



The Adventiser

Advent Lutheran Church

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

Spring 2014

Focus for Lent Midweeks: The Lord's Prayer

My Dear Friends in Christ... How often do you find yourself saying the words of the Lord's Prayer without really thinking of what you're saying? I find myself doing the same thing at times. We know the words so well they just become second nature. But when we think about it, this is the prayer Jesus taught His disciples when they asked Him to teach them to pray. So it's certainly worth taking our time and looking at this prayer in a much more in-depth and serious way. That's what we will be doing this year on the Wednesdays in Lent, based on readings from Matthew, Luke and John.

We'll begin on Ash Wednesday (March 5, 2014) with our 7:00pm worship service, which includes the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Then we'll continue on each of the following Wednesdays through Lent with a meal at 6:15pm followed by a modified vespers service at 7:00pm. We'll conclude the series during Holy Week at our 7:00pm Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Tenebrae services. The dates and topics are as follows:

- March 5, 2014 (Ash Wednesday): "Our Father, Who Art in Heaven"
- March 12, 2014 (Midweek 1): "Hallowed Be Thy Name... on Earth as It Is in Heaven"
- March 19, 2014 (Midweek 2): "Thy Kingdom Come... on Earth as It Is in Heaven"
- March 26, 2014 (Midweek 3): "Thy Will be Done... on Earth as It Is in Heaven"
- April 2, 2014 (Midweek 4): "Give us this Day Our Daily Bread"
- April 9, 2014 (Midweek 5): "Forgive Us Our Trespases"
- April 17, 2013 (Maundy Thursday): "Lead Us Not Into Temptation"
- April 18, 2014 (Good Friday): "Deliver Us From Evil"

Please mark your calendars and join your Advent Family during this Lenten season as we prepare our hearts to celebrate once again Jesus sacrificial death for us on Good Friday, and His Glorious Resurrection on Easter Morning. Our Easter Celebration on Sunday, April 20 will begin with an Easter Brunch at 9:15am, followed by Divine Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30am and an Egg Hunt for the kids following worship.

May Our Redeeming God Bless your Lenten preparation and Easter Celebration this year,

Yours in Christ, Pastor John.

Board of Worship

Special Lenten devotion booklets will available on the Lord's Prayer.

Our next **Praise and Pizza** will be on Saturday, May 17, 2014, at 5:15 p.m. The evening will begin with a Praise Service that will include music, prayer, and a short video and will conclude with fellowship time, pizza and soda. All are invited. If you are interested being part of the praise band, contact Pastor John or Peggy Earnhardt. If you would like the opportunity to sponsor the pizza for this or another date, contact Dave Neely.

Board of Outreach

About a year or so ago, the Advent congregation began to support PORCH (People Offering Relief for Chapel Hill Carrboro Homes). I recently attended a PORCH food-sorting event at St. Thomas More Catholic Church and asked those in charge about the biggest need they had. Their response was that they needed more people to become community/neighborhood coordinators and drivers. As I was sorting and talking, I discovered that the food items that came in the least were canned fruits. Do you want to guess what the most requested item was? Fruit! What food item do you think they get the most of? I won't give you that answer – you can attend a sorting session and see for yourself.

If any of you have worked in Washington D.C., you are familiar with the "Slug Line". Porch runs a lot like the Slug Line – a win-win operation. It runs very smoothly and is well organized; everyone knows what to do and a food gets to its designated spot for distribution.

PORCH is an all-volunteer, grassroots hunger relief organization whose mission is to collect and distribute food for families going hungry in the Chapel Hill and Carrboro communities. Through monthly neighborhood food drives, PORCH stocks the shelves of eight local food pantries with canned goods. Its *Food for Families* program delivers fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, ground beef, and eggs directly into the hands of 230 local families in need. And more recently, PORCH provides each of the schools in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro district with healthy snack foods.

Over 3,000 residents living in 130 neighborhoods throughout Chapel Hill and Carrboro now participate in PORCH's monthly food drives. Local businesses, foundations, churches, synagogues, schools, and civil organizations are also joining this growing coalition to fight hunger. PORCH monthly food sorts take place at **St. Thomas More Catholic Church**, 940 Carmichael Street Chapel Hill 27514 (Normal sorting hours are 8:30 - 11:00am.)

2014 Sort & Pantry Delivery dates

January 13	March 24	May 19	July 21	September 15	November 17
February 17	April 28	June 23	August 18	October 20	December 15

Check out the display in the Narthex or visit www.porchnc.org to find out how you can get involved in supporting PORCH. Thank you to those of you who already donate food as well as your time to help sort. Watch the church bulletin for reminders for donations and sorting dates. This outreach effort takes a maximum of 2 hours each month.

- Dave Neely

Men's Retreat

The Men of Advent look forward to another great weekend of fellowship, studying God's Word and growing together in Christ in 2014! 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.

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 Church Council presented the 2014 Budget to Advent's Congregation on January 26, 2014. We thank the Congregation for approving the Budget as proposed. Please keep the Council and Advent in your prayers as we work together to improve the management and coordination of Advent's 2014 plans and activities!

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

Many regions in our country have been struggling through one of the severest winters in recent memory. As this article is being written, Punxsutawney Phil (the official prognosticator of the coming weather) says spring will be slow in coming. Regardless, people living in many parts of our country ravaged by winter storms look forward to the coming of spring on March 20 with the confidence that better weather is on the way. Spring ushers in a new start as fields, orchards and gardens are prepared for the raising of new crops that will produce food for all God's creatures.

On March 5, Ash Wednesday ushers in the season of Lent. For Christians this is a very special time for examining their lives in the light of God's Word and will. Lent provides an extended opportunity to review the work of Jesus for the salvation of sinners. This season begins with the stark reminder that we came from dust and will return to dust again. The season ends with the death and burial of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. During this season, we are reminded of the seriousness of our sin and the supreme sacrifice of Jesus to earn forgiveness for us and all people on earth. With repentant hearts, we seek forgiveness for all our past sins and ask for the power of the Holy Spirit to live lives pleasing to God and beneficial for our neighbors.

What really counts for us is how we use the time between our birth and our death. That "in-between time" is God's gift that He intends for us to use wisely

and well. We remember that we became stewards on the day we were born and became Christian stewards on the day when we were baptized. Christian stewards recognize *that by the grace of God we have been created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* (Ephesians 2:10 NIV)

Christian stewardship is about so much more than our use of money. Christian stewardship is a lifelong journey on which we are to manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. And because God is so good and gracious we have been blessed with many things to manage and use. How we use our time, how we use our gifts and talents, how we manage our money, how we strengthen our relationships, how we care for God's creation are just some of the things we manage. Christian stewardship is whole-life, year-round and for all ages. And just like spring is a promise of new life for the earth, so Lent is a great time for reflection and a fresh start.

Regret looks back. Worry looks around. But faith looks up and for that reason Christian stewards practice good stewardship of all of life and life's resources, and do it freely and joyfully!

2014 Advent Income and Expense through February 19, 2014

General Fund Income	\$ 18,521.19
Expenses	\$ <u>22,658.18</u>
Income vs. Expense	\$ (4,136.99)

Women of Advent

The Women of Advent and their guests enjoyed a fun Valentine's "Girls Night Out" evening in the Fellowship Hall on February 11 sharing their "Favorite Things" and delicious desserts. Watch the church bulletins for details of our next "Girls Night Out" in March at a local restaurant and plan to join us.

The next Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Joy Event will be at Grace Lutheran Church in Durham, NC on Saturday, March 15. The theme will be "Quenching the Thirst" with mission speakers sharing their experiences in taking the Good News to the mission field and a Bible study focusing on sharing the Word of God in the mission field. Registration and fellowship time begin at 8:15 am with the program starting at 9:00 am. Lunch will be served. Registration fee \$10 by March 1; after that \$15. Gifts from the Heart Recipient: non-perishable food items for Miss Mollie's Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran School and Preschool. If you would like to attend, and we encourage you to do so, please see Lois Durr. We can arrange to carpool.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the always popular annual Women of Advent Spring Retreat May 2-4 at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC. Springtime at the beach! Watch the church narthex for the sign-up sheet and information poster announcing this year's theme. Pastor John will be joining us again this year to lead our Sunday service. This is one event you do not want to miss.

Women's Evening Bible Study

The Women's Evening Bible Study meets every other Wednesday at 7:00 pm. We are currently studying "Life Principles From The Women of the Bible." Since we all have busy lives and it is difficult to find quiet time, our program does the study at class. No homework. No need to be concerned about the book, as we share. Just you and any women friends that may wish to join us. Everyone is welcome.

Please consider joining us. For more information, contact Karen Baker (krobortel@gmail.com).

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.

Or check out the Lenten Devotions at www.lentendevotions.net. Available to read online or to hear as a podcast (beginning March 5), "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" can also be received as an e-mail subscription throughout the Lenten season.



Birthdays

Martha Gaestel	Mar. 2	Savannah Mather	Mar. 24	Matthew Wells	Apr. 16
Denny Zarnt	Mar. 3	Marge Schradie	Mar. 26	Alice O'Grady	Apr. 17
John Byrnes	Mar. 3	Gavin Borg	Mar. 27	Annabelle Koban	Apr. 19
Anders Borg	Mar. 5	Laurene Ackerman	Mar. 28	Dan Koban	Apr. 21
Brad Sopata	Mar. 8	Gary Gunn	Mar. 29	Dan Earnhardt	Apr. 28
Patrick Connor	Mar. 15	John Cangelosi	Apr. 7	Chelsey Masterson	May 8
Jennifer Simis	Mar. 15	Karla Byrnes	Apr. 7	Keith Lemon	May 16
Tracie Foels	Mar. 16	Tom Struckmeyer	Apr. 11	Clay Wriedt	May 21
Wendy Rosenstock	Mar. 17	Sophie Struckmeyer	Apr. 13	Janice Wriedt	May 21
Jacob Yando	Mar. 23	Barbara Preisel	Apr. 15	Judy Neely	May 27
				Max Worley	May 30

Anniversaries

Pauline & Ron Ramsey	Mar. 1	Phyllis & Kent Underwood	Apr. 22
Rina & Doug Borg	Mar. 11	Lauren & Dan Koban	May 27

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 2014 issue: Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Advent Lutheran Church
230 Erwin Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

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

9:05am Sunday School/Confirmation/Bible Class

10:30am Divine Service with Holy Communion



Dates to Remember

Tuesdays – 7:00-8:00pm

Men's Bible Study

Alternate Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm

Women's Evening Bible Study

Wednesdays – Choir/Praise Band

Rehearsal

8:00-9:00pm during Lent

7:00-8:00pm after Lent

Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Service

Saturday, March 15

LWML Joy Event, Grace, Durham NC

Wednesdays, March 12-April 9

6:15 pm – Supper

7:00 pm – Lenten Service

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Easter Egg Dying

Thursday, April 17 – 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 18 – 7:00 pm

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 20 – Easter

9:15am Easter Potluck Brunch

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Easter Egg Hunt

May 2-4, 2014

Women of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC

Saturday, May 17 – 5:15-7:00pm

Praise and Pizza

October 31 – November 2, 2014

Men of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC