



Advent Acts

June 2009

Volume 4, Issue 6

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.

Emily Dickinson wrote, “Hope is that thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops...at all.” Hope...seems to be a good thing to focus on these days as the news on the radio and the television continues to be filled with things which are not very hopeful. Hope is that which I pray you cling to as you live out your calling as a disciple and as you strive to be opened to wherever the Lord is leading you. Hope can be a marvelous tool of inspiration in the face of the darkest reality and has the power to transform one’s being from utter despair to pure and overflowing joy. Hope has been on my mind a lot lately and especially since I left the Synod Assembly on Tuesday. Towards the end of the assembly the director of Living Water Ministries gave a moving testimony to the hope that he has seen in the stories and faces of the young people who attend camp or retreats offered there. He spoke passionately about how in the face of a shrinking budget and fewer and fewer campers due to parents losing jobs he struggled to see much hope and resounded to the reality of fear. Yet, hope is alive. Hope is alive in the stories of churches like Advent who will send more campers this year than last and who have made financial commitment to Living Water greater than the one last year. Hope is alive in the promise of a new life that springs from the waters of our baptism and that sends us forward to proclaim Christ in the world. Hope is alive in you and the stories that you carry with you and the stories that you share with one another. I pray that hope continues to be our foundation not just as we move forward but forever and that as Dickinson states, it never ends.

Hope seems to be something we need to grab onto now more than ever as we move forward with our commitment Sunday for our “Growing Faith—Building Community” campaign. I have heard a few concerns from some of you regarding whether or not this is the best time to be trying to raise money to build a new home for our church. I hear that concern, and I as well for a time shared that concern. However, as I write this I am more certain than ever that this is the time to move forward and this is the time to respond faithfully and sacrificially to the abundance of God’s goodness in our lives. You see, to me it is simple- this campaign and this new home for our congregation are built upon the foundation of a God who gives us hope to believe that all things are possible. So while the reality of the economy is staring at us in the face, while some of you are unsure about your job or the job of your loved ones, while a sense of fear has overtaken our society, God still rules. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:3, “By his great mercy he gave us new birth into a living *hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” Do you see that? This hope that comes to us from God is not passive or inactive, rather it is alive and breathes new life into you and into this place we call Advent. Dear friends, hope is alive! Hope is alive when our youth group gathers and talks about what issues they are facing in life, hope is alive when our Baby Pantry welcomes families in need into our worship space and feeds them with the necessities they need, hope is alive when our Bible Study becomes a time for a sister to share her burdens and pain with the group and receive blessing upon blessing in return, hope is alive when we worship together and taste the goodness of the living bread Jesus Christ. Hope is alive in you and that hope I pray is what you are filled with and driven to share with those you encounter. And finally, hope I pray is what you cling to, what we as a body cling to, and what we respond with by making faithful and sacrificial commitments on May 31st. Hope is Jesus and Jesus is in this place, and I look forward to being able to share that with more people when we have more space and more room for doing ministry in our new home. Hope dear friends, cling to it, breath it, know it and live it.

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: Amy Brown; Gary Harris; John Jeffrey; Bethany Stevenson; Emily Wagner; Brittney Fox; Mary Ghering; Fred Krueger; Marcy Flansburg; Josh Pohill; Rich Andersen; Laura Annis; Shelly & Bill Honer; Moss; Jim Harris; Catherine Stabnau; Ian Gerald; Lexie Stradinger; Wally Schaub; Pastor Len Etzel; Margie Randall; all troops: those deployed and those at home; Pastor Brian Spahr and Graceway Church, Charlotte, NC., 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

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### June Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

### June Readings

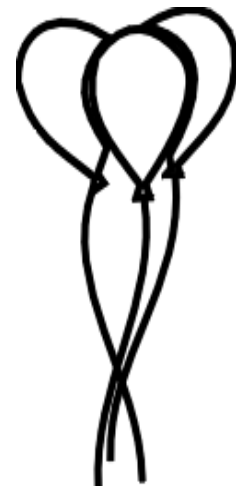


Here are the readings for this month:

- Jun 7 Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17
- Jun 14 Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10[11-13]14-17; Mark 4:26-34
- Jun 21 Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41
- Jun 28 Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

#### Birthdays

- 6/2 Nancy Dow
- 6/3 Sheila Rigotti
- 6/6 Michael Daray
- 6/8 Leonard Olson
- 6/17 David April
- 6/18 Katey Bank
- 6/20 Elfried Steigerwald
- 6/21 Cherie Mettler
- 6/22 Jeff Wentzloff
- 6/22 Carole Zang
- 6/23 Mitchell Griffith
- 6/24 Ashley Garver
- 6/25 Emma Griffith
- 6/26 Kurt Kalis
- 6/28 Leo April
- 6/28 Alisha Halberg-Recker



#### Anniversaries

- 6/11 Gary & Gail Wertz
- 6/12 Bill & Robin Heiges
- 6/17 David & Gail Stradinger
- 6/20 Leo & Janet April
- 6/26 Mike & Margaret Achorn
- 6/29 Keith & Claudette Johnson

### Congratulations Graduates

Congratulations to Ben Will and James Mikko as they graduate from Traverse City West Senior High School. May God bless and guide their lives as they begin their new journey into the future.

## “God Provides”

--Anna Grimm

One of my favorite memories from my life as a newlywed was getting our first heating bill. We were married in August of 2000, and the winter that followed was a beast. I was the breadwinner that first year as Justin was finishing up his last year at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa and the money that I brought home did not quite cover all of our expenditures. We gasped at the \$200 bill for our heat, racked with the reality of adulthood. We simply did not have it and had no idea what to do. So we did what every other couple would have done, called my parents and shut off our heat. Thankfully, my parents were in a position to help us at that time, and then yes, you heard it, we SHUT our heat off! We immediately went shopping for a little space heater that filled our tiny apartment with enough warmth to be comfortable. Unfortunately, it did not follow us into all the rooms, but fortunately, our apartment was about 300 square feet, at the most. For special occasions, we turned the heat back on, but for the most part, it was off for the rest of the winter, and we were cold. But we had food, we had layers, and we had each other. That winter in Orange City taught me a lot about what is important. Since then, I have learned there are always things to cut back on when money gets tight, and there are always creative ways to make ends meet. Justin spent many weekends traveling to Sioux Falls to bartend when money got tight, and we learned to go without. But in many ways, this was an incredibly rich time in our lives together and we had everything we ever needed.

I think it was the Sunday that Pastor Meier came to visit that I was moved to talk about money and where I stand in this whole capital campaign thing. I feel like I have a good grasp on budgeting and money, but to be honest, the issue of tithing and giving to the church has been tough for me and one of continual growth. Justin and I used to give when we could, prior to coming to Advent, but it was never a committed giving each and every week. I believe Pastor Meier hit it right on the head when he said during adult class a few weeks ago that he used to be the person who would urge others to tithe, and that he said he would “later, when there is more money to give.” ‘Tithing is great, and I will do it, but not yet’. But you know what, if I would live by this motto, I do not think I would ever be in a position! We spend what we have and are always susceptible to being tempted by more. Well, my beliefs have been completely transformed since our life at Advent. Justin and I have placed our gifts to the church within our household budget, and it comes out just as any other bill we receive. Sometimes when I look at what goes to the church each month, I am taken by surprise...thinking to myself, “man, I wish I could just forgo a week or two for those new shoes I want,” or “geez, that could get our new carpet,” and the list goes on. But I have also come to realize the value of contentment and peace with what we have. My life is full, very comfortable, and blessed beyond my wildest imagination, with things that money could never buy. It is only because of this newfound wisdom and trust that I feel comfortable stretching a bit more to give to our new building. Sometimes I am nervous thinking about it, but try to fall back on my faith that it will work, and we *are* able to give. We might have to cut back on some other areas of our budget, but I am sure we will figure it out, just as we did when we were first married. It has been cool to grow in this way the past few years and develop a newfound appreciation for the gifts we have and the “things” that really matter. I urge you to have faith, the end result is worth it—I can tell you from personal experience. God provides for us, always, I have seen that way too many times in my own life and in the lives of others to not believe it myself. Have faith friends! God’s blessings and wisdom to each and every one of you as you pray about your financial commitment to our new home for our family at Advent.

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## Congratulations Confirmands!



Our first confirmation class will be confirmed at the 10:00 service on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to share something special with our confirmands. Each will have a special box available on 6/21 so you can tuck in a Card, Bible Verse, Poem, or a Welcome Note. You can also mail a card to the Advent PO Box 249 and we will deliver them. Special thanks to Michelle Anderson and all her helpers who really made this first class successful!

Congratulations to:

Emily Bramer    Mary Mikko    Jessie Rigotti    Allie Roelofs

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## Advent Outreach Committee

After a slow start, the Advent Baby Pantry has grown dramatically with our serving of 13, 20 and 16 families in March, April and May, respectively. Previous to March, the highest number served was 5. In May, we also had two girls from Glen Lake help at the Baby Pantry to fulfill a community service requirement for their civics class. As we are only open on the second Saturday of the month, the Outreach Committee expanded the numbers of items available to each child to quantities greater than commonly available in the neighboring Baby Pantries in Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties. At the May pantry, we distributed 460 diapers, 28 packages of wipes, 10 boxes or cans of formula, 6 boxes of cereal, 92 jars of baby food, 17 bottles or sippy cups, 10 containers of shampoo or lotion, and 17 pharmaceutical items. 9 families took miscellaneous items.

The Advent Baby Pantry tries to make a difference to needy local families with young children. Because of the lack of storage we are limited to the most essential items (diapers, wipes, bottles, formula, cereal, food, baths/shampoo and lotion, minor pharmaceuticals (vitamins, aspirin and NSAIDs, toothpaste). Most of these items have been purchased through generous grants from the NW Michigan synod and we have recently received \$500 from Thrivent. Some of these items have been donated by members of Advent or the Lake Ann community. Donated items have included clothing and blankets which are distributed at the pantry but we try to limit these items until we have a permanent home.

Your continued support through donations of items, money and prayer is welcomed. Also consider giving a couple Saturday mornings per year to assist at the Pantry. We will have a Baby Pantry supplies drive this fall. If you have larger items (cribs, strollers, etc.) please check the small bulletin board with Needs/Haves in the nursery/office area of the church.

The Outreach Committee will conduct a non-perishable food drive on June 14 and 21. As always, we welcome your questions, thoughts and concerns.

Keith Johnson

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## Director of Faith Formation

### Recognition without being recognized

Some of you might know that I had a birthday last month. My husband asked me, "What would you like from me for your birthday?" I looked him straight in the eyes and in my most loving voice I said, "I want you to be me for a day." There was a long pause . . . In his best 'I don't want to lose my trip to deer camp' voice he said, "I was thinking more like can I pick you up something from Meijer?" We both got a good laugh! It made me think, though, that it is nice to be recognized for what we do. Thinking back to the sermon about being a servant, how do we serve as Christ calls us to serve without needing or expecting the recognition for what we have done? I believe that if we are serving to be important or if we are serving to be noticed, then we are not serving as Christ would have us serve. Now, I am not saying that we do not deserve praise and recognition. On the contrary, praise and gratitude are very rewarding and necessary to whom we are. The trick, I think, is to be gratified by the service, not by the one who is being served. House-cleaning is something that I put off until it becomes dangerously similar to something you might see on the news during a national disaster; but when my husband comes home to a clean house, even though I crabbled all the way through cleaning it, just seeing him look around and smile makes the job all worth it. I know I have done something for him and I am gratified by that. When we are following God's lead, He gives us great joy in serving. The things we do in Christ's service are often hard and tiresome tasks. Often we are called out of our comfort zone, but knowing that we have completed something in service for Christ, somehow fills us with joy. Often my biggest joys come when I see others joyful.

Recognizing my Faith can help build our community,  
Becky MacGirr

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**The following people are assisting in worship**

Communion Bread: Laurie Bloxsom  
Altar Guild: Elfie Steigerwald

**Jun 7**

Fellowship: Education Committee

**8:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady  
Communion: Ben & Jan Price  
Ushers: Clint Douthitt & Nancy Dow  
Acolyte: Kayla Brady  
Nursery: Allie Roelofs

**11:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Juanita Weber  
Communion: Mike & Margaret Achorn  
Ushers: Pat Cudney & Steve MacGirr  
Acolyte: Halee Stalmack  
Nursery: Jessie Rigotti

**Jun 14**

Fellowship: Choir

**8:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Marcie Kaven  
Communion: Pat Cudney & Sheila Rigotti  
Ushers: Bud & Marlene Habermann  
Acolyte: McKenna Cudney  
Nursery: Jessie Rigotti

**10:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Mike Achorn  
Communion: Tamara Brodbent & Annna Grimm  
Ushers: Keith & Claudette Johnson  
Acolyte: Miranda Stradinger  
Nursery: Emily Bramer

**Jun 21**

Fellowship: Outreach Committee

**8:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: John Mocan  
Communion: Tom & Sally Peterson  
Ushers: Brian & Michael Kaven  
Acolyte: Evan Mocan  
Nursery: Becky MacGirr

**10:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Jessie Rigotti  
Communion: Allie Roelofs & Michelle Anderson  
Ushers: Emily Bramer & Mary Mikko  
Acolyte: Jake Weichert  
Nursery: Ellen Fancher

**Jun 28**

Fellowship: Stewardship Committee

**8:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Becky Douthitt  
Communion: Dave & Allie Roelofs  
Ushers: Jeff & Ellen Fancher  
Acolyte: Emily Fancher  
Nursery: Emily Bramer

**10:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Carole Zang  
Communion: Nick Bank & Carrie Baldwin  
Ushers: Harold & Gwen Muenchow  
Acolyte: Aaron Hockenberger  
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.*

**New Worship Times**

Our Summer Schedule will begin on  
Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00am Worship
- 9:00am Fellowship
- 10:00am Worship
  
- 7:00pm Healing and Prayer Service  
(every third Sunday)

**Memorial Gifts**

Memorial Gifts were given in May by  
**Cherie Hockenberger and Robert and Julie Statius-Muller**  
in memory of Frank Bank for the Building Fund.

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 & 10:00**  
**Sunday mornings**  
and  
**9:00 AM**  
**Fellowship**

## 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

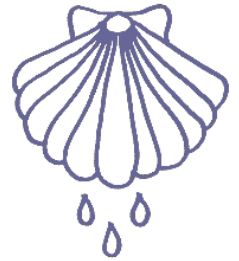
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see John Jeffrey or Abby Cudney.

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**  
PO Box 249  
Lake Ann, MI  
49650

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**PAID**  
Lake Ann, MI 49650  
Permit No. 6

Return Service Requested

**Remember our new worship  
times for summer:  
8:00 and 10:00 AM.  
Stay late or come early for  
fellowship!!!**