

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 18, Issue 01

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

February 2016



Advent Lutheran Church
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SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Bible Study 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 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



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1,000,000

YEARS OF SERVICE AND WE ARE STILL GOING

Dear Advent,

Congratulations on your 1000000th anniversary! (That's 64 in base 2 notation.) Our ministries lift up a lot of the witness that we have made locally in the past "million" years, most of which are regularly lifted up in bulletins and other announcements, but I want to highlight the difference you make in the larger Church, things you may not be aware that you are doing.

1ST

First, on the Synod level: Advent Congregation belongs to a group of 10 churches in Arlington, Alexandria, South Alexandria in Fairfax, and Falls Church called the Potomac Conference. I serve as the

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2ND

Second, our Synod is one of 65 Synods in the US that make up the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America led by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and headquartered in Chicago. It is a part of the Lu-

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3RD

Third, speaking of ecumenicism, you support my work as a chaplain once a month at the National Cathedral. As such, I am on the roster as a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington DC. I also

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Advent

News & Announcements



Services for your Lenten journey

February 10 — Ash Wednesday
Worship at 7:30 pm with intentional confession, imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion

February 18 - March 17 — Soup Supper and Evening prayer
With Lenten meditation

March 20 — Palm Sunday
Worship at 10 am; procession with palms and the St. Luke passion.

March 24 — Maundy (Holy) Thursday
Worship at 7:30 pm ends Lent

March 25 — Good Friday
7:30 pm meditation on the Passion according to St. John.

During Lent we gather for a meal and Evening Prayer Worship. Come for a bowl of soup at 7 pm, and worship at 7:30 pm with a meditation from a different pastor each week. The topic for the meditations is *Signs from John's Gospel* (sometimes called "The Book of Signs").

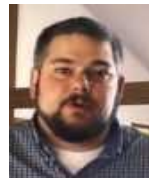
The Sign of the Pool - February 18
Pastor Mark Gaskill of Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church, Waldorf

The Sign of the Ruler's Son - February 25
Pastor Anna

The Sign of Life Restored - March 03
Pastor Craig Endicott of Peace Lutheran Church, Waldorf

The Sign of Walking on Water - March 10
Pastor Kate Davidson of Hope Lutheran Church, Clinton

The Sign of Seeing - March 17
Pastor Greg Durig of Grace Lutheran Church, Fort Washington



Gaskill



Endicott



Davidson



During



Celebrate football's biggest day by donating soup or non-perishable food for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Bring your contributions to the Welcome Center by Super Bowl Sunday on February 07. For more information visit www.souperbowl.org.

Our ongoing mission unites us with Christians of all time

First

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Dean of this Conference and so am available as a resource to the pastors of these churches, convene their monthly meetings, and serve as a conduit between them and the Bishop. I attend meetings at the Synod office in DC once a month. I install new pastors in congregations of our Conference. January 24 I will attend the retirement celebration of Pastor Erickson at Faith. Desiree Jessimy from Advent represents the whole Potomac Conference on the Synod Council. The Metro DC Synod, of which Advent is a part, is composed of about 75 congregations in DC, Montgomery and PG Counties in MD and Fairfax, Prince William, Loudon, Arlington Counties plus Alexandria and Falls Church cities in VA. Bishop Graham leads our Synod. Through the Synod Advent supports Lutheran Social Services, mission initiatives, camps and seminaries. It also organizes the Gifts of Hope program that Marilyn Falksen and Sarah Wickre coordinated at Advent this year.

In a very real way, the church, the continuing mission of Jesus in the world, is only local in the sense that it only happens when it touches individual lives, but we are also the church together with Christians of every time and every place.

And so, again, congratulation on your anniversary, and thank you for the ministry you continue to do in this place.

I am proud to be a part of it.

Love, Pastor Anna

Second

(Continued from page 1)

theran World Federation and supports Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and other social ministry organizations. Through the ELCA you also work on ecumenical and interfaith initiatives and understandings.

Third

(Continued from page 1)

participate in LARCUM (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Methodist) events and conferences on your behalf to witness to the Scriptural teaching that we all have "one Lord, one faith, one baptism". You all also work with events of the Churches of 23rd St. consortium.

THANK YOU, *Thank You*

. . . to all of you at Advent for the lovely Christmas gift! I am still enjoying the chocolate - there is more of it than even I can consume in a month. I will look for something special to use in ministry for the rest of the gift.

What's going on . . . at Advent

1,000,000th Anniversary Gift

For Advent's 1000000th (base 2) anniversary, Georges and Susan Toth presented the congregation with a reproduction of an illuminated manuscript Bible (written in medieval Latin), and Gerry Fuller fashioned a glass topped stand for it. Each week the pages are turned to one of the readings for that Sunday so that we can enjoy the illustrations. Nancy has prepared a brochure with details about the Bible. Thank you so much!



Advent Players have talent!

On Reformation Sunday, our Players performed a puppet play of the whole Bible (yes!) in 5 minutes. We will never forget its message. In November, we enjoyed a three-week run of plays, including one musical comedy, reminding us of the reasons we give to God's work through the ministry of the Church. Our talented performers included Brian Thiel, Jesse Fonkert, Wendell Anderson, Marianne Hetzer, Sarah Wickre, Nancy Jairrels, David Falksen, Gerry Fuller, and Pastor Anna.

Giving thanks as a community

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship and Choir Festival was held at Our Lady of Lourdes with the other 23rd Street churches. The service itself was reason to give thanks!

Spreading Christmas joy

Our Christmas social ministry project was to collect gifts for families living in affordable housing and create Christmas "stockings" for them. We assembled the gifts on Dec. 6 while decorating the church, and wrapped the gifts at the APAH site on December 19. Thank you to all who helped with this project and to Thrivent for funding the wrapping materials.

Thanks for your contributions

Thank you to all who contributed to the creche display and to the poinsettias that decorated the church this Christmas season. The red ones were released to new homes, and white ones left are welcome for Epiphany which began January 10 with the Blessing of the Water in the Font and the receiving of your Guiding Star for the new year.

Music ministry

Advent's music director Michael Lewallen broke his leg in December and had emergency surgery. He is now starting therapy. He continues to plan the music for worship, but we are blessed to have the services of Heidi Zirtzloff to accompany the choir and play for worship. Michael would be happy to see you. Please call to let him know you are coming, and keep him in your prayers.

Make time to visit



Archie Hall, a long time member of Advent, has been confined to Birmingham Green home in Manassas for about 15 years. Susan Maly is sponsoring a sign up sheet

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Advent

News & Announcements

Advent probes incorporation pros & cons

Advent is continuing to consider becoming a non-profit incorporation. Most churches in Maryland and the District are already incorporated, but it has only been in the past ten years that churches have been allowed to incorporate in the state of Virginia. There will be a meeting at Advent at 3 pm Tuesday, February 2, to consider and review proposed changes to Advent's constitution and by laws, to bring them into compliance with its proposed status as a non-profit incorporation.

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend this meeting. The Council will review these documents, along with the proposed Articles of Incorporation, at its next meeting on February 8.

If you are interested in reading more about the incorporation of churches in Virginia, here is a link to an interesting article:

www.pendercoward.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=104:church-incorporation&catid=13:opinions-a-observations&Itemid=104. Stay tuned!

- Ingrid Berdahl

New grounds service lightens volunteers' load

Lancaster Landscapes is Advent's new grounds maintenance contractor. Lancaster will provide a somewhat higher level of service than Advent has had in the past, including snow removal services, spring clean-up and mulching, weeding all beds and tree rings, spraying weeds in cracks of curbs, sidewalks and streets, and treating the lawn in the spring and fall with herbicides and fertilizers.

All of this should significantly improve the care of our grounds and will also lighten the load for those who have been volunteer gardeners here at Advent. Gardeners will still be needed however as we must do the watering ourselves and may wish to organize a fall workday if we decide to mulch in the fall.

- Ingrid Berdahl



A yummy potluck for Thanksgiving

Council member Colleen Linares organized a Thanksgiving potluck dinner at the Church. It was a great event for the 20-some people who attended, and thanks to all who made it possible.



January

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

February

- 2nd Walter Pfanmuller
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

Advent

News & Announcements

Generous “Gifts” exceed previous year

Advent members purchased \$2,775 worth of Gifts of Hope during the holiday season. This is an increase of more than \$300 over the total in 2014.



Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift-giving program that acts as an intermediary between donors and organizations serving individuals and families in need locally and internationally. Although gifts are available year-round, the program’s primary focus is during the holidays, including the liturgical season of Advent.

To purchase a Gift of Hope in lieu of a gift for a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion, just go to the website: <http://www.giftsofhopedc.org>.

- Marilyn Falksen

What’s going on . . .

(Continued from page 4)

for us to commit to visiting him on a convenient Saturday afternoon. There is lots to do in Manassas while you’re there. Please see the sheet in the Welcome Center and choose a Saturday afternoon. He also welcomes visits at any other time.

Our sympathies

We extend condolences to Ellie Holsopple who lost loved ones early in the holiday season.

Confirmation fun and studies

David Day and Pastor Anna continue to join the Confirmation class at Good Shepherd in Alexandria for biking, bowling, and learning. This month they completed discussion of the ideas in the Lord’s Prayer, such as “what is evil?”, and will begin to explore what it means to keep the Commandments.

Tables of Fellowship

It's that time of year again! We will start our rotational dinners in February and run through May. Dinners include small groups of ~6 people and are held once a month, led by a host in charge of the main course, and rounded out with various side dishes from attendees. Tables of Fellowship may occur at any point throughout each month, with flexibility among groups

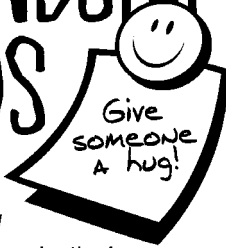


to schedule as needed. Come break bread and fellowship with our church community! If you’re interested and didn’t sign up, contact Susan Maly.

Shared heritage and practices

Pastor Anna attended the LARCUM Conference for Northern Virginia as part of her continuing education. This is a consortium of Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, United Methodist churches exploring ecumenical initiatives. This conference focused on our common heritage from the Christendom era and practices that come from it.

FRIENDSHIP CARDS



This month, don't just *send* valentines; *be* a valentine! Create these Friendship Cards to express love through kind acts for your loved ones — all month long.



What you need:

- 29 index cards
- A small box or container
- Colored pens or glitter pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. On each card, write something nice you can do for other people. Ideas include "Give someone a hug," "Clean someone's room," "Read to someone" and so on. You can use colored pens to draw a picture.
2. Decorate the box or container. Place the cards inside.
3. Each day in February, select a card and do that nice thing for someone!



True Friendship

What makes someone a good friend?
The Bible offers lots of advice about true friendship.

*Directions: Starting at the *, connect the dots clockwise and complete the words using the word bank. Then fill in Proverbs 27:9, NIV.*

WORD BANK:

heart prings ir verbs vice ness end

27:9, NIV

pleasant_____

• PRO_____

*
The

• OF

• ad_____

• a

_____ felt •

• Fri_____

the__ •

• s_____

from •

27:9, NIV

Answers: The pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.
Proverbs 27:9, NIV

Learn more about Labyrinths, then take a stroll

Have you used Advent's labyrinth yet? Books about labyrinths have in their titles words such as magic, spirituality, patterns of power, sacred geometry, paths of wisdom and peace, rhythmical structure, and health. So, what are they? How

Library Corner

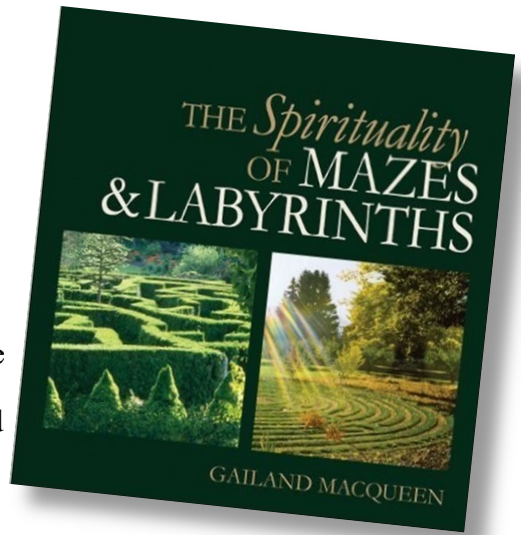
What's on the shelf
in Advent's library

are they different from mazes? Check out Gailand MacQueen's book, *The Spirituality of Mazes & Labyrinths* in

Advent's library in the Devotions and Meditations section. The Library is located in the Fellowship Hall. Please remember to lock the door on your way out.

Note that the Children's section of the library is located in the Fellowship Room. (There are also some materials for children in the Classroom at the end of the hallway which are not a part of the Advent library.)

– Ellie Holsopple



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