

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 16, Issue 02

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

April 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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Faith & Fellowship

Getting to know those you worship with weekly

Do you know your neighbors? Some I know by sight and greet in the elevator or the street and share a pleasantry about the weather (or un-pleasantry, depending on what it's doing outside). A few I know their first names. But I don't even know the last names of any of my neighbors, let alone their hopes and dreams.

For those of us with ancestors rooted in Christendom, history tells us that those ancestors lived in villages. On Sunday they worshiped with their fellow villagers, people with whom they worked daily, people they drank with, whose weddings they attended, whose children they all knew by name and character. Some fellow villagers they liked, some they didn't, but they knew them all and knew their problems and their secrets.

We talk about living in a global village, but in many ways

(Continued on page 4)



Opportunities for Worship & Ministry



Lenten Evening Prayer

The final Lenten devotional evening is April 10. We have enjoyed walking the labyrinth with prepared meditation, a fellowship time of sharing over soup, and candlelight evening prayer. The last meditation will be given by the Rev. Mark Gaskill, pastor of Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church.

MANY THANKS to all who have made this Lenten spiritual exercise possible: worship leaders, soup makers, planners and helpers.

Holy Week services include:

Palm Sunday

We will gather at 10 am in the welcome center with our palms for the blessing of the palms and the procession. We then meditate on the passion according to St. Matthew.

Maundy Thursday

We assemble again on Maundy (Holy) Thursday at 7:30 pm to recall the last teachings of Jesus to his disciples and the institution of the Holy Eucharist - his gift to the Church. Worship concludes with stripping the altar in remembrance that after this wonderful evening, Jesus was arrested and stripped for death.

Good Friday

Our passion worship continues on Friday at 7:30 pm in a service of Tenebrae (darkness) as

we extinguish candles while hearing the Passion according to St. John, celebrating the cross as God's triumph over death and the salvation of humanity.

Easter Sunday

And this triumph is validated by God raising Jesus from the dead on Easter morning.

You are invited to celebrate this festival at the Community Sunrise Service at 6:30 am on Advent's labyrinth, with music sponsored by Calvary United Method Church. We continue the celebration at the 10 am service.

The Great 50 Days are celebrated on Sundays at 10 through the celebration of the Ascension and Pentecost. So prepare your voices to sing!

Sermon Series for May: "Our Families of Faith"

These sermons will explore our family systems and how God uses them to help us function in our daily lives and in our growth in faith and discipleship.

- * May 04: *Commemoration of St. Monica*, mother of St. Augustine, and the family in Emmaus with Jesus. How our families of origin influence our faith.
- * May 11: *Mother's Day and Good Shepherd Sunday*. How God provides for us through family systems.
- * May 18: *Commemoration of Eric of Sweden*, martyr and St. Stephen the first martyr. How God uses our church family in navigating tough times.
- * May 26: *Memorial Day*, and Jesus' promise not to leave us orphaned. How the Church in all times and all places is our eternal family.

More Opportunities for Worship

Delving into Christian doctrine, as a Lutheran

Our exploration of *What Christians Need to Know*, a discussion of basic Christian doctrine from a Lutheran perspective, continues with a look at “Prayer” this Sunday, April 06. You are invited to come to the large meeting fellowship room (with refreshments) following worship to talk about the difference between public prayer and private prayer and how to lead a prayer. We will examine the Lord's Prayer as a model, and talk about how Jesus expects us to regard prayer and practice it.

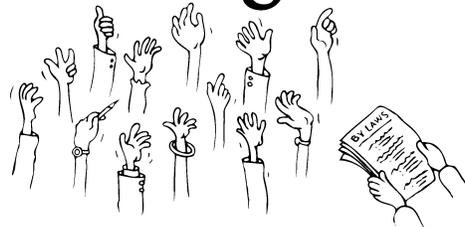
We will follow up with “The Sacraments” and “The Church” following worship on May 4 and June 1.

We have had fun talking together about the Ten Commandments, the Creeds of the Church, and the Lord's Prayer. We have looked at the Commandments as mission opportunities, the Creeds as the Church's addressing of the question: Who is Jesus?, and prayer in both public and private aspects. You are invited to all of the remaining sessions.

Community choir concert

Choirs from the 23rd Street churches will join in a concert on May 18 at Calvary United Methodist Church (down the street from Advent) at 7 pm. The one last year at Advent was wonderful, as choirs shared their best efforts from the season. Make plans to come out for this musical event.

Congregational Meeting



Advent's annual meeting is June 8 following worship. We will elect deacons for council, a Trustee, a Nominating Committee and a President and Vice President. We will also vote on the proposed budget. If you would like to vote and are not sure if you are on the voting list, please contact Pastor Anna.

Faith, food, fellowship & prayer

(Continued from page 1)

we are isolated from those we share the most intimate parts of our lives: our faith. Under the leadership of Susan Maly, Advent seeks to offer a remedy to that through the Tables of Fellowship. Groups of about six gather in homes for a shared supper. The groups are composed differently each month, so that many of us can form deeper relationships with



Good food and prayer: Meals begin with a prayer for those present and those in the Advent community.

“
This ministry
has been a real
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”

our brothers and sisters in Christ, those we stand with in worship, but whose struggles and joys we may not know. The first thing each group does as we sit down to our meal is to pray for those in the Advent community who have requested our prayers. This ministry has been a real blessing to me.

Programmatically, we have found that the months of February - May work for people's schedules, and each group of six finds their own evening to gather that month. Sometimes



Time together: Groups change from month-to-month, allowing participants a chance to become better acquainted with various members

travel and work even mean stretching things in strange directions, but it all accommodates everyone who wants to participate. So next time the sign-up sheet appears, I invite you to consider joining in this Advent fellowship and prayer ministry.

Love, Pastor Anna

Making a house a real home

On Saturday, February 8, ten volunteers from Advent participated in a renovation project of a condo located on Forge Valley Drive in Alexandria. The foreclosed condo was purchased by Rebuilding Together Alexandria and was renovated for resale to a low income individual or family in Alexandria.

The volunteers from Advent included Mark and Joy Duncan, Colleen Zellmer, Dan Vilardo, Rensford and Ismay Lovell, Susie Alvarez and her husband Dave and son Corey, and Desiree Jessimy.

Tasks included painting, cleaning bathrooms, electrical and plumbing work.

- Susie Alvarez
and Desiree Jessimy

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Dear volunteers, with your help, one more affordable homeownership opportunity has been created through our program A Home of Your Own. The transformation through the repairs and upgrades you made were **INCREDIBLE** and we leveraged nearly \$20,000 of in-kind labor and materials.

Hats off to each of you ...

- Katherine Dixon,
President/CEO, Rebuilding
Together Alexandria



Handy helpers: Advent's rebuilding volunteers helped transform a condo for resale. Before and after photos below show the results of their work in the kitchen (middle) and a bedroom.





Labyrinth team eyes ideas for enhancement

The Prayer and Labyrinth Group is exploring ways of enhancing the labyrinth (cleaning it, restoring the mortar, possibly installing solar lighting), has made weekly changes to the labyrinth sign during Lent - providing suggestions for Lenten meditation - and will be inviting a speaker to talk to us about labyrinths. The group is also planning for some guided labyrinth walks.

Have YOU been reading the good Book?

Bible challenge concludes in May

The Bible Reading Challenge will wrap up on May 3 after 22 weeks and 11 “tours” through the Bible. Each tour has a corresponding bookmark, which are still available as a resource for anyone seeking a structured way to read the Bible.

The tours included: Abraham, Nature, Old Testament Men, Prayers, Moses, David, Old Testament, Social Justice, Jesus, Becoming a Christian and the Holy Spirit. A blog was created on Advent’s website for readers to share

impressions, questions and comments.

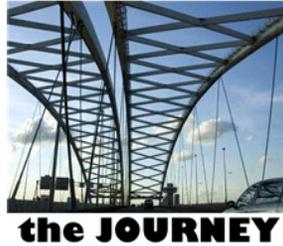
This Bible Reading Challenge is a starting point or a structure for anyone, at any time, to use one of the tours in any way that suits them. For example, exploring what goes before and comes after the daily text, or using any tour to get more information about an unfamiliar part of the Bible. Team leaders Marianne Hetzer and Susan Toth hope that the Bible Reading Challenge was beneficial and will continue to enrich your life as a way to deepen your relationship with God.

- Marianne Hetzer

Advent continues to seek change via “the JOURNEY”

Pastor Anna and Desiree Jessimy attended another session of “the JOURNEY,” the Synod's three year program combining teaching, conversation, questions and the joint pursuit of answers, on March 28-29 in Leesburg.

At the first session we learned about the importance of changing the culture in our congregations to make room for new leadership and to grow spiritually as disciples. Our "homework" was to change the way we receive and incorporate new people into our fellowship. The second session was about making changes in our preaching. Pastor Anna has since preached two sermon series as a part



of that homework. The third was about governance and has resulted in the formation of our constitution revision committee and work on how staff is supervised and position descriptions.

This, the fourth, was about how to use small groups to build relationships within the congregation. Desiree and Pastor Anna had time to form a plan for doing that, which will be broached at the next council meeting. In the meantime, the Synod is looking for evaluative feedback on how “the JOURNEY” is working for Advent. If you have any comments to share, please email Pastor Anna.

Heaven?

*Our gardens
can be close
with your help*

What is heaven? Working in the garden on a beautiful spring day? Iris, daffodils and crocuses are finally lifting their heads. If you have cabin fever and are going a bit stir crazy after the winter and plenty of snow, come out at 9 am on Saturday, April 12, for our spring workday and help us spread mulch on our flowerbeds. The County will deliver a load of mulch curbside on April 11 and it must be gone by the end of the day on the 12th. You can help make it happen!

- Ingrid Berdahl,
Landscaping Minister



Heavenly blooms in the making: The onset of spring promises a bounty of color around the Labyrinth as in the photo above; and, plants are peeking up in the new beds in the rear, left.

What's going on . . . here & in the community

Sunday Yoga with Susan!

Stretch and strengthen the body God has given you by joining yoga in the Fellowship Hall on the afternoons of March 30, April 06 and April 27. The one-hour classes are free and two levels will be offered: Introduction to Yoga (focus on posture, alignment and breathing) - 3 pm; Intermediate Beginner (focus on flow through posture) - 4 pm. Before joining, everyone will be asked to sign a waiver. Please arrive 10 minutes early and bring a mat if you have one. Newcomers are welcome! For more information, talk to Susan Maly.

Seminary Sunday is April 27

Seminary is a four-year graduate program of study for prospective pastors. Our region of the ELCA is served by the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in Pennsylvania. LTS Gettysburg also offers continuing education, youth ministry certificates, and a lay school of theology. Marta Spangler, Advancement Associate, will be at Advent to share the latest news from our seminary.

Winter Property Thanks!

It was an exceptionally cold and snowy winter at Advent! Thank you to all who picked up a shovel or broom or the phone to deal with the accumulation of snow and ice, and the detritus from mice escaping the cold.

2014 Synod Assembly set for June

Planning is in full swing and a list of positions of synod leadership up for election is already available. April 30 is the deadline for nominations and Candidate Information Forms. As we seek a new Synod Secretary, Synod Council Members, and Consultation Committee Members, look over the list and position descriptions, and obtain the forms to get the ball rolling at www.metrodcelca.org/events/synod-assembly/.

Saturday, June 21, 2014
Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Fairfax Campus



April

2nd	Susanna Alanko Kristiina Alanko
5th	Olli Alanko
9th	Carole Assante
11th	Marilyn Falksen
21st	David Beck
22nd	Michael Beck
25th	Aune Pellinen
27th	John Matzner

May

1st	Ismay Lovell
10th	Scott Hetzer
13th	Michael Lewallen
17th	Kate Carey
18th	David Dai
26th	Roxie Jairrels
31st	Will Ebel

newsletter



MAY 14

Please submit articles
to office by 5 pm
via email at
adventlc@hotmail.com

Thrivent sponsors presentation on Social Security

Did you know that there are hundreds of options associated with your Social Security retirement benefits?

Join Thrivent Financial for Lutherans on Saturday, April 26th, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at Our Savior Lutheran Church (825 S. Taylor St., Arlington, 22204) for a breakfast presentation to explore how to sort through the choices. Help ensure the decisions you make are ones you can live with - for the rest of your life. Breakfast will be served at 9:30 am with the presentation, followed by a Q&A session, at 10 am.

To RSVP or for more information, contact Thrivent Financial Consultant Greg Roemer at 202-249-9886 or via email to Greg.Roemer@thrivent.com; or Financial Associate, Sheri Swackhamer at 571-970-0454 or email to sheri.swackhamer@thrivent.com. You may also register online by April 24 at www.thrivent.com/findanevent (locate VA; find Arlington and enter your personal details). Within the Arlington County Thrivent Chapter, contact Karen Harwood at 703-830-1515 or karenharwood1223@gmail.com.

No products will be sold at this event. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and its respective associates and employees have general knowledge of the Social Security tenets; however, they do not have the professional expertise for a complete discussion of the details of your specific situation. For additional information, contact your local Social Security Administration office.

For additional important disclosure information, please visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.

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