



# The Adventiser

## Advent Lutheran Church

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

Fall 2012

### *Everyday Witnessing*

My Dear Friends in Christ,

A couple of weeks ago Beth and I, along with two other couples from Advent (the Neelys and the Earnhardts) attended our District's Conference in Richmond, Va. called "Tending the Flame". It was a wonderful time of fellowship and worship with Christians from other SED LCMS congregations as well as learning from national and local church leaders. I highly recommend this Conference to you for next year. The dates are August 2-4, 2013. Please put it on your calendar, begin praying for it as it develops, and prayerfully consider attending.

One of the breakout sessions I attended was titled "Everyday Witnessing", led by Pastor Bill Harmon, the very dynamic Senior Pastor of King of Glory Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, Va. He had many very helpful and insightful tips to share, and I'd like to pass on a few of them to you.

He began with some statistics that came from Jose Zayas of the Billy Graham School for Evangelism, and the book "*The Unchurched Next Door*", written by Thomas Rainer:

- There are 160 million unchurched people
- 130 million of those say they are somewhat likely to attend church IF INVITED.
- 17 million say they would go right now IF INVITED.
- 43 million say they are close to attending church.
- Only 2 % of Christians have invited an unchurched person to church.

Pastor Bill's point is: the "field is ripe" but the harvest could be so much more if we simply invited unchurched friends to come with us to church. But how do we do that? He cited some suggestions from "Everyone Has a Story: MY STORY by Rev. Jim Henkell, St. Paul's Pacific Beach CA"

- M - Make a request: ask God to send His Spirit to create an opportunity for witness and give you the courage to speak; only the Holy Spirit can create faith. Pray before and after you share your story.
- Y - You are not the focus, Jesus is. Your story is nothing without His story. Make Him the most important person in your story.
- S - Simple and short stories are better. No matter how exciting your story might be, a long story is rarely advantageous (unless you're a preacher ☺).
- T - Tell the truth. Do not make up things to enhance your story. Be honest with your hearer. God's truth will be effective when you are truthful.
- O - Offer a story that builds on common ground. Talk about God at work in your life in a way that relates to your friend's life. If your friend is struggling to make a decision, talk about a time when God led you through a tough decision. Stay focused on the person with whom you are sharing;-remember their need.
- R - Request a response. Be encouraged to ask people to respond to your story. Ask things like, "Does my story make sense to you? Can you relate to what I'm saying? What do you think about Jesus?"
- Y - You shall not use church talk that requires insider knowledge. Avoid church words, abbreviations and theological terms. Please be encouraged to talk about your church and invite you friends.

I encourage you to begin praying about who God might want you to invite to church, try the MY STORY approach, and invite an unchurched friend to church. Then watch to see what God will do! God's Blessings, Pastor John.

## Women Of Advent

The Women of Advent invite all ladies to join us as we welcome Fall with a Progressive Potluck Dinner on Thursday evening, September 20, at 6:30 p.m. Appetizers and dinner will be at the new home of Anona Serpas (519 Carolina Meadows Villa) with dessert and our planning session across the street at the new home of Lois Durr (518 Carolina Meadows Villa). Directions will be available with the sign-up sheet for the Progressive Potluck Dinner in the church narthex. We hope you will be able to join us as we enjoy an evening of Christian fellowship and delicious food in the lovely new homes of Anona and Lois. We will make plans for WOA activities for the coming year and will welcome your suggestions.

The LWML District Convention will be held September 14-15, 2012, at Christ Lutheran Church in Hickory, NC. The theme is "Living on the Edge – Reaching all Nations." If you are interested in attending the convention, the Carolinas Cross Connection containing detailed information and registration form is posted on the WOA church bulletin board. Due to the District Convention being held in September, the LWML Eastern Zone has decided not to hold a Fall Rally this year.

If you have any questions regarding the above activities, please contact Maryanne Warne, 919-468-0183, or [maryanne106@me.com](mailto:maryanne106@me.com) or [dmwarne@earathlink.net](mailto:dmwarne@earathlink.net).

## Men's Retreat

The Men of Advent have scheduled this year's annual retreat at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC (near Morehead City) from November 9-11, 2012. 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 the Book of Revelation. 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. We look forward to enjoying the fellowship and growing together in Christ.

## Stewardship

*Stewardship Newsletter Article September 2012 - LCMS*

In September, we observe Labor Day, a legal holiday in honor of labor. The Bible deals with labor in a variety of ways. In Genesis 2:15 we read ***"The Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."*** (NIV) It was part of God's plan of creation to make human beings for work and provide work for them.

Work is important for us. It is important enough that we often answer questions like who or what we are by referring to our work. We may answer in a number of different ways - I'm a teacher, or a plumber, or a carpenter, or an office manager, or a business owner, or a pastor, or a doctor, or one of many other vocations. No wonder people get depressed when they are without jobs and meaningful work to do. Much of our self-esteem is tied in closely with our work.

Honest labor provides us with a sense of fulfillment and provides for our own needs and something extra to share with others who are in need. The book of Ecclesiastes includes a number of passages like 2:24; 3:12-13; 22; 5:18-20 that encourage us to find joy in our work. Work is a blessing from God and He gives us the time, talent and resources to do our work in a way that honors God and blesses others as well as ourselves. The words of Hebrews 13:20-21 affirm this truth: ***"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."*** (NIV)

So this fall, as many things like vacations are over and new things start up again—school, mission and ministry efforts in our congregations as well as other activities—let's remember that, with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can live and work as God's redeemed stewards who freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for His purposes. May we always be encouraged to give our very best when it comes to our financial gifts of love, our use of time and talents, and our willing service at home, in the workplace, in our communities and in our congregations.

## *Grow in Love and Love by Serving: An Invitation*

In a recent worship service, we closed with the hymn "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" (LSB 922), and a line in verse 3 has stayed in my heart and mind.

**"Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free"**

What a perfect verse to encourage us to share our time, talents and treasures!

We invite you and your children to join the volunteers who support Sunday worship and the Fellowship Hour after services. (Contact Carolyn Jones for more information about "Time and Talent" opportunities.)

Advent's "Care Ministry" extends a loving heart and hand to members in need through the Prayer Ministry, the Card Ministry, the Food Ministry, and the Ministry of Presence (visits and contacts). (Contact a member of the Care Team to learn how you can get involved: Carolyn Walker, Pauline Ramsey, Lois Durr, John and Cathy Stow, Marge Schradie, Ginger Massey or Carolyn Jones, Chair) Several members have volunteered to provide transportation to worship. Ask John Cangelosi or John Stow for more information.

Interested in joining the musicians at Advent? Pastor John will tell you more about joining adult choir, Praise Singers and other musical groups. Contact Anders Borg about providing musical interludes during worship on Sunday.

If you want to help with Building and Grounds activities, contact Jon and Sam Fischer (inside) or Paul Simis (outside).

There are many more ways to get involved – flowers for the altar, outreach activities, teaching, and men's and women's Bible studies groups. We invite YOUR ideas about new activities or approaches. Talk to a member or place your ideas in the suggestion box in the Narthex.

We look forward to growing and serving with you!!

*Carolyn Jones*

### *Birthdays*

Peggy Earnhardt	Sept. 5	Craig Walker	Oct. 2	Nick Pelzer	Oct. 28
Aidan Connor	Sept. 7	Maryanne Warne	Oct. 4	Peggy Trygstad	Oct. 30
Nathan Peterson	Sept. 13	Dori Walker	Oct. 4	Caitlyn Wriedt	Oct. 30
Walter Gaestel	Sept. 14	Jonathan Simis	Oct. 5	Autumn Hamit	Oct. 31
George Snowden	Sept. 15	Jarrad Borg	Oct. 7	Phyllis Underwood	Nov. 7
Melanie Mather	Sept. 16	Joseph Sheref	Oct. 10	Kathy Crabtree	Nov. 9
Carolyn Walker	Sept. 17	Pauline Ramsey	Oct. 12	Cliff Mather	Nov. 18
Wendy Healy	Sept. 22	Heidi Worley	Oct. 17	John Stow	Nov. 22
Bill Healy	Sept. 27	Joyce Eckert	Oct. 20	Ryan Lemon	Nov. 25
Cathy Stow	Sept. 28	Don Eckert	Oct. 22	Anona Serpas	Nov. 27
Paul Mather	Sept. 28	Troy Trygstad	Oct. 25	Jon Fischer	Nov. 30
Christy Sopata	Sept. 29				

### *Anniversaries*

Peggy & Dan Earnhardt	Sept. 4	Jennifer & Paul Simis	Oct. 5
April Welborn & Nathan Peterson	Sept. 11	Christine & Tom Struckmeyer	Oct. 10
Martha & Walter Gaestel	Sept. 14	Maryanne & Dwain Warne	Oct. 21
Wendy & Bill Healy	Sept. 25	Marlida & George Snowden	Nov. 3
Janice & Clay Wriedt	Sept. 30	Cathy & John Stow	Nov. 22
Tom Ortel & Karen Baker	Oct. 2	Heidi & Seth Worley	Nov. 23

**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.

## 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".

At the June 24th Voters' Assembly meeting we elected Denny Zarnt Vice-President, Jennifer Simis Treasurer, John Cangelosi Chairperson of the Elders, Lois Durr and Maryanne Warne Co-Chairpersons of the Board of Fellowship, Peggy Earnhardt Chairperson of the Board of Worship, and Dave Neely Chairperson of the Board of Outreach. Please thank these individuals for their service along with current Council members; John Stow, President, Karla Byrnes, Recording Secretary, Jon and Sam Fischer (Building) and Paul Simis (Grounds), Co-Chairpersons of the Board of Church Properties, Judy Neely, Board of Finance and Dan Earnhardt, Elder. Please also thank Carolyn Jones (Chairperson of Care Ministry, Time and Talent coordinator, Bulletin Board coordinator, picture taker) and others that support the Care Ministry (Carolyn Walker and Pauline Ramsey coordinators of Food, Marge Schradie coordinator of Card Ministry, John and Cathy Stow coordinators of Prayer Ministry and all the volunteers supporting Care Ministry and it's many functions) and Jennifer Simis/Carolyn Walker for teaching and coordinating Sunday School. A special thanks to Bob Serpas, Office Manager for the many things he does in the office to keep things running efficiently, including the production of weekly bulletins.

We also need to thank all the people who volunteer their time and talent in supporting the church on an on-going basis (Alter Care, Communion Stewards, Tray Bearers, Greeters, Lectors, Bell Ringers, Acolytes, Crucifers, Ushers, those that provide Bread and Refreshments, those helping with the church grounds and building, those picking others up for church, Bible Study leaders, Sunday School teachers, those that assist Lois Durr and Maryanne Warne prepare meals for church fellowship functions and Wednesday evening services, for those that support Advent's Outreach activities, Worship music support such as Choir, Praise Band, Organists, Bell Ringers, musical instrument players, Anders Borg for coordinating special music for Sundays, and Rick Heizler for coordinating sound and lighting during worship services).

And we would be remiss, if we didn't thank Pastor John and Beth for the support they provide Advent, especially to Pastor for being our Spiritual Leader!

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 Outreach

As Pastor's notes in his article, several members of the congregation attended the SED "Tending the Flame" conference. There were numerous workshops offered from "Living as a Child of a Generous God" to "Just an Everyday Guy Sharing Jesus." In fact, we had to be selective in which workshops to attend as we could not attend all of them.

My first session was with George Smith, "Just an Everyday Guy Sharing Jesus." I came away from the workshop thinking about John the Baptist! George shares his faith 24-7.

George has great witnessing stories. He does it all the time and in all settings. He tells us that his first name means farmer; hence, he is planting God seeds. George set the stage by explaining that our purpose in life is to glorify God (1 Thessalonians 4:12; Romans 12:1-2). Then he discussed witnessing and evangelism. He told us that evangelism is a gift. Many of us quickly say, "I don't have that gift, so it is up to those on the evangelism (outreach) committee to do that." That thinking works until we look at the Great Commission where we find out that witnessing is a command. As we all know, the Great Commission has action verbs (go, do, make, teach)-Matthew 28. The good news is we only have to plant the seed and God will do the rest. I will end this section as George did; he told us that we cannot stand before God and say that no one ever told us about Jesus.

I also attended "Everyday Witnessing." Rev. Bill Harmon pointed out that the motivation for inviting people cannot be the budget. Our motivation comes from what has been given to us. We must get the message of Jesus out the Church door. It does not happen on its own!!! He noted some of the main challenges today:

- Casual Christians--75% of Americans consider themselves Christians; of that group 50% are casual Christians (membership is too complicated)
- Generational difference- (Boomers, X, Y, postmodern)
- Denominational wording--What we call ourselves
- Cultural trends- What is politically correct?

He also talked about visitors at church. Everything is outreach. Are you ready? You have ten minutes when people visit your church – the first five minutes after they arrive and the last five minutes before they leave.

1. How do the buildings and grounds look?
2. Is there easy signage and access?
3. Where do people get information? How does the information look?
4. Does anyone notice them, speak to them, welcome them?
5. Would they want to return? Have you given them a reason to return?

Rev. Harmon spent the rest of the workshop discussing everyday witnessing strategies and ideas he has used in his church.

If anyone would like further information about the content of the workshops I attended, please ask. I'd be happy to share with you.

Dave Neely

## *Board of Worship*

**We will resume our normal Sunday morning schedule beginning Sunday, September 9, 2012.  
Sunday School, Confirmation, and Bible Class at 9:05 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.**

**LCD Projector Update and Thank You** – The Worship Board wishes to thank everyone for their support in donating to the LCD Projector Fund. Individual donations, the hot dog luncheon, and the yard sale have resulted in donations totaling \$2553, including \$300 supplemental funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. A special thank you to Maryanne Warne and Lois Durr for their help in coordinating the hot dog luncheon and to Loni Gunn for coordinating the yard sale. The projector has been purchased and received. Plans are to have the projector installed soon.

**Praise and Pizza nights** will be held on Saturday, September 15, and Saturday, October 20 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 or a member of the Board of Worship.

**Advent's Praise Band and Singers** lead the music in Worship on the third Sunday of the month.

**Coming Event:** The Praise Band and Singers will participate at a special Reformation Day Service, October 28 at 4 pm., at Hope Lutheran Church in Wake Forest. Everyone is invited to attend.

<b>Help Wanted:</b>	Choir members – whereabouts unknown
<b>Last seen:</b>	Hiding out in the congregation
<b>Description:</b>	Male and female, young and old, cheerful
<b>Reward:</b>	Give and you shall receive
<b>When:</b>	Practice will resume October 3 <sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm

**The Board of Worship** will hold a meeting on **Wednesday, October 3** from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about the Board of Worship and its activities is invited to attend. Please feel free to speak with a member of the Board of Worship if you have a suggestion for the Board's consideration.

## *Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study*

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will begin its Fall study on Tuesday, October 9, at 10:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. All ladies are invited to join us as we study the book "*Unglued*" by Lysa TerKeurst, a *New York Times* best-selling author and national speaker who helps everyday women live an adventure in faith. She is president of Proverbs 31 Ministries, author of 15 books, and encourages more than 600,000 women worldwide through a daily online devotional. She lives in NC with her husband and five children.

"*Unglued*" will equip you to:

- (1) know with confidence how to resolve conflict in your important relationships
- (2) find peace in your most difficult relationships as you learn to be honest but kind when offended
- (3) identify what type of reactor you are and how to significantly improve your communication
- (4) respond with no regrets by managing your tendencies to stuff or explode; and
- (5) gain a deep sense of calm by learning how to respond to situations out of your control.

This seven-session study that will run through Tuesday, November 20, just prior to Thanksgiving. Please plan to join us! If you have any questions, contact Maryanne Warne, 919-468-0183, or [maryanne106@me.com](mailto:maryanne106@me.com) or [dmwarne@earthlink.net](mailto:dmwarne@earthlink.net).



*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 2012 issue: Monday, November 19, 2012*



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**Sundays beginning September 9, 2012**

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

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

**Sundays Summer Schedule**

**No Sunday School, Confirmation, 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 – 10:00am**

October 9 through November 20

Women's Bible Study

**Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm**

Beginning October 3

Choir Rehearsal

**Alternate Wednesdays – 7:00-8:00pm**

Beginning September 5

Women's Evening Bible Study

**Sunday, Sept. 9**

Resume Regular Worship Schedule

**Friday-Saturday, September 14-15**

LWML District Convention, Hickory NC

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

Praise and Pizza

**Thursday, September 20 – 6:30pm**

WoA Progressive Potluck Dinner

**Wednesday, October 3 – 5:30-6:45pm**

Board of Worship meeting

**Saturday, October 20 – 5:15-7:00pm**

Praise and Pizza

**Sunday, October 28, 4:00pm**

Reformation Day Service

Hope Lutheran, Wake Forest

**November 9-11, 2012**

Men of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC

**May 3-5, 2013**

Women of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC