



Advent Acts

December 2009
Volume 5, Issue 11

A Note from Pastor Justin:

Dear fellow servants of Christ, grace to you and peace from God our creator and our redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

God is good! I left our Commitment Sunday feeling quite blessed as we experienced a wonderful worship, a great message from Pastor Hans, a delicious meal, and wonderful signs of growth in our stewardship and our sacrifice for the work of the Kingdom. Without a doubt it was easy to leave that place shouting literally and figuratively "God is good!" There was a sense of excitement...a sense that we truly are a community of faith which is letting our light shine in this world so that others can see that light and find the promise of God in it...a sense that we are blessed. That feeling was a good feeling, and one I pray you all felt as well and one that will center us in the work that lies ahead.

God is good! We are blessed! I got into the office today and Jan showed me a check from one of our mission partners, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo. Their support and the support of all of our mission partners from this Synod enable us to focus on our ministry, on where God is leading us and how we can get there. Without the help of mission partners and the support of our Synod Outreach committee we would not be here. And I want to say thanks to those partners and to the Synod for this shared journey. God is indeed good and we are indeed blessed!

God is good! We are blessed! I received an email this evening as I was writing this letter which was a notification that indeed we will receive \$15,000 in partnership support from the ELCA and more specifically the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit. The email from Rev. Mary Frances was another reminder that we are not alone in this work, that people in Chicago and all over this country believe in what we are doing and want us to be successful in our mission, and that God is good and we are blessed!

God is good! Do you know that...I mean do you really know that God is good and that God continues to actively be part of this place and your life? Yeah...we talk about it, we say it but do we live it, do we breathe it, do we *really* know it? And if we *really* know it- as I hope we do especially with the reminders mentioned above, how do we live into it and let others know we believe it. Let's be honest...times are tough all across this globe- financially, emotionally, peacefully, etc.- but God continues to call us to be faithful and I hope that we do that in who we are individually and who we are as a community. We have been blessed with an amazing opportunity for ministry here in this community and have been blessed to be able to work together to achieve many good goals. Those blessings now need our work- I pray that you can work hard to be faithful to your commitments to this ministry- financially, time-wise, prayerfully, etc- and that in doing that you realize the goodness of God and the importance of being part of this community living into the blessedness that God has called us to do. God is good! We are blessed- let us never forget that as we work hard together.

Honored and humbled to be your pastor,

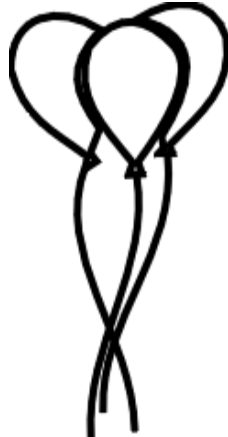
Justin



December Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

Birthdays

12/2 Nick Bank
12/3 Anna Grimm
12/5 Nicholas Harris
12/6 Abbey Roelofs
12/6 Hanna Stalmack
12/8 Allie Roelofs
12/15 David Stradinger Jr.
12/18 Julie Garver
12/20 Winona Roper
12/23 Bob Sutton
12/24 Holly Anderson
12/24 Dave Rigotti
12/25 Emily Bramer
12/29 Patrick Cudney



Anniversaries

12/10 Brad & Kim Stowe
12/23 Elden & Carole Zang
12/27 Bud & Marlene Habermann

Christmas Eve Services

5:00pm Family Service...especially for children
8:00pm Candlelight Service...service of lessons and carols
11:00pm Candlelight Service...service of lessons and carols

Advent Dinners

Advent Dinners will begin on Wednesday,
December 2nd and continue for three weeks.

There will be a potluck meal at 6:15pm, followed at
7:00pm with an activity.

Signup sheets will be posted on the bulletin board.

Prayer List

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

We remember in our prayers: Gary Cox; Todd Wittke; Josh Pohill; Wayne Wright; Mary & Bernie Holtman; Ed Bloxsom, Sr.; Carole Luttinen; Jon Brief; Brady & Paige Potter; Helen Rought; Cam Deering; Gary Harris; Mary Ghering; Shelly & Bill Honer; Moss; Catherine Stabnau; Ian Gerald; Wally Schaub; Pastor Len Etzel; Margie Randall; all troops: those deployed and those at home; Pastor Jim Foster and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holland, MI; and our mission here at Advent.

December Readings



Here are the readings for this month:

- Dec 6** Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
- Dec 13** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
- Dec 20** Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55;
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]
- Dec 24** Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96;
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
- Dec 25** Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97;
Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20
- Dec 27** 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148;
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Advent Baby Pantry

The Advent Baby Pantry continues to grow, obviously responding to the need in our local community. On Sat., 14 Nov. we reached new highs as we provided aid to 28 families with 34 infants/toddlers, and distributed over 1000 diapers along with similar high numbers of wipes, formula, cereal, food, lotion, wash/shampoo, bottles and some miscellaneous items.

The Baby Pantry has been well supported by grants from the Synod as well as Thrivent and other personal donations, but many have asked how they can help. We plan on having a "Baby Shower" for a concentrated gathering of items sometime in the winter or spring. If you would like to help now or throughout the year, here are some guidelines for donations: disposable diapers (any size, including trainers or pullups, any brand); formula (usually we supply cans of powdered formula, any type; concentrated liquid formula also accepted); boxes of cereal (any type, we usually supply larger one-pound boxes); food (the small jars or plastic containers); lotion and wash/shampoo (any brand, usually we provide the large plastic bottles). Please try to purchase food with the longest expiration date.

We do not solicit donations of clothes as they cause a bit of a problem for us with our lack of a permanent home, lack of storage, and possibly new CSPC rules on lead contamination. Donated items can be brought to the church office or to the yellow bin labeled Baby Pantry at the rear of the church. We also maintain a bulletin board in the Office/Nursery for Needs/Haves on which you can list larger items.

Thank you for all of your support. If you wish to help at the Baby Pantry or have further questions or comments, please contact any member of Baby Pantry subcommittee or the Outreach Committee.

Close-Up

My name is Laney Wiggins and I'm trying to fundraise as much money as I can for a trip. Where I'm planning on going is to Washington DC for about a week. This trip is through my school and only the juniors are allowed to go. All together the trip costs a little over \$1800. The tour through Washington DC covers every monument worth knowing about and seeing. Mrs. Bolozovic wants everyone that's going to have an understanding of what the people in our country are like, and what they do. It includes going to the White House and spending a day on Capitol Hill. My older brother went on this trip his junior year and he said it was worth his time and that I would benefit from it. I want to go because I think that I need to understand better what our nation has been through.

So if you could help me in any way, I would appreciate it. There is a can on the usher's stand at the church where you can drop donations. I am also available for any odd jobs you need done. You can contact Becky MacGirr for my schedule.

GoodSearch & GoodShop for Advent

Thanks to all of you who use www.goodsearch.com when searching the internet and www.goodshop.com when shopping. Simply by using these sites, you will raise money for Advent. The GoodSearch uses Yahoo. GoodShop will connect you with hundreds of your favorite online stores that you already are using. Just start with goodshop first, and when you make a purchase a portion will be given back to Advent.

We received our first check from goodsearch and goodshop this week. It really works. Please keep using these sites!

From the Bishop

Dear members of Advent,

It was a joy for Phylis and me to be with you last weekend, especially to witness the lively depth of your care for others. To borrow the words of the ELCA new tag line, we give thanks for God's work being done through your hands. The children's sermons were just fun. We both appreciated the opportunity to share with you some of our learnings from our trip to be with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. And for the first day of deer season, I was impressed with the numbers of you who did not "neglect to meet together" (from the Second Lesson). Finally, I am grateful for your faithful mission support and for the recent success of your commitment Sunday, both good indicators of spiritual health.

The last year and a half has been difficult financially for many of our congregations and thus for the synod too. We had hoped to raise \$50,000 in special gifts by this last spring to assist you in purchasing the land. We have made progress but still seek about half that amount in new gifts. We are still committed to that \$50,000 goal. We will continue to invite congregations and individuals to partner with you on this project until the goal is reached or exceeded. Thank for your hospitality and for your ongoing prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Schleicher

YOUth News

We continue to meet on Wednesdays @ 6:45 - 8:45 pm.
We will not meet December 23rd or 30th.

Thanks to everyone who supplied or packed Shoe Boxes. We were able to pack 100 boxes! A huge shout out to McKenna Cudney who was our Project Coordinator. Her leadership and enthusiasm was awesome and effective! Great job McKenna!

We have 6 high school gals committed to attend The Gathering this month! We need those last containers of "beverage tabs" by Monday Dec. 21st! From the looks of our bins, we might "take the race" again this year!

We would always welcome snacks and helpers during our meetings. Please see Becky MacGirr if you are interested in supplying a snack or helping during our meetings.

Help Wanted

Would you like to make some new friends, use your creative abilities and serve the Lord all at the same time? All of the above are assured if you join the Sunday Morning Experience/Fellowship Committee. Your help is needed in planning seasonal activities, game nights, etc., and gatherings where food is in ample supply. Please contact Tom/Sally Peterson or the Church Office for details.

Oleson's Receipts

Please save your receipts from Oleson's Markets to help raise funds for Advent Lutheran Church. The receipts can be placed in the large blue plastic envelope attached to the bulletin board. Thanks to everyone who is able participate

The following people are assisting in worship this Month.

Communion Bread: Anna Grimm
Altar Guild: Wendy Roelofs

December 6

Counters: Bud Habermann & Joan Chamberlain

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: John Jeffrey
Communion: Rich Andersen & Bob Sutton
Ushers: Brian & Marcie Kaven
Acolyte: Michael Kaven
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Michelle Anderson
Communion: Charlie & Joan Chamberlain
Ushers: Elden & Carole Zang
Acolyte: Jake Weichert
Nursery: Laney Wiggins & Mary Mikko

December 13

Fellowship: New Building Committee
Counters: Cher Baumann & Lis Bank

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Becky Douthitt
Communion: Lynn & Evan Mocan
Ushers: Ben & Jan Price
Acolyte: Austin Mayo
Nursery: Emily Bramer

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Carole Zang
Communion: Mike & Marge Achorn
Ushers: Ed & Laurie Bloxsom
Acolyte: Katey Bank
Nursery: McKenna Cudney & Halee Coon

December 20

Fellowship: Church Council
Counters: Ellen Fancher & Becky MacGirr

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady
Communion: Cheryl Smith & Jennie Wentzloff
Ushers: John & Evan Mocan
Acolyte: Kayla Brady
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Juanita Weber
Communion: Michelle Anderson & Anna Grimm
Ushers: Ryan Brodbent & Amiee Erfourth
Acolyte: Jake Weichert
Nursery: Laney Wiggins & McKenna Cudney

7:00 Prayer Service

Nursery: Emily Bramer

December 27

Fellowship: Worship & Fellowship Committee
Counters: Marge Achorn & Keith Johnson

10:00 Service

Service of Readings & Hymns

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 and advise Tom or Sally of the change. (Counters, please contact one of the other volunteers or Wendy Roelofs.)



Angel Tree

Many thanks to those who are participating in the Angel Tree Gift Program to help make Christmas a little brighter for three local families.

Please wrap your gift, clearly mark it with the ID number from the tree tag, and bring it to the church no later than Sunday, December 6th.

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

Worship with Us

Advent Lutheran Church
19631 Maple
Lake Ann, MI 49650

5:00 Saturday Evenings

**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
Jan Price, Church Secretary

Cherie Hockenberger, Director of Music
Becky MacGirr, Director of Faith Formation

Church Council

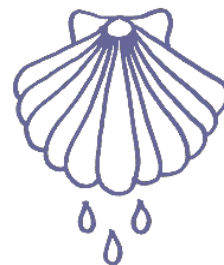
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see Rich Andersen or Marlene Habermann.

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

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Return Service Requested

Congregational Meeting

December 13th, 2009
12:00pm