



The Adventiser

Advent Lutheran Church

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

Winter 2015-16

“Stir Up the Power!” (Midweek Advent Series)

My Dear Friends in Christ, a collect is a short prayer that, in a sense, collects the thoughts the church wishes to bring to God for a particular occasion or need.

A collect begins with an invocation to God: Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. Often there's recognition of a divine attribute associated with the person of the Holy Trinity being addressed. Then comes a petition or a request for something only God can provide. A reason is usually given for the request: that it would somehow bring glory to God. And then comes the conclusion in which the prayer is offered in the name of the two members of the Trinity not addressed in the invocation but Who are, nonetheless, eternally one God.

Each Sunday of the Church Year has at least one special collect associated with it that somehow relates to the season. But there are also collects to be said after Holy Communion, for worship orders other than the Divine Service and for celebrations and special needs.

In the Anglican Church, the Collect for the Last Sunday of the Church Year (Nov 22 this year) goes like this:

“Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

That collect isn't in our Lutheran list of collects, maybe because it seems to teach works-righteousness. But in England it's so famous that the Last Sunday of the Church Year is called "Stir-Up Sunday." That's the day families go home and start stirring up Christmas pudding and other holiday treats. Prince Albert is supposed to have started that tradition.

We Lutherans also have "stir-up" prayers designated for the Sundays in Advent, and they occur in plenty of time for us to start our holiday baking. These “stir-up” prayers, these collects, will be the focus of our Midweek Worship this year as follows:

- Midweek 1 (Dec 2) – “Stir Up the Power of Hope” (Romans 15: 12-13)
- Midweek 2 (Dec 9) – “Stir Up the Power of Preparation” (Matthew 3: 1-12)
- Midweek 3 (Dec 16) – “Stir Up the Power of Love” (1 John 4: 15-21)

Please join your Advent family, and consider bringing a guest on these three Wednesdays for a light supper at 6:15 p.m. followed by Midweek worship at 7:00 p.m. and for our Christmas Eve Candle Light Service on Dec 24 at 7:00 p.m.

May God grant us all a renewed sense of His presence during this Advent Season, so that we may experience anew the Joy of our Newborn King as we worship Him on Christmas Eve.

God's continued blessings to you all, Pastor John.

Board of Worship

Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or after Advent or Lenten 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 such as a prelude, offertory, or communion musical interlude, please contact Peggy Earnhardt, Pastor John or Xavier Richert.

Poinsettia order forms will be available in early December.

Upcoming Worship opportunities:

- Wednesdays during Advent (December 2, 9, and 16) – join us for a light supper at 6:15 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.
- Children's Program – Sunday morning, December 20
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. There will not be a Christmas Day service.
- The Praise Team will lead music in worship on Sundays December 20, January 17, and February 21.
- Praise and Pizza – Saturday, January 16, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday Service – February 10, 2016 at 7p.m.
- Wednesdays during Lent (February 17, 24, March 2, 9 and 16) – join us for a light supper at 6:15 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.
- Palm Sunday Worship – Sunday, March 20, 2016
- Maundy Thursday Worship – Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
- Good Friday Tenebrae Service – Friday, March 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunday – March 27, 2016

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.

Board of Outreach

I'm writing this on Sunday afternoon, November 15. We prayed for God's blessing on 69 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes this morning in our service! The Sunday School children packed 40 shoeboxes last Sunday with the help of a few adults and the unbelievable organizational expertise of Jennifer Simis. And then our great congregation brought in another 29 this morning! We will deliver the shoeboxes to the collection site tomorrow morning.

We also will be delivering several bags of food to PORCH tomorrow. They are in great need at this time of year. I noticed as I was leaving church that Old Tom Turkey has absolutely no tail feathers left and that means that all the items for the Thanksgiving baskets for our 3 families will be returned next Sunday ready for delivery. I'm so proud of our generous little church!! We may not be very big but we sure can make big things happen!

We are still working on lining up recipients and gift requests for our Angel Tree. I hope to have the tree ready on Nov. 29, the Sunday after Thanksgiving! Thanks to all of you for being so generous!

Bill & Laurene Ackerman

Women of Advent

The Women of Advent will hold their Annual Christmas Breakfast Buffet on Saturday, December 12, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Lois Durr, 518 Hawthorne Drive (Carolina Meadows Villa), Chapel Hill. Join us for a morning of delicious food and warm holiday Christian fellowship. Bring your favorite brunch dish and a wrapped small gift for your Secret Sister. If you do not have a Secret Sister, bring a wrapped small gift to exchange with others who do not have a Secret Sister. Please let Lois know if you will be attending. Invitations with detailed information have been mailed. We hope to see you all there!

The Women of Advent will hold our annual Valentine Chocolate Fest and Favorite Things gathering in the Fellowship Hall on February 11 at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendar for that one! Watch for announcements in the Sunday church bulletins and posters displayed in the narthex with information on other upcoming Women of Advent activities in 2016.

Men's Retreat

The Men of Advent look forward to another wonderful weekend of fellowship, studying God's Word and growing together in Christ! We have currently reserved 9 rooms and have 15 attending the retreat at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC from December 4-6 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. For those planning ahead, the Men's Retreat will take place September 30 – October 2 in 2016.

Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study

We will be on break through Advent. We will resume on Wed., Jan 6 at 7 p.m. We will be continuing our study of the women of the bible. Please come and join us. No homework. No book to buy. Come for a one-hour study of the bible and the women who have a message for us.

Birthdays

Loni Gunn	Dec. 1	Katy Courter	Jan. 10	Kay Wriedt	Feb. 11
Pfc. Gentry Gunn	Dec. 1	Ann Swan	Jan. 13	Kent Underwood	Feb. 12
Rina Borg	Dec. 3	Hank Swan	Jan. 16	Sadie	Feb. 12
Bob Serpas	Dec. 4	Xavier Richert	Jan. 20	Konii Sheref	Feb. 13
Barbara Bergdolt	Dec. 6	Christine Struckmeyer	Jan. 25	Pastor John	Feb. 16
Sam Fischer	Dec. 16	Jon Buchleiter	Feb. 2	Wenjing Zhang	Feb. 17
Allyson Elizabeth	Dec. 19	Lois Durr	Feb. 6	Doug Borg	Feb. 18
Dwain Warne	Dec. 20	Sabrina Mather	Feb. 7	Lyla Rose Maves	Feb. 20
Lansana Sheref	Dec. 21	Paul Simis	Feb. 8	Amanda Watren	Feb. 20
Ruth Lu	Jan. 5	Kathleen Simis	Feb. 10	April Welborn	Feb. 23

Anniversaries

Christy & Ken Key	Dec. 13	Wenjing Zhang & Luke Lu	Jan. 2
Anona & Bob Serpas	Dec. 21	Katie & Matt Simpson	Jan. 3
Ann & Hank Swan	Dec. 21	Joyce & Don Eckert	Jan. 25
Carolyn & Frank Jones	Dec. 30	Beth & John Benham	Feb. 21

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.

Board of Finance and Stewardship

LCMS Stewardship Newsletter Article (December 2014)

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). God became man; he took on human flesh, so that men would once again dwell with God. In the fullness of time, the Son of God from eternity became a part of history to be born under the law in order to redeem those under the law. Christ came from heaven above to earth below for us men and for our salvation. He who knew no sin became sin so that we would be declared righteous in God’s sight. He was defiled so that we would be cleansed. He was born so that we would not die, and He died for us so that we would live in Him. He took upon Himself everything that rightfully belongs to us—sin and death—and in exchange gave to us everything that rightfully belongs to Him—righteousness, life, and the status as the sons of God.

This is what we celebrate in Advent and at Christmas. We celebrate the coming of our Lord to save us from sin, death, and hell. We celebrate that God in Christ cared for us in body and soul, for He came not only to reconcile us to the Father by taking away our sin, but also to redeem us from death and hell so that we would live with Him in His kingdom, which has no end.

In a sermon on Acts 6 for St. Stephen’s Day, preached on December 26, 1522, Martin Luther said this: “From this story we learn in the first place how a Christian community should be constituted. In addition, we have a true pattern of spiritual government that the apostles here provide. They care for souls, occupy themselves with preaching and prayer, and yet also see to it that the body is cared for; for they suggest several men who are to distribute the goods, as you have heard.

Thus the Christian rule is concerned for the people in body and soul, so that no one suffers want ... that all were richly fed and well cared for in both body and soul.”

And this is one reason we give to the church. We give so that people will see the church not just as a place that cares for souls, that forgives sins, but also a place that cares for the body. For the church is a place of mercy. It is a place where we inhale God’s mercy and loving kindness through the Word and the Sacraments for the forgiveness of our sin. And it’s a place where we exhale the mercy we received there in love and service to our neighbor. The church cares for both the body and the soul.

The church is not so heavenly minded that it forgets those in need on earth. In fact, it cares for the needs of this body and life precisely because it is heavenly minded. We seek to do what God has done for us. The church is so ordered that it does both.

Giving to the church is a responsibility given to those who are the church. This can sometimes be difficult. But it is also a great joy. For in giving to the church we are giving back to God for His use for others what He has first given to us. In giving to the church, we participate in God’s work here in time for all eternity. In giving to the church, we who are heavenly minded do what God has done for us: dwell with those who live in a fallen world and care for them in both body and soul. Let us, then, in this most joyous season of the church year, dwell not on the struggles in giving, but rather on the joy set before us in caring for body and soul as God in Christ has done for us.

Advent Finance Report as of October 31, 2015

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

Income	\$134,253.26
Expenses	\$129,292.74
Income VS Expense	\$ 4,960.52 (without mission donation accrual)

Without the mission accrual, Advent has a positive balance. However, if we add the tithe to missions that the congregation supported at the Voters' Meeting, our balance would be (\$5919.32). Thank you for your faithful support and help for a strong and generous finish for the year's end.



The Adventiser, the newsletter for Advent Lutheran Church, is published quarterly. Contact Karla Byrnes (kmkbyrnes@gmail.com) if you have something you would like included or have comments or suggestions.

Newsletter Deadline for the Spring 2016 issue: Tuesday, February 16, 2016

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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

9:00am Sunday School/Confirmation/Bible Class

10:30am Divine Service with Holy Communion



Dates to Remember

Tuesdays – 10:00am, (Watch for details)
Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays – 7:00pm
Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays – 7:00pm
Choir/Praise Band Rehearsal
(after worship service during Advent/Lent)

Wednesdays – 7:00pm, beginning Jan. 6
Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16
6:15 pm – Supper
7:00 pm – Advent Service

December 4-6
Men of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC

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

Sunday, Dec. 20 – 10:30am
Children's Christmas Program

Thursday, December 24, 7:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, January 16 – 5:15-7:00pm
Praise and Pizza

Sunday, Jan. 24 – Noon
Voter's Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 7:00 pm
Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 11 – 7:00pm
Women of Advent Valentine's Gathering

Wednesdays, February 17-March 16
6:15 pm – Supper
7:00 pm – Lenten Service