

# THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 14, Issue 08

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

December 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



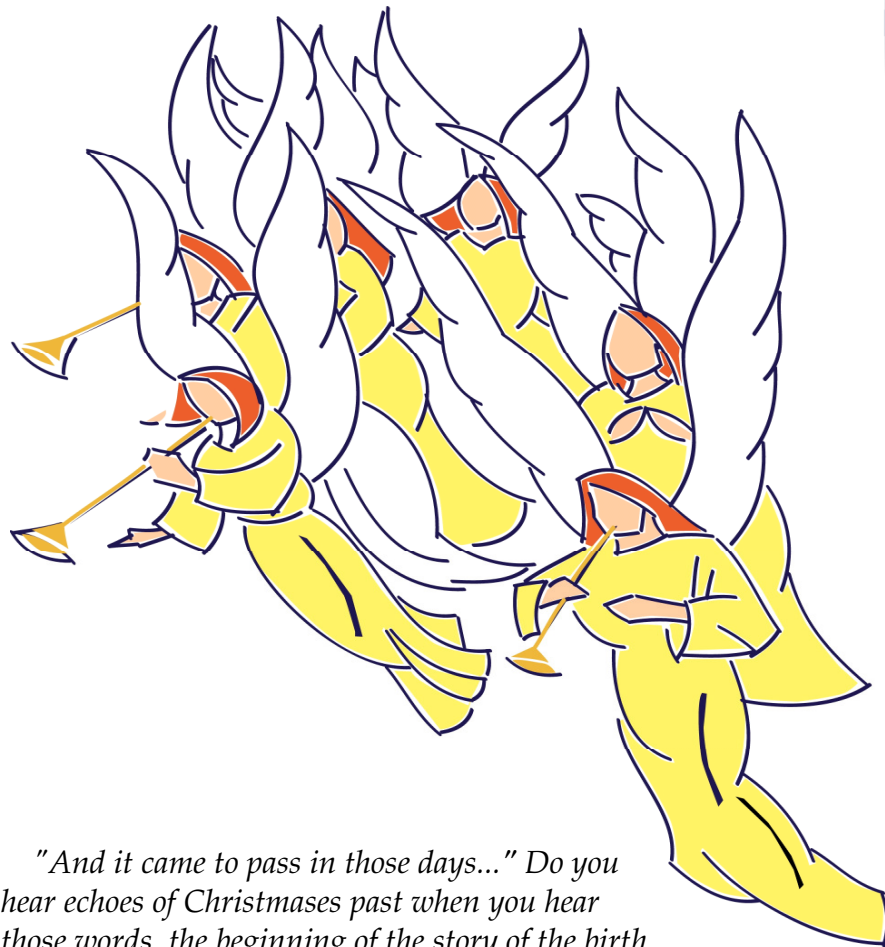
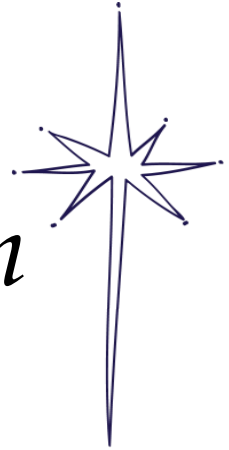
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From the Pastor

## Join the angels to sing in God's reign



*"And it came to pass in those days..." Do you hear echoes of Christmases past when you hear those words, the beginning of the story of the birth of Jesus that's read every year on Christmas? The birth story from the gospel of Luke is where we get most of our Nativity pictures from and is the source of some of the songs we still use to worship 2,000 years after they were written. Luke tells us of the birth of John the Baptist and records the song his father Zechariah sang at his birth, a song of praise to God and one of prophecy about what this child would do as one who prepares the*

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Worship Opportunities

### ***Bible Study***

Wednesdays at 7 pm during Advent will feature special prayer and Bible study related to Luke's Christmas themes.



### ***Christmas Eve***

Candlelight, carol, and communion worship at 7 pm. We will share Christmas cookies and joy following worship.



### ***Epiphany***

January 6, the end of the Christmas season, celebrates the arrival of the Magi at the crèche to honor the Christ Child. We will celebrate with a Three Kings party following worship. Bring your favorite Christmas CD's and enjoy a potluck lunch with King Cake.



## Songs of the Season

*(Continued from page 1)*

way for Christ. We will sing it on December 9 when we meditate on the life and work of John the Baptist.

The next song Luke records is Mary's song called the Magnificat because it begins "My soul magnifies the Lord." Mary sings this when she visits Elizabeth her cousin, who is pregnant with John the Baptist. Elizabeth ratifies the angel's announcement to Mary that she will bear God's Son. We will sing it with her throughout the Christmas cycle at the end of Communion.

Then Luke brings us the angels' song to the shepherds: Glory to God in the highest! We will sing it in various forms and settings at the Christmas worship services.

The final song in Luke is sung by Simeon when he and Anna, who have been waiting in the Temple to see God's promised salvation, are finally rewarded when Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple when he is six weeks old (Feb. 2). We will hear about his temple visit then and when he was twelve on Dec. 30, and sing Simeon's song in February.

This year we also celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany on a Sunday, which commemorates that other Christmas scene, the Star and the Magi, and because we have the opportunity to do that this year, we will sing parts of their song as offertory during the Advent and Christmas seasons, culminating in the whole thing on January 6. Matthew's Gospel brings us this story.

One theologian has called this feast of hymns in Luke that celebrate the coming of God's kingdom "Singing in the Reign." May our voices join with those of the saints of old in doing just that.

A blessed Christmas to you all! Love, Pastor Anna

## Campaign to reduce mortgage debt slated

We will be conducting a capital campaign from December 9th through January 27th. All funds raised will be used to pay down the mortgage and refinance the remaining balance. We borrowed approximately \$150,000 from the Mission Investment Fund to finance our building transformation. The mortgage is a 20 year loan with the option to refinance if we make a large prepayment. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 which would lower our monthly loan payment by over \$300 and allow us to increase the budget for ministry and mission.

Members and friends of Advent are invited to participate by noting “capital campaign” on your check or offering envelope. We can also accept donations of stocks, bonds or other investments. The campaign will last through January so that contributors have the option to donate in either 2012 or 2013. All contributions are 100% tax deductible. Watch our progress on the capital campaign “thermometer” in the narthex! If you have any questions, please see Finance Minister Rensford Lovell or me.

- Debbie Lewis, Council President



### *Fall Festival Fun!*

Highlights of our first fall gathering was pumpkin carving, face painting and a chili cook-off. Marianne’s chocolate/cinnamon chili recipe was voted the crowd favorite and David carved his very first pumpkin. Thanks to Evie Lynn for organizing the fun event!





## *Gifts of Hope*

Shop, Receive & Give

Would you like to give a unique gift to a friend or relative this Christmas? Would you also like your purchase to benefit those in need? You can do both by purchasing a Gift of Hope. The 2012 Gifts of Hope Catalog has 39 different gifts, with prices ranging from \$5 to \$250. These gifts support the mission and programs of area Lutheran social ministry organizations, camps, college and seminary, as well as Lutheran churches and programs abroad.

During the month of December, visit the Gifts of Hope table in the Advent 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 Gifts of Hope Coordinator Marilyn Falksen, or email the church at [adventlc@hotmail.com](mailto:adventlc@hotmail.com).

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## Volunteer opportunities for the Christmas holidays

### ***Holiday Dinner for the Homeless***

Help the Arlington Interfaith Council with their 8th annual dinner on Christmas Day at Central United Methodist Church (4201 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, 22203) from 2-4 pm. Volunteers are needed to set up, prepare food, serve and clean up. You can also make a donation of food or items. Needed are: hats, socks, scarves, gloves and \$5 McDonald gift certificates.

Food needed: hams, canned sweet potatoes, instant potatoes (large boxes), jelled cranberry sauce, gravy mix, stuffing mix, pumpkin/apple/pecan pies, coffee, sodas, and plates, cups and utensils. Monetary contributions can be made to Arlington Interfaith Council, PO Box 5161, Arlington, VA 22205.

Help with Christmas dinner for the homeless

on Christmas Day from 2-4 pm. Contact Ann Rudd at 703-536-8270 or [ARUDD100@gmail.com](mailto:ARUDD100@gmail.com) to volunteer. All are welcome to bring

Christmas gifts of hats, socks, scarves, gloves, or \$5 McDonald certificates to the collection box at Advent. For more information, call or email Ann Rudd (703-536-8270; [arudd100@gmail.com](mailto:arudd100@gmail.com)).



### ***Volunteer Arlington***

The organization is always looking for helping hands to assist on a one-time basis or an ongoing commitment. Volunteer as an individual or put together a group from Advent. Some help with serving meals is still needed, and there are many other places your skills and interests can meet the need of the community. For more information, visit [www.arlingtonva.us/volunteer](http://www.arlingtonva.us/volunteer).

## Highlights from the November meeting



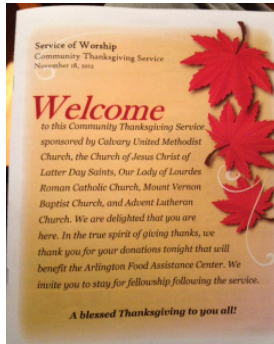
Submitted by  
Council Secretary  
Desiree Jessimy

- During November, Pastor Anna attended a number of Synod-wide events that included the installation of two pastors and the Bishop's Convocation in Williamsburg. She also hosted the Potomac Conference monthly meeting.
- Roxie Jairrels reported that the Game Day event was successful and exceeded her expectations in both participation and donations. The event raised \$681.00. Roxie hopes to make it an annual event, maybe even a bi-annual event.
- Financial Secretary Paul Hetzer reported that there was no building user income for the month of October, and miscellaneous income of \$394 was received for Game Day.
- Treasurer Ellie Holsopple reported that receipts were almost \$3,000 below the average per month in the first quarter. About 40% of the Missioning/Outreach budget, 86% of the Building Maintenance budget, and 53% of the Landscaping Maintenance budget have been spent. Overall, General Budget expenditures year-to-date were 3% under budget but exceeded receipts.
- The average attendance for October was 36.
- The Audit Committee submitted its report and recommended a two-person control over and chain of custody for the Sunday collection plate, which Debbie Lewis has already established. Paul Hetzer will train the new and current counters to make sure there is consistency.
- A motion was made and passed that Advent participate in "the Journey." Linda Vilardo and Desiree Jessimy, along with Pastor Anna, are willing to represent Advent.
- Advent will have a decorating party with a potluck (finger food) lunch after worship on December 16. Coordinator is Desiree Jessimy.
- For Epiphany, Advent will have an un-decorating party with a King's cake and festive music on January 06.

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### *Serving our Neighbors*

Make sandwiches for the homeless at Advent December 5 and January 2 at 4 pm

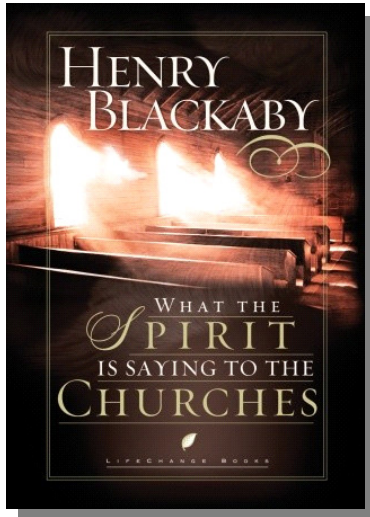


## More than 100 joined in annual service of thanksgiving

Many thanks to all who helped host the Community Thanksgiving Worship. The music was so wonderful that another such service soon is being considered. Almost \$500 was received for AFAC food pantry along with large donations of food. Our guests were so delighted with our new space that they didn't want to leave!



## A little book about a small church's big miracle



### Library Corner

What's on the shelf  
in Advent's library

One of the smallest books in our library is about a very small but mighty church in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. In 1970, the church appeared to be dying, but the few people hanging on to keep it alive decided through prayer that God wanted them to try one more time. Written by Henry Blackaby, their pastor from 1970-82, this book is a brief story about that small church and its search for God's will and their mission. It is "an account of what happened when the people of this church heard what the Spirit was saying to them and obeyed. They saw God accomplish things that could be explained only in terms of His divine presence and activity." Blackaby believes the churches where God's will is done on earth are those that have learned to "hear" God and that when we hear God's call and respond appropriately, there will be no limit to what God can and will do through us. Lest this article become longer than the book, I'll stop here and suggest you read it for yourself.

Please remember to sign out any book you borrow so others can know when a book is circulating and is not on the shelf, and sign the book back in when it returns.

- Ellie Holsopple

Have a ministry or passion you'd like to share? We'll listen!

Advent is always eager to welcome members and community speakers who would like to lift up and share their personal ministries with us. Last month we were blessed to hear and see Patrick West's ministry in South Africa. If anyone would like to share their experience or expertise, or like to suggest someone from the community, please tell Pastor Anna so that it can be scheduled.

### News from the Synod

## “Going away” party for annual event

Come hear Brian McLaren, nationally recognized church innovator, in a special, final Together In Mission talk on Saturday, January 12, 2013.

"Brian McLaren has practical experience building a new kind of Christian community from scratch," says Bishop Graham. "He is somebody who really is evangelical and catholic... and funny."

TIM: Jan. 12, 10:00  
am-2:00 pm @ King of  
Kings in Fairfax; \$45

TIM has been an annual synod-wide opportunity for congregation learning and networking. But as we move from 2012, a year of "Re-presenting the Faith," into 2013, a year of "Praying, Discerning, Renewing," some of the ways we do things together are changing. Rescheduled after icy road conditions in 2012, the 2013 Together in Mission event will be the final one.

*Letters and news from afar . . .*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What a joy it was to worship with you when we visited in September. And what a joy to see the renovated building. It is beautiful and the welcoming center is especially warm and inviting. Even with all the changes, we felt we were “home” again! Advent still has a big chunk of our hearts!

You are all doing a wonderful job in keeping Advent’s light shining and we are proud to have been part of Advent’s family.

Keep up the good work!

- *Love, Pauline and Merlin Neff*



*It's a girl!*

Kevin and Nicole (Anselona) Creighton have a new baby girl -- Charlotte -- born in Atlanta. They are anticipating moving into a new home there. Please pray that God will bless this new family.



*December*

- 1st Jessye Jairrels  
Katie Tindal
- 10th Andrew Lund
- 12th Kenny Tindal
- 14th Beth Tindal
- 16th Kevin Lynn
- 26th Anita Alanko
- 28th Bobi Herrera
- 31st Patricia Cassidy

*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

newsletter



**January 03**

Please have articles for the January/February newsletter to the office by the date above.



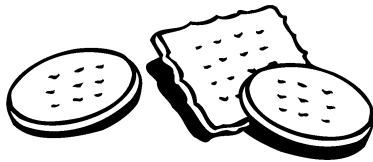


# Spread a little cheer

This holiday season, "spread" some cheer by giving a yummy treat that can be spread on crackers, bread or apple slices.

**What you need:**

- ½ cup chopped, crushed candied pecans
- ½ cup chopped fresh basil
- ½ cup chopped dried cranberries
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- 8 oz. goat cheese log
- Decorative plastic wrap



**What you do:**

1. Combine the first four ingredients on a flat surface.
2. Roll the cheese log firmly in the nut mixture, coating all surfaces.
3. Wrap the log and give it, along with a box of party crackers, to neighbors, teachers and so on.



# cheerful giver

Jesus came to serve and give to others. This Christmas season, consider how you can follow Jesus' example by giving your time, love and kindness.

**Directions:** Cross out every *my*, *me* and *mine*. Then write the remaining words on the blanks below to read 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV.



myeachmineofyoumeshouldmygiveminemewhat  
youminemehavemineminemydecidedmeinmy  
myyourmineheartmemyminetomygiveminenot  
minereluctantlymeormyunderminemycompulsion  
minemymeforminemyGodminemymylovesmy  
meamyminecheerfulmymegivermineCorinthians

“ \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_”  
2 \_\_\_\_\_ 9:7, NIV

Answer: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV

# **ADVENT**

News & Announcements



## ***Deck the Halls!***

Come to worship on December 16th and stay after for a finger food lunch while we decorate the church for Christmas. You are invited to bring a simple food item to share, or just bring your long arms and good eyes.

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