

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 14, Issue 02

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

March/April 2012



Advent Lutheran Church
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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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at www.facebook.com/adventarlington

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From the Pastor

The Pascal Season is upon us

*Come explore
the drama!*

Paschal is an old word for Easter from Passion, which denotes the entire suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. It is a time for us Christians to confront our own desire for cheap grace and to remember that we have been saved for a purpose, and that fulfilling that purpose may be difficult and uncomfortable, just as fulfilling all things for our salvation was for Jesus. We are called in Lent to various private and public practices that can aid us in this confrontation and this call to fulfill God's purpose for our lives. I invite you to explore the call of those difficult and uncomfortable things on your life through the Lent and Easter worship offerings at Advent.

SUNDAYS: *On Sundays in Lent we will hear about the Old Testament*

(Continued on page 3)



Looking to refocus our funds

We've completed the construction phase of our mission plan at Advent. Now we can focus on God's mission and ministry for our new space. We've begun to plan for new ministries and we will need funding for them. We can achieve that by paying down the mortgage.

Our current mortgage is \$150,000. For every \$10,000 that amount is reduced, we save \$780 per month and \$5600 in interest payments over the life of the loan. If the mortgage payment is reduced or eliminated, we could use those re-

Reducing mortgage
would allow for
new ministries



sources for all types of ministry.

Our new space has many possibilities for community service, including events for young adults, activities for teens, and fun events for the community. We could also consider mission activities beyond our walls.

To begin this project, volunteers are needed to oversee Advent's upcoming capital campaign. If you have an interest or skills in fundraising, event planning or communications, please talk to Pastor Anna or council president Marianne Hetzer.

Council highlights from February



Submitted by
Council Secretary
Ingrid Berdahl

- * Pastor Anna reported that Sunday morning Bible study is going well and Wednesday evening Bible study will be suspended during Lent.
- * Average attendance in January was 42.
- * Debbie Lewis will represent Advent at the Synod Assembly. Advent needs one more person, a person of color, to attend as a voting member.
- * Treasurer Ellie Holsopple reported that receipts exceeded disbursements by almost \$1,582 in January. Disbursements from the McKenzie Bequest included a projector, a video for adult education, umbrella stands, coat hooks, blinds for the administrative office, installation of a new faucet in the small restroom and artwork in the men's restroom.

Sam Matzner and team exhibit academic prowess

Congratulations to Sam Matzner and the rest of Wakefield High School's *It's Academic* team for their big win over South County to finish as the Northern Regional Runner-up. Sam and his varsity teammates won the National District championship, sweeping all seven of its games, including victories over Washington-Lee and Yorktown. They finished second in the Northern Region behind only Thomas Jefferson. In the regional tournament, its victories included decisive wins over Fairfax County powers Woodson and Langley. What an awesome accomplishment!

Come hear the stories of the season

(Continued from page 1)

covenants God made with people through the ages, the covenant with Noah and the earth not to destroy it, the covenant of grace with Abraham and Sarah to bless all people, the covenant of the Ten Commandments to protect humans from their own frailties, the covenant promise to provide healing when our sin brings suffering by lifting up a sign on a pole, and the prophetic promise of a new covenant of forgiveness.

We will also hear in the Gospel readings Jesus' explanations of his death and of its meaning for us.

THURSDAYS: *Soup served at 7 pm thanks to those who have offered to share each week, followed by sung candlelight Evening Prayer at 7:30 with a brief meditation of different aspects of Lent. You are invited to come and support each other as our faith community walks the way of Christ.*

PALM SUNDAY: *April 1 worship begins with the blessing of the palms for all the gathered pilgrims and a joyous procession welcoming Jesus into our midst. There will be special music to start us! But just as the mood changed quickly in Jerusalem, so to in our worship we shift quickly to **PASSION SUNDAY.***

We will hear the story in Mark's gospel of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death, and how none of his disciples ever figured out who he really was, how his identity remained hidden to those who should have been the first to know.

HOLY MAUNDY THURSDAY and **GOOD FRIDAY** at 7:30 pm we will have the opportunity to go with Jesus in his last hours. We will hear John's account of the Last Supper (very different from Mark's) and John's account of the arrest and crucifixion as seen from God's viewpoint, where Jesus is very much in charge

EASTER SUNDAY we will celebrate at 10 am in solidarity with all those disciples through the centuries and around the world who still look for the meaning of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for them. We will hear again the human viewpoint as recorded in Mark's gospel of the disciples' reaction and how the meaning of his death remained hidden even when the disciples are confronted with the empty tomb.

God's viewpoint vs. human viewpoint: you are invited to witness the whole drama by participating in it this Paschal season.

Love, Pastor Anna



New and improved website!

Things continue to change here at Advent. In addition to our new building, we now have a new look on the Internet. Visit our new site at www.adventlc.us. There you will find news, photos, volunteer information, forms, and much, much more.

Scholarly studies on slate for March & April forums

- March 4 Many people help to maintain and improve Advent's building and grounds. Property Minister George Toth and Landscaping Minister Ingrid Berdahl discuss how this has happened in the past, how it is a true ministry and what our needs are going forward.
- March 11 *How Advent's Worship Service Comes Together:* Organist and Choir Director Michael Lewallen, Altar Committee Chair Joy Duncan and Pastor Anna Anderson describe the process of putting together a worship service.
- March 18 Lynn Juhl will review *Ethics that Matters: African, Caribbean and African American Sources*, a textbook for use in undergraduate and seminary classrooms. Learn more information about the book at experts.patheos.com/expert/marciayriggs/publications/
- March 25 *Practicing Resurrection.* The first of two brief videos about the meaning of the resurrection. We will listen to a 20-minute discussion by Biblical scholars and then discuss their points among ourselves.
- April 1 *Practicing Resurrection.* The second to two brief videos about the meaning of the resurrection. We will listen to a 20-minute discussion by Biblical scholars and then discuss their points among ourselves.
- April 8 Easter Sunday; no forum.
- April 15, 22, 28 Look for a focus on caring for creation!



March

- 7th Anna A.
16th Lynn J.

April

- 2nd Diane J.
Susanna A.
Kristiina A.
5th Olli A.
9th Carole A.
11th Marilyn F.
17th Rodica G.
21st David B.
22nd Michael B.
25th Aune P.
27th John M.

newsletter DEADLINE

April 19

Publication date of the next edition of The Advent Courier is April 29th

Please email articles to the office by the deadline above.

Changes abound at Gettysburg

New pastors come from seminaries and "our" seminary is Gettysburg Lutheran Theological Seminary. Advent was delighted to host senior seminarian Matthew Day on February 26, who preached the sermon and shared something about the life of seminarians. He and his seminarian fiancée are assigned to the Delaware Maryland Synod for call to congregations there. During the forum Seminarian Day told us about his studies, courses and professors. He also told us about plans for the future at the seminary that involve the historical value of the seminary. It was used as a stop on the underground railroad and as a field hospital during the Battle of Gettysburg. That building is being renovated by the National Park Service as a museum of religious and civil war history and will become a major tourism center beginning in July 2013, the 150th anniversary of the Battle. The seminary expects 80,000 tourists a year. Next door to the Old Seminary building is the Chapel, so, with the expectation of visits by Veterans, the Seminary is renovating it to be fully accessible and is soliciting donations to aid that project. Envelopes are available in the lobby for those who would like to contribute to this or to any other work of the seminary. There are also several opportunities for lay people to take a theology or Bible class at the seminary. Its doors are open to everyone! Visit the website at www.ltsg.edu

HELP NEEDED

Neighborhood couple need driver, repairman

Our elderly neighbors on Nash Street are requesting help. The day is approaching when they will no longer be able to drive, so they are looking to hire someone to drive them to doctor appointments, etc. They are also looking for a handyman who can do a few repairs/chores around their house. If you are able to help or know of anyone who would, with or without reimbursement, please contact the church office at 703-521-7010.

Non-profit hiring administrator to manage elderly residence

Fellowship Square Foundation, a provider of housing for the elderly and disabled, is currently taking applications for an experienced Administrator for one of its properties in Reston.

The preferred candidate will have HUD/Section 8 experience, with a background in management, health care administration or congregate living situations. Bachelor's degree preferred, with at least 5 years pertinent experience. The agency offers a wage/benefit package, as well as training and certification as needed. This is an excellent opportunity for the right candidate. The organization has a strong history of success, and a vision for future growth and opportunities! For contact information please see the ad on Craig's list at <http://washingtondc.craigslist.org/nva/bus/2864766726.html>

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

Synod Assembly, Spring Session

As a part of the Metro DC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are invited to send representatives to a meeting to help set the direction of the ministry we can do together with other Lutheran churches. Advent can send two people. This year the Assembly meets April 27-28 in Leesburg. There is a pre-assembly meeting at 2 pm on Sunday, April 22, at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Arlington to learn about the issues that are slated. All are welcome. Learn more at metrodcelca.org

Thanks for our support!

Lutheran Social Services has sent a letter thanking Advent for the support we provide for its ministries. This area benefits greatly from the work of this organization. Visit <http://www.lssnca.org> to see all the good work it does with your dollars!

Souper Bowl success!

Thank you to all who donated canned soup and goods to the Souper Bowl drive for Arlington Food Assistance Center. And thanks to Carole Assante for delivering it for us! Your giving amassed a sizable donation of 146 pounds of food to share with our neighbors!

Events at Mar-lu-Ridge

Lenten Retreat - Saturday March 10. Join us for "Becoming Who You Are: Exploring the Fruits of the Spirit", led by Rev. Dr. Tom Williamsen and Susan Coale. We meet in the Potomac Lodge at Mar-Lu-Ridge, beginning at 9:30 am. Cost is \$30/person, \$45/couple - hot lunch included. **Summer Camp Open House** - Join us for one of our Open House tours where you will meet the staff, tour the camp, and enjoy a snack. Sundays 2-4 pm: March 25, April 29, May

13, and June 10. Registration is ongoing but popular camps are filling up quickly, so register today! Please call Sarah or Elliott 800-238-9974 with questions. Summer Camp changes lives and helps children develop a deeper independence and faith. Come join us! **Mar-Lu-Ridge Annual Work Day** - Saturday March 31, beginning at 8 am. All are welcome; there are jobs for all skill levels. Please call 800-238-9974 to register. Meals included!

Services at the National Cathedral

Pastor Anna is privileged to be the Chaplain of the Day at the National Cathedral once a month. That day she leads prayers throughout the day and celebrates and preaches at the noon Eucharist. She is also available for counseling and spiritual direction for those who come to the Cathedral asking for it. Her next two dates to serve there are March 22 and April 26. You are welcome to attend any time.

Progress on stained glass window

Work continues to progress on the stained glass windows for the front. The next step is to make a cardboard template of the design, check it for perfect fit, then go to the glass suppliers to purchase the glass. Then it will be cut and the soldering will begin. That will take many months of work. We will keep the community apprised of the progress.

Marilyn asks, "Have you seen it?"

Advent's paperback guide to Bible pronunciations seems to have disappeared during our construction. I thought I had placed it in the usher's stand when we were moving things into the sanctuary in preparation for the construction, but it is not there. If you have seen it or know where it is, please let me know. Thanks a bunch! - Marilyn Falksen

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Make this craft to capture the beauty of God's creation in springtime.

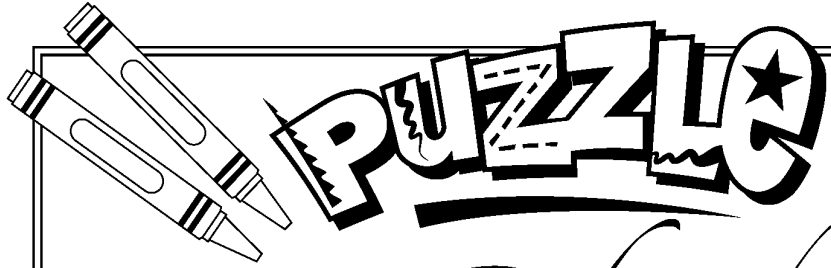
What you need:

- White glue that dries clear
- White watercolor paper
- Black fine-point permanent marker
- Watercolors
- Paint brush
- Water bowl
- Paper towels



What you do:

1. With glue, draw a picture on watercolor paper of flowers and other things in God's creation we see in spring. Keep lines fairly big and simple, without many small details.
2. After the glue dries, use a fine-point permanent marker to trace the glue lines.
3. Paint your picture with watercolors for a stained-glass effect.



SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

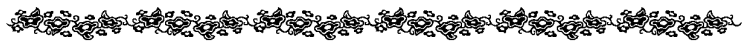
Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

bloom $6+1=$ ___ blossom $2x2=$ ___ rejoice $4x2=$ ___

burst $3+3=$ ___ wilderness $2+1=$ ___ joy $5+5=$ ___

crocus $3+2=$ ___ desert $1x0=$ ___ parched $0+1=$ ___

glad $2x1=$ ___ shout $10-1=$ ___



"The _____ and the _____ land will
 be _____; the _____ will rejoice
 and _____. Like the _____,
 it will _____ into _____; it
 will _____ greatly and _____ for _____."

Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV

Answers:
 "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."

Resurrection COUNTDOWN

Make this interactive craft to use as Easter approaches.

What you need:

- An empty egg carton
- Scissors
- Tissue paper (a dark color)
- Pencil
- Bible
- 12 slips of white paper
- Glue
- Marker



What you do:

1. Cut the lid and side flaps off the egg carton.
2. Lay the carton open-side down on tissue paper. Trace and cut out the rectangular shape.
3. On the paper slips, write 12 verses from John 12 about Holy Week (including one about Easter).
4. Place each slip in an egg cup, in order, starting at the top left and ending (with the Easter verse) at the bottom right.
5. Put glue around cups and carton edges. Lay the tissue paper on top.
6. Gently mark numbers 1-6 on the tissue paper along the top row and 7-12 along the bottom.
7. Before Easter, punch through one cup each day and read the verse.



The purpose of the gospel

The gospel of John records many signs and miracles that Jesus performed in front of his disciples. Discover why these were written.



Directions: Use a Bible to fill in the missing letters of John 20:31. Then write the shape-enclosed letters in the corresponding boxes and circles below, in order of appearance, to discover John's message.

"... oe ie e hat ues us

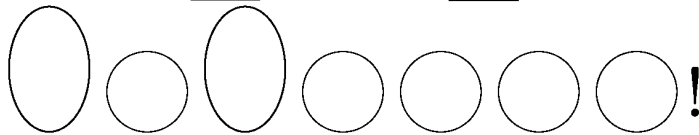
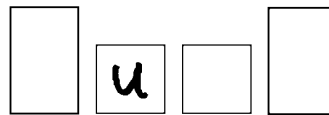
is tho es iah, the Sn

of od, nd thau by

beo o o ing ou my

haoe lifo ih hinae."

JOHN 20:31, NIV



Just Believe!

Answers: "... believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 Soup Supper 7:30 Lenten Prayer 8:00 Choir	2	3
4 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	5	6	7 3:00 Confirmation Class 4:00 A-SPAN	8 7:00 Soup Supper 7:30 Lenten Prayer 8:00 Choir	9	10
11 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	12 7:00 Council Meeting	13	14	15 7:00 Soup Supper 7:30 Lenten Prayer 8:00 Choir	16	17
18 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service	19	20	21	22 <i>PA @ National Cath.</i> 7:00 Soup Supper 7:30 Lenten Prayer	23	24
25 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	26	27	28 3:00 Confirmation Class	29 7:00 Soup Supper 7:30 Lenten Prayer 8:00 Choir	30	31 <i>Wedding @ Advent</i>

April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	2	3	4 4:00 A-SPAN 7:00 Bible Study	5 7:30 Maundy Thursday Service 8:30 Choir	6 7:30 Good Friday Service	7
8 EASTER 10:00 Worship Service	9 7:00 Council Meeting	10	11 3:00 Confirmation Class 7:00 Bible Study	12 8:00 Choir	13	14
15 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	16	17	18 7:00 Bible Study	19 8:00 Choir	20	21
22 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	23	24	25 3:00 Confirmation Class 7:00 Bible Study	26 <i>PA @ National Cathedral</i> 8:00 Choir	27 Synod Assembly Spring Session in Leesburg, VA	28 Synod Assembly Spring Session in Leesburg, VA
29 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	30					

Contemplative Communion Service

Each Sunday night during Lent you are invited to Contemplative Communion Services sponsored by the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation and the Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church (3401 Nebraska Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20016). This is an ecumenical service—all are welcome! Worship will draw on the experiences of “The Mass that Takes Its Time,” an innovative Roman Catholic liturgy; Shalem Institute’s contemplative Eucharist, often celebrated in retreat experiences; and the Methodist *Service of Word and Table*. This liturgy will encourage prayer and reflection within a support spiritual community and nurture awareness of the living Spirit among and within us. Scriptural texts will illuminate the theme of forgiveness as a gift of God. This service is for all who seek a deeper encounter with Divine Presence and a Lenten experience of renewal and healing. Services are in the Great Hall from 7:00-8:30 pm weekly through April 1st, and will be led by Carole Crumley, an Episcopal priest and Senior Program Director for the Shalem Institute, and Drema McAllister-Wilson, a Methodist pastor and Minister for Congregational Care at Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church. Advent’s Director of Music Michael Lewallen is serving as cantor.

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