



Advent Acts

June 2010

Volume 6, Issue 6

A Note from Pastor Justin:

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

It is so good to hear how God has been calling and speaking to some of you over the last month- please continue to share God's action in your life with one another and your community. In light of some amazing stories of God's action, I have decided to give this space over to some in our community this month, to share a bit of how they have felt God speaking. Enjoy Ed Bloxsom's and Mike Achorn's words this month and think about what God is calling you to say.

Honored and humbled to be your pastor,
Justin

My Life at Advent by Ed Bloxsom

Today I am here to share with you how Advent has impacted my life. Prior to coming to Advent, God to me was like a distant relative that you only see a couple times a year. You know who they are but you do not really know them and in the end, if you did not see them again it would not have much of an impact on you.

Since I started coming to Advent, I have learned how important it is to have God and you in my life. Every week I sit here and pray that God would give me direction as to what he wanted me to do, and every week I would have the same answer. That answer was to go with Pastor Justin and knock on doors and let the people know about Advent. Well, that is not what I really wanted to hear. I would keep asking and hoping that there would be something else I could do, but it never happened. I struggled with this for at least a year. I just felt that I could not knock on doors. But the idea would not go away and I finally gave in and talked to Pastor Justin and he was happy to get me started.

Before I even knocked on my first door I started getting the idea that I needed to share with you how God was using me. Now I thought that knocking on doors was going to be difficult, but to stand up here and open up myself to you was terrifying to me. I have come to the conclusion that not everything that God asks us to do is easy. But I know that no matter what he asks us to do, he will always be there beside us, giving us strength and courage to do what he asks. So please give in to your fears and let God lead you to where he wants you to go.

Originally my talk was going to end here but something happened last week in Adult Ed Class that I feel I need to talk about. Pastor Justin asked us "what is the church?" We concluded that the church was not this building, not Pastor Justin, not Becky, but the church is you and I. He also asked us what we needed the church to be to us personally and how we would grade Advent if we were able to give it a grade. A couple of people shared their thoughts with us and it was a little bit of a surprise. One person said that when Advent first started they were energized and now they feel tired. The other comment was that they truly loved Advent but when they first started attending they had hoped that there would be more interaction with other members other than just on Sundays.

My first thoughts were that the honeymoon is over, we are starting to take on the traits of an old congregation. Everything gets to be the same every week and the same people seem to do the same things and we slowly move away from the things that used to motivate us. I do not think that that is what any of us wants to happen.

For most of my life I was happy to have the church be brick and mortar and just a place to attend church on Sunday. I would go to church and try to avoid too much contact, not spend a lot of time hanging around before and after, just get in and out. I did not want to get involved in the church. Even when I started here I was concerned that this is a small congregation, there

Cont'd.....



would be a good chance that they would want me to get involved. But I saw how much energy and how happy everyone was and I thought there must be something here and I would like to have a part of it. You were kind enough to share your love and eventually sucked me in. Now I do not want us to lose what we have. If we want the church to be this building and the pastor and a place to meet on Sundays we can continue down this path, or you and I can be the church and make it what we need it to be.

To get back on track, I think we need to get more involved with the people that make up this church. I do not mean that you need to be on committees, or just volunteer for work projects. I mean we need to get together for fellowship, whether it is to attend the women's group, men's group, bible study or if you have your own interest, start your own group. It does not have to be a large group, anything that brings us together to allow us to get to know each other, more than to just say "good morning, how are you today?"

Last week we had the road clean-up and we had lunch at our house before we went out. I thought it was a really nice afternoon. There were 12 of us there and we each got to know a little more about each other. The clean-up was less than an hour of work and the fellowship was priceless.

I know some of you are probably afraid, like I was, that once you start attending some events that they will be after you to do more. I can assure you that the only one that will be after you to do more is yourself. Once you get started it really takes ahold of you and you want to do more.

So please don't be that distant relative, become part of the close family. If we cannot come together and lift each other up, then we are never going to be able to go outside of this place and lift others up in the community. We need to energize each other and make this church what everyone is looking for. You have brought me in and raised me up, now please do not let me fall back to where I was.

Offerings aren't Dues by Mike Achorn

I think that we often confuse our church offering with dues paid to a golf club or a tennis club. Therefore, if we cannot make our offering on a given Sunday then we feel that cannot attend church. As a result, the church sees a fall off in attendance and a decrease in the operating funds for the church and it's programs.

Let's get the notion of offering put in it's proper perspective. Offering is giving back to God what God has first given us. Offering, for the faithful giver, should come first in the budgeting process of the family. In other words, off the top. Often we give from what is left at the end of the pay period and find that funds are lacking or nonexistent. By giving to God first, we adjust the rest of our spending patterns to account for any changes in our income. It also forces us to be better stewards of what God has given us in the first place. It may be as simple as creating a budget so we understand the impact of our spending patterns on our reduced resources. It may be as drastic as dropping cable TV, reducing the number of trips with the car, or even looking for added work. Your budget will highlight the areas that can be targeted for cost savings, if and when the need arises. Any budget can also help create a savings pattern for retirement, car repairs or medical emergencies so further debt is not added to credit cards.

You may have heard the term, "sacrificial giving". What this means is we should prayerfully select a giving pattern that challenges our lives, in service and in financial support for the church. Some times are more challenging than others but we should always accept the challenge.

The church recognizes the reality of the economy and the devastation that unemployment can have on the struggling family. And adjustments to an offering pledge can be discussed with the pastor so the expected income stream can be adjusted to the "new reality" of the giver. In this way the expenses and ministries can be tailored to the lower level of funding. But the first step is to be up front about the new financial situation. The church needs this information to make adequate plans.

,That said, the next issue is attendance. If you are struggling with finances or any other problem in your life, staying away from your church and the loving and caring community of believers that are there for you effectively separates you from much needed prayer, hope and love. Often it is a word from a sister or brother that can shed light on your situation and offer help or consolation. Problems are only overwhelming when they go unshared. We, as the body of Jesus Christ, cannot do his ministry here on earth without information about what is troubling those members around us. Staying away from church defeats what the community of Jesus Christ is gathered together to do. It is in supporting each other that we grow as a spiritual family, lifting up each other in hope, prayer and love.

So I look forward to seeing you in church next Sunday. We both need it.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL PIG ROAST

JUNE 13, 2010 AT THE HOME OF JACK & JUANITA WEBER
@ 4730 HAMLIN ROAD, GRAWN MI

MEAL TO BE SERVED AT 2 P.M. WITH OLD FASHIONED GAMES FOLLOWING FOR ALL AGES!

A 50/50 DRAWING WILL BE HELD TO HELP DEFRAY EXPENSES. TICKETS WILL SELL FOR
\$1.00 EACH OR 6 FOR \$5.00

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TABLE SERVICE, A DISH TO PASS, & A LAWN CHAIR OR BLANKET IF DESIRED.

WE WILL PROVIDE MEAT, COFFEE, ICED TEA, WATER & SOFT DRINKS.

THE COST OF YOUR DINNER WILL BE A NONPERISHABLE FOOD ITEM TO BE USED FOR THE OUTREACH FOOD DRIVE.

THE YOUTH WILL BE COLLECTING THE SOFT DRINK CONTAINERS USED THAT DAY AS PART OF THEIR FUND RAISING.

MAPS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

ANY QUESTIONS? YOU MAY CALL PETERSONS @ 943-4342 OR WEBERS @ 276-9379



June Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

Birthdays

6/2	Nancy Dow
6/3	Sheila Rigotti
6/6	Michael Dayray
6/8	Leonard Olson
6/17	David April
6/18	Katey Bank
6/20	Elfie Steigerwald
6/21	Cherie Mettler
6/22	Jeff Wentzloff
6/22	Carole Zang
6/23	Mitchell Griffith
6/24	Ashley Garver
6/24	Marcie Kaven
6/25	Emma Griffith
6/26	Kurt Kalis
6/28	Leo April
6/28	Alisha Halberg-Recker
6/30	Lydia Heiges



Anniversaries

6/11	Gary & Gail Wertz
6/12	Bill & Robin Heiges
6/17	David & Gail Stradinger
6/20	Leo & Janet April
6/26	Mike & Margaret Achorn
6/29	Keith & Claudette Johnson

New Worship Times

Our Summer Schedule will begin on
Sunday, June 20th

8:00am	Worship
9:00am	Fellowship
10:00am	Worship
7:00pm	Healing and Prayer Service (every third Sunday)

Prayer List

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

We remember in our prayers: Brian Kaven; Tracy Mayo; Josh Griffith; Gloria Harrison; Denise Mauchard; Linda Clark; Mary Oberman; Stefanie; Irene Borysiak; Leslie Moses; Rick Worm; Barbara Karnowski; Jenny LaBarre; Karen Copeland; Diane Petersen; Claire Torgerson; Gary Cox; Todd Wittke; Gary Harris; Mary Ghering; Pastor Len Etzel; Margie Randall; and all troops: those deployed and those at home; the Orchard Creek Community; Bishop Mark Hanson & the ELCA; and our mission here at Advent.

June Readings



Here are the readings for this month:

Jun 6	1 Kings 17:17-24; Psalm 30; Galatians 1:11-24; Luke 7:11-17
Jun 13	2 Samuel 11:26—12:10, 13-15; Psalm 32; Galatians 2:15-21; Luke 7:36—8:3
Jun 20	Isaiah 65:1-9; Psalm 22:19-28; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39
Jun 27	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

Concert Series

June 20 th	7:00pm	Jen Sygit & Sam Corbin
June 30 th	7:00pm	Seth Bernard & May Erlewine

Tickets: \$20.00 each or \$15.00 for 2 or more

All proceeds will benefit "On the Ground"

The following people are assisting in worship this Month.

Communion Bread: Nedra Shoobridge
Altar Guild: Elfie Steigerwald

Jun 6

Fellowship: Outreach Committee
Counters: Margaret Achorn & Deb Mikko
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: Marcie Kaven
Communion: Anna Grimm & Sheila Rigotti
Ushers: Brian & Matthew Kaven
Acolyte: Michael Kaven
Nursery: Laney Wiggins

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Mike Achorn
Communion: Pat Cudney & Brad Stowe
Ushers: Elden & Carole Zang
Acolyte: Halee Stalmack
Nursery: Laney Wiggins & Halee Coon

Jun 13

Fellowship: Education Committee
Counters: Cher Baumann & Lis Bank
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: Ryan Brady
Communion: Wendy & Allie Roelofs
Ushers: Mathew Branch & Ryan Brodbent
Acolyte: Kayla Brady
Nursery: McKenna Cudney

11:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Deb Mikko
Communion: Nick & Lis Bank
Ushers: Amiee Erfourth & Laney Wiggins
Acolyte: Addison Bank
Nursery: Emily Bramer & Mary Mikko

Jun 20

Fellowship: Stewardship Committee
Counters: Joan Chamberlain & Keith Johnson
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: Mary Jeffrey
Communion: Bob Sutton & Jennie Wentzloff
Ushers: Pat Cudney & Clint Douthitt
Acolyte: Abbie Smith
Nursery: Emily Bramer

10:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Nancy Ackerman Will
Communion: Mike & Margaret Achorn
Ushers: Keith & Claudette Johnson
Acolyte: Jake Weichert
Nursery: Laney Wiggins & Halee Coon

7:00 Prayer Service

Nursery: McKenna Cudney

Jun 27

Fellowship: Bible Study Group
Counters: Bud Habermann & Del Roelofs
8:00 Service
Assisting Minister: Sheila Rigotti
Communion: Marcie Kaven & Laney Wiggins
Ushers: Bob Sutton & Becky Douthitt
Acolyte: Michael Kaven

10:00 Service

Assisting Minister: Ed Bloxsom
Communion: Carrie Baldwin & Kim Stowe
Ushers: Elfie Steigerwald & Gail Stradinger
Acolyte: Miranda Stradinger

*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 Yard Sale & Bake Sale

Our annual Advent Yard Sale is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, June 4th & 5th. Please bring your donations and/or cookies to the church by Thursday, June 3rd. The cookies do not need to be wrapped as we will make up individual bags of a variety of cookies. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund. We will also need volunteers to help set up, work at the sale and clean up afterwards. For information, please contact any Building or Property Committee member, or call the church office.

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

5:00 Saturday Evenings

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

Becky MacGirr, Director of Faith Formation

Jan Price, Church Secretary

Church Council

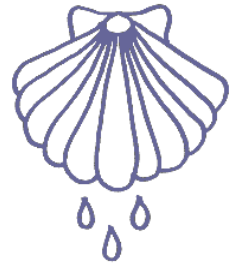
Church council meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Meeting minutes are available upon request. Please see Rich Andersen or Marlene Habermann.

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
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Return Service Requested

Remember the
Congregational Meeting
June 6th immediately
following the 11:00am
service