

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 14, Issue 07

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

November 2012



Advent Lutheran Church
2222 S. Arlington Ridge Rd
Arlington, VA 22202
703-521-7010
adventlc@hotmail.com
www.adventlc.us

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

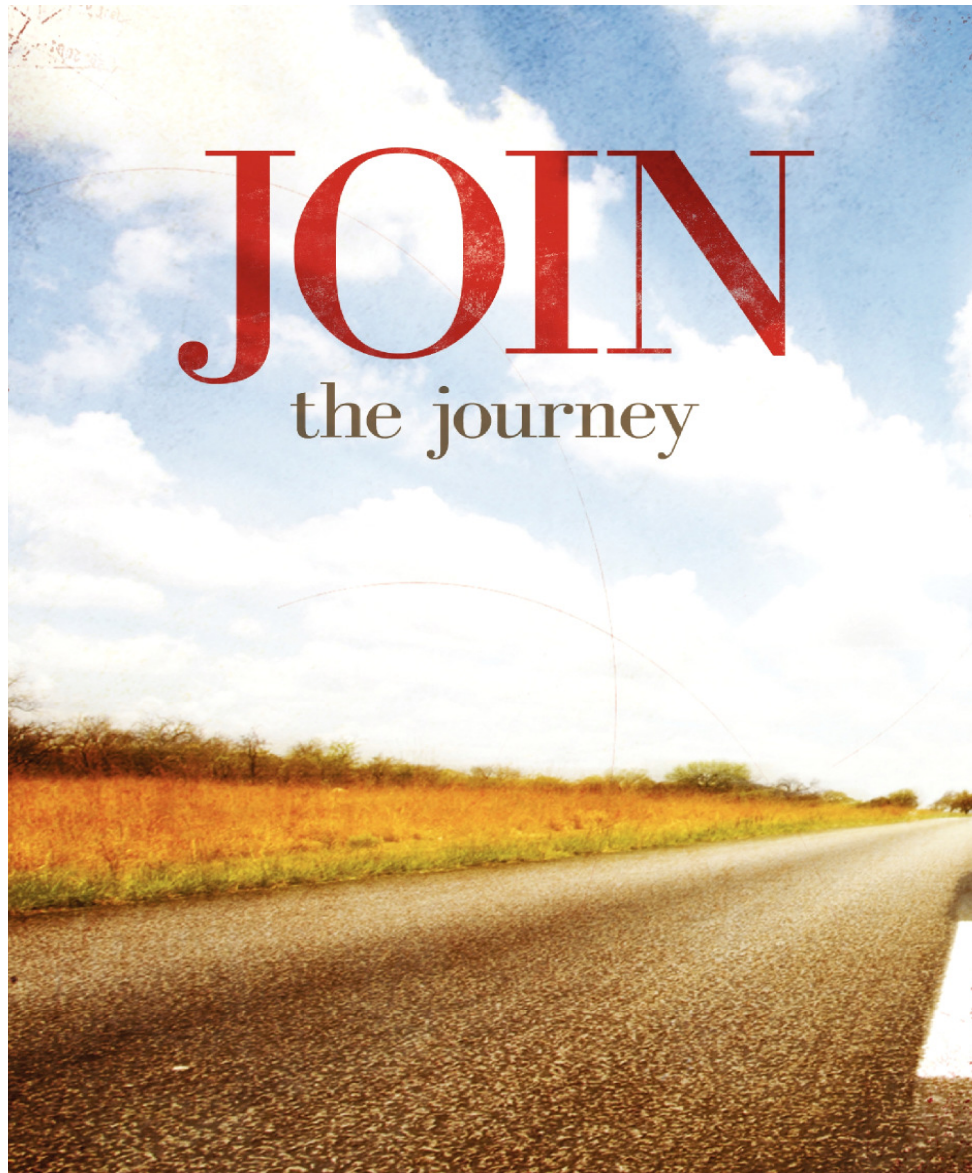
Newsletter Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer



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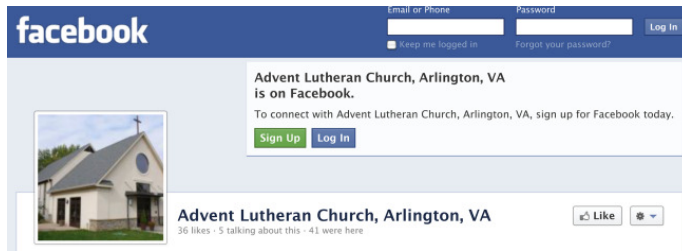
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We're having a lovely fall, and I hope you've been able to get out in it, to walk around and kick the leaves. It was just last fall that we moved into our new building at Advent, and now that we've adjusted to it, the question that we as a congregation must answer is "What's next?" We can ignore it and drift along. The three of us who went to hear a program on church development recognized that we had reached what the speakers

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Facebook "friends"

Advent has a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/adventarlington. You are invited to visit and to add any comments, observations, or announcements. We are all "owners" of this page! Please help keep it current.

Hospitality ministry

Make visitors first priority

As a part of a church with a mission of hospitality, you are invited to live by The Three Minute Rule we learned about from another church. This rule says that following worship we will speak for at least 3 minutes with someone we don't know, or don't know well, before we talk to old friends. Then we can share stories of how keeping this rule works for us.

Sharing our "swag" with visitors

The council would like to update our "visitor bags," the information and goodie bag that we give to our guests. We will be scheduling a brief meeting after worship for anyone with ideas. What "swag" would you like from a church? What would not go straight in the trash?

Flowers for the Sanctuary

Donations of flowers for our worship space are always welcome. You may bring them for any Sunday and place them yourself. If you wish to have a dedication noted in the bulletin, please email it to the church office before noon on Wednesday.

From the Pastor

Making the journey toward change may require new vision

(Continued from page 1)

called a plateau in our congregational life. If we ignore it, don't address it, then the plateau will become a slow slide, imperceptible at first, but becoming irreversible if not intentionally addressed. No!

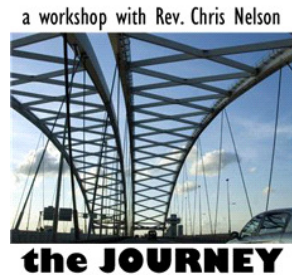
The speakers said that the way to address it is to discern a new vision for the congregation. That takes work and effort and prayer. It's discerned by figuring out what gifts and resources the congregation has been given that will meet a community need. It means being specific and targeted. We were told that if you aim at nothing you hit nothing, and if you aim at everything, you hit almost nothing. We at Advent need people who will commit to working on this, but most importantly we need all of us to pray about it.

You will be hearing more about this, and you will receive invitations to be a part of the process. Please prepare your hearts to respond and your minds to be open to changes that may be uncomfortable. And God go with you.

Love, Pastor Anna

Energetic “Journey” session probed new ways to live out our mission

On October 12 and 13, Pastor Anna, Desiree Jessimy and I attended an introductory meeting of The Journey, a revitalization opportunity provided by the synod for local congregations. The Journey is being led by Pastors Chris Nelson and Mary Peschauer from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. They will teach us what they did to revitalize their own congregation, and then we will adapt that to our context in the Metropolitan Washington DC area. Over the past



“We discussed God’s plan for the church, why people come to church and new ways to live out our mission in the world.”

decade, Bethlehem Lutheran has tripled in size and decreased the median age of the congregation from 54 to 33. Their vision is “Connecting people with God, each other and their mission in the world.” Check out their website for more information about their ministry: www.bethlehem-church.org

There were over a dozen congregations participating and each was represented by a pastor and one or more lay leaders. We discussed God’s plan for the church, why people come to church and new ways to live out our mission in the world. We were very energized by the information shared and believe that this process will help Advent to connect more people to God and to help us live our faith. As someone who was heavily involved in our Mission Transformation process, I view The Journey as a continuation and expansion of that process.

The remaining sessions of The Journey will span a 3-year period and take place each March and October. The cost (\$175/person/session) is being subsidized by the synod and our share could be covered by our Missioning budget. The greater commitment will include involvement of the congregation in discerning how to apply what we learn and making changes to some of the ways we do mission and ministry. I invite you to talk to Pastor Anna, Desiree and me to learn more about The Journey. We presented a summary to council at our October meeting and will vote on whether to continue in the process at our November meeting.

- Debbie Lewis, Council President

Feed on weekly Bible study

Table Talk, our Wednesday Soup and Bible Study program, is beginning. Please come whenever you can at 7 pm for food for the body and soul. We will have a special series for the Season of Advent in December.



Highlights from the October meeting



Submitted by
Council Secretary
Desiree Jessimy

- * Receipts were almost \$15,000 in September, just slightly below budget. Expenditures exceeded receipts by \$891, bringing the General Fund balance down to \$15,588.
- * Landscaping Minister Ingrid Berdahl reported that the landscaping of the rear parking lot was done, but landscaping the strip of land that borders our neighbor's property was postponed pending clarification of the zoning code violation. It was determined that Advent is not required to build a wall. The landscaping of the five-foot strip will be done on Oct. 16, 2012.
- * Average attendance for the month of September was 36.
- * Pastor Anna, Debbie Lewis and Desiree Jessimy each gave a brief presentation on "The Journey"
- * Discussion included: a Capital Campaign; a performance appraisal; a mission team to determine Advent's target community; developing a flier about Advent for inclusion in the Visitor's bags; updating Advent's mission statement; a special series of Bible studies during Advent; and, decorating the church for the season of Advent.

News from the ELCA

New ELCA missionaries in 2012

This year, 118 adults have answered God's call to serve as new ELCA missionaries, a record for recent years! Support is needed for 25 of these new missionaries. Request a list of these 25 at missionarysponsorship@elca.org or make a gift to support them at www.ELCA.org/missionarysponsorship and click Donate Now!

We did it!

Young people across the ELCA set out to raise \$250,000 in 2012 to support the water projects of ELCA World Hunger where they are needed most. We have met and exceeded our goal, thanks to the generosity of youth across the nation.

To date, more than \$500,000 has been re-

ceived in support of this effort. Thank you!

But our work is not over. Keep the energy of 100 Wells Challenge and the ELCA Youth Gathering going with the 100 Wells Tour. See AGAPE*, Rachel Kurtz and Lost And Found in concert as they bring music, inspiration and support for the water projects of ELCA World Hunger to 18 cities across the country.

Mexico: Immersion trip Feb. 15-22, 2013

Explore the connections between your faith and sustainable economics in the southern state of Chiapas, Mexico. For one week you'll live and learn with indigenous families, experience the richness of the local culture and history, and participate in microfinance and sustainability workshops. Read more at www.ELCA.org/mexico.



Game Day brings in almost \$700 for charity

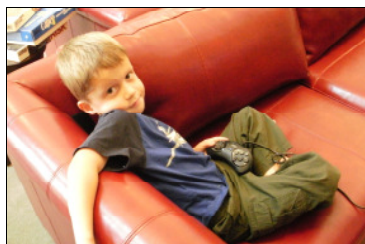
Thanks to the participation of members and neighbors, and the support of area businesses, our first Game Day was a success!

The 12-hour event was part of the Extra-Life Gaming Marathon, a 24-hour national gaming charity that raises funds for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Here at Advent we raised \$681, all of which will benefit the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. Next year we hope to meet our goal of \$1,000.

Arlington area businesses that helped co-sponsor our event were Best Buy, Shoppers, Dunkin' Donuts, Subway, Harris Teeter, Giant, and Starbucks. Also thanks to the Chesapeake Bagel Bakery of Alexandria.
- Roxie Jairrels

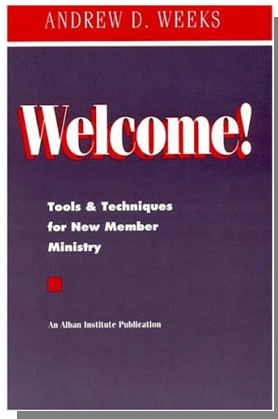


Participants had a variety of games to choose from, including Rock Band, left; Dance, Dance Revolution, below; and a number of board games



There were games to satisfy every interest and every age for a great day of fundraising to help sick children.

Book notes Christ is key to welcoming



Welcome! Tools & Techniques for New Member Ministry
By Andrew D. Weeks

This relatively small volume came from a seminar aimed at clarifying what a welcome to church might be. The subtitle implies that members welcome visitors with the purpose in mind of expecting them to become new members. Some time ago we at Advent explicitly decided that such a goal is not appropriate for us. We are located in an area that sees many people coming for a day, a week, a few months. We have been blessed by the presence of these “temporary visitors” and rejoice to welcome them.

Book Review
Susan Toth

Andrew Weeks writes, speaking to the welcomer: “You are not a salesperson with a ‘pitch’.” He is clear that all welcome is in the name of Christ. And this is the key. With such a perspective the reader would therefore look for what the author says that can help us welcome to God’s house.

The introduction, called DIALOGUE and the section entitled “Newcomers’ Questions” offer food for thought and eventually discussion as we seek to maintain and improve our welcome!

THANK YOU

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! to everyone who helped out with the Pet Blessing, the yard clean-up, the furniture moving, the Game Day, and the Fall Festival. Advent was blessed with a great number of activities in October, all requiring a sustained labor force, and you came through beautifully! What a joy to work with you all. Thank you to Thrivent for their contribution to the expenses.

Thank you to the Audit Team for declaring our books in order for another year. This Team is not visible and meets only once for a few hours, but it is indispensable for good order and accountability and good order. New people are asked to serve each year, and anyone can take a turn.



November

- 7th Nigel Lovell
- 14th Jong Dai
- 22nd Pauline Neff*
- 27th David Falksen

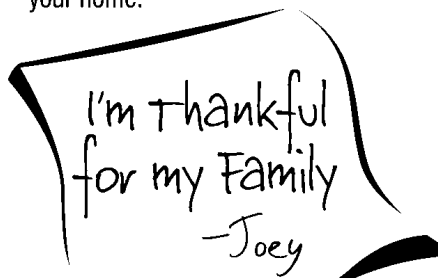
newsletter DEADLINE

November 21st

Articles for the December newsletter must be submitted by date above.

Wall of THANKS

During this season of gratefulness, create a special wall of thanks in your home.



What you need:

- Sticky notes
- Pens or markers
- Poster board (optional)

What you do:

1. Every day in November, have each family member write or draw on a sticky note someone or something they're thankful for. (Try not to repeat ideas.)
2. Display your notes on a wall or on poster board.
3. Read your list every day to remind you about God's many blessings.



Be thankful for everything

When we're faithful, we see that God provides all we need.

Use the list of vowels below to complete the words of Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV.

i a a e u i i o u e a o e o a a i i a o o e
a e o e e i i e a e o o u o e u i E e i a I

"S _ ng _ nd m _ k _ m _ s _ c _ n
y _ _ r h _ _ rt t _ th _ L _ rd,
_ lw _ ys g _ v _ ng th _ nks t _ G _ d
th _ F _ th _ r f _ r _ v _ ryth _ ng,
_ n th _ n _ m _ _ f _ _ r
L _ rd J _ s _ s Chr _ st."



_ ph _ s _ _ ns 5:19-20, N _ V



Answer:
Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV)

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said, 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

Advent's the place to be in November!

In a confluence of calendar rotations, Advent will be hosting the Potomac Conference meeting on November 6 at 9:30 am, the Arlington Interfaith Council on November 19 at 7 pm, and the Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday November 18 at 7 pm. You are invited to attend any or all of these and be a part of Advent's hospitality.

The Potomac Conference of ELCA churches in Arlington and Alexandria is a place to share information about what our sister congregations are doing, get ideas, and pray for each other. The Interfaith Council meets each third Monday and currently lacks a representative from Advent. If this might be your calling, come to the meeting and explore it. As Thanksgiving Service hosts, we will need a number of greeters and ushers as well as refreshment organizers.

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