

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 14, Issue 03

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

May 2012



Advent Lutheran Church
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SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School	9:00 am
Bible Study	9:00 am
Worship Service	10:00 am
Sunday Forum	11:30 am

Pastor

Rev. Anna Anderson

President /Copy Editor

Marianne Hetzer

Office Administrator

Nancy Cox Jairrels

Director of Music Ministry

Michael Lewallen

Nursery Attendant

Roxie Jairrels



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From the Pastor

Planning a **NEWNESS** of purpose & vision

"Behold," says Our Lord Jesus Christ, "I make all things new." And we've certainly seen that going on at Advent with new faces every week, new plants in the garden, new ideas popping up all over.

On June 10 we will again have the opportunity to join Jesus in making Advent "new." We will vote for a new budget, elect a new council, and share our new ideas and vision for ministry in and by Advent. We will do this over a potluck lunch/brunch following worship, so the first thing we'll share is the food we bring. Then we will share our thoughts on ministry as the Holy Spirit gives us guidance. The Bible tells us over and over that none of us has a monopoly on knowing the direction the Spirit is blowing us, and that's why we meet to discern it together. Even the first Church congregational

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Council highlights from April



Submitted by
Council Secretary
Ingrid Berdahl

- * Pastoral activity was heavily focused on worship events related to Lent and Easter.
- * Attendance on Easter was 75.
- * Visitor attendance was high, including young adults and friends/relatives of members.
- * Gerry F. was received as a member by transfer.
- * The Nominating Committee is contacting people about serving in leadership roles.
- * The monthly bagged meal program for ASPAN has been funded by Thrivent for 2012.
- * General Fund disbursements exceeded receipts by \$684 in March, leaving a balance of \$15,926.
- * Disbursement to the Synod was slightly less than budget estimates.
- * Remaining funds in the McKenzie bequest were disbursed to the Landscaping Project.
- * Disbursements from the Building Transformation Fund included \$2,000 for the Landscaping Project and \$300 for a survey of the 5' strip of land along the back parking lot.
- * Greg M., Rensford L. and Ismay L. have been trained as offering counters.
- * Finance Minister Debbie L., requested input for the 2012-13 budget, and the Finance Committee will meet on May 1.
- * Landscaping Minister Ingrid B. reported that 15 people participated in Landscaping/ Property Maintenance Day – cleaning out the shed and accomplishing a great deal of weeding, trimming and edging. Four volunteers have stepped up to help with watering this summer.
- * Two additional groups were approved for building use along with two weddings in June.
- * The trustees signed easement documents giving Arlington County permission to complete sidewalk improvements at the intersection of S. 23rd St and S. Arlington Ridge Road.

Deciding our direction for a new year

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meeting had to elect a replacement for Judas so that there would be an adequate group to interpret and implement the direction for that congregation's ministry. Everyone is invited to that lunch. If you come for the food and fellowship, great! If you would like to add to the discussion, you are most welcome. If you would like to vote, you need to have declared your desire to be intentional about worshipping at Advent, contributing to Advent's ministries as God has gifted you, and living as a Christian. If you have not done that and wish to, please contact me!

If you are reading this, you have made yourself a part of the Advent community, even if just for a few minutes. Welcome! And God's blessings for your journey.

Love, Pastor Anna



An Evening in the Garden

And speaking of "new growth," come out Tuesday, June 5th, to enjoy an evening working in the garden. Starting at 6 pm, we will work to make everything beautiful! This is the first of several gardening evenings that will be spread throughout the summer. Come help trim, weed, mulch and edge!

Rain date is Thursday, June 7th.

2012 Metro D.C. Synod Assembly

Technology, “great things” being done among discussions

By Debbie L.

I enjoyed serving as Advent’s representative at the synod assembly this year. It was fun to catch up with Pastor Jeanne Lowe, Pastor Glen Sea, Pastor Terry Hannon and other friends of Advent. This year’s theme was “Re-Presenting the Faith.” Bishop Richard Graham presided over the synod assembly with grace and humor. He said that “we’re doing some great things, and that’s part of what we’ve come together to talk about.”

The business sessions were very informative. Voting took place on hand held devices and results were posted immediately after a vote. Elections were held for clergy and lay leaders. Several resolutions were passed including support for the Maryland Civil Marriage Protection Act, the Uniting American Families Act and Care and Support for Persons Living with HIV and AIDS. Some resolutions spurred a bit of debate, but none were closely contested.

Reverend Phil Hirsch, the synod’s Director for Evangelical Mission gave a report of changes in the synod. He said that some congregational deaths have given rise to new life. A few congregations have closed and given property and funds to the synod and other congregations to use for ministry.

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Rev. Chris Nelson, left, was keynote speaker and Rev. Jessica Crist, was the ELCA representative.



What’s going on in “our” synod

By Pastor Anderson

Advent is a part of the Metro DC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The reason for the existence of the synod is to enable us to do ministries to which God calls us that we are unable to do all by ourselves. And there are many!

For instance, education resources: By ourselves we can't be aware of best practices and materials for Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and other educational programs of the church. So Advent is helping the synod make those available through a sharing network. On Wednesday May 16 at 10 am Advent will host a gathering for Christian Educators in our Synod to share Sunday School and VBS ideas and material swaps. If you are involved in Christian education or would like to drop by to see us in action, please do!

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What's going on . . . at Advent

Annual Meeting

June 10 is the annual meeting of Advent congregation. It will be held during brunch following the 10 am worship. All who are interested are welcome to attend and share a potluck meal. We will be voting on the budget for the coming year and electing leaders. Advent's "year" runs July - June, so new leaders will take office July 1. They are invited to attend the June 11 council meeting for orientation. If you would like to vote and are unsure if you are eligible, please contact Pastor Anna. There will be kid-friendly activities. Look for a sign-up list for food in the coming weeks.

Advent Together

Thank you to all who made our Lenten devotional time so fruitful this year. The soups were wonderful and well served by our new kitchen. Five people learned and led the singing, and we were even able to add an alto part. We also had spoken prayer leaders, plus the VERY necessary candlelighters and ushers who controlled complex lighting. We look forward to even more participation next year!

Clean-Up Day

Thank you to the people who helped with the clean up of both yard and shed. A lot of weeds and overgrowth disappeared, along with a lot of junk. (Plus we found several items that had gone missing!) And we had a good time serving together. Please be alert for opportunities to assist in the on-going maintenance of the property.

Summer Breaks

Choir season is ending soon. Thank you to Music Director Michael Lewallen and the faithful choir for leading worship music and for musical meditation on the Biblical theme of each Sunday. Choir members continue to learn and grow in their ability to communicate the gospel through song under the Director's instruction. The last Sunday for this season is Holy Trinity, June 3. We look forward to a new start in the fall with a new group as people come and go.

Thanks also to Ingrid Berdahl and her Forum Team for providing a variety of interesting topics and speakers throughout the year to connect our faith to our lives.

The Sunday School year ends May 6. The class has learned many Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments this year under the leadership of Evie Lynn, assisted by Marilyn Falksen. Thanks to both of them, and to the parents who faithfully brought their children.

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May

1st	Ismay L.
10th	Scott H.
13th	Michael L.
18th	David D.
26th	Roxie J.
31st	Will E.

June

3rd	Wendell A. Lucy M.
7th	Ralph L.
10th	Oliver T.
11th	David P.
16th	Grace B.
22nd	Paul H. Mark D.
25th	Melanie M.

**newsletter
DEADLINE**

June 15th

The "Summer" edition
of the newsletter
will be distributed
June 24th.

Please email articles
to the office by the
deadline above.

Topics included young adults, social media

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A balanced budget was passed. Congregational giving to the synod decreased a bit. Overall giving, including World Hunger and Malaria Campaign, increased. 50% of all congregational gifts are given to ELCA. The remainder is used to fund the work of the synod.

Reverend Jessica Crist, Bishop of the ELCA Montana Synod and chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, served as the ELCA Representative. She spoke about working collaboratively with other Lutherans and other Christians. She said that “we’re in this together” and stated that “we are stronger together than we are separately.”

Reverend Chris Nelson, Senior Pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, served as the keynote speaker. He talked about the need for change, particularly in the area of technology. He explained that younger people go to the web not only for information, but for an experience. He also stated that a pastor’s



primary job should be to equip people for ministry. He spoke of a very missional approach to church saying that “the church exists for the benefit of people who aren’t there yet.”

Reverend Amy Sevimli, Assistant to the Bishop, gave a videotaped report talking about congregations in the synod that have had success with young adult ministry. She explained that these congregations have the following characteristics in common: support of the senior pastor, dedicated staff time for the ministry and one-on-one meeting with young adults regarding their concerns and needs.

I also attended a workshop on Social Media where we discussed the use of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube for congregations. I’ll be sharing more information from the workshop and other parts of synod assembly with in the coming weeks.

- Debbie L.

Visit [http:// metrodcelca.org /events/2012-synod- assembly/](http://metrodcelca.org/events/2012-synod-assembly/) for more information and photos.

Synod plans strategy sessions for councils

Members of congregation councils in the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod are invited to attend a synod event to discuss best practices for councils as well as a number of topics many congregations face. A few of them include: planning for change, opportunities for small congregations, what health care reform means for our Church, and Stewardship in 2012.

The event is scheduled for June 9, 2012 at All Saints Lutheran Church, Bowie, MD, beginning at 8:30 am and ending by 2 pm. During lunch, council officers will meet with their counterparts from other congregations to talk about common challenges and possible solutions.

To register, go to: <https://docs.google.com/a/metrodcelca.org/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dE5mQlNIQ3ltQkhrUzJhblA5c18wZXc6MQ> . For more information, contact Pastor Amy Sevimli at asevimli@metrodcelca.org

Speaker offered a recipe for change

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Young adult events are more fun in larger groups, so the Synod website has a Young Adult event page where activities for all young adults in the synod are announced. All of you are invited to visit the Synod website for event and spiritual resources and announcements.



Our Synod recently had an Assembly so that all the congregations could have the opportunity to learn from the Rev. Chris Nelson from Minnesota about growing congregations. He spoke about the difficulty congregations have in moving people from the "community" who attend worship to the "core." Since it is the nature of the "core" in organizations to resist and block change, he spoke of the need for congregations to be willing to change their DNA and to experiment while realizing that experiments often result in failure. He said to view failure as a learning experience and to celebrate it rather than fear it. When it comes to accepting that everything HAS to change, he provided the initials TINA: There Is No Alternative. His recipe is to imagine the preferred future and then determine the steps necessary to get there. Advent will be looking at the direction for ministry in the coming year as we meet and elect new leaders. We can use Pastor Nelson's insight as guidance for that process.

- Pastor Anna

*“Congregations
need to be
willing to change
their DNA and
to experiment.”*

- Rev. Chris Nelson

What's going on . . . at Advent

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Youth news

Our Confirmation student is learning about the content of the Apostles' Creed this spring, and our youth attending the ELCA Gathering this summer has been participating in the team building events with the other youth of our Potomac Conference.

New building already finds ministries

We are already hosting several groups who use our building for their ministry. Some of the support groups who were with us in the past

have returned, plus we are hosting rehearsal space for a nonprofit theatre group that goes to schools and a nonprofit yoga group for stress relief. We also anticipate two weddings in June for couples from our sister Thai congregation.

Harp concert

The Washington Area Folk Harp Society invites you to their 2012 annual benefit concert on Saturday, May 12, at 7:30 pm, at Knox Presbyterian Church in Falls Church, VA. Tickets - adults \$15; students & seniors \$10. More information at www.wafhs.org.

member updates

Nicole C.

Pastor Anna, I was just thinking of you and everyone at Advent on Easter and wishing that I had remembered to send you all an Easter greeting. I was picturing you getting your Alleluias out. I think of you all a lot. Travis and I are doing well. We went to Easter service with my dad in Florida. It was really nice to see him. There were hundreds of people there. They have huge congregations of every denomination in his area. If you are looking to grow a church I guess living in a retirement community of 75,000 people is the place to do it. The lady next to me asked me where I was from and we talked about how many people were there. She said "we're all old down here and worrying about dying so they have no problem getting people in here." :)

Georgia is beautiful this time of year. Everything is blooming, as I am sure it is there too. We need to visit the botanical garden. We are doing some more serious house shopping now as we need to buy something by October when our lease is up. It's exciting. I'm finally working a bit. They are just temporary positions but I have one this week at a substance abuse recovery facility and I'm hoping it might lead to something permanent. We still haven't made it back to DC but hopefully we'll get to visit sometime over the summer.

- Nicole C.

Oliver & Danielle T.

Hi Pastor Anna. We're doing well, though we're ready to be finished... We'll actually be back in Arlington on July 20th, and we hope to be back at Advent starting the 22nd.

- Oliver & Danielle T.



OCTOBER 21, 2012

A day of fun activities for folks of all ages. Look for more information in the coming months, but sign up in the office now if you would like to help plan this fun day!

Need a job?

"Good Stuff," a new restaurant in Crystal City, is looking for youth to hire. Call Harvey Mendelson at 917-573-0602 for more information.



Words of appreciation

Show your love for your mother, grandmother or aunt this Mother's Day by placing words of appreciation throughout the house for her to find.

What you need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Tape

THANKS!

What you do:

1. Fold construction paper into fourths.
2. Cut paper along the folds to get four pieces.
3. On each rectangle, write words of appreciation, drawings and so on.
4. Tape the papers throughout the house. For example, a note on the refrigerator or pantry might say, "Thank you for making yummy meals for me." A note on a mirror might say, "You are beautiful inside and out!"



Worthy of honor

What does God mean when he commands us to honor our fathers and mothers (Exodus 20:12)?

Complete this word search to discover words that mean the same as *honor*.

admire • adore • appreciate • cherish • esteem
look up to • praise • respect • revere • value

E	S	T	E	E	M	U	H	A	L	G	Z
F	K	M	R	Q	E	X	H	P	C	C	I
N	O	L	D	U	Y	S	S	P	R	N	E
I	P	J	L	J	I	R	T	R	M	Y	R
D	X	A	S	R	K	E	J	E	Z	K	O
R	V	O	E	J	P	S	X	C	F	A	D
Z	E	H	U	R	H	P	C	I	C	D	A
V	C	V	A	Q	N	E	Y	A	P	M	G
Q	D	I	E	P	F	C	M	T	Y	I	Z
Z	S	X	C	R	X	T	P	E	N	R	G
E	O	X	U	Y	E	U	A	Y	O	E	H
B	R	E	O	T	P	U	K	O	O	L	Q



MAY - JUNE DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 9:00 Bible Study Sunday School 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	7	8 10:00 Potomac Conference meeting	9 3:00 Confirmation Class NO BIBLE STUDY	10 8:00 Choir	11	12 7:30 Folk Harp Society concert
13 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	14 7:00 Council Meeting	15	16 10:00 Christian Educators meeting	17 8:00 Choir	18	19
20 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	21	22	23 7:00 Bible Study	24 <i>PA @ National Cathedral</i> 8:00 Choir	25	26
27 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	28	29	30 7:00 Bible Study	31 8:00 Choir	June 1	2
3 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Sunday Forum	4	5 6:00 Evening in the Garden	6 4:00 A-SPAN	7	8	9 8:30A Council Strategy Session
10 ANNUAL MTG 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Worship Service 11:30 Potluck Luncheon & Annual Meeting	11 7:00 Council Meeting	12	13	14	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16

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