

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 16, Issue 06

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

Holidays 2014



Advent Lutheran Church
2222 S. Arlington Ridge Rd
Arlington, VA 22202
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adventlc@hotmail.com
www.adventlc.us

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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at www.facebook.com/adventarlington

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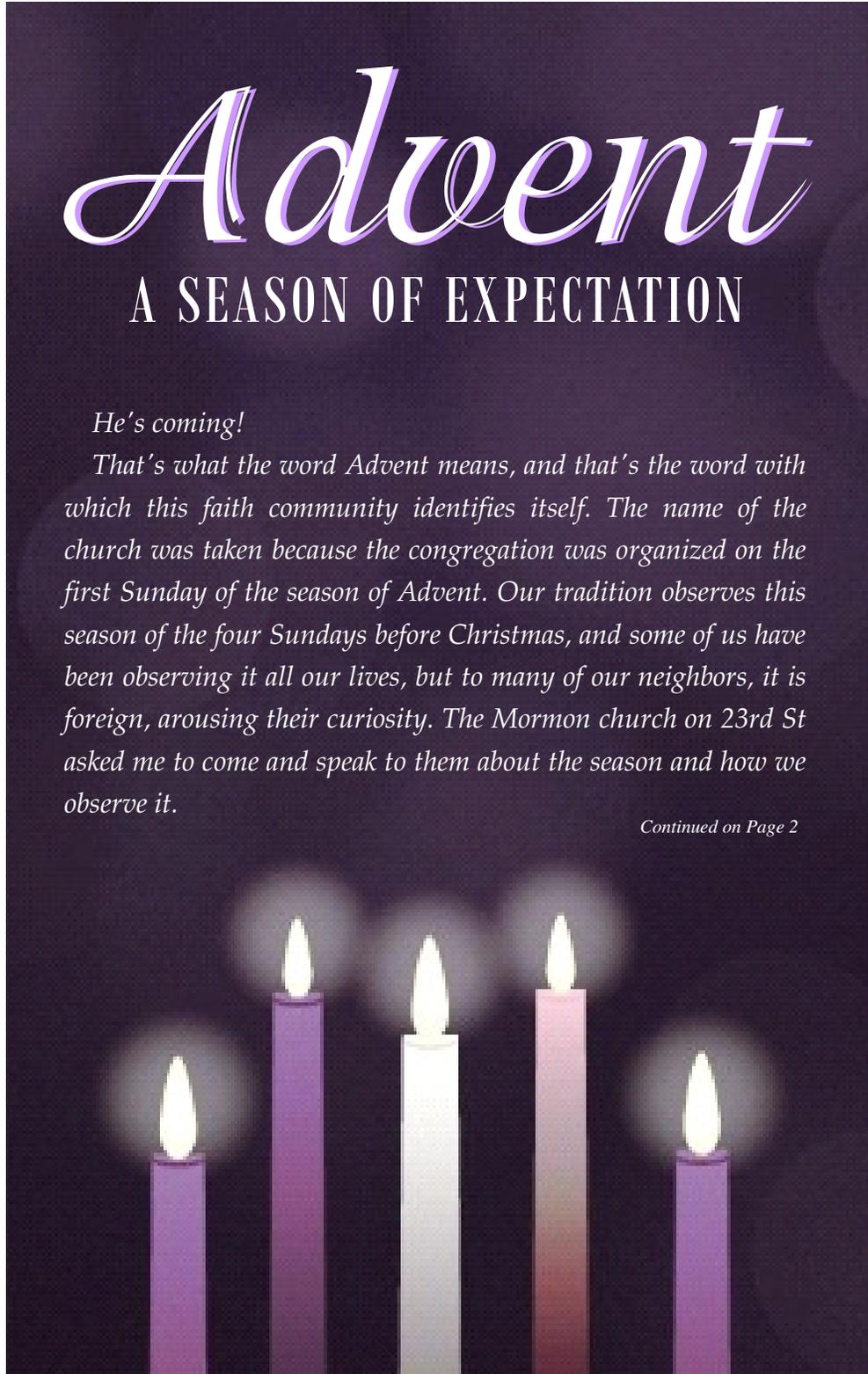
Advent

A SEASON OF EXPECTATION

He's coming!

That's what the word Advent means, and that's the word with which this faith community identifies itself. The name of the church was taken because the congregation was organized on the first Sunday of the season of Advent. Our tradition observes this season of the four Sundays before Christmas, and some of us have been observing it all our lives, but to many of our neighbors, it is foreign, arousing their curiosity. The Mormon church on 23rd St asked me to come and speak to them about the season and how we observe it.

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Sunday, November 23 @ 7 pm
Calvary United Methodist Church, 2315 S Grant St.

Enjoy choral selections from neighborhood choirs. Pastor Anna will preach one of the homilies. Please bring a donation of non-perishable food for the Arlington Food Assistance Center and cookies to share with our neighbors.

Prepare, guests are coming!

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First I talked about where the season came from. Just as Lent was originally a time of preparation for baptism at Easter, so Advent started as a time of preparation for baptism on the Sunday after the Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord. After 350 AD when infant baptism became the norm, Advent and Lent became times for refocusing on living a Christian lifestyle. But Advent, being before Christmas centered on preparing to receive the coming Christ, not only in the celebration of the past event of God's action in entering human history, but in the present of receiving Christ into our hearts, and in hope for the future of Christ's second coming.



Advent is a time for orienting to Christ yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We talk about how we are to live between the Advents in this time of already but not yet.

Secondly, I talked to them about traditions that help us observe the season like Advent wreaths and hymns in church and Advent wreaths and devotions at home, about children's activities like paper chains and Jesse trees. I answered questions about the colors of purple and blue and lots of questions about Lutheran polity. Some of them indicated an interest in attending worship in Advent so that they could see these things for themselves. So guests are coming! Get ready!

Love, Pastor Anna

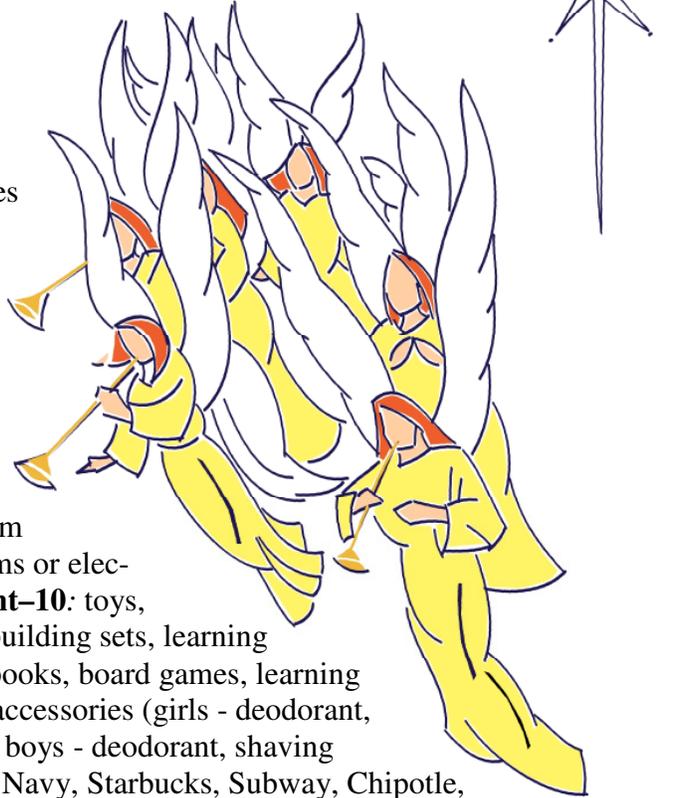
Opportunities for holiday worship and ministry

Christmas Eve Carol & Candlelight

This annual worship with Holy Communion is Wednesday, December 24 at 7 pm. Cookies and a present for everyone to follow!

Holiday Gift Giving

We are continuing our annual tradition of helping to make the holidays brighter for homeless children and their families by partnering with the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing to provide gifts for more than 250 children. Please limit your item purchases to \$25 each (no clothing, used items or electronics). Suggested items include: **ages infant–10:** toys, board games, puzzles, books, arts & crafts, building sets, learning and educational; **ages 11–18:** arts & crafts, books, board games, learning and educational, sports equipment, hygiene accessories (girls - deodorant, makeup, hair accessories, nail polish, lotion; boys - deodorant, shaving accessories, lotion); **Gift cards:** Target, Old Navy, Starbucks, Subway, Chipotle, Noodles & Company, etc. On December 07 we will wrap the gifts, decorate the church for Christmas and share finger food (donations welcome) while we work.



Creche Competition

Do you have a Nativity scene that you think is extraordinary? Bring it to Advent on December 14 to include in a display. We will vote for our favorites on December 21!

Gifts of Hope

Beginning on November 30, visit the Gifts of Hope table in the Welcome Center before or after a worship service to look at the Gifts of Hope Catalog and make your selections. You will receive a lovely Christmas card and an explanation for each purchase that can be given to your friends or relatives, while the gift will be forwarded to the organization providing assistance to those in need. Your Gifts of Hope purchases will bring hope to others while you honor those on your gift list. For more information, contact Advent's Gifts of Hope coordinators - Sarah Wickre, Desiree Jessimy, or Marilyn Falksen - or email the church at adventlc@hotmail.com.

Epiphany celebration

And un-decorating party will take place on January 11 following worship. Finger food contributions welcome!

Hearing God's Call at Advent

Advent's Council has reaffirmed for 2015 the four goals we adopted last year. We believe these goals respond to where we hear God is calling us as a faith community. They help us, both as individuals and as a community, to grow spiritually and to reach out to others. The first two of our goals focus on spiritual growth; the second two are more about reaching out. Of course, experience tells us that these two dimensions are complementary: growing spiritually empowers us to reach out; reaching out stimulates us to grow spiritually.

We invite all members of the Advent community, as they think and pray about their plans for the new year, to adopt at least one of these four as a personal goal for 2015. Indeed, consider choosing a pair to ensure growth in both dimensions. On January 11 we will have a formal dedication during our regular worship service.

- Gerry Fuller, Council President



1 The Bible Reading Challenge. The Bible is at the core of Christianity. The Bible reading challenge encourages us to hear anew the stories and declarations that are the foundation of our faith. Instead of a single challenge, this year's Bible challenge recognizes that there are different ways to read the Bible; we have different levels and perspectives. Some have less time; some more. Wherever we are, our faith grows and our understanding is nourished if we make time regularly to read scripture. If prayer is how we talk to God, then Bible reading is an important way to give God time to talk to us.

2 Spiritual Growth with the Labyrinth & Prayer in the Garden. Our labyrinth represents a long tradition of spiritual practices and techniques that have enriched the lives of the saints. It has already become a spiritual tool not only for Advent members but also for people in our community, visitors, and passers-by. The labyrinth team works to keep the walk and surrounding gardens lovely and welcoming, especially for those who need spiritual nourishment but may feel uneasy about attending formal worship. In addition to the labyrinth, we also will explore other possibilities to explore or expand our spiritual experience.

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What's going on . . . at Advent & in the neighborhood

Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot for Hunger

This is a 5K run/walk in Arlington hosted by Christ Presbyterian Church to benefit Arlington Food Assistance Center, Arlington Coalition for the Homeless and Doorways for Women and Families. For more information go to www.arlingtonvaturkeytrot.org.

Thrivent Board Elections slated

Elections for the Board of Directors of the Arlington County Chapter of Thrivent Financial will be held November 23 and November 30. You may cast your ballot at Advent after the worship on either Sunday. If you are unable to get to Advent both days, you may also vote by mail. To do so, contact Kirtlin Doyle at 703-877-2071 or cannae216@hotmail.com to make arrangements for a mail-in ballot. Mail-in ballots must be received by November 28. All associate and benefit members of Thrivent are eligible to vote.

New Contact Directories are ready!

Please pick yours up and use it to invite others to share rides or participate in ministry activities.



Parting with old Communion Ware

We have found a new life and new home for our vintage communion ware. In 1963, a communion set of tiny metal chalices on wood trays was given to Advent in memory of Harriette Hubbard McCully. When we packed them away during our building renovation, we

talked about giving them away, but we could not find anyone interested. Salem Lutheran Church in Houston, whose pastor is good friends with Pastor Glenn Sea (former interim at Advent) would love to have them and is picking them up during the Thanksgiving holiday. This is a great opportunity to have the communion set put to the use intended. The donation from Salem will fund a memorial for Ms. McCully.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Oakridge Elementary School needs reading tutors for 1st and 2nd graders

You can make a difference! Volunteer to tutor a first or second grade student. The program is simple. Meet twice a week with a student for 30-45 minutes to share an individually tailored lesson plan that includes:

- * Rereading familiar books at the student's current reading level,
- * Playing games and activities to help the student see patterns in words,
- * Writing and
- * Introducing a new book

The Book Buddies program provides support to tutors and students with a simple structure to place children on the road to literacy. Empty nesters, retirees, stay-at-home parents or anyone with a love of reading please contact Belinda Folb at 407-414-3364 or Belinda.folb@apsva.us All volunteers must submit the Arlington Public Schools Volunteer Application.

Literacy Council of Northern Virginia needs volunteer tutors for adults

The Literacy Council seeks dedicated volun-

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Reaching in and out is our goal for 2015

(Continued from page 4)

3 Stay Connected. So many of the stories and parables of Jesus are about relationships! So many passages in the Epistles are advice to the early Christians about how they should relate to each other! Indeed we are a church precisely because we want (and know that we need) to be connected to each other and to be welcoming to all who visit or live in our community. In the coming year, Advent will seek to develop and strengthen these bonds. One emphasis will be to nourish the small groups that already exist and to make sure no one feels excluded or forgotten. Another will be to explore how, in a world of tweets and earphones, Advent can encourage genuine, caring relationships in a community of faith.

4 Local Home Building and Repair Projects. Advent is partnering with Rebuilding Together in renovating homes in Alexandria for resale to low-income residents. Rebuilding Together periodically purchases homes and needs volunteers to clean and renovate them. This is one concrete way that we at Advent can witness our faith, while we build relationships among ourselves and with our larger community.

“Exploring” other view points on practicing our “Faith” traditions

"Exploring Faith" — formerly called the Adult Forum — is held most Sunday mornings at 11:30, following worship and the fellowship hour. A recent session (November 16) centered on Nadia Boltz-Weber, the tat-

tooted Lutheran pastor of the House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, a church where a chocolate fountain, a blessing of the bicycles, and serious liturgy come to-



gether. For many, she's an inspiring face of the Emerging Church — redefining what church is, with deep reverence for tradition. A former stand-up comedienne, she tells amazing stories of God's grace, both in her own life and in others, with color and humor.

You can learn more about her and hear some of her wonderful stories, and an interview with Krista Tippet, on the radio show On Being at <http://onbeing.org/program/nadia-bolz-weber-seeing-the-underside-and-seeing-god-tattoos-tradition-and-grace/5896>. Or, just go to OnBeing.org and look through the episodes, where you will find this and many other fascinating interviews that probe faith issues in the modern world. WAMU (FM 88.5) broadcasts On Being each Sunday morning at 6. But if you don't want to get up quite so early, please join us for "Exploring Faith" on Sunday mornings.

Boltz-Weber was also a featured speaker at the ELCA 2012 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. View it at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kM9Y5S3UYi8>.

What's going on . . .

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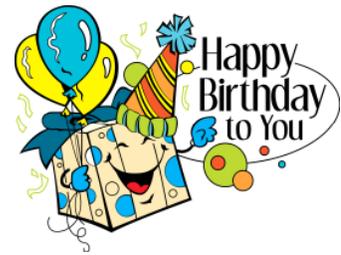
teers with interests in adult education, immigration, ESOL, or related issues to help adults learn English. Teaching or foreign language skills, though beneficial, are not required. Currently registered for our classes or waiting to be matched with tutors, these adult students are eager to improve their English language skills by working with trained volunteers.

LCNV holds an informational Volunteer Orientation about once per month where attendees are given a full overview of our organization, a picture of current tutor and teacher and other volunteer needs as well as the commitments and expectations of each position. Orientations take place at the James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road in Falls Church. The next Volunteer Orientation is scheduled for Monday November 17th. Please e-mail volunteers@lcnv.org or call 703-237-0866 x116 to RSVP!

Did you miss these wonderful events?

A number of special worship events occurred at Advent in the past month. We hosted the Alderson-Broadus (WV) Brass Choir on

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November

2nd	Kristen Reglin
4th	Stephanie Peterson
7th	Nigel Lovell
14th	Jones Day
22nd	Pauline Neff
24th	Irene Stigen
27th	David Falksen

December

1st	Jessye Jairrels
2nd	Steve Bennett Katie Tindal
12th	Kenny Tindal
14th	Beth Tindal
28th	Bobi Herrera
31st	Patricia Cassidy



. . . to Judith Zink for the lovely fall flora decorations and to Nancy, et al., for the new pillows in the lounge! Advent is blessed with so many of you that see a need around the property and fill it.

- Pastor Anna

My friends, Thank you for the B&N gift card. I will put it to good use! Your kindness, friendship and appreciation has made my time here more than a mere job. And for that I am grateful and blessed. May God continue to bless you all, and this church.

- Nancy Cox Jairrels

Greetings, Advent!

Dear friends,

All is well with me. My congregation recently installed a labyrinth in the grass. Taking a cue from you, I offered several orientation walks. This aided people in understanding the labyrinth is not magical, simply a way to pray, remembering God is with us through all the turns of life.

David is still ice skating and I still interpret whenever I can. Work keeps me busy and we are both dancing one evening per week.

Enclosed is a gift wherever needed for Advent's ministry. May Christ's love be known!

- Sincerely, Janet Miller

"Away in a Manger" **PLATE**



Make this special plate as a gift to give this Christmas.

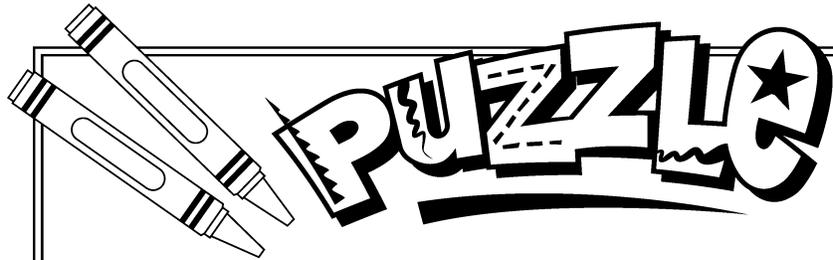
What you need:

- Clear glass plate
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush and water
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Turn plate upside-down on table. Paint one of your palms brown, and press it on the center of the plate.
2. Rotate the plate so fingers point down. Using yellow paint, make a straw bed in the palm.
3. Mix white and brown paint for Jesus' face. Use white paint for a swaddled body.
4. Paint a yellow star above Jesus and a yellow border around the plate rim.
5. When paint is dry, turn plate over. With the marker, draw dots for Jesus' eyes and write the words of Luke 2:12 around the plate rim.

Answers: Bible Quiz - A (See Luke 1:26ff.); Puzzle - The King and his crib.



Born king of the Jews

Matthew 2:1-2 says that after Jesus was born, wise men came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" Complete the puzzle to discover what they found in Bethlehem.

Directions: In the grid below, draw lines by starting at the first number in each list and stopping at the last.



☆ ☆

16-17	28-17-6	61-50-39	8-7-18	106-96-85-97-107-106	42-41-52-63-64-53
3-14-25	36-47-58	104-105-106	38-49-60	89-100-111-123	107-108-109-120-130
2-3-4	5-16-27	19-18-29-30	69-79-89	80-92-103-104	125-135-134-124-123-133-134
40-51-62-39	37-47-59	105-95-84-96		124-125-126-127-128	69-80-91-102-103
				129-130-142-141-129	141-140-128-129

• 1	• 2	• 3	• 4	• 5	• 6	• 7	• 8	• 9	• 10	• 11
• 12	• 13	• 14	• 15	• 16	• 17	• 18	• 19	• 20	• 21	• 22
• 23	• 24	• 25	• 26	• 27	• 28	• 29	• 30	• 31	• 32	• 33
• 34	• 35	• 36	• 37	• 38	• 39	• 40	• 41	• 42	• 43	• 44
• 45	• 46	• 47	• 48	• 49	• 50	• 51	• 52	• 53	• 54	• 55
• 56	• 57	• 58	• 59	• 60	• 61	• 62	• 63	• 64	• 65	• 66
• 67	• 68	• 69	• 70	• 71	• 72	• 73	• 74	• 75	• 76	• 77
• 78	• 79	• 80	• 81	• 82	• 83	• 84	• 85	• 86	• 87	• 88
• 89	• 90	• 91	• 92	• 93	• 94	• 95	• 96	• 97	• 98	• 99
• 100	• 101	• 102	• 103	• 104	• 105	• 106	• 107	• 108	• 109	• 110
• 111	• 112	• 113	• 114	• 115	• 116	• 117	• 118	• 119	• 120	• 121
• 122	• 123	• 124	• 125	• 126	• 127	• 128	• 129	• 130	• 131	• 132
• 133	• 134	• 135	• 136	• 137	• 138	• 139	• 140	• 141	• 142	• 143



BIBLE QUIZ

What's the name of the angel who told Mary she would give birth to God's Son?

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| A. Gabriel | C. Michael |
| B. Raphael | D. Jonathan |

Answers elsewhere on this page

Around the ELCA & the Synod

Newly Lutheran?

The Lutheran magazine is seeking stories of ELCA members who weren't raised in the Lutheran tradition but who call ELCA communities of faith a "home" in preparation for a future cover article in the magazine. Three hundred (300) word brief responses are invited through November 30. If you'd like contact details for the magazine, contact Karen Krueger in the synod office at kkruieger@metrodcelca.org.

Together in Mission

Annual Synod-sponsored event is January 31 (location TBA). The event will feature a slate of 10-20 speakers gathering with people interested in hearing what the best ideas for the ministry of the church are, how to better follow Jesus in the 21st century.

Australian Experience "Life Changing"

The delegation from our synod that traveled to Australia for AIDS 2014 returned, and it was described as a "life changing experience" for the ELCA Youth Delegation by Karin Klingman of Christ Lutheran Church in D.C. Find a record of the experience in an ELCA Youth AIDS 2014 blog: <http://elcaids2014.wordpress.com/>.

"We distributed about 900 cards overall in the Global Village," said Klingman of a practice started by many in the synod during the AIDS 2012 Conference in D.C. "I had two people remember the cards from last time, and several who were impressed that Lutherans cared enough to do something like distribute prayer cards with individual written prayers/thoughts/Bible verses from people from churches in metro D.C."

Educational scholarship for women

Women of the ELCA offer scholarships to women who are members of ELCA congregations in four categories:

- * Lutheran laywomen studying for a career other than ordained ministry;
- * Women interested in pursuing additional education for administrative leadership;
- * Women in their final year at an ELCA seminary; and
- * Women administrators and faculty at ELCA colleges and seminaries for participation in leadership training and management training institutes.

Learn more at www.womenoftheelca.org.

Monthly prayer vigil for Holy Land

Did you know that many Lutheran World Federation congregations maintain a monthly prayer vigil for peace in the Middle East on the 24th of each month? The ELCA's Peace Not Walls campaign notes that the International Prayer Vigil organized by companions in Jerusalem calls for all faith communities worldwide to pray for peace with justice in the Middle East on the 24th. More about the prayer vigil at <http://actpalestineforum.org/vigil/>.

What's going on . . .

(Continued from page 7)

November 9. Director Dr. Timothy DeWitt, worked with Pastor Anna and Michael to ensure a harmonious integration of their music into our worship service.

Metro DC Synod Bishop Richard Graham visited on November 2 to dedicate the new stained glass windows on All Saints Sunday as we celebrated the lives of our faithful departed.

The STOP MALARIA Concert on Saturday, October 25, raised \$1,202 and is being promoted on the ELCA Malaria site. The article, "*Supporting the ELCA Malaria Campaign with Gifts of Music,*" along with photos, can be found at www.elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCAMalariaCampaign/273.

A huge "THANK YOU!" to all who facilitated and worked on these events - ushers who handled changes in routine flawlessly, and refreshment hosts and hostesses at each! Clips and photos of both concerts on the



Sharing their gifts. Advent musicians participated in the STOP MALARIA concert.

website (adventlc.us) under "Photos and Videos."

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