

## 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.

What kind of church is Advent Lutheran church? Now, I realize that is a pretty loaded question that could be answered in a variety of ways so let me help you unpack it a bit. Are we a church that is in mission mode, or are we a church that is in maintenance mode? The line between the two really is not that different, and unfortunately it is easy to fall from being missional into simply maintaining. A colleague and friend of mine provided me a resource which he got from a friend of his that looks at the difference between these two camps and I want to share a few of those with you today. To me, this question must honestly be asked and answered, thought through, and constantly be evaluated so that as we move forward in our growth we do not become complacent or comfortable where we are. We must always strive to be mission-minded or we could easily begin to move backwards- and I know none of us want that to happen.

A couple of the highlights from the above mentioned resource for your thoughtfulness:

*The pastor in the congregation in maintenance mode says to the newcomer, "I'd like to introduce you to some of our members." In the mission-minded congregation, the MEMBERS get to the visitors first and say, "We'd like to introduce you to our pastor."*

*When confronted with a challenge, concern, or change, the pastor in the congregation in maintenance mode will often feel overwhelmed. The pastor in the mission-minded congregation looks around at all the support he has around him.*

*The congregation in maintenance mode seeks to avoid conflict at any cost (never successfully mind you, but it tries). The mission-minded congregation faces conflict, confronts it, works through it, and moves on...it realizes that conflict is often the price paid for following Jesus...and after all, Jesus was nailed to a cross for confronting the status quo...*

*Members of a congregation in maintenance mode say, "what can my church do to serve me?" Members of a mission-minded congregation live out, and mean it when they say, "equipping and empowering disciples to PROCLAIM THE TRANSFORMING PROMISE OF JESUS CHRIST."*

There we have it friends! My prayer for us is simple- that we continue to strive to be the church God calls us to be- a mission-minded place where we strive to live out our identity as children of God. I am so excited to be part of this MISSION with you as your pastor. It is truly humbling and an honor,

Justin



## March Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

### Birthdays

3/1 Gabrielle Thomas  
 3/2 John Weber  
 3/3 Benjamin Will  
 3/4 Elyse Brayton  
 3/5 Carmyn Brodbent  
 3/10 Greg Griffith  
 3/12 Jacob Halberg  
 3/13 Evan Johnston  
 3/14 Rachel Stradinger  
 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 Dayray  
 3/27 Kim Stowe  
 3/30 Sarah Stalmack



### Anniversary

3/2 Charlie & Joan Chamberlain

## Lenten Meal and Evening Prayer

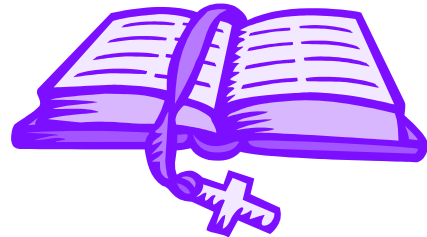
The final Lenten meal will be served on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm in the Township Hall, followed by a service of music and prayer at 7:00pm. On March 31<sup>st</sup> we will show "The Passion" movie. We invite everyone to share in these times of fellowship and worship.

## Prayer List

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

**We remember in our prayers:** Karen Copeland; Charlie Chamberlain; Liz Candelss; Eleanor Brown; Art Grubb; Vera Carmien; Helen Simpkins; Diane Petersen; Claire Torgerson; Jeff Fancher; Bruce Lockwood; Josh Griffith; Gary Cox; Todd Wittke; Josh Pohill; Wayne Wright; Mary & Bernie Holtman; Ed Bloxsom, Sr.; Helen Rought; Cam Deering; Gary Harris; Mary Ghering; Shelly & Bill Honer; Wally Schaub; Pastor Len Etzel; Margie Randall; the people of Haiti; all troops: those deployed and those at home; Bishop Mark Hanson & the ELCA; and our mission here at Advent.

## March Readings



Here are the readings for this month:

- Mar 7** Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
- Mar 14** Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-2, 11b-32
- Mar 21** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126;  
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8
- Mar 28** Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16;  
Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14—23:56

## From the YOUth Group

This past weekend the youth group had three young adults travel to the Ronald McDonald house in Grand Rapids to take over two hundred fifty pounds of aluminum tabs to trade for scrap metal and get the house some well needed money. They are such a great organization. They provide a loving home for those whose children are in hospitals around the area and need a place to stay while their family heals. The minute you walk through the front door you can feel the warmth of those around you.

All members of the community and all across Michigan donate their time and money for those who are going through what may be the hardest thing a parent must go through. Various hotels donate shampoo, soap, lotion and conditioner. People from all over Michigan put a lot of time and thought into making blankets for the children to take home. Many people bake countless amounts of cookies, and they have fully stocked, at all times, a separate freezer devoted to only cookies. They have seventeen rooms, each with its own style and theme. Each room can house anywhere from two to eight people! It really is a home away from home. The volunteers were very friendly and so welcoming, they even treated us as one of the families with a full (delicious) breakfast.

So to get to the point, we NEED more pop tabs. We're shooting for 300 pounds to help keep this amazing project going.

Thank you and God bless,  
Cydnee Bence & Hannah Will

## “Thank you” from Operation Christmas Child

### The Totals Are In!!! You did it!!!

This Christmas, you and your Great Lakes Regional sisters and brothers prayerfully worked together through the Lord to provide over **HALF A MILLION** messages and gifts of love to children all over the world! **OURSTANDING!!!**

It is through your open hearts and willing hands that these gifts came together to preach the Gospel to His Little Ones of the world. Thank you for your time, your talents, your sacrifice and your prayers to make this opportunity a gift of Christ for over eight million children!

A simple shoebox filled with inexpensive gifts has an amazing impact on the life of a child. The best gift they receive when they open the box is the tangible love of God.

*We give a special “thank you” to McKenna Cudney for all her hard work and to all of the youth who helped her pack up these boxes to make our own contributions a success.*

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## Advent Baby Pantry

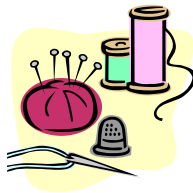
Thanks to all for the many items received at the Baby Shower for the Baby Pantry on Sunday, Feb 7. We received over \$500 of items that are much needed in our community. Additionally, many have given to the Baby Pantry either with a special offering or by giving supplies in the yellow bin at the back of the church. January was a very strong month for these donations, with about \$700 received.

2009 was the first full year of operation for the Advent Baby Pantry and was marked by strong growth. The year started slowly but ended with 28 and 29 families helped in Nov and Dec, respectively - our highest numbers. We had a total 189 family visits (with a total of 254 babies or toddlers) over the twelve months of 2009. We distributed a total of 6,770 diapers, 345 packs of wipes, 100 containers of formula, 71 boxes of cereal, 980 containers of baby food, 120 baby bottles, 189 containers of bath/shampoo or lotion, and 91 families received miscellaneous items. The needs in our community remain great with 23 and 19 families needing our assistance in Jan and Feb, 2010 .

The Baby Pantry is open the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 to noon. We welcome volunteers to staff the pantry and can use a couple of adults and youth each month. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the entry. For further information or comments please contact any member of Baby Pantry subcommittee or the Outreach Committee.

Keith Johnson

## From the Advent Sewing Circle



The Advent Sewing Circle, together with the Outreach Committee, will have a booth at the Lake Ann Homecoming in July to sell hand crafted items, so we are asking for donations from our church community. If you can sew, knit, crochet, embroider, cross-stitch, paint, or have talents for woodworking, photography, making jewelry, or any other unique specialty that you may have, please consider helping us by making and donating items for this worthwhile project. Proceeds from the sale will go into a fund that benefits community assistance.

For more information and any questions, please contact Juanita Weber (231-313-7310) or Jan Price at the church office (231-275-8031). We thank you for your participation and look forward to working with all of you to make this a success.

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

Communion Bread: Traci Wong  
Altar Guild: Elfie Steigerwald

### March 7

Fellowship: Office  
Counters: Becky MacGirr & Bud Habermann  
**8:00 Service**  
Assisting Minister: Mary Jeffrey  
Communion: Ben & Jan Price  
Ushers: Marcie Kaven & Laney Wiggins  
Acolyte: Michael Kaven  
Nursery: McKenna Cudney

### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Lis Bank  
Communion: Nancy Ackerman Will & Hannah Will  
Ushers: Gail Stradinger & Ryan Brodbent  
Acolyte: Katey Bank  
Nursery: Emily Bramer & Mary Mikko

### March 14

Fellowship: Church Council  
Counters: Cher Baumann & Lis Bank  
**8:00 Service**  
Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady  
Communion: Becky Douthitt & Dave Roelofs  
Ushers: John & Mary Jeffrey  
Acolyte: Kayla Brady  
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Becky MacGirr  
Communion: Steve & Michael MacGirr  
Ushers: Nick & Lis Bank  
Acolyte: Addison Bank  
Nursery: Laney Wiggins & Mary Mikko

### March 21

Fellowship: Education Committee  
Counters: Deb Mikko & Margaret Achorn  
**8:00 Service**  
Assisting Minister: Sheila Rigotti  
Communion: Bud & Marlene Habermann  
Ushers: John & Lynn Mocan  
Acolyte: Austin Mayo  
Nursery: Emily Bramer

### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Michelle Anderson  
Communion: Mike & Margaret Achorn  
Ushers: Elden & Carole Zang  
Acolyte: Jake Weichert  
Nursery: McKenna Cudney & Halee Coon

### 7:00 Prayer Service

Nursery: Emily Bramer

### March 28

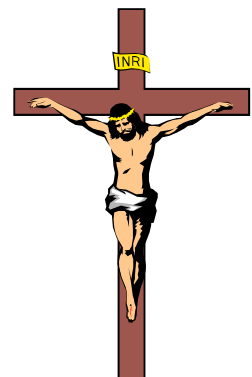
Fellowship: Outreach Committee  
Counters: Joan Chamberlain & Keith Johnson  
**8:00 Service**  
Assisting Minister: Rich Andersen  
Communion: Nancy Dow & Marcie Kaven  
Ushers: Brian & Michael Kaven  
Acolyte: Miranda Stradinger  
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Mike Achorn  
Communion: Juanita Weber & Laney Wiggins  
Ushers: Ed & Laurie Bloxsom  
Acolyte: Halee Stalmack  
Nursery: McKenna Cudney & Halee Coon

## Holy Week Schedule

**Passion/Palm Sunday Service** – Sunday, March 28 at 8:00am & 11:00am  
**Movie night: The Passion** – Wednesday, March 31 at 7:00pm  
**Maunder Thursday Service** – Thursday, April 01 at 7:00pm (with LAUMC)  
**Good Friday Tenebre Service** – Friday, April 02 at 7:00 pm  
**Easter Sunday Services** – Sunday, April 04 at 8:00am & 11:00am  
**Easter Breakfast** – Sunday, April 04 at 9:30 am



## 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

Becky MacGirr, Director of Faith Formation

Jan Price, Church Secretary

## Church Council

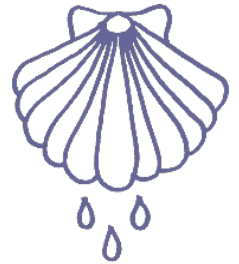
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see Rich Andersen or Marlene Habermann.

For a list of your Church Council members, please go to [www.adventlakeann.org](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**  
PO Box 249  
Lake Ann, MI 49650

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Lake Ann, MI 49650  
Permit No. 6

Return Service Requested

Lenten Soup  
Suppers and  
Worship  
  
each Wednesday  
at 6:15pm