



Advent Acts

October 2009
Volume 5, Issue 9

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.

“Who do people say that I am?” This was the question Jesus asked his disciples recently in our Gospel reading from Mark chapter 8 in response I imagine to much hoopla going on around his identity and in relation to the word of his miracles and teaching. The response was quick by the disciples in that story that people were saying he was John the Baptist or Elijah or maybe at least one of the prophets. But Jesus’ curiosity was not fulfilled as he turned the tables of inquisition directly to the disciples asking them, “but who do YOU say that I am?” And as we know Peter boldly proclaims, “you are the Messiah.” Now, though it is impossible to imagine what we would say if it would have been us in that situation I do often wonder what I say today about who Jesus is. Obviously, I preach and teach that Jesus is the Lord and Messiah much like Peter proclaimed, but what do I say of Jesus in how I live my life and how I treat others, in how I respond to the world around me and how I listen to all people- those I agree with and those I disagree with. “Who do you say I am?” Jesus asked- so...who do YOU say that Jesus is?

I believe that our response to that question happens every day of our lives. How we live our life reflects our relationship with the Lord that has claimed us as His own. Now, obviously we do not always do a great job of proclaiming in our life the goodness of God yet the call of Christ continues to come to us. I have found myself thinking a lot lately about how personally I reflect the image of Christ to those I encounter as well as wondering how we as a community of faith reflect who Jesus is in our world. Personally, I know I have room to grow and daily I vow to begin new and start over in striving to be the person I need to be in order to help others feel the love of Christ. Communally, I think it is probably the same- we have room to grow but in order to truly grow we need to be willing and we need to know where we can grow. I want to invite you to help this process out. Think...pray...and talk. Being that you who read this are part of this community at some level you know how we operate most likely and you can help us understand where we need to grow. So I ask you, how are we doing at proclaiming Christ in our world? What are the things that we do well? What are the things that we need to work on- where do we fall short and how can we get better? You see, only by naming it can we begin to work on it. Dear friends, your opinion matters and I truly hope that you will consider these questions as an invitation to be part of the conversation. Send an email, grab me on a Sunday, or stop by the office and let’s talk. Where do we need to focus more and what do people see when they look at Advent? Let the growth and conversation begin!

My prayer for our ministry continues to be the same today that it was over four years ago when I began this call; that we would meet the needs that are around us with the love of Christ and welcome all in our midst to share in the promise of the resurrected Jesus. I pray for that daily, yet sometimes I wonder do we do a good enough job of listening to the community around us and even in our own building on a Sunday morning. I hope so, really I do, but I think perhaps we miss some things- not intentionally, but just because we forget to really listen. You, as one that is part of this congregation need to help- to help me as the pastor, the staff, and the other members recognize what God is calling us to do. The calling to be of Christ, to breathe Christ in all we do is a huge task- too great for one person, but together we can and we will continue to do things in the name of Jesus that gives a clear answer to that question- who do we say Jesus is? The one who saved us, who calls us to go boldly into the world living out our identity as redeemed children of God.

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: Edward Bloxsom, Sr.; Carole Luttinen; Karen Goggin; Jon Brief; Brady & Paige Potter; Mike Johnston; Helen Rought; Wendy Roelofs; Cam Deering; Amy Brown; Gary Harris; Mary Ghering; Fred Krueger; Marcy Flansburg; Josh Pohill; Shelly & Bill Honer; Moss; Jim Harris; 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.

October Readings



Here are the readings for this month:

- Oct 4** **Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8;**
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16
- Oct 11** **Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17;**
Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31
- Oct 18** **Isaiah 53:4-12; Psalm 91:9-16;**
Hebrews 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45
- Oct 25:** **Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46;**
Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

October Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

Birthdays

- 10/1 Calvin Pettigrove
10/1 Colton Rollins
10/1 Brad Stowe
10/2 Michael MacGirr
10/4 Dave Roelofs
10/5 Evelyn Swanson
10/5 Carsten Woodworth
10/6 Michelle Anderson
10/12 Wendy Roelofs
10/13 Brenda Daray
10/14 Ben Price
10/19 Jackie Davis
10/19 Ross Richardson
10/20 Mary Jeffrey
10/25 Ed Smith
10/27 John April
10/27 Skylar Daray
10/27 Keith Johnson
10/27 Alex Lee
10/29 Jan Price



Anniversaries

- 10/7 Ed & Cheryl Smith
10/13 Greg & Melanie Griffith
10/15 Doug & Cherie Hockenberger
10/24 David & Patty Romberg Jr.

Prayer Chain

Webster's Dictionary describes prayer as "the act or practice of praying to God; an earnest request or wish." Here at Advent, we have a wonderfully awesome group of people who have volunteered their time to make themselves available when the need arises for you, a family member, loved one or friend – someone in need of just a little extra thought or prayer. As we all know, emergencies happen daily and therefore cannot wait until Sunday's prayers at church. That's what we are here for. Whatever the need, you can rest assured that confidentially your request will be met with the utmost respect. As Christians, we all know the power of prayer. Please know that you don't have to do it alone. Life happens – we have all been there. It's in those moments when we need prayer the most, so don't be afraid to open yourself up and be carried in prayer. Also remember there are times when we need not be alone in prayer. Sharing the prayers you carry for others may lighten your heart, and you know what they say – there's more power in numbers. You'll always have a strong team behind you. Our prayer for you is that you **know we are here when you need us.**

Ellen Fancher

Healing Service

As I pull the chair in front of the Youth Group's last Healing Service of the school year I think that vomiting would probably not send the message I wanted. So as I fight back the tears and try to gather my thoughts in the craziness that Pastor Justin put me in 4 hours earlier when he asked me to be the speaker and talk about what I've been through in the last year... I cringe. Does he hate me? I knew I should have signed up for another committee or something... OK it's just my fear... worried to continue to be judges, once again... where to begin... so I breathe in and ramble on for the next ten minutes. Something about how Advent got me through one of God's tests in my life. I conveyed to the kids that yeah, you're going to make choices and well guess what; they're not always going to be right. Yeah you've got the house, the husband, the kids, the things, and yes it looks perfect... but behind closed doors sometimes it's not perfect and it's dangerous. So what do you do... run hide in the corner... well let me tell you, that will get old as it turns out...so you turn to God who then turned me to Advent. Sorry Kheila, I know that you're going to be mad for giving you attention here... but Kheila thank you, thank you for telling me about Advent and telling me I should come and check it out. For if I wouldn't have been in such a loving warm family environment the last year I would have been in true hell, not just figuratively.

So you're wondering what does all this have to do with the Healing Service? While I was telling the kids that they are so fortunate to have a Church like Advent to be part of and to go to every Wednesday, when I was their age I would have died to have an opportunity like they have. So to you adults the Healing Service is one of those fortunate opportunities that you should be taking advantage of. Why, my friends, you ask...because it's what gets us by, it's what brings us together it's what ties us to God and it's what gives us faith through God's Grace. I work a lot on the weekends so when you don't see me in Sunday service it's not because I sleep in or didn't want to come be with my Advent family, it's because well, life happens and you have to take care of life's little problems, big or small. So naturally when I first heard of this healing service last February I thought heck why not, I can actually make it to this service. Wow, I had no idea what I was in for and let me tell you, it's not scary, it's thrilling and freeing. It's a whole hour of you and God... praying, meditating, singing, and giving whatever it is to God. A lot weighs us down day to day, we all have problems, hidden skeletons, hardships that others are unaware that we bear, but it's the time you can come to be with God. As much as I try and pray daily, it can be challenging to take the time in this crazy world we live in. I can honestly say you leave refreshed, lighter and with an open heart. So sometimes you might need a Kleenex, sometimes you might need a box, but it doesn't matter God doesn't care. So next Healing Service I hope to see you there!

April Bisel

Sunday Education

Sunday Education is back! 9:30-10:30 am. Classes are provided from Nursery age through Adults. We have a wonderful program of singing, Bible stories, and projects! Our offering is providing farm animals and transportation for underprivileged areas and handicapped children. See you in Sunday school!



YOUth Night

YOUth Night is Wednesday. Our after school program begins at 3:30 pm providing an atmosphere for homework and study. Dinner is provided at 5:30 pm (suggested donation \$2.00) at the LAUMC-CEC (within walking distance). YOUth Group is available for grades 6th-12th and offers non-denominational activities and a supervised time of youth fellowship. Come and hang out! We talk about Jesus & stuff!

Director of Faith Formation Live Weak!

I have been feeling weighted with demands to step up and be a strong woman. Daily, I am bombarded with expectations to solve and carry problems and situations at home, at work, at church, and in the community. I feel like Larry . . . Get 'er done! It seems that I have somehow convinced myself that strength leads to accomplishment and accomplishment leads to perfection. After all, am I not called by God to step up and step out to those in need? Well, I gotta tell ya, I think I do that! But I find myself tired and spent. I think if I were weak, I wouldn't have to do so much. I could relax. Ah, to just be weak!

THAT'S IT, BY GEORGE (or Larry); I'VE GOT IT – I WILL LIVE WEAK! Yes, God calls me to live weak. In II Corinthians 12:9-10, we are reminded of Jesus' words, "My grace is sufficient for you. My power is made perfect in your weakness." It is OK to struggle in weakness. God's grace is perfect. God's grace is enough! The trick for me is to lift those weak moments and allow God's strength and grace to surround me so that I can be strong. I do not have to be a strong woman when God makes me a woman of strength!

My prayer for you this month is this: lift your weaknesses, take God's grace, depend on His strength, and LIVE WEAK.

Living weak by the grace of God,
Becky MacGirr

ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Many have asked about what happened at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August. The answer is a lot! We will be talking about all the decisions and discussion made by the assembly at the adult education time on Sunday September 27th and October 4th. If you have any specific questions or concerns relating to this or anything please come and see me. PJ

From our Mission Partner

Christ the King Lutheran Church
600 S. M-18
Gladwin, Michigan 48624

Rev. David E. Sprang, Pastor
"letting our light shine since 1984"

September 4, 2009

Dear Pastor Justin Grimm,

Enclosed is a check for \$1370. This represents 1/3 of our 25th anniversary offering. We have dedicated it to your building fund. Years ago when this congregation got its start, we relied on our Mission Partners to make it. They provided support in many ways. So, as a way of honoring our roots on our anniversary, we want to support Advent and its mission as your mission partner. In addition, we make this gift to your building fund so that Advent will have a permanent place to call home and be a base for your outreach into the community.

We look forward to a time when we might do a pulpit exchange to share greetings in person.

Sincerely,
Pastor David Sprang

The following people are assisting in worship this Month.

Communion Bread: Gail Stradinger
Altar Guild: Cheryl Smith

Oct 4

Fellowship: Education Committee
Counters: Becky MacGirr & Chris Griffith

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Rich Andersen
Communion: Bud & Marlene Habermann
Ushers: Mathew Branch & Cheryl Smith
Acolyte: Abbie Smith
Nursery: Allie Roelofs

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Mike Achorn
Communion: Nancy Dow & Juanita Weber
Ushers: Keith & Claudette Johnson
Acolyte: Halee Stalmack
Nursery: Jessie Rigotti

Oct 11

Fellowship: Church Council
Counters: Cher Baumann & Becky Douthitt

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Lis Bank
Communion: Jeff & Ellen Fancher
Ushers: Charlie & Joan Chamberlain
Acolyte: Katey Bank
Nursery: Jessie Rigotti

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Amiee Erfourth
Communion: Elden & Carole Zang
Ushers: Al & Irma Komoll
Acolyte: Miranda Stradinger
Nursery: Emily Bramer

Oct 18

Fellowship: Outreach Committee
Counters: Bud Habermann & Wendy Roelofs

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Karen Harrison
Communion: Clint Douthitt & Marcie Kaven
Ushers: John & Mary Jeffrey
Acolyte: Austin Mayo
Nursery: Jessie Rigotti

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Nancy Ackerman Will
Communion: Tom & Sally Peterson
Ushers: Mike & Marge Achorn
Acolyte: Aaron Hockenberger
Nursery: Allie Roelofs

Oct 25

Fellowship: Stewardship Committee
Counters: Joan Chamberlain & Ellen Fancher

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Mary Jeffrey
Communion: Dave & Wendy Roelofs
Ushers: Nick & Lis Bank
Acolyte: Katey Bank
Nursery: Emily MacGirr

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ed Bloxsom
Communion: Al & Irma Komoll
Ushers: Harold & Gwen Muenchow
Acolyte: Jake Weichert
Nursery: Jessie Rigotti

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 Wendy Roelofs.)

Keep It Simple

This year our congregation will be participating in a stewardship program entitled "KEEP IT SIMPLE." The KEEP IT SIMPLE theme will be the focus for our worship services Sunday, October, 4th through **Sunday, November, 1st (Commitment Sunday)**. On Commitment Sunday, there will be one worship service at 10:00 AM at the Lake Ann Camp. The worship service will be followed by a celebratory luncheon. All are welcome to join us, and we invite and encourage you and your family to participate in the KEEP IT SIMPLE program.

Jeff Wentzloff

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

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

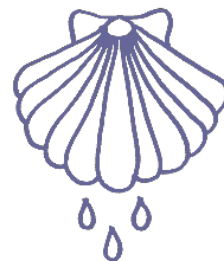
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see Rich Andersen or Marlene Habermann.

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
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Lake Ann, MI 49650

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Return Service Requested

Coming Nov 1st
Commitment Sunday
10:00AM