



Advent Acts

February, 2012
Volume 8, Issue 2

A Note from Pastor Justin:

You are Noticed

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

I remember one time talking to a person new to Advent. They said something like, “the problem with a mission church is everyone notices me when I am not there!” She said this in a bit of a humorous way but also quite seriously. There is something to be said for that reality- you can’t hide as part of Advent due to our small space and the outreaching nature of all of you who make this church up. That can be a pretty scary thing for us to realize the people do notice us- and sometimes I imagine we try very hard to not be noticed simply out of fear for what it means to be vulnerable with those who notice us. Yet that is exactly what God calls us to as a community- a place to be vulnerable, to be authentic and to be loved for that very person.

I write this note this month with a bit of a heavy heart. I have heard from a few folks in our congregation that they don’t feel anyone really understands them. Something to the effect of no one seems to have noticed that I have been experiencing hard times in my life. Now to be fair, part of being noticed in these types of situations is allowing oneself to be open about the hard times they are experiencing. But, at the same time, if we are to be a body that REALLY notices one another then some level of comfort should have been felt by this person. I could have written it off if it was a one time deal but since it was mentioned to me by two different people- within a week- I feel perhaps God is trying to tell us something. Are we succeeding as a body at really being intentional in noticing our fellow worshippers? Do we go the extra mile during the week to follow up with that person we sat by on Sunday that looked a bit down? I hope so, but I fear that perhaps our focus is skewed by the real reality of our own busy lives.

In a similar vein I want you all to know that you are noticed. When you are not in worship, when you don’t participate in the life of the church, when your children are not in Sunday school and you in adult class you are noticed. Your absence is felt and you are missed. More than that, you not being there is noticed in how we as the body can function in our calling to love and serve our God and our neighbor. You see, you matter and your very presence matters in a major way. We cannot be Advent completely without you. That’s the beauty...and the curse I suppose of being part of a mission congregation.

I want to challenge all of you to try a bit harder to be noticed...that is strive to be a bit more authentic and a bit more open to your sisters and brothers and also try a bit harder to notice. What is your worship neighbor going through? What can you do to serve them as Christ calls you to? We, together, are the church- your presence is noticed, your absence is felt. And I thank God for all of that!

Honored and humbled to be your pastor,

Justin



February Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary

Birthdays

2/1	Scott Coon
2/3	Karen Harrison
2/3	David Stradinger
2/7	Neil Roper
2/8	Sarah Douthitt
2/10	Eric Ellis
2/10	Ben MacRae
2/11	Bill Heiges
2/12	Dan Erfourth
2/13	Josh Baldwin
2/14	Phyllis Roelofs
2/15	Logan Grimm
2/16	Sue Olson
2/17	Emilie Larned
2/17	Lisa Stradinger
2/20	Becky Douthitt
2/20	Hannah Will
2/10	Michaela Williams
2/22	Steve Puchovan
2/22	Elden Zang
2/23	Susan Larned
2/23	Maggie Wentzloff
2/24	Margaret Welk
2/25	Jennifer Richardson
2/27	Ashley Stradinger



Anniversaries:

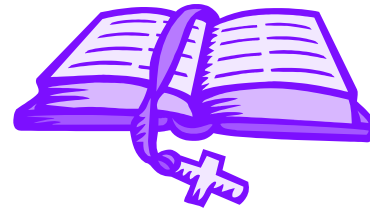
2/10	John & Mary Jeffrey
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Prayer List

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

We remember in our prayers: Del MacGirr; Lucille Miller; Linda Brooks; Charlotte Tallieu; Bob Roelofs; Harold Morgan; Rex Nevins; Dennis Norlin; Joe; Amy Street; John Schroeder; Deb Davis; Haley Clark; Jennifer Woodworth; Barbara Roop; Mark Mullett; Gary Smith; Steve Mobley; Bob Russell; Derrick Bare; Charlene LaBarre; Josh Griffith; Stefanie; Jenny LaBarre; Gary Harris; Pastor Len Etzel; the Orchard Creek Community; and all troops: those deployed and those at home; Chaplain Dan Sutton, serving the Lord with Transport For Christ, International; and our mission here at Advent.

February Readings



Here are the readings for this month:

Feb 5	Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
Feb 12	1 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45
Feb 19	2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
Feb 26	Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

Lenten Meals & Evening Prayer

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, Lenten potluck meals of soup and bread will be served each Wednesday during Lent at 6:15pm in the Township Hall, followed by a service of music and prayer at 7:00pm.

We invite everyone to share in this special time of fellowship and worship

How Many Can YOU Find!!

There are 16 books of the Bible mentioned in the paragraph below. See how many you can find. (A minister found 15 books in 20 minutes, but it took him weeks to find the 16th one). See how much time it takes YOU!!

"I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts...and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph."

Have fun!
Carole Zang

P.S. The latest record: 19 minutes.

Answers can be found on page 5

From the Ministry Coordinator

Greetings! I am writing to inform you of an outreach opportunity that we have with Lutheran Social Services of Michigan's - Hope Village Senior Living Center. Hope Village is located on the east side of town off of Mt. Hope Rd. in Acme. Last week, Pastor Justin, Ed Bloxsom, and myself visited the facility and met with some of the staff. From that meeting, it was evident that any "visits" we can provide would be beneficial to the residents there. They have some neat projects and programs going on already such as, a knitting group, bible study, etc. and they would truly welcome our presence. The center listed some of their volunteer needs as: one-on-one companionship visits, take residents for a walk, read to residents, help them with knitting, craft, or writing project, etc. What a wonderful opportunity to be in His service!

If this is something that you might be interested in, please let me know. Any "regular" visitors will have to undergo a background check through Hope Village. It is also necessary that you complete the Child, Youth, and Protection Policy training at Advent if you have not already/recently done so. Please let me know if you have any questions and I'd be happy to provide clarity.

Many Blessings,
Abby Cudney
ajcudney@gmail.com



Archiving Event

If you like to scrapbook, or even if you do not, please join the Advent Archiving team for an archiving event held at the church on Friday, February 3rd from 7pm-? and on Saturday, February 4th from 8am-4pm. Come and stay for as long as you like – work on the Advent history scrapbooks, bring your own scrapbook project or just help out however you can. Bring refreshments to share on Friday evening, pizza lunch provided on Saturday.

Time & Talents Survey

If you haven't filled out a new version of the time and talents survey within the past year, please do so soon! This information helps keep church records up-to-date and provides valuable information as to who is interested in the many service areas

Time and talents surveys are located on the usher stand and can be returned to the church office via the Sunday offering plate.

Thank you☺

Child and Youth Protection Training

Advent will be offering child and youth protection training for all individuals that are involved with our youth on Sunday, February 5th at 9:45am. If you assist with Sunday School, Confirmation, VBS, help in the nursery, or anything else then you need to be there - please put this time on your calendar. We will meet at the church while our children are at their Sunday education classes. Please confirm that you will be at the training by contacting Amanda at alhilt@gmail.com or by signing up on the bulletin board at the church. Even if you do not currently work with youth or children we really want all of our people to be part of this effort to ensure a safe space for our children and youth!

L.A. Snow Pine Festival

8:30am – 3:30pm
Saturday, February 18th

Lumberjack Breakfast, Chili Lunch, Sledding, Broom Ball, Ice Skating, Game Room, AND MORE!
Please call Becky MacGirr at (231) 620-1987 if you can volunteer an hour or so to help organize children's games.

All events are free. Donations are accepted in designated bins. Advent Baby Pantry is one of the recipients of said funds.

There will be a collection bin at Advent for gently used winter clothing. The winter gear will be available for children to borrow should they become wet or cold during the day's events. They will have the opportunity to take home what they need to keep. If you have items, please place them in the designated bins at the church.

The following people are assisting in worship this Month.

Altar Guild: Sally Peterson
Communion Bread: Marcie Kaven

Feb 5

8:00 Service

Fellowship: The Larned family
Counters: Margaret Achorn & Susan Stendel
Assisting Minister: Dennis Mikko
Communion: Ben & Jan Price
Ushers: Brian & Michael Kaven
Acolyte: Matthew Kaven
Nursery: Abbie Smith & Mikala Mayo
Greeter: Bob Sutton

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Nancy Ackerman Will
Communion: Matt Branch & Pat Cudney
Ushers: Mary Grubb & Gail Stradinger
Acolyte: Miranda Stradinger
Nursery:
Greeter: Steve MacGirr

Feb 12

Fellowship: John & Mary Jeffrey
Counters: Bud Habermann & Keith Johnson

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: John Jeffrey
Communion: Bob Sutton & Cheryl Smith
Ushers: Jim & Nedra Shoobridge
Acolyte:
Nursery: Abbie Smith
Greeter: John Larned

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Margaret Achorn
Communion: Nancy Ackerman Will & Hannah Will
Ushers: Harold & Gwen Muenchow
Acolyte: Katey Bank
Nursery: Allie Roelofs
Greeter: Ed Bloxsom

Feb 19

Fellowship: Elden & Carole Zang
Counters: Lis Bank & Jim Shoobridge

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: John Larned
Communion: Nick & Lis Bank
Ushers: Elden & Carole Zang
Acolyte: Esther Larned
Nursery: McKenna Cudney
Greeter: Charlie Baumann

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Michelle Anderson
Communion: Ed & Laurie Bloxsom
Ushers: Steve & Michael MacGirr
Acolyte: Halee Stalmack
Nursery: Abbie Smith
Greeter: Bud Habermann

Feb 26

Fellowship: Charlie & Cher Baumann
Counters: Deb Mikko & Wendy Roelofs

8:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady
Communion: Marcie Kaven & Becky MacGirr
Ushers: John & Mary Jeffrey
Acolyte: Luke Brady
Nursery: Abbie Smith & Mikala Mayo
Greeter: John Larned

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Deb Mikko
Communion: Mary Grubb & Erin Ryan
Ushers: Charlie & Joan Chamberlain
Acolyte: Caleb Wilkins
Nursery: Mary Phillips
Greeter: Mike Achorn

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.

Hidden books of the Bible - Answers

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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

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

Amanda Hilt, Director of Faith Formation
Abby Cudney, Ministry Coordinator

Church Council

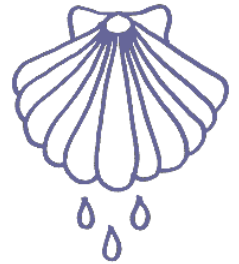
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see Marcie Kaven or Michelle Anderson.

For a list of your Church Council members, please go to www.adventlakeann.org 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
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Lake Ann, MI 49650

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