

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 15, Issue 03

Sharing Christ's Love, We Are A Welcoming, Caring, Serving Community. Come and See.

April 2013



Advent Lutheran Church
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www.adventlc.us

SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Bible Study 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am

Pastor
Rev. Anna Anderson

President
Debbie Lewis

Office Administrator
Nancy Cox Jairrels

Director of Music Ministry
Michael Lewallen

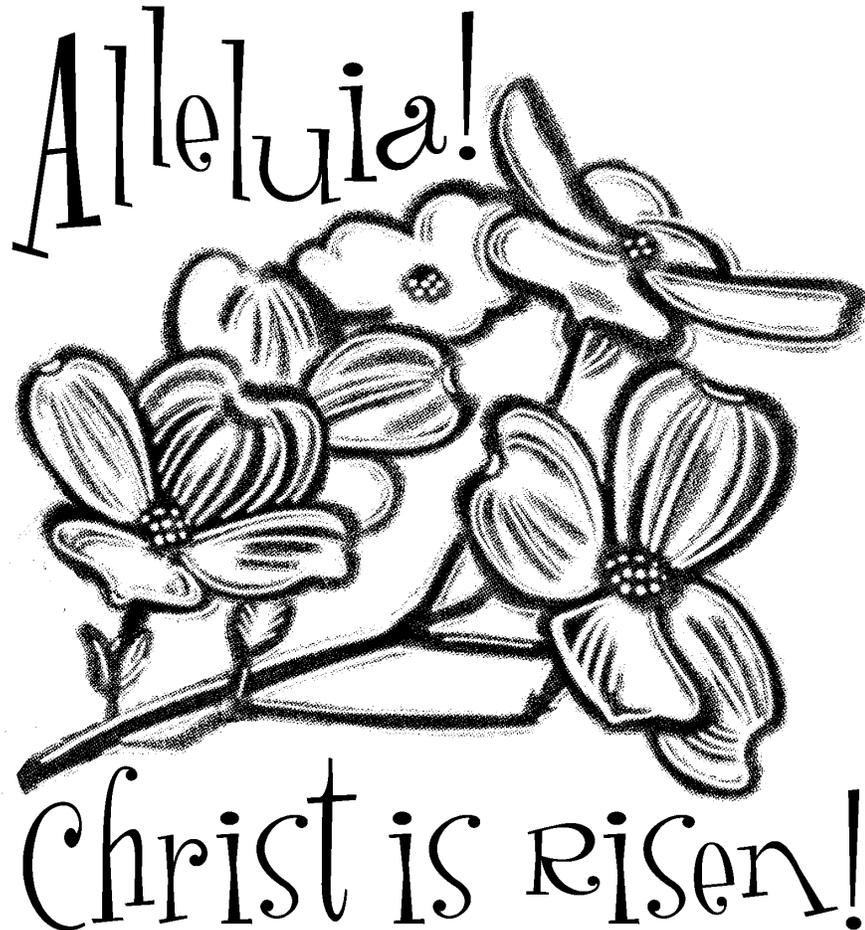
Nursery Attendant
Roxie Jairrels

Newsletter Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer

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at www.facebook.com/adventarlington

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Christ is risen! Alleluia! Have you met the risen Christ on your road recently? I have. Let me tell you about it.

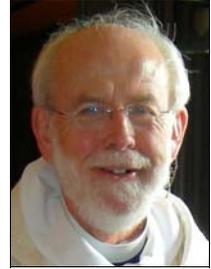
On the second Sunday of Easter as the adults in our condo were getting ready for church, Marie, my daughter, suddenly noticed that it was too quiet and asked "Where are the kids?" meaning her 3- and 5-year olds. A search determined that they weren't hiding (a favorite game), and that their shoes were missing. Marie grabbed a coat and went out of the building turning left towards the park and playground, their usual outside path. I searched the halls and stairwells on every floor. Wendell, my husband, checked the garage and then drove around the area, again towards the park. We met back empty-handed and really panicked. Wendell mentioned to Marie that there were two police cars in the park, so she grabbed a picture and ran back there. Wendell went out again to drive around. I stayed at the

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Examining the reality of how we work

Synod assembly vote on by-laws, constitution to reflect this

Advent works in the ministry of the larger church through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This year ELCA churches in the Metro area are meeting June 21-22 in Leesburg for the annual gathering. This year's theme is "Praying, Discerning, Renewing" and agenda items include the election of a new synod bishop; Bishop Graham has said that he is willing to serve a second term. Other things on the agenda include the elections of synod council members and other officers and approval of the budget. The Shape of the Synod Task Force has been working on changes needed to the constitution and governing structure so that the documents reflect the reality of the way that things are now being done (just as we are doing at Advent). The Assembly will vote on by-law changes to reflect this. The Assembly will hear about next steps in the Malaria Campaign, a church-wide initiative to raise money to eliminate malaria. It will also vote on various resolutions brought to the floor of the Assembly by people in the churches, such as one on gun violence. This year's ELCA representative will be The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, who will bring greetings and news from the church-wide ELCA and assist with the election.



Bishop Hanson

If this kind of church work is your calling, Advent would love to send you! Please tell Pastor Anna or President Debbie Lewis of your interest! Learn more by watching a informational video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vs6E2CNJ2B4&feature=player_embedded

The Advent community was saddened by the death of Paul Hetzer, and we extend our sympathy to Marianne, Scott and Steven. Paul was Advent's financial secretary for more than 20 years, a choir member, an assisting minister, and a wise leader at Advent. He is very much missed. Many thanks to all who assisted with his funeral and to Westminster Presbyterian Church for their hospitality and all their labor. Pastor Anna was ably assisted by Pastor Glen Sea, a former interim pastor at Advent.



our gratitude

Advent Family,

Scott, Steven and I felt your deep love, grief and sympathy through the flowers, food, support and affection shown to us in the past ... weeks.

Paul now knows the promise of the resurrection. What more could we want for him?

Bless you all.

Love, Marianne, Scott &
Steven

Welcome new members!

Advent welcomes those who have become a part of our worshipping community and have chosen to live their baptismal covenant in a formal commitment to support the work of God's kingdom here. They are the Stenrud family (Chris, Paige, Claire Elise & William Beckett), Colleen Zellmer, and Kristen Reglin.

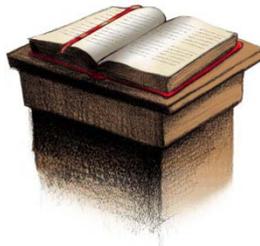
Learn more about us! New-comers to Advent who would like to know more about the congregation are invited to be our guests at lunch following service on April 28. There will be another opportunity June 2.

A lovely job! Thank you to everyone who helped with our two yard-work Saturdays. The garden looks lovely, and providing it is one of Advent's services to the commu-

nity. Thanks to Ingrid Berdahl for coordinating this.

Budgeting for next year. The Finance Team will meet

TIDBITS



April 29 at 4 pm to put together a budget. Everyone is welcome!

Using your voice. Marilyn Falksen, who schedules the lectors who read the Old and New Testament lessons on Sunday morning, is always looking for new readers. If you're interested in being a lector, please contact Marilyn at 703-534-8740 or falksen@yahoo.com or talk with her before or after service.

I pray he appears to you on your journey

(Continued from page 1)

house and by the phone (re-searching, of course, every closet and tub). Marie asked the police if they had seen the children, and they replied that their colleagues had them at the corner of Cameron Station Blvd. and Duke Street. They had turned right out of the building because they had decided to walk to the library. A neighbor near the corner had seen them waiting to cross Duke Street (!!!) and called the police. When Marie arrived, the neighbor left, so we don't know who this lady was who appeared at the right time and did the right thing and then disappeared. Little Lucas was wearing a police coat and Emilie was wrapped in a sweatshirt. They, of course, didn't realize they were cold. The police gave them a ride home, then also disappeared.

The following Tuesday (the day it was 90 degrees outside), I was in a meeting with a couple of other pastors in a coffee shop. I began to feel unwell but not in pain, became disoriented and had trouble concentrating. Then I got lightheaded and my colleagues thought I should go home, so I stood up. The next thing I remember is lying on the floor of the coffee shop, vomiting. They called Wendell and 911. Both arrived post haste. I was severely dehydrated. Wendell provided information and support while the paramedics did their jobs professionally and kindly. My colleagues cleaned up the area and got me water. Then they all disappeared, leaving Wendell to take me home.

I've seen a lot of the Risen Christ so far this Easter. I hope you have too.

Love, Pastor Anna

Highlights from the March meeting



Submitted by
Council Secretary
Desiree Jessimy

- * The 23rd Street churches are planning two events: a service project for July 13; and an all-day event of food, fun and music on September 14.
- * Expenditures exceeded receipts by \$1,121 for the month of February and \$964 year-to-date. Overall, General Fund expenditures year-to-date are about 5% under budget, while income is about 7% under budget.
- * Finance Minister Rensford Lovell reported that the Mission Investment Fund allows changes to be made once a year. A recalculation of the loan can be requested but the interest rate will remain the same.

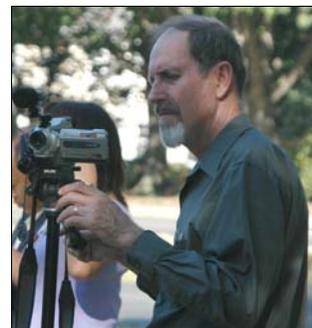
The balance in the Capital Campaign Fund is \$55,190.

A motion was approved to pay \$60,000 to the Mission Investment Fund (\$55,190 from the Capital Campaign Fund and \$4,810 from the Building Transformation Fund).

- * Property Minister George Toth had the stained glass windows in the sanctuary inspected. They are in good shape - no leaking around the frames, the cement between the glass pieces is not cracked or peeling, and the structural integrity of the four windows is intact. The outside protective windows are also in good shape but are slightly yellowed, which shifts the color rendering inside.
- * The average attendance for February was 41.
- * A motion was approved to appoint David Falksen as Financial Secretary.
- * A motion was approved to discontinue allocating any monies to the Interest General Fund and move any monies to the General Fund.
- * A motion was approved to increase the wages of Gladys Aguilera to \$100.00 per week effective April 1, 2013. Ms. Aguilera cleans the church.

New financial record keeper

David Falksen is our new financial secretary. He keeps the records of individual giving so that you can be issued a statement to use in filing your taxes. If you have any questions, he'd be happy to answer them.



Your help made for a blessed Lenten season!

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Lenten meals. Those of us who attended enjoyed the fine variety of soups and the fellowship of the meals. And thanks to all who assisted with the worship that followed. There is a variety of parts to learn and to coordinate, and, of course, the unforeseen to navigate. We are blessed to have such talented people at Advent.

A special thank you to those that helped with the Bishop's Lenten Eucharist Advent hosted for more than 50 guests from the synod. Those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality shown!



Welcome to Advent! Volunteers made soup, set-up food, distributed bulletins, and did everything possible to make our visitors feel welcome at the Bishop's Lenten Eucharist on March 12th.



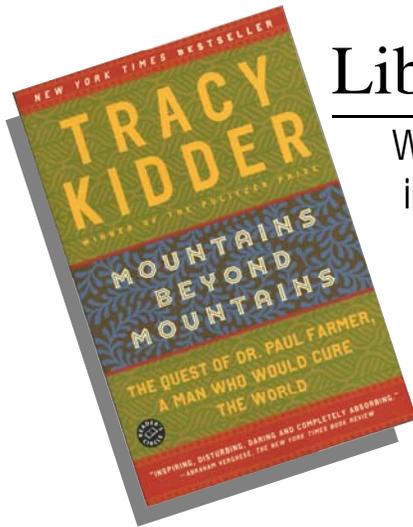
Many hands keep our garden beautiful!

Many thanks to all who helped trim, weed and mulch Advent's garden on our recent work-days. It takes caring and commitment to have a beautiful garden. And the garden sends an invitation and a message of welcome to all passers-by. So those who picked up a rake or shovel have helped the whole Advent community to extend that welcome. You are much appreciated!

- Ingrid Berdahl

Library Corner

What's on the shelf
in Advent's library

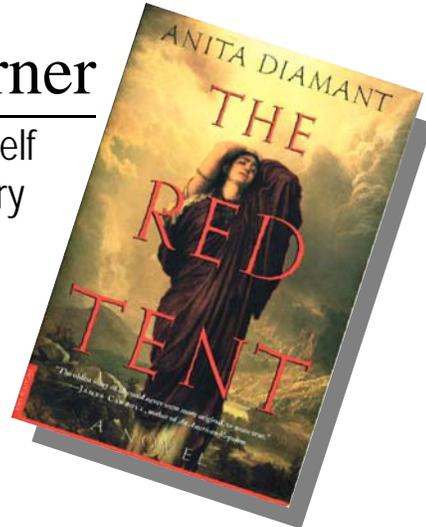


Mountains Beyond Mountains

... has been described as inspiring, enlightening, absorbing, and moving. Restore your faith in the ability of one person to make a difference by reading about Dr. Paul Farmer, a man who would "cure the world." Tracy Kidder has written a moving testament to Farmer, a tireless country doctor and ferocious public health warrior and a savior to a country that desperately needed one. Read *Mountains Beyond Mountains* to learn about Dr. Farmer's quest to tackle the infectious disease of tuberculosis in Haiti and beyond.



You are encouraged to browse and check out these or any other books or CDs from the library in the Fellowship Hall, and share a book review if you would like. Feel free to talk to me if you have questions or comments. Please, enter any books you check out or return in the log. - *Kristen Reglin, Advent Librarian*



The Red Tent

... a historical novel written by Anita Diamant, tells the story of Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and sister of Joseph. Diamant expands upon Dinah's story as written in the Bible, focusing on the role of the "red tent", in which Dinah bonded with her mothers, aunts, and cousins through song, gossip, and storytelling during their menstrual cycles and childbirth. Shortly after its release, the novel grabbed the attention of many women by offering a glimpse into the lives of women during Biblical times. The book has been acclaimed for recreating an ancient life with caravans, shepherds, farmers, midwives, slaves, and artisans.

Book drive aims to enrich lives of African students

Advent couple Patrick West and Karin Norton is collecting books for South African youth. Books of all types, new or used, particularly suitable for junior high and high school students are needed. The books will be donated to Thokozani Brothers, a choral group of about 300 kids from one of the townships near Capetown. For the past 15 years, the group has shown kids a better life - one without drugs, gangs and violence. Keeping the kids in school and improving their educational enrichment is a primary goal of the group. Any help will be appreciated and will contribute to a very worthy cause. Look for a collection point at church soon where Patrick and Karin will collect and ship the books to the Brothers. View Patrick's work at: <https://www.facebook.com/PatrickWestPhotography>.



Tasty Fellowship!

“Tables of Fellowship” continue to strengthen the Advent community. Gerry and Carol Fuller, Susan and Greg Maly, Lynn Juhl and Jeff Campbell shared a delicious meal and grew to know one another better. The discussion traversed stories from the mid-west, Asia, South America, Europe and more. Please contact Susan Maly if you are interested in joining in the fun!

LIVING LUTHERAN in the news

Church café provides fellowship, fosters faith over a mug of beer

Luther’s Table is a café/outreach program of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Renton, Wash. To start their outreach program, they bought beer and Gretchen Mertes, a pastor, works as one of the bartenders. This story was produced by and first aired on KOMO-TV in Seattle. In May the café will celebrate two years. View the interesting news clip on the Living Lutheran website at www.livinglutheran.com/videos/. Visit the website at www.lutherstable.org to read more about the café’s mission to continue Martin Luther’s habit of theological discussion over a pint of ale while sharing the core values of welcome, story, authenticity, moderation, humility and humor.



April

- 2nd Susanna Alanko
Kristiina Alanko
- 5th Olli Alanko
- 9th Carole Assante
- 11th Marilyn Falksen
- 21st David Beck
- 22nd Michael Beck
- 25th Aune Pellinen
- 27th John Matzner

May

- 1st Ismay Lovell
- 10th Scott Hetzer
- 13th Michael Lewallen
- 17th Kate Carey
- 18th David Dai
- 26th Roxie Jairrels
- 31st Will Ebel

newsletter



May 09

Please have articles for the May edition of the newsletter to the office by the date above. Emailed articles are

Life continues to transform for former pastor

I visited with the Bethke family in Portland, Oregon in March. Pastor Janell (Advent's former pastor) is serving as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Vancouver, WA, about a half hour from their home. Immanuel is discerning whether to enter into a process similar to Mission Transformation. On Palm Sunday, I had the opportunity to share Advent's experience with members of their congregation.

Jeff is working in the registrar's office in the local high school and serves as a frequent supply pastor to churches in the area. Abigail, now 9, is involved in the Big Sister program and enjoys spending time with her "big sister". She also enjoys reading, Disney movies, and playing with her pet guinea pig Arsenio.

Janell sent two books as gifts to Advent - *Tear Soup: A Recipe for Healing After Loss* and *The Lutheran Handbook*. They can be found in the church library in the Fellowship Hall.

Janell, Jeff and Abigail send their greetings, prayers and love to the people of Advent.



Greetings from the past. Advent's former pastor Janell Bethke and daughter Abigail, above, and husband Jeff, right, are living in Washington.



- Debbie Lewis

What's going on . . . in the synod and community

World Malaria Day is April 25 and the ELCA has designated April 28 as Malaria Sunday. We ask that all congregations include the Malaria Campaign in their prayers, especially on



these days.

- * Prayers for the success of the Malaria Campaign to end malaria.
- * Prayers for those who suffer with malaria.
- * Prayers for the bishops, pastors and church leaders of the Lutheran church bodies with whom the ELCA Malaria Campaign is working.
- * Prayers for the health care workers and volunteers who support efforts to eradicate, prevent and treat malaria.
- * Prayers that all Metro D.C. Synod congregations will be moved to join in the support of the Malaria Campaign.

Gifts will be matched up to \$130,000 thanks to a generous group of

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What's going on . . . in the synod and community

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ELCA members. There are three ways you can give and have your gift matched.

1. Online at www.elca.org/MalariaDay before 11:59 pm CST Tuesday April 30, 2013.
2. By calling 800-638-3522 during business hours through Monday April 29 at 5:00 pm CST. Operators are standing by.
3. By mail to ELCA Malaria Campaign, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1674. Please postmark your check by May 3, 2013, and be sure to write "World Malaria Day" in the memo line.

Washington, DC Just Desserts!

Saturday, May 19; 2:00 - 5:00 pm;

Augustana Lutheran Church,

2100 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC 20009

Join the Washington, DC Local Support Committee for Just Desserts! - a fundraiser to support the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. The event will feature a piano recital by Cole Burger (Milwaukee 2004-2005), a silent auction and, of course, desserts!

Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at the door, or online by visiting www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org and clicking on the "donate now" button. For program area, select "Washington, DC" and write "Washington, DC Just Desserts" in the comments section.

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