



The Adventiser

Advent Lutheran Church

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

Fall 2016

“You’ll Get Through This!”

My Dear Friends in Christ, as many of you know, one of my favorite authors and speakers is Max Lucado. We have used some of his videos for Praise and Pizza. He always has such a great practical way of applying the scriptures to everyday life. One of his books that I recently read is titled “YOU’LL GET THROUGH THIS” and it’s subtitled “HOPE AND HELP FOR YOUR TURBULENT TIMES.” Is that apropos or what? For both Beth and me, and for you, our Beloved Advent Family.

One chapter in particular is appropriate and I’d like to share a few thoughts from it. The chapter is titled, “Wait while God works.”

Max begins the chapter in the waiting room of a doctor’s office. And, as he puts it, the name of the room describes the task at hand. You wait ... Time moves very slowly in the waiting room. We don’t like to wait. We want six-pack abs in ten minutes and minute rice in thirty seconds. We don’t like to wait, not on the doctor, the traffic, for pizza, or on God!

Max then describes the earth that we live on as God’s waiting room. We wait for answers to prayer, which hardly ever seem to come when we want them to or in the way that we want them to.

But we’re not alone in waiting on God. Max retells the account of Joseph from Genesis 37-50. Although we can read this account in less than an hour, it took Joseph several decades to live through all the waiting on God that he experienced. If you haven’t read that account for a while, take some time to read it. It is amazing what Joseph went through just so God could get him right where He wanted him, in Egypt, to save the Israelites from starvation, and to continue the lineage into which Jesus would be born.

The point Max makes is that while Joseph was waiting, God was working! And it’s the same way with us.

He concludes this chapter with these words, “You’ll get through this waiting room season just fine. Pay careful note, and you will detect the most wonderful surprise. The doctor will step out of his office and take the seat next to yours. ‘Just thought I’d keep you company while you are waiting.’ Not every physician will do that, but yours will. After all, He is the Great Physician.”

My Dear Friends, we will get through this! God is working to accomplish His will both at Advent and at Royal Redeemer where Beth and I are headed. Thank you all so much for nine amazing years of ministry. And thank you for all the wonderful cards, kind words, and delicious food on August 28, our last Sunday with you. You will always be very special to us.

Love, Pastor John and Beth.

Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study

Plans as to which study we will undertake for the Fall months are still being firmed up. Watch the Sunday church bulletins for the specific details and starting date.

Advent Church Council

Plan to attend worship Sunday, September 4, 2016, to welcome our vacancy pastor, Pastor James McDaniels. He will serve as our pastor throughout our call process.

The call process is in progress! Under the leadership of John Stow, the call committee is following the Southeast District's procedure for calling our next pastor.

On August 10, 2016, Pastor Lineberger, our Circuit Visitor, met with a small group of members to review Advent's basic statistics. After looking over information including our average attendance, mortgage balance, and average giving, he told us we are in a solid position to go forward with a call.

Next, SED president John Denninger and Pastor Seaman (Southeastern District Mission and Ministry Facilitator) met with the Church Council and John Stow on August 24, 2016, to give us an overview of the procedure we would follow and the Southeastern District's role in helping us. They will be with us, praying for us and guiding us every step of the way. I find that to be very reassuring and comforting.

With Pastor Seaman's assistance, our first task is to complete an evaluation designed to determine our direction in choosing a pastor appropriate for our congregation. We encourage everyone in the congregation to be involved in providing answers and input. The questions for the congregational profile are available on the Cloud if you are interested in seeing them. Contact Karla Byrnes for access (kmkbyrnes@gmail.com).

Once we complete the evaluation, we will ask the congregation for nominations of pastors they would like to include for consideration. Those names will be sent to the SED President who will evaluate them and add additional names to a list of potential candidates for us to use. That part of the process could take as long as six weeks. Pastor Lineberger will call each pastor on that list and ask if he is willing and able to accept a call if one is offered. Those who agree are kept on the list. The call committee will then begin to consider each pastor. The congregation makes the final decision on which pastor to call.

We know God has a wonderful plan for Advent. We ask for your prayers, your participation, and your patience throughout the call process. Each of you is an important part of it. Don't hesitate to offer opinions, make suggestions, and ask questions.

Dave Neely, President

Board of Worship

Beginning September 4, 2016, please welcome Pastor Jim McDaniels who will serve as our vacancy Pastor. On the Sundays that Pastor McDaniels will not be with us, a guest pastor will be invited to fill in.

On Sunday, September 11, 2016, our regular Sunday schedule will resume with Sunday School for children and adults at 9:15 a.m. and the Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

A notice will be sent out when choir rehearsal will resume. Praise and Pizza has been suspended for the remainder of 2016.

Reminders: Daylight Savings Time ends November 6, 2016. Set your clocks back one hour the night before
The Advent Season begins November 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.*

Men's Retreat

We'll once again be back in the Beach House for this year's Men's Retreat Bible Study! We're blessed to have Vicar Mark Moretz, from Hope Lutheran Church in Durham, shepherd our group through Bible Study, prayer and Sunday Service. Per feedback from Hope Lutheran members, we'll have a very special spiritual leader guiding our Men's retreat! Vicar Mark will be using material from "God Connects".

The study is hosted by Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Speaker of *The Lutheran Hour*. 12 brief film clips will offer an easy-to-use resource for deepening your Christian faith. Seltz looks at topics like God's nature, Communion, the end of time, prayer, the Ten Commandments, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and more.

We have currently reserved 10 rooms for 20 attendees at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC from September 30 – October 2, 2016. The weather should be fantastic on the Carolina coast this time of year! Golfers leave from Advent at 8:00 a.m. Friday Morning Sept 30 (play 18 holes at Camp Lejeune before the retreat) and the rest leave the church at 1:00 p.m. Car pools will be determined after we finalize attendees. Since the retreat starts in one month, please contact either Dave Neely, Bill Ackerman, or John Stow as soon as possible in order to reserve your place at this year's retreat.

Women of Advent

Information about Women of Advent's Fall kick-off activity will be announced with posters in the church narthex and a notice in the Sunday church bulletins as soon as details are confirmed. Mark your calendars now to save the date of Saturday, December 10, for Women of Advent's annual Christmas Brunch.

Board of Outreach

In his final sermon to us on August 28, Pastor John emphasized the positive inclination of the Advent congregation to help others. He encouraged us to keep doing what we're doing. Advent has a heart for helping and giving; it's what we do. Currently, however, our church is in need of a coordinator for the outreach ministry, someone to plan and direct our outreach efforts. We have many willing helpers in need of a leader. If you are that person feeling the nudge of the Holy Spirit to get involved, please contact any council member.

For now and for the fall quarter, our outreach activities will be a repeat of previous years and will include Touched by Grace, continuation of food collection for PORCH, Operation Christmas Child, and Thanksgiving baskets.

Touched by Grace is an outreach of Grace Lutheran Church in Durham. The members of Grace asked for our help with its one-day Health Clinic for the area surrounding that church. On September 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., people are needed to serve as advocates or guides for the guests helping them navigate from station to station. An advocate would need to attend one training session before September 17. Dates and times are as follows: Thursday, 9/8/2016 at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, 9/11/2016 at 1:30 p.m., Monday, 9/12/2016 at 7:00 p.m. or Thursday, 9/15/2016 at 7:00 p.m. If you are available, see Lois Durr for more information. We are also collecting non-perishable food for the guests.

PORCH – Fall collection and sort dates at St. Thomas More are Sept. 19, Oct. 17, and Nov. 14. Please continue to bring canned food, cereals, soups, and school snack items to church.

Dates for Operation Christmas Child (shoeboxes) and for food collection for the Thanksgiving baskets are to be decided. Watch the bulletin and emails for more information.

Any ideas or suggestions for our outreach are more than welcomed and greatly encouraged.

Board of Finance and Stewardship

Although we are in a period of transition at Advent, stewardship – more specifically whole life stewardship – continues. It's a growth process for Christians. As our faith grows, our giving of self increases, and it's not only for Sundays but every day the whole year through. Advent has a fall stewardship focus every year. The dates are not as yet set, but once again we will turn our attention to our management of God's resources and to the ways we respond to His endless grace and goodness. The focus will culminate with Commitment Sunday. We are grateful for your participation and will use your estimate of giving responses to plan our ministry budget for next year.

Financial Update: Thank you for all your support of Advent's ministry. Through August 31, 2016, income to the general fund is \$107,691.85 while expenses are \$113,098.48 leaving us with a year-to-date deficit of \$5406.63. The good news is that we are awaiting a check for recently donated stock that was sold. That check will more than equalize our total income and expense.

Seminars

Several interesting seminars are being offered, two in Hickory, NC. For more information, check out the bulletin board near the kitchen or visit the links below:

- Judaica and the Jewish Context of the New Testament, Sept. 12-14, Augustana Lutheran Church, Hickory, NC, led by Dr. Dean O. Wenthe. Register: <http://www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events/continuing-education/hickory/>
- A Festival of Worship, Nov. 12, Augustana Lutheran Church, Hickory, NC (see brochure on bulletin board)
- Lutheran Service Book at Ten Years – Rejoice, Give Thanks, and Sing, Nov. 6-8, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. <http://www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events/good-shepherd-institute/>

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

Peggy & Dan Earnhardt	Sept. 4	Christine & Tom Struckmeyer	Oct. 10
Kay & Ed Wriedt	Sept. 7	Maryanne & Dwain Warne	Oct. 21
April Welborn & Nathan Peterson	Sept. 11	Marilyn & Leonard Ernst	Oct. 22
Janice & Clay Wriedt	Sept. 30	Amie & Joseph Sheref	Nov. 15
Tom Ortel & Karen Baker	Oct. 2	Cathy & John Stow	Nov. 22
Jennifer & Paul Simis	Oct. 5		

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.

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Contact the Church:

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e-mail: Advent_Lutheran@bellsouth.net

web: www.AdventLutheranCH.org

Sundays beginning September 11

9:15am Sunday School/Confirmation/Bible Class

10:30am Divine Service with Holy Communion



Dates to Remember

Tuesdays – 10:00am,
watch for dates/topics, Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays – 7:00pm,
watch for dates/topics, Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm,
watch for date to resume, Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm,
beginning October 5, Women's Bible Study

Sunday, Sept. 11 – Rally Day
Resume Regular Worship Schedule

September 30 – October 2
Men of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC

Sunday, November 27
Advent Season Begins

Saturday, December 10 – 9:30am
Women of Advent Christmas Brunch

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 Winter 2016/2017 issue:
Tuesday, November 15, 2016***