

Dear Friends,

I have some exciting news about Advent that I would like to share with you. This year, we are going to have an opportunity to experience the wonderful season of Advent in an ecumenical way by praying Sunday Vespers (Evening Prayer) with our neighbors at Faith Methodist. Pastor Daniel Diss and I had lunch together a few weeks ago and we just started talking about this possibility and decided this would be a very good thing to do.

Our prayer will be simple. Vespers are usually based within the Psalms and other scripture passages. We will approach these weekly Vespers in sort of a monastic way as the Psalms and prayers will be sung. In the monastic tradition, chant is usually what is used. However, we will sing songs that reflect the spirit of Advent. These songs will be hymns; some will be based on the Psalms as well as other music from each of our traditions. On the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete (Latin for rejoice), we will get to share in the joy of hearing young children of our community as they offer a program of Christmas music.

The first and third Sundays, our Vespers will be held at Faith Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. The second and fourth Sundays our Vespers will be held here at St. Catherine Church.

In a spirit of ecumenism, and in the joy of worshipping God with our Christian brothers and sisters across the street, I invite you to join in this wonderful celebration of Advent. Our community has not had many shared experiences of worship over the last few years, and I believe this is an important time for us all. It is a time for us to gather in prayer as fellow believers so that we can seek our Savior who comes to bring us eternal life. This quest is something we can do together. I am excited about this journey.

In joyful hope,  
Fr. Tim Seigel