



Advent Acts

May 2010

Volume 6, Issue 5

A Note from Pastor Justin:

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

I like coffee- a lot. In fact, I drink at least two cups every morning and then tend to find ways to drink more throughout the day. Now, some could argue that too much coffee is bad for you, but I still like it and will continue to drink it whenever I can. Lately, I have found myself being very particular about the kind of coffee I drink; trying to find quality as well as coffee that treats the farmers well. I have "studied" a bit about what makes a good cup of coffee and try my best to appreciate all that goes into it. I have learned that certain things make a good cup- and have also learned that if you forget to put the lid on the coffee pot, or forget to empty the remaining coffee from the night before you will fail at your mission of good coffee while succeeding at creating a huge mess. In the end, making a good cup of coffee is not that hard, yet there are certain steps one must follow to achieve perfection or else face the wrath of a loving spouse☺.

So, why all this talk of coffee? It could be that it is on my mind because as I try to get my newsletter article done, I am sipping on some and inspiration comes in weird places! But...hold on...let's make a connection. I think that making a cup of coffee can relate to building a church. Here's how...like a cup of coffee takes many steps to achieve its end result, building a church- not just a building, also has many steps and we my friends are in the midst of that right now. Like a coffee cup is made up of many different beans, grinded together a church is made up of many members blended together to achieve the goal of community. Like the various beans, not all of us are the same, we might have different gifts and faith stories, different hopes and dreams, but in the end our purpose is the same. In the same way we must grind the beans to the desired consistency we too must be "grinded" a bit and continue to be formed and changed in our spirituality and faith. This takes work- and sometimes this is truly difficult and hurts a bit. A lot of times it's easier to not be willing to grow and to listen to where God is leading us, but in the end we know we must. So now...we have the variety of beans together, we have ground them up...next comes the water. Water to me represents the heart of a good cup- without water you just have beans right? In the church, the water is the Holy Spirit and the presence of the Risen Savior. Once we allow the water...the Spirit...the Risen Christ to move over us we truly are born. Again, the temptation here is to not allow Christ through the Spirit to get a hold of us- we make excuses; we think we aren't capable; we fear failure when we take risks...but Christ keeps calling and the water must flow! So...will you let it?

Admittedly the above analogy is perhaps a bit out there but I hope that maybe you see a connection. More importantly, I hope you understand that this work we are called to is truly a gift and something that when we allow God to lead us one we can faithfully live out. There is nothing better than a hot, fresh cup of coffee on a chilly morning- well...perhaps there is- the gift of sitting back and seeing so many different people coming together for the good of Christ's mission. Friends, you are part of this mission, you are part of what makes Advent what it is- where is God calling you to go...where do you need to be ground up a bit? Pray about it, think about it...do it.

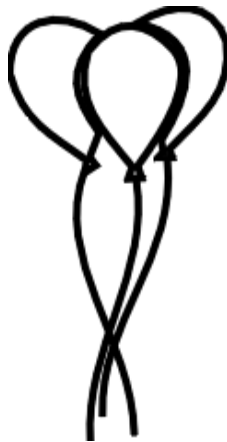
Honored and Humbled to be your pastor,
Justin



May Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

Birthdays

5/2	MacKenzie Andersen
5/2	Matt Brayton
5/2	Stuart Mettler
5/4	Khiela Alpers
5/6	Cint Douthitt
5/8	Ryan Brodbent
5/8	Joshua Garver
5/10	Gail Wertz
5/12	Shannon Nemeth
5/13	Lee Abraham
5/14	Chris Andersen
5/15	Tom Peterson
5/16	Nikolas Kalis
5/16	Becky MacGirr
5/16	Miranda Stradinger
5/17	Ann Kalis
5/18	Ken Davis
5/21	Evan Erfourth
5/21	Kathy Johnston
5/21	Brett Stalmack
5/21	Elizabeth Thomas
5/24	Juanita Weber
5/25	Sally Peterson
5/26	Melanie Griffith
5/27	Adam Wong
5/28	Margaret Achorn
5/29	Gary Wertz



Anniversaries

5/1	Jim & Betty Wick
5/16	Jeff & Ellen Fancher
5/19	Neil & Winona Roper
5/24	Clint & Becky Douthitt
5/24	Harold & Gwen Muenchow
5/30	Ryan & Teri Brady

Prayer List

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

We remember in our prayers: Linda Clark; Mary Oberman; Stefanie; Leonard Olson; Irene Borysiak; Leslie Moses; Rick Worm; Barbara Karnowski; Jenny LaBarre; Lew Frostick; Judy Haiss; Elfie Steigerwald; Karen Copeland; Liz McCandellss; Art Grubb; Diane Petersen; Claire Torgerson; Gary Cox; Todd Wittke; Gary Harris; Mary Ghering; Pastor Len Etzel; Margie Randall; and all troops: those deployed and those at home; Bishop Mark Hanson & the ELCA; and our mission here at Advent.

May Readings



Here are the readings for this month:

May 2	Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
May 9	Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5; John 14:23-29
May 16	Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26
May 23	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17 [25-27]
May 30	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

From the YOUTH Group

The Advent YOUTH Summer Camp attendees are offering bouquets or floral baskets as a fund-raiser to help pay for camp.

The reusable baskets will contain a variety of fresh cut flowers, greens, and baby's breath and sell for \$12.00. The bouquets will be arrangements of long stemmed cut flowers with greens and tied with ribbon and sell for \$6.00. Order dates are from Sunday April 25th through Monday May 3rd. Orders will be assembled on Saturday May 8th and available for pick up or delivery on Saturday the 8th and Sunday the 9th.

If you have any questions, please call the church, or Becky MacGirr at (231) 620-1987.

Worship Services at Orchard Creek



An exciting new ministry has begun at the Orchard Creek Assisted Living facility. The services are scheduled on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm in the Activity Room. We have had eleven people attend this service on each of the two occasions we have met with our brothers and sisters at Orchard Creek.

The service follows closely the Lutheran Service of the Word. We have added Holy Communion to this simple and moving service with a new message given by the worship leader. The Lesson and Gospel reading used are from Advent's prior Sunday service.

Bob Sutton has made a beautiful cross for our altar.

If anyone is interest in attending this service, please feel free to do so. The clients and staff members have made us all feel welcome. They are so appreciative to have us there and ministering to our sisters and brothers who would have difficulty getting to services outside the facility. This last Wednesday we were asked and pleased to give communion to bedridden clients who were unable to make the service. It was truly a shared joy to do this.

We are looking for a few people who would be willing to lead the service and deliver the message for the day. The service lasts about 30-40 minutes and I have structured a Leader's Handbook to lead one through the service. If you have an interest in this ministry please contact me or Pastor Justin.

Yours in Christ,
Mike Achorn

Community Rewards

Advent can receive cash rewards from purchases at **Meijer**.

Here's how:

1. Purchases paid with a linked Meijer Credit Card earn 1%
2. Purchases paid with cash or your own debit card along with a swiped Meijer 1 Rewards Card (not a credit card) earn .05%. Earnings are based on the current Meijer giving share.

You can either fill out an application, go on-line at [Meijer.com/rewards](https://www.meijer.com/rewards), or if you already have a Meijer Credit card, call 1-800-962-7011 to get it linked. Advent's code is: 794881.

Please also remember to save all of your **Oleson's** receipts, bring them in to the church and place them in the envelope provided on the bulletin board.

If you have any further questions, please see a member of the Outreach Committee.

From the ELCA Congregational Newsletter

Being Faithful to our promises

A required provision in every ELCA congregation's constitution is CG.036: "This congregation pledges its financial support and participation in the life and mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

EKO Tips

Kim Winchell, Diaconal Minister

April 22 marked the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, but caring for creation should not be just a one day a year activity! Visit this exciting new website to discover how ELCA Lutherans are offering a wealth of hope, ideas, and encouragement for faithful earthkeeping: www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org.

Confused by the variety of compact fluorescent bulbs, which ones to use for what purpose, and what to do with them once they finally burn out? Visit **CFL Know How** for a great source of information.

2010 Synod Assembly For the Lord Loves Justice

For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his faithful ones. (Psalm 37:28a)

**May 20-22, 2010
Lansing, Michigan**

This powerful theme reminds us that God is for the things that make for right relationship in our lives together. When we acknowledge our relationships as brothers and sisters under God's parentage, and do so without prejudice on any level, we are practicing justice toward one another.

Some activities during the Assembly:

Lutherans on the Lawn

Thursday, May 20, 12pm-3pm

Discuss justice issues with your State Representatives and Senators and enjoy a picnic lunch on the South Lawn of our State Capitol.

Dancing with the Bishop

Friday evening

Radisson Hotel, Lansing

Purchase a dance with the Bishop and support Advent, Lake Ann's building fund at the same time. Watch out for your toes! Don't care to dance? Stop in for a laugh!

2010 Offerings – First Quarter

The general offerings for January and February were greater than the budget by \$1,400 or +6.5%. The offering results for March were \$4,250 LESS than the budget or -27.0%. Therefore, the first quarter offerings are \$2,850 less than budget or -7.8%. Our expenses are temporarily under budget enough to offset the reduction in March offerings; however, if this trend continues, it will require expense reductions or eliminations in all church areas.

The church budget is primarily based on our individual pledge commitments. Please remember that our giving enables us to fulfill God's mission through us by honoring those commitments on a timely basis. Personal circumstances can change for any of us. If they do, and you are unable to meet your commitment, please see the Pastor so the budget can be adjusted accordingly.

The presentation of the financial results for the first quarter (January through March) will take place at the May 16th Congregational Meeting. I encourage you all to attend.

Lon Gilbert, Treasurer

The following people are assisting in worship this Month.

Communion Bread: Mary Jeffrey
Altar Guild: Cheryl Smith

May 2

Fellowship: Worship & Fellowship Committee
Counters: Becky MacGirr & Cher Baumann
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady
Communion: Emily Bramer & Tamara Brodbent
Ushers: Nancy Dow & Marcie Kaven
Acolyte: Kayla Brady
Nursery: McKenna Cudney

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Margaret Achorn
Communion: Deb & Mary Mikko
Ushers: Keith & Claudette Johnson
Acolyte: Addison Bank
Nursery: Emily Bramer & Mary Mikko

May 9

Counters: Margaret Achorn & Deb Mikko
Youth Sunday
Services to be assisted by our Youth

May 16

Fellowship: New-Building Committee
Counters: Joan Chamberlain & Keith Johnson
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: Rich Andersen
Communion: Bud & Marlene Habermann
Ushers: Nick & Lis Bank
Acolyte: Addison Bank
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Juanita Weber
Communion: Elden & Carole Zang
Ushers: Brad Stowe & Laney Wiggins
Acolyte: Halee Stalmack
Nursery: McKenna Cudney & Halee Coon

7:00 Prayer Service

Nursery: McKenna Cudney

May 23

Fellowship: Office Staff
Counters: Del Roelofs & Lis Bank
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: Karen Harrison
Communion: Becky Douthitt & Nancy Dow
Ushers: John & Lynn Mocan
Acolyte: Mikayla Mayo
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Michelle Anderson
Communion: Mathew Branch & Amiee Erfourth
Ushers: Harold & Gwen Muenchow
Acolyte: Jake Weichert
Nursery: Laney Wiggins & Mary Mikko

May 30

Fellowship: Church Council
Counters: Bud Habermann & Becky MacGirr
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: John Jeffrey
Communion: Adam & Traci Wong
Ushers: Ben & Jan Price
Acolyte: Logan Grimm

11:00Service

Assisting Minister: Lis Bank
Communion: Nancy & Hannah Will
Ushers: Charlie & Joan Chamberlain
Acolyte: Katey Bank

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.)

Advent Yard Sale

Our annual Advent Yard Sale is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, June 4th & 5th. Please remember to save any unwanted articles that you may have for our sale. We would like to encourage you to hold on to your stuff until June, but if you are unable to store them until then, please let us know and we can make arrangements to store them for you. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund. We will also need volunteers to help set up, work at the sale and clean up afterwards. For information, please contact any Building or Property Committee member, or call the church office.

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

Becky MacGirr, Director of Faith Formation

Jan Price, Church Secretary

Church Council

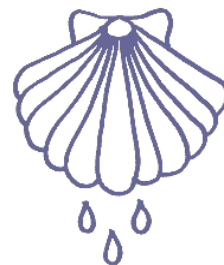
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see Rich Andersen or Marlene Habermann.

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

Remember the
Congregational Meeting
May 16th immediately
following the 11:00am
service