



# Advent

March 2009

Volume 4, Issue 3

## 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.

I love the book of Jeremiah and find myself turning to it again and again as I try to be fed by scripture for the work I am called to do. One of my favorite passages from Jeremiah comes in chapter 24 verses 6-7. It reads,

“I will look after their welfare and restore them to this land. There I will build them up and not tear them down. I will plant them firmly in the land and will not uproot them. I will give them the desire to acknowledge that I am the LORD. I will be their God and they will be my people, for they will wholeheartedly return to me.”

The promise of our God is good- and we are told that we belong to our God, and God is at work in us building us up. God desires to look after our welfare, we are not alone. I don't know about you but for me this is the best news, the best promise, and also inspires me to want to do more and to share this promise with all those I come in contact with. The promise of God looking out for our well being is a call for us to also look out for the well being of the people we are blessed to serve. Yes, I said serve! You know by now that this church is not just about the pastor and the staff and the council and the work they may do, but must be about the work that ya'll do. This must be the way we function, we vision, and we move forward. If it is not, we are not living out the calling given to us by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Recently I was in Chicago helping with and participating in the Mission Developer training for new mission developers in the ELCA- folks doing the stuff we are doing, beginning new ministries all across the United States. Every time I am blessed to be part of these I take something new away. This time the learning for me was the importance of us as a congregation hitting the streets- literally, walking around our neighborhoods and finding out who the people are that God has called us to serve. Who are the people that surround our ministry and our lives? You see, God is the actor, this is God's work and we are the hands and feet to carry it on but we can't carry it on just sitting around, coming to worship and maybe serving on a committee here or there. We must be active, we must be serious about the call to discipleship that all of us have. So I want to propose something. Uh oh- here we go again! What if we look at Lent as an opportunity to turn back to the basics of our faith, to be excited about sharing the things God is doing within each of us with other people? What if we go knock on doors together, in pairs, and invite our community to join us for worship, to celebrate with us the promise that God is looking out for our well being and continues to love us forever? Let's move from the "what if" mode to the "just do it" mode. So please join me, Becky MacGirr and others in this important work. We will plan to do it March 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00 AM as we approach the Easter Feast. Let us make sure we know the people we are blessed to serve and that they truly feel welcome in our space.

I know many of us fear knocking on doors, thinking perhaps it does not work or that it's intrusive. The truth is, it does work and more than it "working" or not is that its bringing a face to the church that meets in the renovated fire-garage. Truly, it is meeting people where they are at and I promise you, you can do it. We will train you and walk with you- please come and be part of this!

Honored and humbled 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:** Josh Pohill; Ellen Fancher; Rich Andersen; Laura Annis; Terry Oslin; Ryan Brodbent; Katherine Franke; Shelly & Bill Honer; Natalia Harris; Brian Kaven; Bernice Conrad; Moss; Ethel Fazel; Jim Harris; Carroll Douthitt; Catherine Stabnau; Ian Gerald; Lexie Stradinger; Wally Schaub; Peggy & John Grumbeck; Pastor Len Etzel; Cam Deering; Margie Randall; all troops: those deployed and those at home; Pastor Jim Foster and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holland, Michigan; and our mission here at Advent.

### Prayer Chain

*To add a Confidential Prayer Request to the Prayer Chain, you may call Joan Chamberlain @ 275-6703 - OR - Juanita Weber @ 313-7310*



### March Readings



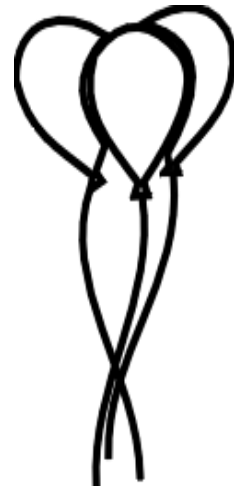
Here are the readings for this month:

- Mar 1** Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
- Mar 8** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38
- Mar 15** Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
- Mar 22** Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
- Mar 29** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

### March Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

#### Birthdays

- 3/1 Gabrielle Thomas
- 3/2 John Weber
- 3/3 Benjamin Will
- 3/5 Carmyn Brodbent
- 3/10 Greg Griffith
- 3/12 Jacob Halberg
- 3/13 Evan Johnston
- 3/17 Lynn Cox
- 3/19 Missy Williams
- 3/23 Abby Cudney
- 3/24 Nancy Ackerman Will
- 3/25 Timothy Weichert
- 3/26 Al Komoll
- 3/27 Skylar Brodbent
- 3/27 Tanner Daray
- 3/30 Sarah Stalmack



#### Anniversaries

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

### Memorial Gift

A Memorial Gift was given in February by **The Brodbent/Bivins Family** in memory of **Tammie Bivins** to help with the Agape Fund.

## How Can I Help?

The Spiritual Gifts Inventory is a tool that helps to identify our unique God given gifts. Pastor Justin has committed to continually offer the Spiritual Gifts course so that each of us has the opportunity to explore what our gifts might be. Our Stewardship Committee has provided us with an extensive outline of areas to serve. Our congregation is full of awesome people with a variety of gifts and talents. Most of you know how I personally feel about the power of prayer. If I was chosen for the 2009 Advent Survivor Show, the one thing I would take would be PRAYER. As we approach the Lenten season and our time of self evaluation and self renewal, I find myself praying this simple prayer; "God, show me your will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else". I implore you to include this question in your daily prayers; "God, where are you leading me?" As you are directed on that journey, please contact Pastor Justin or me to talk about how we can help you fulfill your calling.

Please let me share with you a writing that has really made me stop and think about how I am responding to God's calling.

*I was hungry and you formed a humanities club to discuss my hunger.*

Thank you.

*I was imprisoned and you crept off quietly to your chapel to pray for my release.*

Nice.

*I was naked and in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance.*

What good did that do?

*I was sick and you knelt and thanked God for your health.*

But I needed you.

*I was homeless and you preached to me of the shelter of the love of God.*

I wish you had taken me home.

*I was lonely and you left me alone to pray for me.*

Why didn't you stay?

*You seem so holy, so close to God; But I'm still very hungry, lonely, cold, and still in pain.*

Does it matter to you?

- Anonymous

Please don't wait for the next Spiritual Gifts class to roll around before you start to experience where God is leading you. Please don't wait for someone to convince you to sit on a committee they think is right for you. Please don't wait to react to someone's crisis. Please follow God's lead. Please listen to your heart. Please engage in being sent by God for our community, our church, and our world.

Focusing on God's will,  
Becky MacGirr

## YOUth News

The Youth Committee is meeting monthly on the third Thursday. We are working on Summer Camp. Final packets will be ready soon. Camp week is June 14 – 19. Camp sponsors should please see Pastor Justin, Wendy Roelofs, Jackie Davis, or Becky MacGirr. We have some financial needs this year. We would be glad for more committee members too!

**Our Fun Services Fundraiser and Advent  
Wear orders will be due on Sunday,  
March 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

## Education Committee

The Education Committee is the process of planning and Women's Retreat and a Men's Retreat. We have a Women's Retreat leader who has offered to plan and facilitate this retreat. We are looking for facilitator for a Men's Retreat.

If that sounds like something that you would like to do please contact Cheryl Smith or Chad Schwendemann of the Education Committee.

## ADVENT LEADERSHIP RETREAT

The Retreat was held February 6 – 7 at the Omena House with Pastor Jim Foster from Holland, Michigan as the leader (accompanied by his wife Sandy.) The evening began with pizza and salad followed by devotions and a sharing of our faith journeys. The evening session closed with a meaningful “Service of Blessing.”

As we assembled on Saturday morning, each participant was asked to write down 5 words that described our assessment of a healthy, viable working family/church. Among the words were LOVE, HONESTY, CHRIST – CENTERED, COMMUNICATION, RESPECT, GENEROSITY, PATIENCE and KINDNESS. The words were then grouped and used in our discussion. Healthy organizations are those which

1. build transparency (a key piece of Jesus’ ministry.)
2. are God-centered (communicate, share truth in love, recognize past and move on to the future.)
3. are growing churches (develop ministries beyond our needs, minister to people who are not yet members.)
4. build on strengths (God speaks through people, assess tools and gifts God has given us for ministry.)
5. are generous (give of themselves, the mission is the focus).

The group was then asked to chart Advent’s history – where have we been and how did we get to this point as a church? The list of forthcoming items was amazing: Lake Ann was in need of this church, networking within the community, going door to door, sending out postcards, meeting in the township hall, ordaining Pastor Justin, developing classes and Sunday School, beginning a music program, the 40 baptisms (at last count), etc., etc. A very large piece of white paper was utilized to record Advent’s historical timeline.

The Saturday afternoon wrap-up affirmed the love we have for each other and the evidence of Christ’s love and forgiveness at work among us. We must endeavor to meet the needs of the least functional as well as the most mature functional leaders. God’s grace does not allow us to hurt people or undermine his ministry.

What are our hopes and dreams for the future? The responses included: leave Advent a better place for the next generation, readily share faith stories, continue to serve with joy, thanksgiving and a bit of humor, repair brokenness in all people, promote peace, and the hope to see our new building come to fruition without losing our loving and caring attitude. As Pastor Jim stated, “the building is just a house for the church, the church is really the people.”

May God bless you and continue to hold each and everyone in the palm of his hand.

Marlene Habermann

## The following people are assisting in worship

Communion Bread: Wendy Roelofs  
Altar Guild: Mike Deering

### March 1

Fellowship: Building Committee

#### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Marcie Kaven  
Ushers: Brian & Michael Kaven  
Communion: Tom & Sally Peterson  
Acolyte: A.J. Kettinger  
Nursery: Emily Bramer

#### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Amiee Erfourth  
Ushers: Ellen Fancher & Gail Stradinger  
Communion: Keith & Claudette Johnson  
Acolyte: Aaron Hockenberger  
Nursery: Jessie Rigotti

### March 8

Fellowship: Church Council

#### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Becky Douthitt  
Ushers: Dave Roelofs & Bob Sutton  
Communion: Lynn Mocan & Jennie Wentzloff  
Acolyte: McKenna Cudney  
Nursery: Jessie Rigotti

#### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Becky MacGirr  
Ushers: Ed & Laurie Bloxsom  
Communion: Steve & Michael MacGirr  
Acolyte: Mary Mikko  
Nursery: Allie Roelofs

### March 15

Fellowship: Worship & Fellowship Committee

#### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady  
Ushers: Bud & Marlene Habermann  
Communion: Marcie Kaven & Becky MacGirr  
Acolyte: Michael Kaven  
Nursery: Allie Roelofs

### March 15

#### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Nancy Ackerman Will  
Ushers: Jeff & Nathan Fancher  
Communion: Nick & Lis Bank  
Acolyte: Addison Bank  
Nursery: Emily Bramer

### March 22

Fellowship: Youth Committee

#### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Rich Andersen  
Ushers: Marcie Kaven & Bob Sutton  
Communion: John & Mary Jeffrey  
Acolyte: Michael Kaven  
Nursery: Allie Roelofs

#### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ellen Fancher  
Ushers: Nick Bank & Amiee Erfourth  
Communion: Deb & Mary Mikko  
Acolyte: Jake Weichert  
Nursery: Jessie Rigotti

### March 29

Fellowship: Education Committee

#### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Tom Peterson  
Ushers: John & Evan Mocan  
Communion: Michelle Anderson & Wendy Roelofs  
Acolyte: Miranda Stradinger  
Nursery: Emily Bramer

#### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Hannah Will  
Ushers: Harold & Gwen Muenchow  
Communion: Charlie & Joan Chamberlain  
Acolyte: Emily Fancher  
Nursery: Allie Roelofs

*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.*

## Lenten Meal & Holden Evening Prayer

Lenten meals will be served each Wednesday during Lent at 6:15pm in the Township Hall, followed by a service of music and prayer at 7:00pm. We invite everyone to share in this time of fellowship and worship.

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

Jan Price, Church Secretary

Cherie Hockenberger, Director of Music

Becky MacGirr, Director of Faith Formation

## Church Council

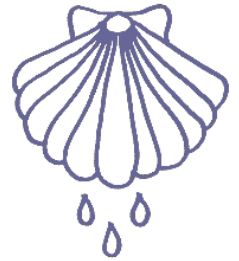
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see John Jeffrey or Abby Cudney.

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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**ADVENT**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Lake Ann, MI  
49650

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