

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 18, Issue 04

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

Fall 2016



Advent Lutheran Church
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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
Brian Thiel

Office Administrator
Nancy Cox Jairrels

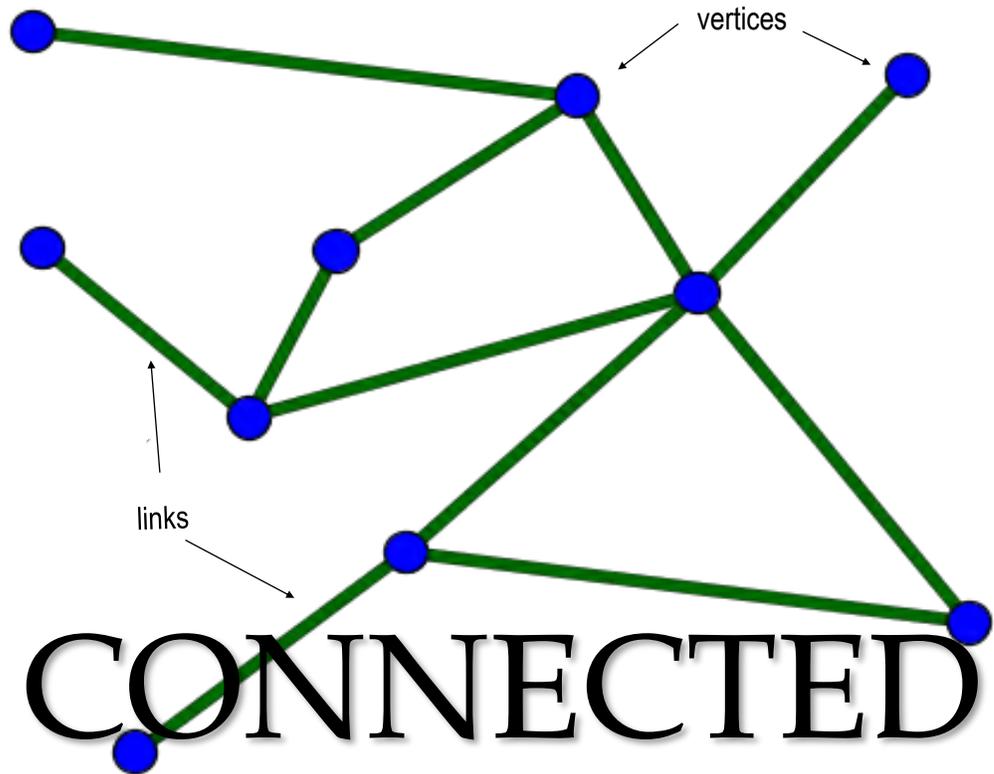
Director of Music Ministry
Michael Lewallen

Newsletter Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer



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Advent is a network of relationships

Dear Vertices,

Did I just hear you say, "Pastor, WHAT are you calling me?" Yup, you heard right. I just came back from a three-day workshop where I learned that we are all vertices in the network of our congregation. Now, a mathematical definition of a network is vertices connected by edges or links which can be used as paths between them. At Advent, the links are the relationships that exist between each vertex (person). Within our congregational network, there are many smaller networks that are linked to the larger one, and there are connections between the various smaller networks. For instance, a choir member who is in the choir network may also serve on

(Continued on page 4)

Advent

Worship & Ministry News

Worship, ministry events slated for fall

Two important things for November 6

First, we will celebrate David's Confirmation. There will be hymns he has chosen, a party, and time to share stories about his faithful ministry at Advent and a chance to hear him speak about his vision for his future service. David has completed three and a half years of instruction. He has attended two weeks of Confirmation camp on the Bible, two retreats on the Catechism and faith, and Sunday classes at Advent and with kids at Good Shepherd.



David D.

Secondly, it's All Saints Day. We will remember and give thanks for all who have gone before us in faith and those who now rest in God. If you have a person you would like to have remembered, especially someone who has died in the past 12 months, please send their name and relationship to you to the church office to be included in the prayers that day.

Thanksgiving plans

Advent will have two celebrations for Thanksgiving. One is the Annual Community Thanksgiving Service on November 20 at 7 pm at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church on 23rd St. (a couple of blocks down the hill from Advent). The five churches on 23rd St. will bring their choirs and their pastors to combine in praise and thanksgiving. An offering of non-perishables for the Arlington Food Assistance

Center (AFAC) will be received. You are invited to bring finger foods to share in the community fellowship afterwards.

Our second celebration is the potluck dinner on Thanksgiving for those of you who are in the area and not celebrating elsewhere. Watch for more information.

Christmas is coming!

Mark your calendars to decorate the church on December 4 following worship. Also, gift shopping lists for our neighbors in need will be at the church when the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing makes them available. Please see the "thank you" they sent for our latest donation to their ministry.

Reformation commemoration

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Roman Catholic Church will jointly hold an ecumenical commemoration of the Reformation on October 31 in Lund, Sweden. The Joint Commemoration of the Reformation, led by Pope Francis and the Lutheran Archbishop, will be broadcast worldwide and live streamed from Lund Cathedral and the Malmö Arena event at <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/joint-commemoration-livestream>. (Check varying dates for Daylight Saving changes.) The event will highlight the solid ecumenical developments between Catholics and Lutherans and the joint gifts received through dialogue. Visit lutheranworld.org for more information.

Exploring Faith kicks off with an Energy Blast!

Reformation's 500th anniversary up next

Sundays after worship and coffee, we have an opportunity to explore our faith in relation to our daily lives. We began this September with a three Sunday presentation by Grace on the pros and cons and issues around fossil fuels, renewables, and nuclear energy sources. Those who attended

were edified beyond our expectations, and we thank Grace for sharing her expertise and experience in the field.

Watch for more visits by knowledgeable folks!

We are also preparing for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Refor-

(Continued on page 8)

We reached out this fall in varied ways



Immigrant Support

Eight people from Advent and five from the Mormon church gathered at Advent September 10th to take our immigrant support collection to the Lutheran Social Services housing supply depot, and organize their office and home supplies. Along with your generous donations, we took Desiree Jessimy's suggestion and donated the dishes she'd given the church but weren't being used.

Lending a helping hand: It was a hot day but volunteers were successful in organizing donations in the immigrant depot containers for Lutheran Social Services.



Fall Festival & Labyrinth Walk

On September 16 we hosted a full moon labyrinth walk with a fall festival theme under the leadership of Sara Ellen Swatt. Ellie Holsopple played her harp, and we enjoyed candlelight and very special fall treats with six guests who had never been to Advent. It was overcast, so the moon was not visible, but the evening was very meditative and spiritual. Thank you to all who helped host it.

(Continued on page 7)

Advent debuts in the park blessing pets and serving beer

We are happy to report that on Sunday September 18, Advent Lutheran Church went to the dogs - literally - in the name of community outreach. Members from Advent hosted a table at Crystal City's *Pups and Pilsner*, a pre-Oktoberfest community event, where people are invited to bring their dogs, sample some local craft brews provided by the local wine store, and get to know each other. Gerry Fuller organized the Advent team that included David, Esther, and Jones Day; Lynn and Katie Juhl; Coleen Linares; Grace Meikle; Dan and Linda Vilardo, and Pastor Anna and Wendell Anderson.

With administrative help from Nancy Jairrels, we had a good stock of colorful brochures and nifty Advent key chain flashlights to hand out as we greeted neighbors and poured samples of pilsner

(Continued on page 5)

Look for ways to get others linked in

(Continued from page 1)

the altar care team as a part of that network, so a vertex may be connected to several networks. And, there may be some “vertices” who are only connected to one other person in the congregation.

That’s where keeping your network open and invitational comes in.



So what are we -- as a part of a Christian community -- being called to do with this network theory? Our job is to always be looking for ways to increase the connections and invite people into our networks. And not just any old network. In

order to invite someone into the one(s) that God is calling them to, you need to find out where they are gifted and what their passion is, and you can’t do that until you have established a relationship with them. You can do that at coffee hour by sharing the question of the week. Then the steps to inviting someone into one of your networks are: first inform your new friend about the work of your network, what it does and why; then teach - explain what a person in the network does; then inspire them by sharing why you do it; then tie the work of the network to the mission of the congregation; and THEN invite that person to be a vertex in the network! Right now, stop and pray for God’s guidance in showing you a person you need to get to know better so that you can travel this path with them. And God go with you. And thank you for being a vital connection to God’s work in this place.

Love,

Vertex Pastor Anna



**of the
week**

We initiated a fun ice breaker for coffee hour this fall called “QUESTION OF THE WEEK.” Each Sunday there is a new question on the tables and in the bulletin for you to ask each other over coffee. It’s amazing what we can learn about each other by hearing the answers!

Advent

News & Announcements



Do beer and dogs go together? They did in Crystal City at the Pups and Pilsner event in Crystal City. Thanks to Gerry for spearheading and organizing us; we were the only church represented!



Blessings and treats for pets and owners

(Continued from page 3)

and wheat ale. This life-friendly outreach took under a banner (prepared by Pastor Anna) that quoted Martin Luther: “Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy!”

As we handed out doggie treats to our furry four-footed neighbors and chatted with their caregivers, we invited everyone to visit Advent and especially to come to the annual Pet Blessing. It’s not clear if any of the flop-ears actually did come to be blessed, but we’ve already had one Sunday morning visitor who said she decided to try Advent because of *Pups and Pilsners*. And besides, it was good fun.

– Gerry Fuller

Highlights from the Church Council



Submitted by
Council Secretary
Abe Abraham and
Vice President
Nancy Jairrels

- * Pastor Anna has been busy working with the pastors and musicians in preparation for the Community Thanksgiving service, working with the pastors at Faith on their installation service, and was asked by the Synod to help with the New Connections capital campaign.
- * Expenditures exceeded receipts by \$6,023 in August and by \$4,320 in September. Both months our Synod and LSS benevolences were submitted at the budgeted percentages of Regular Giving receipts, slightly above budget.
- * We received a new contract/bid from Lancaster Landscaping for services from March 2017 through December 2019 with a 1% increase each year. We would be receiving the same level of services as we are currently, which does not include cleanup and mulching in the fall.
- * Voted to approved building use application submitted by Classical Conversations homeschool enrichment program. Group meets Tuesday mornings.
- * Average attendance was 30 in July; 33 in August; and 34 in September.
- * David Day's Confirmation will be celebrated on November 6.
- * Esther Day and Rosalie Juhl will assist Susan Maly in coordinating the next season of Tables of Fellowship.
- * Passed motion to accept Eric Heigis for membership. We were happy and honored for the addition of this new member.
- * At the suggestion of Property Minister Jones Day, Advent applied to Arlington County's Snow Blower Loan Program. Snow blowers are geographically distributed throughout the county to groups who agree to plow for the public good and meet specific criteria. If Advent is selected and you are interested in helping, please contact Jones.

Yxs, you'rx nxxdx!

Evxn though my typxwritr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll— xxcxpt for onx kxy. I havx many timxs wishxd it workxd pxrfectly. It's trux that thx othxr kxys work grxat, but just onx kxy not working makxs a hugx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs our church sxxms likx my typxwritr — not all thx kxy pxoplx work. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I'm just onx pxrson. I don't makx or brxak thx church." But it doxs makx a big diffxrxncx bxcausx a church, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of vxxy pxrson.

So, thx ntxt timx you think your xfforts arxn't nxcxssary, rxmxmbr my typxwritr and say to yoursxlf, "I'm a kxy pxrson in thx congrxgation, and I'm nxxdx vxry much."

Advent

News & Announcements

What's going on . . . at Advent

Beautifying our Gardens. During the past month, some plants have been replaced, and others have been moved. The Muhly grass (It's turning pink/lavender right now) on

THE FUTURE

An original cartoon
by David Day, page 11



Lining them up. David spent several vacation days working to approve the looks of the gardens.

the street side of the sign has been replaced. The hostas in front of the building, which always burned up in the summer sun, have been split and replanted in the shade on the north corner. They were replaced by three ornamental oregano plants. Beth Tindal was very helpful in this process.

The dwarf Alberta spruce which were in pots at the front entrance of Advent have been moved to the back corner of our property on the 23rd St. side, and new Alberta spruce trees were placed in the pots. Gerry Fuller did the hard work to accomplish this, and Beth Tindal contributed the trees.

Earlier in the summer, David Day moved a number of stones from the pile near the shed and lined the parking lot entrance and created a border for the rose flowerbed. - *Ingrid Berdahl*

Explore the Shelves. Advent's Library is housed in the bookcases in the Fellowship Room. (Just turn the lock handle to access the room if it is locked and be sure to re-lock it when you leave). Books/CDs are separated by category and shelved alphabetically by author. Categories are: Devotions and Meditations, Music, Life Guidance, Literature, Leadership/Worship, Reference and Study (with a separate shelf for non-Christian religions), Bibles, Plays/Dramas, and For Children. There is a listing of our holdings in a folder on the shelf as well as under the Publications tab on Advent's website. You are asked to check out the item(s) you wish to borrow on the clipboard (which does not require your name for privacy reasons) and to indicate the date borrowed and the date when you return it. Please return the book promptly when you are finished with it. You are invited to make use of these resources for your enjoyment, spiritual growth, and learning. - *Ellie Holsopple*



October

18th Karin Norton
Grace Meikle

November

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

December

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

(Continued from page 3)

Pet Blessing nabs crowd

On October 2 we observed the Feast of St. Francis with a Pet Blessing service on the labyrinth. We received 10 dogs and their humans from the neighborhood. They were very attentive to the Scripture and prayers. They also enjoyed the treats afterwards. Four box turtles also attended (but sadly we had no treats for them). Thanks to Debbie Lewis for assisting.

Sessions explore Luther's doctrine and experiences that molded him

(Continued from page 2)

mation next year by discussing the materials in some college lectures on Luther. What was church dividing then and is it still?

Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the church at Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. The Lutheran Church in America is encouraging all congregations to prepare for the 500th anniversary of the date traditionally cited as the start of the Protestant Reformation.

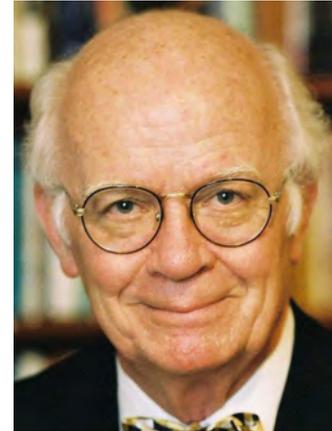
Advent's preparation has already started. **Exploring Faith**, the Sunday morning after-church discussion, has just started a multi-part series, *Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation*. The videos by Phillip Cary, Ph.D., are part of The Great Courses series on religion. Dr. Cary describes Luther as a controversial figure, an effective preacher and voluminous writer, whose ideas marked the beginning of the modern world. He asserts we must view Luther both sympathetically and critically. As important as he was for the development of Christian thought, he also wrote and said things that we must reject.

Dr. Cary explores both the historical context for the Reformation as well as Luther's personal experiences that molded his thoughts and formed his theology. The first group of lectures focus on the Gospel, a key concept for Luther: what is it? what does it do? what does it mean? The second section examines the Reformation that resulted when Luther's doctrine about the Gospel became public. The third tackles Luther's stand on some key issues.

Our approach, in the Exploring Faith sessions, will be to stroll leisurely through this material, pausing frequently to discuss and explore further. We'll also pause from time to time, to take a break and explore other issues and topics. By and large, Dr. Cary's presentations build on one another, so you'll benefit the most from making a commitment to attend Exploring Faith regularly. However, we'll begin each session with a review to catch everyone up. You won't be lost if you missed the first couple sessions or if you need to miss a few weeks. Our goal is that by October 31, 2017, all of us - cradle Lutherans, deep-in-my-heart-still-Catholics, questioning Nones, and everyone in-between - will understand a little better the basics of Luther's thought, what really happened 500 years ago, and how it still influences us today.

- Gerry Fuller

*We will stroll leisurely
through the material,
pausing frequently
to discuss and
explore further.*



Lutheran scholar Martin Marty among webcast panelist

American Lutheran religious scholar Martin Marty and other panelists will join Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on Thursday, October 27, from 7-8 p.m. CDT for a live webcast exploring ecumenical and interreligious witness on the eve of the Reformation anniversary. Tune in at www.elca.org/webcast or via [Facebook.com/Lutherans](https://www.facebook.com/Lutherans).

- What was the Reformation, and what does it mean for Lutherans and ecumenical partners?
- What is "Declaration on the Way," and why is it significant for Lutheran-Catholic relations?
- How might we understand our ecumenical and inter-religious relationships as part of our participation in the ongoing Reformation?

Chime in with questions and join the conversation by using #ELCAwebcast on social media.

An afternoon with the Neffs!

In late August, I got to spend an afternoon with Pauline and Merlin Neff at their home in the Wind Crest Community in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. They were preparing to celebrate Merlin's 81st birthday the next day. It's been 9 years since they moved away from this area, but the years melted away as we caught up on our lives. They send their love to Advent and all who remember them. They are involved in an ELCA church that has become their faith community, but they still miss Advent dearly. Pauline is recovering from hip surgery and uses a wheelchair and walker. She's hoping to be free of the wheelchair by the end of the year. Merlin uses a cane while doctors try to determine the cause of numbness he's been experiencing in his leg. He has become a skilled artist and often displays his paintings at shows at Wind Crest. We toured the complex and they seemed to know every resident and staff member that we encountered. The landscaping and the view of the mountains are beautiful. If your travels ever take you to the Denver area, they'd love a visit. – *Debbie Lewis*



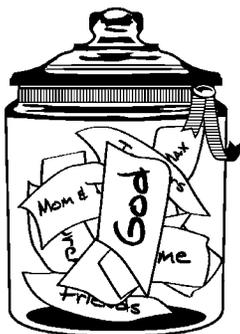
Afar, yet so close! Merlin and Pauline Neff were long-time Advent members before retiring to Colorado.



“When life gives you more than you can stand ... kneel.”
– *Unknown*

BLESSINGS JAR

Thanksgiving reminds us of our many gifts from God. Count your blessings all month long with this craft.



What you need:

- Jar
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue
- 3 sheets of paper (different colors)
- Marker or pen



What you do:

1. Measure and cut enough ribbon to wrap around the jar's neck, below the lid. Glue in place and let dry.
2. Fold each piece of paper in half three times, resulting in eight rectangles per sheet. Cut along the fold lines, and you'll have 24 rectangles.
3. Each day in November until Thanksgiving, write down one blessing from God. Then place that blessing in the jar.
4. On Thanksgiving, open the jar and read all your blessings to your family and friends.



Blessings from the Lord

Throughout the Bible, God blesses his chosen people. How can we receive these gifts?

Directions: In the word search, find all the words in the box. Then write the words in the correct order on the blanks below to complete the verse.

come you these LORD if blessings you the accompany
Deuteronomy All on your obey will God you and

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B	F	C	E	Z	D	T	X	O	L	E	D	E	L	D
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Z	D	B	N	I	A	B	Y	C	V	M	R	X	C	E
G	K	D	G	Y	D	M	A	O	O	T	U	F	M	R
C	T	I	S	Z	O	M	T	E	Q	M	P	N	T	O
C	X	C	I	D	U	U	O	L	R	D	P	T	C	N
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Y	Y	Y	O	U	H	T	U	A	P	A	I	U	N	M
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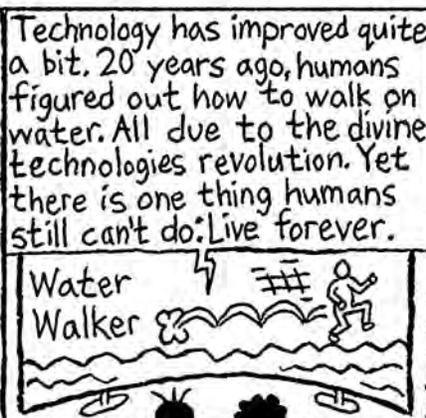
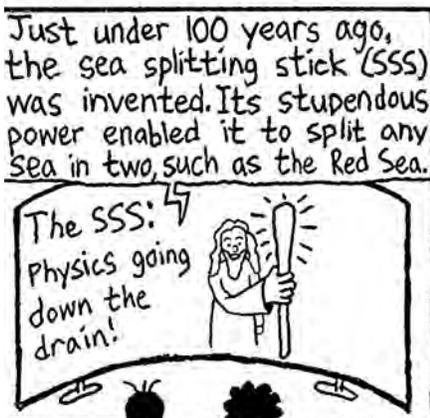
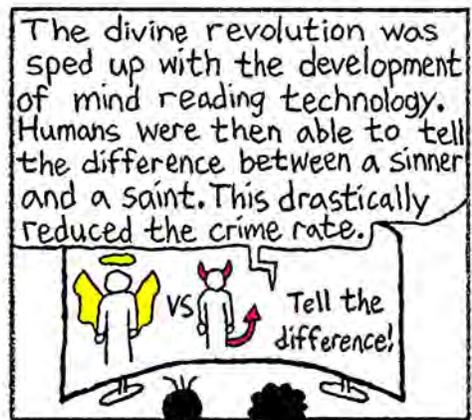
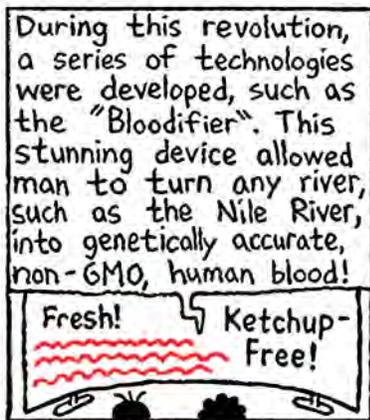
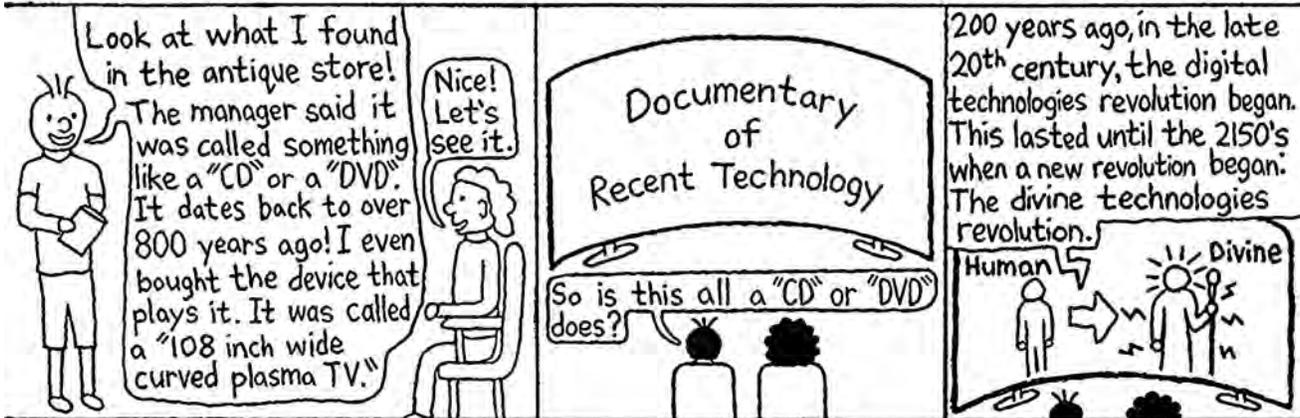
28:2, NIV

See Page 12 for answer to puzzle

The Future

By David Day

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Advent

News & Announcements

"How Islam Empowers Women"

A panel discussion sponsored by the Muslim Women's Coalition and the Arlington and Falls Church branches of the American Association of University Women, will be held Sunday, October 30, at Kenmore Middle School (200 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington). The event starts at 2 p.m., arrival time 1:30 p.m. RSVP to reserve a seat by contacting Uzma Farooq at Uzma.Farooq@mwcoalition.org, or register online at <http://arlington-va.aauw.net/events/>.

Talk with Marilyn Falksen for more information.

I	J	T	Z	Z	L	M	X	N	W	C	I	Z	Y	H
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B	F	C	E	Z	D	T	X	O	L	E	D	E	L	D
O	S	K	S	L	O	D	A	B	V	G	W	S	L	D
H	G	Y	S	L	R	A	W	E	Y	J	E	E	U	U
I	O	R	I	W	F	I	C	Y	O	U	R	L	R	T
Z	D	B	N	I	A	B	Y	C	V	M	R	X	C	E
G	K	D	G	Y	D	M	A	O	O	T	U	F	M	R
C	T	I	S	Z	O	M	T	E	Q	M	P	N	T	O
C	X	C	I	D	U	U	O	L	R	D	P	T	C	N
F	S	X	F	R	T	L	P	M	F	B	L	A	A	O
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"All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God."
Deuteronomy 28:2, NIV

Advent Lutheran Church
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