



# Advent Acts

November 2011  
Volume 7, Issue 11

## A Note from Pastor Justin:

### *Messy Church*

Dear Fellow Servants of Christ, grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

A few weeks ago a new family was visiting Advent on a Sunday morning and seemed to have an enjoyable experience. After worship was over they were talking with one of our members and said something to the effect of this, "there are two types of churches, churches for neat people and churches for messy people- this is a messy church and I love it!" She was talking about the fact that at Advent it is perfectly normal for kids to be wandering up and down the aisle, cereal being spilled, people using the restroom during worship, and all of this being met with a smile from those around them. Messy church- I like it!

After hearing about this conversation I thought about how wonderful of a description this was of the kind of church we are trying to be. I think it is wonderful that we can celebrate the fact that we embrace the authentic reality of who we are- all of us- as children of God. By doing this in a serious way we embrace the words of Paul in Romans chapter 3 where he writes, "For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (verses 22b-24)." The power of Paul's message there has been a saving grace for me for many years as it continues to remind me and I hope you too that we are all in this together- with all of our baggage- our good stuff and our bad- our neatness and our messiness- our hurts and our joys- our pains and our achievements- all of us, together as one church that serves the living Lord Jesus.

So, Messy Church- what are we going to do with all that God has given us? I have found myself lately thanking God daily for each and every one of you- this ministry that we call Advent is truly an amazing thing that is a huge gift for my life and I hope for your life as well. Part of what makes this gift such a life giving thing is because of who you are- and the fact that we are all truly in this together. So, again I ask you- what are we going to do with what God has given us? As I thank God for each and every one of you I pray also for you and your families and pray that you too are able to feel the joy that I feel in knowing that you are part of Advent. We are at an amazing time in our history- almost to our 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our first worship, on the cusp of taking some risks with a building plan that needs to happen, growing more and more with new families all the time, and seeing our children truly grasp the joy of knowing that Advent is also their church. So what? What does this mean for you, for me, for us? I ask that question in all honesty as I think together as this messy church we need to think critically and carefully about what we want to do with the gift of this church and the gift of our lives that God has granted us. You will get to partially answer that question on November 6<sup>th</sup> when you fill out a commitment card for the coming year.

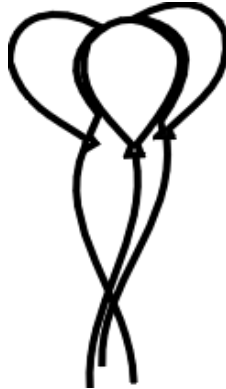
So...I have asked you before and I will ask you again- be in prayer. Pray for where God is leading you and this church. Pray as we get ready for our commitment Sunday on November 6<sup>th</sup> about what God is calling you to give back in the form of financial support of this church and be open- in your hearts and in your hands to the work of God.

Honored and humbled to be your pastor,  
Justin



## November Happy Birthday

11/2 Tamara Brodbent  
 11/3 Charlie Chamberlain  
 11/3 Mason Richardson  
 11/4 Robin Heiges  
 11/7 Alyse Cox  
 11/11 Kelsey Hendrickson  
 11/12 Carly Mocan  
 11/13 Aiden Erfourth  
 11/14 Jennifer Woodworth  
 11/16 Ellen Fancher  
 11/16 Bud Habermann  
 11/18 Jacob Williams  
 11/23 Steve MacGirr  
 11/25 Erin Cox  
 11/27 Shirley Ransom  
 11/27 Nolan Roper  
 11/29 Shaun Ryan  
 11/30 Amy Lee

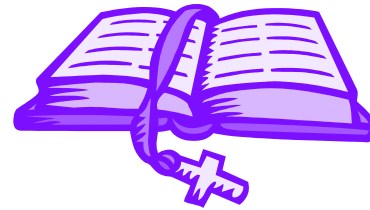


## Prayer List

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

**We remember in our prayers:** Amy Street; John Schroeder; Deb Davis; Haley Clark; Jennifer Woodworth; Barbara Roop; Mark Mullett; Gary Smith; Debbi Reed; Steve Mobley; Mike Clark; Bob Russell; Derrick Bare; Charlene LaBarre; Gloria Harrison; Josh Griffith; Stefanie; Jenny LaBarre; Gary Harris; Pastor Len Etzel; the Orchard Creek Community; and all troops: those deployed and those at home; Bethany Lutheran Church in Kaleva and their newly called pastor Carla Rush; and our mission here at Advent.

## November Readings



Here are the readings for this month:

- Nov 6 Revelations 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22  
 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
- Nov 13 Zephaniah 1:7,12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12  
 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30
- Nov 20 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a;  
 Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46
- Nov 27 Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;  
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

## A Brief Financial Update!!!

Dear members and friends of Advent- we are so blessed to serve an amazing God and be part of the work of the kingdom here at Advent. Your gifts, and your gifts alone make it possible for us to support the ministries we are doing. From keeping the lights on to paying our staff- your financial support is critical. Year to date our pledged income is down about 20% of where it should be- (\$23,000). While this could be reason to panic, the wonderful news is that our expenses are also down quite a bit due to the amazing management the Council and Staff have offered. We don't spend money we don't have- yet, the scope of what we can do is impacted greatly when our giving is down. If you ever need to change your pledge please talk to Pastor Justin or Wendy Roelofs- and remember we are all in this together!

## From the Ministry Coordinator



The holidays will be here before we know it! Advent has faithfully participated in holiday giving programs each year: food baskets to local families at Thanksgiving and the Angel Tree and gift bags of family-fun items to our baby pantry families for Christmas. It is time to start planning for these programs once again and it is only possible with many hands to help. If you are interested in serving on a team of Advent folks to organize our holiday giving programs for this year, or would like information on other opportunities to serve either at Advent or in our community, please contact me at 499-7945. Your generous help is appreciated!

Thankfully,  
Abby Cudney  
Ministry Coordinator

## Penny Wars Fundraiser Ends 11/20/2011



Sunday, November 20, 2011 will be the last day to bring in funds to support this fundraising program for the Advent Baby Pantry. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams.

The teams striving for the best "Net Penny Score" have been positioning themselves for the final strategic contributions into the jugs. It is now time for the teams trying to win the "Most Funds Raised" prize to contact their support groups to collect contributions. The entire congregation is also needed to contribute currency and checks (made out to Advent Lutheran Church with "Baby Pantry" noted).

The Baby Pantry is a major outreach ministry program of Advent. It touches the lives of a growing number of families in need in our community. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution to this fundraiser.

Thank you,  
Mike and Marge Achorn

## Journey Through Grief

This program is a series of weekly sessions offering insights and coping skills for an adult's journey through grief.

6 consecutive Wednesdays 12:30-2:00pm  
November 2<sup>nd</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>

Please call Abby Cudney to register 275-8031 or 275-5151

### November Events at a Glance

Tuesday, November 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00am	Sewing Circle
Wednesday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1:15pm	Service at Orchard Creek
Sunday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Commitment Sunday
Sunday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm	Spiritual Gifts Class
Thursday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Evening Bible Study
Saturday, November 12 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	Baby Pantry
Sunday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>	12:15pm	Archive Group
Sunday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>	12:15pm	Education Rally Meeting
Sunday, November 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Sola Gratia Concert – Rue Royale
Monday, November 14 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Senior Moments Dinner
Wednesday, November 16 <sup>th</sup>	1:15pm	Service at Orchard Creek
Thursday, November 17 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm	Executive Meeting
Friday, November 18 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	Sit-n-Knit Group
Saturday, November 19 <sup>th</sup>	7:00am	Men's Group
Tuesday, November 22 <sup>nd</sup>	6:00pm	Thanksgiving Dinner & Service @ LAUMC
Wednesday, November 30 <sup>th</sup>	6:15pm	Advent Meal & Activity

#### Weekly Events

Mondays at 6:30pm	Financial Peace University
Tuesdays at 7:00pm	Flavors of the Lord
Wednesdays at 10:00am	Bible Study
Wednesdays at 12:30pm	Journey Through Grief
Wednesdays at 7:00pm	YOUth Group

### From the Norlins

Hello, everyone,

We're the Norlins, newly arrived from Chicago. We retired in summer, 2010, Sandra as Director of the Des Plaines Public Library, and Dennis as Executive Director of the American Theological Library Association. We built a new home on Turtle Lake (just 10 miles south of Lake Ann) and moved in this July. We have three children who still reside in Chicago and six grandchildren (age 8 and under). We both grew up in South Dakota, attended graduate schools (Luther Seminary, the University of Iowa, and the University of Illinois), and returned to South Dakota for our children's school years when we lived in Brookings, South Dakota. Sandra was Director of the Brookings Public Library and Dennis was head of the Philosophy and Religion Department at South Dakota State University. We are delighted to be part of Advent and enjoy with its vitality.

Dennis & Sandra Norlin  
16718 Achorn Ridge Trail  
Beulah, Michigan 49617

Telephone 231-275-0478  
[dsnorlin@hotmail.com](mailto:dsnorlin@hotmail.com)

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

Altar Guild: Gail Stradinger  
Communion Bread: Nedra Shoobridge

### Nov 6

#### Commitment Sunday

##### 10:00 Service

Counters: Margaret Achorn & Susan Stendel  
Assisting Minister:  
Communion:  
Ushers:  
Acolyte:  
Nursery: Mary Mikko, Abby Smith & Mikala Mayo  
Greeter:

### Nov 13

Fellowship: Keith & Claudette Johnson  
Counters: Bud Habermann & Keith Johnson

##### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: John Larned  
Communion: Anna Grimm & Dennis Mikko  
Ushers: Erin Ryan & Bob Sutton  
Acolyte: Caleb Wilkins  
Nursery: Mary Mikko & Mikala Mayo  
Greeter: John Larned

##### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Nancy Ackerman Will  
Communion: Amiee Erfourth & Kim Stowe  
Ushers: Charlie & Joan Chamberlain  
Acolyte: Drew Haselton  
Nursery: McKenna Cudney & Abby Smith  
Greeter: Mike Achorn

### Nov 20

Fellowship:  
Counters: Lis Bank & Wendy Roelofs

##### 8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady  
Communion: Elden & Carole Zang  
Ushers: Bud & Marlene Habermann  
Acolyte: Kayla Brady  
Nursery: Nancy Dow  
Greeter: Bob Sutton

##### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Sandra Norlin  
Communion: Keith & Claudette Johnson  
Ushers: Mike Achorn & Gail Stradinger  
Acolyte: Miranda Stradinger  
Nursery: Erin Ryan  
Greeter: Susan Stendel

### Nov 27

Fellowship:  
Counters: Deb Mikko & Jim Shoobridge  
**8:00 Service**  
Assisting Minister: Tom Peterson  
Communion: Candy Puchovan & Tracy Mayo  
Ushers: Mathew Branch & Nancy Dow  
Acolyte: John Larned  
Nursery: Mike & Sommer Deering  
Greeter: John Larned

##### 11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ed Bloxsom  
Communion: Pat Cudney & Carrie Baldwin  
Ushers: Nick & Lis Bank  
Acolyte: Katey Bank  
Nursery: Mary Mikko  
Greeter: Steve MacGirr

*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 call one of the other volunteers or Wendy to switch dates.**

## Advent Meals



Please join us each Wednesday during the Advent season, beginning on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm at the Town Hall for a pot-luck dinner. Come and enjoy fellowship and good food as we celebrate the season with dinner followed by an Advent activity.

## Advent Lutheran Church

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

Pastor Justin Grimm:  
pastorjustin.grimm@gmail.com  
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**

**Fellowship at 9:00am**  
**&**  
**Sunday Education @**  
**9:45am**

## 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

Becky MacGirr, Director of Faith Formation  
Abby Cudney, Ministry Coordinator

## Church Council

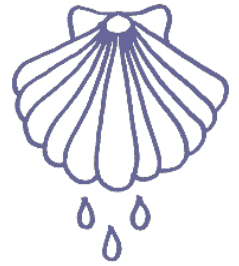
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see Marcie Kaven or Michelle Anderson.

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.



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**ADVENT**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Lake Ann, MI 49650

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