



# Advent Acts

March 2008

Volume 4, Issue 3

## A Note from Pastor Justin:

Dear sisters and brothers, grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Risen Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Author Robert Collier writes, "Vision: It reaches beyond the thing that is, into the conception of what can be. Imagination gives you the picture. Vision gives you the impulse to make the picture your own." What a wonderful image of the power that a vision truly can have for an individual or a community. I would say that I agree fully with Collier and also feel that a solid vision is probably one of the most important things we need as a congregation as we move forward on this journey. We find ourselves in the midst of the Lenten season and often Lent is a time of looking in at oneself in a reflective kind of way as we head towards Holy Week and the amazing scene of what Christ did for us. This year, in addition to you doing some self-reflecting, we as congregation will be reflecting a bit as well in preparation for visioning towards our future. This process will begin with two "Cottage Meetings" to be held this month and I encourage you to try and make it to one of them. We will offer more of these in April as well in order to get as much participation as possible.

Some of you may be wondering; "what is a 'Cottage Meeting'?" I am so glad you asked! The idea behind a "Cottage Meeting" is quite simple and actually is something we did about two and a half years ago when we were first talking about this new thing called Advent. We gather at someone's home in small groups of around twelve to fifteen and share some snacks together. We then will move into a time of prayer followed by a time to share with one another some of the things we have come to value in Advent. After a time of reflecting we will share briefly some of the hopes we have for the future of this community, followed by a presentation of the working vision as prepared by our council. After hearing and seeing the rough draft of the vision statement we then will talk together about what else it needs, and what maybe does not need to be included. The idea is this; the council has worked hard to come up with a draft of a vision statement and now we want the input of everybody to finalize it and clean it up so that we can present it at our Congregational Meeting in May and vote to accept it. I, along with our council, feel that a clear and challenging vision will truly set the tone for how we continue to do ministry. Therefore, I urge you and invite you to please come to one of these meetings and make your voice heard so that the vision of Advent can truly be "our" vision. The two March gatherings are scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup>. The 10<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by Keith and Claudette Johnson and the 3<sup>rd</sup> still needs a host. If you are interested please let me know. We also will need two or three more homes for our April gatherings. In the mean time I encourage you to pray for Advent, pray for your sisters and brothers in this community, pray for me as your pastor, and pray that God enlightens us with a clear sense of vision. I don't know about you, but I am overjoyed with how God continues to work in this place and overwhelmed with the possibility of the future.

Honored to be your pastor,

Justin



## Prayer List

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

**We remember in our prayers:** Vitalia Vargo, Peggy & John Grumbeck; Arnold Denter; 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; Cyndi Ansorge; Jennet; Bonnie Jean Zenner; Susan Puchovan; Phil Feiger; Debby Regiani; Margie Randall; all troops: those deployed and those at home; Pastor Matthew Riak and Sudanese Christ Lutheran Church in Wyoming, MI; and our mission here at Advent.

## March Readings

Here are the readings for Sundays this month:

- Mar 2** 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
- Mar 9** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
- Mar 16** Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14 - 27:66
- Mar 23** Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10
- Mar 30** Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31



## Directory Update

The Advent Church Directory is coming soon! This is going to be a great tool as we grow! In addition to the address and photo directory, I think it would be great to have a "service directory".

This directory would be 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. I would like to start working on this directory in March.

email: [becmac@centurytel.net](mailto:becmac@centurytel.net)

cell: (231) 620-1987

home: (answering tape) 231-275-6297

## From the Outreach Committee

As we roll into March, the anticipation of spring is in the air. Spring brings life to the Earth after a hardy winter slumber. With that, new adventures and activities wait for us. The Outreach Committee is working on a few projects, but one jumps to the forefront over others. Advent was lucky enough to be given a \$3000 grant to go towards a baby pantry.

We are looking for a few volunteers to help us run this gift that we have been blessed to have. It is a project that will be starting from the ground up, but it is something that is needed for the Lake Ann area.

If you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas; contact one of the Outreach Committee Members. Our meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month (March 13) at 6:30pm at the church.

We would also like to thank all of you who gave to the food drive and those who participated in the LA Snow Pine Fest on February 16th.

Thank you,  
The Outreach Committee  
Mathew Branch, Abby Cudney, Keith Johnson, Al Komoll, and Julie Andersen

## March Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

### Birthdays

- 3/1 Gabrielle Thomas  
3/2 John Weber  
3/3 Ben Will  
3/5 Carmyn Brodbent  
3/10 Greg Griffith  
3/13 Evan Johnston  
3/17 Lynn Cox  
3/19 Missy Williams  
3/21 Benjamin Rollins  
3/23 Abby Cudney  
3/24 Nancy Ackerman Will  
3/25 Tim Weichert  
3/26 Al Komoll  
3/27 Skylar Brodbent

### Anniversaries

- 3/2 Charlie & Joan Chamberlain  
3/19 Gary & Lynn Cox



## Reward Programs

Our church could be utilizing many financial resources, such as the Boxtops for Education, Campbells Soup Label program, and the Meijer Rewards Program. If you are interested helping to put together the information for the congregation, please contact Becky MacGirr.

email: [becmac@centurytel.net](mailto:becmac@centurytel.net)

cell: (231) 620-1987

home: (answering tape) 231-275-6297

## Property Committee Update

The property committee was formed in December and went right to work. The group rolled up their sleeves and accomplished quite a few tasks, planned for future projects and established a proposed building use policy (for non-church group use), which has been submitted to the council for review.

You may have noticed some of the improvements and/or repairs that have been made to the building. These include the new chair rail on the side walls and the new cabinets in the back of the church. Other tasks that are not as noticeable are the installation of shelves in the mini-barn, installing smoke and co2 detectors and the purchase of a security/fire safe for documents and offerings.

A work bee is scheduled for Saturday, February 23 and the group plans to: repair the sagging restroom sinks, relocate the ceiling P.A. speakers, install a first aid kit, place signs labeling the restrooms, first aid kit, thermostat temperature reminder and that an AED is available at the library, install a hose bib cap on the hot water system, and place fire extinguishers. The group is also going to start on a cover for the electrical panel box located on the west wall.

Long term plans are to steam clean the carpet in the spring, paint the walls in the sanctuary, complete the staining of the mini-barn and to develop a spring and fall check list for smoke/co2 detector batteries, fire extinguishers, first aid kit, furnace filters, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to join the committee or just help out at our next work bee, please contact Dave Roelofs, committee chair, or John Mocan council liaison or any committee member, which includes Neil Roper, Eric Alpers, Mike Deering, Jeff Fancher, Clint Douthitt, and Dave Romberg.

## Dear Advent,

At a Wednesday evening activity during Advent, Pastor Justin asked us to look at some of the ways that God had worked in our lives in the past year. I sat there that evening, and didn't share my overwhelming thoughts as others did, but wanted to share them now.

One of the greatest gifts our family has received during the last year is Advent Lutheran Church and the people in it. I have been looking for a church for a while now, a community to call home. Somewhere we would feel welcome, and be able to bring our girls, so that they could know Jesus, the way I have in my life. I want them to be able to have that undying faith that I feel, to get them through all of the tough times that life throws to us all, and to be grateful for all of the many blessings we have received. We have found that at Advent Lutheran Church.

I am grateful that the Spirit moved me to call my friend Becky MacGirr and ask her about where Emily attended youth group. She told me they were starting a new one at their church, and Allie should come check it out. It was the push we needed to come and give Advent a try.

We felt instantly welcome, and loved the mission and message, and wanted more. Allie has grown in leaps and bounds since attending Advent regularly, Abbey just loves Sunday mornings, her favorite part is Miss Cherie's songs and what Pastor Justin will pull out of the box, and Dave and I are enjoying being able to get involved and give a little back, in thanks for the many blessings we have received.

I am so glad to be a part of the Advent Lutheran Church family.

Thanks be to God!

Wendy Roelofs

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## Disciple

I try to tell you but you won't listen

I try to show you  
But you won't look

Sign after sign,  
Never understood

What can I do  
To get your attention

I teach but you won't be a student  
I preach but you deny being a disciple

Why do you deny it when in public  
.... are you afraid to be put down  
No worries  
I'm here in your heart

When ever you need me  
To give you a hand, shoulder and  
An eternal life  
Please look,  
Learn & listen

Don't worry I will love you no matter what  
I will always be here.

Love, Jesus

-Emily Bramer  
1-26-08

## Children's Education

The beginning of the New Year has been a busy one in Children's Education. The bell choir, the children's choir, and weekly classes have been in full swing the last two months. The children have been involved in Experiencing God and what he teaches us. They have learned about His love, kindness, patience, joy and peace and how we can use all of these in our daily lives. Our next unit that we will start will focus on being a good disciple and how to be a good friend.

Stay tuned for another multi-generational meeting in March.

## Nursery

I am still looking for people to volunteer in the nursery during both services. It is important that we have our nursery staffed for those with younger children. Parents want to be able to worship, but find it difficult when they have to corral their little one. Many people have left church early or have stopped coming altogether because there is no place to take their little one when he/she can't be in the sanctuary any longer. This is an important part of our church and its growth. Please consider volunteering to take a turn during one of the services. I plan to make a schedule like we have for the assistants, communion assistants, and ushers. The more people, the better. So, whether you have young ones or not please consider volunteering and then talk to me about it. I would love to sign you up!

Peace,

Lis Bank  
632-0657

## Youth Assistance

As spring approaches, please start to consider the Youth Group for odd jobs, lawn raking, and cleaning. We also have several experienced babysitters. We are starting to raise our summer camp money. If you are in need of our services, please contact Ellen Fancher, Nick Bank, or Becky MacGirr

## Holy Week Schedule

**Palm Sunday Service** – Sunday, March 16 at 8:00am & 11:00am

**Healing Service** – Sunday, March 16 at 7:00pm

**Movie night: The Passion** – Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00pm

**Maundy Thursday Service** – Thursday, March 20 at 7:00pm

**Good Friday Service** – Friday, March 21 at 7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday Services** – Sunday, March 23 at 8:00am & 11:00am

**Easter Breakfast** – Sunday, March 23 at 9:30 am



## Advent Choir

**Choir will be singing on Easter Sunday. We are always looking for more choir members, so join us Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm!**

## The following people are assisting in worship this Month.

Communion Bread: Mary Jeffrey  
Altar Guild: Cheryl Smith

### March 2

Fellowship: Monday AM Bible Study Group

#### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Rich Andersen  
Ushers: Julie Harris & Bob Sutton  
Communion: Ben & Jan Price  
Acolyte: Michael MacGirr

#### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: John Mocan  
Ushers: Keri & Kim Romberg  
Communion: Anna Grimm & Sue Olson  
Acolyte: McKenna Cudney

### March 9

Fellowship: Property Committee

#### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Cher Baumann  
Ushers: John & Mary Jeffrey  
Communion: John & Lynn Mocan  
Acolyte: Evan Mocan

#### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Nancy Ackerman Will  
Ushers: Gwen & Harold Muenchow  
Communion: Lis & Nick Bank  
Acolyte: Emily Fancher

### March 16

Fellowship: Church Council

#### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady  
Ushers: Carole & Elden Zang  
Communion: Allie Roelofs & Jeff Wentzloff  
Acolyte: McKenna Cudney

### March 16

#### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Juanita Weber  
Ushers: Shannon Nemeth & Elfie Steigerwald  
Communion: Becky & Steve MacGirr  
Acolyte: A.J. Kettinger

### March 23 – Easter Sunday

#### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Becky MacGirr  
Ushers: John & Mary Jeffrey  
Communion: John & Lynn Mocan  
Acolyte: Evan Mocan

#### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Michelle Anderson  
Ushers: Keith & Claudette Johnson  
Communion: Lis & Nick Bank  
Acolyte: Noah Weichert

### March 30

Fellowship:

#### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: John Jeffrey  
Ushers: Sally & Tom Peterson  
Communion: Paul & Paula Stabnau  
Acolyte: Halee Coon

#### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Lis Bank  
Ushers: Mathew Branch & Nathan Fancher  
Communion: Al & Irma Komoll  
Acolyte: Emily Fancher

*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.*

## An invitation from Bishop Schleicher

To all the baptized of this great synod,

Many of you will be unable to attend the Synod Assembly in May, but we hope that through your prayers, special offerings, ministry photos, and musical gifts you will celebrate the varied ways God's grace is joyfully and freely given to others.

With the theme "On Earth As in Heaven" we will glimpse how the will of God is being done through us "for the sake of the world." See your pastor or office administrator for information about ways for you to participate, or visit [www.mittensynod.org](http://www.mittensynod.org) and click on News and Events.

## Advent

### Lutheran Church

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

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

[www.adventlakeann.org](http://www.adventlakeann.org)

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### Worship with Us

Advent Lutheran Church  
19631 Maple  
Lake Ann, MI 49650

**8:00 & 11:00**  
**Sunday mornings**  
**and**  
**9:30 AM**  
**Education Hour**

## 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

Becky Douthitt, Administration Coordinator

Lis Bank, Children's Education Coordinator

## Church Council

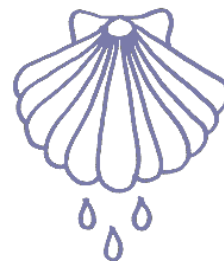
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see John Jeffrey or Michelle Anderson.

For a list of your Church Council members, please go to [www.adventlakeann.org](http://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.



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Lake Ann, MI 49650

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