



The Adventiser

Advent Lutheran Church

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

Spring 2016

Focus for Lent

The Lord's Prayer: A Prayer for All Seasons (Matthew 6: 5-15)

My Dear Friends in Christ, we pray the Lord's Prayer every time we gather for worship. Children learn it at an early age. And it's prayed at the bedside of the ill and the dying. I'm always amazed how people who don't seem to remember much of anything else, can pray the Lord's prayer from memory.

Do you ever pray the Lord's Prayer at any time other than in worship? If not, then I'd like to encourage us all to do something during Lent. Try to pray it at least three times a day, as a discipline, kind of a ritual, if you will.

By doing this, the grace of Jesus, as expressed in this prayer, will become more a part of our everyday life and lifestyle and will be an antidote and a blessing for whatever is going on in our lives. Whether it is pain, guilt, humility, arrogance, needs of any kind, or relationships. The Lord's Prayer is "A Prayer for All Seasons," no matter in what season of life we find ourselves. So, our theme this year for the Wednesdays in Lent is: "The Lord's Prayer: A Prayer for All Seasons."

The more we pray it, the more we begin to interject our own personal needs or thoughts or fears into the prayer. For instance, when we pray "Thy kingdom come," we will begin to say, "And that includes Thy Kingdom come for my neighbors and my enemies as well." And when we pray, "Thy will be done on earth," we will begin to include a prayer for God's will to be done in the lives of our friends, family, and acquaintances for whom we pray on a daily basis.

Each successive week of these Lenten midweeks, we'll focus on one petition of the Lord's Prayer and also include Luther's wonderfully insightful explanation, as follows:

- Ash Wednesday (2/10/16): "Seasons of Needing Forgiveness" – 5th Petition
- Mid-Week Lent 2 (2/17/16): "Seasons of Lifting Up the Lord" – 1st Petition
- Mid-Week Lent 3 (2/24/16): "Seasons of Wondering Who's in Control" – 2nd Petition
- Mid-Week Lent 4 (3/2/16): "Seasons of Seeking God's Will – 3rd Petition
- Mid-Week Lent 5 (3/9/16): "Seasons of Thanks for Simple Things – 4th Petition
- Mid-Week Lent 6 (3/16/16): "Seasons for Standing Up to Evil – 6th & 7th Petition

Plan now to join your Advent Family for these Mid-Week Services, as well as Holy Week (Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) and Easter.

Our Mid-Week services are at 7:00 p.m. following a light supper at 6:15 p.m. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are at 7:00 p.m., and our Easter Sunday Celebration begins with an Easter Brunch at 9:15 a.m., followed by Divine Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m. and an Egg Hunt for the kids following worship.

May the Blessings of Lent and Easter be especially meaningful to you this year.

Yours in Christ, Pastor John

Board of Worship

Reminder – Daylight Savings time starts March 13. Turn clocks ahead one hour when going to bed on Saturday, March 12.

Praise and Pizza will be held on April 16 and May 21. The Praise Service will begin at 5:15 p.m. followed by pizza and fellowship at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. The Praise Team will lead music at worship on Sunday March 20, April 17, and May 22.

Easter Lily order forms will be available in early March.

Upcoming Worship opportunities:

- Wednesdays during Lent (February 17 - March 16) – join us for a light supper at 6:15 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m.
- Palm Sunday – March 20, 2016
- Maundy Thursday Service – 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

Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary from 7:00-8:00 p.m. or after the Lenten services. Being able to read music is not a requirement. If any member or friend of Advent Lutheran Church wishes to share a musical talent for the prelude, offertory, or communion musical interlude, please contact Pastor John, Xavier Richert or Peggy Earnhardt.

Christian Education

Lenten Devotions for 2016: A devotion booklet entitled "Love's Greatest Sacrifice," written by Rev. Wayne Palmer, is available in the Narthex. Please pick up a copy for your personal use this Lenten Season. Theological editor and writer Rev. Palmer follows the text of Luke 22-23 as he portrays the intensity of Christ's heavenward mission, showing both the anguish and compassion of the Savior's ministry and the events that led Him to the cross. Or check out the Lutheran Hour Lenten Devotions on line at www.lhm.org/lent/. The daily devotion can also be received as an e-mail subscription throughout the Lenten season.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, March 1, at 10:30 a.m. with a seven-session study entitled "The Armor of God" by Priscilla Shirer. All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you. A cunning, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you - your emotions, your mind, your family, your future. The enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. A woman who is armed and dangerous. This Bible study is an action plan for putting on your armor and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory against the enemy. This Bible study will bring to light the war around you and challenge you to suit up, and secure victory in your life.

Please let Maryanne Warne (maryanne106@me.com) know if you will be attending the Bible study so a study booklet can be purchased for you (cost \$13).

Women's Evening Bible Study is in recess during the Lenten Season. We will resume our bible study with "God Is in the Laundry Room," written by Susan Senechal. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, March 30, at 7:00 p.m., at Advent. No homework. No book to buy. Please come and join us!

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at Advent at 7:00 p.m. on (you guessed it) Tuesday evenings. We are using a study entitled "The Challenge of Islam." It will cover topics such as *What is Islam?*, *Defending the Christian Faith*, *Islamic Assumptions and Christianity*, *The Three Phases of Jihad*, and *Talking Points for Sharing our Christian Hope with Muslims*. All are welcome, including women for this study.

Board of Finance and Stewardship

LCMS Stewardship Newsletter Article (February 2016)

We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves us is never alone. That is because faith is a living, busy, and active thing. It inhales all of God's riches in Christ and exhales this in love and service to the neighbor.

But who is my neighbor? God in His mercy has placed us into three distinct communities: society, family, and the church. That means we have a duty to those around us in each of these communities. We pray for the people in these three communities daily. We rejoice with them in times of joy and suffer with them in times of sadness. And we give to them from the income that God provides as we are able and as they have need.

So we pay taxes to our governments so that they may do the work that is needed for our neighbors in society. We give to our families so that they have food and clothing, house and home, even educations. And we give to our church—our local congregations—so that the gospel may be preached and the sacraments administered for us and others.

The beauty of this is that God smiles upon all that giving. When you pay your taxes, God is pleased that you have served your neighbor who needs what the government provides.

When you provide for your family, God is pleased. That you have helped your neighbor with the necessities of life by sharing with them what He has given to you, God is pleased. And when you give to your local congregation to support the ongoing preaching of the gospel, God is pleased. To all this giving, He says to you, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Looking at giving in this light makes it a joy to give. The joy is multiplied. There is joy in you because you have served your neighbor in his need. There is joy in your neighbor for God has answered their prayers through you. And God rejoices and is pleased with it all. It might just make the humdrum of grocery shopping and mortgage payments a bit more joyous. It might even make April 15 tolerable (St. Paul had to have this pep talk with the Romans, also, "This is why you pay taxes...." Rom. 13:6). And it surely will make the envelope placed into the offering plate a joyful thing.

Indeed, God is pleased with you. You are saved by faith alone because of Jesus Christ. And that saving faith is never alone. It is busy and active. It serves the neighbor in society, family, and church with free and cheerful giving.

Advent Finance Report 2015 Year-end Summary

Income to the general fund	\$170,381.36
Expenses	\$167,945.55
Income vs. Expense	\$ 2,435.71

Expenses for 2015 include mission donations of \$15,782.80 and \$2000 capital accrual. To see a complete financial statement, please see Jennifer Simis or Judy Neely. Thank you to the Advent family for your generous giving.

Results of November 2015 Stewardship Focus for the 2016 Budget

The November focus on stewardship resulted in 30 pledge cards being returned for a total of \$152,079.00 and represents an increase of more than \$6200 over last year's amount pledged - 11 of the 30 are an increase over the previous year's amount. In calculating Advent's 2016 income for budget purposes, I have again used the cards returned, estimated offerings of those who give but do not return a pledge card, loose plate giving, donations from Thrivent members through the Thrivent Choice program, and other income such as building rental, rebates, etc. The total estimated 2016 income is \$165,860. Thank you to all who continue to support the ministry of Advent Lutheran Church. We appreciate you.



With Thrivent Choice®, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, members have used this program to direct \$300 million to churches and nonprofits nationwide. Thrivent Choice participants have thousands of options, but they chose you. **Based on their recommendations, Advent Lutheran Church received \$1,475 in 2015.** The Thrivent Choice program helps Thrivent members make a positive impact in their communities. For more information, visit their [website](#).

Women of Advent

On February 11 the Women of Advent enjoyed an evening celebrating Valentine's Day with yummy goodies and sharing a few of our "Favorite Things." A fun time was had by all. Information on upcoming Women of Advent activities will be announced in the Sunday church bulletins and on posters in the church narthex. A women's retreat at the Trinity Center is not scheduled for this Spring.

Advent Church Council

Voter's Meeting: Greetings! We praise the Lord and thank all of you for a very successful year. As a result of your stewardship, we were able to slightly exceed our 2015 budget. This allowed us to tithe and distribute 10% of our offerings among six mission organizations. If you have any questions concerning our finances, please see Jennifer Simis or Judy Neely.

Board of Christian Education and Youth Ministries:

We have also enjoyed a successful year with the arrival of families with young children (praise the Lord for the songs of young children) and an increase in young adults (college age) and others. Several years ago, we prayed that God would give us direction on what He had in mind for Advent Lutheran Church. In order to develop the programs and activities that meet the spiritual needs of those God sent to us, we need to fill the Christian Education and Youth Ministries position. Please pray that someone will step up to accept this position. This position does not have to be filled with a single individual; it is very acceptable for a team to take on this position. Thank you to our dedicated Sunday School teachers.

Birthdays

Martha Gaestel	Mar. 2	Gavin Borg	Mar. 27	Alice O'Grady	Apr. 17
Denny Zarnt	Mar. 3	Marilyn Ernst	Mar. 27	Lydia Berrong	Apr. 21
John Byrnes	Mar. 3	Laurene Ackerman	Mar. 28	Dan Earnhardt	Apr. 28
Anders Borg	Mar. 5	Gary Gunn	Mar. 29	Greg Maves	May 6
Ashley Watren	Mar. 9	Matt Simpson	Apr. 5	Allison Watren	May 9
Patrick Connor	Mar. 15	John Cangelosi	Apr. 7	Maggie Southwell	May 17
Jennifer Simis	Mar. 15	Karla Byrnes	Apr. 7	Clay Wriedt	May 21
Tracie Foels	Mar. 16	Tom Struckmeyer	Apr. 11	Janice Wriedt	May 21
Wendy	Mar. 17	Sophie	Apr. 13	Judy Neely	May 27
Savannah Mather	Mar. 24				

Anniversaries

Pauline & Ron Ramsey	Mar. 1	Phyllis & Kent Underwood	Apr. 22
Rina & Doug Borg	Mar.		

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.

Time and Talent

“The heart of the giver makes the gift dear and precious.”

-Martin Luther

We gratefully acknowledge the many ways Advent has been blessed and seek ways to share our gifts. When we met to approve our 2016 budget, God revealed that He had once again helped us exceed financial expectations in 2015, enabling us to support important work beyond our church and plan for 2016 with faith and confidence.

ALL gifts are important! Your gifts of time and talent each Sunday support and enhance worship and provide rich opportunities for fellowship with your Advent family, visitors and guests.

Please consider adding your name as a Time and Talent volunteer.

We do our best to honor your “do not schedule” dates as we plan each month’s schedule. Most roles do not require additional preparation before coming to worship; altar care, refreshments and bread for visitors do involve some advance planning. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Usher
- Greeters
- Altar Care
- Lector/Reader
- Bread for first time visitors
- Communion Steward and Tray Bearer
- Refreshments during the Fellowship Hour (Council recently earmarked additional Fellowship funds to assist with Sunday refreshments. Revised guidelines will be available soon.)

Contact Carolyn Jones (cmfpjones@yahoo.com) for additional information or to sign up.

Care Ministry

Advent “Care Cards”

Advent’s Care Ministry includes a “Card Ministry” to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, new babies, weddings, etc. Volunteers in this ministry, chaired by Marge Schradie, also send get well and sympathy cards and others.

The children of Advent have been invited to make cards for this ministry, and they are excited about the opportunity! **Our first activity is scheduled for Sunday, February 28 during Fellowship time.**

All materials will be provided. Parents and other interested adults are invited to help the children and make additional cards. We will schedule the next activity at that time.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Jones.



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 Summer 2016 issue:
Tuesday, May 17, 2016***

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

9:00am Sunday School/Confirmation/Bible Class

10:30am Divine Service with Holy Communion



Dates to Remember

Tuesdays – 10:30am (resumes March 1)
Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays – 7:00pm
Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays – 7:00pm (resumes March 30)
Women's Bible Study

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

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

Sunday, March 13
Daylight Savings Time begins

Thursday, March 24 – 7:00 pm
Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 25 – 7:00 pm
Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Sunday, March 27 – Easter
9:15am Easter Potluck Brunch
10:30am Worship Service
11:45am Easter Egg Hunt

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

Saturday, May 21 – 5:15-7:00pm
Praise and Pizza