

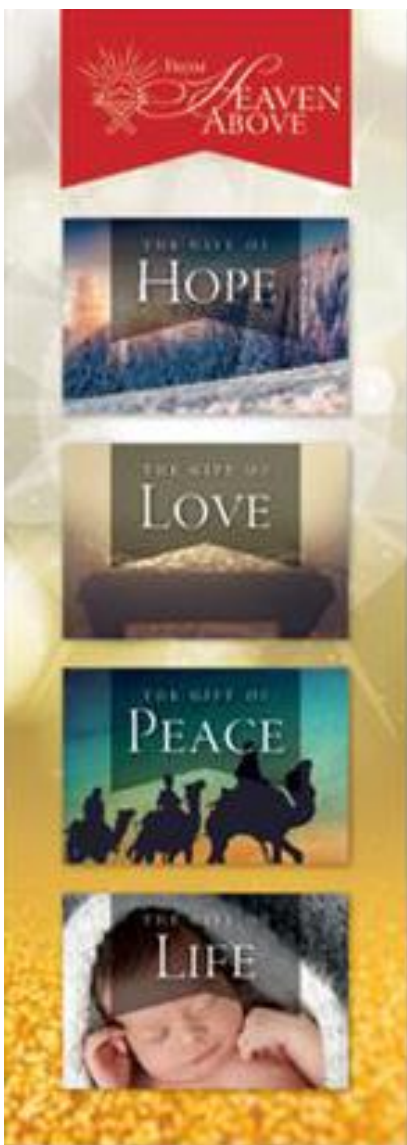
# The Adventiser

## Advent Lutheran Church

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

Winter 2016-2017

### *'From Heaven Above' – Mid-week Advent Worship Series*



As the 500th anniversary of the Reformation approaches, let Martin Luther's beloved hymn "From Heaven Above" speak to you in our special Advent worship series. Each service in the four-part series focuses on the divine gifts that come down to us through the birth of Jesus.

Service 1 – The Gift of Hope, based on Matthew 12:15-21, looks at how the people of Israel waited in hope for the promised Messiah, and how we now wait in hope for his return on the Last Day. We join with the people of God in waiting in hope for the promised Messiah to arrive.

Service 2 – The Gift of Love, based on John 3:13-17, looks at how the steadfast love of God is revealed in the gift of his Son and how we, as the redeemed people of God, have the privilege of sharing his love with others. We join with the people of God in welcoming the steadfast love of God revealed to us in his beloved Son.

Service 3 – The Gift of Peace, based on John 14:25-27, reminds us that we have peace with God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that we are now ambassadors of that peace to all the world. We join with the people of God in finding peace through the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Service 4 – The Gift of Life, based on John 1:1-5, invigorates us with the message that we have been given a life of faith here on earth in Christ's name and eternal life in heaven with him through his precious birth among us. We join with the people of God in celebrating the life of faith we have here on earth in Christ's name and the life that awaits us in heaven with him through his birth among us.

Let the words, Scripture verses, hymns, litanies and prayers of these worship experiences inspire and invigorate you to share Christ's gifts of Hope, Love, Peace, and Life with others by faithfully serving those around you day after day.

Please join your Advent family, and consider bringing a guest on these four Wednesdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21, for a light supper at 6:15 p.m. followed by Midweek worship at 7:00 p.m., for our Christmas Eve Candle Light Service on Dec 24 at 7:00 p.m., and for Christmas Day Service on Dec. 25 at 10:30 a.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.

## *Advent Church Council*

Thank You!!

I would like to thank the call committee for doing a wonderful and professional job in answering the Congregational Profile that included answering the many questions on 13 pages. The committee was chaired by John Stow. Other members included: Karla Byrnes, John Cangelosi, Peggy Earnhardt, Loni Gunn, Ron Hinkle, Cliff Mather, Jen Simis, and Tom Struckmeyer. A special thanks goes to the editors Carolyn Hinkle and Carolyn Walker.

We should also give thanks to Pastor Lineberger and Pastor Seamen for guiding us through the call process. We could not have picked two more dedicated pastors to shepherd us in understanding the steps involved.

I also want to thank the members and friends of the congregation for your input and patient support of the process involved in calling a pastor. Give yourselves a pat on the back for your involvement, and if you see those mentioned above, please thank them for a job well done!

We have now completed the first major step in the call process. By the end of December or early January, we will have a listing of approximately 12 pastors – one of which, we hope, will become our next pastor. Be sure to check our [website](#) for the most current information.

We ask for continuous prayer throughout this transition. Blessings to us all.

Dave Neely, President

## *Board of Worship*

Upcoming Worship opportunities:

- Wednesdays during Advent (November 30, December 7, 14 and 21) – join us for a light supper at 6:15 pm followed by worship at 7 pm.
- Children's Program – Sunday morning, December 11 (no communion)
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Saturday, December 24 at 7 pm.
- Christmas Day Service – Sunday, December 25 at 10:30 a.m.
- Ash Wednesday Service – March 1, 2017 at 7 pm
- Wednesdays during Lent (March 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5) – join us for a light supper at 6:15 pm followed by worship at 7 pm
- Palm Sunday Worship – Sunday, April 9, 2017
- Maundy Thursday Worship – Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 7pm
- Good Friday Tenebrae Service – Friday, April 14, 2017 at 7 pm
- Easter Sunday – April 16, 2017

Choir will normally rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm or following mid-week Advent and Lenten worship. If you would like to use your God given musical talents to praise God, please speak with Xavier Richert.

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 local ABC and NBC 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 are encouraged to stay home.*

## *Board of Finance and Stewardship*

### *LCMS Stewardship: Newsletter Article, December 2016*

Every Christmas present that sits wrapped under your Christmas tree will wear out. It will break or go out of style. This fact was there, somewhere, in the back of your mind even as you bought them, but you bought them anyway. For you love the person you bought them for, you wanted to see that look of joy it brings to their face.

So also God gives to you. But greater. What He gives will never wear out, break down, or go out of style. For what He gives is His eternal and only-begotten Son, wrapped in your flesh, and placed upon the tree of the Cross. He gives His Son for you. He gives that you may have everlasting joy. He gives because He loves you. This is why the Word became flesh to dwell among you.

And that is who is given to you. The Word who is God yet was with God from all eternity. The Word through whom all things were made. The Word who is the only-begotten Son of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, being of one substance with His Father. The One who called all things into existence, the One who spoke to Moses from the bush that burned yet was not consumed, the One whose glory filled the tabernacle to dwell among His people, God Himself, has taken on your flesh.

Even though the Word is made flesh, even though God became Man, His Divinity is not lessened. His Divinity is not changed. His Divinity remains, pure and unchanging, but your flesh, your human nature, is exalted. Your flesh and humanity is assumed into God. God became man so that you would become like unto God—holy and righteous, without sin, without death.

And so it is that the Son given to you wrapped in your flesh is placed upon the tree of the Cross. And no tree was ever adorned more beautifully. Its ornaments were nothing less than the Blood of God, poured out as an atoning sacrifice for your sins. Its garland the Body of God, hanged in death that you may have life. Its light the incarnate Light of the world, strung up to call you and all men unto Himself, to enlighten you, to make you His own. He gives you His life, He gives you joy and peace—peace with God in heaven and peace with one another on earth.

And from the tree of the Cross the Lord Jesus places another gift for you upon the Altar. It is the Fruit of the Cross, His crucified and risen, living Body and Blood, the Fruit of the Tree of Life, wrapped in bread and wine and given to you. He fills you with His Glory. He makes your mouths and your hearts His manger. He abides in you and you in Him.

The Word became flesh to be placed under the Cross for you. You are forgiven. This is why we give. We give because He has first given to us. And just as it was a joy for Him to give all He had to us. It is a joy for us to give to one another and His church so that this message of forgiveness, life, and salvation may be proclaimed.

**Finances:** Thank you to all who have returned the 2017 Estimate of Giving card. There is still time to complete one and return it by mail or on any Sunday in December. The budget committee will meet in early January to plan for 2017.

### **Update through October 31, 2016**

Giving to the general fund	\$ 148,912.91
Expenses	\$ <u>128,925.81</u>
Giving vs. expense	\$ 19,987.10

The decrease in expenses is, of course, because we are not paying salary and benefits to a full-time pastor. We are very grateful for your faithful and consistent offering.

## *Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study*

On November 15 the Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study completed its current study on the Gospel of Mark. A new study will begin in January 2017. Details of the new study will be printed in the announcements section of the Sunday church bulletins.

## *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 2017! We have currently reserved 10 rooms, which hold up to 20 men double occupancy, at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC from October 27-29, 2017. Also, for planning purposes we plan to have another retreat from October 5-7, 2018. Let Dave Neely, Bill Ackerman or John Stow know if you can attend.

## *Women of Advent*

The Women of Advent's Annual Christmas Breakfast Buffet will be held on Saturday, December 10, at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Maryanne Warne, 106 Debrock Court, Cary, NC. It is always an enjoyable morning of fellowship and yummy food. You bring your favorite brunch dish and a small gift for your secret sister. For those without a Secret sister you bring a wrapped small gift to exchange with others without a secret sister. Copies of the printed invitation will be available in the church narthex.

On February 9 the Women of Advent will hold their annual Valentines Girls Night Out party. Watch the narthex for detailed information posters. Announcements will also be placed in the Sunday church bulletins. It is a fun evening you don't want to miss! Mark your calendar now.

## *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	Xavier Richert	Jan. 20	Sadie Struckmeyer	Feb. 12
Bob Serpas	Dec. 4	Christine Struckmeyer	Jan. 25	Konii Sheref	Feb. 13
Barbara Bergdolt	Dec. 6	Baiser Sheref	Jan. 29	Luis Dominguez	Feb. 14
Jason Peto	Dec. 9	Ramona Roegner	Jan. 30	Pastor John Benham	Feb. 16
Sam Fischer	Dec. 16	Jon Buchleiter	Feb. 2	Wenjing Zhang	Feb. 17
Allyson Wriedt	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	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.

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

*Newsletter Deadline for the Spring 2017 issue: Tuesday, February 21, 2017*

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

**Pastor:** Rev. James McDaniels, Vacancy Pastor

**Sundays**

**9:15am Sunday School/Confirmation/Bible Class**

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



## **Dates to Remember**

**Tuesdays – 10:00am**

**Wednesdays – 7:00pm**

**Women's Bible Studies**

will resume in January

**Tuesdays – 7:00pm**

**Men's Bible Study**

**Wednesdays – 7:00pm**

Choir Rehearsal

(after worship service during Advent/Lent)

**Wednesdays, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21**

**6:15 pm – Supper**

**7:00 pm – Advent Service**

**Saturday, December 10 – 9:30am**

Women of Advent Christmas Brunch

**Sunday, Dec. 11 – 10:30am**

Children's Christmas Program

**Saturday, December 24, 7:00 pm**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Sunday, December 25, 10:30 am**

Christmas Day Service

**Sunday, Jan. 29 – Noon**

Voter's Meeting

**Thursday, February 9 – 7:00pm**

Women of Advent Valentine's Gathering

**October 27-29, 2017**

Men of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC