



The Adventiser

Advent Lutheran Church

Our mission: To grow in the Lord and to make Him known.

Winter 2012-2013

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Preparing for the coming of God With Us)

In Ephesians 5: 19, St. Paul encourages the church to “speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your heart to the Lord.” That’s exactly what the church did over 1200 years ago, in the days of the “Holy Roman Emperor” Charlemagne, with the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”. Or, as it was written in Latin, “Veni Emmanuel” (literally: “Come God With Us”). Each verse of the hymn emphasizes a different title ascribed to Jesus in the scriptures.

The Season of Advent, which begins Sunday December 2, is the season of the church year that emphasizes the anticipation of the first coming of Christ to this earth. This season is extra special to us at Advent, because it’s when our church first began to meet for worship together

Jesus’ coming as Messiah was first prophesized in the 6th Century B.C. when the Jews were held captive in Babylon. For centuries thereafter, faithful Hebrews looked for their Messiah with great longing and expectation, with the prayer that He would “ransom captive Israel”, as the hymn proclaims.

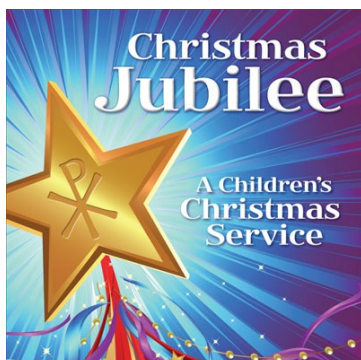
But, the tragedy of tragedies is that the Messiah did come “unto His own”, to establish a spiritual kingdom of both redeemed Jew and Gentile, “but His own received Him not...” We know, however, that the Messiah came over 2000 years ago as the God/Man Jesus Christ and accomplished a perfect redemption for all who believe, and we rejoice with all God’s people of all ages.

Our midweek Advent focus this year will be the hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB 357). Each week we will enjoy a meal together at 6:15, followed by worship at 7:00. Week 1, Dec 5, we will look at verse 2: “O Come Emmanuel... O Come Wisdom”. Week 2, Dec 12, we’ll look at verse 3: “O Come Emmanuel... O Come Adonai.” And week 3, Dec 19, we’ll look at verse 4: “O Come Emmanuel... O Come Branch of Jesse.”

Please join your Advent Family on the 3 Wednesdays in Advent, as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus’ first coming to the manger in Bethlehem; and wait expectantly, as did the Israelites of old, for His second coming, when He will pierce the clouds, and return to earth as judge.

May the Holy Spirit prepare our hearts to celebrate Jesus’ coming.

Blessings, Pastor John



The Children of Advent will present the Christmas story through an adaptation of *Christmas Jubilee* by Terry Dittmer during the service on December 16. Come and share their joy!

Women of Advent

Women of Advent's annual **Christmas Breakfast Buffet** will be held on **Saturday, December 8, at 9:30 a.m.** at the home of Maryanne Warne in Cary, NC. For those who have not received a flyer containing detailed information, extra copies will be available in the church narthex. This is a fun gathering so we hope you will be able to join us. Mark your calendars now! If you have any questions, contact Maryanne Warne (919-468-0183 or maryanne106@me.com).

There will be a restaurant "**Girls Night Out**" in January and our always fun and full of chocolate desserts "**Valentine's Girls Night Out**" in February. Watch for church bulletin announcements and flyers with detailed information.

For those who like to plan ahead, the dates for the **2013 Women's Retreat** at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC are **May 3 – 5**. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this awesome retreat. Lynn Trogdon will be our leader again this year. We all remember the great job she did leading last year's retreat.

The Tuesday morning women's Bible study completes its "**Unglued**" study on November 27 and will be in recess until January. Watch for church bulletin announcements regarding the study topic and dates for the next Bible study. Check the Sunday church bulletins for information on the Wednesday evening women's Bible study or contact leader Karen Baker. All women are invited to join these study groups.

If you would like to see how our last year's "**Treats and Treasures**" boutique seed money raised for the **Abundant Joy Center For Women's Ministries** has been used to bring to fruition this amazing Center, you are invited to the Center's **Open House on Sunday, December 2, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.**, 3333 Durham-Chapel Hill Boulevard, Suite B 101, Durham, NC. There will be a number of handmade gift items for sale to benefit the Center. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Benham.

Men's Retreat

The Men of Advent recently returned from a great weekend of fellowship and studying God's Word (The Book of Revelation).

We have currently reserved 10 rooms, which hold up to 20 men double occupancy, at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC (near Morehead City) from November 8 - 10, 2013. Let John Stow or Dave Neely know if you can attend. We look forward to once again enjoying the fellowship and growing together in Christ.

Church Council Report

The Church Council continues to meet on a regular basis to ensure that the operations, programs, and activities of the congregation are being conducted in a timely manner. At each meeting, Pastor John leads the Council in prayer as we ask God to open our hearts, guide our discussions, and help us be "In Tune with God's Will for Advent".

Over the next two months, the Church Council will be preparing the 2013 Budget and will be presenting it to Advent's Congregation on January 27. Based on giving to date in 2012, it appears that 2013 will be a very challenging financial year. Please keep the Council and Advent in your prayers as we make plans and recommendations for the coming year!

The Church Council will continue to focus on overall Communications within the Church. Please continue to provide Congregational feedback and suggestions by talking directly with a council member, elder, Pastor John or by dropping your input into the communication box located in the Narthex.

Stewardship

Advent Finances through November 15, 2012

General Fund Income	\$123,845.90
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$135,745.56</u>
Net Total	(\$ 11,899.66)

*Stewardship Article December 2012 – LCMS: **God offered His best for us; let us offer our best to Him.***

“And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus...” is the way Luke’s account of the Christmas story begins in chapter two (KJV). That decree caused Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem, the city of David, where Jesus was born according to ancient prophecy. God’s timing is perfect as He carries out His will. Galatians 4:4-5 reads, *“But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.”* (NIV)

God’s promises are true and find their “amen” in Jesus. Throughout the Old Testament God inspired His prophets to write down many promises of a Savior. The faithful people of God believed His promises and were saved by that faith even though they had not seen the Savior with their own eyes. They lived before Christmas and we live after Christmas. We also have not seen Jesus with our own eyes and yet, by the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, we believe that on that first Christmas Christ took on Himself our human form, kept the law perfectly for us, preached the good news of salvation, performed countless miracles and then offered Himself up as the precious Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, ours included!

Christmas is a very joyous occasion as we celebrate our Lord’s first coming into the world but we also know that the shadow of the cross already hovered over the manger where the baby Jesus was laid. He was born to die in our place so that the door to heaven will be open to us and all who believe in Him as our only true Lord and Savior.

As Christian stewards, we live in the light of the Gospel and freely and joyfully manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. God offered up His best for us and in response, we strive to offer our best to Him. During this joyful Christmas season we have many opportunities to show our love for God by showing love to all the neighbors He has placed around us, especially those who have special needs of body, soul and spirit. May God help us to use our gifts of time, talents, skills and financial resources to His glory and the welfare of those around us. May He especially help us to be like the shepherds and spread the good news of salvation in Christ alone!

Board of Worship

Mid-week Advent services will be held on Wednesdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 7p.m.. A light supper will be provided from 6:15-6:45 p.m..

*December 5 "O Come, Emmanuel --O Come Wisdom";
December 12 "O Come, Emmanuel -- O Come Adonai;
December 19 "O Come, Emmanuel, O Come Branch of Jesse"*

Pointsettia order forms will be in the bulletin in early December.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 24. There will not be a Christmas Day worship service.

Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Being able to read music is not a requirement. If any member or friend of Advent Lutheran Church wishes to share a musical talent as a prelude, offertory, or communion musical interlude, please contact Pastor John or Peggy Earnhardt (pearnhardt@mebtel.net).

Altar Flowers A flower chart is provided in the fellowship hall. If any member or friend of Advent would like to donate flowers on a Sunday as a memorial or celebration, please sign up. If you have questions, please contact Dorothy Preisel (DorothyPreisel@hotmail.com).

Praise and Pizza Night Invite your neighbors and friends to the next Praise and Pizza Night on January 19, 2013, at 5:15 p.m., followed by pizza and fellowship. If you would like to participate with the Praise Band and Singers, please contact Pastor John. The Praise Band and Singers lead music on the third Sunday of the month.

Ash Wednesday service will be held on February 13, 2013, at 7 p.m.

Sermons on the Web Did you know that if you are unable to attend church one Sunday, you can still hear Pastor John’s sermon? Just log on to Advent’s web site (www.AdventLutheranCH.org) and click on Worship Services on the Worship drop down menu on the home page and then click on “Listen to the latest Sermons.” The five (5) most recent sermons are available.

Board of Outreach

Advent supported the Coalition of Lutherans in Black Ministry (COLIBM) during the month of October. As part of that event, Carolyn Walker gave our guests a presentation on what Advent is all about. Carolyn did an excellent job, and most of us who listened to the presentation were quite surprised to hear what Advent had accomplished. Because many of you were not present for this, I thought I would give you a review of what YOU accomplished in the Outreach ministry. I would also like to thank the extended Outreach team for its steady behind the scene efforts: Anona Serpas, Lois Durr, Maryanne Warne, Sam and Jon Fischer, the Struckmeyer and Healy families, Kathleen Simis and Anders Borg, John Stow, Pastor John, Carolyn Jones, and Karla Byrnes. Bob Serpas has also been invaluable in securing Thrivent funds for our activities.

Our mission involvement is based on what Jesus commanded us to do. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8).

1. Missions – Advent, through the Women of Advent, supported the work of Missionary Shauen Trump and his family in Africa. (to the ends of the earth)

Each year the congregation votes on the missions that Advent will financially support on a local and global basis. The results of the 2012 vote are listed below:

Local (Jerusalem)

Pregnancy Support Services

Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC

New Mission Starts in Circuit 13W

Global (to the ends of the earth)

The Lutheran Malaria Initiative

Worship for Shut-ins

We also support the Southeast District in its mission and outreach efforts.

2. The congregation received information about local charities and voted to support PORCH and SECU Family House activities:

PORCH — People Offering Relief for Chapel Hill and Carrboro Homes - Advent volunteers collect food items; once a month, food is taken to distribution locations; one Monday each month volunteers help sort food for distribution. (Sponsors are Sam and Jon Fischer)

SECU Family House (UNC Hospitals) Quarterly, Advent volunteers will be preparing a meal for 35 people, eat with the families, and clean up. (Sponsor is John Stow)

3. Advent conducted a Thanksgiving food drive for several local families (19 Adults and 23 children). In addition to the Thanksgiving meal, we provided each family with some other food staples, some special items for the kids and gave each family a gift certificate.
4. Led by Kathleen Simis and Anders Borg, Advent filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.
5. Members of the congregation supported the Interfaith Council in its annual hunger walk.
6. We also participated in the CORA (Pittsboro) crop walk to raise money for its mission of feeding the hungry.

- The final outreach event of the year will be providing Christmas gifts to a single mother and her two girls. She has lost her job and the family is facing a sparse Christmas. The sponsor of the family says both girls need warm clothing, especially warm coats. We will be putting up an Angel Tree in early December with items to be purchased and wrapped. Please be sure to select an angel, do some shopping and experience the real meaning of Christmas.

Have you ever asked the question, "What does God want me to do?" Jesus gives us an answer to this question when we read Matthew 25:34-46. "Come, you who are blessed by my Father...For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me,...Lord when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see You as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? . . . Truly, I say to you, as you did to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me."

Please take the time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and experience the joy of helping a family that is having a hard time.

Birthdays

Pastor Herbert Walther	Dec. 1	Lansama Sheref	Dec. 21	Kathleen Simis	Feb. 10
Loni Gunn	Dec. 1	Kaori Maeda	Jan. 1	Kent Underwood	Feb. 12
Pfc. Gentry Gunn	Dec. 1	Ann Swan	Jan. 13	Sadie Struckmeyer	Feb. 12
Rina Borg	Dec. 3	Hank Swan	Jan. 16	Konii Sheref	Feb. 13
Bob Serpas	Dec. 4	Jason Yando	Jan. 24	Pastor John Benham	Feb. 16
Barbara Bergdolt	Dec. 6	Christine Struckmeyer	Jan. 25	Valerie Todd	Feb. 18
Sam Fischer	Dec. 16	Lois Durr	Feb. 6	Doug Borg	Feb. 18
Melanie Nicol	Dec. 18	Sabrina Mather	Feb. 7	Seth Worley	Feb. 20
Allyson Elizabeth Wriedt	Dec. 19	Paul Simis	Feb. 8	April Welborne	Feb. 23

Anniversaries

Anona & Bob Serpas	Dec. 21	Joyce & Don Eckert	Jan. 25
Ann & Hank Swan	Dec. 21	Beth & John Behnam	Feb. 21
Carolyn & Frank Jones	Dec. 30		

SPECIAL DATES – Please let the church office or Carolyn Jones know if your birthday or anniversary dates aren't listed or are incorrect. We want to celebrate with you and keep our church records up to date.



The Adventiser, the newsletter for Advent Lutheran Church, is published quarterly. If you have something you would like included or have other comments or suggestions, contact Karla Byrnes (kmkbyrnes@gmail.com).

Newsletter Deadline for the Spring 2012 issue: Monday, February 18, 2013

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Contact the Church:

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web: www.AdventLutheranCH.org

Contact the Pastor:

Rev. John V. Benham III, Pastor

Phone: (919) 943-7082

e-mail: adventpastor@bellsouth.net

Sundays

9:05am Sunday School/Confirmation/Bible Class

10:30am Divine Service with Holy Communion



Dates to Remember

Tuesdays – 7:00-8:00 pm
Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays – 10:00 am
Resuming in January
Women's Bible Study,

Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00/9:00 pm
Choir/Praise Band Rehearsal

Alternate Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00 pm
Women's Evening Bible Study

Sunday, December 2 – 2:00-4:00 pm
Abundant Joy Center Open House

Wednesdays, December 5, 12, 19
6:15 pm – Supper
7:00 pm – Advent Service

Saturday, December 8 – 9:30 am
Women of Advent Christmas Breakfast

Sunday, December 16 – 10:30 am
Children's Program *Christmas Jubilee*

Monday, December 24, 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, January 19 – 5:15-7:00 pm
Praise and Pizza

Sunday, January 27, 11:30 am
Voter's Meeting

Wednesday, February 13, 7:00 pm
Ash Wednesday Service

May 3-5, 2013
Women of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC

November 8-10, 2013
Men of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC