



Advent Acts

April 2008

Volume 4, Issue 4

A Note from Pastor Justin:

Dear fellow workers in the Kingdom, grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Risen Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

As I sit here and write this we are in the midst of Holy Week with all kinds of wonderful things going on in our Church. Usually, this is my favorite time of the church year, and this year is no exception as we continue to add new things for people to be involved with. Yet, by the time you read this, Easter will be a memory and we will be heading towards a new season in our life together as a community. With each new season we face in our life together as Advent we will experience new highs and new lows and through all of them God's face continues to shine and God's love continues to come alive in all of you. I thank God now and always for your partnership and your willingness to be stretched, to be challenged, to be loved, to love, to give, to carry burdens and to have your burdens carried. It is truly a joy to walk side by side with you on this incredible journey and I can't wait for our next season.

So what is going to happen next? Where are we headed? When will we have a building? Perhaps these are some of the questions rolling around in your head- I have certainly heard some of you ask them. I wish it was simple and I could provide a clear cut answer to these questions and the various others that I have heard. However, we know it is not that simple, and part of this incredible journey is the unknown and we together are often surprised at the goodness of God and the way that God works in and through our life together as Advent. But...that's not to say we don't know where we are going. Rather, it simply says while we may have a vision and an idea of who we are and who we need to be, God may push us in different directions. I would say God's pushing and blessing is what has gotten us to where we are so quickly. To this point the ride has seemed incredible and sometimes even a little crazy and I truly don't expect that to change. As for the building- that too dear friends is in our future and very soon we will be making some commitments, pledges, and some dreams as we plan for our future. This planning for our future not only is for us as Advent today, but for Advent in the community of Lake Ann forever. That is exciting! Are you ready to be pushed more and more, ready to be stretched in all aspects of your spiritual life even little more? I hope your answer to that is a resounding yes because I feel very strongly that our ride is just starting to pick up!

Dear friends I challenge you all to pray daily for this month that God would push you to be stretched a little more. Pray that God puts new opportunities and challenges in front of you and pray that you will be able to meet them with a heart filled with joy. And then tell your stories of how God answered those prayers and what insights you gained. Because here is the deal- God is calling you to be "the Church" wherever you are and in that identity comes the calling to serve and to love. I guarantee there are new opportunities before you- I pray with you that you find them, and I am eager to hear all about what you find. So be stretched, be opened, be bold, and be Christ.

Holy Lord, continue to stir us from our complacency and fill us with your love so we can share You in all we do. Amen.

Honored to be your Pastor,
Justin



Education Committee Update

The Advent Education Committee meets the second Saturday of every month at 9:30 a.m. (over breakfast! We eat while we meet!). Our next meeting is Saturday, April 12th. Coming this month:

- A small group (10-12 people) study of the book "The Four Agreements", led by Anna Grimm. This group will meet Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. beginning April 12th (location to be determined, but breakfast is not out of the question). Watch for a sign-up sheet or ask Anna (275-7711 or grimmad@yahoo.com) for more information.
- An evening Bible study of the book of Daniel, led by Chad Schwendemann and Michelle Anderson. This group will meet Thursday evenings, beginning April 17th, at 7 p.m. at the church (too late for breakfast, but how about coffee and dessert?). Any and all are welcome. This course will directly parallel the Wednesday morning Bible study led by Pastor Grimm. Talk to Chad (989-751-3534, chad.schwendemann@nationalcity.com) or Michelle (933-4023, timothyw@charter.net) for more information.

We welcome your ideas! If there is something special **you** would like to explore or see addressed, please let us know. Your Advent Education Committee is: Cheryl Smith (Chair), Michelle Anderson (Council Liaison), Lis Bank (Staff Representative), Anna Grimm, Melanie Griffith, and Chad Schwendemann.

Directory Update

The Advent Church Directory is coming soon! This is going to be a great tool as we grow! In addition to the address and photo directory, I think it would be great to have a "service directory".

This directory would be a list of occupations, skills, hobbies, and interests. When we are in need of helps and services, this directory would allow us to seek within our church family. If you are interested in helping assemble such a directory, please contact Becky MacGirr.

email: becmac@centurytel.net

cell: (231) 620-1987

home: (answering tape) 231-275-6297

A Special Thanks

A very heartfelt thank you to all those who helped make this Easter celebration so special. Charlie Chamberlain and Khiela Alpers for their great work in the kitchen – wow what a spread! A number of people at the local food pantries also enjoyed a breakfast spread as well with what we had left over! Thank you to the YOUth Group for all of their hard work in setting up the township hall. They were the ones responsible for all of the ice chipping too! Next time you see a YOUth member, say Thanks!

Prayer List

Throughout this month, we ask that you lift these people up in your prayers:

We remember in our prayers: Carsten Woodworth; Peggy & John Grumbeck; Arnold Denter; Candy Lakin; Sara Skarshaug; Roger Bigcraft; Callie Hausler; Vicki Poswoski; Teri Hansen; Leonard Olson; Drew Palombizio; Katie McGuffin Noll; Pastor Len Etzel; Zack Gaz; Cam Deering; Mary Ghering; Bonnie Zenner; Susan Puchovan; Debby Regiani; Margie Randall; all troops: those deployed and those at home; Bishop Mark Hanson and the ELCA; and our mission here at Advent.

April Readings

Here are the readings for Sundays this month:

Apr 6	Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
Apr 13	Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10
Apr 20	Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
Apr 27	Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

April Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

Birthdays

4/1	Noah Weichert
4/4	Emily Fancher
4/5	Janet April
4/6	Mike Johnston
4/6	Jacob Kalis
4/7	Mike Achorn
4/7	Robyn Ellis
4/7	Jennie Wentzloff
4/11	Doug Hockenberger
4/14	Cheryl Smith
4/16	Paige Smith
4/19	Abbie Smith
4/23	Ken Williams
4/24	Jeff Fancher
4/24	April Rollins
4/26	Cherie Hockenberger
4/27	Amiee Erfourth
4/28	Jacob Ellis

Anniversaries

4/1	Charlie & Cher Baumann
4/1	Robyn & Eric Ellis
4/19	Rich & Holly Andersen



Property Committee Update

The Advent building committee is happy to welcome Sheila Rigotti as a new committee member. Sheila is going to be a great addition to our team, and will help by adding some female perspective to our previously all guy committee. We are grateful that she wants to help out.

The building committee is working on our list of repairs and maintenance upkeep around Advent. Don't hesitate to contact a committee member if you see something that needs attention, or have an idea.

We will be having a meeting on Tuesday, April 1 at 6:00 PM, and will plan to take a few more things off of our "to do" list, as well as discuss painting the interior walls at the church. We will put together a few color combinations and options that will be presented to the council.

The Outreach committee has asked the building committee to join efforts in a spaghetti dinner fund raiser. We are excited to be a part, and thank the outreach committee for asking us to help. We will all meet together on Thursday, April 10 to finalize some plans. The date is May 1; so, put it on your calendar and invite everyone you know.

Our committee members are: John Mocan-Liaison, Dave Roelofs-Chairman, Neil Roper, Eric Alpers, Mike Deering, Jeff Fancher, Dave Romberg, Clint Douthitt, and Sheila Rigotti. Feel free to contact any of us with any building maintenance needs or ideas.

Peace,
Dave Roelofs

Stewardship Committee Update

The Stewardship Committee has been making some plans for upcoming fundraisers. At the end of last year, Advent received a \$10,000 challenge grant for our building fund. Advent needs to come up with fundraisers to match the \$10,000. The Property and Outreach Committees are joining up to host a Spaghetti dinner on May 1, and all proceeds will go toward this challenge grant.

The Stewardship Committee has two upcoming events for you to keep in mind. The first is a golf tournament this July. Date and details will follow. For questions, or if you'd like to help organize this event, please see Jim Harris. The second event is July 27th – A Night at the Beach Bums. There are 100 tickets available for a buffet dinner and the game. Tickets will be sold for \$30 each, children 3 and under are free. Please see Pastor Justin if you are interested. Again, all of the profits will go to the building fund challenge grant – so it's for a good cause, plus it will be fun!

The Stewardship Committee will be meeting again on April 7, at 7:00pm.

Reward Programs

Our church could be utilizing many financial resources, such as the Boxtops for Education, Campbells Soup Label program, and the Meijer Rewards Program. If you are interested helping to put together the information for the congregation, please contact Becky MacGirr. email: becmac@centurytel.net; cell: (231) 620-1987; home: (answering tape) 231-275-6297

Youth Assistance

As spring approaches, please start to consider the YOUth Group for odd jobs, lawn raking, and cleaning. We also have several experienced babysitters. We are starting to raise our summer camp money. If you are in need of our services, please contact Ellen Fancher, Nick Bank, or Becky MacGirr

From the Outreach Committee

The Outreach and Property Committees are sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on May 1st from 5pm to 8pm at the Lake Ann Township hall. The cost will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, and \$15 for family. The money will go towards the building fund. There will be different types of spaghetti sauce, garlic bread, drinks, and desserts.

The Outreach Committee is still looking for some volunteers to get the Baby Pantry off the ground. We are hoping to be able to start sometime near July. If you have any questions, please consult one of the Outreach Committee Members.

Thank you,

Mathew Branch, Abby Cudney, Keith Johnson, April Rollins, Al Komoll, and Julie Andersen.

Why Advent?

Why are we members of Advent Lutheran Church? Being asked to write the "blurb" this month got us to thinking about it. As long time members of a large ELCA Lutheran church in Midland since 1979 we were certainly steeped in being part of the church. Our children grew up in the church. They were married in the church. We were on committees and boards and were part of the "workers" that helped to make things happen there. And THEN, in 1991, we bought a cottage near Traverse City. Also we were becoming empty nesters as our daughters were either in college or near the end of high school, freeing us up from some of the time commitments placed upon parents. Soon it was weekends in Traverse City and we worshipped from a kayak on the lake - or from the deck while reading the Sunday paper. We did make the effort to go to church once in awhile but the church-in-the-park is wonderful only for summer days. Summer weekends in Traverse City turned into almost EVERY weekend all year long. We LOVED it up here!! When Keith finally retired from Dow Chemical in 2006 after 27 years we moved into the new home we had just built and never looked back.

The search for new doctors, dentists and all that goes with moving wasn't fun - but looking for a new church was downright disheartening! We tried a few and never felt at home. When we analyzed the feeling we had after worship on the way home in the car it was always....".Well.....ummmmm.....that was OK, I guess." THEN we heard from our Pastor Emeritis in Midland about this new start-up church in Lake Ann and the wonderful, energetic young man (I actually think he said KID!!) that was gathering a new flock of Lutherans together. What was there to lose by checking it out? Neither one of us wanted to be in a "start up" church where you had to WORK at all those things we had already done for years and years. We had the idea that filling a seat every Sunday and smiling a lot was what we were up for. To make a long story short.....here we are - members of a start-up church that makes us smile every time we get together. We arrive in the sanctuary smiling and leave smiling....it's contagious. The Lord has blessed us with Pastor Justin and his wonderful family. Keith and I are two of the people in the back of the church with our wiggling grandchildren just waiting to send them up to the front to find out that is in the children's box. Being part of an active and growing church family is a wonderful experience. It has kept this couple on their toes and their car pointed toward Lake Ann. We wouldn't have it any other way!! Advent Lutheran Church has blessed and enriched our lives in countless ways. We rejoice and give GREAT thanks for each and every one of you! Our hope is that we can build our new church home and reunite to one service - we really miss seeing all those early risers (of which the female part of this duo is NOT!!).

Peace and Love,
Claudette and Keith Johnson

Advent Choir

We are always looking for more choir members, no experience necessary.

Join us Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm!

Children's Education

Happy Spring to All! I hope by the time you are reading the latest edition of the Advent Newsletter that there is no snow (or at least very little). We have just completed our third unit of study: Becoming a Disciple. Now the teachers are in the middle of a well-deserved break. When we start up again on April 13th we will begin our next unit of study, Celebrating Church: How do we help people? This will be our last unit of study for the 2007-2008 Children's Education year. This unit is 7 weeks long and will take us into the 2nd week of June.

Stay tuned for announcements regarding our next multigenerational meeting. I am looking at holding it on April 13th or 20th...I'll make an announcement at church as to when this will actually happen.

The Education Committee has decided to hold some social events outside of church. Our first activity will be bowling at the new alley, Wild Pony Saloon, by Chums Corners. We are looking at hosting this event for children Pre-school age through 5th grade at the end of April. Details have not been finalized so watch for sign-up sheets; again I will make an announcement in church.

Nursery

We have a schedule through the end of May for people to work in the nursery at the 8:00 and 11:00 services. We are still in need of people to volunteer for this rewarding hour once every other month or so. Please consider donating your time. The more people signed up, the better! Please see me or call me.

For those of you that have volunteered and are on the schedule thank you very much! If I do not have your e-mail or home phone number, please contact me so I can e-mail the schedule to you.

Peace,

Lis Bank

The following people are assisting in worship this Month.

Communion Bread: Paula Stabnau
Altar Guild: Chad Schwendemann

April 6

Fellowship: Youth Committee

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Cher Baumann
Ushers: Charlie & Joan Chamberlain
Communion: Sally & Tom Peterson
Acolyte: McKenna Cudney

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Hannah Will
Ushers: Pam Hess & Gary Wertz
Communion: Clint Douthitt & Jeff Fancher
Acolyte: Aaron Hockenberger

April 13

Fellowship: Education Committee

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Tom Peterson
Ushers: Charlie Baumann & Bob Sutton
Communion: Mike Achorn & Rich Andersen
Acolyte: Noah Weichert

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ellen Fancher
Ushers: Gwen & Harold Muenchow
Communion: Lynn & Evan Mocan
Acolyte: Emily Fancher

April 20

Fellowship: Choir

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Carole Zang
Ushers: Ben & Jan Price
Communion: Julie Harris & Shannon Nemeth
Acolyte: Evan Mocan

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Nancy Ackerman Will
Ushers: Steve MacGirr & Duce Olson
Communion: Pat Cudney & Pam Hess
Acolyte: McKenna Cudney

April 27

Fellowship: Outreach Committee

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady
Ushers: Mike Achorn & Ken Williams
Communion: Allie Roelofs & Bob Sutton
Acolyte: Aaron Hockenberger

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Becky MacGirr
Ushers: Al & Irma Komoll
Communion: Steve & Michael MacGirr
Acolyte: A.J. Kettinger

If you are interested in helping with the Sunday morning worship experience, please see Tom or Sally Peterson. If you are unable to help on the day listed, please be sure to make arrangements for your spot.

An invitation from Bishop Schleicher

To all the baptized of this great synod,

Many of you will be unable to attend the Synod Assembly in May, but we hope that through your prayers, special offerings, ministry photos, and musical gifts you will celebrate the varied ways God's grace is joyfully and freely given to others.

With the theme "On Earth As in Heaven" we will glimpse how the will of God is being done through us "for the sake of the world." See your pastor or office administrator for information about ways for you to participate, or visit www.mittensynod.org and click on News and Events.

Advent

Lutheran Church

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Church: 231.275.8031

Pastor Justin Grimm:
PastorJustin@charter.net
Phone: 231.632.0824

www.adventlakeann.org

Worship with Us

Advent Lutheran Church
19631 Maple
Lake Ann, MI 49650

8:00 & 11:00
Sunday mornings
and
9:30 AM
Education Hour

Church Staff

If you need Pastoral Care, are interested in helping out during the service, have an idea about a new program, interested in the choir, or want to help out with children and teen spiritual growth, please contact one of us.

Rev. Justin Grimm, Pastor

Cherie Hockenberger, Director of Music

Becky Douthitt, Administration Coordinator

Lis Bank, Children's Education Coordinator

Church Council

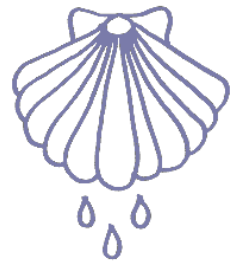
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see John Jeffrey or Michelle Anderson.

For a list of your Church Council members, please go to www.adventlakeann.org and click on Directory.

Pastoral Assistance

If you or a loved one is in need of pastoral assistance, don't hesitate to contact Pastor Justin.

Are you interested in learning about Baptism or Communion for you or a family member? Pastor Justin would love to talk with you! Call or email him to set up a meeting.



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CHURCH

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