



# Advent Acts

February 2010  
Volume 6, Issue 2

## A Note from Pastor Justin:

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)"*

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

Paul's words above from his letter to the church at Philippi have been on my mind the last week or so as I have found my being completely drained emotionally. The continued words of despair and destruction in relation to Haiti after the earthquake have caused quite a shake-up for me in my faith and my own life. I have been reminded of how fragile our existence on this planet is and yet comforted by the fact that our existence eternally has been guaranteed because of our Savior. My heart has hurt for the many impacted by this disaster, yet I find hope in the amazing work of our ELCA and other organizations who hit the ground running almost immediately. Our church, the ELCA has committed over a million dollars already due to the generosity of congregations to the efforts in Haiti- and our church, little Advent Lutheran Church in Lake Ann gathered over \$1000 in a special offering collection. So while my emotions are drained it is because of both the gravity of the painful situation as well as the hope that comes from Christ and through Christ's body in these times. I love rollercoasters, but this kind of rollercoaster is tiring!

I was touched so much by the way that this congregation responded to the need in Haiti and it was nothing new. Time and again you, the people of Advent, step up your game when one is in need. The numbers of families that have been blessed by generosity through things like the Angel Tree, Food Drives, the Agape Fund, Food for families in need, Camp Scholarships, etc. is truly amazing. You, the people of Advent, truly represent Christ's hands and feet in action. So I wonder, is it possible that we get to a point of burnout in our giving...in our sharing of ourselves...in our ability to care for the stranger or the friend in need? I don't think it is...but I do think we may think so at times. For if we can gather anything from Paul's letter to Philippi we can gather that Christ is the overflowing source of strength. So...when we feel burned out...when we feel that we have given all we can...when we feel that our emotions have completely run dry and we have no empathy left for the neighbor all we must do is turn back to the source.

So how you doing? Are you overwhelmed by all the pain in the world...or in your life? If you are...know that the source of all grace and peace is ready to fill you up. But...once you are filled, once you are back to knowing the grace for yourself God needs and calls you to reach out again. That's the circle if you will of our faith- to be filled and nurtured so that we can fill and nurture. I have never been part of a church body or other group that lives that circle as well as this one does and I pray that never changes. Friends, let us unite in our efforts to build this body even stronger by listening carefully to the need inside our church, our community, and our world and rallying together to bring the light of Christ into those needs.

Honored and humbled to be your pastor,  
Justin



## February Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

### Birthdays

2/1	Scott Coon
2/6	Gabrielle Hockenberger
2/7	Neil Roper
2/8	Sarah Douthitt
2/10	Eric Ellis
2/11	Bill Heiges
2/12	Dan Erfourth
2/14	Phyllis Roelofs
2/15	Logan Grimm
2/16	Sue Olson
2/17	Lisa Stradinger
2/20	Becky Douthitt
2/20	Hannah Will
2/20	Michaela Williams
2/22	Elden Zang
2/23	Maggie Wentzloff
2/24	Margaret Welk
2/25	Irma Komoll
2/25	Jennifer Richardson
2/27	Ashley Stradinger



### Anniversary

2/10 John & Mary Jeffrey

## Special Thanks

Dear Pastor Justin,

I would like to thank you and all the members of Advent Lutheran Church for your prayers during my recent bout with cancer. I am doing very well now and have finished with my radiation treatments.

I cannot express in words how much it meant to me to know that so many were praying for me.

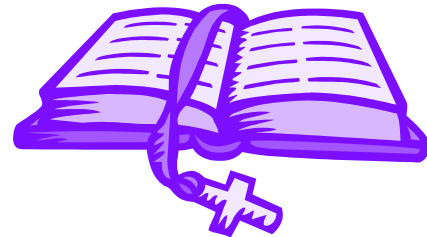
Peace and blessings to you,  
Carole Luttinen

## Prayer List

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

**We remember in our prayers:** Diane Petersen; Claire Torgerson; Paul Sutton; Judy Haiss; Jeff Fancher; Bruce Lockwood; Mike McDonald; Josh Griffith; Gary Cox; Todd Wittke; Josh Pohill; Wayne Wright; Mary & Bernie Holtman; Ed Bloxsom, Sr.; 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; Bishop Mark Hanson & the ELCA; and our mission here at Advent.

## February Readings



Here are the readings for this month:

- Feb 7** Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]; Psalm 138;  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
- Feb 14** Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99;  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 [37-43]
- Feb 21** Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;  
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
- Feb 28** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;  
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

## Lenten Meal & Holden Evening Prayer

Lenten meals of soup and bread will be served each Wednesday during Lent at 6:00pm 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.

## From the Director of Music

Back in July of last year, I had a wonderful opportunity to meet with leaders of worship in the ELCA. We dove deep into Lent, and the days of Holy Week. The ELCA now recognizes Holy Week during our Palm Sunday service, realizing that many miss out on the betrayal, the trial, and the death sentence of Christ. I would like to take a moment to share some of my thoughts from this conference.

Many people feel that through this season of Lent and these final three days, we should be sad, showing no emotions of happiness in worship. I believe we can feel sadness, but not necessarily be sad in worship. We, the people of today, are not in some sort of 'Time Machine' that plops us into the crowd of that dark, terrible, final day of Christ. We are not like those followers in the crowd who are confused, horrified of what is happening to Jesus. We know the ending. We know that Christ, after three days, arises!

I like to think that the Lenten season is like watching a tragic film. The kind of film where the good defeats the evil. The kind of film that you can watch over and over..... and not just the ending-not just that final scene. That final scene- the final battle is nothing without all the buildup. The drama that leads us to the importance of the battle makes the final win spectacular! The film runs us through all these emotions, but in the back of our minds we take comfort knowing the ending. We know the good guy wins. We know that in the end-Jesus prevails!

So, let us enjoy this journey that is called Lent. Let us proudly admit on Ash Wednesday that we are 'Ash Heaps', that we are nothing but dust, coming to God, to be marked with the sign of the cross. Let us come to be forgiven for our sins by the laying of hands, have our feet washed on Maundy Thursday. Savor the meal in remembrance of the Last Supper. Enjoy the silence of Good Friday. See the cross; come to Jesus with your burdens.

Fortunately, we know the story of Christ's last days. We know he died for our sins. We know that he will rise up from the dead! I encourage you to join me on this journey of Christ's final days. Join Advent for Holy Week. I promise you that you will relish the celebration of Easter more fully having experienced the emotions of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. While during Lent we, as a church, refrain from singing songs of Alleluia, join me boldly singing songs of Hosanna! Hosanna! Save us! Save us! Amen.

Cherie Hockenberger  
Director of Music

## From the Director of Faith Formation

### February – the “Love” month?

What is “love”? Now there's a question that will take some discussion! Knowing there are several definitions, I'll use this one: ***Love; to have an affection or desire for.***

As I consider what I have affection for, there are lots of things I love and am grateful for, but also lots of things I desire more of. I'll share parts of my lists – I invite you to consider your own. . .

Things I Love: God, my husband, my children, my friends, my family, my church, my hat collection . . .

Things I would like to love more: my daily prayer life, my willingness to serve unconditionally, sharing my wealth and possessions, my ability to show compassion. . .

Love, Becky MacGirr

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## Without Easter there is No Christmas

The title of this article may seem strange after one of the more joyous and hope filled holidays that we as Christians celebrate. It is my prayer that this Christmas Season was meaningful and filled you with hope and joy.

But getting back to the title, if you think about it for a moment, it was Christ's death and resurrection that was witness to God's great love for us and Christ's obedience to God's will; the sacrifice for our redemption and saving grace from death. So without Easter there is no Christmas story to be told.

Christians have often been called "Easter People". Our focus in life should not dwell on the Christmas Story but on the Easter Story. Don't get me wrong, we should be generous of heart in both actions and deeds because we are loved by God and saved through his grace. But it seems to me, we should behave in our life because of what Christ has done for us as God's Son. It is this greater gift of Love and Grace that is priceless and free to all people in every walk of life and in every situation. It isn't something we can earn, let alone deserve, but the inheritance that is ours as Christ's sisters and brothers. We are the children of God. Whether we choose to admit it or not, it is a fact. It is what we have in common with all of mankind. It is when we look a stranger in the eye that we are looking at Jesus. When we reach out to uplift the poor in spirit, we meet Jesus. When we treat all people with dignity, justice and respect, no matter their circumstances, we do such to Jesus. When we share what we have in abundance with those that have little or nothing, we share it with Jesus.

As we move from the Season of Christmas to the Season of Lent and then on to Easter, it would be my hope that your life becomes more Easter centered. A life filled with the promise of the Resurrection, the promise of God's unfailing love, of a Grace freely given and undeserved because you are a child of God.

Yours in Christ,  
Mike Achorn

## Weak???? Strong????

Somewhere along the way I recall hearing the idea of "living weak" so God can be strong in my life. Well, that might be alright for some people but I just couldn't see myself doing that. No...I'm the strong one that helps other people. I sure don't want anyone looking at me and saying "poor thing." That's just not an image of myself that I want in my mind or anyone else's. So then I learn that I need knee surgery that would occur December 1<sup>st</sup>. So....get ready for Christmas a month early, get the shopping done....and think about how frustrating that time of year is even when are well!

My comfort was that I had chosen the best surgeon, had the best support system in my husband and family and friends, the best church family, the best Pastor, and then the Great Physician looking down over it all. What more could I want?

The whole time I was getting ready and getting things done, offers poured in...let me do this for you...let me make your applesauce...let me help you clean...let me make your Christmas cookies for you...Bible study can come to you and I will serve them lunch...I am praying for you...let us furnish you with meals after surgery. Reluctantly I began accepting the offers of help....living weak. The day of surgery came and I felt so at peace with it.

Because of all of you being strong for me when I was weak...I never felt weak...all the prayers...I felt strong and I certainly felt God's strength and saw His love all around me. So...if you need to be weak...do it...and I can promise you that God will be strong for you too!

Thank you all and God's blessings to you,  
Juanita Weber.

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

Communion Bread: Kim Stowe  
Altar Guild: Jim Shoobridge

### February 7

Fellowship: Property Committee  
Counters: Becky MacGirr & Cher Baumann  
**8:00 Service**  
Assisting Minister: Sheila Rigotti  
Communion: Tom & Sally Peterson  
Ushers: Dave Roelofs & Jennie Wentzloff  
Acolyte: Austin Mayo  
Nursery: McKenna Cudney

### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ed Bloxson  
Communion: Tamara Brodbent & Traci Wong  
Ushers: Mike Achorn & Ryan Brodbent  
Acolyte: Emily Fancher  
Nursery: Emily Bramer & Mary Mikko

### February 14

Fellowship: Worship & Fellowship Committee  
Counters: Margaret Achorn & Deb Mikko  
**8:00 Service**  
Assisting Minister: John Jeffrey  
Communion: Michelle Anderson & Cheryl Smith  
Ushers: Ben & Jan Price  
Acolyte: Abbie Smith  
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Laney Wiggins  
Communion: Deb & Mary Mikko  
Ushers: Charlie & Joan Chamberlain  
Acolyte: Halee Stalmack  
Nursery: Laney Wiggins & Halee Coon

### February 21

Fellowship: Youth Committee  
Counters: Joan Chamberlain & Keith Johnson  
**8:00 Service**  
Assisting Minister: Becky Douthitt  
Communion: Wendy & Allie Roelofs  
Ushers: Jim & Nedra Shoobridge  
Acolyte: Katey Bank  
Nursery: Emily Bramer

### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Juanita Weber  
Communion: Abby Cudney & Anna Grimm  
Ushers: Amiee Erfourth & Steve MacGirr  
Acolyte: Miranda Stradinger  
Nursery: McKenna Cudney & Halee Coon

### 7:00 Prayer Service

Nursery: Emily Bramer

### February 28

Fellowship: New Building Committee  
Counters: Lis Bank & Becky Douthitt  
**8:00 Service**  
Assisting Minister: Tom Peterson  
Communion: Clint Douthitt & Sheila Rigotti  
Ushers: Mathew Branch & Bob Sutton  
Acolyte: Mikayla Mayo  
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Margaret Achorn  
Communion: Brad & Kim Stowe  
Ushers: Elden & Carole Zang  
Acolyte: Aaron Hockenberger  
Nursery: Laney Wiggins & Mary Mikko

## New Stuff

We are assembling a group to help with transportation. We have folks needing rides to and from services and activities. "Car time" is great fellowship time! If you can help provide transportation, please let the office know or contact Becky MacGirr.

## Garage Sale

Our annual Advent Garage Sale will be taking place in May to benefit the Building Fund. If you have anything sitting around the house that you no longer need or want, please start saving them for our sale!

## New "Old Stuff"

**Summer Camp plans are starting** with an informational meeting Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> after church. 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders are eligible. If you have a child within this age group, please plan on attending. We hope to have attendance commitments by Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>.

Summer Campers will be selling **Valentines Carnations!** Get "scent-i-mental" and buy your sweetheart's flowers. Single stems in white, red, or pink are \$1.50 each. A nosegay of 3 stems is \$4.50. To pre-order, see one of our "Camp Kids".

## 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

#### 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

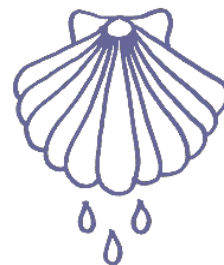
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see Rich Andersen or Marlene Habermann.

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



**ADVENT  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Return Service Requested

Lenten Soup  
Suppers and  
Worship

Begins on  
Wednesday, Feb 17  
6:00pm