



# The Adventiser

## Advent Lutheran Church

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

Fall 2011

### *Are you doing more now, but enjoying it less?*

Back when cigarette ads were prevalent on TV, there was an ad campaign that asked the question, "Are you smoking more now, but enjoying it less?" The answer to this dilemma, according to the ad, was to do something different, to change brands, obviously to the one being advertised.

Do you find these days that you are doing more, but enjoying it less? Life can get that way, with all the demands on our time, can't it? There always seems to be one more thing that is putting pressure on you to get involved. Maybe that one more thing will be the answer to getting more out of life, and enjoying it more.

If you find that true in your life, that you're doing more but enjoying it less, maybe the answer is similar to the one suggested in the ad campaign; that is: do something different, change some of the things you are doing. And might I suggest changing them to the "brand" the church is offering.

Summer is great, but it usually means less involvement with your church family. Sept 11, 2011 is Rally Day at Advent, the day we "kick-off" our 2011-2012 Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Bible Study programs.

I ask you to prayerfully consider how you can get involved in the Christian Education opportunities being offered. This will help you in the first area of our mission statement: "To Grow in the Lord"; which will enhance your ability to accomplish the second part; "To make Him Known".

The August 13 devotion in the little book "Jesus Calling" talks about enjoying life more. It concludes with this: "The more you focus on My (Jesus') presence with you, the more fully you can enjoy life. Glorify Me through your pleasure. Thus you proclaim My presence to the watching world." And it references John 10: 10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that you may have life and have it abundantly."

It's not how much you do, it's what your focus is that brings abundance to your life. Please accept this invitation to join your Advent Family this Fall, as we seek the Lord where He may be found, so that He can use us where we are at. See you at church!

Blessings, Pastor John

### *Time and Talent*

We invite you to become a Time and Talent volunteer to support and enhance worship on Sunday mornings. Additional volunteers are needed in all areas. In preparation for Rally Day, written guidelines for each role and signup sheets will be posted on the Time and Talent bulletin board by Pastor's office.

- Adult opportunities include Altar Care, Greeter, Usher, Communion Steward, Tray Bearer, Lector, Bread for Guests, and Refreshments (during the fellowship hour after worship).
- Opportunities for children and youth include Bell Ringer, Acolyte and Crucifer.

Questions? Need additional information? Want guidelines to be sent to you electronically? Contact Carolyn F. Jones at [cmfpjones@yahoo.com](mailto:cmfpjones@yahoo.com) or 919-969-8982.

**Directory Correction** – In the Directory of August 2011, please make the following corrections:

- Pages 1 and 3 - correct spelling of Elder to Earnhardt
- Page 5 correct email address of Christy Sopata to [ChristyEWells@gmail.com](mailto:ChristyEWells@gmail.com)

## *Church Council Report*

The Church Council continues to meet on a regular basis to ensure that the operations, programs, and activities of the congregation are being conducted in a timely manner. At each meeting, Pastor John leads the Council in prayer as we ask God to open our hearts, guide our discussions, and help us be "In Tune with God's Will for Advent".

The following officers, board chairs and elders were elected at the June 26 voters meeting: President: John Stow 2011-2013, Secretary: Karla Byrnes 2011-2013, Board of Finance: Judy Neely 2011-2013, Board of Church Properties, Co-chairs: 2011-2013: Jon & Sam Fischer (Building) and Paul Simis (Grounds), Board of Elders: Dan Earnhardt 2011-2014, Bob Serpas (to fill vacant term) 2011-2012. They will join continuing officers, board chairs and elders: Denny Zarnt (VP), Jennifer Simis (Treasurer), Lois Durr and Maryanne Warne (Fellowship), Dave Neely (Outreach), Peggy Earnhardt (Worship), John Cangelosi (Elder).

We would like to thank Linda Mather (Christian Ed) and Cliff Mather (Elder) for their service to Advent over the last two years, Bob Serpas for his many years of services as Chair of the Board of Elders, and John Cangelosi for agreeing to serve as new Chair of the Board of Elders. We also want to thank Carolyn Jones for continuing to Chair the Care Ministry Committee. As a reminder, the position for Board of Christian Education is still open.

The Church Council will continue to focus on overall Communications within the Church. Please continue to provide Congregational feedback and suggestions by talking directly with a council member, elder, Pastor John or by dropping your input into the communication box located in the Narthex.

## *Board of Worship*

**Worship services will begin at 10:30 a.m.** beginning **Sunday, September 11, 2011,**

**Choir rehearsal** will begin **Wednesday, September 14, 2011.** Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00 in the sanctuary. Being able to read music is not a requirement. For more information, contact Pastor John at [adventpastor@bellsouth.net](mailto:adventpastor@bellsouth.net) or Peggy Earnhardt at [pearnhardt@mebtel.net](mailto:pearnhardt@mebtel.net).

**Praise and Pizza nights** will be held on **Saturday, September 10 and Saturday, October 22** from 5:15 - 7 pm. Along with music and singing, a short video will be shown followed by pizza and soda. If you have an interest in participating with the music or singing, please contact Pastor John, Peggy Earnhardt or Dave Neely. Some of the music and songs from the Praise and Pizza night will be shared on the following Sunday during worship service.

**Help wanted:** If any member or friend of Advent Lutheran Church wishes to share a musical talent as a prelude, offertory, or communion musical interlude, please contact a Board of Worship member.

**The Board of Worship** will hold a meeting on **Wednesday, September 7 from 5:30 - 6:45.** Anyone interested in learning more about the Board of Worship and its activities is invited to attend. Members of the Worship Board are: Peggy Earnhardt (Chair), Pastor John Benham, Karla Byrnes, Lois Durr, Carolyn Jones, Kaori Maeda, Dorothy Preisel and Joseph Schradie. Please feel free to speak with a member of the Board of Worship if you have a suggestion for the Board's consideration.

## *Christian Education*

September 11, 2011 is Rally Day at Advent, the day we "kick-off" our 2011-2012 Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Bible Study program. Events will begin at 9:05am. Please join us!

## Care Ministry



Care Ministry volunteers continue to demonstrate love and support for members of our Advent Family through activities of the Prayer Ministry (Cathy and John Stow, Chairs), the Card Ministry (Marge Schradie, Chair), the Meals Ministry (Carolyn Walker and Pauline Ramsey, Chairs) and the Ministry of Presence, visits and phone calls (Carolyn Jones, Chair). Lois Durr and Ginger Massey also serve on the Care Ministry Committee.

Care Ministry now includes volunteers who can provide transportation to church, doctor's appointments, etc. on occasion, and/or help individuals with occasional yard work. Contacts: John Stow, John Cangelosi or Carolyn Jones.

This fall, Care Ministry will host a card making session to create greeting cards for the Card Ministry committee to send. More information will come soon.

We all want to say and do the right thing when we reach out to people in difficult situations. We will work with Pastor John to organize one or two informal sessions to share ideas and learn more about practical ways to comfort others and ourselves. Watch for an interest form in a Sunday bulletin.

For more information about how you can volunteer OR let us know about special needs, contact a Care Ministry Committee member, pick up one of our brochures in the Narthex at Advent or put your comments/questions in the Care Ministry box. There is also a box for prayer requests.

## Men's Retreat

The Men of Advent have scheduled their annual retreat at the Trinity Center from November 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. The Trinity Center is located in Salter Path, NC near Morehead City. You should plan to arrive by 4pm on Friday November 11 and leave by 1pm Sunday November 13 (car pools will be arranged). The cost per person **per night** is \$81 (two in room); \$101 (single). All meals are included starting with dinner Friday night and ending with lunch on Sunday.

The retreat not only gives us time for great fellowship, but also provides an opportunity to study God's Word. Pastor Bill Seaman has agreed to lead the Bible Study and discussion on "Stewardship". This topic will be helpful to us all in understanding God's direction for us at Advent as well as in our personal lives. We have currently reserved 10 rooms, which hold up to 20 men double occupancy. Let John Stow or Dave Neely know if you can attend and we look forward to enjoying the fellowship and growing together in Christ.

## Women Of Advent

The next two Women of Advent "**Tea and Treasures**" workshops are scheduled on **August 30 at 10:00 a.m.** and **September 14 at 6:30 p.m.** The workshops are held in the church fellowship hall. Please join us to share your skills and ideas for this big undertaking requiring the help and talents of everyone. We appreciate any help you can give to make it a success. Mark your calendars now for the **November 5 "Tea and Treasures" event**. Watch the Sunday church bulletins for specific times of the "Tea and Treasures." Also mark your calendars for **10:00 a.m. on November 4 for "Tea and Treasures" set up** and receiving of baked items in the fellowship hall. If you have any ideas or questions or wish to volunteer in any way, please contact Maryanne Warne or Beth Benham.

**Women's Bible studies**, which meet at the church, will resume on the schedule below. Study topics will be announced in upcoming Sunday church bulletins.

Evening Women's Bible Study	Wednesday, September 7, 7:00 p.m.	Questions? Contact Karen Baker
Bible Study Girls	Tuesday, October 4, at 10:30 a.m.	Questions? Contact Beth Benham

Women of Advent will host a "**Girls Night Out**" on **Thursday evening, October 6**. Specific place and time will be announced in September. We are considering dinner at a Thai restaurant. Any comments or suggestions, please contact Maryanne Warne. We can also use this event as an opportunity to do Women of Advent event planning for the year. Watch for further information and sign-up sheet for this outing.

## *LCEF—What is it and what does it DO?*

Church Extension has been an important part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for well over 100 years. In some districts, Church Extension has been around longer, but the LCMS became directly involved in 1902.

**History of LCEF:** The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), incorporated in 1978, is a continuation of the Synod's service to the entire LCMS. In fiscal year 2011\*, LCEF welcomed nearly 500 new loan customers. Congregations and schools gained funds for building, upgrading or remodeling facilities, and rostered church workers secured reasonable housing and consolidation loans. LCEF partners with more than 55,000 investors to make the funds available for these loans. Together, these partnerships have resulted in a total asset portfolio of \$1.8 billion. God has truly blessed the ministry of Church Extension and its supporters! (\*Fiscal 2011 began July 1, 2010 and ended June 30, 2011. Figures as of June 30, 2011.)

**LCEF's Mission:** The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.

There are many ways to become a part of the LCEF ministry, collectively doing the work God has planned for us. Join us in prayerful support, investment support, volunteer support, and gift support. To find out more about how you can help reach more people with the message of Christ's salvation through LCEF, call 1-800-843-5233 or visit [www.lcef.org](http://www.lcef.org).

Listed below are some of the products and services provided by LCEF. For instance, Advent was built with a loan from LCEF.

<b>LCMS Members and Businesses</b>	<b>LCMS Organizations</b>
• Retirement - IRA	• Mortgage Loans
• Medical Expenses - HSA	• Construction/Bridge Loans
• Investing for Emergencies	• Lines of Credit
• General Investments	• Vision Planning
• Online Convenience with StewardAccount	• Facility Planning, Construction Improvements
• Short- and Long-Term	• Financial Stewardship Services
• Investment Plus Gift	• Marketing to Your Community
<b>Services</b>	• Marketing Your School
• K.I.D.S. Stewardship Programs	• Stewardship Education
• Electronic Tuition/Offering Service	• Member and Leader Development
• Joyful Response®	• Demand Certificates
<b>Loans</b>	• Cemetery Care
• Loan Rates	• Church Investments
• Loan Care Servicing Area	• Investment Plus Gift
• Natural Disaster Response	

### ***Travel to the Holy Land***

Travel with Concordia College, Bronxville, NY, to the Holy Land! 10 Days; January 24 – February 2, 2012. Only \$2499 from New York. Contact Rev. Gregory Dwyer at 914-337-9300 ext. 2198 or [Gregory.dwyer@concordia-ny.edu](mailto:Gregory.dwyer@concordia-ny.edu) for more information.

## *Stewardship*

### **A Month of New Beginnings** *LCMS Stewardship Newsletter Article September 2011*

Next to January, September is probably one of the biggest and busiest start-over months in the year. A number of congregational ministries that may have been on a summer break start up again. A new school year has started. It is interesting to note that September opens with Labor Day when we pause to thank God for honest and fruitful labor. Perhaps that is appropriate since things pick up after vacations and other summer activities and we have more opportunities for service.

September also marks the beginning of autumn and that will be a welcome change for many people who this past summer were impacted by a record number of tornados, serious flooding around major rivers, heat and drought that broke many records, along with many wild fires that caused so much destruction.

In spite of all the above problems God still richly blessed much of our country with seasonable weather so that seedtime and harvest prevailed and the activities of agriculture, commerce and transportation continued so that the earth was fruitful and yielded its increase to supply food for all of God's creatures. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

God's stewards appreciate new opportunities to start over again after life has become like a long, hot summer. In September, many of God's faithful stewards can get involved with new and exciting volunteer activities in their churches and communities. In September, many of our students can begin one of their best years of learning. In September, many of our churches and schools can get involved with some of the most exciting ministries in their history. A fresh start is always appreciated. The past is behind us; the future is still in front of us but the present is where we do our work as God's stewards. God has some great things in mind for us as His stewards. He wants us to use our talents, our time, our resources and our relationships in ways that honor Him and bring blessings to those around us.

Sometimes we may feel like we just can't get started! We may feel inadequate to take on new challenges. We may remember when we have tried some bold ventures before and they didn't work out. We can chase those negative thoughts away when we remember words like these from one of our well-known hymns:

***Let none hear you idly saying, "there is nothing I can do,"  
While the multitudes are dying and the Master calls for you.  
Take the task He gives you gladly, let His work your pleasure be;  
Answer quickly when He calleth, "Here am I, send me, send me." (LSB 826)***

So, keep your eyes open for some new opportunities to put your time, talents and resources to work for the Lord and His people, and when those opportunities come, **GO FOR IT!**

## *Financial Update*

Our congregation is on target to meet our estimated income for the calendar year. Thank you to all of you who faithfully support God's work at Advent. Special thanks to those who have directed Thrivent Choice dollars to our congregation. That total has amounted to \$1312 in extra income that is included in the year-to-date total through 7/31/2011.

We are also grateful to those of you who donate electronically through Joyful Response, the free giving program sponsored by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. How wonderful it is to consistently receive those offerings whether you are here or traveling. Currently, we have six families who choose to give electronically. If others would like to try this option, please see Judy Neely for details.

According to the calendar, summer is ending and fall schedules are beginning. That means we'll soon be rededicating ourselves to many activities. Let's think about what God might be asking us to do with the time, talents and resources He provides. Advent will have many opportunities for spiritual growth, Christian service and fellowship in the coming months. Join us as we try to follow our mission statement and seek to "grow in the Lord and make Him known."

General Income through 7/31/2011	\$89,670.42
Expenses through 7/31/2011	\$88,907.34

## *Board of Outreach*

Thanks to all who voted for the missions to support in 2011. Each of us voted for two local and two global missions that Advent should support with 2011 mission dollars. The results are as follows:

### **Local Agency Support for 2011**

Pregnancy Support Services  
Habitat for Humanity of Durham

### **Global Agency Support for 2011**

LCMS World Mission  
LCMS World Relief/Human Care

Speaking of missions and outreach, one of the greatest needs in the surrounding counties is food! The Food Bank of Eastern and Central NC has several major programs which support the distribution of food to those in need including: Fresh Produce Program, Mobile Food Pantry, Retail Recovery Program, Salvage Program, Kids Café Program, and Bayer Cropscience Backpack Program

The food bank distributes tons of food to the various food pantries in Eastern and Central NC. For instance, John and Cathy Stow collect food from the food bank for the CORA Pantry. John provided the following information. *"We pick food up from the Durham Food Bank (one-two times a month; normally 200+ pounds of bread, 300+ lbs of meat and 150 lbs of canned goods) and take it to CORA (Chatham County Food Pantry in Pittsboro) where it gets distributed. CORA fed 395 families and 1331 individuals in July. They take food donations from families and local grocery stores besides buying food themselves. They will obviously also take cash donations and people can volunteer to help distribute the food and stock it as well."*

All of the pantry programs are under great pressure to provide food to those in need. The Backpack program supports the nutritional needs of children during non-school hours, specifically weekends. It targets children who would benefit from nutritious meals. Once each week, the kids are given a special backpack filled with non-perishable food that can be used to meet their weekend nutritional needs. Reports say these backpacks are the only food some of these kids get on the weekend!

This fall we will be offering opportunities and information on how we can assist these programs by donating food, money and our time to support those who are need of food. By helping these food programs and the people they support we are meeting one of the most basic human needs-FOOD!

As John the Baptist stated in Luke 3:8-11, *"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup>"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup>John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."*

## ***Evangelism***

The Men's Bible Study is watching a video on the book of Matthew. As we watch this video, we can clearly see that Jesus took the good news to the people and met their needs where they were. Evangelism comes from the words "euangelion" (good news, gospel) and "euangelizomai" (to proclaim good news). I would think our evangelism efforts should follow that of Jesus and the 1<sup>st</sup> century disciples. Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Jr. states, "We should engage people where we find them, sharing with them God's means of grace and identifying with them according to their needs." As Rev Gray suggests, there are no magical tools that make evangelism effective. But whatever method we follow, we must stay focused on who Jesus is and what He did for us.

Final thought—I think most of know in our heart what we need to do to share the good news—we just need to get past our fear and let God lead us.

If anyone has suggestions or is interested in participating in any part of the outreach effort, please contact me at the church or at my e-mail address [dave.neely@hotmail.com](mailto:dave.neely@hotmail.com).

**Want to share your faith, but need some ideas and tips?** Check out this link to the Southeastern District LCMS website: <http://se.lcms.org/faith-sharing/evangelism.php> It includes info from Mission U workshops including:

- Outreach Tips for Easter
- Seven Steps to Sharing the Gospel
- Overcoming Witnessing Obstacles:
- Addressing Specific Fears
- Am I a Help or Hindrance?
- Mission U Personal Witness
- Mission U Study & Practice
- Difficulty Starting a Faith Conversation
- Practice! Sharing the Gospel Clearly
- Christian Apologetics: What is it and why is it necessary?

### *Birthdays*

Peggy Earnhardt	Sept. 5	Craig Walker	Oct. 2	Peggy Trygstad	Oct. 30
Aidan Connor	Sept. 7	Maryanne Warne	Oct. 4	Caitlyn Wriedt	Oct. 30
Dave Brownlee	Sept. 7	Dori Walker	Oct. 4	Isaac Baker	Nov. 6
Nathan Peterson	Sept. 13	Jonathan Simis	Oct. 5	Phyllis Underwood	Nov. 7
Walter Gaestel	Sept. 14	Jarrad Borg	Oct. 7	Erin Baker	Nov. 12
George Snowden	Sept. 15	Joseph Sheref	Oct. 10	Cliff Mather	Nov. 18
Melanie Mather	Sept. 16	Pauline Ramsey	Oct. 12	John Stow	Nov. 22
Carolyn Walker	Sept. 17	Joyce Eckert	Oct. 20	Ryan Lemon	Nov. 25
Tomi Schumacher	Sept. 25	Don Eckert	Oct. 22	Anona Serpas	Nov. 27
Tim Parrett	Sept. 26	Troy Trygstad	Oct. 25	Heidi Watren	Nov. 28
Cathy Stow	Sept. 28	Nick Pelzer	Oct. 25	Andrea Boyer	Nov. 29
Paul Mather	Sept. 28	Alexandra Richards	Oct. 29	Jon Fischer	Nov. 30

### *Anniversaries*

Peggy & Dan Earnhardt	Sept. 4	Tom Ortel & Karen Baker	Oct. 2
April Welborn & Nathan Peterson	Sept. 11	Tomi & John Schumacher	Oct. 3
Michelle & Marc Holder	Sept. 12	Jennifer & Paul Simis	Oct. 5
Martha & Walter Gaestel	Sept. 14	Christine & Tom Struckmeyer	Oct. 10
Joanne & Dave Brownlee	Sept. 15	Maryanne & Dwain Warne	Oct. 21
Janice & Clay Wriedt	Sept. 30	Marlida & George Snowden	Nov. 3
		Cathy & John Stow	Nov. 22

**SPECIAL DATES** – 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. 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 2011/12 issue: Monday, November 14, 2011*

**Advent Lutheran Church**  
**230 Erwin Road**  
**Chapel Hill, NC 27514**

**Contact the Church:**

**Phone:** (919) 968-7690

**e-mail:** [Advent\\_Lutheran@bellsouth.net](mailto:Advent_Lutheran@bellsouth.net)

**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 11, 2011**

**9:05am** Sunday School/Bible Class

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

**Sundays Summer Schedule**

**No Sunday School or Bible Class**

**10:00am** Divine Service with Holy Communion



A Congregation of  
THE  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Missouri Synod

## Dates to Remember

**Tuesdays – 7:00-8:00pm**

Men's Bible Study

**Tuesdays – 10:30am-12:30pm**

Women's Bible Study, beginning Oct. 4

**Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm**

Choir Rehearsal, beginning Sept. 14

**Tuesday, August 30 – 10:00am**

"Tea and Treasures" Workshop

**Wednesday, September 7 – 5:30-6:45pm**

Board of Worship Meeting

**Wednesday, September 7 – 7:00-8:00pm**

Women's Evening Bible Study

**Saturday, September 10 – 5:15-7:00pm**

Praise and Pizza

**Sunday, Sept. 11 – Rally Day**

Resume Regular Worship Schedule

Sunday School/Bible Class – 9:05am

Worship – 10:30am

**Wednesday, September 14 – 6:30pm**

"Tea and Treasures" Workshop

**Thursday, October 6**

WoA "Girls Night Out"

**Saturday, October 22 – 5:15-7:00pm**

Praise and Pizza

**Friday, Nov. 4 – 10:00am**

WoA "Tea and Treasures" Setup

**Saturday, Nov. 5**

WoA "Tea and Treasures"

**November 11-13, 2011**

Men of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC