



# The Adventiser

## Advent Lutheran Church

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

Fall 2015

### ***This Fall: Spiritual Gifts and Stewardship***

Dear Advent Family,

Our focus in Worship and Adult Bible study during September and October will be Spiritual Gifts and Stewardship!

#### **Spiritual Gifts**

Do you sometimes shy away from getting involved in ministry at Advent because you're concerned God might want you to do something you're not equipped to do? But think about this: would the inventor of the bicycle push it out into the lake and expect it to float like a boat? Of course he wouldn't! He would know that the bicycle is made to carry people from place to place on land. And that's what he would use it for. In a similar way, God had a purpose in mind when He created you and me. He equipped us with the Spiritual Gifts we need to do the ministry He intends for us to do. And He brings people with certain Spiritual Gifts together in churches in order to equip that church for the ministry He intends to accomplish through it.

Identifying the Spiritual Gifts God has brought to Advent helps us as a church determine how God wants to use us in ministry to our community, and helps us as individuals more effectively focus our efforts in an area of ministry for which we are uniquely equipped.

In September, *Spiritual Gifts* will be our focus in worship and Adult Bible Study. The weekly themes for this series are:

- Sept 13, 2015 - *What Does God Want Me to Do With My Life?*
- Sept 20, 2015 - *Doing What You Love, for God - What's Your Passion?"*
- Sept 27, 2015 - *Spiritual Gifts ... Just Use Them!*

#### **Stewardship**

By God's grace, we are given life, and that same grace that makes life possible empowers us to live fruitful and productive lives. Grace motivates us to be loving, serving, and giving people. Growing in an intimate relationship with Jesus through Word and Sacrament, we are transformed more and more into His likeness, and we can look forward to hearing "Well done, good and faithful servants."

In October, *Stewardship* will be our focus in worship and Adult Bible Study. The weekly themes for this series are:

- Oct 11, 2015 - *"Empowered by Grace to Know Our Purpose"*
- Oct 18, 2015 - *"Empowered by Grace to Serve and Witness"*
- Oct 25, 2015 - *"Empowered by Grace to Give and to Do Our Best"*

It is my prayer that these 2 series will help us grow in our understanding and ability to know what God wants us, His people, to be and to do.

God's Continued Blessings to you all, Pastor John

## *Board of Worship*

On Sunday, September 13, 2015, our regular Sunday schedule will resume with Sunday School for children and adults at 9:00 a.m. and the Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. The Praise Team will lead music during worship on September 13.

The Praise Team will normally lead music during worship on the third Sunday of each month and will rehearse on the previous Wednesday. Anyone who may be interested in joining the Praise Team with either vocals or instruments can contact Pastor John or Peggy Earnhardt.

Fall Praise and Pizza will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, September 12, October 17, and November 14. Everyone is invited to attend a fun evening of praise music, a short devotion, fellowship, and pizza. This is a great outreach opportunity. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Choir rehearsal will resume on Wednesday, September 30. If you love to sing, please join us. No regular commitment is required; everyone is welcome to join us at rehearsals and services as your schedule allows. Being able to read music is not a requirement.

Recently, the Council approved the following policy for canceling worship due to inclement weather or other emergency:

*The Pastor will confer with the President, the Chair of the Board of Worship, and an Elder to reach a decision about cancellation of a Worship service or other event. If the event is cancelled, the congregation will be informed by email no later than two hours before the event is scheduled to begin. The office manager will set up a phone tree to call all members who do not use email as soon as the decision is made and will notify television stations. The announcement will also be posted on the Advent website and Facebook as soon as possible. If a service is not cancelled and someone feels unsafe driving, they should be encouraged to stay home.*

Reminders:

- Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1, 2015. Set your clocks back one hour the night before.
- The Advent Season begins November 29, 2015.

## *Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study*

We are currently studying Life Principals from the Women of the Bible. Each session can stand alone, so come whenever your schedule allows. There is no book to buy and no homework. Come and learn what the women of the Bible have to teach us. We are meeting every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. See you soon!

## *Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study*

We will resume on Tuesday, September 29, at 10:00 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall to begin a study entitled "Discerning the Voice of God." This is a seven-week DVD study by Priscilla Shirer. Between sessions there are five days of individual study each taking about 30 minutes to complete. "Discerning the Voice of God" provides participants with practical help in knowing what you hear from God. Throughout this study, you will become more familiar with God's Holy Spirit, His character, language, and tone of voice. We know the author Priscilla Shirer from our previous recent study of Gideon. If you are interested in joining this Bible study, please contact Maryanne Warne ([maryanne106@me.com](mailto:maryanne106@me.com) or 919-468-0183) so she can order a study booklet for you (cost \$13). We hope you will be able to join us for this interesting Bible study.

## *Men's Retreat*

The Men of Advent look forward to another wonderful weekend of fellowship, studying God's Word and growing together in Christ in 2015! We have currently reserved 10 rooms and have 14 attending the retreat at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC from October 2-4 in 2015. Topics we'll be discussing include Regrets, Reality and Restoration, Lost Books, The Great Deceiver, Intersection of Church and State, and Journey from Unbelief to Faith. We have room for more; therefore, if you aren't currently signed-up and want to go, let Bill Ackerman or Dave Neely know.

## *Board of Finance and Stewardship*

### **Coming This Fall**

### **'Empowered by Grace!'**

A young boy walks into a small drug store and asks the druggist, "May I use the telephone?" The druggist replies, "You certainly may," and shows him where the telephone is. The boy calls a grocery store and asks the man who answers the phone, "Is your grocery store looking for someone to stock the shelves?" The man replies, "No, we already have a stock boy." The boy suggests, "If he isn't doing a good job, maybe you need to get someone who will do a better job." The man replies, "No, we are pleased with the work the boy is doing," so the boy hung up the telephone.

The druggist over-hears the conversation and says to the boy, "I'm sorry you didn't get the job." The boy says, "I don't need a job, because I am the stock boy. I was checking to see what they thought of my work."

What if you could call God to ask Him how He saw your effort in fulfilling the purpose for which He created you? What kind of marks would He give you for being His witness, or how you were doing in your service to others, or how you were doing in your giving? What kind of response would you expect to hear?

Because of God's grace, we can serve, witness, give, and do the work of the Lord. It is God's grace that gives us the power to do our best in doing His will. God's rich supply of grace is our power source. The encouragement to do our best is made with the understanding that what we do is always in response to what God has already done and through His power at work in us. Our stewardship does not originate with what we do for God. It is God who does the initiating. We respond out of gratitude for who God is and what He has done for us.

On October 11, we begin our three-week stewardship emphasis titled **"Empowered by Grace!"** We hope and pray that you will participate in both worship services and Bible studies.

### **Advent Financial Update through July 2015**

We provide the following information to keep you aware of Advent's financial situation:

Jan through July general fund offering	\$90,263
Jan through July expenses	\$92,771

Although at this point we have a deficit of \$2508, I know that our goal for the year is attainable if we all continue to be consistent with our offerings. Thanks to all of you who show your love and understanding of what it is to be a Christian steward. Your support of God's work through our congregation comes from your heart and is evident by what we can and do accomplish working together for His kingdom.

## *Women of Advent*

Women of Advent's first activity of the Fall will be a Girls' Night Out Jewelry 'n Accessories Swap 'n Shop on Thursday, October 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend and enjoy an evening of fellowship and shopping without spending! You can leave those credit cards at home! Bring your gently used jewelry, purses, scarves, belts, or hats. Try to bring at least five or more items. There will be refreshments for you to enjoy while you shop. This is a fun event! We are looking forward to seeing you there! Informational flyers will be available in the church narthex in September. Mark your calendar now!

Other Women of Advent events will be planned and advertised in the church Sunday bulletins. You can mark your calendar now to save Saturday, December 12, at 9:30 a.m. for the Women of Advent Annual Christmas Brunch, always a fun gathering. Detailed invitations will be sent in November.

## *Board of Outreach*

Plans are in the works to carry on with the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and the Thanksgiving baskets as in past years. We are making an effort to gather items early for the shoeboxes; if you have a chance, pick up a few supplies at the back-to-school sales. We are planning a craft day on October 10 to make items for the shoeboxes. Our efforts to contribute to PORCH will also continue. We're still learning the ropes of Outreach and are hearing murmurings of several possibilities for future goals. Watch for details about all of these opportunities.

*Bill & Laurene Ackerman*

## *Adopt an Orphanage*

### *Something to Pray and Think About*

Orphan Grain Train's "Adopt an Orphanage" program currently has 71 orphanages under full sponsorship in Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Hundreds more are awaiting help. Many of these orphanages are in remote rural areas where poverty is the norm and adult unemployment is as high as 80%. Combined with chronic alcoholism, these conditions have a tremendous impact on families.

Conditions in the orphanages are often extremely harsh. The temperature was -20° Fahrenheit when this photo of a Severskya, Russia orphanage was taken. Many children have only one or two sets of clothing. Medicine and other necessities are often in short supply or unavailable.



*A typical orphanage*

With the "Adopt an Orphanage" program, Orphan Grain Train provides support for each sponsored orphanage at a cost of \$280 a month. Funds are wired to Orphan Grain Train partners on location who purchase and deliver medicine, medical supplies, hygienic supplies, vitamins, and clothing directly to the orphanages. This ensures that the help actually reaches those who need it.

Current sponsors include congregations, groups, businesses, families, couples and individuals. Some have given funds beyond the \$280.00 monthly sponsorship to provide Christmas gifts and for other special needs. Several sponsors have given gifts specifically for the purchase of Bibles for the children.



*Orphans in Kyrgyzstan*

Adopting an Orphanage would be another wonderful way for Advent to show our love and help those in great need. Some of the items from above that stand out include "hundreds are still awaiting help" and "conditions in the orphanages ... extremely harsh." Please pray and think about whether adopting an orphanage is an opportunity that Advent should pursue. "I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you." John 14:18

*Dave Neely*



## *Using Our God-Given Talents!*

One of the folders I have created in Pinterest is entitled "Encourage/Remind Me".

I recently pinned several entries focused on reminding us that our talents are God-given, that we are to use our God-given gifts to serve others (1 Peter 4:10), and that our gift to Him is fulfilling our talents. What are your talents? How do you share them?

As we go back to our regular schedule for Sunday school and Worship, please consider joining the list of Advent volunteers and share your talents with your church family.

- The time and talent schedule supports and enhances Sunday worship and Communion: Adult opportunities include Altar Care, Communion Steward, Tray Bearer, Greeter, Reader, Usher, Bread for first time guests, and Refreshments; children may serve as Bell Ringer before Worship, Acolyte, and Crucifer. Contact: Carolyn Jones for more information about each of these roles and how to volunteer.
- Share your ideas for bulletin boards and banners and/or help create or install them. Contact Carolyn Jones
- Do you want to help maintain our church building and grounds? Contact Paul Simis (outside) and/or Jon and Sam Fischer (inside).
- Would you like to provide fresh flowers for the altar area on Sunday? Contact Dorothy Preisel or sign the Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the office hallway.
- Advent's Care Ministry works with Pastor John and the Elders to support members by sending cards and notes, visiting sick and shut-ins, keeping vigilant in prayer support, helping provide transportation, and organizing meals to deliver when emergencies arise. Contact Carolyn Jones, Chair
- Advent is truly blessed with and by music! Add your voice or instrumental talents to the "joyful noise" by contacting Pastor John to find out more about Choir and Praise Team.

These are only a few of the ways you can help – share your ideas and experiences and join us!

*Carolyn Jones*

## *Reuniting Joseph Sheref and Family*

After numerous setbacks and 15 long years, final approval has been obtained for Joseph's family to join him! His wife Aime, his daughter Koni (19), and his two sons Lansama (21) and Tommy (16) arrive in Raleigh on September 7. A huge thank you to the Advent Family for contributing money for plane fare and relocation expenses and household items for the Sheref family. Extra thanks to John Stow and Dave Neely for their steadfast support throughout the process.

If you are interested in helping, there is still time. Financial contributions can be mailed to Advent or placed in the offering plate marked for the 'Joseph Sheref Fund.' Smaller household goods can be brought to church no later than August 30. Larger items can be delivered directly to the Sheref's apartment or we can arrange to pick up the items. You can find details and see a list of household items still needed here:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040E4DABA92DA20-household](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/9040E4DABA92DA20-household).

For more information, check out the bulletin board, donation table, or bulletin insert at church or refer to previous emails. Contact Carolyn Jones ([cmfpjones@yahoo.com](mailto:cmfpjones@yahoo.com)) or Karla Byrnes ([kmkbyrnes@gmail.com](mailto:kmkbyrnes@gmail.com)) with questions.

Again, thank you all for allowing God to use your Spiritual Gifts of helps, caring, hospitality, compassion and so many others in helping Joseph and his family!



## *Hot Dog Lunch Fundraiser*

Please join us immediately after the worship service on Sunday, August 30 for a Hot Dog Lunch Fundraiser. Lunch is free, but donations will be accepted. All funds raised will be used to help cover plane fare for the Sheref family.

## *Celebrating our Advent Family.*

The bulletin board in the Narthex provides a pictorial directory of (most of) our "Advent Family". If you would like to update your current picture or add yours to the collection, bring one of your recent favorites or let us take a picture of you.

The Sunday worship bulletin lists the month's birthdays and anniversaries of Advent members and friends. 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.

Other special announcements are posted on the bulletin boards across from the mailboxes. Share upcoming special church events, births, graduations, weddings ... Let's post it!

Questions? Contact Carolyn F. Jones

### *Birthdays*

Peggy Earnhardt	Sept. 5	Paul Mather	Sept. 28	Joyce Eckert	Oct. 20
Aidan Connor	Sept. 7	Christy Key	Sept. 29	Don Eckert	Oct. 22
Jaxon Benham	Sept. 7	Luke Lu	Oct. 1	Caitlyn Wriedt	Oct. 30
Ron Hinkle	Sept. 9	Craig Walker	Oct. 2	Leonard Ernst	Nov. 4
Nathan Peterson	Sept. 13	Maryanne Warne	Oct. 4	Phyllis Underwood	Nov. 7
Walter Gaestel	Sept. 14	Dori Grace Walker	Oct. 4	Cliff Mather	Nov. 18
Melanie Mather	Sept. 16	Jonathan Simis	Oct. 5	John Stow	Nov. 22
Carolyn Walker	Sept. 17	Jarrad Borg	Oct. 7	Dana Higgins	Nov. 24
Pamela Ro	Sept. 19	Carolyn Hinkle	Oct. 8	David Anderson	Nov. 26
Wendy Healy	Sept. 22	Joseph Sheref	Oct. 10	Anona Serpas	Nov. 27
Bill Healy	Sept. 27	Pauline Ramsey	Oct. 12	Katie Moeller Simpson	Nov. 27
Cathy Stow	Sept. 28	Asa Struckmeyer	Oct. 14	Heidi Watren	Nov. 28
				Jon Fischer	Nov. 30

### *Anniversaries*

Peggy & Dan Earnhardt	Sept. 4	Tom Ortel & Karen Baker	Oct. 2
Kay & Ed Wriedt	Sept. 7	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	Marilyn & Leonard Ernst	Oct. 22
Janice & Clay Wriedt	Sept. 30	Cathy & John Stow	Nov. 22



*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](mailto:kmkbyrnes@gmail.com)).

*Newsletter Deadline for the Winter 2015-2016 issue:  
Tuesday, November 17, 2015*

**Advent Lutheran Church**  
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**web:** [www.AdventLutheranCH.org](http://www.AdventLutheranCH.org)

**Contact the Pastor:**

**Rev. John V. Benham III, Pastor**

**Phone:** (919) 943-7082

**e-mail:** [adventpastor@bellsouth.net](mailto:adventpastor@bellsouth.net)

**Sundays beginning September 13**

**9:00am** Sunday School/Confirmation/Bible Class

**10:30am** Divine Service with Holy Communion



## **Dates to Remember**

**Tuesdays – 10:00am**, Beginning September 29  
Women's Bible Study

**Tuesdays – 7:00pm**, Beginning September 15  
Men's Bible Study

**Wednesdays – 7:00-9:00pm**  
Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 11  
Praise Band Rehearsal

**Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm**  
Beginning September 30, Choir Rehearsal

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

**Sunday, August 30**  
Hot Dog Lunch Fundraiser

**Sunday, Sept. 13 – Rally Day**  
Resume Regular Worship Schedule

**Saturday, September 12 – 5:15-7:00pm**  
Praise and Pizza

**Saturday, October 17 – 5:15-7:00pm**  
Praise and Pizza

**October 2-4**  
Men of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC

**Thursday, October 8**  
Women of Advent Girls' Night Out

**Saturday, October 10**  
Operation Christmas Child  
Shoebox Craft Day

**Sunday, October 25**  
Stewardship Commitment Sunday

**Saturday, November 14 – 5:15-7:00pm**  
Praise and Pizza

**Sunday, November 29**  
Advent Season Begins

**Saturday, December 12 – 9:30am**  
Women of Advent Christmas Brunch