



Advent

June 2008

Volume 4, Issue 6

A Note from Pastor Justin:

Dear fellow workers in the Kingdom, grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

I have been doing a lot of thinking lately regarding who we are as a congregation. I am amazed at the diversity of talents and gifts that walks through our doors each and every week. God continues to lift up new leaders among us, as well as challenge those of us who have been here since the beginning to grow in new ways. I pray often that you all know the Lord as your Rock, as the God that has promised to never abandon you and never leave your side. I trust and know that this God will continue to lead us and guide us and push us as a body in new directions where we can further answer the call to love and serve. In the midst of that trust and knowledge that God will lead us and push us I wonder just exactly where that pushing may lead. Where is it that God is calling us- both communally as well as individually? What kinds of things are going to be our focus, our mission, our emphasis as we seek to work hard to advance the Kingdom?

I think I have gotten to the point of wondering lately due to the fact that we are so blessed. We have come so far in such a short period of time and our focus now seems to be headed towards a campaign and a building. A building mind you that will not be the end all but rather the beginning of new ministry; a mission center if you will. I feel God is calling me as your pastor to help set a vision that propels us into that new building and also right out of it into the world. So if that is true, if I am discerning my calling as your pastor in that sense correctly than I continue to wonder where God is calling us to go. You see here's the deal, we have not been called as a community to stay put, to reach the point where we are at (which is a nice, small sized congregation that could function), and to become content with a new building which will definitely be wonderful. We are called to continue to **Go!** Jesus' Great Commission given so many years ago continues to be the commission given to you, to me, and to us as Advent. So where will we go? Where is "all nations" for us in Lake Ann, tucked away in the beauty of Almira Township and Benzie County, where are we being pushed, pulled, and even maybe shoved? I urge you to pray hard for clarity to what our next chapter will be and who we will called to invite into our life. Pray for vision and energy for Advent as we enter into a new chapter of our life which includes a energy and time consuming building campaign- prayer for energy and passion to stay focused on furthering the kingdom by embracing God's work here with our hearts and our hands.

I find myself these days as a combination between extremely excited and extremely frightened and I think that is okay. I hear the words of Christ from last week's Gospel and I know I should not worry- and I don't truly. My fear comes from in part the excitement of what is going on: new staff positions, 25 youth going to camp, a goal of a new building by 2010, the ever shrinking building, the baptisms that are coming again in bunches, and the list could go on and on. The fear here is in when will the excitement stop- can we possibly continue to do all of these new things- where is the pot hole? That fear of a pot hole comes from seeing many churches hit those very obstacles that we have not faced but I rest in the promise of our Lord as he tells us to not worry and I embrace the bit of fear which keeps me and I think us sharp in who we are and what we do. I also believe that if we continue to be open to where God is leading us and continue to strengthen who we are through the use of our Spiritual Gifts, the use of Prayer as a center to our ministry we will face those obstacles with grace and overcome them. So pray dear sisters and brothers pray for God to not let up in challenging us and in leading us to places we cannot even imagine and pray that you and all of us in the community can be open to the hard work that lies ahead. It is truly a joy to be part of this community and I thank God daily for putting me here.

Humbled to be your pastor,

Justin



Why I said YES to Advent

--Chad Schwendemann--

At a recent cottage meeting I was asked to share what attracted me to Advent and wanted to share my story with the rest of our community.

After being in the area for about a year and a half my wife and I decided it was time to start building some roots in the area because it did not look like I would be relocating for work any time in the near future. Around September of 2007, I decided to start looking for a church and having received a postcard from Advent in the past I figured why not start my search locally. From the moment I walked through the door I was greeted by many individuals and shared a row with the Olson family during the service. After the service, Pastor Justin took the time to talk to me a bit about Advent and how it compares to my previous church experience. When I went home I looked at the website and decided that I had found a new church for my family. I am especially thankful that I found Advent because my daughter was baptized on May 11th and it is awesome knowing she will learn about God in a family friendly environment with people who care about her.

Thank you for making us feel welcomed from the first visit and every visit. I look forward to our growth together as a community!

The Directory is Here!!!

The Advent Church Directory is available! Ask Michelle Anderson for your copy. Thank you to everyone who helped make the directory possible. We know a lot of work went into it!

In addition to the address and photo directory, it would be great to have a "service directory" that includes a list of occupations, skills, hobbies, and interests. When we are in need of helps and services, this directory would allow us to seek within our church family. If you are interested in helping assemble such a directory, please contact Becky MacGirr.

email: becmac@centurytel.net

cell: (231) 620-1987

home: (answering tape) 231-275-6297

Silly Supper is Coming!!

WANNA FEEL REALLY SILLY? Then make plans to attend Advent's "silly supper" on Sat., June 14, at 6:00 p.m. Leave your table manners at home for the evening and come prepared for an unusual dining experience. Laughter and fun for the whole family. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board. Sign up early as seating is limited to the first 40 people. There will be a nominal charge with a special family rate. Hosted by the Fellowship Committee.

Prayer List

Throughout this month, we ask that you lift these people up in your prayers:

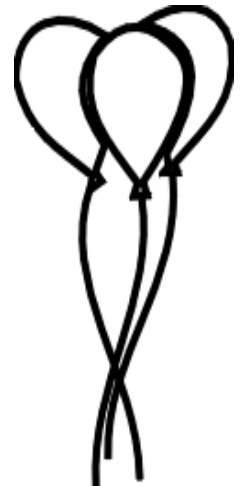


We remember in our prayers: Dee, Lori, Chuck Hess; Catherine Stabnau; Margie Miller; Becky Harrison; Ian Gerald; Lexie Stradinger; Wally Schaub; Peggy & John Grumbeck; Arnold Denter; Candy Lakin; Sara Skarshaug; Roger Bigcraft; Callie Hausler; Vicki Poswoski; Teri Hansen; Leonard Olson; Drew Palombizio; Katie McGuffin Noll; Pastor Len Etzel; Zack Gaz; Cam Deering; Mary Ghering; Bonnie Zenner; Susan Puchovan; Debby Regiani; Margie Randall; all troops: those deployed and those at home; Lake Ann United Methodist Church; and our mission here at Advent

June Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

Birthday

6/2 Nancy Dow
6/3 Sheila Rigotti
6/6 Michael Daray
6/8 Leonard Olson
6/17 David April
6/18 Katey Bank
6/20 Elfried Steigerwald
6/21 Cherie Mettler
6/22 Jeff Wentzloff
6/22 Carole Zang
6/23 Mitchell Griffith
6/24 Ashley Garver
6/25 Emma Griffith
6/26 Kurt Kalis
6/28 Leo April



Anniversaries

6/11 Gary & Gail Wertz
6/12 Bill & Robin Heiges
6/17 David & Gail Stradinger
6/20 Janet & Leo April
6/26 Mike & Margaret Achorn
6/29 Keith & Claudette Johnson

I CAN GO

-Juanita Weber--

...
 There's a place that I can go to, in the downtown
 of Lake Ann
 It's the church I know as Advent, where most
 anybody can.....
 Walk through the doors and feel the love of my
 dear Father from above.
 Look there at the smiles on the childrens upturned
 faces...
 As they hear their Pastors sermon, and put him
 thru the paces.
 Snowbirds talk about their winter and the youth of
 hopeful dates,
 "Wednesday night will be so great, Oh man I just
 can't wait!"
 Friends and family embrace each other
 I really feel they are , "my sisters & Brothers."

There's a Man that I can go to..No matter what I'm
 going thru.
 His name is Jesus Christ my friend, He loves me
 & you & you.
 He comforts when I'm hurting, He heals me when
 I'm ill,
 He takes care of every need and I never get a bill!
 Without Jesus at my side, life would be an awful
 ride.

Yes , I can worship in Lake Ann
 But.. He comes to me..wherever I am.

PRAISE BE TO GOD

Education News!!

The Education Committee is anticipating a fun filled
 spring and summer. This month, our church's second
 through fifth graders gathered at the church to learn
 more about the Sacraments of Baptism and
 Communion. Thank you to those of you who
 volunteered your time to make this possible.

Thank you also to those of you who have volunteered to
 help out in the nursery, know your assistance has made
 it possible for families with young children to be present
 at worship.

On June 14th, Lis Bank and Anna Grimm will be leading
 a hike at picnic at Ransom Lake, from 10 am-12. Keep
 your ears open for more details regarding this fun event.

Vacation Bible School is set to take for August 12-14th,
 during the evening hours. Specific times and more
 details will be set in the upcoming weeks as will
 information regarding registration, etc.

Does anyone have any interest in leading a small
 group? Have you read a book lately that has made an
 impact on you and you would like to share it with others?
 Would you like to learn more about a specific element of
 faith? Small groups are the way to do it, and anyone
 can lead them. Please speak to someone on the
 Education Committee (Anna Grimm, Cheryl Smith, Chad
 Schwendemann, Lis Bank, or Michelle Anderson) or
 Pastor Justin if you have any ideas.

Golf Outing

The Stewardship Committee is working very hard on a
 Golf Outing to take place on Saturday, July 17th at
 Interlochen Golf Club. The format will be a four-person
 scramble and the entry fee is \$90.00 which includes the
 golf, cart, lunch and a banquet. We need sponsors to
 help make this a go and in order to support the St. John
 Foundation and Michaels Place (the charities we are
 partnering with). If you know of a potential sponsor or
 your business is interested in sponsoring see Jim Harris
 or Pastor Justin ASAP! All skill levels should come and
 play. FORE!!!

Worship Happenings

We have now entered into the season of Pentecost!
 Which to me means nice familiar songs again for our
 liturgy and singing Spiritually charge hymns! I
 appreciate Advents' patience while singing the new
 songs for Easter. So now it is back to the familiar
 Glory to God that follows the Kyrie. Yea!

While singing familiar songs is comforting, I do get a
 bit stir crazy when singing the Psalms. :) So,
 beginning in June, the Psalms will be jazzed up a bit.
 I hope that you all will welcome this new attempt of
 enriching our service!—Cherie

Advent Choir

**We are always looking for more choir members, no
 experience necessary.**

Join us Sunday Mornings this Summer from 9:30-9:45!

Synod Assembly Update

Marked with the Cross of Christ Forever we are Claimed, Gathered and Sent for the sake of the World. This is the vision statement of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod – the synod to which Advent Lutheran Church belongs. While this year's Synod Assembly's theme was On Earth As In Heaven, I felt as though this Vision statement was the center of many discussions, sermons, and resolutions this year.

I had the pleasure of being a voting member at the assembly this year with Bud Habermann. I enjoy getting together with the various pastors and lay people from all over Northern Michigan. Many of whom I've known for years through my work with Advent and through my parents. This year's assembly was very different from last year – more business oriented than celebratory (last year was the farewell for former Bishop Gary Hansen). The opening evening was a Ministry Fair. All around the main ballroom various committees, conferences, churches and schools set up booths. I was able to pick up literature on the Mission Investment Fund (the group that recently assisted Advent with the purchase of our property), stewardship opportunities, ways in which we, as a church, can be more environmentally conscious, etc. During this fair time, the assembly's coordinators felt it would be fun to have churches within our synod share their talents. Our own Cherie Hockenberger came down to play the piano, a guitar group from Bethlehem performed, and even Drake was there! (Not to forget a very cute kids choir!)

The opening worship service was started by Drake – what a great way to get everyone who was tired from traveling on their feet and participating. My only lament of the weekend was that Drake wasn't there to lead all of the worship time, as Bread of Life did last year.

Back to that vision statement...the speakers throughout the worship sermons and in the plenary sessions focused on how we as Lutherans, and even more so as Christians, have no problem accepting that we are claimed by God and gathered together...we do that well through our worships and gatherings such as this. Where we struggle – and where every Lutheran needs to work harder – is in being Sent for the World. We discussed what this means – how can we better fulfill this part of the vision statement. Andrew Genszler, Directory for Advocacy, Washington Office, ELCA, did a great job in his talk about Advocacy. Advocacy is public support for or a recommendation of a cause. He explained that advocacy is a Lutheran act, and a local act that we can and need to do through volunteering and charity work.

As I listened to Drew, I thought about our church, and all of the big and little ways that we, Advent, are advocating for the less fortunate – for those in need in our community. Our food drives, pop tab collections, 15% benevolence that goes to the synod, the start of the baby pantry, the outreach committee's dinners for families in need (a new baby or a death in the family, etc), just to name a few. It reminds me of what Pastor Justin has said many times: the church is the only group that is not there for it's members, but for the community – and I see and have had this consistently reinforced through Advent.

In addition to the speakers and worship services, we did have business to conduct as well. There were four resolutions up for vote this year – all four of which passed. The first was a resolution on World Hunger stating that every congregation is strongly encouraged to support local community efforts on providing food for the hungry, is encouraged to set goal of raising \$5.00 per baptized member to go to the ELCA World Hunger, and is encouraged to receive a monthly World Hunger Offering.

The second resolution was for the ELCA Youth Ministry Network, written to increase our awareness and support of adult youth ministry leaders – to increase our prayers for them, encourage them in their leadership and in their activity within the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.

The third resolution was regarding the Book of Faith Initiative. The Book of Faith Initiative is a new initiative started by the ELCA to increase the study and fluency of lay people in the scriptures. Because this is a new initiative, the details of how to increase the conversations on the bible within congregations is still being developed. This resolution stated that our synod will become a Book of Faith synod, and each congregation will be encouraged to join and support the initiative.

The fourth resolution was by far the most contested, yet it did pass. Five years ago, the synod started the development process of a Mission Support Center, which will act as the offices of the synod, as well as be a center for Mission Development throughout the synod. The resolution was to approve the start of a capitol campaign to raise \$1.5 million for the construction of the Mission Support Center.

Beyond these four resolutions, we elected two Synod officers, five Synod Council positions and ten voting members for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

I love coming back from Synod Assembly...I feel renewed, both in my faith and in my connection with the church body. I thank you for the opportunity to represent Advent as a voting member these past two years.

May God Bless You,
Becky Douthitt

The following people are assisting in worship

Communion Bread: Lynn Mocan
Altar Guild: Wendy Roelofs

June 01

Fellowship: Church Council

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Juanita Weber
Ushers: John Mocan & Bob Sutton
Communion: Emily Bramer & Mathew Branch
Acolyte: Noah Weichert

10:00 Service

Assisting Minister: John Jeffrey
Ushers: Michael & Steve MacGirr
Communion: Ellen & Jeff Fancher
Acolyte: A.J. Kettinger

June 08

Fellowship: Worship & Fellowship Committee

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady
Ushers: Carole & Elden Zang
Communion: Charlie & Cher Baumann
Acolyte: Aaron Hockenberger

10:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Hannah Will
Ushers: Pam Hess & Chad Schwendemann
Communion: Lis & Nick Bank
Acolyte: Noah Weichert

June 15

Fellowship: Youth Committee

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Carole Zang
Ushers: Mathew Branch & Pat Cudney
Communion: Paul & Paula Stabnau
Acolyte: McKenna Cudney

June 15

10:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Becky MacGirr
Ushers: Clint Douthitt & Ellen Fancher
Communion: David & Kim Romberg
Acolyte: A.J. Kettinger

June 22

Fellowship: Education Committee

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Tom Peterson
Ushers: Bud & Marlene Habermann
Communion: Carole & Elden Zang
Acolyte: Noah Weichert

10:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Juanita Weber
Ushers: Jeff & Nathan Fancher
Communion: Nancy Ackerman Will & Hannah Will
Acolyte: Aaron Hockenberger

June 29

Fellowship: Choir

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Mike Achorn
Ushers: Tom & Sally Peterson
Communion: Richard Andersen & Julie Harris
Acolyte: Evan Mocan

10:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Mary Jeffrey
Ushers: Lis & Nick Bank
Communion: Steve MacGirr & Duce Olson
Acolyte: A.J. Kettinger

If you are interested in helping with the Sunday morning worship experience, please see Tom or Sally Peterson. If you are unable to help on the day listed, please be sure to make arrangements for your spot.

June Readings

Here are the readings for Sundays this month:

June 1	Deut 11:18-21, 26-28; Psalm 31 Rom 1:16-17; 3:22b-28 (29-31) Matt 7:21-29
June 8	Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 50 Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 15	Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100 Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35, 10:8 (9-23)
June 22	Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69 Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39
June 29	Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89 Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Looking Out...

We would like to thank everyone that attended our Spaghetti Dinner on May 1st. We profited over \$630 for our building fund. We would like to thank Charlie Chamberlain for helping us with his knowledge of preparing food for large groups of people. Keala (check spelling) and Steve for donating pies from their places of employment. On to future events, we will be holding a food drive the first two weeks of June for local families and/or local food pantries. Starting next month, we will also be taking donations of diapers, baby food, formula, and wipes for our baby pantry, which will run for the first time on August 2nd.

Godspeed,
The Outreach Committee

Advent
Lutheran
Church

P.O. Box 249
Lake Ann, MI 49650
Church: 231.275.8031

Pastor Justin Grimm:
PastorJustin@charter.net
Cell: 231.632.0824

www.adventlakeann.org

Worship with
Us

Advent Lutheran Church
19631 Maple
Lake Ann, MI 49650

8:00 & 10:00
Sunday mornings
and
9:00 AM
Fellowship

Church Staff

If you need Pastoral Care, are interested in helping out during the service, have an idea about a new program, interested in the choir, or want to help out with children and teen spiritual growth, please contact one of us.

Rev. Justin Grimm, Pastor

Cherie Hockenberger, Director of Music

Lis Bank, Children's Education Coordinator

Jan Price, Church Secretary

Church Council

Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see John Jeffrey or Michelle Anderson.

For a list of your Church Council members, please go to www.adventlakeann.org and click on Directory.

Pastoral Assistance

If you or a loved one is in need of pastoral assistance, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Justin.

Are you interested in learning about Baptism or Communion for you or a family member? Pastor Justin would love to talk with you! Call or email him to set up a meeting.



**ADVENT
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
PO Box 249
Lake Ann, MI
49650

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lake Ann, MI 49650
Permit No. 6

**Remember our new worship
times for summer: 8:00 and
10:00 AM. Stay late or come
early for fellowship!!!**