



The Adventiser

Advent Lutheran Church

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

Winter 2013-14

Waiting for the Messiah, with the Old Testament Church

The Season of Advent, which begins Sunday December 1, 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 prophesied by Isaiah about 700 years before Jesus was born in that manger in Bethlehem. For centuries thereafter, faithful Hebrews looked for their Messiah with great longing and expectation, with the prayer that He would "ransom captive Israel," as we sing in the Advent Carol, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

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." Jesus Christ is that Messiah Who came over 2000 years ago and accomplished a perfect redemption for all who believe. During Advent we prepare our hearts to celebrate His coming.

In our midweek Advent services this year, we will be looking through the eyes of Isaiah as he anticipated Jesus' first coming, as we prepare our hearts for Jesus' second coming. Our three-week sermon series is titled, "WAITING WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT CHURCH." The focus of each week is as follows:

Dec 4: "WAITING WITH PRAYER" (Isaiah 64: 1-9)

Dec 11: "WAITING WITH COMFORT" (Isaiah 40: 1-11)

Dec 18: "WAITING WITH JOY" (Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11)

Each Wednesday we will enjoy a meal together at 6:15 pm, followed by worship at 7:00 pm.

Please join your Advent family on these 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, as Isaiah prophesied in Is 64: 1, He will once again "Rend the Heavens" and return to earth as King and Judge.

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

Blessings, Pastor John

Board of Worship

Poinsettia order forms will be available in the bulletin in early December.

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

Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm or after Advent services 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 Peggy Earnhardt (pjearnhardt@triad.rr.com), Pastor John, or Xavier Richert.

Board of Outreach

How is the prayer life of Advent Lutheran Church?

Once a month the Southeastern District (SED) gives us the opportunity to view, listen to, and interact with SED sponsored webcasts. This happens on Saturday morning and lasts two hours. Recently, the Training Lutherans for Outreach (TLO) webinar presented by Rev. Jim Buckman helped us to understand 3 Ms of prayer: Ministry, Mercy, and Multiplication. Rev. Buckman is a House Church Planter for the New Jersey District, LCMS. His ministry is shaped by a strong understanding that God commands us to be in prayer for all people, that all people would come to know His saving grace. The good Lutheran question: What does this mean? Then, how do I apply it in my life? This is the subject of the presentation series this year.

The focus of the webinar was on prayer ministry. Here is a summary of the questions and comments Pastor Buckman offered during the workshop.

- The New Testament does not list prayer as a spiritual gift. The bottom line is that it is not something selected people do; all Christians pray. None of us has a hard time carrying on a conversation with a friend; hence, we should not have a hard time praying.
- When we pray, we are to ask for what we want. We pray according to God's will, but God wants us to pray for what matters to the church and to us. We pray that His will be done.
- Prayer is not a program. God wants us to pray continuously. Is our church a house of prayer? Does the congregation's prayer life guide our church's resource decisions? How much time should our pastor (as part of his job) devote to prayer? How strong a prayer life should our church leaders have? What does the prayer life of our congregation look like? How much has our prayer life helped us grow this year individually and as a church?
- Any given Sunday, 65% of members of the LCMS are not in church. Do we pray for absent members? He says we should ask these members, "How can we pray for you? Is there anything we can do to help?"

Pastor Buckman suggests we do an assessment of our prayer ministry and we should have a Prayer Ministry Coordinator. He provided a handout about establishing a coordinator. He has also has written a book, *"I Pray."* The book addresses (in part) how to evaluate and establish a prayer ministry coordinator position.

To sign up for a webinar or an "Electronic Front Porch" with the SED President, visit www.se./lcms.org.

- Dave Neely

Men's Retreat

The Men of Advent recently returned from a great weekend of fellowship, studying God's Word and growing together in Christ. We want to thank Pastor Seaman for once again graciously giving his time and leading the Bible Study on "The 'West' in Prophecy." Dates for next year: We have currently reserved 10 rooms, which hold up to 20 men double occupancy, at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC from Oct 31-Nov 2, 2014. Let John Stow or Dave Neely know if you can attend; we look forward to another great weekend in 2014!

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 2014 Budget and will be presenting it to Advent's congregation on January 26, 2014. 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/Finance **Fulfilling God's Purpose!**

During our recent stewardship program, "Fulfilling God's Purpose!" we focused on God's generosity to us and our need, as God's people, to show love and gratitude to him. He is the Creator and Provider of all we are and have; he is the source of all love and mercy. The program helped us understand that, with transformed hearts, we express our faith in the way we live our lives to fulfill God's purpose. Giving is one of the special ways we put our faith into action as we respond to God's immeasurable love. Through our faithful giving, we give honor and praise to God, extend God's kingdom, and support those in need.

Thank you to those of you who have returned your estimate of giving cards for 2014. Of the 19 estimates that we have received, 12 are increases in giving. That is a very positive result. If you have not yet completed your estimate of giving for 2014, please consider doing so. Extra cards are available in the narthex.

The people of Advent are generous, caring, and always willing to support our church and its ministries. Thank you for sharing; may God's blessings be with you as you faithfully manage all that He has entrusted to you.

Advent Income and Expense through October 31, 2013

General Fund Income	\$ 118,495.14
Expenses	\$ <u>124,074.51</u>
Income vs. Expense	\$ (5,579.37)



Birthdays

Pastor Herbert Walther	Dec. 1	Lansama Sheref	Dec. 21	Kathleen Simis	Feb. 10
Loni Gunn	Dec. 1	Ann Swan	Jan. 13	Kent Underwood	Feb. 12
Pfc. Gentry Gunn	Dec. 1	Hank Swan	Jan. 16	Sadie Struckmeyer	Feb. 12
Rina Borg	Dec. 3	Jason Yando	Jan. 24	Konii Sheref	Feb. 13
Bob Serpas	Dec. 4	Christine Struckmeyer	Jan. 25	Pastor John Benham	Feb. 16
Barbara Bergdolt	Dec. 6	Jon Buchleiter	Feb. 2	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		

Women of Advent

Women of Advent have been busy creating unique items for the Gifts Galore 'n More fundraiser to be held on December 5 from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Flyer invitations are available in the church narthex. Proceeds will benefit the Abundant Joy Center for Women's Ministries. Thrivent will provide matching funds. Please plan to join us for a complimentary dessert and coffee or tea in our Holiday Cafe and enjoy an opportunity to get a head start on your holiday shopping!

All ladies are invited to attend the ever-popular and fun WOA Annual Christmas Breakfast Buffet on December 14 at 9:30 am at the home of Lois Durr, 518 Carolina Meadows Villa, Chapel Hill. Bring a favorite brunch dish and a wrapped small gift for your Secret Sister, if you have one, or one to exchange with others who do not have a Secret Sister. Please RSVP to Lois (919-967-2558) by December 7 and for directions. We hope to see you there!

Watch the church Sunday bulletins for other upcoming WOA events, including our famous "Favorite Things" and Valentine's Girls Night Out! Remember to include on your calendar May 2-4, 2014, the date of the WOA annual retreat at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC. Plan now to attend this always-great weekend.

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.

Advent Lutheran Church
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Contact the Church:

Phone: (919) 968-7690

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

Tuesdays – 10:00am

Resuming in January

Women's Morning Bible Study

Tuesdays – 7:00-8:00pm

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm

Choir/Praise Band Rehearsal

Alternate Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm

Resuming in January

Women's Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18

6:15 pm – Supper

7:00 pm – Advent Service

Saturday, December 5 – 3:00-8:00pm

"Gifts Galore 'n More"

Saturday, December 14 – 9:30am

WoA Christmas Brunch

Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, January 26, 11:30 am

Voter's Meeting

Saturday, March 15

LWML Joy Event, Grace, Durham NC

May 2-4, 2014

Women of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC

October 31 – November 2, 2014

Men of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC

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 2014 issue: Monday, February 17, 2014