

DECEMBER 30 WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU TO JOIN US AT THE BOULEVARD!

WE WANT YOU to join our celebration for our 5th Sunday, December 30 at The Boulevard! Meet at 3456 West Franklin Boulevard in Chicago at 11:00 am for a morning of food, gifts, games and a little entertainment (brush up on your Christmas Carols!). Contact Ellen Hamilton for more information.

SOS: MISSING BINGO GAME – We want to play bingo with the residents of The Boulevard but after an exhaustive search, we cannot seem to locate the church bingo set. We are looking for a plastic tote with bingo supplies (spinning wheel with balls, cards, and markers). PLEASE contact Lynda Nadkarni if you know of its whereabouts at (708) 288-0899.

THEOLOGY ON TAP returns Monday, January 7, at the Grapevine, 9 W Hillgrove Ave, La Grange. Join us for dinner from 6:00-7:00 pm. Study begins at 7:00 pm. Please begin reading *Why Religion?: A Personal Story* by Elaine Pagels. *Why is religion still around in the twenty-first century? Why do so many still believe? And how do various traditions still shape the way people experience everything from sexuality to politics, whether they are religious or not?*

These questions took on a new urgency for Pagels when dealing with unimaginable loss—the death of her young son, followed a year later by the shocking loss of her husband. Here she interweaves a personal story with the work that she loves, illuminating how, for better and worse, religious traditions have shaped how we understand ourselves; how we relate to one another; and, most importantly, how to get through the most difficult challenges we face.

Drawing upon the perspectives of neurologists, anthropologists, and historians, as well as her own research, Pagels opens unexpected ways of understanding persistent religious aspects of our culture.

THANK YOU FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – Your generosity for the Capital Campaign has led to our ability to pay for all physical plant projects, including the Good Shepherd window, the roof, stonework, painting, and flooring. 2019 pledges are bringing us closer to a balanced budget. One of the key pieces to closing the budget deficit is every member paying their per capita of \$34.22.

CONFIRMATION begins Sunday, January 6, 2019, at 8:45 am. Confirmation is open to any youth in 8th grade (or higher). Please contact Reverend Jackson with any questions and to reserve a spot for your youth.

LECTIONARY WORSHIP SERIES – Epiphany Sunday, January 6, we begin a worship series based on the Common Lectionary called: *A Light to Enlighten the Nations*. We follow Jesus in the Gospel of Luke and discover how He shines a light beyond Israel, to the whole world.

SUNDAY SCHOOL —Sunday School is open to all ages. In combination with Sunday School, Jr. High Youth group will meet on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. **December**

30—Sunday School will be on break. **January 6**— Naomi and Ruth. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Sunday School semester. Sign up outside of the Christian Ed office or contact Diante at (773) 387-3779 or diante_johnson@yahoo.com.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS—There will be a bowling outing for all youth group members on Friday, January 4 from 3:00-6:00 pm. Location TBA. We need a parent volunteer for this outing. Contact Diante to rsvp or volunteer. (773-387-3779 or diante_johnson@yahoo.com)

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS—The office will be open December 31 and January 2-4. Kathryn Nadkarni will be staffing the office.

DALE ON VACATION —Dale will be out of the office December 26- January 1. Please contact the church office with any emergencies.

SERRV FUNDRAISER —FAIR TRADE, HANDMADE, NONPROFIT — Invite friends and family to shop hundreds of handmade items using this link: serrv.org?a=RPCserrv and 20% of all purchases will be donated back to RPC. The fundraiser ends December 31. SERRV is dedicated to fighting poverty through fair trade since 1949 and works with global artisans to bring you the world's most beautiful handcrafts.

ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER — All committee annual reports are due on or before Monday, December 31. Contact the office if you have any questions or need detailed instructions.

FACEBOOK USERS — You can easily help RPC promote its activities and mission. First, if you haven't done so already, "Like" RPC's Facebook page. Then when you see something in your news feed that interests you or that you'd like others to see, react to it in some way by either liking or loving the post. Or better yet, especially if it's an event RPC is hosting, "Share" the event to your own Facebook page! That automatically lets your friends know what is happening at RPC and hopefully will encourage them to attend and invite others. Events and other posts that are shared spread exponentially through the community.

DEVOTIONALS — Copies of the January-February 2019 Upper Room are in the rack outside the office.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE FOR FELLOWSHIP AND STUDY — Christmas Wishes ~ May your home be filled with warmth and good cheer this Christmas season. We look forward to seeing you January 23 at 10 am in the Social Hall.

CHOCOLATE, COFFEE, AND TEA — Fair trade items are offered through the Equal Exchange program. Items are located outside of Dale's office and for sale through the honor system. Proceeds will go to support the Senior High Mission Trip.

Enriching CommYOUity returns Thursday, February 28, 6:00 pm at Ascension Lutheran Church. In honor of World Day of Prayer (March 1) there will be prayer stations, a topical discussion on Human Trafficking and Evening Prayer.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Sunday, 12/30

11:00 am 5th Sunday at The Boulevard – New Year's Eve Party

Tuesday, 1/1

6:30 am Men's Forum

7:00 pm Deacons Meeting

Thursday, 1/3

6:30 am Women's Forum

Sunday, 1/6

9:00 am Human Scene

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Coffee Fellowship

2:00 pm Worship at Cantata (British Home)