



# Advent Acts

May 2008

Volume 4, Issue 5

## A Note from Pastor Justin:

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

The other night during youth group the “Faith Lens” we were talking about courtesy of the ELCA website was regarding “the church”. One of the questions was “What do you like about our ‘house of the Lord’ and ‘what would you change about our church’?” I think the intention of those writing the question was to get the youth thinking about the physical structure that we call church first and then perhaps we could fish a little bit for answers which talked about what *really* makes the church the church. Yet, immediately one of the participants in my group chimed in that the best thing about Advent is the way everyone is so friendly and welcoming. “Since the very beginning I have felt like I mattered and was loved” she said, “Everyone is invited and welcomed, it rules!” I was so filled with joy by her words but even more joy entered me because of the passion that she spoke these words. Our conversation continued and many of the youth in my group shared similar thoughts to what made Advent special for them. As we switched gears to what they would change- many suggested a little bigger building wouldn’t be all bad (note that the 8 of us were squished into my office at the time). Yet, they did not dwell on the size of the building, but rather seemed to want to focus on the good things that were going on and the way we could continue to bless our community by sharing the blessings God has poured upon us. Truthfully, the entire conversation “ruled”!

So what about the rest of you? What do **YOU** like about our “house of the Lord”? We are at what I think is a critical juncture in our journey together: the property has been closed upon, the first step in moving towards a building project has occurred, we are in the midst of adopting a vision statement that will anchor our ministry, we continue to see new families, and our building continues to get smaller and smaller. I am so amazed at the ways we work around the space issue and carry on important and vital ministry in our community. Yet, there is a danger- a danger that we will allow our space to limit us. To say, “Let’s just maintain until we get a new building”. Now...I have not heard anyone make those statements, but know it is a potential trap we could fall into. I am confident however that if we continue to hold onto the passion that has gotten us here, if we continue to create new ministries that reveal themselves and continue to be open to being stretched and challenged we will be anything but “maintaining”. The new building is a wonderful thing for us to begin visioning and the process though challenging and draining will be life-giving and fulfilling. But...while we embark upon that path, we must continue to remember why we are here- to proclaim, to love, to serve in the name of Christ.

Dear friends, I encourage you to step back this month a little bit, to think about how this church has impacted your life, how God has revealed the glories of the eternal promise to you, and how you respond. Do you tell your story to others? Do you share the way God has blessed your life when the opportunity presents itself? Or do you suffer from “Lutheran Laryngitis”? Our ministry is about people and lives, it is about answering the call to welcome and reach out to all who need to hear our message of love and hope- and that mission, that ministry when we strive to do it always comes back with the passionate response of “it rules”. Because, it truly does- the grace of our loving God, the mercy of our Savior Jesus Christ has come to rule our life, and when we allow it to be who we are we get to share that promise with so many others. So think about the church, think about God, what does it mean to you- and share your thoughts because someone is waiting to hear you.

Let’s remember our mission statement this month as we go about our busy lives, “Equipping and Empowering disciples to proclaim the transforming love of Jesus Christ.” Dear Lord, let us be empowered, let us be equipped and help us proclaim with passion your love.

Honored to be your pastor,  
Justin



## Drake!

Please join us Sunday May 11 to celebrate Advent's first birthday!!

The faith based acoustic band, Drake, will be providing us with wonderful music this day. Our worship services will be led by the youth of the congregation, and Drake will be providing our service music for both services.

Then that evening, Drake will be performing at the Untied Methodist Church- the New Life Center. Drake the band has its roots in Northern Michigan. Eric Engblade and Nathan Schleicher (son of Bishop Schleicher)-are both accomplished vocalists and guitarists. The sounds of Drake are fun, earthy acoustic folk-rock music with energetic melodies and driven lyrics. Their music is enjoyed by people of all ages. Please join us for this wonderful event!

The concert begins at 6 pm. Tickets are \$6 in advance and \$10 at the door. Please see Cherie for ticket sales.

Proceeds from the ticket sale will go towards Advent's building fund. Drake has even offered to donate a portion of their merchandise sales( CD's, T-shirts, etc.) to Advent as well!

To get a taste of what Drake sounds like, please visit our website at [www.adventlakeann.org](http://www.adventlakeann.org), on that page there is a link that will take you to their site where you can listen to their music.

This is designed to be a family friendly event, I encourage you to invite all your friends, enjoy a evening of fantastic music, and celebrate Advent's first birthday!!!

-Cherie Hockenberger

## The Directory is Here!!!

The Advent Church Directory is available! Ask Michelle Anderson for your copy. Thank you to everyone who helped make the directory possible. We know a lot of work went into it!

In addition to the address and photo directory, it would be great to have a "service directory" that includes 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](mailto:becmac@centurytel.net)

cell: (231) 620-1987

home: (answering tape) 231-275-6297

## A Special Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for all your thoughts and prayers during my recent illness. Thank you also for the beautiful flowers.

Ben Price

## 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.

## May Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary!

### **Birthdays**

5/2	MacKenzie Andersen
5/2	Stuart Mettler
5/4	Khiela Alpers
5/6	Clint Douthitt
5/8	Ryan Brodbent
5/8	Gary Cox
5/8	Joshua Garver
5/10	Gail Wertz
5/12	Shannon Nemth
5/14	Chris Andersen
5/15	Tom Peterson
5/16	Nikolas Kalis
5/16	Becky MacGirr
5/17	Ann Kalis
5/18	Ken Davis
5/21	Evan Erfourth
5/21	Kathy Johnston
5/21	Elizabeth Thomas
5/24	Juanita Weber
5/25	Sally Peterson
5/26	Melanie Griffith
5/28	Marge Achorn
5/29	Gary Wertz



### **Anniversaries**

5/1	Jim & Betty Wick
5/16	Jeff & Ellen Fancher
5/19	Neil & Winona Roper
5/24	Clint & Becky Douthitt
5/24	Harold & Gwen Muenchow
5/30	Ryan & Teri Brady

## Quarterly Finance Update...

General Offering	\$25,937.00
Building Fund	\$1,890.00
Flowers	\$443.00
Youth	\$313.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,583.00</b>

Benevolence Payment to the synod: \$3,890.55

Total Estimated Quarterly Income	<b>\$30,000.00</b>
Current Budget Shortfall	<b>(\$1,417.00)</b>

Expenses to Date:

By Vendor	\$11,011.70
By Pay/Stipend	\$23,780.02

Average Attendance

<i>8:00am</i>		<i>11:00am</i>	
Children	9	Children	24
Adults	30	Adults	46
<b>Total 8:00am</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>Total 11:00am</b>	<b>70</b>

Total Attendance **110**

Thank you everyone for your gifts of Time, Talent and Money. If you have any questions as to where you are at with your personal pledge, please ask the financial secretary, Wendy Roelofs.

## 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](mailto:becmac@centurytel.net); cell: (231) 620-1987; home: (answering tape) 231-275-6297

## Land Update

“It is official!!!!!!” The parcel of land 2 miles north of Lake Ann on Lake Ann road is ours! On April, 15th, the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA retained the property on our behalf. Let’s continue to support our building fund to pay this property off fast so we can begin thinking about what we may put on it!” If you have any questions about the property or process now please see Pastor Justin or President John Jeffery.

## From the Corner Office

It has been a while since I’ve written my own article for the newsletter. We’ve had so many wonderful things going on – there’s hardly been space!

It is with a sad heart that I write this, my last article as your church Administrative Coordinator. Effective May 1, I have resigned as both Administrative Coordinator and Financial Secretary. As many of you know, this past February, Clint and I were blessed with a daughter, Sarah. After much deliberation, I decided my free time needs to be spent with her – she’ll only be little for a blink of an eye.

I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve you and Advent these past 29 months – can you even believe that Advent has been around for that long – talk about the blink of an eye! I am honored to have been involved with the day – to-day activities of the church, and will miss this very much.

As of the printing of this newsletter, the financial secretary position has been filled by Wendy Roelofs, but the church secretary position is still vacant. Please speak with Pastor Justin or John Jeffrey if you are interested.

Thank you again. See you Sunday morning!  
Becky Douthitt

## May Readings

**Here are the readings for Sundays this month:**

<b>May 4</b>	<b>Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11</b>
<b>May 11</b>	<b>Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23</b>
<b>May 18</b>	<b>Genesis 1:1-2:4; Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20</b>
<b>May 25</b>	<b>Isaiah 49:8-16a; Psalm 131 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34</b>

## 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

## Youth Update

The youth group has been very busy lately. We have been filling out all our forms and papers for camp. Fundraising is going to be a blast this year! Keep an eye on your lawn! We are also getting out and selling candy, all kinds. So if you happen to get a sweet tooth just look for a youth member, if there is no youth to be found there is a box in the nursery. Just put the dollar in the envelope!

The youth is also sponsoring an upcoming DRAKE concert, on May 11<sup>th</sup> (Mothers Day) so bring all your mothers, I know my mom is going!

Last but definitely not least.....**pull tabs**, take them off everything from canned cat/dog food to pop cans. The youth is collecting these pull tabs for "Ronald McDonald House ". The pull tabs are used by that corporation to sponsor over night stays for families in need. So if you have any questions about any of these things please don't hesitate to ask a youth member there is always one around.

Thanks again to any one who is sponsoring the camping trips for all the "wonderful ""never causing trouble" "beautiful/handsome" lovable, adorable youth!!!

[peace]

Emily Bramer

## Property Committee Donations

You may have noticed a few new updates in the church over the past month. The cross has new lights behind it, courtesy of Nordquist Sign Company out of Minneapolis, MN. There are new cabinets popping up to help with storage, thanks to Jeff Fancher and his company.

In the coming month new signs will be installed outside of Pastor's office and the Nursery, donated by APCO Sign Company out of Atlanta.

## Congregational Meeting

Our May Congregational Meeting is coming up on May 18, immediately following the 11:00am service. Please plan to be there as we discuss and vote on accepting the Vision for our church.

## Advent Choir

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

**Join us Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm!**

## Children's Education

Wow! It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another year of Children's Education. Our first year of Akaloo seemed to fly by. My hope of having several multi-generational meetings never came to be, sorry about that. The teacher's had so much curriculum to cover it was hard to give up a Sunday.

Please take the time to personally thank Becky MacGirr, Abby Cudney, Sue Olson, Wendy Roelofs, Allie Roelofs, Jessica Rigotti, Emily Bramer, Michelle Anderson, Nick Bank, Cheryl Smith, and Kathy Johnston. They all helped to make our Children's Education successful this year!

We will continue with Children's Education through the month of May. Our last day will be May 25<sup>th</sup>. But don't worry we are working on some fun activities for the summer. Anna Grimm and I will lead a hike around Ransom Lake in June (date to be announced). In August we will have Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Speaking of VBS we are in need of people to help out August 12th-14<sup>th</sup>. We need craft people, food preparers, game organizer, musicians, and group leaders. Please consider helping out, it is a rewarding experience...don't make me beg!

Again, thank you to all of the teachers that helped out with Akaloo this year. I look forward to Akaloo II next year!

Peace,  
Lis Bank  
632-0657

## Nursery

Well, I think we are almost there...a few more people and I think we will have a good number of people to help out in the nursery. I have scheduled people through June and will post this on the nursery door. Please check for your name. I have made arrangements with Tom Peterson to e-mail him my monthly calendar and he will forward it on to those who have volunteered to work in the nursery. Again, thanks to all of you who have stepped forward already, it is greatly appreciated by our members!

Peace,  
Lis Bank  
632-0657

## The following people are assisting in worship this Month.

Communion Bread: Jeff Wentzloff  
Altar Guild: Pam Hess

### May 4

Fellowship: Stewardship Committee

#### **8:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: John Mocan  
Ushers: Julie Harris & Gary Wertz  
Communion: Carole & Elden Zang  
Acolyte: McKenna Cudney

#### **11:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Juanita Weber  
Ushers: Becky Douthitt & Elfie Steigerwald  
Communion: Charlie & Joan Chamberlain  
Acolyte: Noah Weichert

### May 11

Fellowship: Church Guild

#### **8:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Rich Andersen  
Ushers: Charlie Baumann & Shannon Nemeth  
Communion: Chad Schwendemann & Jeff Wentzloff  
Acolyte: Emily Fancher

#### **11:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Mary Jeffrey  
Ushers: Sue Olson & Kim Romberg  
Communion: Abby Cudney & Pam Hess  
Acolyte: Evan Mocan

### May 18

Fellowship: Monday AM Bible Study Group

#### **8:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Lis Bank  
Ushers: John & Mary Jeffrey  
Communion: Ben & Jan Price  
Acolyte: A.J. Kettinger

#### **11:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Cher Baumann  
Ushers: Pat Cudney & Evan Mocan  
Communion: Michelle Anderson & Juanita Weber  
Acolyte: McKenna Cudney

### May 25

Fellowship: Property Committee

#### **8:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Mike Achorn  
Ushers: Carole & Elden Zang  
Communion: Bud & Marlene Habermann  
Acolyte: Emily Fancher

#### **11:00 Service**

Assisting Minister: Nancy Ackerman Will  
Ushers: David Romberg & Keri Romberg  
Communion: Anna Grimm & Sue Olson  
Acolyte: Evan Mocan

*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](http://www.mittensynod.org) and click on News and Events.

## Advent

### Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 249  
Lake Ann, MI 49650  
Church: 231.275.8031

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

[www.adventlakeann.org](http://www.adventlakeann.org)

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### 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

Lis Bank, Children's Education Coordinator

Cherie Hockenberger, Director of Music

## Church Council

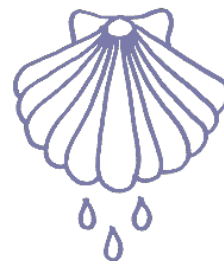
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see John Jeffrey or Michelle Anderson.

For a list of your Church Council members, please go to [www.adventlakeann.org](http://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.



ADVENT  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

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Lake Ann, MI 49650

Non-Profit Organization  
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**Remember the congregational  
meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>  
immediately following the  
11:00am service.**