

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 15, Issue 01

Sharing Christ's Love, We Are A Welcoming, Caring, Serving Community. Come and See.

January 2013



Advent Lutheran Church
2222 S. Arlington Ridge Rd
Arlington, VA 22202
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SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Bible Study 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am

Pastor
Rev. Anna Anderson


President
Debbie Lewis

Office Administrator
Nancy Cox Jairrels

Director of Music Ministry
Michael Lewallen

Nursery Attendant
Roxie Jairrels

Newsletter Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer

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at www.facebook.com/adventarlington

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Making Manifest!

I hope that you all had as delightful and joyous a Christmas and New Year season as I did. (And thank you for your part in it!). Now we turn to the Epiphany season. Epiphany is a Greek word that means "made manifest," or revealed or apparent to everyone. It begins with the star that

From the Pastor

made manifest the birth of a new king, and continued with the Voice from heaven revealing Jesus as God's Son at his baptism, and continued in his first miracle of turning water into wine. Jesus then began his public ministry in which he made manifest God's kingdom.

Advent has been making itself manifest too. If you visit the website, you will find fresh pictures revealing the recent ministries engaged in here. There is also fresh information, kept updated by our team of web adminis-

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Thanks for your support of area social ministries

Advent members purchased almost \$2,000 worth of Gifts of Hope in December to assist those in need and to support the mission and programs of area Lutheran social ministry organizations and the seminary, as well as our Synod's companion synods abroad. Gifts purchased included transportation assistance for village pastors in Namibia; food assistance in a variety of forms for the needy in the DC area, Namibia, and El Salvador; music therapy and therapy pets for residents at the Village at Rockville (formerly the National Lutheran Home); school clothes, books, toys, and enrichment programs for teens and children; dental and medical care; suitcases for foster care children; job tools, training, and skills coaching; metro and bus tokens; and contributions to the Lutheran Volunteer Corp's program and Gettysburg Seminary's efforts to make its campus more energy efficient. Thanks to all of you who purchased Gifts of Hope.



Gifts of Hope

Please note that, although the Gifts of Hope program is emphasized during the Advent season, you may purchase a Gift of Hope anytime during the year. Information is available at the Gifts of Hope website www.giftsofhopemetrod.org/index.html

- Marilyn Falksen

THANK YOU

Members of Advent, Thank you for the generous Christmas gifts and the donations made to Gifts of Hope in our honor. Working and worshipping here at Advent is one of God's many blessings. Peace to you all!

- Nancy and Roxie Jairrels

Thank you!! from Pastor Anna and Wendell for the Christmas cards and greetings and for the lovely and generous Christmas gift. I look forward to using it for something special for Advent and I also enjoy knowing that the people of Namibia will benefit from it. Advent's friend Patrick West is

visiting Namibia this spring and will give a presentation of his experience and ministry there when he returns.

The Alvarez & Malloy families would like to thank everyone at Advent for their prayers and expressions of sympathy during Uncle Don's illness and passing. You uplifted us and gave us great comfort. Peace & blessings.

- Susie Alvarez

Dear Advent Family, Thank you for your kind and generous Christmas gift. It is truly a blessing to be here with you all. Best wishes for many

blessings in the coming year to all.

- Michael Lewallen

A HUGE thank you to all of you that made our Christmas celebration go so wonderfully. Thank you to the decorating party who climbed, hung and set up, the food people (yum!), the wrapping people and dinner and distribution volunteers, all who prepared music and publicity, all who helped with the Epiphany party, and to all of you who came and supported the Christmas season celebration. We showed the world that Christmas is indeed more than just one day.

Worship services for Lenten journey

Ash Wednesday worship on February 13 at 7:30 pm will include confession, imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion to prepare us for our Lenten fast.

To aid us on our journey, we will offer a soup supper followed by Candlelight Evening Prayer with a meditation from a local pastor to help us stand Beneath the Cross of Jesus.

- * Where do we stand in life?
- * What "mighty rocks" do we cling to?
- * Where is our home?
- * What in our lives needs forgiveness?
- * What does it mean to "abide" at the foot of the cross?

These questions will be addressed each Thursday evening in Lent beginning February 21. Soup will be served at 6:45, with worship beginning at 7:30. Choir practice will follow, and those of you wishing to help the choir with Holy Week and Easter anthems are invited to stay.

Please look for sign-up sheets for bringing soup and for helping lead the worship service. Soup will be needed for about 15 people; speakers, candle lighters, and chanters are needed for worship.

Capital Campaign inches toward goal

More than \$40,000 has been raised so far. Donations will be used to refinance the remaining mortgage, lowering the monthly payment by more than \$300 and allowing an increase to the ministry and mission budget. You can participate in the campaign, which ends January 27, by noting "capital campaign" on your offering. Donations of stocks, bonds or other investments are also accepted. All donations are 100% tax deductible.



Thrivent Choice Dollars offers another way to contribute

Advent is now an eligible recipient of Thrivent Choice Dollars. This is a program sponsored by Thrivent available to any eligible Thrivent members. To be eligible, you must have \$800 or more in annual premiums of eligible Thrivent policies or \$20,000 or more in contract value of certain products. You can view and direct your Choice Dollars by logging into www.thrivent.com. Choice Dollars designated to you in 2012 can be directed until March 31, 2013. Please consider directing your eligible dollars to Advent!

If you have questions or need more information, please contact me.

-Debbie Lewis, Council President

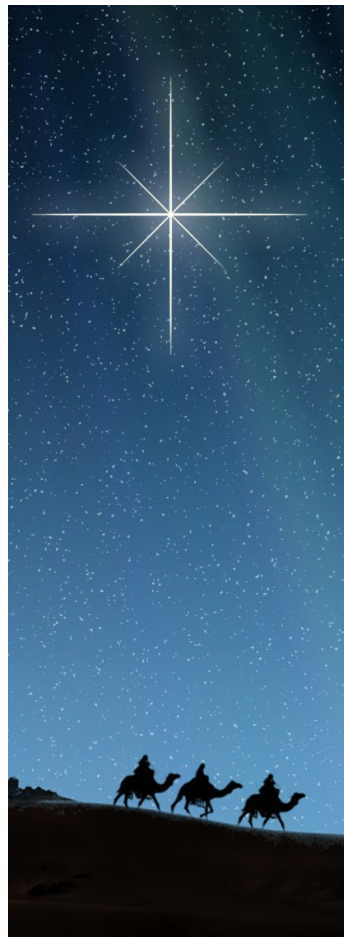
A musical evening of praise & prayer

Advent to host community service of 23rd Street churches, choirs

Advent will be the site of a community Prayer and Praise Worship Service of the 23rd Street churches on January 27, the end of a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The 7 pm service will feature choirs from Advent, Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Calvary United Methodist and Mount Vernon Baptist, who will perform their best anthems. Afterwards we will have time for fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. In honor of the Epiphany theme of the gospel being proclaimed to all people, we invite you to bring an ethnic dish to share. An offering of food or money will be taken to assist the Arlington Food Assistance Center in feeding the needy in



Advent choir performs during previous community service.



Join us in letting our light shine

(Continued from page 1)

trators. We receive notes via the site from people all over, and it also serves to help the faithful here plan and access event information. We are also being made manifest in our new parking signage to aid our guests, and we are developing additional welcoming materials for adults and children. We are looking forward to being made manifest in our hosting of the local congregations for a Choir Festival service of praise and prayer on January 27 at the close of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Advent is letting its light shine, and you are invited to shine with us. As the hymn says:

*O God, who by a star did guide the wise men on their way
until they came and stood beside the place where Jesus lay,
although by stars you do not lead your children now below
your Holy Spirit, when we need, will show us how to go.*

May God's Holy Spirit rest on you in this New Year.

Love, Pastor Anna

Tables of Fellowship

Good company and good food!

Hello everyone, I would like to invite you to participate in Tables of Fellowship! It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our church community better and grow as a congregation. TOF consists of a series of rotational dinners where individuals/families are assigned one of the following: main course,

bread and veggie, or dessert. Dinners range in size from 4-6 people and are held at the home of host. Depending on your preference, you can sign up to be a host and attendee, or you can simply join as an attendee.

Hosts will discuss the best date and time for dinner during the month with their group. In the past, TOF occurred on the third Monday of each month; however, the decision is up to the groups with flexibility to change the



Greg, Marilyn, Susan, Georges and David share a meal during last year's round of Tables of Fellowship.

schedule as needed. This year's Tables of Fellowship will run from February through June.

Come enjoy Greg Maly's famous pot roast (a longstanding family recipe), Pastor Anna's ice cream cake, and Marilyn Falksen's homemade coleslaw. There is something special about breaking bread together and sharing in good conversation!

Please let me know if you have questions!

- Susan Maly

Choir schedule for February

Choir members should note the following commitments and rehearsal date changes:

- Sunday, January 27 - Community Service, 7 pm
- Wednesday, February 6 - rehearsal change, 8 pm
- Wednesday, February 13 - Ash Wednesday Service, followed by rehearsal.

Starting February 21, rehearsals will follow Thursday Lenten service.



January

- 3rd Kristina Donahue
Rosalie Juhl
- 6th Warren Hageman
Debbie Lewis
- 7th Nicole Creighton
- 10th Iris Jessimy
- 15th Kathryn Juhl
- 17th Nathan Delong
- 20th Ingrid Palmquist

February

- 2nd Walter Pfannmuller
Ruben Herrera
- 13th Peter Juhl
- 14th YiYi Lin
- 17th Steven Hetzer
- 18th Rensford Lovell
- 20th Sam Matzner
- 25th Desiree Jessimy

newsletter



February 21

Please have articles for the March edition of the newsletter into the office by the date above. Emailed articles are preferred.

Highlights from the December meeting



Submitted by
Council Secretary
Desiree Jessimy

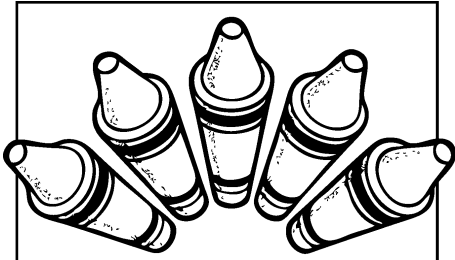
- 119 people attended the Community Thanksgiving Service. The attendees admired the new building and were delighted with the service, and would like to do another soon. Advent also hosted the Interfaith Council Meeting with an attendance of 40.
- New devotional booklets for the visitor bags are being ordered and a new brochure is being designed.
- The General Fund receipts exceeded expenditures by \$746, but still lag behind expenditures for the year. Overall, General Fund expenditures year-to-date were 4% under budget. \$470 was raised for the Arlington Food Assistance Center at the Community Thanksgiving Service.
- Property Minister George Toth reported that the carpet in the Welcome Center was steamed cleaned.
- The average attendance for November was 37.
- The following motions were passed:
 - Approved the credit card use guidelines;
 - Advent commits to sending 9% of regular giving to the Synod (estimated total for 2013 is \$14,745);
 - Portico Benefit Services invoices (pastor's pension and insurance benefits) be paid automatically without waiting for the Finance Minister's prior approval.
- Roxie Jairrels would like to do an adult forum on how to use social media, especially Twitter.
- Susan Maly has expressed interest in reintroducing the Table of Fellowship dinners.

Carole's
Corner



Since I will be under wrap for a while yet, donations for Art for Humanity can be dropped off directly to their office at 635 S. 25th Street in Arlington. Just leave items on the porch.

- *Carole Assante*



Crayon Heart

Make heart-shaped crayons as a reminder that the things of God should be written on our hearts.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- Oven
- Oven mitt
- Heart-shaped silicon mold (available at craft stores)
- Old crayons

What you do:

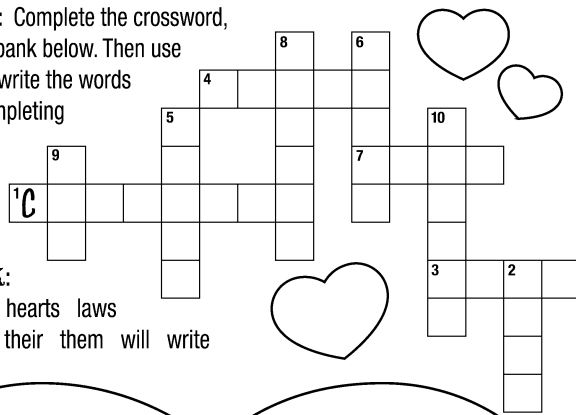
1. Heat oven to 230 degrees.
2. Remove paper wrappers from crayons. (This is easier if you soak crayons in cool water first.)
3. Break crayons into small pieces. Place pieces into heart-shaped mold, filling them about two-thirds full.
4. Bake for 15 minutes or until crayons have completely melted.
5. When the heart-shaped crayons are cool, remove them from the mold.



ON THEIR HEARTS

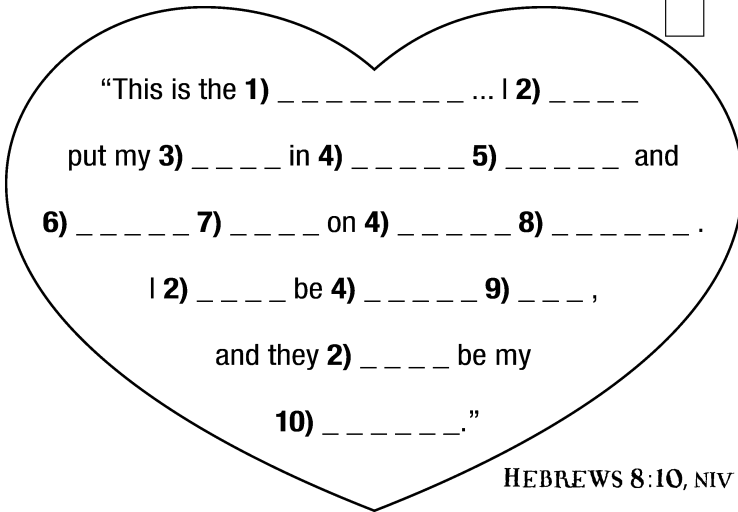
God made a special promise about a relationship he wants to have with people who love him.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the crossword, using the word bank below. Then use the numbers to write the words in the heart, completing God's promise.



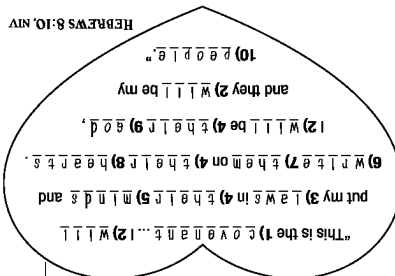
WORD BANK:

covenant God hearts laws
minds people their them will write



HEBREWS 8:10, NIV

HEBREWS 8:10, NIV



Answer: "This is the covenant ... I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." Hebrews 8:10, NIV

Library resources may fuel your change

Have you made a New Year's resolution yet? Perhaps one that you will spend more time in prayer and reflection to strengthen your faith in 2013? If so, the library has some resources that might be useful to you in its Devotions and Meditation section. There are some books of daily readings, for example:

Library Corner

What's on the shelf
in Advent's library

Daily readings from Martin Luther, Coffee Break Devotions, and Every Day With the Savior. There are several on prayer, including the *Lutheran Book of Prayer, Praying the Psalms, and My Prayer Book.* Or a more general book such as Max Lucado's *He Did This Just for You* might appeal to you. Books in the Devotions and Meditation section have blue dots on them. The library is located in the Fellowship Hall next to the north end exit door. Please remember to sign out (and back in upon return) any books you borrow.

Volunteer opportunities

The Arlington Food Assistance Center is in need of volunteers for the following:

- National Day of Service, Saturday, January 19. Five groups of 6-9 people who can help with food drives at local Giant stores from 10 am-4 pm.
 - Bakers to make treats for Empty Bowl event on February 2nd at 2 pm.
 - Sort and bag fresh produce on Saturday mornings from 9-11 am at MAGNET in Cheltenham, Md.
 - Evening cAFACHicken bagging on Wednesday nights at 6:30. This is a drop-in event.
- Email volunteer4afac@afac.org for information and to sign up.

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