

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 15, Issue 07

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

November 2013



Advent Lutheran Church
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SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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

Pastor
Rev. Anna Anderson

President
Gerry Fuller

Office Administrator
Nancy Cox Jairrels

Director of Music Ministry
Michael Lewallen

Nursery Attendant
Roxie Jairrels

Newsletter Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer



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As you give thanks
SHARE
God's grace & generosity

The leaves are finally turning and it's beginning to look like fall and I'm turning to thoughts of turkey. I hope you have plans to share the day with those whose company you enjoy. I imagine that you are thinking about what food and drink you will share with them too. Perhaps you are responsible for providing the main ingredients of the feast, or perhaps you are going to bring the pie or the wine. Part of our tradition on this day, stemming from the story of the first Thanksgiving, is the tradition of sharing what we have.

In that spirit, Thanksgiving becomes a time when we are especially mindful of sharing with those who cannot share in kind this year. Sharing may become a difficulty even for those

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Opportunities for Worship & Ministry



Community Thanksgiving Worship

The year's annual worship will be hosted by the LDS (745 23rd St; left hand side as you go down the hill) on Sunday, November 24, at 7 pm. The Advent choir is working on an anthem to present and Pastor Anna will provide a homily on the gospel. Other choirs and pastors will also provide anthems and brief homilies, and a combined choir anthem is anticipated. NEEDS from Advent are: please bring a food pantry item or a check for AFAC for the offering (it will be collected as you go in for worship) and cookies for the fellowship time, if you wish, to share.



Pastor Phil Hirsch

62nd Anniversary Sunday

December 1st, the first Sunday in Advent, is Advent's 62nd anniversary! Pastor Phil Hirsch (Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission) from the Synod office will join us as guest preacher. After worship, he will speak about financial, stewardship, and governance issues that are a part of our congregational "homework" in "the JOURNEY", the Synod's initiative to support congregations.



Fellowship and Service!

December 8 is our Advent tree-trimming fellowship event. Following worship, we will share a finger-food pot luck lunch (bring something if you like!) and put up the Christmas decorations. We also plan to wrap gifts for shelter residents - a list of appropriate gifts you might contribute will come later in the weekly announcements.



Light the way for Christmas!

Festival Christmas Eve worship will begin at 7 pm. You are invited to bring friends and family to this service of carols, candle-light, and Communion. Christmas cookies to share afterwards are always welcome!

Have you read a Good Book lately?

The Bible Challenge offers options if you haven't!

One of the gifts of the Reformation was that the Bible became accessible to all people to read - a truly revolutionary event in the life of the Church. But for most people, reading the Bible, even in their native language, is not as easy as reading a newspaper or a novel. The Bible contains layers and depth of meaning that is sometimes difficult to understand. One of Advent's ministry goals is to provide a framework to encourage and support daily Bible reading.

To achieve that goal, the Bible Reading Challenge team leaders have developed a three-part program which participants can accept totally or in part(s).

Part One

A three-session introduction to Bible reading, led by Pastor Anna, using *Opening the Book of Faith, Lutheran Insights for Bible Study*. Copies of the study book are available at no charge to participants. This seminar will take place during Sunday Forum after the Social Hour on November 3, 10, and 17. The first session was about the different kinds of writing in the Bible, the different translations, and why it is authoritative. Each session is different.

Part Two

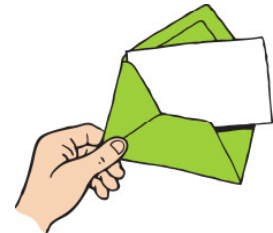
The Bible Reading Challenge itself. Interested participants will jointly choose the format and readings, which may be based on one of the following examples:

- The Story, published by Zondervan, a 31-week program with many resources.
- Two-week segments, based on a theme, e.g. Life and Teachings of Jesus. This and several other significant themes are outlined in *The Study Bible*.
- A 12-month plan including four daily passages: one each from Gospel, History, Prophets, and Psalms

The Challenge will begin during Advent. Reading the same passages according to a shared schedule allows all participants to encourage each other and share thoughts, questions and insight through regular contact by email, a blog, phone calls, and other methods.

Part Three

This will consist of occasional get-togethers that will enhance and expand the reading experience for those participating in the challenge, but will appeal to, and be open to, all. Possible events include Bible study, movie and/or game night, guest speaker, Passover meal, field trip.



**Are we
missing
anyone?**

As a faith community, we are called to care for each other. If you miss seeing someone at worship, you may drop them a line saying "I haven't seen you for a while and hope everything's ok." You may also share your concern with Ismay Lovell and the Inreach Team. They are helping us stay connected with each other.

Add a little hope to your Xmas gift list

It's November and time to begin thinking about Christmas gifts for friends and loved ones. This year save time and energy and avoid the rush and commercialization of the holidays by participating in the Gifts of Hope Program. The 2013 Gifts of Hope Catalog has 39 different gifts, with prices ranging from \$5 to \$250. These gifts support the mission and programs of Lutheran-sponsored area social ministry organizations, camps, college and seminary, as well as Lutheran churches and programs around the word.



During the month of December, visit the Gifts of Hope table in the Welcome Center before or after a worship service to look at the Gifts of Hope Catalog and make your selections. You will receive a lovely Christmas card and an explanation for each purchase that can be given to your friend or relative, while the gift will be forwarded to the organization providing assistance to those in need. Your Gifts of Hope purchases will bring hope to others while you honor those on your gift list.

For more information, contact Advent's Gifts of Hope coordinator, Marilyn Falksen or email the church at adventlc@hotmail.com.

Be mindful of sharing with others

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who have more than they need. For some people, the financial difficulties and uncertainties of the recent months has brought a withdrawal from their spirit of generosity. Fear of scarcity

in the future brings a spirit of hoarding that we can only overcome with prayer for God's Spirit to give us the gift of generosity. In that spirit, we can be examples to others of our trust that God's grace will be sufficient when we need it. The church lives this by understanding that gifts pledged in good times are subject to re-evaluation in bad times.

One of the hardest things for us to do is to

“Fear of scarcity in the future brings a spirit of hoarding . . .”

recognize when we have "enough". Many people put off giving until they have "enough", often that time never seems to quite arrive. Perhaps this Thanksgiving you can discern one of those things you've been putting off giving to and let go of a little in that direction. May it increase your spiritual growth and bring you joy!

Love, Pastor Anna

Highlights from October council meeting



Submitted by
Council Secretary
Marianne Hetzer

* **Motions Passed:**

- To commit to a Mission Support Pledge to the Metro DC Synod in the amount of 9% of regular giving, estimated to be \$15,480.
- To choose the Gold+ Health Benefit Plan, effective October 15.
- To designate Thrivent Choice receipts for ASPAN meal program through the end of 2013.
- To remove Julia Boyd from membership by council action (with her blessing).
- To remove Dan Cramer and David Tan from membership by transfer.
- To approve the use of sanctuary and kitchen by Ethiopian Orthodox Church on Saturday, Oct. 19.

* **Journey Homework:**

- Clarify employee position descriptions and hiring/firing procedures.
- Simplify constitution and bylaws.
- Make pastor aware of members' financial giving habits.
- Action: Request visit with Pastor Phil Hirsch from Synod to facilitate further discussion.

* **Upcoming Events:**

- Forum with Patrick West on October 27.
- Community Thanksgiving Service at LDS.
- Tree Trimming and Gift Wrapping on December 08.

* **Congregational Goals:**

- Stay Connected to All Community Members: Request from President to Team to contact all who did not commit to a goal.
- All Goal Teams: Request from President to contact all who expressed interest and to prepare an article for the next newsletter.



THANK YOU

Spectacular Fall Yard Day!

Thank you to the dozen or so who showed up on a beautiful Saturday morning to help spread mulch, plant bulbs, and get our grounds spruced up. Our grounds are so attractive because of you.

Remember the Saints

Thank you to all who participated in Advent's celebration of the lives of the "saints" in our past by visiting the labyrinth, joining in the Friday evening Litany, providing special music and remembrances during the All Saints' Sunday worship. Thanks to the prayer ministry team for their leadership.

What's going on . . . in the Synod and the community

New video illustrates power of Malaria Campaign

Great malaria interventions happening on the ground in Zambia are shared in a two-minute field report video posted by the ELCA Malaria Campaign at www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mJSli60OTo. Through stories, testimonies and updates, the video shows work of the Lutheran Malaria Program in action, and the gifts of this church make this life-changing work possible. Locally, talk to Dorothy Sorrell (djsorreell1@verizon.net) for ideas about involving your congregation.

New network for local women

The Synodical Women's Organization launched a Facebook presence to connect active women in our congregations. Check out and "like" www.facebook.com/metrodcsw.

Stewardship best practices

"Best Financial Stewardship Practices for Congregations" was recently updated on the synod website. Says the Rev. Phil Hirsch, "Don't let the only time you talk about money in church be when you are asking people to give. Find it under the "For Congrega-

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November

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

December

1st Jessye Jairrels
Katie Tindal
2nd Steve Bennett
11th Chris Stenrud
12th Kenny Tindal
14th Beth Tindal
16th Kevin Lynn
26th Anita Alanko
28th Bobi Herrera
31st Patricia Cassidy



Bible quiz

Paul urged Philemon to welcome back his runaway slave as a brother in the Lord. Name the slave.

- A. Onesimus
- B. Timothy
- C. Aristarchus
- D. Barnabas

Answer: A (See Philemon 1:10.)

What's going on . . . in the Synod and the community

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tions" tab among "Stewardship & Mission" materials at metrodcclca.org/for-congregations/stewardship-mission/

Talks by Synod bishop-emeritus online

Bishop-Emeritus Ted Schneider is following up his recorded summer class at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg with a fall series, "The Blessing of the Abundant Life." Find the recorded audio on the theme of generosity at http://goserive.net/pages/page.asp?page_id=283081.

New museum opens

The Gettysburg Seminary Ridge Museum opened July 1, 2013—150 years to the day after the Battle of Gettysburg began. The museum's main exhibit—*Voices of Duty and Devotion*—occupies three floors and 16,000 square feet of the building and encompasses the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg, the

care of the wounded in the Seminary hospital, and faith and freedom and the civic and spiritual debates that tore religious groups apart and the capacity for reconciliation in the aftermath of the war—*none of which are the focus of any other museum in Gettysburg*:

The Museum is a joint venture of the Adams County Historical Society and the Lutheran Theological Seminary, and will be operated by the Seminary Ridge Historical Preservation Foundation.

The museum also offers a mile-long walking trail, with wayside markers, on the grounds of the Lutheran Theological Seminary campus. Wayside markers will help people understand Seminary Ridge's role in the Battle of Gettysburg, the history and role of Schmucker Hall (the museum building), religious and social contributions of the Seminary, key people – including African American leader Daniel Payne – and more.

For more information, visit the website: www.seminaryridgemuseum.org

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