



Advent Adventures

Vol. 36 No. 6

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June 1	Celebration of Faith Development Leaders	9:30 AM
June 8	Blessing of Graduates during worship	8:00 and 10:45 AM
June 15	Father's Day and New Member Sunday Paul Carlson's Ordination Service	8:00 and 10:45 AM Time: TBA
June 16	Service of Prayer for Peace, Healing and Reconciliation	7:00 PM
June 16-21	Christian Music Theatre session 1	
June 23-28	Youth Houseboat camp	
July 6	One worship service only	9:30 AM
July 6	Sermon seminar	11:00 AM



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Pastor
Anita Warner

The gifts Christ gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴ We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

I believe the heart of renewal of the Christian faith involves Christian leaders and all Christians living their lives in response to the Holy Spirit's promptings and leadings, and living out who God has created and called them to be. When I read this passage from the letter to the Ephesians, I believe the meaning is that each person is given primarily one or two of these leanings and motivations: apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, pastoral/shepherding, or teaching.

Who, me? An apostle, or prophet, or evangelist, or shepherd, or teacher? you may ask. Yes. Now, to see how Christ has gifted us, we may

need to translate these terms into everyday language. For instance:

Apostolic: Visionary thinking and motivation, pioneering new endeavors, comfortable crossing boundaries – intellectual, social, or cultural, see things holistically

Prophetic: Questions what has become normative, core issue is one's relationship to God, disturbs common thinking and practices, may communicate creatively to get message across

Evangelistic: Recruits for a cause, communicates passionately, needs others to hear and respond, core issue is conversion - coming to faith, naturally enthusiastic, creates genuine, organic growth in people

Shepherding: Core issue is love for people – individually and collectively, expresses God's love through creating healthy communities, has a vision for growth, sees other's development, unifier of an organization

Teaching: Effective communicator of Truth, systematizer for solutions, process and integration, willing to take the time for people to understand for themselves, core issue is understanding

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When we understand and live out of the gifts Christ gave us, we are the church. Church is then not primarily somewhere we go on Sunday; church is who we are as the body of Christ active in the world – and Sunday is the gathering of people who are part of the Jesus movement for worship, prayer, teaching and praise.

The staff and Church Council of Advent have been studying Ephesians, chapter 4 for several months now and are energized by the implications of living out these gifts for ministry more fully. No one has all the gifts in equal measure; and everyone has some of these gifts. We would like as many people of Advent as

possible to identify your gifts and explore with us how best you can be serving the mission of Christ and the gospel. The acronym for these gifts is APEST (apostolic, prophetic, evangelistic, shepherding and teaching). Sometimes people have had painful experiences in the church because they were not working from their true gift, or else their gift was not valued and seen within the larger whole. But when we are serving from the gifts Christ gave, and in concert with the larger body, the mission of God goes forward!

There is a link on Advent's home page (www.advent-lutheran.org) to take the APEST inventory online, or go directly to www.theforgottenways.com for the individual APEST. (Note: there is a \$10 fee). We encourage you to do this and to share the results with one of Advent's staff and/or Council members. Marie Juncker has a particular role in assisting people in exploring your gifts and callings, and how you might live these out in the church and in the world.

I look forward to worshipping with you in the Spirit and in joy in the summer months. Also: please plan ahead and remember that we will have one worship service all together on Sundays in July and half of August, beginning **July 6 at 9:30 AM.**

A VIGILANT WOMAN'S PRAYER

By Brenda H.

The title words from a choir anthem that I shared with my Sunday School class recently, "Come Holy Spirit," were rolling through my mind today until I felt that I needed to sit down and compose this prayer.

It is dedicated to those of us who shoulder many responsibilities and sometimes forget that it is not through our own sheer force of will that the world keeps turning.

Come Holy Spirit
strengthen my faith
deepen my comprehension
dismantle my presumption
and enable me to accept the gifts
so generously given.

Blow Holy Spirit
Like salt and sea air
Over all the broken pieces
Made smooth and clean and warm
By your ferociously gentle power

Burn Holy Spirit
Your fragrant warmth
Spreading beyond my boundaries
Destroying, purifying, forging and rebuilding
The absolute perfection of God's intent
Previously so difficult to accept

Pour Holy Spirit
The soothing peace of God
Kneading through the painful places,
smoothing and lengthening
To relax the vice grip
Making the helm free

Guide Holy Spirit
With authority and resource
the presumptuous one, who
With deep responsibility is so fearful
To release
But so in need of your rest.

With the blessing of exposed senses
That now acutely wait
and need
and trust
Come Holy Spirit, come

THE SPIRIT OF GRACE

*Marie W. Juncker,
Spiritual Director*



'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." ' Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.' John 7:37-39

The Holy Spirit is a mystery in our midst. Invisible, yet powerful, she makes herself known as a force in life, sometimes gentle and sometimes bold, yet always blowing where she will. Although in and through and beyond all things, I am not always awake to her presence. Yet often enough, I recognize her invitation to receive God and to become more responsive. Though seemingly illusive, I listen and watch for palpable manifestations of her grace expressed in the ordinary moments of my life and that of others I accompany along the way.

I sense that when the Spirit moves in and through us, she makes of us a means of grace, the living water of God flowing forth from our hearts, filling our families, communities and workplaces with love.

Think of the love expressed when a mother gazes upon her child. Intangible and impossible to take hold of, we experience the love poured out from her. This is a palpable experience of the living water of God.

One way God's living water is released into the world is through the manifestation of spiritual

gifts and callings. Through the love of God, the one Spirit makes of each and every person a fountain pouring forth the Spirit in a variety of gifts according to the grace given. When we let loose this wellspring of grace, we participate in opening up the realm of God.

Imagine the world around you - pale, brittle and lifeless-- and the people in your life - as if thirsting in the desert. Imagine that through your love of Christ, you become a water bearing fountain for your surroundings and all the people in it, the gifts and callings from your heart a river of new life. Imagine this stream increasing as each person, a tributary, comes together with others to form the local church, a river that feeds our local communities as it joins with the greater church to become an ocean flooding all the world with God's life transforming grace.

Evelyn Underhill said that a spiritual life is simply a life in which all that we do comes from the heart, where we are all anchored in God: a life soaked through and through by a sense of God's realm, and given over to the great movement of God's will.

"Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." "Now he said this about the Spirit...." May we who are soaked in God's grace, bear water to a thirsting world!

**Changed Lives
Changing Lives
Through Christ's Love**

LIVING PRAYER

By Casey Carlson,
Children, Youth & Family Minister

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7



It seems we have a deeply embedded belief that God will answer all of our prayers in the ways we want and expect. Yes, there are some verses in the Bible that clearly state that God answers our prayers, but even more than those words, I think that the Bible shares words most similar to those written in Philippians. “The Lord is near,” “let your requests be made known to God,” and “the peace of God will guard your hearts and your minds.” Don’t worry, but bring it to God because God is near, God will give you peace. Rejoice!

Sometimes as I struggle with my prayers, my inner voice can become like a little kid throwing a tantrum, “But that’s no faaaair! I want it noooooow!” I don’t think this is what Jesus had in mind when he called us to come as little children. What if we came to God in prayer simply because God is near, simply because of the promise of peace? What would happen to our worries? Would they give way to faith?

I have found myself praying a lot lately, especially about my worries and concerns. I often wonder what is coming to our world, our relationships, where my life is headed, how the kids in this youth group have been entrusted to

me, if I’m good enough for anything... It’s hard to struggle with worries because they can often be so draining. It’s hard to struggle with self doubt because the stronger it gets, the more it disables me from being able to do the things I am called to with a full heart. Eventually, it can cloud me from being able to even see or understand what I am being called to.

Especially in these moments, I find that the most comforting promise from the Philippians passage above is that God’s peace surpasses all understanding. With the way my mind can wander and spiral, Lord (literally) knows how much my heart and mind need guarding. As someone often obsessed with studying every detail of emotional and mental states; someone who incessantly tries to figure everything out, the idea that God’s peace can surpass my own limited understandings frees me and fills me with... *relief!* I’m not in this alone. It’s *not* all up to me.

I want to live in relationship with God in such a way that prayer is as common, natural, and necessary as breathing. I want to live in prayer. I don’t breath only when I feel the air around me and know it’s there filled with pure, perfect oxygen. I breathe because I need to, because my body was formed to breathe or else I won’t live. I breathe even though the air smells disgusting or a bus chugged by and filled the air with smog. I breathe because oxygen is near. Oxygen surrounds me even when I’m not thinking logically about what it is and if and when and why...

God is near. God fills our lives as oxygen fills our lungs. Pray, speak; share with God those things that fill your hearts and minds. God has created us to be in relationship with creation and Creator just as our bodies were created to breathe. For now, this is all I need to be filled with that amazing peace which surpasses all understanding. Perhaps as I learn to live in prayer, I will also learn what it is to truly live.

JUNE YOUTH & FAMILY CALENDAR

JUNE 4 HOUSEBOAT MEETING 7PM

ALL YOUTH AND PARENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED AND/OR A PART OF THIS TRIP ARE INVITED TO COME TO THIS MEETING, HELD IN ROOM 2, TO DISCUSS DETAILS.

SAFE COMMUNITY TRAINING WEEK OF JUNE 9TH

FOR THOSE WHO SERVE AS ADULT OR TEEN LEADERS/CHAPERONS THROUGHOUT ADVENT'S YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAMS; FOR EXAMPLE, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER OR CMT. PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE OR CHECK THE COMPREHENSIVE CHURCH CALENDAR ON WWW.ADVENT-LUTHERAN.ORG FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

JUNE 13 COMEDY SPORTZ! 7-11:00PM

9-12 GRADERS WILL MEET AT ADVENT @ 7PM, CARPOOL TO SAN JOSE FOR A PIZZA DINNER—\$7.00. THE COMEDY BEGINS AT 9PM. WE WILL RETURN HOME DIRECTLY AFTER THE SHOW AND GET TO ADVENT AROUND 11:00PM.

SIGN UP FOR TICKETS: ADULTS—\$15 KIDS/STUDENTS/SENIORS—\$12
PLEASE SIGN UP BY JUNE 11TH!!

JUNE 16 - 21 CMT

JUNE 19 3RD THURSDAY - GAME NIGHT 6-8PM

6-8TH GRADERS BRING \$5, YOUR FRIENDS (COME FREE), AND YOUR FAVORITE GAMES!
YOU'LL ALSO GET INFORMATION ABOUT RIOT WEEK IN JULY!

JUNE 23 - 28 HOUSEBOAT TRIP!

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH,

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE THE ORDINATION OF MY BROTHER, PAUL CARLSON, AT ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH ON JUNE 15 AT 6:00PM. THE CARLSON FAMILY WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SHARE THIS SPECIAL OCCASION WITH ALL OF YOU. PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN THIS HOLY CELEBRATION!
PEACE, CASEY CARLSON



COMING IN JULY: 9:30 AM WORSHIP

We will gather as one worshipping community for one worship service, at 9:30 AM for seven weeks this summer: all the Sundays in July, and through August 17, the last Sunday before local schools begin classes. On August 24 we will return to the schedule of two worship services, one at 8:00 and one at 10:45 AM.

Special services this summer will include:

Outdoor worship
Bread of Life / Bread for the World worship
Hymn festival Sundays and more!

HONORING OUR FAITH DEVELOPMENT LEADERS

Sunday, June 1, at 9:30 AM



Come on Sunday, June 1, at 9:30 AM to thank and honor those who have served as leaders in faith development this year: Sunday School teachers, staff and superintendents;

confirmation guides; and adult small group and class leaders. There will be a program and refreshments in the courtyard. If you are a parent, invite your children to come that day to say thank you to their leaders. We will also celebrate all the children who have participated in Sunday School this year.

CHRISTIAN MUSIC THEATER



Do you know children who will enter kindergarten through 9th grade this September who would enjoy acting, singing, dancing and creating art for a week-long program, ending with an original musical production? Let them know that Advent will be offering 3 CMT sessions this summer:

Session I I'm Blessed June 16th – 21st
Session II Spirit of the Universe July 7th – 12th
Session III Don't Shut Us Out July 14th – 19th

Information flyers and forms are available in the Kiosk in the Berkland Fellowship Hall, in the church office or online at <http://www.advent-lutheran.org>.

You may register by mail. Just mail in your completed forms along with payment to Advent Lutheran Church.

FOOD OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE DAIRY

(non-perishable)



Food for the month of June is Dairy (non-perishable). Food items may be brought forward during the offering and placed in the basket on the chancel (front of the church). All food offerings go to Reach Out, the ecumenical hunger pantry in our community, located at St. Catherine's parish.

SEW SEEDS NEEDS

Cleaning out your closets? The Sew Seeds group would like these recyclable items:

- Clean sheets and flannel sheets
- Clean old blankets, even electric blankets
- Clean blue Jeans, any condition (holes ok)
- Ironing board in good condition
- Colored sewing thread
- Altoids mints tins

Items may be placed in the Sew Seeds plastic bin in the Berkland Fellowship Hall.

Sew Seeds ministry is a three-fold ministry:

- Sewing for Missions
- Sewing for Advent's in-house needs
- Teaching new sewers

Join us! Upcoming workshop dates are June 3rd and June 17th from 1-4 p.m.

For more information, contact Marge J.

PARKING LOT AND FRONT BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Last year this time we were talking about the need for major repair and upgrading of our front parking lot, along with the need to better care for the appearance of the front area of our property. This summer the work will begin!

This is important because the front area is the welcoming point for many people who engage in the on-site ministries of our congregation, whether worship, Sunday School, a prayer

service, a concert, a speaker, a class, a meeting, Christian Music Theatre, the Community Table, or a youth event. While the rest of our facility at Advent is quite beautiful and well cared for, the front area is not. This summer we will begin to change that. New light poles will be installed, and then the major paving work will commence. We will continue to ask for donations to cover the cost of the paving and for curbing. After the paving work is done, there will be opportunity for volunteer workers to improve the landscaping. We also will need to slurry seal the back parking lot, probably twice, in order to preserve it for years to come.

You are invited to share your economic stimulus payment from the federal government or contribute in any other way to support this necessary repair.

CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2008!



Pastor Warner and Casey Carlson with the Confirmation Class of 2008 on May 11.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

For June, 2008



June 1 - 7

Sun	Deut 11:18-21, 26-28 Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24 Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28 Matthew 7:21-29	<i>Keeping the words of God I commend my spirit Justified by God's grace as a gift The teaching of Christ: doing he works of God</i>
Mon	Joshua 8:30-35	<i>Joshua renews the Mosaic covenant</i>
Tues	Joshua 24:1-2, 11-28	<i>The Israelites renew the covenant</i>
Wed	Matthew 7:13-20	<i>The narrow gate</i>
Thu	Job 28:12-28	<i>The way of wisdom</i>
Fri	Romans 3:9-22a	<i>All have sinned</i>
Sat	Psalm 52	<i>The wicked and the righteous</i>

June 8 - 14

Sun	Hosea 5:15-6:6 Psalm 50:7-15 Romans 4:13-25 Matt 9:9-13, 18-26	<i>God desires steadfast love The salvation of God The promise to those of Abraham's faith Christ heals a woman and raises a girl</i>
Mon	Hosea 8:11-14; 10:1-2	<i>God rejects Israel's sacrifices</i>
Tues	Hosea 14:1-9	<i>God will be merciful to Israel</i>
Wed	Matthew 12:1-8	<i>Mercy, not sacrifice</i>
Thu	Leviticus 15:25-31; 22:1-9	<i>Those bleeding or dead are impure</i>
Fri	Hebrews 13:1-16	<i>Sacrifices pleasing to God</i>
Sat	Psalm 40:1-8	<i>God's will, not sacrifice</i>

June 15 - 21

Sun	Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8	<i>The covenant with Israel at Sinai We are God's people While we were sinners, Christ died for us The sending of the Twelve</i>
Mon	Joshua 1:1-11	<i>God calls Joshua</i>
Tues	1 Samuel 3:1-19	<i>God calls Samuel</i>
Wed	Luke 6:12-19	<i>Jesus chooses the apostles</i>

June 15 - 21 (con)

Thu	Proverbs 4:10-27	<i>Choosing the way of wisdom</i>
Fri	2 Thess 2:13-3:5	<i>The life of those chosen by God</i>
Sat	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45	<i>God saves the chosen people</i>

June 22 - 28

Sun	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18 Romans 6:1b-11	<i>The prophet must speak Draw near to me Buried and raised with Christ in baptism</i>
	Matthew 10:24-39	<i>The cost of discipleship</i>
Mon	Jeremiah 26:1-12	<i>Jeremiah prophesies against Jerusalem</i>
Tues	Jeremiah 38:1-13	<i>Jeremiah imprisoned and released</i>
Wed	Matthew 10:5-23	<i>Jesus speaks about persecutions</i>
Thu	Micah 7:1-7	<i>The corruption of the people</i>
Fri	Revelation 2:1-11	<i>Enduring patiently</i>
Sat	Psalm 6	<i>Prayer for deliverance</i>

June 29 - 30

Sun	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Romans 6:12-23	<i>The test of a true prophet I sing of your love No longer under law but under grace</i>
	Matthew 10:40-42	<i>Welcome Christ in those he sends</i>
Mon	1 Kings 21:1-16	<i>Ahab and Jezebel sin against Naboth</i>

Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds – his name is the Lord – be exultant before him.

Psalm 68:4

Source: *Between Sundays: Daily Bible Readings Based on the Revised Common Lectionary*; Gail Ramshaw, 1997.

“MARY & MARTHA CIRCLE”**ADVENT WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY**

**“Come to the Waters:
“Water, Water Everywhere”**
from Lutheran Women Today

Wednesday, June 11

Fellowship: 10:00 am

Bible Study: 10:30 am

Study Texts: Genesis 1:1-10, 2:5-91,
6:11-22, 7:11-18, 8:6-18;
Exodus 14:10-31;
Matthew 3:13-17

**All women are invited!
Please join us, and bring a guest!**