

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 16, Issue 01

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

February 2014



Advent Lutheran Church
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SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

Pastor
Rev. Anna Anderson

President
Gerry Fuller

Office Administrator
Nancy Cox Jairrels

Director of Music Ministry
Michael Lewallen

Nursery Attendant
Roxie Jairrels

Newsletter Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer



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RIGHT E O U S N E S S

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

There's a Bible verse that troubled me when I first heard it as a child and still does: Jesus said, "Unless your right-

eousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." Glup. My behavior, my thoughts, words, and actions, have never come close to being as good as those meticulous rule keepers. I tend to cut corners, go with "don't ask, don't tell", and really relate to the "it's better to ask forgiveness than permission" philosophy. (I am fortunate to be married to someone who calls me to account when

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Opportunities for Worship & Ministry



Righteousness subject of new sermon series

“Righteousness Through the Jesus Filter” is subject of a new series by Pastor Anna on The New Righteousness as preached by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew. 5-7).

The series will conclude during the Ash Wednesday Service at 7:30 pm on March 5. You and your friends are invited!

Christian faith and doctrine subject of upcoming Forums

For the next couple of months, Adult Forum, facilitated by Gerry Fuller and Pastor Anna, will continue to consider the video/discussion series "Living the Questions." This series looks at Christian faith from the perspective of questions that today's Christians are asking.

Beginning February 02, Pastor Anna will start a monthly series on fundamental Christian doctrine from a Lutheran perspective.

The specific topics for the next two months:

- * February 2 - “*The Ten Commandments: A Lutheran Prospective*”
- * February 9 - “*Restoring Relationships*”
- * February 16 - “*The Prophetic Jesus*”
- * February 23 - “*Evil, Suffering and a God of Love*”
- * March 2 - “*The Myth of Redemptive Violence*”
- * March 9 - “*The Creed: A Lutheran Prospective*”
- * March 16 - “*Debunking the Rapture*”
- * March 23 - “*Reclaiming the World*”
- * March 30 - “*A Kingdom without Walls*”

“Making a Change” theme for Lenten services

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5 this year. We will worship at 7:30 p.m. with choir practice to follow. Beginning March 13, we will offer a fellowship soup supper at 6:45 followed by a brief candlelight sung-prayer service every Thursday. Meditations will be offered by a different preacher each week. If you are willing to provide soup one evening or help usher or lead the worship, please let Pastor Anna know.

The theme for the meditations is “Making a Change”. Change is a constant in life. Some is gradual, some cataclysmic. Sometimes change is chosen and sometimes forced upon us. Change is hard because it moves us from the expected and familiar into the uncertain and unknown. Each week we will consider the following aspects of change as addressed in the Bible:



- * March 13: “*Change of Habit*” - *The Rev. Anna Anderson*
- * March 20: “*Change of Season*” - *The Rev. Kate Davidson*
- * March 27: “*Change of Heart*” - *The Rev. Craig Endicott*
- * April 03: “*Change of Circumstances*” - *The Rev. Greg Durig*
- * April 10: “*Change of Plans*” - *The Rev. Mark Gaskill*

ToF: good food, good talk, good fellowship

Hello everyone, I would like to invite you to participate in Tables of Fellowship (ToF). It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our church community better and grow as a congregation. The opportunity consists of a series of rotational dinners where individuals/families are assigned one of the following: a) main course; b) bread and veggie; or c) dessert. Dinners range in size from 4-6 people and are held at the Host's home. Depending upon your preference, you can sign up to be a Host and attendee, or simply join us as an attendee.

Tables of Fellowship may occur at any point



Breaking bread together! The Maly, Falksens and Toths enjoyed an evening together.

throughout each month, with flexibility among groups to schedule as needed. This year's ToF will run from February through June. Come enjoy Greg Maly's famous pot roast (a longstanding family recipe), Pastor Anna's ice cream cake, and Marilyn Falksen's homemade coleslaw.

There is something special about breaking bread together and sharing in good conversation!

Although the schedule has been made, you can still sign up. Please let me know if you are interested or have questions.

- Susan Maly

Let's examine our "righteousness" together

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I try to stray from the straight and narrow.)

So what can I say to Jesus? One thing I could say is, well, Jesus, neither I nor anyone I know can EXCEED that tithing of dill and cumin righteousness, so we might as well give up on the kingdom. And then I could say, oh, I know, Jesus, you WANT me to realize I can never merit the kingdom on my own and that's why I need you. That let's me off the hook pretty nicely.



Except I don't think Jesus wants me off the hook but on it. I think Jesus wants me to rethink and re-understand righteousness as not so much rule keeping actions but acting out of my relationship with God. It's not about having the correct mental checklist and implementing it, but about having the God oriented emotions from which my actions proceed.

I invite you to explore this Greater Righteousness with me through the sermon series on the Sermon on the Mount during February.

Love, Pastor Anna



Deck the Halls: Ismay puts the finishing touch on a wreath.

Advent was a joyful time of celebrating and sharing

The church year at Advent started out with a bang thanks to the enthusiastic work of so many of you. We celebrated our 62nd anniversary on the first Sunday in Advent with a visit from the Assistant to the Bishop. The following week we decorated the church, put up the tree, and wrapped gifts for needy families (thank you to Linda for coordinating

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Making it nice. Jong and YiYi get decorations ready for the lobby.



Your holiday gifts gave HOPE to many in need

2013 was a record year for Advent's participation in Gifts of Hope with \$2,610 worth of gifts purchased. Examples of items purchased include: drip irrigation systems so that people in Namibia can plant green gardens and grow healthy food; apartment move-in kits to provide families basic household supplies as they move from homelessness into an apartment; medical and dental care for homeless women who are victims of abuse and for low-income elderly or disabled individuals; job skills coaching and tools needed to obtain and keep a job; transportation assistance such as gas money, bus tokens, and metro cards; mentoring for children and youth in foster care; groceries for a needy family for a day and healthy snacks for after school programs for at-risk children; care companions for seniors on need of memory care; food for families in El Salvador; and nutritious meals for low-income elderly or disabled individuals in the DC metro area.

Remember that Gifts of Hope are available throughout the year to use in lieu of gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions. To purchase a Gift of Hope, just go to the website: www.giftsofhopemetrodc.org.

- Marilyn Falksen

Would you like to be the face of Advent?

Representative needed to serve on Arlington Interfaith Council

Advent is a member of the Arlington Interfaith Council that consists of representatives from 48 Arlington faith communities and 18 Helping Hands agencies that provide direct services to people in need. Our previous representative on the council has left and we would like to have a person from Advent who would be interested in attending the meetings as our

representative and make us aware of any issues or projects that are pertinent to the mission of Advent.

At the monthly meetings (held on a Monday evening at 7:30; snacks and networking at 7:15) members learn about community issues, share strategies, get to know one another and recruit volunteers. If you would like to know more about this ministry opportunity, please talk to Pastor Anna. Learn more about AIC at arlingtoninterfaith.org.

If you're looking for a local contractor, we're willing to share our list with you

As improvements occurred in our new building, the Property Ministry was able to develop a list of local contractors who do work for us. Most common repair needs are covered by this list.



Advent was recently "gifted" with a leak in the roof between the hallway and the kitchen. It turned out to be caused by leaves clogging the gutters. They have now been cleared.

Even though, officially, we are a commercial building, and have to comply with certain County regulations, the contractors listed are more than willing to do residential work too. In fact, most of our repair jobs and improvements are on the scale of residential jobs.

Most of these contractors are independent, family-owned companies with decade-long histories. The workers are knowledgeable, competent, and efficient. They are attentive to our special needs and requests and it is easy to work with them.

The list is in the FORMS notebook on the mailbox table. You can copy the name and phone number you need but, please, leave the list in the book.
- *Georges Toth*



January

3rd	Kristina Donahue Rosalie Juhl
6th	Warren Hageman Debbie Lewis
7th	Nicole Creighton
10th	Iris Jessimy
13th	Colleen Zellmer
15th	Kathryn Juhl
20th	Ingrid Palmquist

February

2nd	Walter Pfannmuller Ruben Herrera
13th	Peter Juhl
14th	Yi-Yi Lin
17th	Steven Hetzer
18th	Rensford Lovell
20th	Sam Matzner
25th	Desiree Jessimy

Christian Pickup Lines

- Now I know why Solomon had 700 wives ... because he never met you.
- For you, I would slay two Goliaths.
- The Word says, "Give drink to the thirsty, and feed the hungry"; how about dinner?
- I believe one of my ribs belongs to you.





Sharing our gifts. Last year members wrapped gifts of warm socks, scarves and hats for the homeless. This year we purchased clothing and toys for our adopted family.

Thanks, you made the season bright!

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this). We bought our Gifts of Hope (thank you, Marilyn Falksen) and had a lovely Christmas Eve worship (thank you worship and music support teams, choir, altar, flowers, refreshments). Finally we hosted our Twelfth Night party for the community churches with plenty of music, activities, crafts, food and fellowship. A good time was had by all, including our guests who outnumbered us! Thanks Marianne, Gerry, Ellie, Michael, choir and everyone who stayed to clean up! It is a busy season for everyone, so thank you for making a place in it to serve the mission of Advent.



Happy New Year! Volunteers began the new year by making bagged lunches for the homeless.

THANK YOU

for the gifts!

Dear Advent Family – I am indeed thankful for your kind and generous Christmas gift. I appreciate everyone’s thoughtfulness. It is such a blessing to be part of the Advent community. Best wishes for many blessing in the coming year to all.

– *Michael Lewallen*

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Thank you for your kindness and your generosity. Your gift is a blessing. May the new year be richly blessed with love and joy.

– *Nancy & Roxie Jairrels*

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Thank you all for the Christmas greetings and gifts! You are all the best gift a pastor could have. May God continue to bless you and this community as you bring forth the kingdom of God in this place.

– *Pastor Anna*

What's going on . . . for young adults

With the support of the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod, young adults ages 18-35 may participate in two different mission trips this spring, one through Peace Lutheran in Alexandria with Pastor Sarah and one through Faith Lutheran, Arlington, with Pastor Brian Erickson. Please consider if you wish to join in these life-changing, faith-deepening experiences, and contact Pastor Sarah or Pastor Erickson immediately. Contacts are: Pastor Erickson: pastorbrian@flcva.org, and Pastor Sarah: pastorsarah@sharingpeace.org

Mission Trip to Village of Hope, Haiti. April 23-30, 2014; Cost \$1200

This pilgrimage is to learn about Haiti, reflect on our own faith in the face of poverty, Christian American response to such circumstances, and build relationships. Our host will be the Village of Hope, a school and health clinic.

People are encouraged to fundraise on their own; cost includes airfare, room and board. Incidentals will run an extra \$100. Interested people can email Pastor Sarah directly.

Young Adult Border Immersion Experience. May 24-30; add- on May 31-June 1

For the fourth year we will be returning to El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico. The main part of the trip will be May 24- May 30. There will also be an optional add-on of May 31-June 1 for those who want to spend the weekend living with the families west of Juarez.

This experience seeks to educate participants about border issues through shared learning experience, work and prayer. The seminar includes worship with the Cristo Rey congregation; personal accounts of border life by members and various non-profit organizations; visit to an ICE Detention Facility and tour of the border fence/river; and more, including intentional time to reflect.

Pastor Brian and Kristen Kane-Osorto of Luther Place in Washington, D.C. will lead the trip. Cost will be around \$300 plus airfare, but a grant for airfare may be available. Please email Pastor Brian for more information or to register.

- Jeff Campbell

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