



The Adventiser

Advent Lutheran Church

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

Summer 2013

Fall Focus on Prayer (the Circle maker)

My Dear Friends in Christ... Our focus this fall will be on prayer. At the District Conference ("Tending the Flame"), our District President John Denninger commented that the two main focuses of a congregation are: The Word and Prayer. In keeping with our Mission Statement "To Grow in The Lord, and To Make Him Known", we have focused for some time now on "Growing in The Lord" through the Word. So, it is very appropriate that our Fall focus is on Prayer.

During September, our Sunday morning Bible Study and our sermons in worship will be looking at prayer based on the book, *The Circle Maker* written by Pastor Mark Batterson. Pastor Mark is the Lead Pastor of National Community Church in Washington DC, which is one church with seven locations.

Advent's leadership is encouraging everyone to attend the 4 sessions of the 9:05 – 10:00 am Bible Study this Fall, as we learn about "praying circles around our biggest dreams and greatest fears". This study will help us discern God's will for our lives both as individuals and as His church, as we pray on God's promises from scripture.

The Bible Study topics (which include videos by Pastor Mark) are as follows:

- Sept 8 – "Becoming a Circle Maker"
- Sept 15 – "Little People, Big Risks, and Huge Circles"
- Sept 22 – "Praying Hard and Praying Through"
- Sept 29 – "Praying is like Planting".

Here are a few quotes from the study:

"The greatest moments in life are the miraculous moments when human impotence and divine omnipotence intersect – and they intersect when we draw a circle around the impossible situations in our lives and invite God to intervene."

"Drawing prayer circles starts with discerning what God wants, what God wills. And until His sovereign will becomes your sanctified wish, your prayer life will be unplugged from its power supply."

"When we feel under qualified and overwhelmed, we might be exactly where God wants us. These moments force us to pray like everything depends on God. They also drive us to our knees. In times like this we move to a place of raw dependence on God, and raw dependence is the raw material out of which God performs His greatest miracles."

I look forward to working through this study together with all of you, and I'm excited to see what God will reveal to us about "praying circles around our biggest dreams and greatest fears"; and seeing what God will reveal to us about His plans for us, both as individuals and as His church.

God's Blessings, Pastor John.

Outreach

A MISSION OF LOVE: It all started with two women sitting in a pew having a long conversation after a church service. The discussion was about moving an individual who was not physically capable of accomplishing the task. From that conversation, the two women ended up in a town house in Carrboro and started the moving process. As of this writing, the women have been at their “day job” for about a month. What started as a basic move has turned into a mission and great learning experience. The decision making process for the move rested with other individuals. While the answers to questions came slowly or not at all, the women kept cleaning and packing boxes. As space was needed, the women called on the men of Advent to move the furniture and boxes. Five men of Advent showed up (one with a truck and trailer) and in a matter of 3½ to 4 hours, lots of furniture and 50-70 boxes were moved. The townhouse was professionally cleaned. Then five members of Advent spent two days of fellowship applying 7 gallons of paint. The townhouse is now ready to be sold.

I offer the following observations and thoughts about this and other outreach efforts:

1. Pray early and often to find out what God has in mind for the project/mission you are facing.
2. Helping someone in need gives us a wonderful feeling (as God intended it to be).
3. Patience and understanding are an absolute must (my patience level is in training).
4. As shown by the women, dedication and perseverance are a must in mission work.
5. Next time we are feeling sorry for ourselves, get involved with a mission/project and your attitude will change.
6. The people of Advent have very large hearts.
7. We need to make time (often) to help those in need.
8. There is great fellowship in completing the project.

So to all who contributed their time or treasure (or both)—thanks. I hope this account gives you some idea of how the dedication and perseverance of two women has turned this project/mission into a “moving experience” for all those who were involved.

ADVENT'S FALL OUTREACH SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

The fall schedule has not been finalized, but the following is being considered.

1. Pittsboro Crop Walk – November, final date for 2013 not set yet.
2. Operation Christmas Child (shoe boxes) – Collection in October and turn in November.
3. Thanksgiving baskets to families in need – Collection in November and distribution near Thanksgiving.
4. Health screening event at Grace Lutheran Church in Durham – 12 Oct 2013
5. Reformation Service and Mission Project, Resurrection Lutheran in Cary (see page 5 for details)– 3 Nov 13.
6. Other events (Angel tree, etc) TBD

If you would like to be involved with or lead any of these events, please let me know.

- Dave Neely

Board of Worship

On Sunday, September 8, 2013, the regular 10:30 a.m. Worship Service will resume. Sunday School for children and adults will start at 9:05 a.m. During the month of September, worship and adult Sunday School will focus on prayer and the importance of persistence in our prayers based on the book “The Circle Maker” by Mark Batterson.

Fall Praise and Pizza will be held on Saturday, September 7 and October 19 at 5:15 pm. Everyone is invited to attend a fun evening of praise music, a short devotion and pizza. This is a great outreach opportunity – please invite your friends and neighbors.

The Praise Team will normally lead music during worship on the third Sunday of each month. Anyone who may be interested in joining the Praise Team is welcome to the rehearsal on the Wednesday before the third Sunday of the month at 7 pm.

Choir practice will resume on September 18 at 7 pm.

Stewardship/Finance

Thank you to all who have continued to support faithfully the work of God at Advent Lutheran Church. Advent appreciates the donations of all of you as you give out of gratitude and love for what God has done for us through Jesus, our Savior. Listed below are the income and expense figures from January 1, 2013 through August 26, 2013. The income includes the weekly plate offering, Thrivent Choice donations, building rental income, and mission donations. Any donations that are designated for a specific purpose are not included.

Income received through 8/26/2013	\$	100,582.59
Expenses through 8/26/2013	\$	<u>100,040.25</u>
Income vs. Expense	\$	578.34

Income to date is better than projected and total expenses are on target. Because of this and some other cost-saving efforts, our estimated deficit at year-end will be much lower than anticipated. We'll be closer to meeting our budget at year end if everyone continues to contribute as they have been. We are thankful to all of you for your support of Advent's ministry and mission.

September — A Month of New Beginnings

From LCMS Monthly Stewardship Newsletter

Next to January, September is probably one of the biggest and busiest start over months in the year. A number of congregational ministries which may have been on a summer break start up again. A new school year has started. It is interesting to note that September opens with Labor Day when we pause to thank God for honest and fruitful labor. Perhaps that is appropriate since things pick up after vacations and other summer activities and we have more opportunities for service.

September also marks the beginning of autumn and that will be a welcome change for many people who this past summer were impacted by a record number of tornados, serious flooding around major rivers, heat and drought that broke many records, along with many wild fires that caused so much destruction.

In spite of all the above problems God still richly blessed much of our country with seasonable weather so that seedtime and harvest prevailed and the activities of agriculture, commerce and transportation continued so that the earth was fruitful and yielded its increase to supply food for all of God's creatures. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

God's stewards appreciate new opportunities to start over again after life has become like a long, hot summer. In September many of God's faithful stewards can get involved with new and exciting volunteer activities in their churches and communities. In September many of our students can begin one of their best years of learning. In September many of our churches and schools can get involved with some of the most exciting ministries in their history. A fresh start is always appreciated. The past is behind us; the future is still in front of us but the present is where we do our work as God's stewards. God has some great things in mind for us as His stewards. He wants us to use our talents, our time, our resources and our relationships in ways that honor Him and bring blessings to those around us.

Sometimes we may feel like we just can't get started! We may feel inadequate to take on new challenges. We may remember when we have tried some bold ventures before and they didn't work out. We can chase those negative thoughts away when we remember words like these from one of our well-known hymns:

*Let none hear you idly saying, "there is nothing I can do,"
While the multitudes are dying and the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly, let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me." (LSB 826)*

So, keep your eyes open for some new opportunities to put your time, talents and resources to work for the Lord and His people, and when those opportunities come, **GO FOR IT!**

Women of Advent

Women of Advent are looking forward to another year of fun activities and church projects. Ideas under consideration and planned include: "Favorite Things" Girls Night Out (possibly invite ladies from another church); dining out Girls Nights Out; Valentine's Day care packages for our college students; card making workshop for Care Ministry cards; church family holiday decorating/lunch projects after church services; assisting with Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes; annual WOA Christmas Brunch; and annual WOA retreat at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC. Watch the church bulletins for specific dates and information.

WOA will be assisting the Abundant Joy Center for Women's Ministries with a fundraising event at Advent on Saturday, November 2, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Application for matching funds has been made to Thrivent. "Gifts Galore 'n More" will provide an excellent opportunity for gift shopping and to purchase a delicious lunch of homemade cup of soup, sandwich, cookie and beverage. So mark your calendars now to attend this special and fun event! Anyone wishing to help with the fundraiser, please see Beth Benham or Maryanne Warne.

Abundant Joy Center class offerings for fall are listed on its website abundantjoycwm@gmail.com. They include: "Setting Boundaries for Women" beginning Tuesday, September 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; "Making Peace with Your Past" beginning Wednesday, September 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; "Made to Crave" beginning Thursday, September 19, 10:00-11:30 a.m. For additional information, please contact Beth Benham.

Specific known dates for your calendars are listed below:

- * October 19 - LWML Eastern Zone Meeting, Our Saviour, Raleigh, NC
- * November 2, 2013 - "Gifts Galore 'n More" at Advent
- * November 30, 2013 - Christmas decorating of church and sanctuary tree
- * December 14, 2013 - WOA Christmas Brunch, 9:30 a.m.
- * March 15, 2014 - LWML Joy Event, Grace, Durham, NC
- * May 2-4, 2014 - WOA Retreat, Trinity Center, Salter Path, NC

Birthdays

Peggy Earnhardt	Sept. 5	Christy Sopata	Sept. 29	Troy Trygstad	Oct. 25
Aidan Connor	Sept. 7	Lauren Koban	Oct. 1	Nick Pelzer	Oct. 28
Jaxon Benham	Sept. 7	Craig Walker	Oct. 2	Peggy Trygstad	Oct. 30
Nathan Peterson	Sept. 13	Maryanne Warne	Oct. 4	Caitlyn Wriedt	Oct. 30
Walter Gaestel	Sept. 14	Dori Walker	Oct. 4	Autumn Hamit	Oct. 31
George Snowden	Sept. 15	Jonathan Simis	Oct. 5	Phyllis Underwood	Nov. 7
Melanie Mather	Sept. 16	Jarrad Borg	Oct. 7	Kathy Crabtree	Nov. 9
Carolyn Walker	Sept. 17	Joseph Sheref	Oct. 10	Cliff Mather	Nov. 18
Wendy Healy	Sept. 22	Pauline Ramsey	Oct. 12	John Stow	Nov. 22
Bill Healy	Sept. 27	Heidi Worley	Oct. 17	Ryan Lemon	Nov. 25
Cathy Stow	Sept. 28	Joyce Eckert	Oct. 20	Anona Serpas	Nov. 27
Paul Mather	Sept. 28	Don Eckert	Oct. 22	Jon Fischer	Nov. 30

Anniversaries

Peggy & Dan Earnhardt	Sept. 4	Jennifer & Paul Simis	Oct. 5
April Welborn & Nathan Peterson	Sept. 11	Christine & Tom Struckmeyer	Oct. 10
Martha & Walter Gaestel	Sept. 14	Maryanne & Dwain Warne	Oct. 21
Wendy & Bill Healy	Sept. 25	Marlida & George Snowden	Nov. 3
Janice & Clay Wriedt	Sept. 30	Cathy & John Stow	Nov. 22
Karen Baker & Tom Ortel	Oct. 2	Heidi & Seth Worley	Nov. 23

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.

Lutherans Partnering in Service

REFORMATION SERVICE & MISSION PROJECT

Sunday, November 3, 2013, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 W. Lochmere Drive, Cary 27518

Join with all 8 LCMS churches in the Triangle as we celebrate the Reformation. The Rev. Dr. Jon Diefenthaler will share and preach. During the event, we will be assembling health kits for Lutheran World Relief to be sent to those in need across the world. **Drop off your donations at your local church. The kits will be assembled at the Reformation service on Nov. 3.**

ITEMS NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH KITS

- Dark Colored Towels between 20" x 40" and 27" x 52"
- Bars of Soap (4-5 oz bars)
- Sturdy Combs
- Toothbrush in original packaging
- Metal Nail Clippers



Triangle Faith is a cooperative effort of eight congregations in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that seeks to bring the message of forgiveness to the greater Raleigh Triangle community. www.trianglefaith.org

Fundraiser for Deploying Missionary Family – Sept. 28, 5-8 p.m.

Bill and Nicole Lohmeyer, members of Jordan Lutheran in Apex will serve as career missionaries in the Dominican Republic. Meet them on Saturday September 28 from 5pm-8pm at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Cary (100 W. Lochmere Drive, Cary). Food will be provided and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Please RSVP to events@jordanchurchnc.org. Learn more about the family online: www.lcms.org/lohmeier

Touched by Grace



On Saturday, 12 October 2013, Grace Lutheran Church, Durham will be hosting a free health clinic for our neighbors in the Watts-Hillandale area based upon the Touched by Hope model. Hope Lutheran Church of Wake Forest has hosted the last two years. The clinic will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be present from about 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our clinic will be smaller in scope and scale but will provide many of the same services as Hope including: medical and vision screenings, a meal for our guests, haircuts, groceries, and clothing – all free.

We are inviting you to participate if you would like in the following capacities:

- ◆ clothing donations (all ages: children through adult, including shoes)
- ◆ clothing sorting (before October), booth set-up on Friday, 11 October, and booth attendant
- ◆ food donations either for the grocery bags or for the meal to be served to the guests
- ◆ grocery bag packing (a few weeks before the event)
- ◆ grocery distribution attendant
- ◆ guest advocate - escorting guests from station to station providing assistance and a welcoming presence
- ◆ set-up on Friday and break-down assistance/clean-up

Volunteer training will be held at the end of September for all involved on that day. The website is not up yet but to get an idea of what the clinic entails see Hope's website: <http://www.hopelutheranwf.org/community/touched-by-hope/>

If you would like to join us as a volunteer on any level (behind the scenes or on that day) please email: touchedbygrace.org@gmail.com. More details will be forthcoming soon!

In His Service,
 Jan Graham, Touched by Grace Mission Administrator

Care Ministry

In the last month, members of the Advent Family joined forces to help Ginger move to a better and safer home at Carolina Springs, a Senior Living Community in Carrboro. It will take time for her to settle in, but she is looking forward to new opportunities to meet her neighbors and forge new friendships. Ginger is overwhelmed by this demonstration of love and generosity!

Thank you for giving your time and energy to organize, clean, pack and then move furniture and boxes to her new home. Thank you for contributing to the "Care Collection" so we could hire a team of house cleaners after she moved out of her house and purchase paint and supplies. Thank you for repairing and painting the interior of her home so she can put it on the market. Thank you! Carolyn Jones, Advent Care Ministry

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will look forward to resuming their Bible study in early October. It is hoped this will encourage our participants to attend Pastor John's Sunday morning "Circle Maker" Bible study which begins Sunday morning, September 8, and concludes Sunday, September 29. Our group will choose a study lasting 6-8 weeks so it will conclude by Thanksgiving. If anyone has a suggestion as to a study subject, please let Maryanne Warne know.

Men's Retreat

We have reserved 10 rooms, which hold up to 20 men double occupancy, November 8-10, 2013 at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC (near Morehead City). Let John Stow or Dave Neely know if you can attend. We look forward to once again enjoying a great weekend of fellowship, studying God's Word, 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".

As we discussed in the June 30 voters meeting, 2013 is a challenging financial year for Advent; however, based on midyear projections our Budget shortfall has improved by \$14,440 and is now (\$3205) compared with budgeted expenses exceeding income by (\$17,645). Thanks be to God and for your continued support (spiritual gifts and financial).

The Church Council also requests that all members attend the four week Bible Study entitled The Circle Maker, which Pastor John will lead starting Sept. 8th! Please keep the Council and Advent in your prayers as we ask God to guide us as we examine and discuss our future direction.

Time and Talent Volunteers

- * Are you already a Time and Talent volunteer and want to consider getting involved in new ways?
- * Have you been thinking about volunteering but are not sure how to get started?
- * Are your children asking how they can help?

Carolyn Jones looks forward to sharing information and adding your names to the list of volunteers who are scheduled each week to enhance worship and the Fellowship Hour. Send an email cmfjones@yahoo.com, call her home number (919) 969-8982, put a note in her Advent mail box, or talk to her at church.



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 Winter 2013/14 issue: Monday, November 18, 2013

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Contact the Church:

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e-mail: Advent_Lutheran@bellsouth.net

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 8, 2013

9:05am Sunday School/Confirmation/Bible Class

10:30am Divine Service with Holy Communion



Dates to Remember

Sundays, Sept. 8-29 – 9:05am

The Circle Maker, Adult Bible Study

Tuesdays – 10:00am

Resuming in October, Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays – 7:00-8:00pm

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm

Beginning September 18, Choir Rehearsal

Alternate Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm

Resuming in October

Women's Evening Bible Study

Saturday, September 7 – 5:15-7:00pm

Praise and Pizza

Sunday, Sept. 8

Resume Regular Worship Schedule

Saturday, October 12

Health Clinic Event, Grace, Durham NC

Saturday, October 19 – 5:15-7:00pm

Praise and Pizza

Saturday, October 19

LWML Eastern Zone Meeting

Our Saviour, Raleigh NC

Saturday, November 2 – 11:00am-3:00pm

"Gifts Galore 'n More"

Sunday, November 3, 3:00-5:30pm

Reformation Service & Mission Project

Resurrection Lutheran, Cary NC

November 8-10, 2013

Men of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC

Saturday, November 30

Christmas Decorating

Saturday, December 14 – 9:30am

WoA Christmas Brunch

Saturday, March 15

LWML Joy Event, Grace, Durham NC

May 2-4, 2014

Women of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC