



The Adventiser

Advent Lutheran Church

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

Spring 2012

Taking On Something for Lent: Luther's Catechism

My Dear Friends in Christ... How long has it been since you looked at Luther's Small Catechism? A long time? Maybe if you weren't brought up in the Lutheran church, you've never really looked at it in much detail, if at all...

Well, I have great news for you, our Lenten Series this year will get you re-acquainted with it in a fresh new way, or maybe acquainted with it for the first time. Our series is titled, "Taking On Something for Lent: Luther's Catechism."

It was Pastor Luther's love for the people that motivated him to write both his small and large catechisms. As he traveled around and visited congregations, he was appalled and dismayed to find that people who called themselves Christians did not know God's Word. They didn't know the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, or the Apostles' Creed.

He desperately wanted people to understand what God had done for them in Jesus Christ. Through the catechisms, they would begin to learn God's Word. They would learn the sternness of God's commands and the sweetness of His forgiveness. Still today, one of the best ways to learn what's taught in the Bible is to learn Luther's Small Catechism. Luther's catechism is a kind of "Cliff's Notes" on the key teachings of the Bible.

Lent is a time for spiritual discipline. Often people will choose to give up something for Lent as a type of spiritual discipline. Instead, this Lent, we're taking something on. There are 6 parts to Luther's catechism. And counting Ash Wednesday, there are 6 Wednesdays in Lent before Palm Sunday. So, we'll be looking at one part each week. Here's the schedule. Please join us for a light supper at 6:00 pm followed by worship at 7:00.

- Ash Wednesday (2/22/12): "The Greatest of These is Love: The Ten Commandments", Exodus 20: 1-17.
- Lenten Midweek 2 (2/29/12): "This I Believe: The Apostles Creed", 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8.
- Lenten Midweek 3 (3/7/12): "Our Father Who Is in Heaven: The Lord's Prayer", Matthew 6: 9-13.
- Lenten Midweek 4 (3/14/12): "The Washing of Regeneration: Holy Baptism", Matthew 28: 18-20.
- Lenten Midweek 5 (3/21/12): "We Are Forgiven: The Office of the Keys", John 20: 19-23.
- Lenten Midweek 6 (3/28/12): "We Eat A Holy Supper: The Sacrament of the Altar", Matthew 26: 26-28.

To dig deeper into each part, you can use the rest of the week to read Luther's Christian Questions and Answers on each part, which are found further back in the catechism.

May this Lenten Season bring you closer to our Lord.

God's Blessings, Pastor John.

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".

The Congregation approved the 2012 Budget on January 22 and will vote on Mission funding and Community volunteer activities over the next couple of months. We'd like to thank everyone for your support (financial, time and talent) of Advent Lutheran Church.

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.

Board of Worship

The Board of Worship will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 from 5:30-6:45 pm. If there is anything you would like to bring to the Board of Worship's attention, please contact Peggy Earnhardt at pearnhardt@mebtel.net or Pastor John.

All are welcome to Advent's Praise and Pizza Nights to be held May 19 and June 16, 2012 from 5:15-7:00p. Along with music and singing, a short video will be shown followed by pizza and soda. If you have an interest in participating with the music or singing, please contact Pastor John or Peggy Earnhardt.

The Praise Band and Singers will lead Worship Services on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Lent and Easter Schedule:

- Mid-week Lenten Services, March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28 at 7 pm. A light supper will be provided in the Fellowship Hall at 6 pm.
- Sunday, April 1, 10:30 am, Palm Sunday Service; Easter Egg dying following worship
- Thursday, April 5, 7 pm, Maundy Thursday Service
- Friday, April 6, 7 pm, Good Friday Tenebrae Service
- Sunday, April 8, 9:15am Easter Potluck Brunch;
10:30 am, Easter Sunday Service; Easter egg hunt following worship

The theme for the Lenten mid-week services will be "Taking on Something for Lent: Luther's Catechisms".

LCD Projector Fund

A generous donation has been made to enhance our Worship Services by establishing a special fund to purchase a LCD Projector. This would be similar to the one we use now for PowerPoint/videos but with a stronger projection capability (4500 lumens) that will allow us to view what's on the screen without having to turn off the lights in the sanctuary. It would be permanently mounted to the ceiling to avoid having to move the cart around, etc.

The total cost will be just over \$2200, which includes some funds for installation. Once all funds have been received, the purchase will be made and the projector installed.

Family and Friends of Advent are asked to prayerfully consider contributing toward the LCD projector project. This would be in addition to your normal pledges. Checks can be made out to Advent Lutheran Church with "LCD Projector Fund" on the memo line. Some fund raising events may also be considered, if needed.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor John or Peggy Earnhardt, Chair, Worship Board at pearnhardt@mebtel.net

Board of Outreach

Last fall we delivered Thanksgiving food and gift certificates to four families in the Chapel Hill community. All of you deserve a big "Thank You" as most of you participated by bringing food or helping to pack or deliver the food. If you haven't already, see the Stewardship bulletin board for the thank you notes from the families. As the congregation decides on outreach events for this year, I hope we will continue our support for these and other families in the community. The feeling we all had after the delivery, the thank yous and hugs were beyond heartwarming. Once again, thanks to Sam and Jon Fischer for coordinating this event.

³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?' ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:35-40)

Congregation to vote on 2012 Outreach Opportunities

At the March voters meeting, you will be given the opportunity to vote on Advent outreach events. If you have passion for or interest in an area - feeding the hungry, homeless, etc. - please submit a brief summary to John Stow. The summary should include the nature of the event, amount of time it would take, and the number of people it would take to conduct the event. (See Crop Walk example below). Once the council has all the outreach opportunity suggestions, they will present them to the congregation for their vote. This vote will be a bit different in that a "yes" vote will mean that you are going to spend your time and get involved in the outreach opportunity.

Example Summary:

Interfaith Council "Crop Hunger Walk" - 25 March 2012

Purpose: Raise Money to feed those in need.

Participation: Everyone who is able to walk or donate to those who are walking.

Need a coordinator: Coordinator would contact Hunger Walk organization (Rachael Carpenter 929-6380 x29), to obtain registration and advertising materials; get the word out at Advent and elsewhere (work, relatives, school, etc.) and collect signatures for those walking or donating money. Time spent by the coordinator should only be 2-3 hours.

Women Of Advent

The Valentine's "**Girls Night Out**" was an evening of fun as we learned about and exchanged "**A Few of Our Favorite Things.**" All the chocolate desserts were delicious! Thanks to all who helped make the evening a success.

There will be a **March "Girls Night Out"** at a local restaurant. The evening is being organized by Nancy Whiteley. Watch the church bulletin for detailed information. There will be a sign-up sheet in the church narthex. We hope you will be able to join us for a fun evening!

On March 13 several ladies are going to travel to Emerald Isle for a lesson in making **Chrismons**. WOA will then hold workshops to teach any ladies interested in making Chrismons for Advent's Christmas tree. Check the church bulletin for information as to when these workshops will be held. Please see Beth Benham or Maryanne Warne if you have any questions.

Plans are underway for the **2012 Women's Retreat** to be held at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC on **May 4-6**. Watch the church narthex in March for the information poster and sign-up sheet. Plans are being worked on to have a guest presenter at the retreat. If you have any questions, please see Maryanne Warne. Remember to mark your calendar now to attend this always awesome retreat.

Men's Retreat

The Men of Advent have scheduled next year's annual retreat at the Trinity Center from November 9th-11th, 2012. The Trinity Center is located in Salter Path, NC near Morehead City. Please mark these dates on your 2012 calendar.

The retreat not only gives us time for great fellowship but also provides an opportunity to study God's Word. Pastor Bill Seaman has agreed to lead the Bible Study and discussion on the Book of Revelations. We have currently reserved 10 rooms, which hold up to 20 men double occupancy; let John Stow or Dave Neely know if you can attend. We look forward to enjoying the fellowship and growing together in Christ.

Stewardship

"Times and Seasons"

Newsletter Article – March 2012 – from the LCMS

Genesis 1:14 (NIV) reads: *And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons, and days and years..."*

In the month of March we experience times and seasons close up. On Sunday, March 11, most places in the United States will begin daylight savings time. On Tuesday, March 20, spring begins. Times and seasons are very clearly the creation of a God of order and the Maker of heaven and earth. The seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter bring a lot of variety to our weather and to our natural surroundings. The seasons are connected to seedtime and harvest. The days that were so short in the winter stretch out in the summer.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV) says: *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven..."* As Christian stewards who have been given the privilege and responsibility of managing God's creation, we understand that we are stewards at all times and in all seasons. Perhaps farmers understand stewardship better than others of us but, regardless of our station in life, we are to make the most of the times and seasons and manage them in ways that are pleasing to God and provide blessings for others as well as ourselves.

The last of our LCMS Biblical Stewardship Principles states: *"God's stewards live with an awareness of the present and future, of time and eternity."* This means that we live intentionally in the light of God's eternal purpose while being firmly committed to His rule in the here and now.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV) explains our stewardship in these terms: *"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."*

Wouldn't it be something if everyone lived according to these words! As God's stewards we can lead the way and provide a living model of what it means to be stewards, or managers, of all of life and life's resources, including money, property, talents, time and so much more. Our good stewardship will bring glory to God and many blessings to others as well as ourselves. Let's resolve, with the Holy Spirit's power and leading, to be good stewards of all things in all times and seasons!

Enjoy the beautiful season of spring and the longer days of sunlight.

Stewardship Recap for 2011

One definition of stewardship is that it is what we do in the Name of Christ after we say, "I believe in Jesus." Once again, God has blessed the Advent congregation with a spirit of generosity and concern for the mission of our church. You, as members and friends, responded to God's grace by exceeding our estimated 2011 offerings by \$7600. In addition, Thrivent members directed Thrivent Choice dollars in the amount of \$2005 to Advent, and everyone worked long and hard to have a successful rummage sale for missions.

Actual income for 2011

Offering	\$146,455.00
Mission	1,742.00
<u>Other</u>	<u>2,953.00</u>
Total	\$151,150.00

Average Monthly Attendance: Sept. 2011 - Jan. 2012			
<u>Month</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Adult Bible Class</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Sept.	61	17	10
Oct.	61	15	7
Nov.	55	13	8
Dec.	51	17	8
Jan.	55	16	7

Thank you to everyone for your faithful response to what God has given you. It is necessary to note, however, that despite our giving more than estimated, our total offering for the year has decreased over the past few years. For the first time in many years, our expenses of \$152,351.65 exceeded our income and that difference needed to be taken from savings. Council works hard to be good stewards of our income, but since over 94% of our budget items are fixed and many continue to rise each year, our decreasing donations are a concern. If you are interested in seeing the full financial statement, please see Jennifer Simis or Judy Neely.

Advent Lutheran Church Mission Giving 2011

YTD 12-31-2011

Proposed Giving for 2011

SED Mission Partnership Support

GIVEN YTD

\$2,082.00

2011 Budget

TOTAL

\$2,082.00

Additional Giving

LWML mites \$94.78
 LCMS World Relief and Human Care \$435.71
 LCMS World Mission \$435.71
 Pregnancy Support Services \$435.71
 Habitat for Humanity of Durham \$435.71
 Samaritan's Purse \$250.99
 Orphan Grain Train (for a new warehouse) \$269.38
 Together in Mission - The Trumps \$3,000.00
 Abundant Joy Center for Women's Ministrys \$5,505.95
 Thanksgiving Food Baskets
 Operation Christmas Child

Women of Advent
 yard sale
 yard sale
 yard sale
 yard sale
 Sunday School Offering
 Sunday School Offering
 WOA 2009 Boutique proceeds
 WOA 2011 Boutique proceeds
 congregation
 congregation

TOTAL

\$10,863.94

GRAND TOTAL

\$12,945.94

Devotions

Getting the messages from God's Word is as easy as getting on the Internet. You can sign up to receive the Daily Devotions by visiting www.lhm.org/dailydevotions. You can read them online, listen to them as a podcast or have them sent directly to your email account.

The Lenten Devotions at www.lentendevotions.net will delve into the riches of Scripture as it brings to life the final moments of Jesus' earthy ministry as presented in the Gospel of Mark. Printed copies are available in the Narthex. For questions, please contact Bob Serpas.

About LCEF

The mission of The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future. We are a ministry, first and foremost, with the intent on sharing tools and resources to help build, transform, and keep vital our church so that we may share our faith. LCEF uses gifts and investments from Christian partners to offer LCMS congregations, schools, child-care centers, and other programs low-cost loans and ministry services, including those that lift up rostered church workers. It is truly a blessing to help spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Birthdays

Martha Gaestel	Mar. 2	Gavin Borg	Mar. 27	Alice O'Grady	Apr. 17
Denny Zart	Mar. 3	Gary Gunn	Mar. 29	John Schmacher	Apr. 24
John Byrnes	Mar. 3	John Cangelosi	Apr. 7	Dan Earnhardt	Apr. 28
Anders Borg	Mar. 5	Karla Byrnes	Apr. 7	Justin Baker	Apr. 30
Patrick Connor	Mar. 15	Tom Struckmeyer	Apr. 11	Chelsey Masterson	May 8
Jennifer Simis	Mar. 15	Bob Owens	Apr. 12	Keith Lemon	May 16
Tracie Foels	Mar. 16	Sophie Struckmeyer	Apr. 13	Clay Wriedt	May 21
Wendy Rosenstock	Mar. 17	Marlida Snowden	Apr. 14	Janice Wriedt	May 21
Jacob Yando	Mar. 23	Barbara Preisel-Simmons	Apr. 15	Selena Jimenez	May 24
Savannah Mather	Mar. 24	Matthew Wells	Apr. 16	Michelle Holder	May 26
Marge Schradie	Mar. 26			Judy Neely	May 27

Anniversaries

Pauline & Ron Ramsey	Mar. 1	Mary Helen & Bob Owens	Mar. 20
Rina & Doug Borg	Mar. 11	Phyllis & Kent Underwood	Apr. 22

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 Summer 2012 issue: Monday, May 21, 2012

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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 beginning September 11, 2011

9:05am Sunday School/Bible Class

10:30am Divine Service with Holy Communion



A Congregation of
 THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
 Missouri Synod

Dates to Remember

Tuesdays – 7:00-8:00pm

Men's Bible Study

Tuesdays – 10:30am-12:30pm

Women's Bible Study

Alternate Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm

Women's Evening Bible Study
 (watch for dates)

Wednesdays – Choir Rehearsal

8:00-9:00pm during Lent
 7:00-8:00pm after Lent

Wednesdays, Feb. 29 through March 28

6:00pm Supper
 7:00pm Mid-week Lenten Service

Sunday, April 1 – Palm Sunday

10:30am Worship Service
 11:30am Easter Egg Dying

Thursday, April 5 – 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 6 – 7:00pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 8 – Easter

9:15am Easter Potluck Brunch
 10:30am Worship Service
 11:30am Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, May 19 – 5:15-7:00pm

Praise and Pizza

May 4-6, 2012

Women of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC