

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 14, Issue 01

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

February 2012



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School	9:00 am
Bible Study	9:00 am
Worship Service	10:00 am
Sunday Forum	11:30 am

Pastor
Rev. Anna Anderson

President /Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer

Office Administrator
Nancy Cox Jairrels

Director of Music Ministry
Michael Lewallen

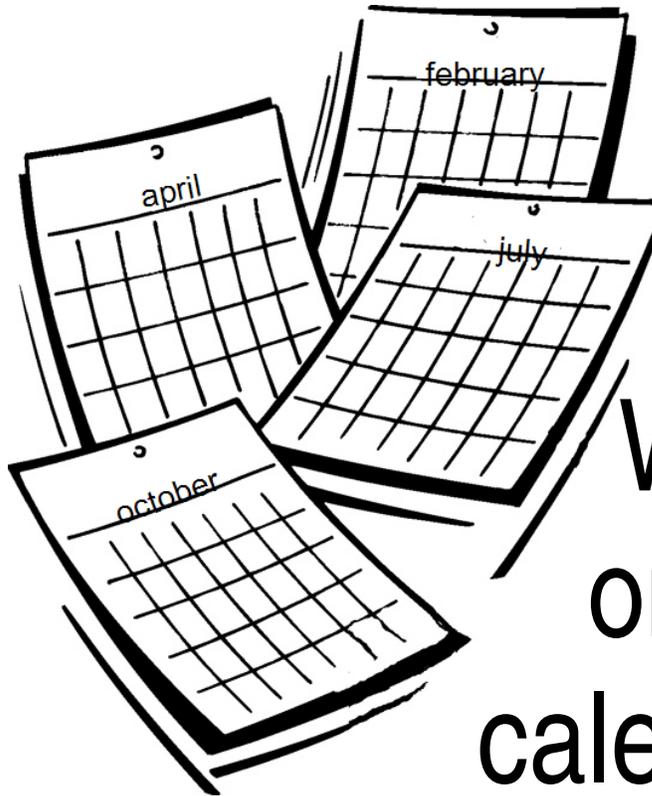
Nursery Attendant
Roxie Jairrels



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What's on your calendar?

Let's plan for annual and new events

By Evie Lynn

How many of you are reading this newsletter and thinking, "Wow, I can't believe we are already facing February of 2012! Where does time go?" I certainly am feeling this way, but know with advanced preparation and planning some things will be a little easier to manage throughout the year. Looking ahead to 2012 I am putting together a calendar of events for the year so that members of the Advent Community can have more lead time to plan on attending, and equally important, help with the organization of the event if possible!

February is quiet with Ash Wednesday on the 22nd, but the start of the Lenten season brings the annual soup dinners with a follow-on prayer service. This year the dinners will be on Thursdays throughout March at 7 pm

(Continued on page 2)

Lent lends chance to deepen practices, disciplines



Lent is coming: The season of Lent in the Church is a time for deepening spiritual practices in our lives by being more intentional about them. This Lent you may want to make time for the discipline of study by joining Bible study on Sunday mornings (9 am) and the disciplines of fasting and prayer by participating in the Thursday evening soup (7 pm) and prayer service (7:30 pm) each Thursday in March.

You may accept the discipline of service by signing up to bring soup, set up chairs and paper products, light candles, introduce the guest speaker, lead a spoken or chanted prayer, or sing a song. More than one singer per service means that we can have a duet. Or you may choose one piece to learn that you are willing to do at multiple services. Please email Pastor Anna with your choices!

Through Christ and planning, we can do all things

(Continued from page 1)

(March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29). All are invited to attend and volunteers are being sought to bring soup on a night of their choice to contribute to dinner. If you are interested in providing soup or have questions please let Pastor Anna or myself know.

An additional volunteer(s) is being sought to organize or assist with an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 8, following service. If interested or have questions, please let Pastor Anna or myself know.

As this calendar is being developed I welcome input from anybody. I am looking to find new and old ideas to incorporate into 2012, and to also find



people willing to help put the events together. Some events will have a budget if needed to execute them. I know that managing all of life's demands is quite tricky and downright painful at times, but hope that with advance knowledge the pain will be reduced!

Please take the time to consider volunteering to assist with an upcoming Advent activity. I know that not all things fit our work schedule, etc, however if you can even provide some of the prep work prior to the event, feel free to sign up! And don't forget to take a deep breath, stop and spend a few moments in prayer with Jesus.... "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phillipians 4:13

From the Pastor



"Called" to service

You have everything you need for the task

I read today that the phrase "dialing the telephone" is disappearing because telephones no longer have dials. Perhaps, though, you still get called mostly on the telephone, except that maybe it's not the telephone but the iPhone. Or maybe you get texted a lot. Or maybe most of the requests for your time and attention come via email. Or maybe someone knocks on your door or stops by your desk. The ways we call people have morphed and expanded, but that hasn't changed the situation of humans being called to service. When we get those calls, one of the first things a lot of us do is look for excuses not to volunteer. We may feel that we don't have enough time right now or that we don't have the experience, expertise or gifts to do the task. Even if the "headhunter" thinks we should apply for the job, we may feel that HR would reject us. Consider this hypothetical evaluation report Jesus may have gotten if he had vetted his disciples:

ATTENTION

Jesus, Son of Joseph,
Woodcrafters Carpenter Shop
Nazareth 91365

Dear Sir,

Thank you for submitting the names of the twelve men you have chosen for management positions in your new organization. All of them have now taken our series of tests; and we have not only run the results through our computer, but also arranged personal interviews for each of them with our psychologist and vocational aptitude consultant.

(Continued on page 4)

Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone

(Continued from page 3)

The profiles of all tests are included and you will want to study each of them carefully. As part of our service, and for your guidance, we make some general comments, much as an auditor will include general statements. This is given as a result of staff consultation and comes without any additional fee.

It is the staff opinion, that most of your nominees are lacking in the background, education, and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept. We would recommend that you continue your search for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability.

Simon Peter is emotionally unstable and given to fits of temper. Andrew has absolutely no qualities of leadership and would surely stay in the background. The two brothers, James and John, Sons of Zebedee, place personal interests above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel that it is our duty to tell you that Matthew has been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Better Business Bureau. James the Son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus definitely have radical leanings, and they both registered high on the manic-depressive scale.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind, and has contact in high places. He is highly motivated, ambitious, and responsible. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your accountant and right hand man. All of the other profiles are self-explanatory and will follow.

We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sincerely yours,

The Jordan Management Consulting Company
123 Money Changer's Court
Nazareth 91365 *

When Jesus calls you to a task at Advent (and there are a number of invitations in this newsletter), you may be called out of your comfort zone. The first disciples were called from a fishing job they knew well to a job of fishing for people, something they had no training for. Further, they were called from a personal job where failure meant not getting dinner to a communal job where failure might mean shame. Yes, it is scary to step out of our comfort zones, and so many of you at Advent continue to answer that call. This community is blessed by so many people who step out relying on Jesus to equip and support them in a trying a new thing, and we are blessed that the community is present to support and cheer them on. I am blessed to be a part of the ministry here!

Love, Pastor Anna

** letter taken from "creativemethods.com"*

Council highlights from January



Submitted by
Council Secretary
Ingrid Berdahl

- * An artist and a craftsman had an initial meeting and agreed on ideas for stained glass in the narthex windows.
- * Financial Secretary Paul Hetzer reported that December receipts were strong at \$18,248.08. Treasurer Ellie Holsopple stated receipts exceeded disbursements by almost \$4,937, increasing the General Fund's balance to \$13,424 by the end of December. Benevolences were sent to the Synod at 9% and LSS at .9% of regular giving, \$391 more than our budget estimate for the month. \$13,300 remains in Bequest Funds.
- * The Council voted to separate the Property Maintenance and Property Supplies into sub-line items, one for the Building and one for Landscaping. This will permit more efficient management of the Building and Landscaping budgets.
- * Average attendance in December was 44. Christmas Eve attendance was 73.
- * Advent will be soliciting landscape design proposals from at least two firms, with special focus on the north side and rear of the property.
- * Additionally, Council voted to approve use of the fellowship hall for rehearsals by a theatre group twice a week. A decision was also made to have a survey done of the five-foot strip of land that borders the property of Advent's 22nd Street neighbor to be certain where the property line runs.

Let's shower our new kitchen with new gadgets

Our shiny, new kitchen is open for business! Let's fill the cabinets and drawers with shiny, new supplies! We are looking for new and nearly new items on the list below. If you have questions or would like to suggest another item to donate, contact Marianne at mwhetzer@comcast.net. All items listed are available at Target and other brand names are acceptable.

Melamine serving bowls, various sizes
Thermos 2 qt Beverage Pot with Pump Dispenser (2)
West Bend 30-cup Coffee Urn
KitchenAid Muffin pan
KitchenAid Cookie Pan (2-3)

T-fal 8 qt stock pot
Pasta pot (stock pot with strainer insert)
AirBake Pizza Pan, 15.75 inches
Paula Deen 18 pc Cookware Set
Crock-Pot Oval Slow Cooker - 5.5 qt
Kitchen Aid 1.5 qt Teakettle



An update on the state of our finances

The finance committee met in mid-December to review our financial position after moving into our new building. Here are a few items of note:

- * Mortgage – The building renovation was financed by a bequest from Jan Johnson, proceeds from the Endowment Fund, contributions to the Building Transformation Fund, and a mortgage from the Mission Investment Fund. The loan has been amortized over 20 years and payments began on January 1st. We will continue to accept contributions to the Building Transformation Fund and will hold a capital campaign later this year. After the campaign, we will probably make a large prepayment and request a loan payment recalculation. If you are interested in assisting with the capital campaign, please speak to me or to council president, Marianne Hetzer.
- * Electronic Contribution Options – Vanco, our Simply Giving administrator, offers online and mobile options for contributions. We discussed pros and cons of various options (contributions through the website, automatic gifting with a debit or credit card, accepting electronic payments onsite, etc.) and decided to gather more information from members about interest in these services. If you believe that you would take advantage of these options if they were offered, please speak to me.
- * 2012 - 2013 Budget Process – I will start to gather input from Advent's leadership in early April. The finance committee will review a draft budget by early May and council will vote on the proposed budget at the May council meeting. These meetings will be open to all members and your input regarding possible expenditures for the coming fiscal year is welcome.
- * Bequest Funds – Bequests from Margie Draley, Yvonne Goodman and Joyce McKenzie were used to purchase furnishings for our new building. We will also be using bequest funds for landscaping expenses and some items for the adult forums. We are thankful for their generosity and faithfulness.

If you have any questions about Advent's finances, please feel free to contact me.

- *Debbie Lewis, Finance Minister*

“Your congregation’s steady support is a blessing.” - recent note from John Handley, Synod Treasurer, on a Statement of Advent's financial contributions to the synod.

Sunday Forum, a Life Changer?

Why should you stay for Sunday Forum? To answer this question, look at how some forums have influenced members to participate in activities devoted to providing assistance to people in need.

After a past forum on the Offenders Aid and Restoration program, several Advent members became involved in a fixed time project that helped offenders learn to lead productive and responsible lives. After a Habitat for Humanity forum, one member actually signed up and went to El Salvador to help build houses there (as an added benefit to anyone who may be interested in participating in a Habitat for Humanity project, most of the expenses incurred are tax deductible). The forum on Lutheran Volunteer Corps resulted in members volunteering, attending events and donating to the organization's causes.

Before Christmas, a forum featured Empowered Women International, a non-profit organization that helps immigrant, refugee and low-income women in the Greater Washington DC Metro area channel their artistic and creative talents into a business of their own. Some members have followed up and become involved in the organization's efforts. And of course, we continue as a congregation to be involved in helping the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network feed the homeless in our area.

Through these activities, Advent members have helped individuals cope with and overcome difficult situations, while expanding their understanding of people different from themselves. So the next time you feel like leaving church right after cookies and coffee, reconsider and attend Sunday Forum. It may just change your life and the lives of others.

- *Ingrid Berdahl, Marilyn Falksen and Lynn Juhl*

** February Sunday Forum schedule, page 8 **

For more information

Offenders Aid Restoration
- www.oaronline.org

Habitat for Humanity
- www.habitat.org

Lutheran Volunteer Corps
- www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org

Empowered Women International
- www.ewint.org

A-SPAN
www.a-span.org

NOTE: Our office administrator Nancy Jairrels will be unable to monitor the office March 20 - April 17. If you are available from 10 am –1 pm on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and can answer the phone or receive packages, please contact the office or Pastor Anna.



How do things get done here at Advent? Come find out!

Learn the hidden details behind Advent's day-to-day functioning from some of its leaders during February!

February 5th

How Advent Works

An overview led by Council President Marianne Hetzer, Office Administrator Nancy Jairrels, Property Minister Georges Toth, and Landscape Minister Ingrid Berdahl.

February 12th

Financial Management at Advent

Finance Minister Debbie Lewis and Treasurer Ellie Holsopple lead talks.

February 19th

Advent and the Synod

What is the relationship between the Synod and Advent? How do we support the Synod and how does the Synod support us? John Handley, treasurer of the Metro DC Synod, will be our speaker.

February 26th

How Advent's Worship Service Comes Together

Director of Music Michael Lewallen and Pastor Anna Anderson talk about the process.

If you're interested in finding out more about Advent or the Christian faith, or if you would like to become a voting member of the Advent community, please email Pastor Anna at pastor_2222@hotmail.com.

newsletter **DEADLINE**

February 23

Publication date of the next edition of The Advent Courier is March 4th.

NOTE: The next newsletter will be a combined edition for March and April. Please adjust your articles to include information for both months and submit by the deadline to the office at adventlc@hotmail.com.



February Birthdays

Walter Pfannmuller
Ruben Herrera
Vicki Beck
Peter Juhl
Yi-Yi Dai
Steven Hetzer
Rensford Lovell
Sam Matzner
Desiree Jessimy

Retreat to a secluded weekend in MD

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 weekend. It's a great way to be renewed and strengthen your relationship with Christ. There's singing, worship, food and fun!

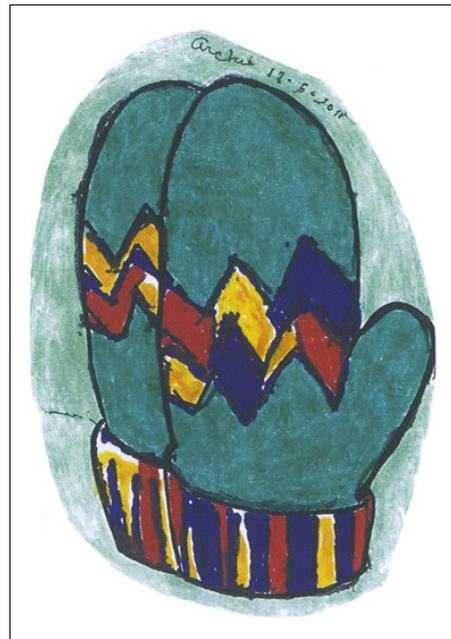
The men's retreat will be held April 12-15 and the women's retreat will be held April 19-22 at a peaceful, secluded retreat center in Bowie, MD. Both weekends begin on a Thursday evening and conclude Sunday late afternoon. Transportation is provided and there are no out-of-pocket expenses. For further information, please contact Debbie Lewis.

MEMBER UPDATE: Archie Hall

You may have noticed Archie's name on our prayer list. He is a long time member of Advent who had to move from Arlington to a home in Manassas when he required nursing care for mobility issues. He cannot get out of bed, but he enjoys reading the newsletter and hearing about what's going on at Advent. His gift is coloring pictures, and he has donated some of them to Advent for display in the children's areas. They also decorate the home he is in, and recently one was chosen to go on display in Richmond. A Christmas themed selection is at right.

Archie will be having surgery for blood clots, so please continue to keep him in your prayers.

- PA



Dear Advent Friends –

Thank you for your gift of a new mini refrigerator! It's very handy for keeping my sodas and snacks cold. I enjoyed seeing the 60th Anniversary photo book. The new building looks wonderful. I pray that you all have a happy, healthy New Year!

Love, Archie Hall

(Note: Archie's refrigerator was paid for from individual gifts and Pastor Anna's Discretionary Fund.)

FORGIVENESS Game

Try this twist on musical chairs.

What you need:

- 28 large index cards
- Black marker
- Two teams of people
- Radio or CD player

What you do:

1. On index cards, write out *forgiveness*, one letter per card. Make two sets (two F's, two O's, etc.).
2. Mix up the cards and form them face up in a circle on the floor. (You'll have six blanks mixed in.)
3. Have teams mix themselves up and stand in a circle around the cards. Ask an extra person to turn the music on and off.
4. As the music plays, teams walk around the circle. When the music stops, players each pick up the card nearest them.
5. Team members take their cards to a designated area and try to spell forgiveness. Any double letters or blanks go back to the "music person," who reorganizes remaining cards, spacing them evenly into a fresh circle.
6. Play continues until one team spells *forgiveness*.

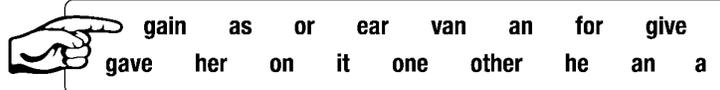


FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• DIRECTIONS ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.



B _____ w _____ h each
ot _____ d _____ give
_____ e an _____ if _____ y
of you h _____ grie _____ ce
a _____ st some _____ .
For _____ as t _____ L _____ d
for _____ you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV

A Little Humor

The Sunday School Teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?"

"No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My mom is a good cook."

Let the needy walk in your shoes

Art for Humanity is collecting shoes to send to needy residents of Honduras. “A pair of used shoes allows a poor child to attend school and allows an adult to get a job. A pair of shoes also promotes better health through a reduction in soil borne parasites as well as infections from cuts. Your donation of good used shoes will make a **BIG** difference in the lives of the poor in Honduras, the second poorest country in the western hemisphere,” according the organization’s website, www.artforhumanity.org.

All types of good used shoes are very much needed - dress, casual, athletic, children, adults, heels, sandals, etc. Men shoes are the most needed, especially work boots. The main limit is size. We can only use up to size 11 for men and up to size 9 for women. Shoes can be dropped off at Advent or anytime 24/7 without notice on the front porch at 635 S. 25th St., Arlington, VA. 22202. No special packaging or sorting is needed... plastic trash bags are fine. Just be sure pairs match and go together in the same bag (tying laces together is helpful but not necessary as long as pairs are together).

In addition to shoes, the organization is also accepting clothing (all seasons, size large and smaller; youth and light weight most needed), linens, utilitarian items (pens, pencils, flashlights, umbrellas, candles, knives, scissors, etc.), and toys. Visit the website for a full list.

- Carole Assante

Giving 101

There is a significant qualitative difference between “getting rid of unwanted junk” and “sharing generously out of abundance”. In the first instance, the receiver is viewed more like a trash can, accepting discarded junk. In the second, there is respect and dignity on both sides so that recycling and redistributing resources is both honorable and pleasurable. - www.artforhumanity.org

Thanks for more than \$1,700 to Gifts of Hope

Advent members purchased \$1,745 worth of Gifts of Hope this year, and the Arlington Chapter of Thrivent provided a match of \$780 for a total of \$2,525. These funds will be used to provide a camp scholarship to Caroline Furnace; adult education fees and programs for the homeless and the poor; respite for caregivers; salary support for a Lutheran pastor in El Salvador; books for at risk youth and adults in D.C. and seminary students in Namibia; wellness programs, as well as medical and dental care for the poor; language classes and Giant or Safeway gift cards for refugees; food, clothing, and transportation assistance for people in need; job skills coaching and tools; haircuts for job interviews; camping activities for teens with HIV/AIDS; in-home care for seniors; life story journals for the elderly; support for a Lutheran Volunteer Corps member; and seed money to help the Gettysburg Seminary convert to geothermal heating in its chapel and a high school in Namibia repair its broken sewer system. Thank you to the Advent members who made this year’s Gifts of Hope program so successful.

- Marilyn Falksen

What's going on . . . at Advent and in community

Opportunities for education

The Elementary Sunday School class is learning about events in the life of Jesus. Sunday morning Bible study members have also been meditating on events in the life of Jesus as described in the book of Mark. Wednesday evening Bible study has an in-depth look at the three Bible passages that will be read in the next Sunday's worship. Confirmation Class has been studying the Apostles' Creed. Sunday Forum is an opportunity to explore how our faith connects to many aspects of our lives, from poetry to social justice.

Building outreach

A building use application is available from the church office for non-profit groups who would like to use the building. So far a theatre group and a yoga group have applied.

Christmas Thanks!

Thank you so much everyone for the greetings, cards, and gifts that made this Christmas so exciting and special for me. I am awed and humbled by the generosity of spirit at Advent.

- *Pastor Anna*

Fellow members of Advent, thank you so much for the Christmas gift! It was a perfectly timed Godsend and very much appreciated. I hope your holiday season was as blessed as mine, and that your new year be filled with love and cheer. - *Roxie Jairrels*

Dear Advent family, as always I am very grateful for your Christmas gift, and appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness and generosity. I feel greatly blessed to be at Advent and wish you all many blessings in the coming year.

- *Michael Lewallen*

Thank You seems inadequate in response to

your generosity. I am grateful and feel very blessed to work for and with such a wonderful group of people. - *Nancy Jairrels*

Thank you to everyone who helped make our community outreach events of the Advent Labyrinth walk, Christmas Eve candlelight service and Twelfth Night party such warm and joyous occasions. The luminaries, the refreshments, the music, and the activities all made for lovely celebrations of this feast of the Nativity. Thank you also to all who helped find/buy/display the decorations in this new space.

A call for Sunday service leaders

A number of our worship leaders have moved away, so we would be grateful for new people to try out some of the roles of Assisting Minister, Usher, Greeter, Acolyte, Communion Assistant, and Altar Guild. Training is given, and there is no obligation to continue if you find that it's not your calling or your schedule changes. Please email Pastor Anna if you'd like to try.

Building update

You may have noticed a few changes in the narthex/lobby. Eight upholstered chairs complete the furniture purchased for that room, and additional decorative and useful items include two umbrella stands. Look for more changes throughout the building in the coming months as pictures get hung and new coat hooks go up in the hall. If you're handy with hanging photos, contact the office!

Grand visitation to companion synod

A visit to Namibia is slated for May 15 - June 5. The group is limited to 12 people and the deadline to sign up is January 31. For more information, contact Pastor J. Lowell Knauff at 703-978-8999, or umpyk at aol.com.

ADVENT

News & Announcements

Come out and hear our Director of Music Michael Lewallen in the concert below!

The Washington Kantorei

Dr Dale Voelker, Artistic Director

Telemann and W. F. Bach

Music of the Expressive Style



Featuring the modern premiere of "Auf lasset in Zions geheiligten Hallen" by G.P. Telemann with period orchestra and soloists. Plus the cantata *Wohl dem, der den Herren fürchtet* by W. F. Bach and music by Bräutigam, Miskinis, Pärt and Sumsion.

Lutheran Church of the Reformation
212 East Capitol Street
Washington, DC 20003

Saturday, February 4, 2012, at 4:00 pm

Admission is \$20, ages 7-17 free

For reservations, please send a check with the names of all attendees to The Washington Kantorei, 6783 Derby Run Way, Gainesville, VA 20155. Tickets will not be issued--the reservation list will be checked at the door. Reservations are confirmed only upon request. Please provide a phone number or email address with your order in case we need to contact you. Parking is available on the street.

For concert information visit us at www.washingtonkantorei.org or phone 703-836-0081.
For ticket information phone 703-743-5166.

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 3:00 Confirmation 4:00 A-SPAN 7:00 Bible Study	<i>2</i> 8:00 Choir	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 7:00 Bible Study	<i>9</i> 8:00 Choir	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	<i>13</i> 7:00 Council Meeting	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> 3:00 Confirmation 7:00 Bible Study	<i>16</i> 8:00 Choir	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i> 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> 7:30 Ash Wed. 8:30 Choir	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> NO Bible Study	<i>March 01</i> 7:00 Soup supper 7:30 Lenten Prayer 8:00 Choir		

Advent Lutheran Church

2222 S. Arlington Ridge Road
Arlington, VA 22202