

# THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 14, Issue 05

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

September 2012



**Advent Lutheran Church**  
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#### SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Bible Study** 9:00 am  
**Worship Service** 10:00 am  
*(Sunday School returns in Fall)*

**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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### From the Pastor



## ... be with you all!

*I hope that all of you reading this have had peaceful summers. I know that some of you faced challenges and met them with grace, and I know that some of you had wonderful vacations that brought you distance and respite from the every day stresses. It may seem a little strange to greet you with a prayer for peace just as we enter the most busy and stressful season of the year, as people return to new starts in work and school and new budgets and the fall/winter holiday stretch. People face lots of decision making and balancing of time and money. Responding to it all doesn't seem like a recipe for peace!*

*Yet each Sunday we are invited to share a prayer with each other that the peace of Christ may dwell within the other. It is an act of reconcilia-*

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Re-examining our mission, goals

Retreat discussions focused on ministry of helping community and members

*Statement of Mission*  
(Adopted December 03, 2006)

Advent's leadership met for a half-day retreat on August 4th to discuss ministry plans for the coming year. Following the Mission Transformation Process, Advent adapted a mission to be a "Home Away From Home" for the transient population in the area. That missional goal was adopted in 2006. The group discussed revisiting our mission and missional goals focusing on the areas where we have the gifts and resources. We decided to consider participating in "The Journey", a program for community outreach sponsored by the synod. Please see the article by Pastor Anna explaining "The Journey" in more detail.

We also discussed two areas of ministry – Community Outreach and Congregational Inreach – and split into two groups to discuss action items for the ministries.

The outreach group suggested that we revisit Mission Transformation in a shortened form and update our vision and mission. We discussed the fact that we already have several visitors, but many do not return after their first visit. It was suggested that we should define our community as those who visit Advent and find ways to minister to them.

The Inreach group discussed a desire to help members grow spiritually and to strengthen relationships among members. We discussed several ways to minister to members of the community and our congregation. We will be making some small changes to our worship service to foster spiritual growth and be more welcoming to visitors. We will also have some adult forums focused on how to welcome visitors.

There are several opportunities to participate in Advent's mission and I encourage you to think about ways that you feel called to serve. Please talk to me, Pastor Anna, or other Advent leaders about any ideas for ministry that you'd like to share.

- Debbie Lewis, Council President



- \* Making a difference with our hearts, our hands and our God-given blessings
- \* Nurturing and sustaining the discipleship of believers
- \* Spreading the good news of Jesus Christ in our neighborhood and through our daily words and actions
- \* Baptizing; celebrating the Lord's Supper; hearing, learning and teaching God's Word; praising God through worship

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*Each Sunday  
we are invited  
to share a prayer  
with each other  
that the peace of  
Christ may dwell  
within the other.*

*(Continued from page 1)*

*tion that says, "whatever disagreements we may have, whatever slights and hurts we may have caused each other, we remember that as God has forgiven us through Christ and made peace with us, so we remember that we are still all a part of the same family of forgiven sinners": we offer each other Christ's forgiveness and peace. For some people at the Sunday worship, this is the high point of their spiritual life. They get to act out the Lord's Prayer petition "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us," a prayer that we all say a few minutes later.*

*This ritual greeting and gesture is also a way of recognizing that we are guests at Jesus' dinner party and about to eat together. It has the same function as the cocktail hour before a dinner where the guests get to acknowledge each other's presence and greet each other before sitting down together. If you feel a bit awkward, that's not unusual. I am often a bit awkward at cocktail hours, where I'm trying to talk to people I don't know. It sometimes helps to remember that these are people that my host cares about, so out of respect for my host, I'll be as agreeable as possible and do my bit to help make it a party for everyone. Part of hospitality is accepting some discomfort for one's self to make others comfortable. That's something Jesus has done for us big time.*

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ!*

*Love, Pastor Anna*

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## ***Blessings!***

On Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have a special rite of blessing for all those returning to school. Students and teachers are invited to bring their back packs and other school supplies to be blessed for the coming year. We will also celebrate Labor Day by blessing workers and their tools. You are invited to bring to worship an item representing your work.

## Educational and Spiritual offerings

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Plans are underway for Sunday School this fall. Watch the bulletin for further information.

### **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Sunday morning Bible meditation continues at 9 am. Those who arrive a little early for worship are always welcome to join in. We hear a passage and share any thoughts that come to us, then hear it again, and share a prayer.

### **WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesday evening Bible Study is being re-

worked to include a small meal to sustain those coming from work. Suggestions are welcome!

### **LUTHERAN PERSPECTIVE Q&A**

Pastor Anna is leading a Q&A about "Lutheran," Christian living from a Lutheran perspective. A session was offered August 26 following worship, and another is being planned for those who couldn't make it that day. If you are interested and have Sunday dates that will NOT work for you, please let her know.

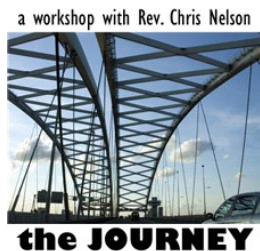
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## The journey headline goes Here; journey hed goes here

The Metro DC Synod has invited Advent to be a part of a 3-year program of renewal called "the JOURNEY". It is a six-session event led by the Rev. Chris Nelson, pastor of a mega-church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He will help congregations discover how they can connect with the community in their context.

At the Advent Leadership Retreat, those present decided to pursue finding out whether or not this Journey would be beneficial for Advent by sending Pastor Anna and president Debbie Lewis along with any others interested to the first meeting October 12-13. If you are willing to be a part of that group (and we need several people to evaluate it properly), please contact Pastor Anna or Debbie soon so that you can be registered.

Visit <http://metrodcelca.org/events/the-journey/> for more information.



## You're invited to a Spiritual Retreat Weekend

Do you need a break from the stress of your life? Are you longing to recharge your spiritual battery? Spend three days on a Rainbow Via de Cristo weekend. It's a great way to be renewed and strengthen your relationship with Christ. There's singing, worship, food and fun!

The men's retreat will be held October 11-14 and the women's retreat will be held October 18-21 at a peaceful retreat center in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Both weekends begin on Thursday evening and conclude late Sunday afternoon. Transportation is provided and there are no out-of-pocket expenses.

For further information, please contact Debbie Lewis.

## *What's going on . . . at Advent and the community*

### ***Cereal/Water Drive statistics***

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the cereal and water drives to help some in our community during the summer months. As of this week we have donated 89 boxes of cereal and 22 1/2 cases of water, and Carole still has some shopping to do. It's not too late to make donations!

### ***Service at National Cathedral***

Pastor Anna will preach at the noon Eucharist at the National Cathedral on September 27. Anyone is welcome to this service.

### ***Sandwich making for the homeless***

Advent's day to pack lunches is Wednesday,



The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 8:00 – 9:00, and our first rehearsal will be on September 13. There is always room for new choir members, and all are welcome!

September 5. Volunteers will meet at 4 pm in the kitchen at Advent to assemble the bags. Come if you can!

*(Continued on page 8)*



Jessye Jairrels



### ***September***

17th Charles Russ  
Diana Nichols  
20th Ellie Holsopple  
23rd Carlie Lynn  
27th Danielle Thomas

**newsletter  
DEADLINE**

**September  
20th**

Please email articles to the office by the deadline above.



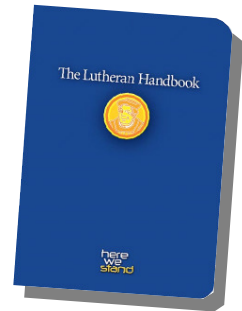
The reopening of Advent's Library was announced in the Summer newsletter. Since then the Library has been relocated to new shelves in the Fellowship Hall, except for the children's section. (Our thanks go to the dedicated work of Ellie Holsopple who catalogued and re-organized the books and CDs and to Gerry Fuller who provided the new shelves.)

In this newsletter, we are inaugurating a new informational feature - "The Library Corner." The library's resources can be helpful for spiritual growth, biblical study, church leadership, and handling life's challenges. The goal of the "Library Corner" is to make you aware of those resources. Each "Library Corner" will highlight a book, author, or topic available on our shelves that someone has found useful or inspiring. If you have a book you would like to share or if you've read a book in the library that you would encourage others to read, please contact Ellie.

## Book Review

# The Lutheran Handbook

A product of the editorial staff of the Augsburg Fortress Press, *The Lutheran Handbook*, covers extensive ecclesiastical ground. But don't be intimidated. As the winking Martin Luther on the cover suggests, it is a mostly light-hearted guide, designed to enrich both new and life-long Lutherans. The editors review many of the standard religious questions like "What should I bring to a church potluck?" Some advice is good-intentioned, but probably not realistic for most of us: arrive a few minutes before worship to scan the bulletin and prepare for the service. Some is genuinely creative: consider having acolytes coordinate their tennis shoes to light up with the liturgical color of the season. Some reflects good church etiquette: Do not attempt to make change from the offering plate.



Interspersed with the humor are serious, if brief, explanations of key Lutheran articles of faith and practice: an explanation of baptism, five key Lutheran reforms, the difference between Law and Gospel, and How to be Saved (by Grace and not through Your Works). Although probably too short to be serious guides, these summaries are useful reminders of things we might have (or perhaps should have) learned long ago. All are lessons that deserve repeating. Occasionally, as in a piece entitled "How to Identify a Genuine Miracle," the advice seems unsatisfying; but perhaps that is intentional since discerning miracles is, after all, not so easy a task.

For those who like lists, the Handbook includes several, including "The Five Biggest Misconceptions about the Bible" as well as "The Five Grossest" and "The Seven Funniest Bible Stories." The Handbook's last section returns to serious Lutheranism by providing a contemporary translation of Luther's Small Catechism. Even the humor often has a serious point. From start to finish, the core principle of this handbook is the authors' unfailing insistence that we Lutherans should take our faith seriously; but ourselves and our religion—not so much.

— Gerry Fuller



**ANSWERS:** leopard, dove, donkey, worm, fish, camel, butterfly, ant
















"How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." (Psalm 104:24, NIV)



# AMAZING ANIMALS

God created a rich variety of animals to live on the earth.

**Directions:** Write the name of each animal next to its picture. Then fill in the correct letters to complete Psalm 104:24, NIV.

1		4		2	
8		11		12	
14		20		17	
17		13		10	
18		16		6	

"How are your works in you; the earth is full of your creatures."

## Name that animal



Play a fun drawing game about animals mentioned in the Bible.

**What you need:**

- Bible
- Paper strips
- Chalkboard and chalk (or dry erase board, pen and eraser)
- Timer or stopwatch

**What you do:**

1. On each paper strip, write a Bible verse that mentions an animal (see list below for ideas).
2. Form teams. Take turns looking up each verse and drawing for your team, getting one point for each correct guess.
3. Time each player. Take turns among teams.

**Possible verses:**

- Numbers 22:21 (donkey); Deuteronomy 32:11 (eagle); 2 Samuel 17:8 (bear); Job 8:14 (spider); Job 39:13 (ostrich); Psalm 20:7 (horse); Psalm 58:8 (slug/snail); Proverbs 6:5 (gazelle, bird); Proverbs 26:11 (dog); Proverbs 30:25 (ant); Proverbs 30:28 (lizard); Isaiah 7:18 (fly, bee); Jonah 4:7 (worm); Matthew 10:16 (sheep, wolf, snake, dove); Matthew 10:29 (sparrow); Matthew 23:37 (hen, chick); Luke 13:15 (ox, donkey); Luke 13:32 (fox); 1 Peter 5:8 (lion).

# *What's going on . . . at Advent and the community*

*(Continued from page 5)*

## ***Bring your pets!***

October 7 is our annual Blessing of the Pets. Please plan to stay after social hour to welcome our furry neighbors.

## ***Another Reformation?***

October 28 is Reformation Sunday. Following our festival worship that day, Pastor Anna will lead a discussion "The Reformation and Do We Need Another."

## ***New pastor for Peace Lutheran***

Peace Lutheran Church in the west Alexandria area of our Conference has called a new pastor. Pastor Sarah Scherschligt comes from an associate position in Gaithersburg. She leads the Creation Care team in our Synod. We look forward to welcoming her.

## ***A Day at the Park***

Watch the Washington Nationals play the Miami Mar-

lins on Lutheran Day at Nationals Park, Saturday, September 8, at 1:05 p.m. Synod members, family and friends can buy discounted tickets. More than 100 tickets have already been purchased with our group. Find directions for the online discounted purchase on the synod website. Quick version? Go to [nationals.com/tickets](http://nationals.com/tickets), select the proper game date and enter Coupon Code LUTHERAN. Extras available EXTRAS.

## ***Young Adult Retreat***

Registration is now live for the Young Adult Retreat on Sept. 21-23, co-sponsored by the Metro D.C. Synod and Delaware-Maryland Synod. Young adults age 18-35 are invited to "Unplug, relax, renew" at the Northbay Retreat Center in North East, Md. Recreational activities (liesurely and challenging), bonfires by the Bay, and spiritual practices for everyday life are planned. Cost is \$99/person including lodging and meals (see detailed list online). More information available at <http://metrodcelca.org/events/young-adult-retreat/> or contact the Rev. Amy Thompson Sevimli at [asevimli@metrodcelca.org](mailto:asevimli@metrodcelca.org).

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