

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 19, Issue 01

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

February 2017



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
Exploring Faith 11:30 am

Pastor
Rev. Anna Anderson

Council President
Brian Thiel

Office Administrator
Nancy Cox Jairrels

Director of Music Ministry
Michael Lewallen

Newsletter Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer



What's Inside

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the **GOOD NEWS** *is at heart of* *Matthew's* *gospel*

The Gospel according to St. Matthew is my LEAST favorite gospel. And we are spending a whole year meditating



on it because it is the one for this church "year."

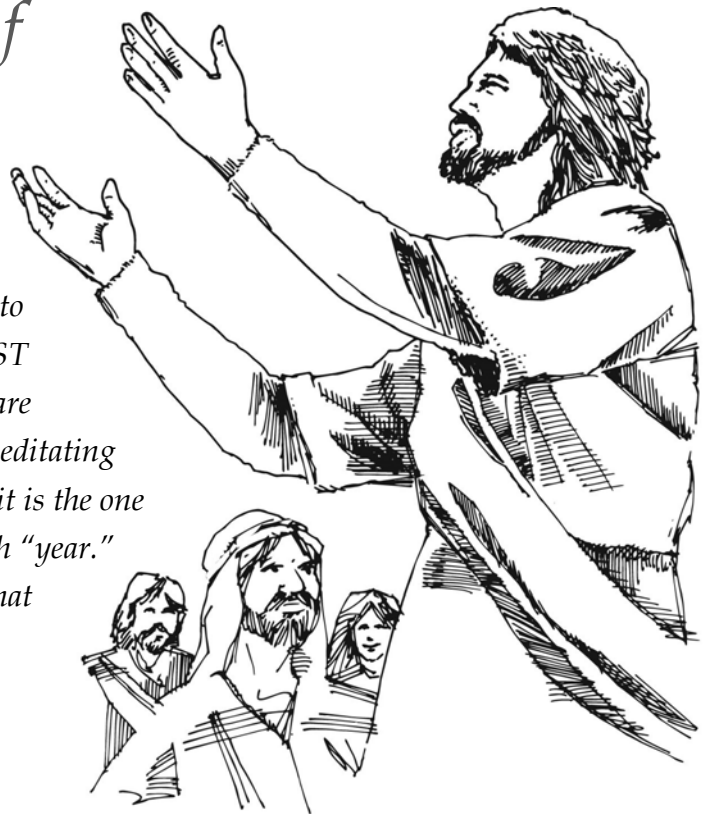
That means that

I have to come to terms with it every week, and I try to wheedle Jesus into not saying what he IS saying. And I always lose.

You can see why it's my least favorite. When I approach it, it feels like a manual on church discipline and a set of standards for discipleship that I don't come anywhere close to meeting.

Oh, it begins innocently enough with laying out Jesus' identity and mission in the genealogy as one who has come to save me and all people and to change the definition of righteousness from boxes to be ticked to loving relationships. I can embrace this going from the letter of the law to the

(Continued on page 3)



Advent

Worship & Ministry News

Opportunities for Worship & Ministry

If Christmas is over, can Lent be far behind? Actually, this year, yes, a bit farther behind than most years, because Easter is “late”. But Lent IS coming, and preparations for observing it at Advent are underway.



Ash Wednesday is March 01. Worship at 7:30 pm with intentional confession, imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion.

Evening Prayer begins March 9. We will gather on Thursdays at 7 pm for a soup supper followed at 7:30 by a service that features Holden’s Evening Prayer. Choir rehearsal will follow for those who can stay and sing. New pastors from our synod will join us as preachers during Lent. Please welcome the Rev. Leila Ortiz (Assistant to Bishop Graham), the Rev. Carmelo Santos (Hope Lutheran, Annandale), the Rev. Eva Steege (Hope Lutheran, Clinton), and, returning the Rev. Greg During (Grace Lutheran, Fort Washington). Our theme this year is “Christian Faith Essentials” as part of the commemoration of 500 years of Reformation.

Holy Week begins April 9 at the 10 am Palm Sunday worship, followed that week with *Maundy (Holy) Thursday* and *Good Friday* worship. All evening worship is at 7:30 pm.

Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service on the labyrinth at 7am and **Festival Easter Eucharist** at 10 am. Your help with worship and with food is needed! There will be sign-up sheets for the Lenten meals and for the sunrise service.

A photograph showing a pair of hands holding an open book, with the pages slightly curved. Below the photo is a decorative border with a repeating pattern. The text "BIBLE STUDY" is written in a large, bold, serif font. Below that, the text "Sunday mornings at 9 am in the Welcome Center. Come meditate on a scripture passage. Drop-in, come when you can, no preparation." is written in a smaller, serif font.

BIBLE STUDY
Sunday mornings at 9 am
in the Welcome Center.
Come meditate on a scripture
passage. Drop-in, come when
you can, no preparation.

Come to the table for a meal, fellowship, and spiritual growth

Gatherings are being organized for Tables of Fellowship, a get-to-know-you-better chance to gather with others from Advent for dinner or brunch. Participants are assigned to random groups of six(ish) for each month - February through May. One household is assigned to be “host” (you may choose not to be a host.) The host arranges an acceptable date and time for the group to get together for a meal, provides the entrée and the blessing, praying for the Advent community. The others in the group bring the sides and dessert. Everyone is invited to participate, no matter your family size or home size. Rides can also be arranged. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center or you may email the office, but please do so by January 29.

Advent

News & Announcements

Get geared up for the big game on Souper Bowl Sunday

We are continuing an Advent tradition of partnering with the Souper Bowl of Caring to collect non-perishable food or donations on football's biggest day - Super Bowl Sunday. This year we will have competing teams: Green (color for Epiphany) and Gold (represents the star of Bethlehem). Players were drafted January 22 but you can still join by signing up on the team roster in the Welcome Center. The team that scores the largest donation will cross the finish line in first place. So sign up and drop your donations in the team basket before or on February 5th. The Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) will receive 100% of all donations.



Matthew's writings call us to greater good

(Continued from page 1)

spirit of the law - I think I can anyway - as proclaimed in the stories of Joseph and the Magi and the escape to Egypt and Jesus' baptism and temptation. But then we come to the Teachings, beginning with what is called the Sermon on the Mount. And I start to feel that this "spirit of the law" thing can be very heavy handed.

But rather than reading his book as an instruction manual, Matthew wants us to hear his "good news" as a cosmic story of good versus evil. This is the story of a massive conflict between Jesus, the supreme agent of God, and the agents of evil: Satan, storms, illness, Herod, Pilate, Romans, religious leaders, and even his disciples when they "think of things from a human viewpoint rather than God's." In the story, Je-

sus loses the battle on the cross, but God is ultimately victorious in raising Jesus. And Matthew writes to a Church that is seeing these same conflicts, to remind them that from the world's standpoint, they will appear to lose too, but that God will ultimately vindicate and save them.

Matthew calls us, the Church today, to be as disciples like Jesus and think the things of God, no matter how badly we seem to be losing to the forces of evil. He writes to give us the saving knowledge that God will vindicate and save us too. His call to greater righteousness is a call to have God's viewpoint in dealing with each other and to desire a relationship with God above all else.

*Enjoy the year of Matthew!
Love, Pastor Anna*



Advent

News & Announcements

Snow removal, job descriptions, growing Advent



Submitted by
Council Secretary
Abe Abraham

October 2016

Council deliberations during the month of October included job descriptions, review of the church's records retention policy, fall work day conducted on October 22nd, and review and finalization of Advent's Landscaping contract with a new provision for snow coverage.

November 2016

In November, the Council focused on preparing for the joint Thanksgiving Service held at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in which all five 23th Street churches participated.

December 2016

During devotions and the spiritual exercises we shared timely gospel messages to encourage each other on our Christian walk. What do we do when unexpected things happen - demanding that we stop and re-orient ourselves, accepting those things we cannot change and changing those that we can? We read from Ecclesiastes where we were admonished that there is time for everything under the sun - a time to kill and a time to heal ... what has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done. The lesson? To know that all things shall come to pass and not to be too overwhelmed by events of the season.

Council examined what our community had accomplished during the year - things done right in terms of the church's ministry as a way of looking forward and attracting more people. The discussions generated ideas for growing membership, including the creation of a forum via social media, i.e. Facebook, etc. The recurring theme for growing membership centered on involving others. To facilitate that, the Council agreed to actively encourage our guests to complete visitor cards which can then be used for follow up.

Pastor Anna put out a teaser for New Year's Day celebration. Invite everyone to bring written resolutions and drop them into a designated basket. Each participant then draws from the basket for the mysterious and exciting: someone else's resolution on New Year's Day.

Having worked on job descriptions for several months, a motion passed to approve and accept job descriptions for the Pastor, Office Administrator, and Director of Music. Motion also passed for the acceptance of the Annual Church Financial Audit done in October.

Treasurer's December report noted that total assets increased by \$2,714 and receipts exceeded expenditures by \$812. Our Synod and Lutheran Social Services (LSS) benevolences were submitted at the budgeted percentages of (9.9%) of regular giving receipts, slightly above budget.

Organ is starting to show its age

*Parts harder to find for
26-year-old instrument;
replacement - \$50,000*

Our organ was purchased in 1991 from R. A. Daffer Church Organs, Inc., a local company that also maintains it for us. They have informed us that the “life-expectancy” of the instrument is approximately five years. Of course it could be either less or more, but our service technician has told us that he is having increasing difficulty finding parts for repairs.

Last year an organ fund was established with an initial \$1,000 that came from Thrivent Choice Dollars. As of December 31, the fund totaled \$2,300. The church council has decided to begin a fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$50,000 within five years. There will be a series of appeals and fundraising events during that time.

Soon I will begin researching our options for a new instrument. I will be looking for a digital organ with similar size and capabilities as our current electronic instrument. I will begin with Daffer, since we have had such a good relationship with them over the years, and will research other options as well.

Please contribute as you can towards our future instrument!

- Michael Lewallen



**Thrivent members
must designate
Choice Dollars
by March 31**

March 31st is the deadline for Thrivent members to designate charitable organizations to receive their eligible Thrivent Choice dollars. If you wish to designate Advent as your charity, access your account at www.thrivent.com or call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836. Advent's ID number is 15426. If you have any questions, please contact your Thrivent agent or Debbie Lewis.

- Debbie Lewis

'Tis the holidays at Advent

Advent had a lovely Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Thanks to all who planned and prepared Thanksgiving dinner at the church, those who made the building so beautiful, the musicians, Michael, the choir, and our string trio which played carols for us on Christmas and New Year's. Thank you also to the Juhls for opening their lovely home for a congregation-wide Christmas party and including everyone with intentional invitations. Thank you to the faithful sign changers and to those who helped put everything away. And thanks so much for all the greetings, cards, and joy you gave me, and for the congregational gift. "You know me so well!"

- Pastor Anna



Holiday Fellowship!

The holiday season offered multiple chances for fellowship, such as the Thanksgiving meal, above; singing carols after Christmas Day service, left; a party for the congregation at the home of the Juhls, bottom left; and, making floral arrangements like the one below.



Advent

News & Announcements

Can you help Advent increase its digital footprint on social media?

Are you a creative, social media-savvy person? We would like to brainstorm about our presence in the digital space. Think Facebook (Advent already has a Facebook page), Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Skype, blogs, live streaming. How can we best use these tools to reach out to others in our community? Are you experienced with any/all of this? We need you! If you are interested, send an e-mail to adventlc@hotmail.com. Here are a couple of links to help you get started thinking about all this:

<https://prochurchtools.com/ultimate-social-media-strategy/>

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2014/06/accessing-church-social-media/>

- Ingrid Berdahl

Library Corner What's on the shelf



There's good books and the Good Book

A cold wintry day ahead? Consider snuggling up with a book from Advent's Library (located in the Fellowship Room bookcases). Options include Rob Bell books, meditations, fiction, non-fiction (study of Christian and other faiths) - even CDs to listen to when your eyes are tired. - Ellie Holsopple

Applying Luther's teachings to today's contemporary issues

"What Would Luther Do Today?" presented by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is a free, online class (free access ends January 30; modest fee afterwards). The class is a series of video lectures, quizzes and discussions helping students learn more about Luther and make relevant connections that can lead to transformation. Registration includes 24/7 access for 2 weeks to all video lectures, downloads and course content. Learn more at <https://ltsp.edu/what-would-luther-do-today-free-online-course/>

"Jesus is asking the Church to pay more attention to the issues of poverty, climate change, human rights, and ecumenism – and Martin Luther offers a profound message to us in this regard."

- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton



JANUARY

3rd Rosalie Juhl
6th Warren Hageman
Debbie Lewis
7th Nicole Creighton
Yohannes Abraham
10th Iris Jessimy
13th Colleen Zellmer
15th Kathryn Juhl
20th Ingrid Palmquist
26th Virginia Wilson

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

5th Naomi Jean Maly
7th Anna Anderson
12th Gabriel Herrera
16th Lynn Juhl
22nd Shane Gainer

APRIL

9th Carole Assante
11th Marilyn Falksen
Azzi Abraham
25th Aune Pellinen
27th John Matzner
28th Sara Ellen Swatt
30th Travis Halik

ANSWERS TO PUZZLE, page 8

giant relevant
recant stimulant
servant

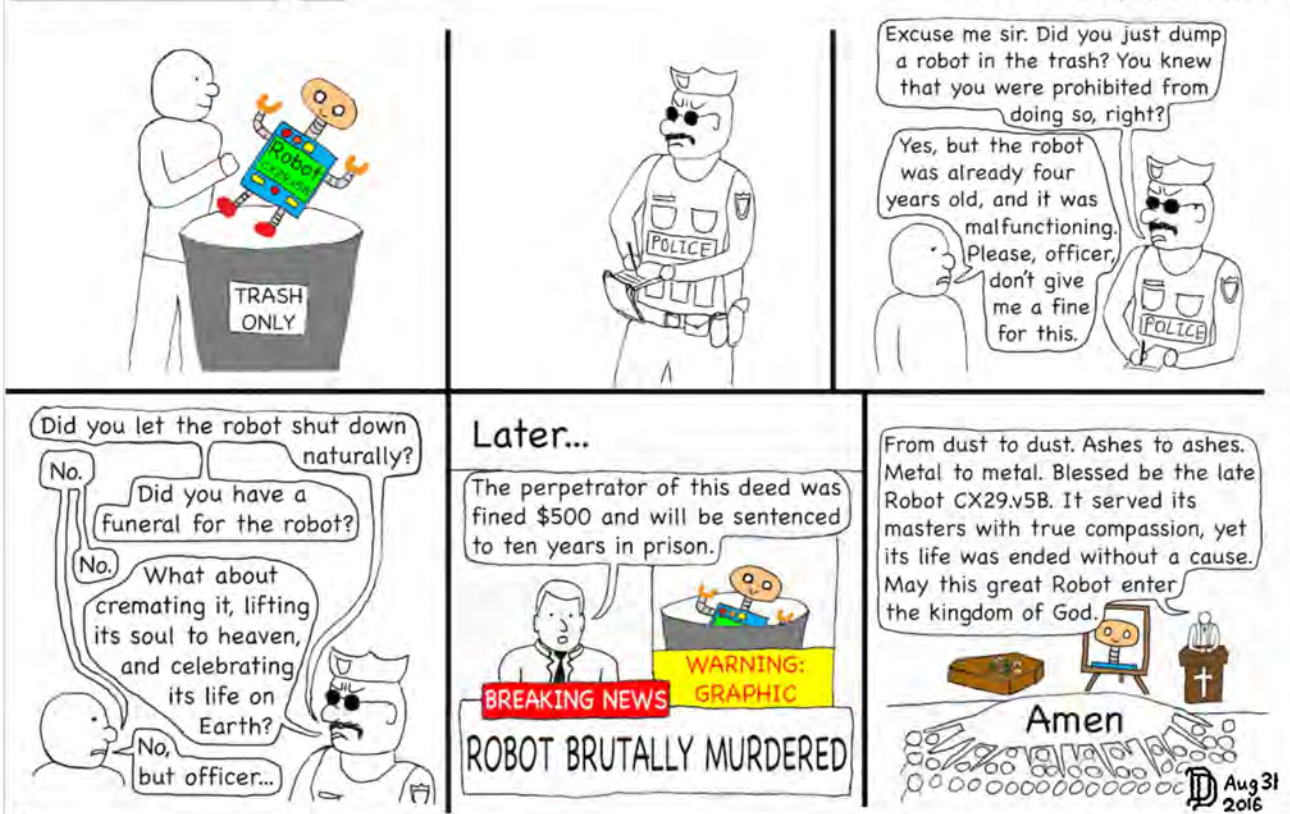
Advent

Youth News

The Future

By David Day

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Puzzle!

Are you getting "antsy" for spring?
Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces to complete these words that end in A-N-T

	A	N	T				
		A	N	T			
			A	N	T		
				A	N	T	
					A	N	T

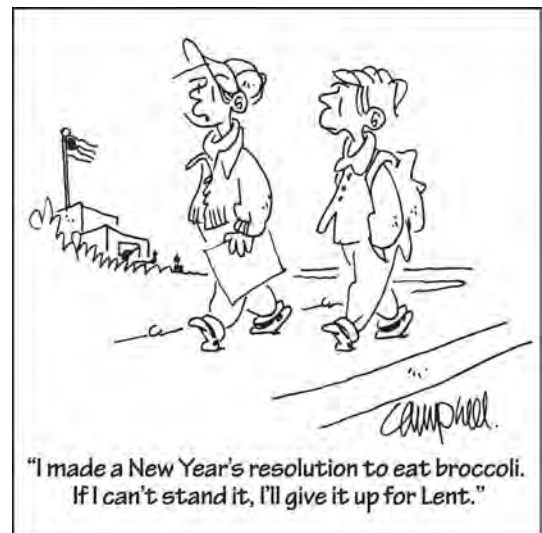
CLUES (from top row to bottom row):
 ▼ An 8-foot man would be one
 ▼ To take back one's testimony
 ▼ Opposite of a master
 ▼ Pertaining to, germane
 ▼ A drug that heightens the senses



June 27 - July 1, 2018
Houston, Texas

Theme: "This Changes Everything"
based on Ephesians 2:8

Our own David Day will be eligible to join 30,000 high school youth for a week spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship.



Advent

Kids Page

Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
6. Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!



The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below.

Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

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

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

What's happening . . . in the Synod

Music in the Parish

Saturday, March 18, 9 am - 4 pm
St. Luke Lutheran, Silver Spring, MD

A workshop offered with clinician Anthony Leach. Learn more at www.saintluke.us

Crossing the Color and Culture Divide

Wednesday, April 25, 9 am - 3 pm
Mar-Lu-Ridge camp, Jefferson, MD

"Crossing the Color and Culture Divide: Journeying Toward Personal and Communal Justice" is an entry in Spring 2017 Mountain Topics. The Rev. Ginny Price will present. Cost is

\$30, includes lunch. RSVP required by contacting mlr@mar-lul-ridge.org or 800-238-9974.

2017 National Workshop for Christian Unity

Monday - Thursday, May 1 - 4
Minneapolis Hilton Hotel

Ecumenists from across the U.S. will gather to reflect on themes of reformation. A primary focus will be commemorating the 500th anniversary of the transformational events that initiated a series of reforms and tragic tensions among Christians in western Europe. The Lutheran Ecumenical & Interreligious Network will have its annual meeting during the workshop. More at <http://nwcu.org/>



Advent celebrated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 22. This week falls between the celebrations of the Confession of St. Peter and the Conversion of St. Paul. This year, the World Council of Churches has chosen the theme of Reconciliation in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We joined all Christians around the world in Jesus' prayer that his disciples may all be one in him. Advent contributed to incarnating this prayer by having Father Avella, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, preach the sermon.

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