

# THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 15, Issue 02

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

March 2013



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

## SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

**Pastor**  
Rev. Anna Anderson

**President**  
Debbie Lewis

**Office Administrator**  
Nancy Cox Jairrels

**Director of Music Ministry**  
Michael Lewallen

**Nursery Attendant**  
Roxie Jairrels

**Newsletter Copy Editor**  
Marianne Hetzer



Find us on Facebook  
at [www.facebook.com/adventarlington](http://www.facebook.com/adventarlington)

## What's Inside

Birthdays Page 06  
Council Highlights Page 05  
Council News Page 04  
Library Corner Page 03  
Volunteering Page 05  
Worship Services Page 02

# Protecting God's creation

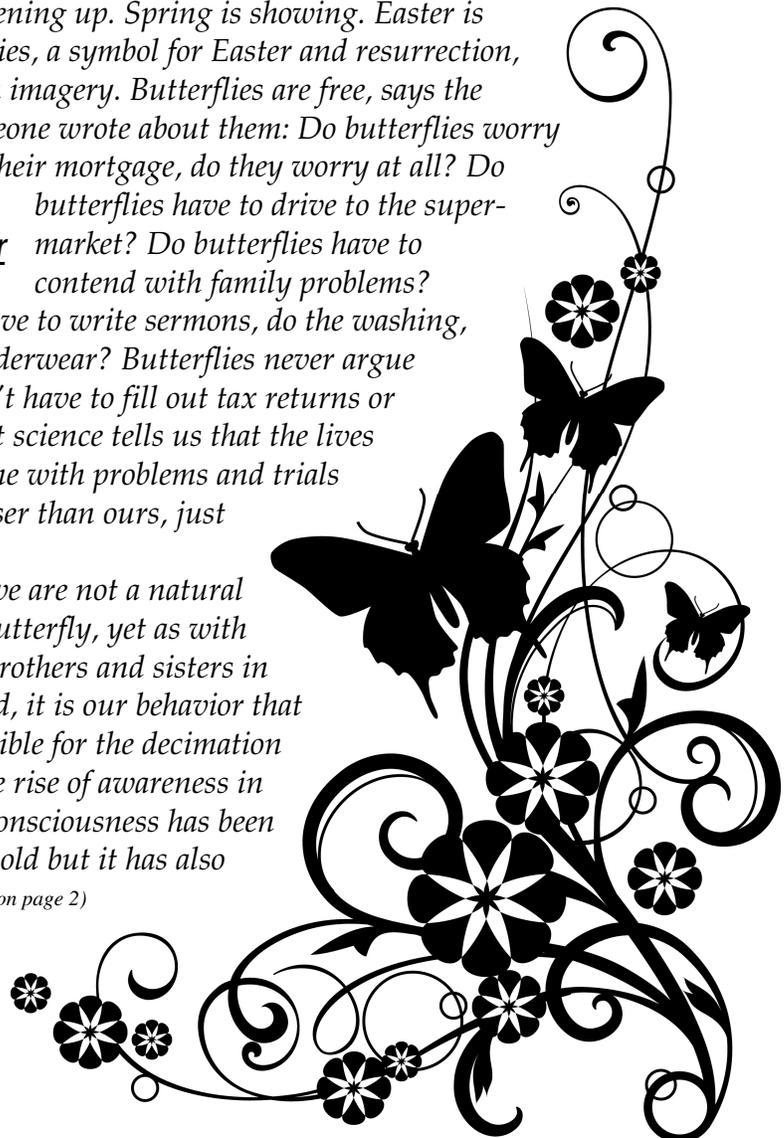
*The world is greening up. Spring is showing. Easter is coming. Butterflies, a symbol for Easter and resurrection, appear in church imagery. Butterflies are free, says the movie title. Someone wrote about them: Do butterflies worry about repaying their mortgage, do they worry at all? Do*

*butterflies have to drive to the super-market? Do butterflies have to contend with family problems?*

*Do butterflies have to write sermons, do the washing, and buy new underwear? Butterflies never argue with bosses, don't have to fill out tax returns or get flu shots. But science tells us that the lives of butterflies come with problems and trials no greater or lesser than ours, just different.*

*Strange that we are not a natural predator of the butterfly, yet as with so many of our brothers and sisters in the natural world, it is our behavior that has been responsible for the decimation of their kind. The rise of awareness in environmental consciousness has been wonderful to behold but it has also*

*(Continued on page 2)*



## *Upcoming worship services*

**Lenten Worship:** You are invited to Holden Evening Prayer with us on March 14 and 21. Join us early for soup at 6:45 pm. Thanks to the soup makers and worship leaders!

**Bishop's Lenten Eucharist:** This year this annual worship event for the pastors of the synod will be at Advent on Tuesday, March 12, at 10:30 am. You are all invited to attend. You may be able to greet some old friends! A soup and bread lunch will be available following the worship.

**Holy Week and Easter:** Palm/Passion Sunday will begin our Holy Week observance with palms and a procession. We then hear the Passion of Our Lord according to Luke's Gospel.

On Holy/Maundy Thursday we meet at 7:30 pm to begin a service that lasts until Easter. We follow a tradition started by pilgrims who

visited the Holy Land at Easter in the third century. We remember Jesus' new commandment to love one another by being a servant, and his command to remember him by sharing his Body and Blood when we gather in his name. We then go with him as the joy of his Passover party becomes a journey to death, remembering how he was stripped as we strip the altar.

On Good Friday at 7:30 pm we continue this service of remembering by hearing the Passion according to St. John and extinguishing the light as we remember his death. We then pause to meditate on the implications of his cross for us and to embrace the cross as his glory in finishing his work of reconciling the world to God.

Easter morning we gather at 10 am to celebrate his triumph over death that brings to us that same victory.

---

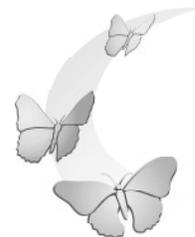
## **We are working in partnership with God**

*(Continued from page 1)*

*been so very flawed. We rely on science to save us: we'll just develop the technologies to get environmentally friendly energy and food for all, and we'll live the way we want without sacrifice. We can manipulate and take control. That's as misguided as the old theological notion that the environment isn't important because Jesus will take our souls to heaven. Both ignore the mission of Christ to redeem the WHOLE world, butterflies and all, at great cost. We are not outside of the world of butterflies and in control of it. We are a part of it.*

*Advent is at the forefront of working in partnership with God as fellow inhabitants of the creation to be mindful citizens in it. Our new building was designed for that. We are recycling, installing bike racks and cooperating with our gardens in care for creation, thanks to the leadership here. We are not alone, though. I invite you to visit the website: [lutheransrestoringcreation.org](http://lutheransrestoringcreation.org), and I invite you in this season of renewal to soar with the butterflies.*

*Love, Pastor Anna*





## Preparing for new initiative means work

Pastor Anna and two leaders from council will attend the second session of “the Journey, a Synod sponsored initiative to assist congregations in establishing practices for helping people live the Gospel in their context. They will come back with more “homework” for Advent to do, so be prepared!

## Newcomers, have lunch on us!

Newcomers to the Advent community are invited to be our guests for lunch following worship on March 24. Please let Pastor Anna or the office know if you’ll like to attend.

# Library gets new leader

Management of Advent’s library will switch hands this month. Kristen Reglin, who began worshipping at Advent in January 2013, will now be responsible for the library and the “Library Corner” article in the monthly newsletter. Kristen is excited about this opportunity and looks forward to connecting with the congregation through the library. Library Corner will continue to highlight a book, author, or topic in our collection that a member of the congregation found meaningful to their lives or faith. Also, please feel free to share any relevant books that are not in the Advent library. If you have any suggestions for Library Corner or how the library can be more useful to the congregation, please speak to Kristen or send her an email at [kristen.reglin@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.reglin@gmail.com).

You are all encouraged to browse through the library and share a book review, if you have not done so. It is a great way to explore your faith and share with the congregation.

## Library Corner

What’s on the shelf in Advent’s library



Kristen Reglin



**Dinner is served!** Guests at the home of Debbie Lewis included Georges & Susan Toth, Gerry & Carol Fuller, and Jeff Campbell.

## *Tables of Fellowship*

The ministry is off to fantastic start with participants rotating meals and guests each month. It’s a great way to get to know each other!

# Council needs input on examination of structure, Constitution & By-laws

## Council Structure Team

If you've attended a council meeting anytime in the past few years, you know that our council operates within a team structure. Prior to 2006, we operated with various ministry teams that reported to council (Inreach, Outreach, Education, Mission & Social Responsibility, and Worship & Music). At the end of Mission Transformation in 2006, we adopted a continuing resolution to restructure council so that certain members would focus on Administrative matters (finance, property, staffing, stewardship) and certain members would focus on Missioning matters (special worship services, new members, community outreach). The resolution was to modify the council structure for a three year period. In 2009, the congregation voted to continue to use this structure for an additional three years.

At the congregational meeting in June 2012, the following motion was passed: "To extend the 2006 resolution for one more year, during which the Council would evaluate its current operating structure, in accordance with this resolution, and prepare a recommendation to be voted upon at the 2013 annual congregational meeting."

To assist council in this evaluation, I'd like to form a team to discuss the various options for council structure. The team would likely meet once or twice in April and then present information at the May council meeting. If you're interested in serving on this team, please contact me.

- *Debbie Lewis, Council President*

## Advent Constitution and By-Laws

Advent's Constitution was last reviewed and amended in 1991. Our By-Laws were last reviewed in 2006 following Mission Transformation. Several things have changed in the interim, including the model Constitution recommended by the ELCA. I'd like to form a team to review our constitution and by-laws and make a recommendation regarding possible changes.

One issue to be reviewed is the question of whether to incorporate. Virginia law in effect in 1991 prohibited churches from incorporating. That law has since been changed and many churches have chosen to become incorporated. Unincorporated churches use trustees to hold property and enter into legal contracts on behalf of the church. Advent has three trustees to carry out certain responsibilities on behalf of the church. Incorporating would have some advantages, including the following:

- \* a corporation can own or transfer property in its own name
- \* a corporation can enter into contracts or other legal obligations
- \* the members of a corporation (pastor, council, congregation) are not personally liable for the acts of other members

If you have an interest in serving on this team, please contact me. The team would likely meet a handful of times over the next several months as well as doing some research and review on an individual basis.

- *Debbie Lewis, Council President*

## Highlights from the February meeting



Submitted by  
Council Secretary  
Desiree Jessimy

- \* Pastor Anna thanked us for all the help and support she received during the Advent season services and the Prayer and Praise service. The other pastors are planning to meet to organize another service.
- \* Advent will host the Bishop's Lenten Eucharist on March 12 at 10.30 am. Georges Toth and Gerry Fuller will assist.
- \* Chris and Paige Stenrud would like to be received and have their twins baptized on March 10. Judith Zink and Brian Thiel would also like to be received. A motion was passed that they be received as members.
- \* Financial Secretary Paul Hetzer submitted December 2012 and January 2013 reports. For the fiscal year through December we received \$3,889 more than the prior year in the total General Fund. The increase was attributed to the envelope giving.
- \* Gifts of Hope exceeded last year's giving by \$275.
- \* Treasurer Ellie Holsopple reported General Fund expenditures exceeded receipts by \$1,338 in January. Year-to-date receipts are still greater than expenditures. Overall, General Fund expenditures year-to-date are about 5% under budget.
- \* The Capital Campaign Fund received almost \$55,000
- \* Average attendance for January was 40.
- \* A motion was made and passed that Council authorize the purchase and installation of two double bike racks on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street of the church at a cost not to exceed \$450.00 from the McKenzie Bequest Fund.

---

### Greetings from Cape Town

*Advent couple collecting books for South African youth*

In November, Patrick West shared some of his experiences from South Africa with Advent. This included the Thokozani Brothers, a choral group of about 300 kids from one of the townships near Capetown. For the past 15 years, the group has shown kids a better life - one without drugs, gangs and violence. Keeping the kids in school is a primary goal. The Brothers are working to improve their educational enrichment. Accordingly, they are seeking books of all types, new or used, particularly suitable for junior high and high school students. Any help from Advent would be appreciated and would contribute to a very worthy cause. Patrick and Karin Norton are happy to collect and ship the books to the Brothers.

Patrick's recent efforts can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/PatrickWestPhotography>

- Karin Norton

## Voice your prayers for the church

The Assisting Ministers would like invite all who worship at Advent to participate more fully in the prayers. Traditionally, these prayers were spoken by the Pastor following a basic outline that guided the congregation to "pray for the church, those in need, and all God's creation." In fact, in many Lutheran churches, there was a "silence rule"-- except for hymns and the "bold print," congregations were expected to keep silence. In recent years, there has been a growing trend towards encouraging more lay participation. Experience has shown that we often get more meaning when we participate more fully and more actively. At Advent we use members of the congregation as Assisting Ministers, readers, communion assistants, ushers, acolytes, etc.

Each week, a major task for the assisting minister is to prepare the prayer of the church. The goal of the assisting minister is to express the Advent community's praises and concerns. We do our best, but we certainly can't know what is on everyone's hearts and minds. Thus, we would like to invite all who worship with us to participate. For that reason, you will begin to see in the church bulletin the following announcement:

*The Assisting Ministers invite all to participate in the prayers. There are two openings. When we pray for friends and family, the Assisting Minister will pause for members of the congregation to mention individuals who are sick or going through difficult times. This would be a good time to mention aloud one or two people from the Prayer Concern list on the front of the Bulletin.*

We hope that you will prayerfully consider how you can contribute to the Sunday morning prayer. As the announcement indicates, one idea is that, if you do not have individual family members or friends that you wish to pray for, you might lifting up one or two of the people listed in the Prayer Request list. Another idea is that you make a mental note during the week when you read or hear of a concern, and that you prepare a simple sentence that raises that concern. Whether you pray silently or aloud, you will be praying more actively! If people voice their concerns each Sunday morning, we will all grow in our awareness.

- Susan Toth, Assisting Minister



### **March**

7th Anna Anderson  
16th Lynn Juhl

### **April**

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

## newsletter



## April 11

Please have articles for the April edition of the newsletter into the office by the date above. Emailed articles are preferred.

## ELCA responds to needs of Syrian refugees in Jordan

The ELCA provided \$100,000 to support the needs of people at the Za'atri refugee camp in Jordan. More than 50 percent of the refugees there are below the age of 18. The funds were sent to The Lutheran World Federation, which is managing camp operations. The conflict in Syria has displaced about 2.5 million people, many of whom have taken refuge at Za'atri.

Winter conditions across the region "led to a disaster on top of a disaster for the people in the camp," said the Rev. Robert Smith, program director for the Middle East and North Africa, ELCA churchwide ministries. "When we saw the specific reporting of how children, the most vulnerable among the vulnerable, were impacted by the storms, we felt it necessary to respond quickly."

The Lutheran World Federation is helping to manage the camp in cooperation with Jordanian authorities, said Smith. The federation is a global communion of 143 member churches in 79 countries worldwide. The ELCA is the communion's only member church from the United States.

"The ELCA has been a strong funder, and we continue to make additional contributions to support relief efforts. The United Nations and UNICEF have indicated that international appeals have not raised sufficient funds, so the ELCA is working to respond to this very vulnerable (refugee) population," said Smith.

"We pray that the fighting will stop in Syria, and people can return home. We're trying to do what we can to support leaders who are working to bring a peaceful solution in Syria," he said.

Along with the federation, the ELCA is working in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. In 2012, the ELCA contributed \$450,000 to help meet the needs of people impacted by the conflict in Syria. Funds are used to purchase and distribute food and personal items, such as hygiene kits, household items, bedding and clothing. Special care and training in nutritional support for mothers is also being made available.

More information about ELCA Disaster Response is available at [www.ELCA.org/disaster](http://www.ELCA.org/disaster).

---

### Take a retreat to recharge

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 11-14 and the women's retreat will be held April 18-21 at a peaceful retreat center in Silver Spring, 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.

### *Greetings from Afar*

*"Pastor Anna-*

*We just received the note on the contributions we made when attending services at Advent Lutheran last year and were reminded that we should let you know how much we appreciated the hospitality and warm welcome we received from you and everyone in the congregation. We returned to Montana last July after a tour of duty in Washington, DC with USDA and are glad to be home. If we are ever back that way, we look forward to joining you again.*

*Sincerely, Bruce and Nancy Kaiser Nelson" (via website)*

## Annual harp concert set for April 6

The Washington Area Folk Harp Society invites you to their annual concert on April 6, 7:30 pm, to benefit their scholarship fund. This year's theme is THE HARP GOES ON A PILGRIMAGE and spotlights music from many world religions, performed by (and largely arranged by) WAFHS members, including Ellie Holsopple from Advent. Ellie plays with the Heatherwood Harp Ensemble, which will lead off the concert. Featured is internationally renowned harpist Robbin Gordon-Cartier, who performs regularly in the New York metropolitan area. Other performers include the Harp Happy! Ensemble, and Jo Morrison and Barbra Bailey Bradley in duet, WAFHS members. The Crookston Music Studio Harp Ensemble will warm up the audience in a pre-concert concert, so come a few minutes early. Concert is at Knox Presbyterian Church, 7416 Arlington Boulevard, Falls Church, VA 22042, tickets available at the door: \$15, students/seniors \$10.



Ellie Holsopple

### **Advent Lutheran Church**

2222 S. Arlington Ridge Road  
Arlington, VA 22202