

Winter 2017-18



Fra Angelico: Annunciation

Detroit Area

***Ferndale, Michigan; Ann Arbor, Michigan
London, Ontario***

Church Address:

**The Christian Community
1320 Camden (at Wanda)
Ferndale, MI 48220**

Chapel Phone: (248) 546-3611

<http://www.thechristiancommunity.org/congregations-by-region/detroit/>

**Rev. Michael Brewer: Phone Number:
(248) 786-8519;**

email: j.m.brewer.1949@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Katherine Thivierge

REGULAR EVENTS AT THE CHAPEL

The Act of Consecration of Man

Sundays, 11:00 AM

Thursdays, 9:00 AM, except as noted,

*followed by study group: THE GOSPEL OF
JOHN*

*Sunday Service for Children and Religious
Instruction*

*Available on the first and third Sundays of the
month, by request*

Contact Rev. Brewer

SPECIAL EVENTS

December 3: First Sunday of Advent.

Saturday, December 9, 6:30 PM at the church:
*Bluebird House, Festival of Lights. A children's
festival; if you would like to attend or have a
young child who would like to participate, please
contact Karen Haynes at 248 796-9708.*

December 17: After lunch, a talk and conversation:
Advent then, advent now, advent to come.

December 24: Fourth Advent Sunday and Christmas
Eve, After Lunch, decorating the church for
Christmas.

*Christmas Day, Monday, Dec 25:
Special Christmas Services: 12:01 AM: Midnight
Service —*

*The Act of Consecration of Man;
8:00 AM: The Act of Consecration of Man;
11:00 AM: The Act of Consecration of Man;
12:15 PM: The Christmas Service for Children*



Van Der Goes: Adoration of the Shepherds

SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE HOLY NIGHTS

Tuesday Evening, December 26, 7:00 PM: A gathering around the Christmas tree at the Church, with singing and a conversation about the tree and its decoration.

Sunday, December 31: After the service, a conversation with Rev. Brewer: Endings and Beginnings.

**Services During the Holy Nights,
December 26 – January 5:
*The Act of Consecration of Man each morning:***

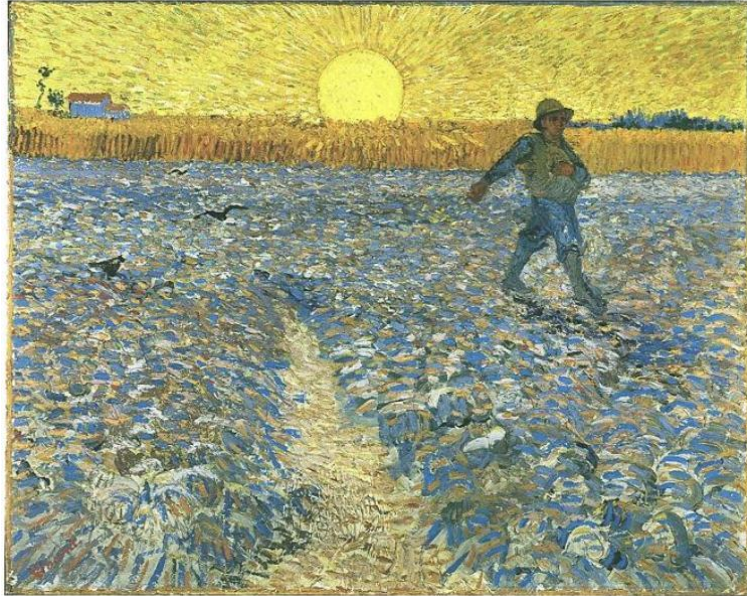
Tuesday, Dec 26	9:00
Wednesday, Dec 27	9:00
Thursday, Dec 28	9:00
Friday, Dec 29	9:00
Saturday, Dec 30	9:00
Sunday, Dec 31	11:00
New Year's Day, Jan 1	11:00
Tuesday, Jan 2	9:00
Wednesday, Jan 3	9:00
Thursday, Jan 4	9:00
Friday, Jan 5	9:00

**Saturday, January 6, Epiphany, 9:00 AM:
Act of Consecration of Man.**

January 7: After lunch, a talk: *Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh – Water, Salt, and Ash.*

January 21: After lunch, a talk: *The Gospel Readings of Epiphany and the Act of Consecration.*

Sunday, January 28, 1:00: Members' Meeting.



Van Gogh: The Sower

Sunday, February 4: *Beginning of Trinity Season.*
After lunch, a talk by Rev. Brewer: *The Seed and the Sower.*

Sunday, March 4: *Beginning of Passion Season.*

Monday – Friday, March 5-9: Rev. Brewer will be in Washington for meetings of the North American Synod. *No service March 8.* Emergency phone: 586-430-6321.

March 11: Daylight saving time starts; move your clocks forward!

Sunday, March 25: Palm Sunday.

Other Events as Announced

AFFILIATED COMMUNITIES

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

Contact: Andree Naylor; Phone (734) 971-6217;
email: andree@umich.edu

Service location: Rudolf Steiner Health Center,
1422 W. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Dates: December 16, January 20, February 3, March 24,
April 7, May 12, June 9.

Times: The Act of Consecration of Man at 10:00AM

LONDON, ONTARIO

Contact: Agnes Schneeberg, Phone: (519) 641-2431;
email: schneeberg@sympatico.ca

Service location: London Waldorf School,
7 Beaufort Street, London, Ontario N6G 1A5

Dates: February 10, April 21, May 26.

Times: Friday evening at 6:15 potluck supper, 7:00 setup,
8:00 Evening Service. Saturday morning at 10:00: the Act
of Consecration of Man followed by refreshments and
conversation.

A study group meets on the first and third Sunday of each
month at the Schneebergs' house. Study material: Rudolf
Steiner's lectures *The Gospel of John*. Contact Agnes
Schneeberg.

*The Christian Community is supported entirely by the freely
given pledges, donations, legacies and labors of love of its
members and friends. Contributions may be mailed to the
church address given on the front, or left in the collection
basket.*

Thank you for your support!

And it happened that as Elisabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby stirred and leapt in her womb, and Elisabeth was filled with holy spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud voice, saying: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed the fruit of your womb. Indeed, from where has it come about for me that the mother of my lord should come to me? For see, as soon as the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who has believed that what was spoken to her by the lord will come to fulfilment."

And Mary said:

*My soul is filled with the greatness of God
and my spirit rejoices in God my savior,
because he shown respect for the humble state of his serving
maid;*

for see: from now on all generations shall call me blessed.

*For the mighty one has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.*

*And his mercy reaches from generation to generation
for those who fear him.*

*He has acted powerfully with his arm;
he has scattered those who are arrogant in the attitude of their
hearts.*

*He has brought down from their thrones those whose might
came from long ago*

and raised to the heights the quietly humble.

*The hungry he has filled with what is good,
and the wealthy he has sent away empty-handed.*

*He has reached out in help to his servant Israel,
remembering to show mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and his descendants through all ages."*

Luke 1

If we try to imagine the world around it at its best, we probably would not choose to represent the landscape as we see it today. We might rather imagine it with spring flowers blooming, or with the trees in full leaf. Perhaps we might even imagine the leaves in the full glory of their autumn colors. Then we can think: all this has been, and if we know the right places to look, we can also think: all this will once again appear. There is, even in the bleak landscape of early winter, the promise of all the glory of spring, summer, and autumn.

When we speak of a promise in nature, we do so out of our experience of cause and effect. We know that one kind of bud will produce a leaf, another will produce a branch, and another will produce a blossom and fruit. We look at the cause today and can imagine the effect in the future.

It is rather different when we ourselves make a promise. Our promise is based on an intention that we have now to do something in the future. That future deed then becomes a cause of things that happen before it, those things that we must do in order to fulfill our promise. So when we make a promise and then work to fulfill it, we reverse the usual order of cause and effect.

Our whole life together as human beings is entirely dependent on promises made and promises kept. And underlying every promise is the hope that we will be able to make this world more and more truly into the image of that other world which we may from time to time remember or look forward to as our true home. When a promise is fulfilled, we may feel gratitude that our trust has been rewarded; when we trust in those who have made promises, our hope for the future draws nearer to us. Then in our soul we can praise the greatness of the one who helps us to fulfill our promises, and our spirits can rejoice in the confidence that his promises are also being fulfilled.

JMB