-so come and enjoy!

Will you please announce this event at your business, church or organization and encourage those in our community who would benefit from the dinner to attend and/or call for meals or rides.

Thank you and peace be with you and yours this Christmas Season.

Deacon Leland H. Grim
Christmas Dinner Coordinator
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
International Falls, MN



12/2 ~ **Brent Schlieff** (son George Schlieff)

12/7 ~ **Charlie Klatt** (son of Brittany & Joe,
grandson of Bill & Jeanne Corrin)

12/13 ~ **Alexander Kennedy** (son of Dale
& Sara, grandson of George Schlieff)

12/15 ~ **Bill Bertram**

12/15 ~ **Jim Davison** (son of Carolyn)

12/19 ~ **Alan Wright** (son of Andy &
Georgeann)

12/20 ~ **Nora Karlstad**

12/20 ~ **Byrne Johnson**

12/28 ~ **Sara Kennedy**

12/31 ~ **Ladd Corrin**

12/31 ~ **Flossie Knutson**



12/14 ~ **Dixie Juel (Day)**

12/30 ~ **Mark Grim**

Christmas Kid's Shop

Kids – come shop at Holy Trinity (820 4th Street)



Saturday, Nov. 30th 11 - 4 pm

Sunday, Dec. 1st 12 - 4 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 3rd 4 - 7 pm

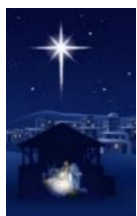
Wednesday, Dec. 4th 4 - 7 pm

Friday, Dec. 6th 4 - 7 pm

Saturday, Dec. 7th 11 - 4 pm

Shop for gifts for your Moms and Dads! No money needed – payment will be a promise to do a good deed for someone else!

Coffee and cookies will be available for moms and dads.

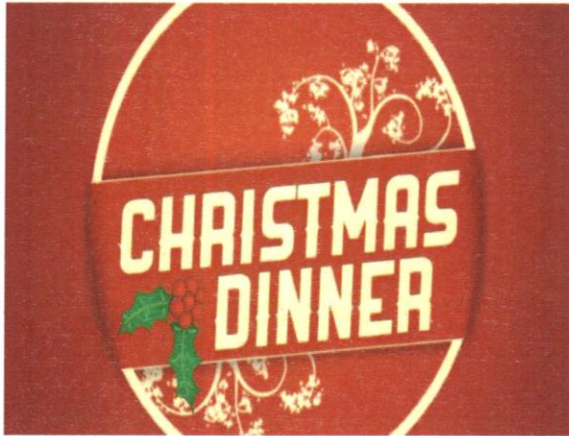


Christmas Eve Service 4 pm

Annual Meeting ~ January 19th After Church

We will need 4 New Vestry Candidates

14th Annual Community Christmas Dinner
sponsored by
The Falls Hunger Coalition & "The Elks Local #1599"



**Wednesday
December 25th
Free Dinner
1 pm-4 pm
ELKS**

Served at **The Elks Club**
215 3rd Street Intl Falls

Meals on Wheels delivery
12/25/2019
from 11 am to 12 pm.
Call 240-5125

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

E-mail ravenlhg@gmail.com or Call Lee Grim @ 240-5125 or 286-5649

Give back to your community by giving some of your time. Volunteers are needed to help set up, deliver meals, serve and clean up. Times range from 8am to 7pm.

If you are unable to volunteer, you can still help by donating a dessert or baked good to be dropped off at the Elks Christmas morning.

December '19 Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

Dates	Celebrants	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
1 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 1st Sunday of Advent	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee Grim	Michele Dahlin Lee Grim	Erik Strand
8 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 2nd Sunday of Advent	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee Grim	Carole Johnson Lee Grim	Carole Johnson
15 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 3rd Sunday of Advent	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee Grim	Molly Pavleck Lee Grim	Molly Pavleck
22 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 4th Sunday of Advent	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee Grim	Georgeann & Andy Wright	Georgeann & Andy Wright
24  Holy Eucharist 4:00 pm Christmas Eve	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee Grim	Jeannie Corrin Gavia Yount	
29 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 1st Sunday after Christmas	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim	Lee Grim	Jeanne Corrin Lee Grim	Carolyn Davison



December 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Kids Christmas shop 12:00-4:00	2	3 Kids Christmas shop 4:00-7:00	4 Kids Christmas shop 4:00-7:00	5	6 Kids Christmas shop 4:00-7:00	7 Altar Guild Georgeann & Donna Kids Christmas shop 11:00-4:00
8 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	9 Ruby's Pantry Reg. 4:30 Dist. 5-6:30	10 Vestry 4:45 pm	11	12	13	14 Altar Guild Flossie
15 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am	16	17	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline (Mel)	21 Altar Guild Flossie
22 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 4:00 pm	25 	26	27	28 Altar Guild Carolyn
29 Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	30	31				

