

# THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 15, Issue 06

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

October 2013



**Advent Lutheran Church**  
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Arlington, VA 22202  
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adventlc@hotmail.com  
[www.adventlc.us](http://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

 Find us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/adventarlington](http://www.facebook.com/adventarlington)

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## Making ethical choices as a community in Christ



*When I read newspaper opinion columns, I'm struck by how very ethical and moral people can come to opposite conclusions about what ought to be done in a particular situation, and I wonder why people with the same ethical values about human dignity and worth and honor don't come out*

*with the same opinion. In other words, why do people of good will differ? All may agree on the ethical position that we should "Do good and avoid evil", but we have very different positions on what that looks like in practice. One of the reasons for those differences is that*

*(Continued on page 4)*

# *Opportunities for Worship*

## *Sermon series continues*

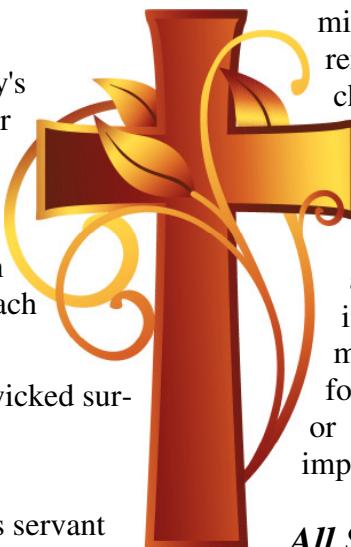
How do you live ethically in today's challenging world? Come consider what the Bible says about the issues of pressure from bosses, friends, family needs, economic dilemmas and more in the Sermon Series Pastor Anna is preaching each Sunday:

- \* October 6: Habakkuk - "the wicked surround the righteous"  
Title: ***Our So-called Friends***
- \* October 13: 2 Kings - Elisha's servant steals payment  
Title: ***Taking Under the Table***
- \* October 20: widow begs for justice  
Title: ***Profiting from Injustice***
- \* October 27: Phar & tax collector pray;  
Title: ***Lying to Ourselves and Others***

You may want to invite your friends or take notes to share.

## *Installation of Advent ministry leaders*

At worship on October 6 we will install the



ministry leaders at Advent for the current program year. You will have a chance to hear about the goals the Council has set for this year, and you will be invited to choose one that you feel especially called to - that you can support as you are able. This means you will be informed of what is going on in that ministry area so that you can pray for those carrying out the work and/or add your ideas or expertise to the implementation of those goals.

## *All Saints Day*

On November 3, Advent will remember the faithful who have died, especially those who finished their earthly service in the past year. If you would like to have someone included in the bulletin, please email the church office with their name and their relationship to you.

## *Noon Eucharist*

Pastor Anna will lead the service at National Cathedral on Monday, October 14. All are welcome.

## **All God's Creatures**

Bring your furry, scaly or feathered friends to the labyrinth at 11:30 am on October 6 for the annual Blessing of the Pets.

All are invited to assist in welcoming these neighbors.



# Take the challenge to further God's ministry

**A**t our retreat in August, Advent's leadership identified four goals for the 2013-14 year. These goals represent where your leaders hear that God is calling us as a faith community to grow spiritually and to reach out to others. They were unanimously approved at the September Council meeting.

Now we are challenging every member and friend of Advent to help meet these goals. We invite you to personally commit to at least one of these goals, and agree to assist the teams to set specific targets, work to achieve the targets, and evaluate our success. During worship Sunday, October 6, we will have a dedication service for our leadership and for everyone participating in achieving our goals.

Once you have identified the goal(s) you will support, you can indicate your choice at the service on October 6, or through e-mail ([adventlc@hotmail.com](mailto:adventlc@hotmail.com)) or letter to the church office. The individual leadership teams will contact you about further planning sessions and programs.

Your leadership team believes that, by adopting specific goals, Advent members and friends will grow spiritually and help extend God's love to the world.

## Conduct a Bible Reading Challenge

People of Faith read the Bible to learn what the Bible says, to help us pray, to help us talk to others about our faith. Advent's Council has chosen as one of our ministry goals a Bible reading challenge. We'll be introducing the challenge in the coming weeks. Our goals, among others, are to: recognize how God's Word shapes and acts in our life - as individuals and as the church body; give us fluency in speaking God's word-in words and in works. Join us in a great opportunity to grow together in faith.

*Team Leaders: Marianne Hetzer and Susan Toth*

## Stay Connected to All Community Members

One of the marks of discipleship is building caring relationships. At Advent, we are all disciples of Christ and as a church we care about each other, but how do we strengthen and nurture those bonds? How do we keep in touch with those who have been absent from worship? What can we do to make sure members' spiritual needs are met? Share your thoughts and help us meet the needs of those who call Advent home.

*Team Leaders: Nancy Jairrels and Ismay Lovell*

## Participate in Local Home Building and Repair Projects

Our team will work with Rebuilding Together in renovating homes in Alexandria for resale to low-income residents. Rebuilding Together is in the process of purchasing homes, and should be ready to start renovation work in November, at which time they will provide us with more details. We would appreciate knowing how many people might be interested in working with our team, so that we can inform Rebuilding Together.

*Team Leaders: Susie Alvarez and Desiree Jessimy*

## Spiritual Growth with the Labyrinth and Prayer in the Garden

Our labyrinth has a spiritual life of its own. All sorts of people come and go - neighbors, commuters, passers-by, children who play. Advent members toil to keep the surrounding gardens lovely and welcoming, especially for those who need spiritual nourishment but may feel uneasy about attending formal worship. Are there possibilities for enhancing the experience of labyrinth walkers - installing solar lamps again, for example - or for creating entirely new experiences in the surrounding gardens? Perhaps a periodic prayer circle where anyone who wanted could come to share prayer concerns? How can we make our gardens an even more spiritual place? If you would be interested in exploring the spiritual possibilities for our outdoor space, please join US.

*Team Leaders: Ingrid Berdahl and Gerry Fuller*

## Highlights from September



Submitted by  
Council Secretary  
Marianne Hetzer

- \* Advent Council Meeting opened with devotions and a Spiritual Exercise led by President Gerry Fuller. He led us in a contemplative meditation on intercessory prayer for each other. We each wrote a concern of our own, and then picked someone else's concern to lift in prayer aloud. We got to experience the presence of God in each other's lives and invoke that presence in community.
- \* Advent's participation in the eScrip fundraising program will be discontinued due to lack of participation.
- \* Motion passed to approve the four congregational goals for the coming year (see Page 3).

Winter is coming!  
Come out and help get  
our gardens ready

Thanks very much to those who have helped with the garden this summer. Your help was much appreciated!

We will have our fall workday on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9 am. What is your gift? Are you especially good at raking? We will be preparing our gardens for winter - weeding, mulching, trimming, raking. Mark your calendars and join in the fun! Contact Ingrid Berdahl if you have any questions. November 2<sup>nd</sup> is the rain date.

- *Ingrid Berdahl*

## Gathering strength from the community

(Continued from page 1)

*there's more than one method for arriving at an ethical decision. Some people make ethical decisions on the basis of absolute right and wrong as defined by rules and moral precepts. Other people make their ethical decisions based on what the outcome will be, and further refine their decision based on either "greatest good for the greatest number" or on "best for that individual in that moment" or on long range outcomes: an action that results in the best long term outcome.*

*And there are other nuances to these.*

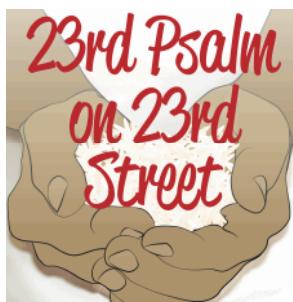
### **From the Pastor**

*The Church tries to make ethical decisions through community. It tries to form and nurture the character of its people as followers of Christ. The Church holds as fundamental that the moral nature of humans comes from our creation in the image of God. Because we are also by nature self centered, we recognize God's gifts of laws, rules and principles to defend us from our own human weakness. But God's Spirit acts in us to point us towards the future, reflecting our capacity for idealism and the desire to create a more humane social order. So in community we draw from the strengths of both systems to help us navigate between the desired goals and the means to them.*

*That's why the community gathers in prayer; that's why it lives in the tension between what is and what should be. Pray for the Church!*

*Love, Pastor Anna*

# Day of service garnered more than \$8,000



Community Service Day: A Day of Service was called for by both the Governor of Virginia and Bishop Hanson (in honor of the 25th birthday of the ELCA) for September 14. To honor this call, Advent was a part of the community day of the churches on 23rd Street. At least four of our members distributed flyers in the neighborhood, and Advent volunteers served at each of the events from the pancake breakfast at Calvary and the restaurant sample lunch at the Church of the Latter Day Saints (which combined raised more than \$8,000 for the Capital Food Bank) to the ice cream social at Mt. Vernon Baptist and the concert of combined choirs hosted by Advent. A special thank you to all who took time on this beautiful day to assist!



## Elections and “double dollars” on slate for the coming months

Elections for the Board of the Arlington Chapter of Thrivent will take place in November. If you are a Thrivent member (at either the associate or benefit level), you are eligible to run for a position on the Board. The time commitment is minimal – only four meetings a year. Please talk to me for more information.

Thrivent members who are eligible for Thrivent Choice dollars take note. During the months of October and November, Thrivent Choice will double dollars directed to approved congregations (Advent IS on the approved list). All donations made from October 1 to November 30 will be doubled until \$15 million has been awarded.

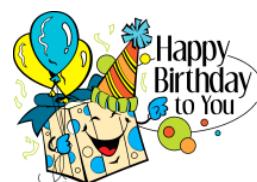
- Marilyn Falksen,  
Thrivent Congregational Advocate for Advent

### Rainbow Via de Cristo weekend

Do you need a break from the stress of your life? Are you longing to recharge your spiritual battery? Attend a three-day Rainbow Via de Cristo retreat to renew and strengthen your relationship with Christ. There will be singing, worship, food, and fun! Men’s retreat is October 3-6; women’s retreat is October 10-13, both at a peaceful retreat center in Upper Marlboro, MD. Transportation is provided and there are no out-of-pocket expenses. For more information, please talk with Debbie Lewis.

*Get to know us  
better over lunch!*

Advent is pleased to invite newcomers to the community to be our guests for lunch on October 20th following worship. Please let Pastor Anna know if you are interested.



**October**

6th	Murray Lynn
18th	Karin Norton
26th	Carlie Lynn
27th	Katariina Alanko

newsletter  
deadline

**OCTOBER 16**

Please submit articles  
to office by 2 pm

## The Falksens' picturesque vacation to Yellowstone

Photos by David Falksen,  
© 2013

The Grand Tetons rise above Jackson Hole, pictured right.



Old Faithful blows off steam at Yellowstone, above, while bison create their version of a traffic jam, right. The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, above right, is the first canyon on the Yellowstone River downstream from Yellowstone Falls.



*GROW IN Grace*

Make this craft as a reminder to continue growing in God's amazing grace.

**What you need:**

- An adult to help
- Newspaper
- Acrylic paints
- Paper plate
- Paintbrush
- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker
- Potting soil
- Small "indoors" plant or packet of seeds

**What you do:**

1. Cover your work area with newspaper and squeeze paint onto the paper plate.
2. Paint designs on the pot and plate, cleaning your brush in the water when changing colors. Let dry.
3. With the black marker, write "Growing in God's Grace" along the top ridge of the pot.
4. Pour in a small amount of soil. Place your plant in the pot and surround it with more soil. (If planting seeds, follow packet instructions.)
5. Water your plant. Check it daily and keep the soil moist.
6. Enjoy watching your plant grow!

# PUZZLE

## Growing UP!

You're growing each day in many different ways. A verse from 2 Peter tells what will help you grow!

Directions: Fill in the blanks below, using the height measurements as guides, to complete 2 Peter 3:18.

<b>3 1/4 ft.</b>	<b>knowledge</b>	<b>Savior</b>	<b>3 1/8 ft.</b>
<b>3 1/16 ft.</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>grace</b>	<b>3 ft.</b>
<b>2 3/4 ft.</b>	<b>now</b>	<b>forever</b>	<b>2 1/2 ft.</b>
<b>2 1/4 ft.</b>	<b>Lord</b>	<b>grow</b>	<b>2 1/8 ft.</b>
<b>2 1/16 ft.</b>	<b>glory</b>	<b>Jesus Christ</b>	<b>1 1/4 ft.</b>
<b>2 ft.</b>	<b>Amen</b>		
<b>1 ft.</b>	<b>our</b>		

"But \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ 1 ft.  
 2 1/8 ft.                    3 ft.                    3 1/4 ft.                    1 ft.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ 2 1/4 ft.                    3 1/8 ft.                    1 1/4 ft.  
 To \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ! \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 3 1/16 ft.                    2 1/16 ft.                    2 3/4 ft.                    2 1/2 ft.                    2 ft."

2 PETER 3:18, NIV

Answer: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."

### A Childhood Prayer

God in heaven, hear my  
prayer.  
Keep me in thy loving care.

Be my guide in all I do.  
Bless all those who love me  
too. Amen.

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

**Mark your calendar:** *Neighborhood Thanksgiving Service* is being planned for Sunday, November 24, at 7 pm at a 23rd Street church TBD. *Tree Trimming Advent Party* and gift wrapping for the homeless shelter is planned for December 8 following worship.

**The Journey:** Advent has committed as a congregation to a three-year Synod initiative for renewal and growth. Pastor Anna, Vice President Linda Vilardo, and Desiree Jessimy are our delegates and will attend the third convocation October 4-5. They will return with more homework, so stay tuned!

**OktoberFest:** On Sunday, October 27, the Arlington Lutheran Churches are hosting an Oktoberfest in support of the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). The event, which is supported by Thrivent

Financial for Lutherans, begins at 4 p.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 825 S. Taylor Street, in Arlington. Entertainment will include German music and an Oktoberfest quiz. Bring your own beer stein and enjoy some delicious root beer. There will also be a beer stein contest to determine the best example of a German beer stein. Beginning at 5 pm, bratwurst, hot dogs, pretzels, root beer and more will be served.

Tickets will be available in the Welcome Center after the service on October 6, 13 and 20. Suggested donations are \$10 for an individual; \$20 for two people; \$25 maximum per family. Also, please bring a canned good or box of cereal to be donated to AFAC, which provides groceries directly and free of charge to Arlington residents who cannot afford to purchase all the food they need.

For more information, contact Marilyn Falksen at 703-534-8740 or [falksen@yahoo.com](mailto:falksen@yahoo.com)

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