



Advent Acts

November 2009
Volume 5, Issue 10

A Note from Pastor Justin:

Dear fellow servants of Christ, grace to you and peace from God our creator and our redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, and other social networking sites are seemingly changing the way the world communicates and stays in touch. No longer do people need to write letters and send them via the post office or even email to let people know how they are, rather they can instantly update all of their "friends" on their status with one click of the mouse or one button push on their phone. Admittedly, I am one of the millions involved in this new way of communication, and have found it to be quite beneficial in staying in touch with friends and reconnecting with people from my past who I had lost touch with completely. I chuckle often as I read some of the status updates due to what they are saying, and what people choose to share. For instance, today as I bring up my Facebook page I learn many interesting things that before Facebook existed I would probably never have been privilege to such as; "PS is on her way to buy a swimsuit, it's way too hot here", "RS is watching Jungle Junction with S...this is such a weird show, but all of the little animals are on wheels and S loves wheels!", "EG says it's picture day", and finally that "JB is home with both kids...all three of us are hopped up on Tylenol cold meds. Jittery, drowsy, chilled and loud! Yikes!" And that's just the beginning as the list could go on and on and could change instantly. So...just in case you were wondering...Justin is trying really hard to come up with a newsletter article before Jan gets upset that it has not yet been turned in! Honestly, that is true- but while I think about what to write I am struck by this idea of status updates and wonder what Advent's status update is right now at this time in our life together? Advent is...

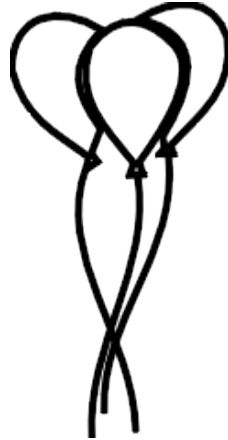
How would you finish that update? What would your status be for this community of faith? I wonder if we are truly being the church that we are called to be, that we have envisioned to be and therefore would have a status update like, "Advent is listening to where God is leading, and striving to be God's hands and feet in the world." Or perhaps, if we truly hear the call of the scriptures to be our calling as a community of faith in this place at this time our status update would be something like, "Advent is striving to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God". But is that who we are? Is that truly what we are doing or have we become stuck on ourselves, trying to maintain the status-quo and as a result have begun to turn inward and focus on maintenance? I don't think so...though we must be aware that that happens to churches from time to time and when it does the mission is forgotten. If that was true for us our status might be something like, "Advent has forgotten its calling to be Christ in the world and is only concerned about keeping the lights on". Or perhaps, "Advent is really good at not welcoming the stranger, or challenging itself to do more than it thinks it can". Where are we, what is our status, are we pushing the envelope on ministry and mission while remembering to care for one another in this wonderful place we love? That is our hope and our dream and it is up to you and to me to make sure that our status stays positive and that we don't drop into the pit of only thinking inwardly and trying to survive. We have something special going on here in Lake Ann and I can't wait to see where we go next....so let's focus on the good stuff, the way Jesus is alive in our lives and let's share it with all the world for we do know that "Jesus is risen and grants us eternal life!"

In closing, let me tell you this, "Justin is very proud of his congregation that continues to do amazing things in the community and the world" and "Justin hopes that all those who call Advent home know they are blessed, special, and loved and have been called to do God's work in this world". And finally, "Justin is honored and humbled to be the pastor of such an amazing church called Advent!"



November Happy Birthday

1/2 Tamara Brodbent
 11/3 Charlie Chamberlain
 11/3 Mason Richardson
 11/4 Robin Heiges
 11/11 Kelsey Hendrickson
 11/12 Carly Mocan
 11/13 Aiden Erfourth
 11/14 Jennifer Woodworth
 11/16 Ellen Fancher
 11/17 Raegan Weston
 11/18 Jacob Williams
 11/21 Keri Ann Romberg
 11/21 Kimberly Romberg
 11/23 Steve MacGirr
 11/27 Shirley Ransom
 11/27 Nolan Roper
 11/30 Amy Lee

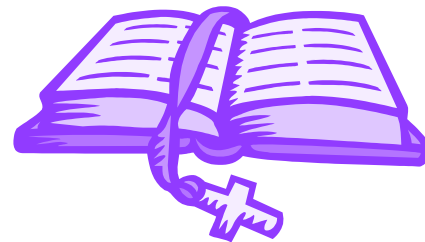


Prayer List

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

We remember in our prayers: Annie Schmittling; Josh Pohill; Wayne Wright; Mary & Bernie Holtman; Ed Bloxsom, Sr.; Carole Luttinen; Jon Brief; Brady & Paige Potter; Helen Rought; Cam Deering; Gary Harris; Mary Ghering; Shelly & Bill Honer; Moss; Catherine Stabnau; Ian Gerald; Wally Schaub; Pastor Len Etzel; Margie Randall; all troops: those deployed and those at home; Pastor Jim Foster and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holland, MI; and our mission here at Advent.

November Readings



Thanksgiving Service

Please join us for a Thanksgiving meal on Tuesday, November 24th at 6:15pm, followed by a Thanksgiving service at 7:00pm. We will be joined by Pastor Devon and Lake Ann United Methodist Church. Please join us and bring canned goods for donation to local families and pantries.

Evening Grace

Join us on Saturday evenings for an additional worship service "Evening Grace" at 5:00pm, beginning on Saturday, November 7th.

Here are the readings for this month:

Nov 1 Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24
 Revelations 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

Nov 8 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146
 Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 12:38-44

Nov 15 Daniel 12:1-3; Psalm 16;
 Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25; Mark 13:1-8

Nov 22 Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93
 Revelations 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Nov 26 Joel 2:21-27; Psalm 126;
 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33

Nov 30 Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

From the Director of Faith Formation

Hospitality or Hospitality-tea

One of my Spiritual Gifts relates to Hospitality. When you think of hospitality, a fine china tea cup, linen napkins, and fancy tea cakes garnished with fresh flowers might first come to mind. Hosting such an elegant affair is certainly hospitable, however I think Jesus may put in a slightly different twist. I believe extending one's self to accommodate another is a start, but I also believe that going beyond the realm of favoring your friends and neighbors gets slightly closer to what Jesus had in mind.

I have recently been the recipient of hospitality this past month while I was out of town. I had casually met my friend's parents once, but as I traveled away from my home to attend a conference that happened to be near their home, my friend's parents made accommodations for me that were not necessary. Only having met them once some time ago, they went out of their way to offer comforts while I was so far from home. They offered directions to places of interest, including church; met me at church where I was included in their routine, and escorted me back to their home for a lovely dinner, conversation and fellowship with more of their family. I was made to feel like family by a family I had barely known. Now, this doesn't quite compare to the "Good Samaritan" story, but in today's world was close. How many times do we have opportunities to serve, welcome and accommodate others that pass us by?

I am reminded of a friend who was at a walk in clinic with her sick child. A young mother came in with her baby who was obviously feverish and quite ill. The young mother was attempting to check in when she was informed that if she didn't have cash she could not be seen. The receptionist was curt and without compassion. My friend could have easily paid for that visit, but she just watched with disbelief at the rude and gruff way the receptionist treated the young mother. As the mother left, my friend realized the missed opportunity. As she rose and went after the young mother, she realized that the old rusty car was already chugging away. Caught up in her anger at the actions of the receptionist, she missed her own opportunity at hospitality. Jesus calls us to hospitality, not only to those who we feel are deserving, but also to our enemies. He calls us to put ourselves aside in humble service to others. Without putting ourselves into direct danger, and using sound judgment, we are called to step into places where we are stretched to service. It is easy to be using our gifts and talents where we have made the decision who should receive, but let us follow God's lead to service. As we move through our busy lives, let us try and be mindful of opportunities that are presenting themselves.

Peace,
Becky MacGirr

Special Thanks

Dear Pastor Justin and Advent Lutheran Church,

Our sincere thank you for making Kate's baptism such a special day. The love and support we feel from Advent is so appreciated. Also, thank you for the cake and quilt that was presented during the baptism. Please accept this gift in honor of Kate's baptism for Advent's building fund.

Sincerely,
The Cudney Family – Patrick, Abigail, McKenna, John & Kate.

If you like pizza...or if you don't like to cook...

help us fill the change jug with "Church Change." If our big change jug fills up by Thanksgiving Day, the MacGirr family will host a pizza and movie night at church on Friday, November 27th!

Pillars of the Church

On a Sunday, not too long ago, one of our members had a guest visiting and introduced me as “one of the pillars of the church”. While flattering, it started me thinking about just who are the pillars of the church.

It seems to me that we are all pillars of the church. We are all called to lift up the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior to the world. We are all part of the worshipping community here at Advent Lutheran Church. And as such, we are helpers, sustainers, workers, leaders, followers, teachers, students, etc. We are here to support and comfort each other through work, prayers and deeds. Not because we have to, but because it is our response to the overwhelming love and the abundant grace of God our Father and the example of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Yes, you may point out that we are all different pillars. We have our strengths and weaknesses and we come from varied backgrounds and places on our faith journey. It is the recognition that one pillar is not stronger or better than another, but together make the whole church. And to my way of thinking, that is the beauty of the pillars; not that we are the same, but that we are different and yet one in Christ.

The strength of our pillars of the church comes from common love and respect for differing ideas and backgrounds. The strength is in how we share love and concern for the members of the worshipping community, as well as how we interact with the world around us in the community outside the worship space.

It is the sharing of ourselves that the pillars of the church lend continued and growing strength to the worshipping body of Christ found at Advent.

Yours in Christ,
Mike Achorn

New Women's Group

Over the past several months I've felt a growing nudge (something I've learned to pay attention to!) to help coordinate a women's group. After voicing my ideas, it was soon learned there were a few other wonderful women with the same idea. We recently got together and began discussing what a women's group within Advent could look like. The core and foundation was easy to agree upon, we all desire a spiritual community of women with whom we can develop healthy, more intimate relationships.

From this point, there appears to be endless possibilities of how it could look. We decided to begin with creating a group with a knitting focus. For those of you who have always wanted to learn how to knit, for those of you want to learn to knit better, for those of you who can share your knowledge, and also for those of you who don't necessarily care about knitting, *come!* We want to gather, join in fellowship, and strengthen relationships.

We will begin meeting on Friday, November 13th at 7:00pm at Marlene Habermann's home. The time we meet is somewhat flexible, it can be discussed at our first gathering. The focus is also flexible. We would like to maintain a small group atmosphere. Therefore, if there is a strong interest within the church, we will encourage the larger group to split into many small groups as needed, and help develop a focus within each with which to launch upon.

So *come!!* Bring a friend, bring yourselves, and bring any knitting supplies you have. If you do not have any, some will be provided! Please sign up on the bulletin board to help us prepare. If you have any questions, talk to Marlene Habermann, Sheila Rigotti, or myself, Anna Grimm. Feel free to call me with any questions as well, 668-2818.

The following people are assisting in worship this Month.

Communion Bread: Shirley Ransom
Altar Guild: Sally Peterson

Nursery: Emily Bramer

November 1

Counters: Becky MacGirr & Cher Baumann
10:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Jeff Wentzloff
Ushers: Jim Harris & Brian Kaven
Communion: Cher Baumann & Barbi Brayton
Acolytes: Aaron Hockenberger & McKenna Cudney
Nursery: Emily Bramer, Laney Wiggins, McKenna Cudney

November 7

5:00 Service
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

November 8

Fellowship: Wednesday AM Bible Study Group
Counters: Marge Achorn & Keith Johnson
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady
Ushers: Dave Roelofs & Bob Sutton
Communion: John & Mary Jeffrey
Acolyte: Kayla Brady
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Juanita Weber
Ushers: Elfie Steigerwald & Gail Stradinger
Communion: Matt Branch & Amiee Erfourth
Acolyte: Miranda Stradinger
Nursery: Becky MacGirr & Halee Stalmack

November 14

5:00 Service
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

November 15

Fellowship: Property Committee
Counters: Bud Habermann & Joan Chamberlain
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: Becky MacGirr
Ushers: Bud & Marlene Habermann
Communion: Ben & Jan Price
Acolyte: Addison Bank
Nursery: McKenna Cudney

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Deb Mikko
Ushers: Elden & Carole Zang
Communion: Mary Mikko & Hannah Will
Acolyte: Halee Stalmack
Nursery: Laney Wiggins, Becky MacGirr

7:00 Prayer Service

November 21

5:00 Service
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

November 22

Fellowship: Worship & Fellowship Committee
Counters: Ellen Fancher & Becky Douthitt
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: Marcie Kaven
Ushers: Jeff & Ellen Fancher
Communion: Sheila Rigotti & Allie Roelofs
Acolyte: Michael Kaven
Nursery: Becky MacGirr

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Becky MacGirr
Ushers:
Communion: Carrie Baldwin & Tamara Brodbent
Acolyte: Aaron Hockenberger
Nursery: Laney Wiggins & McKenna Cudney

November 28

5:00 Service
Nursery: Emily Bramer

November 29

Fellowship: Youth Committee
Counters: Marge Achorn & Becky MacGirr
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: Tom Peterson
Ushers: Pat Cudney & Clint Douthitt
Communion: Paul & Paula Stabnau
Acolyte: Mikayla Mayo
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: John Mocan
Ushers: Ryan Brodbent & Steve MacGirr
Communion: Nick & Lis Bank
Acolyte: Addison Bank
Nursery: Emily Bramer & McKenna Cudney

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 and advise Tom or Sally of the change. (Counters, please contact Wendy Roelofs.)

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

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
Jan Price, Church Secretary

Cherie Hockenberger, Director of Music
Becky MacGirr, Director of Faith Formation

Church Council

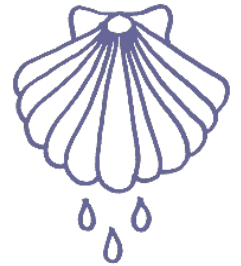
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see Rich Andersen or Marlene Habermann.

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.



ADVENT
LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO Box 249
Lake Ann, MI 49650

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lake Ann, MI 49650
Permit No. 6

Return Service Requested

Thanksgiving Dinner and
Service

November 24 @ 6:15pm