

THE ADVENT COURIER

Volume 18, Issue 02

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

Spring 2016



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

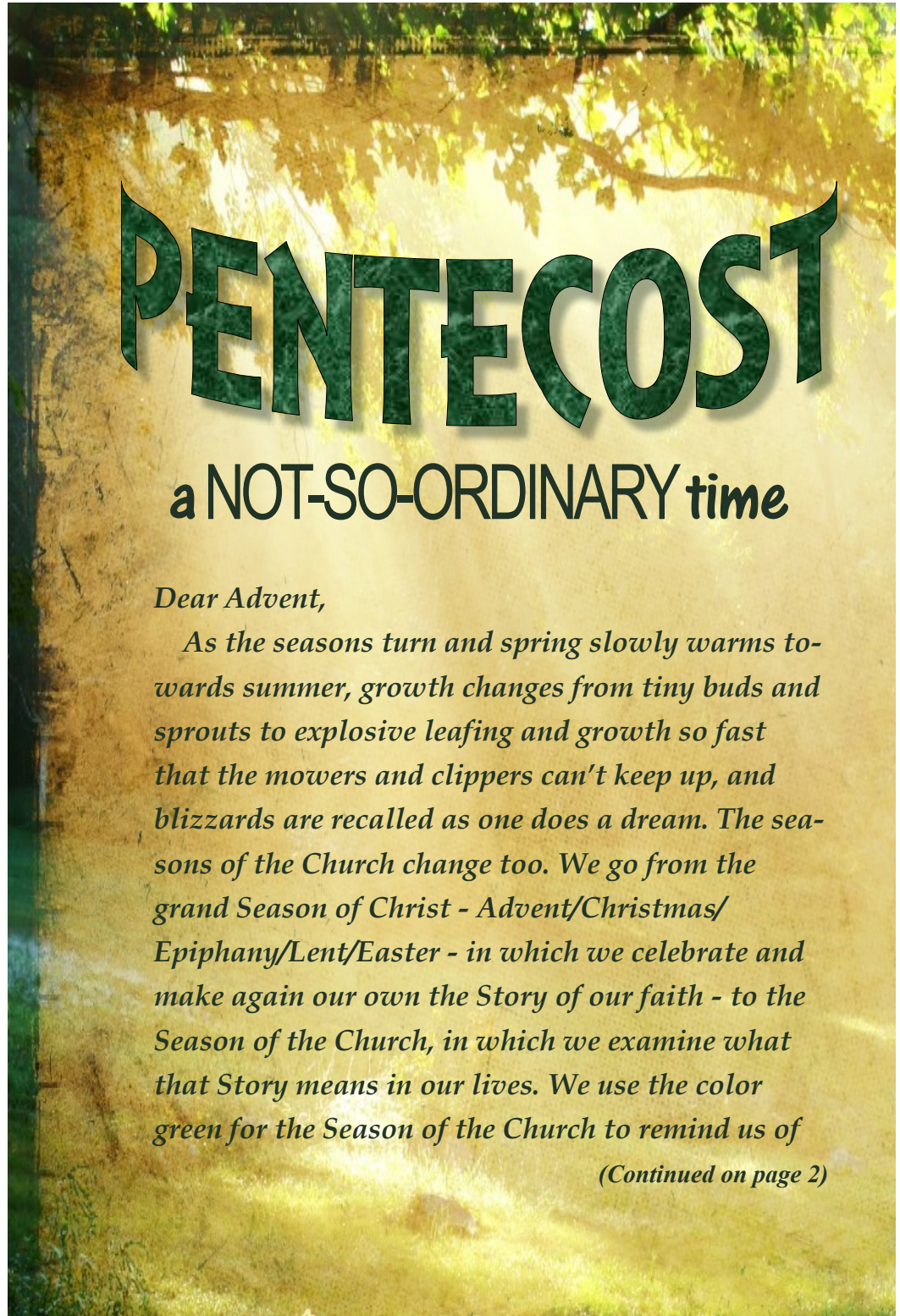
Director of Music Ministry
Michael Lewallen

Newsletter Copy Editor
Marianne Hetzer



What's Inside

Birthdays Page 7
Council Highlights Page 5
Kids Pages Page 7
What's Going On Page 6
Worship News Page 2



PENTECOST

a NOT-SO-ORDINARY time

Dear Advent,

As the seasons turn and spring slowly warms towards summer, growth changes from tiny buds and sprouts to explosive leafing and growth so fast that the mowers and clippers can't keep up, and blizzards are recalled as one does a dream. The seasons of the Church change too. We go from the grand Season of Christ - Advent/Christmas/Epiphany/Lent/Easter - in which we celebrate and make again our own the Story of our faith - to the Season of the Church, in which we examine what that Story means in our lives. We use the color green for the Season of the Church to remind us of

(Continued on page 2)

Advent

Worship News

Upcoming worship festivals



MAY 1

*Celebrate St.
Philip and
St. James*

MAY 8

*Ascension
of Our Lord*

MAY 15

*Day of
Pentecost*

MAY 22*

*The Holy
Trinity*

*We also thank the Choir for their service before summer hiatus.

CHANGES THEY ARE COMING!

NOISY, NOISY MEETING ROOM NOISY NO MORE

Acoustical Solutions of Richmond will install sound absorbing panels in the Fellowship Hall on April 18. The ceiling and wall tiles will reduce sound, room reverberation and echo in the room for better speech intelligibility and sound clarity. Thank you to the task force of Nancy Jairrels, Lynn Juhl and Susan Toth that made this possible.

HEARING WORSHIP FROM FURTHER DISTANCES

A modern speaker and cordless microphone addition to the sanctuary is coming soon! The worship service will be audible in the Welcome Center and the Nursery once the work is complete. Thank you to the team led by Jones Day, Wendell Anderson, David Falksen, and Brian Thiel that has been working on this improvement.

Continuing studies each Sunday

Bible Study continues on Sunday morning with our meditation on the early church as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. We are just finishing Paul's first missionary journey and learning about early church conflicts and leadership issues along with the task of interfacing with a secular and multi-faith culture.



After Pentecost comes a season of growth & renewal

(Continued from page 1)

the spiritual growth we cultivate in this half of the church year.

Part of that growth takes place through the spiritual conversations we have with each other, in which we talk about where we think God is calling our congregation. From those conversations, we develop a vision for God's future in this place, and from that vision, we discern what God is calling us to do to further that vision becoming reality. Because the church in America overall has failed to have a vision, 20% of its members give nothing to the church, and half give very little. Perhaps part of the spiritual conversation that you can contribute is to tell others

(Continued on page 4)



Celebrating the Son's Rise

Sunrise Service gathered community for morning of praise

We gathered there in the gray dawn light, chilly but still. Although the air was cool, the atmosphere was warm and "Spirited" at the community sunrise service Easter morning hosted by Advent out on the labyrinth. Neighbors and members from the 23rd Street community of churches joined Advent members and guests in welcoming the Risen Christ. Pastor Anna organized the service, Rev. Seminarian Daniel Rinehart of Fairfax provided a thoughtful, inspiring meditation on the good news of the Resurrection, and with Michael Lewallen's accompaniment we sang, heard the stories of the first day of creation in the Garden of Eden and the first day of the new creation in the garden of the Holy Sepulcher.

Following the service most people lingered in the Welcome Center to share stories over coffee and enjoy a breakfast feast: casseroles, baked goods, fresh fruit, and Easter sweets. A big thank you to the many volunteers who made it possible by helping with preparations on Saturday before, putting out chairs and food before sunrise, and then cleaning everything in time for regular worship.

- Pastor Anna and Gerry Fuller

Advent

News & Announcements

“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

(Continued from page 2)

how you decide what to give to God.

For Advent, our vision of God’s call is the hospitality we extend because of our location. That hospitality is in our people, whose first attention is to the needs

of the stranger, but also in the physical needs met through our building and being enhanced

in new sound systems and abatement and in accessible worship materials and gracious refreshment provisions and tasteful appointments. We spend part of the gifts given to God’s work on providing these things, and all receipts and expenditures are public record, available to anyone who asks to see them. (See the Advent Directory for leader names and contact to re-

quest them; ask me if you are unclear about who to ask. The more people who are aware of these accounts, the better.)

And part of our vision goes beyond these walls and beyond Arlington. In the Washington Post of April 4 there was an article about the gang wars in El Salvador and what the Lutheran Church and its pastors are doing to help make peace there. The Lutheran Church in El

Salvador is a companion synod of ours, and you support that vision with your gifts each week.

Advent offers you an opportunity to participate in that vision of peacemaking.

Your Sunday offering is not a “collection” or “paying dues.” It is an act of worship, an opportunity for expressing your love for God in the purest way imaginable, by giving up something that you value. Worship, you see, is about God,

not about us. When we give, we recognize what we say when we say “I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth” which, as Luther says, means that we trust, not in money, but in a God who gives us all that we have: life, food, clothes, shelter, family, friends, work, our bodies and talents, faith, the fellowship of believers, and the life to

come. When we contemplate the awesomeness of this gift, then our need to give in response and to be a part of God’s abundant giving is far greater than God’s need to receive our gifts. For, as Jesus said: where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

On behalf of those who see God’s work in this place, THANK YOU for your gifts!

Love, Pastor Anna



“Our vision of God’s call is the hospitality we extend because of our location. ... And part of our vision goes beyond these walls and beyond Arlington.”

Congregation votes to incorporate



Submitted by
Council Secretary
Marianne Hetzer

Upon Church Council recommendation, the congregation voted on April 10 to transfer Advent's status from a trusteeship to a non-profit corporation. Though churches in DC and Maryland have had the option for some time, the Commonwealth of Virginia more recently made this change in status possible. Therefore, the church constitution will be amended to acknowledge the status change and all real and personal church properties, debts and contractual obligations will belong to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church, Inc. rather than to individual trustees. The congregation extends heartfelt thanks to all of the members who served as Trustee over the past 60+ years, and especially current Trustees: Lynn Juhl, Ingrid Berdahl and David Falksen.

Other highlights from the April meeting include:

- Pastor Anna reported on the successful sunrise service held Easter morning and thanked all who helped coordinate the event for the neighborhood.
- It was noted that we have an immediate need for additional ushers and altar guild volunteers. Chat with Rensford Lovell if you want to know more about usher duties, and to Joy Duncan if you've been wondering what is involved in preparing the altar for worship and communion.
- Note from the Fire Inspector: NOTHING may be stored within 24 inches of the ceiling so please leave the top shelf in the Fellowship Hall closet empty.
- The Finance Committee will meet in the next few weeks to begin the budget process.
- There will be vacancies on the church council in July. Please ask Brian Thiel or any current council member to explain a little about what is involved in serving on council.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

The Annual Congregational meeting is June 12 at 11:15 am.

Please plan to participate and enjoy!

Advent

News & Announcements

What's going on . . . at Advent

Do you like to give away money?

Join other members of the Advent community in deciding how to use funds we received through a charitable grant program from Thrivent Financial called Thrivent Choice Dollars®. These dollars were directed to Advent by members of our community who own Thrivent Financial products. Please join us on Sunday, April 24 at 11:30 am to help us suggest how these Choice Dollars might be used to do some good work for the Lord. If you cannot attend but have a suggestion or question, call or email Ellie Holsopple or drop a note in her Official Files mailbox in the hallway.

- Ellie Holsopple

Music ministry at Advent

We were blessed to have Heidi Zirtzlauff as our substitute organist for three months while our Music Director Michael Lewallen was healing from a broken leg. Heidi accompanied Sunday worship, Ash Wednesday, and Lenten prayer worship through March 6. We welcomed Michael back on March 10, but Sunday March 13 was his welcome back party following worship. Thanks to Desiree Jessimy and her team for the fancy cake and organizing the celebration.

Confirmation update

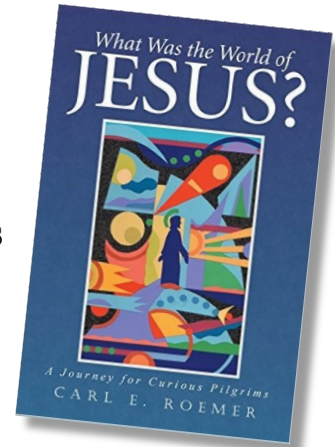
David Day and Pastor Anna continue to join Good Shepherd middle schoolers for Confirmation classes. We worked on applying the 10 Commandments to today's issues of bullying and authority, and are beginning to work on how the Creed addresses our relationship with God.

What Was the World of Jesus? A Journey for Curious Pilgrims

Library's newest acquisition examines the dynamics of Jesus' world

Carl Roehmer attempts to lay out as accurately as possible the historical, religious, and socio-economic dynamics of the world in which Jesus conducted his ministry. Writing a book for preachers and laymen and to counteract the often imprecise allusions to the world of Jesus, Roehmer presents the realities of that world, the context, and a Jewish world often misrepresented in stereotypes and prejudices. He suggests these misunderstandings could distort the message and work of Jesus himself. (Note that Carl is the father of a local Thrivent financial advisor – Greg Roemer.)

- Ellie Holsopple



David attended the Synod Middle School retreat in Front Royal after Easter. Ask him about it!

Advent's Welcome Center shines for the Synod!

In January we were able to host the Synod Council meeting. Thanks to Desiree, who serves on Synod Council, and to Jones and his team for setting up the tables and chairs. We used the Welcome Center to make a large circle of tables for 24 people including the Bishop. The Synod staff also used our building for a retreat.

(Continued on page 8)

Advent

News & Announcements

Even small things can make a BIG difference



Thank you to Carole Assante and Advent Lutheran Church for your donation of FOUR POUNDS of Pop Tabs. Your generosity helped change a child's life. With your support, we can continue to open doors to quality health care for children through our three core programs: Ronald McDonald Houses, Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, and Ronald McDonald Family Room.

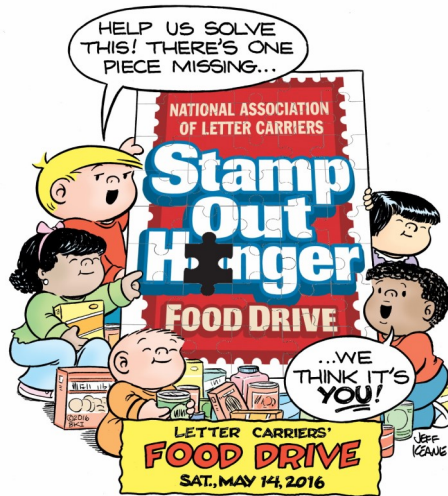
- Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater DC

Have tabs? Drop them in the collection can in the Fellowship Hall.

Arlington post offices will collect more than the mail next month

On Saturday, May 14, Advent's Arlington residents can make a donation to the Arlington Food Assistance Center without leaving home! Just leave a bag of non-perishable food donations next to your mailbox by 9:00 am and your Arlington letter carrier will collect and deliver the food to AFAC. If you live in an apartment building or miss your letter carrier, donations can also be made at the North, South, Main, Shirlington, and Preston King post offices.

AFAC's goal is to collect 35,000 pounds of food. Most needed items include low sodium canned soup, tuna, tomato products and beans and low sugar cereal. AFAC thanks the National Association of Letter Carriers and Arlington residents for helping to Stamp Out Hunger! For more information, go to www.afac.org or call 703-845-8486.



April

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

May

- 1st Ismay Lovell
- 10th Scott Hetzer
- 11th Sarah Wickre
- Abe Abraham
- 13th Michael Lewallen
- 17th Kate Carey
- 18th David Day
- 24th Jill Williams
- 26th Roxie Jairrels
- 31st Will Ebel

June

- 3rd Wendell Anderson
- Lucy Matzner
- 10th Oliver Thomas
- 11th David Pellinen
- 20th Sandhya Deo
- 22nd Mark Duncan
- 28th Linda Vilardo

Hunger does not take a break! AFAC is always in need of some basic pantry items: canned tomato products, canned soup, canned tuna/chicken, pasta, rice and low-sugar cereal. Drop these items off Monday-Friday from 8:00-4:30 and on Saturday from 9-12 their location: 2708 S. Nelson St., Arlington 22206.

What's going on . . .

(Continued from page 6)

In the news

Former Advent member Larry Fickau has a hit in his books for kids. His latest is *The Trouble With Johnny... He Can't Read*. Learn more about Larry and his books at www.kidswant2read.com/news

Learning more about OAR

A number of Advent folks attended the Offender Aid and Restoration breakfast spearheaded by Rosalie Smith Juhl and Marilyn Falksen. We learned about the work OAR does and heard testimonies along with hundreds of our Northern Virginia neighbors and government leaders.

Directory updates!

If you are not in the contact directory or have changes to be made, please submit a new or updated form to the church office. Forms may be found online (www.adventlc.us/forms) or in the Welcome Center. The new directory will be published shortly after the annual meeting in June, so please get your information in by emailing it or putting a completed form in Nancy's mailbox. If you need a directory in the meantime, please ask Pastor Anna.

Do you have ideas on reaching out to members in an emergency?

Snow cancelled our worship service on January 24. The website and the phone message and an email blast notified the public. Thank you to everyone that made this happen and who worked on snow removal, led by Jones and David Day. If you have other ideas on how to reach people in emergencies, please let us know. If you are not on the email blast list and would like to be, please email the church. If you would like a telephone notification, also please notify the church office. The email address is adventlc@hotmail.com.



Summer in the gardens means we will need volunteers to help water

This summer, Advent's gardens will have the benefit of professional care from a landscaping firm. Lancaster Landscapes will edge and weed beds, trim bushes, and fertilize and mow the lawn. The one thing we still have to do ourselves, however, is water the flowerbeds when we go through a dry spell. If you would be willing to help with this, speak with Ingrid Berdahl. Working with a partner would be ideal. Let's keep our grounds looking beautiful all summer long!

- Ingrid Berdahl

SHAVING CREAM EARTH

God created this wonderful world and told us to care for it. Remember that by making a unique painting.




What you need:

- A cookie sheet
- White shaving cream
- A wooden craft stick
- Paint (blue and green)
- A straw
- A paper plate

What you do:

1. On the cookie sheet, spray shaving cream in a circle (the same size as the bottom of the paper plate). Smooth it out with the craft stick.
2. Squirt the blue and green paint on top of the shaving cream in loopy, squiggly patterns. Swirl the paint around with the straw.
3. Place the bottom of the paper plate on top of the paint. Press it down gently so the whole plate bottom is covered in paint.
4. Lift up the plate and gently remove excess shaving cream with the stick.
5. After the painting dries, hang it on your wall.




PUZZLE

A SPECIAL GIFT

Give thanks to God for this amazing planet, which he filled with people, animals and plants.

Directions: Following the code below, fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse. Then color the earth.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 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 |



The 5 1 18 20 8 is 20 8 5 12 15 18 4 19, and 5 22 5 18 25 20 8 9 14 7 9 14 9 20, the 23 15 18 12 4, and 1 12 12 23 8 15 12 9 22 5 9 14 9 20 16 19 1 12 13 24:1, NIV

Answer: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1, NIV

Good food with good friends



Tables of Fellowship ministry continues as the ever changing groups gather each month to share a meal and pray for those Advent people who can't be present. All thanks to the direction of Susan Maly and her program guide.

We also thank those who share each week at Sunday fellowship time and those who provide for it, especially the Transfiguration/Mardi Gras celebrations.

Advent Lutheran Church
2222 S. Arlington Ridge Road
Arlington, VA 22202