

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 19, Issue 03

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

Winter 2017



Advent Lutheran Church
2222 S. Arlington Ridge Rd
Arlington, VA 22202
703-521-7010
adventlc@hotmail.com
www.adventlc.us

SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Bible Study 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am
Exploring Faith 11:30 am

Pastor
Rev. Anna Anderson

Council President
Gerry Fuller

Office Administrator
Nancy Cox Jairrels

Director of Music Ministry
Michael Lewallen

Newsletter Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer



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SHINE
Like
STARS
SHOW JESUS TO THE WORLD
PHILIPPIANS 2:14-15

**YOU ARE THE
CATALYSTS
OF GOD'S PRESENCE
HERE**

STORY, PAGE 3

Worship Highlights

The Annunciation
Sunday December 24 @ 10 am

God becomes finite; light all the Advent candles.



The Nativity
Sunday December 24 @ 7:30 pm

The shortest pregnancy in history - all in the same day. Celebrate with your favorite carols, candlelight and Communion. Invite your friends!

Meet the Godparents!
Sunday December 31 @ 10 am

Prepare for the New Year; sing more carols.

Epiphany
Sunday January 7 @ 10 am

Calling all Wise folk - and those who would like to be. Sing more carols. Then join the de-decorating party.

Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday January 14 @ 10 am

See the Paschal candle lit and remember your baptism.

Dates in 2018

February 14th is Ash Wednesday (remember by noting it's Valentine's Day celebrating the season of God's love for you) and April 1st is Easter (remember by April Fool's Day - God's joke).

Christian Education

We have two on-going opportunities to grow in the knowledge of our faith at Advent.

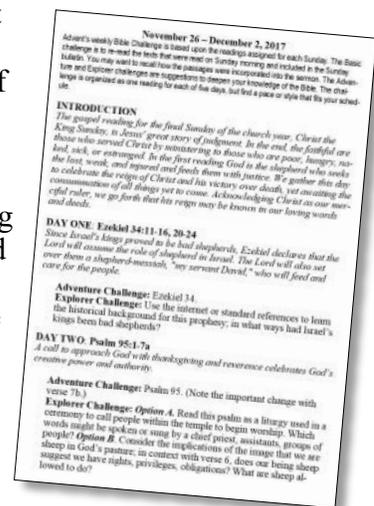
- ⇒ *Drop-in Bible Discussion* meets Sundays at 9 am and is beginning to discuss Romans, a book very influential for Martin Luther.
- ⇒ *Exploring Faith* (after worship on Sundays) is a chance to talk about how our faith affects our everyday lives. This year, we have been looking at what Luther's insights mean today as we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Bible Challenge concludes

What happened to Advent's Bible Challenge? The weekly Bible Challenge was started a couple years ago as an effort to encourage Bible literacy. It was one of the goals established by Advent's Council for that year.

The readings, along with the Explorer and Adventure Challenges, were based on the scripture texts and prayers incorporated into each Sunday's service. Recently, an informal inquiry has indicated that the Bible Challenge was no longer generating much interest. We certainly hope that Advent members will seek ways to develop Bible-reading and study habits. A simple way to do so would be to continue to take home your weekly bulletin and use it to re-read and reflect upon the texts.

In addition, the ELCA website (www.elca.org/Resources/Bible-Studies) currently offers a similar Bible study based upon the Sunday lectionary. The site provides two study options. At first, the web-



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Advent has been shining brightly

Your ministry and hospitality light the fire of God's presence here

Dear People of Advent,

When I was a chemistry student, we studied catalysts. They get reactions started -- connecting elements and atoms even when they are not the main part of the reactions, but nevertheless the reaction would not happen without them. Advent often functions as a catalyst in bringing people together to experience the presence of God whether or not they become part of the Advent ministry.

From the Pastor

We have had a wonderful fall of catalyst ministry thanks to you. We began with a God's Work; Our Hands service project of teaming with Good Shepherd Lutheran church and a local mosque to package thousands of meals for disaster relief.

We welcomed nine animals and their people for a Pet Blessing on the labyrinth. We hosted the Harvest Moon Labyrinth candlelight walk and reception with live music and hospitality provided by our twelve Advent greeters to thirty guests new to our church. Then we hosted the absolutely amazing Oktoberfest - please go to the Advent website, select photos and click on Oktoberfest. It is incredible how much talent you have here at Advent! We had door-prize fall bouquets on every table, place settings in fall colors, a Luther skit and quiz, a fabulous catered German meal, wonderful prizes and so much more. Judith and her team organized us and took care of the details, and the



Fall Blessings.

Neighbors and friends joined us for a number of activities this fall, including our amazing Oktoberfest, above. Left is a peek of the elegant reception following the Community Thanksgiving Service.

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Advent

News & Announcements

Stewardship group to explore action plan for rising expenses

This ad hoc group of interested Advent people met in October to discuss what was beginning to look like a budget shortfall. We talked about the recent rise in expenses, and a letter was sent to all those who have made contributions of record to thank them and to suggest that people consider inflation and staff salaries when they determine their future giving.

The task force will meet on Sunday, December 10, after the coffee hour to plan a stewardship event to be held in early 2018. All are welcome to participate in the planning. We will also review a summary of income and expenses over the past three fiscal years and discuss strategies for addressing issues.

If you have questions on stewardship, please see Advent treasurer, Debbie Lewis

Fund for new organ continues to grow

Our organ is currently in good shape, but we have been told that parts for it are no longer being made, and in a few years, we won't be able to fix parts that fail and will need to buy a new one.

In an abundance of caution and preparation, our music director Michael has researched one to meet

our needs and priced it at around \$55,000. The Council has set up a savings fund to prepare to buy a new one. Our capital campaign for gifts plus the funds raised by the prizes at the Oktoberfest have brought the fund to about \$33,000. We invite you to make a contribution, particularly if the end of the tax year is motivational.



\$485 and 109 lbs. of food

Thank you for the donations given at the annual Community Thanksgiving Service. They will benefit the Arlington Food Assistance Center.



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teamwork from the congregation brought it to life. It was perfect for the kind of community outreach defined variously as: some people with a connection to Advent, some who are your friends who got to see a part of why church is important to you, some neighbors who came by for the first time and returned for worship, in all, a portal to Advent. Truly, God's work, our hands. I hope you found as much joy in it as I did.

And our finale event for the fall was hosting the five-church South Arlington Community Thanksgiving Service. We were blessed with five anthems, an oboe meditation, three clergy meditations, and a massed choir arrangement of "A Mighty Fortress." Then, thanks to our fellowship and hospitality team, we had an elegant reception where people in the community connected with neighbors of faith that they don't share Sundays with. Catalysts!

Thank you for being the people that God called you to be!

Love, Pastor Anna

Opportunities for Ministry

Feeding the Hungry

Advent has a number of ways to share food with the hungry.

Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN): The first Wednesday of every month (even if it's a holiday!) a team gathers to prepare bag lunches for the homeless in Arlington, taking a turn along with other local churches. Volunteers for the team are always welcome. We provide each bag with two meat and cheese sandwiches, cookies, chips, applesauce, and condiments and utensils. When we deliver them to the park distribution point, we also provide a drink. Thrivent Financial used to provide the money for the food, but that program has ceased and now the money comes from the Sunday offerings you give. Please remember that when you plan your yearly gift.

Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC): We collect food periodically for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). We collect cereal in the summer for children who are not getting school breakfast. We collect non-perishables for Souper Bowl in January. At the Thanksgiving Community worship this year, we collected 109 pounds of food AND an offering of \$485. You are also invited to organize the donations at the pantry in Shirlington.



ARLINGTON: After our Thanksgiving Fellowship, we donated cookies to St. George's Episcopal Food Pantry's lunchtime program which provides food to anyone who feels they are in need. No registration is required, folks just show up between 11:30 am and 1 pm weekdays. The program has been in operation since the late 1990's. There is always a need for volunteers.

DISASTER MEALS: Three times, we have sent teams to participate in meal packing events that produce thousands of meals to be sent overseas to people in camps fleeing war or natural disasters. You are invited to participate whenever these packing events happen.

Bible study resources are available via mobile apps and online

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site may seem a little user un-friendly. As the introductory note indicates, to find the appropriate study material, you need to understand that on December 3, 2017, we begin the Advent Season for Year B. To find the guide for the current readings, therefore, just click on Year B – Advent and download the reading and study guide for each Sunday. If that approach does not meet your needs, there are many other on-line options as well, including some Apps for your smart phone. We would like to hear from anyone who as found a Bible reading app or website that they find interesting and useable. And if there is interest, we would be very willing to resume the weekly Bible Challenge - either as a printed insert for the bulletin or as an option on Advent's webpage.

Bible Challenges are still available on our website under Spiritual Resources (www.adventlc.us/2016-2017).

- Gerry Fuller

Advent

News & Announcements



Oktoberfest 2017

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who made this spectacular event such an outreach success. See pictures of this amazing event on the website - www.adventlc.us. Go to photos and click Oktoberfest.



Festival fun! It was an evening of food, music and fellowship with friends and neighbors. All proceeds benefited the organ replacement fund (story, page 5).



Notes from the larger church

Pastor Scott Ickert of Resurrection Lutheran Church in west Arlington is retiring at the end of January. Please keep him and Resurrection in your prayers. Pastor Antoneh is in a co-terminus call there, which will end in July. Please keep him and his family in your prayers too.

Synod Assembly

Our Synod Assembly is June 16, and Advent needs two people to go with Pastor Anna. We will elect a new secretary of the synod and our delegates to the Church-wide (National) Assembly in August of 2019. If you love the Church and would like to serve in these ways, please tell Pastor Anna.

Thank You! from the Bishop

Graham has expressed his thanks and appreciation for Advent's support of the ministries we do together through our faithful gifts in the amounts promised. These monetary gifts support synod staff, new missions, the Seminary, our Camps, and other programs that we do together.

Advent

News & Announcements

Advent hosts reunion of former members

Dear Pastor Anna:

This is to express my deepest appreciation to you and the congregation of Advent Lutheran Church for granting permission for the Johnson family to meet at Advent prior to Douglas' burial. Very special thanks go to Ingrid Berdahl, Nancy Jairrels, and Ellie Holsopple. We could not have organized this gathering without their help.

This was the first time we have been in the church since the renovation. The changes are absolutely stunning. The entire Johnson family had close ties to Advent. Walter and Mary Johnson transferred from Luther Place in Washington, D.C. approximately three months after Advent was founded. They were faithful members until their deaths in 1974 (Walter) and 1981 (Mary). Janice and Douglas also joined Advent, and Douglas and I were married there on October 12, 1974. We were members until Douglas was transferred to Atlanta.

When they visited, the grandchildren attended services with Mary and Walter. They were happy to see the church as adults and to remember visits with their grandparents.

Enclosed is a donation in loving memory of Douglas, who is resting nearby at Arlington National Cemetery.

Thank you and blessings, Barbara Johnson

Landscaping update removes diseased rose garden and dead shrubs

Many thanks to those volunteers who picked up hoses and watered Advent's gardens throughout the summer, most especially to Brian Thiel who worked frequently, and in the early morning hours.

The Council has approved a proposal by Lancaster Landscaping to do renovational planting in Advent's gardens to replace dead and diseased plants. The rose bushes have been struck by rose rosette, a disease that has become endemic in our area; some other shrubs have died because of weather-related issues. Altogether 26 shrubs will be replaced. Expect to see some changes. The rose bushes will be replaced with Minuet Mountain Laurels and a few hostas beside our building and by Dwarf Spirea "Gold Mounding" near the topiaries. In front of the building two camellias, planted as accents, will be replaced by taller true



Rose Rosette. Our roses were attacked by disease that has become endemic in area.



accents, 30" Winterberry shrubs. The total cost of the project is \$1,438.50.

Thanks to master gardener Beth Tindal for suggesting the changes and to Judith Zink for reviewing the plan.

- Ingrid Berdahl

Advent

News & Announcements

What's going on @ Advent



Community Thanksgiving Service. Mass choir performs at annual service of 23rd St. churches, held this year at Advent.

Thanksgiving Community Service. Setting up chairs, arranging furniture, bringing cookies and elegant treats, making coffee and cider, large print bulletins (wowed some), decorating, greeting, singing, and countless other tasks made this the fantastic event that the community looks forward to all year. If you didn't hear all the compliments, ask Pastor Anna - if you have an hour or so. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Day meal. Thank you to all who made this a meal in the real spirit of Thanksgiving. It's what Advent is all about.

Juhl Christmas Party. Advent friends, please join Lynn & Rosalie Juhl to celebrate the Christmas Season on Friday, December 22, 7 pm. Please RSVP. Email and telephone numbers are in the latest edition of the Contact Directory (contact office if you need one).

LSS support. Due to the generosity of an Advent person, we were able to make a donation to Lutheran Social Services to help with the needs of refugees being resettled in this area. Through each of us this Advent community is able to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors old and new. Thank you!

New staff. This fall we welcomed two new nursery attendants, Georgia and Chiara, who are with our littlest ones on Sunday mornings. You are invited to thank them personally for their faithful service.

The Audit Team. The audit team, composed of Wendell Anderson, Esther Day and Judith Zink, recently reviewed Advent's financial records and internal financial controls for the fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. They will present their report at the December council meeting. If you are interested in the audit process or wish to see a copy of the report, please contact President Gerry Fuller. – *Debbie Lewis*



September

17th	Charles Russ Diana Nichols
20th	Ellie Holsopple
26th	James Ngusa
27th	Danielle Thomas

October

18th	Karin Norton Grace Meikle
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November

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

December

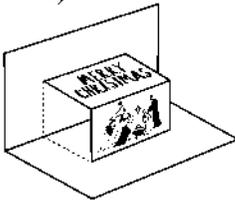
1st	Jessye Jairrels
2nd	Steve Bennett Katie Tindal
12th	Kenny Tindal
14th	Beth Tindal
28th	Bobi Herrera
31st	Patricia Cassidy

POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

What you need:

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick



What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.

Two crayons and a pencil are shown at the top left of the puzzle area.

PUZZLE

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

START *Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.*

A large maze with a star at the start and a town labeled 'BETHLEHEM' at the end. The town is illustrated with buildings and people.

BETHLEHEM

Direct transfers from IRA's to charities are tax-free

There is a section of the current tax code that allows individuals to make a tax-free transfer of money directly from an IRA to a charity. This option is only available to people over the age of 70½ and the distribution counts toward your required minimum distributions (RMD). If you would like to donate to Advent using this option, please follow these steps:

- * The request must be dated after the date you turn 70 ½.
- * The funds must come from an IRA, not a 401(k) or other retirement account.

Contact your IRA provider to verify the procedure. Complete the IRA provider's distribution form and attach a letter as follows:

I have enclosed a form to request a transfer of money from my IRA to a charity. I hereby request that IRA provider directly transfer \$_____ from my account/policy # _____ to Advent Lutheran Church, 2222 S. Arlington Ridge Road, Arlington, VA 22202, a qualified charitable organization as described in IRC Section 170(b)(1)(a).

I certify that the above requested IRA distribution qualifies as a Qualified Charitable Distribution as defined in IRC Section 408(d)(a) as was added by Section 1201 of the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Signed and dated.

Submit the form and letter ASAP if you want to ensure that the distribution is processed before year-end. If you have questions on this information, contact Debbie Lewis, Advent treasurer.

Advent Lutheran Church
2222 S. Arlington Ridge Road
Arlington, VA 22202

Property Updates

Your Council and property teams have contracted for several services this fall:

- An on-call snow removal company and a team that will decide when a call out is indicated. Those of you who live near the church are invited to weigh in. Call or email Gerry Fuller or Brian Thiel.
- The landscaping company cut back some dead plants and replaced them.
- A pest control company is addressing the small mammals who come in for shelter (squirrels and mice).