

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 17, Issue 03

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

Fall 2015



Advent Lutheran Church
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SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Bible Study 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am

Pastor
Rev. Anna Anderson

Council President
Brian Thiel

Office Administrator
Nancy Cox Jairrels

Director of Music Ministry
Michael Lewallen

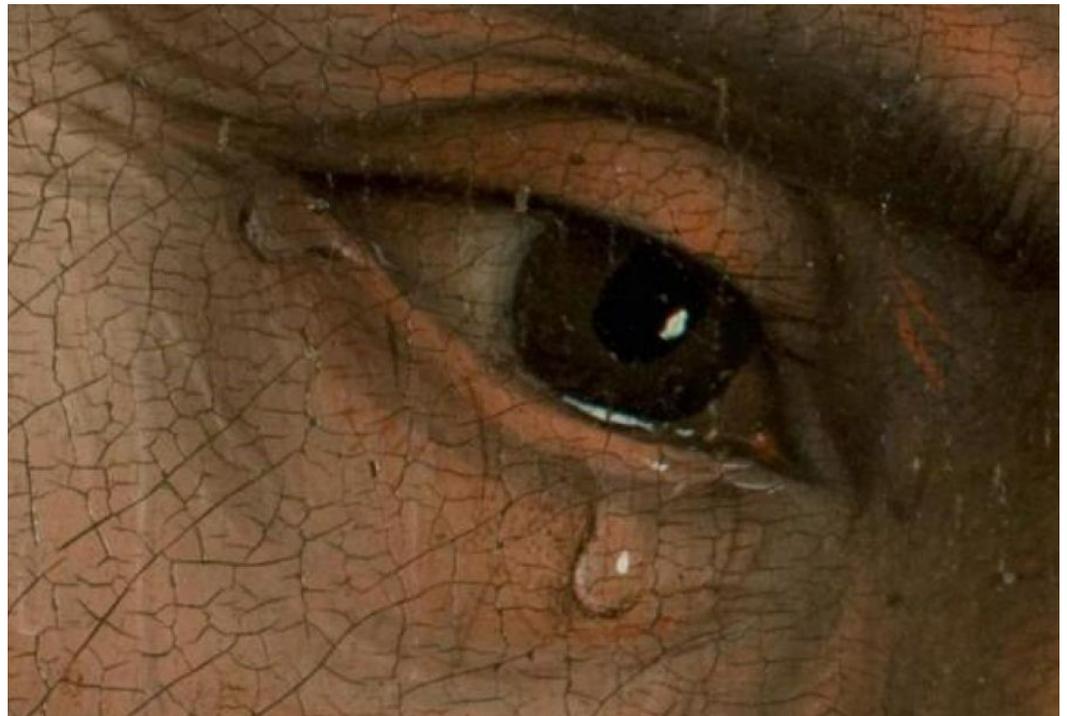
Newsletter Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer



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Turn Empathy Into Action



For the suffering, a simple act of kindness
can change the world and heal wounds

Over Labor Day weekend, Wendell and I went to North Carolina to visit relatives, and while we were there, we attended a street fair. It was VERY hot, and at one point I got dizzy and suffered from heat exhaustion. We dove into an air conditioned store, and I laid down on the floor to recover. In minutes I was surrounded by all sorts of people bringing cold cloths and bottles of water and feeling my pulse and holding up my feet. The kindness of strangers stopping their fun and their own agendas to minister to me. Very embarrassing, but much appreciated.

(Continued on page 3)

"I think of Jesus, who cried over the hardness of heart that he found in the city of Jerusalem, and I feel that he must be crying today."

Advent

News & Announcements

Worship events scheduled for fall

September 27 PET BLESSING

Following worship and fellowship at 11:45 we will gather on the labyrinth to bless our animal companions. Please come and help welcome our guests of all sorts.

November 01 ALL SAINTS

This is the church's Memorial Day. We remember the faithful departed in our prayers. If you would like a loved one lifted in the prayers, please email that person's name and their relationship to you to the church office.

October 18 HEALING SERVICE

This day is the Feast of St. Luke the Physician. We will celebrate by allowing time for individual prayers for healing for yourself or loved ones.

November 8, 15, 22 STEWARDSHIP

We will explore the spiritual gift of generosity as we grow spiritually through a series of skits being prepared by our thespians.

October 25 REFORMATION

We will celebrate the Reformation and its raising of importance of God's Word for all with a special presentation using the whole Bible as our text.

November 22 THANKSGIVING

The Annual Community Thanksgiving worship at 7 pm. It is yet to be decided which 23rd Street church will host. You are invited to bring cookies to share with our neighbor Christians.

Newcomers are welcomed. Then what?

Pastor Phil Hirsch from our Synod Office is leading Growing Church Workshop on October 10 at St. Marks Lutheran, Springfield, from 9:30 am-noon. All of us are a part of Christ's ministry of hospitality here at Advent, and if a number of us attend, we can form a cohesive strategy to integrate newcomers, learn what welcomes and what's a turn-off. Expect practical, implementable steps that you can take right away to have a big impact. Leave with a plan customized for your congregation to connect with new people. See you there! Learn more and register at <http://metrodcelca.org/events/growing-church-workshops/>



Greeters & Ushers Needed. As a welcoming church, we would love to have you be part of the team either as a greeter and/or usher. If you're interested, please feel free to contact Ismay Lovell either in person (after worship) or via email (see contact directory for address).

Incorporation vs. Trusteeship

Trustees and Council research which is better for Advent

Advent, since its founding in 1952, has been operating as a trusteeship. Its elected trustees take legal responsibility for its assets and operations. If there is a change of trustee, as periodically happens, the change must be registered and approved by the Circuit Court of Arlington. The court would also oversee any sale of property.

Up until 2001, Virginia was one of only two states that did not allow churches to incorporate. That changed in 2006 following an amendment to the Virginia constitution, and since then, churches in Virginia have begun to incorporate to limit the liability the Pastor, Trustees and Council members might have, absent gross negligence, in a lawsuit. Incorporation also allows churches to buy and sell property without first seeking court approval and facilitates dealing with some banks and lending institutions, as well as applying for grant funding for special projects.

Advent's Trustees and Council members are currently receiving advice, on a pro bono basis from an attorney who handled incorporation for other Virginia churches, and will be learning what the process would be for Advent to incorporate. Stay tuned!

- Ingrid Berdahl

Don't become too overwhelmed to act

(Continued from page 1)

This summer the TV news has brought us pictures of many people suffering on the streets of their towns, wounded and sickened by chemical attacks. And pictures of people walking and walking and carrying kids, thirsty and weary. Sometimes they are also helped by the kindness of strangers. Unlike me, they are also weighed down by grief at the loss of all they have known, their homes, their habits, their careers, and sometimes the loss of a family member who died on the journey. I think of Jesus, who cried over the hardness of heart that he found in the city of Jerusalem, and I feel that he must be crying today over the suffering of these people.

And then the violence and murders in our own cities this summer has given us cause to weep with Jesus over those cities and to call us to act to confront the agents of that violence, including the systemic racism in our culture. Sometimes it may seem that the problems are so overwhelming that there is nothing any of us can do to really change things. And you may never know the results of a simple act of kindness that you provide to a stranger. And yet...

May God go with you, guiding you into those acts, of which you cannot see the end results, but which may change the world.

Love, Pastor Anna

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Bible Challenge preps for Sunday service

This year, Advent's Bible Reading Challenge focuses on the four texts read each Sunday morning. The challenge is to read these four texts before we come to church. The goal for this challenge is to help us better prepare for worship and the sermon, expand our knowledge of these texts, and incorporate God's word into our daily living. As a devotional bonus, we will add the Prayer of the Day for that Sunday. Thus, for each week there will be a total of five readings.

The Challenge will be presented on three levels.

Core Challenge

Read the texts (usually one each from the Old Testament, Psalms, an Epistle, and the Gospels). You can choose to read one each work day as a daily devotion, read all five each day, or pick one time each week to study the readings together.



Adventure Challenge

Slightly expanded readings (often a whole chapter or section) that provide some additional context or breadth.

Explorer Challenge

Suggests additional study or research that might pique your curiosity to learn more about Bible history, language, geography, or society.

For everyone, and especially for the Explorers, we recommend that you have access to a good study Bible, a dictionary, and basic research tools through the internet or reference books.

Each day or week, you choose the Core, Adventure, or Explorer challenge, depending on how much time you have available. The challenge will be presented as a printout that you can pick up at church on Sunday morning. It will also be posted to Advent's website under Spiritual Resources.

If you accept the Bible Reading Challenge, we would like you to help Advent grow together as a community. Try keeping a journal to record your thoughts and reactions to the readings. (This will help you read more actively.) Then consider ways to share some of your thoughts and questions with other members.

- Gerry Fuller

Find resources for your Bible Challenge in Advent's library! Story page 7

A weekend to recharge, renew and strengthen your faith

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 cursillo 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 8-11 and the women's retreat will be held October 15-18 at a peaceful retreat center in Upper Marlboro, MD. Both weekends begin on a 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.

Exploring the impact of racism

Adult class is part of church-wide discussion

In response to the mass shooting this past June at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, Lutheran congregations have been asked to explore the on-going impact of racism on our society. This fall, Exploring Faith, which is held Sundays at 11:30, will look at racism from several perspectives: legal, social, historical, and personal. We will hear about efforts to address the problems caused by racism, including those of advocates who argue that creating a “color blind society” is not only impossible, but the wrong goal.

We start September 20, with a discussion of our own experiences with racism; we will also watch “Confronting Racism,” an August 6th dialogue between ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and William B. Horne II, a member of the ELCA Church Council. This session was filmed in the aftermath of the Charleston shootings and looks specifically at Lutheran responses to racism. Subsequent sessions will look at race as an issue of self-identity and relationships, as well as the history and future of the civil rights movement. One goal of this series is to identify resources to broaden our personal experience and knowledge.

If you can't make the discussion, watch the webcast online at www.elca.org/webcast. You can also follow comments on Twitter with hashtag #ELCAConfrontRacism

— Gerry Fuller



EXPLORING FAITH
Sundays @ 11:30

"As churches, we must confront the sin of racism in our society and in our shared life together. ... We renew our calling to speak and act against racism and injustice."

— The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton,
presiding bishop of the ELCA

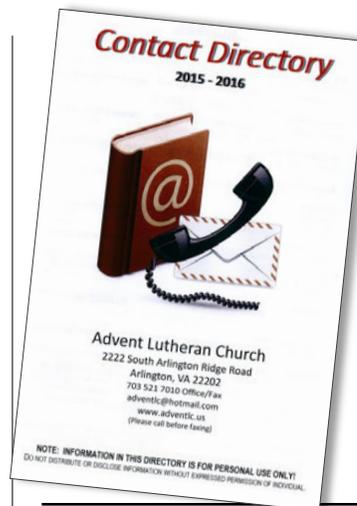
Donation box always open

Carole's box has been pretty empty these last few months. Perhaps going from summer to fall will give you an opportunity to clean closets. Remember we are always looking for shoes, travel sundries, cell phones, eye glasses and can pop tops. And of course before you throw out anything, check with me. I can usually find a 'taker' for the 'giver.'

— Carole Assante

Carole's Corner is in the Fellowship Hall

**Carole's
Corner**



Staying in touch

New directories have been printed and are available in the Welcome Center by the stone wall. Use them to volunteer and to stay connected with other members. Please remember that information in the directory is for personal use only and not to be shared without the permission of individuals.

"Be prepared for God to direct you to something you do not like, and teach you to like it!"

— J.I. Packer

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Your generous donations gave needy kids an early boost

After the church service on August 23rd, members and friends of Advent gathered to sort and pack the school supplies collected for children served by the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing. Altogether Advent donated: 27 backpacks, 88 composition notebooks, 29 folders, 310 pencils, 15 pencil cases, 9 glue bottles, 87 glue sticks, 271 pens, 38 packs of colored markers, 24 pencil sharpeners, 15 erasers, 39 scissors, 9 rulers, and 8 lip balms.

Thank you to all who donated to this project. Together we have made a significant difference in the lives of many children.

- Wendell Anderson



God's Work. Our Hands. After a special blessing by Pastor Anna, members sorted a plethora of school supplies to benefit low-income families in Arlington. A grant from Thrivent helped with the purchase of backpacks. The drive was part of the ELCA "God's Work. Our Hands." Day of Service.

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Spiritual resources, literature, music and more are available

“The Library Corner” is back! Its goal is to make you aware of the resources in Advent’s library that can be helpful for spiritual growth, biblical study, church leadership, and handling life’s challenges. The Library is located in the Fellowship Hall, with the children's section in the classroom at the end of the hall.

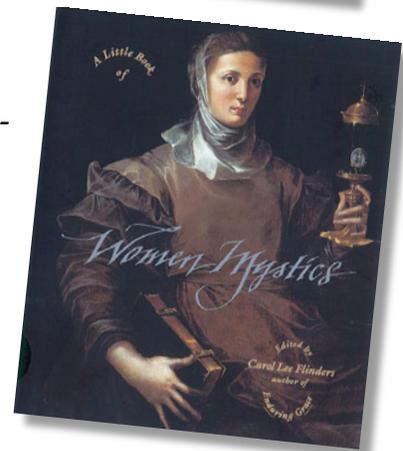
Library Corner

What's on the shelf in Advent's library

Books and CDs are categorized for browsing: Devotions and Meditations, Music, Life Guidance, Literature (General), Leadership/Worship, Reference & Study, Plays/Dramas, Bibles, and Children, with colored labels on the spines that indicate which section a book belongs in. On the shelf is a listing of library holdings by category for easier searching for an item of interest.

A recent addition is Carol Lee Flinders' *A Little Book of Women Mystics* [Reference & Study] - or you might want to look at *The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an* in that section. I found Nevada Barr's *Seeking Enlightenment Hat by Hat - A Skeptic's Path to Religion* [Literature] interesting years ago, although I don't remember much about it now. There is a book by Dr. Phil in the Life Guidance section. Or grab a CD to listen to on your next road trip.

If you’ve read a book in the library that you would encourage others to read, please write an insert for this column and give it to me for a future newsletter article. If you have a book you wish to contribute, drop it in the box or give it to me. - *Ellie Holsopple*



Tables of Fellowship dinners back on the menu in February

Tables of Fellowship was a resounding success again this year, and we are looking forward to ToF 2016! The series of rotational dinners enable us to fellowship as a community of believers in smaller settings and enjoy breaking bread together. Susan Maly will send the request for participation in the New Year and finalize the schedule by the end of January. Dinners will run from February to May 2016. Please mark your calendars. We hope you can join us!
- *Susan Maly*

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Mark your calendars!

Come out at 9 am on Saturday, October 24, to help prepare Advent's gardens for the winter. Yes, you! We will be receiving a truckload of mulch from the County on Friday, the 23rd, and will be making everything beautiful by weeding, trimming and mulching on our workday. Come enjoy the outdoor exercise and good company, and help to make a difference at Advent!

Confirmation News: A Summer of Learning

David Day and Pastor Anna have been learning over the summer. We attended the Synod Confirmation Camp at Mar-Lu-Ridge. We learned about Jesus making a difference for us and in our lives and in our world. We worked with lots of other kids who are on the same faith journey. David and Pastor Anna will continue to learn this year along with the pastor and kids at Good Shepherd, our neighbor church in Alexandria. A couple of young leaders from Advent will serve as mentors.

**See David's "thank you" note on page 9
for a peek at what we did**



September

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

October

18th Karin Norton

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

We must remember throughout our lives that in God's sight there are no little people and no little places. Only one thing is important: to be consecrated persons in God's place for us, at each moment.

- Francis Schaeffer,
"No Little People"

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Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Dear Advent Lutheran Church,

Thank you for sending me free of charge to Mar-Lu-Ridge. It was a fun and enlightening experience.

The activities I did include, but was not limited to: learning about Jesus' ongoing mission to change the world, helping pack 250 bags of six-serving meals, singing church songs, praying, listening to multiple Bible stories, and working on Christian relationships. And of course, I also did the more boring activities such as a swimming, hiking, going on challenge courses, having a cook-out, doing some archery, playing E.T. (a night game), singing camp songs ... As you all can tell, I had an exciting and educational week at MLR. Looks like I made you say, "Damn, I wish I was able to do all of that when I was little!"



- David Day

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the summer **cereal drive** to provide breakfast for children out of school, and thank you to all who helped with the **backpack ministry** for children returning to school. The Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN) continues to rely on Advent for **70 lunches** the first Wednesday of every month. You are welcome to come at 4 pm to help prepare them.

THANK YOU to our own Sam Matzner for inviting us to hear his viola program (part of the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association's 25th Annual Chamber Music Series) at the Lyceum in Alexandria in August. He and his pianist friend, Edward Leung, played brilliantly, and it was a privilege and pleasure to hear them.



- Pastor Anna

Dear Pastor Anderson,

Thank you for (Advent's) gift to Lutheran Social Services of the National Capitol Area (LSS/NCA) that we received on August 17, 2015, through the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod.

For nearly a century, LSS/NCA has walked with those in need and mobilized community partners to provide services that offer hope and rebuild lives. And it is only with your shared commitment and support that LSS/NCA continues to strengthen our communities by encouraging cultural understanding, family unity, and positive involvement.

- Autumn Orme

I have incredible news! The ELCA Malaria Campaign just reached its fundraising goal of \$15 million! Thank you for being a part of this monumental milestone and helping us protect countless lives from this preventable, treatable disease. We couldn't have done it without you!

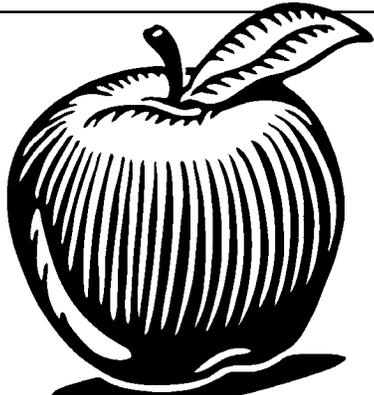
Five years ago ELCA members, congregations and synods came together, dreamed big with our Lutheran companion churches and partners, and set out to raise \$15 million for malaria programming. Today we celebrate all that we have accomplished together.

Without you, none of this would have been possible. Thank you for your prayers, your partnership and your generosity.

- Christina Jackson-Skelton, Executive Director, Mission Advancement, ELCA

Many, many thanks for the use of your Fellowship Hall for our Mom's Club on Thursdays. We are enjoying having the space and look forward to an ongoing relationship with Advent Lutheran. Again, many thanks.

- Mom's Club of SE Arlington



After-School snack

Enjoy this healthy apple snack after a busy day of learning.

What you need:

- Apple
- Apple corer (optional)
- Peanut butter (or other spread)
- Pecan pieces
- Shredded coconut
- Chocolate chips

What you do:

1. If you have an apple corer, remove the core. Then slice apple into thin rings. (If you don't have a corer, slice into rings first and then remove the core.)
2. Spread peanut butter across one side of each ring.
3. Sprinkle with pecans, coconut and chocolate chips.
4. Enjoy with a glass of milk!



STAY NOURISHED

Eating nutritious foods such as apples helps keep our bodies healthy. But Proverbs tells us about other important sources of "nourishment."

Directions: Use the words in the apples to complete Proverbs 3:7-9, NIV.



Do not be  in your own ;

 the  and shun .

This will bring  to your 

and nourishment to  bones.

 the LORD  your wealth,

with the firstfruits of  your .

PROVERBS 3:7-9, NIV

Answer: Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.

BLESSING BAGS



Make these practical gifts to share blessings with homeless people and others in need.

What you need:

- Gallon-size zippered baggies
- Clothing (socks, mittens, scarves, rain ponchos)
- Travel-size toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, sunscreen, lip balm, lotion, tissues, bandages)
- Snacks
- Water bottles
- Paper
- Pencil

What you do:

1. Pack baggies with supplies listed above (and more, if desired).
2. Write encouraging notes (including Bible verses), and add them to the baggies.
3. Keep the gifts in your car, and give them to people who are homeless or asking for help.



Meeting needs

The Bible emphasizes the importance of giving to people in need. In Matthew 6:1-4, Jesus describes the proper attitude for giving.

*Directions: Starting at the *B and going counterclockwise, write every other letter on the lines below. Continue until you've completed Matthew 6:3, NIV.*



"B _____
 _____,

 _____ g."

MATTHEW 6:3, NIV

Answer: "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Matthew 6:3, NIV

What's going on . . . in the synod

Prayers

Please hold in prayer the Reverend Brent Thalacker (former interim at Advent) and Nativity Lutheran Church as they begin ministry together, and the Rev. Anteneh Gebrselassie and Resurrection Lutheran Church as they begin an Amharic worship service.

Hymn Festival

Composer David Cherwin will lead the program at Resurrection Lutheran Church (Arlington) at 3 pm October 17.

Reformation Service

Annual Synod-wide worship service is October 25 from 4-7 pm at the National Cathedral.

Forgotten Luther Symposium

In commemoration of the forthcoming 500th anniversary of the Reformation, hear from prominent scholars about the work of Luther and other reformers to end economic exploitation and advocate for the common good. Friday, November 6 (beginning at 5 p.m.) & Saturday, November 7 at Lutheran Church of

the Reformation on Capitol Hill. Advance Registration: regular \$60; student \$15 (\$75 at door). Featured speakers: Gordon "Tim" Huffman, PhD – author, *The Lutheran Confessions: A Digital Anthology*; Carter Lindberg, PhD – author, *Beyond Charity: Reformation Initiatives for the Poor*; Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, PhD – author, *Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation*; Jon Paul, PhD – author, *Empire of Sacrifice: The Religious Origins of American Violence*; Samuel Torvend, PhD – author, *Luther and the Hungry Poor: Gathered Fragments*. Additional event features: "Luther's Words" – an original composition by Paul Leavitt (Director of Music, Lutheran Church of the Reformation) and sung by the Reformation Choir; "The Forgotten Luther" – a dramatic presentation. Catered dinner during keynote address. Presented with financial support from the Metro D.C. Synod, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Thrivent Financial, ELCA World Hunger Education Program, Church of the Reformation, and individual donors. See more at: <http://metrodcelca.org/events/forgotten-luther-symposium/#sthash.cYjwHyOi.dpuf>

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