

Advent Adventures

Vol. 38 No. 12

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Watch for the Light: The Seasons of Advent and Christmas

December 5	“Teaching Your Child about Worship”	9:40 AM
December 7	Midday worship: Scripture, Prayers, Communion	12:00 Noon
December 8	Mary & Martha Circle; potluck luncheon follows	10:00 AM
December 8	Faith Journeys for Adults begins	7:00 PM
December 11	Messiah Sing Along with the De Anza College Orchestra Loren Tayerle, conductor	5:00 PM
December 12	“Away in a Manger” Children’s Program Love in Action boxes due Cor Aingli Gaelic Christmas Concert	9:45 AM 4:00 PM
December 19	Chancel Choir Cantata in worship	8:00 & 10:45 AM
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship Carols, Children’s Message, Communion, Candlelight Carols, Chancel Choir, Communion, Candlelight	7:00 PM 10:00 PM
December 26	First Sunday in Christmas worship	8:00 & 10:45 AM
January 2	Second Sunday in Christmas worship	8:00 & 10:45 AM
Coming in January:		
Saturday, January 15	All-Congregation potluck and “An Evening to Remember” to begin the Strategic Planning Process	



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Pastor Anita Warner

A New Beginning

Across time and cultures, people have felt a desire for permanence. Yet at some point, even those things we believed would stand forever change. An institution folds. A job or relationship ends. Loved ones die or move away. What we expected to happen was not what unfolded in our lives.

Life in and around the church is changing. The church no longer holds a privileged position in the culture. Our wider society at times has little understanding of the way of Christ or what the life of the church is about. The church itself must change in these changed circumstances.

How do we face change? Most of us resist change. Change is often thrust upon us and we have not chosen it. Sometimes we welcome change. Change is often hard. Yet within change are the seeds of new life.

The season of Advent ushers in change. It is a new year in the church, and we who have been hearing the Gospel of Luke will begin hearing from a new gospel, the Gospel of Matthew. The angel announces a change: Jesus will be born. The God of highest heaven is coming among the people of the world as a small, vulnerable infant. This is a great change from what Jesus' people expected.

The Gospel of Matthew accompanies us in the bracing shock of change. Through this journey

of facing change we hear the promise that though rocks may crumble and mountains may fall, God is with us. That is the meaning of Emmanuel – God is with us.

Next month Advent Lutheran embarks on an exciting four-month strategic planning process facilitated by the Rev. Roy Oswald. In this process everyone in the congregation will be invited to reflect on who the congregation has been and what we have been about; who we are now and what we are about now; and who God is calling us to be and what we are going to be about in the future. I invite you to fully engage in this process and to begin in your own prayers asking God about our calling together as a community of faith.

Change is hard. Change is reality. Change is necessary.

I wish you all joy and peace in believing in as we celebrate the One who came among us, Jesus, the Christ.

What a remarkable opportunity we have all been given to listen and speak with one another and embark together on the next chapter of Advent's life. God is with us.



FRIENDS IN CHRIST

by Valerie S.



GRANT & KAREN L.

This is going to be a sweet story in many ways.

Karen and Grant L. have joined Advent three times...that's right ...three times. Because of Grant's work in the nuclear division of GE, they have moved, from Morgan Hill to Minnesota, and back, three times. Each time they returned to Advent.

Here's the good part. Karen also worked at GE, and when she saw Grant, and subsequently found out that he was Lutheran, that was the beginning of an office romance! The result is wonderful years together (round trips to Minnesota included), a son, who now lives in Reno, Nevada and has given them two grand daughters (aged 6 and 8) who Grant and Karen babysit. They even have a place in Truckee that facilitates family get-togethers. There is also a daughter, Gretchen. You can have the extreme pleasure of hearing her beautiful, flawless soprano, when she cantors for us here at Advent.

Grant and Karen both sing in the choir and he has been Council President twice. Karen, in years past, has led a teen choir here and has played piano for funerals. Currently, she is still involved in singing alto in the choir and she is active with Sew Seeds.

They were here at Advent in the early years and become close friends of the Berklands. Their daughters were born three weeks apart and those of us, who have survived those infant years, know how bonding those friendships are. Grant and Gary still play golf together every week.

Karen thinks Advent is "on a roll" because it's a progressive church and Anita is on the mark with her description of what it is to be a "Christian". If you take into consideration the businesses that move in and out of our area, our population remains stabilized. Two of the biggest assets here, in our church, are the dedicated Sunday School staff and the wonderful young people we have here.

That's Karen's opinion. I see a third asset...she said that Advent will always be their home....one more time, we win.....thank you Karen and Grant for all of your irreplaceable gifts to us...y'all stay put now.



High School Book Talk

We meet Monday evenings from 6:00pm—7:30pm to discuss our current book, *Free of Charge: Giving and Receiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace*.

Even if you have not been reading the book, you are invited to join us on Mondays. We read it aloud together so our conversation remains connected to what we are reading that specific night.

Join the conversation! Join us on Monday nights!

Youth Christmas Shopping

Grades 7—12 12:00pm—5:00pm

Meet after church on Sunday, Dec. 5 to spend the afternoon shopping for Christmas gifts at Valley Fair Mall off of Stevens Creek Blvd. in San Jose, CA

High School
Season of Christmas Party
Monday, Dec. 27
6:00pm—7:30pm

Christmas isn't over yet! Meet on Monday night for this Season of Christmas celebration! We'll eat some treats, play games, and celebrate!

You are also invited to bring a monetary gift for a special Christmas offering.

Confirmation Christmas
Party


Wednesday, Dec. 22
7:00pm—8:30pm

Those confirmation students who are in town are invited to celebrate Christmas together with treats, games, and fellowship on this Wednesday night!

You are invited to bring a monetary gift for a special Christmas offering.

Advent Lutheran Youth & Family Calendar

DECEMBER 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7:00p Confirmation	2 5:30 Youth Choir 6:30 Faith Journeys I 7:30 Faith Journeys II	3	4
5 12:00p Youth Christmas Shopping	6 6:00p H.S. Book Talk	7	8 7:00p Confirmation	9 5:30 Youth Choir 6:30 Faith Journeys I 7:30 Faith Journeys I	10	11 10:00a Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
12 9:30a Christmas Pageant	13 6:00p H.S. Book Talk	14	15 7:00p Confirmation Caroling	16 5:30 Youth Choir 6:30 Faith Journeys I 7:30 Faith Journeys I	17	18
19	20	21	22 7:00p Confirmation Christmas Party	23	24 7:00p Christmas Eve Worship 10:00p Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christmas! 
26	27 6:00p H.S. Christmas Party	28	29	30	31	Advent Lutheran Church 16870 Marpley Avenue Moraga Hill, CA 95057 Phone: 408-761-6673 Email: youth@adventluthern.org

H.S. Seniors' Winter Retreat

SPOT CHECK

by Casey Carlson

When I was young, I absolutely loved ballet. I loved dancing so much, it was a normal occasion for me to put on my dad's classical music, or just any music really, and dance around the living room imagining myself to be a world class dancer leaping across a stage in Rome. I probably could have been good, but I never had the opportunities to hone those skills and so I remained more or less uncoordinated in the dancing world. While dancing is not one of those things I do today, I am still amazed by the beauty, grace, and strength of dancers.

One of the most remarkable things to watch a dancer do is also somewhat simple. They spin (aka perform chaînés, piqués, or pirouettes...thank you Wikipedia!). When they spin and spin across that stage you expect them to fly into a crumpled mess when they are through, but instead they hold themselves still, straight, and strong. For those of us unpracticed observers, we watch in awe over the control they have over their bodies, knowing full well that we would be too dizzy to see straight or too weak to hold ourselves so balanced and still. Of course, dancers have their techniques, such as spotting, which they practice and practice so they do not succumb to the dizzying haze that could wash over them, wreaking havoc over the entire dance. If we had the time and talent we could learn and practice those techniques so that we can also hold our ground.

But for the general population, we don't have the time. We don't have the talent. We wish we could... but that's not for us. That's not our thing. Leave it to the professionals. For some aspects of our life, we must employ these thoughts. We really cannot do it all. We really are better at some things than others. But then we are left with the question, how do we decide what is for us, or not? We can be left in our own dizzying haze as the weight of these questions keep us out of balance.

I often find myself in conversations with parents and teenagers about these same questions. How do we find time for it all? How do we know when to say no? We get caught in the momentum of life, spun from one commitment to the next, trying to do it all

and desperately trying not to end the day in a crumpled mess. The word "balance" comes to mind. We often bring it up. We seek it out, attempting to find the one, key ingredient in our life that will bring us balance.

There are different ideas that people follow to bring balance to their lives. We all use our own techniques or advice from others as we work towards our own personal balance. I suggest that we can learn from the dancers. We can learn to spot.

Spotting is an important technique in the dancing world. As explained on Wikipedia,

Spotting is a technique used by dancers during the execution of various dance turns. The goal of spotting is to attain a constant orientation of the dancer's head and eyes, to the extent possible, in order to enhance the dancer's control and prevent dizziness... Spotting is advantageous for dancers in several ways:

- *It prevents dizziness by providing a fixed focus for the eyes.*
- *The fixed focus also helps the dancer control balance.*
- *It helps the dancer control the direction of travel during traveling turns such as chaînés and piqués.*

Finding balance for our lives is a hard, ongoing process. How we answer those questions that weigh on us will differ depending on the circumstances. Each of us will find different rhythms of living or even a different balance that works best for our lives. When it comes to faithful living, we can't just leave it to the professionals, no matter how much we might want to! We all need a spot check. Like dancers, it is important that we do not let our lives become a dizzy, uncontrollable, mess or else we won't be able to live. We need all the help we can get in order to control our balance. And possibly, most importantly, we need to control the direction our lives take with accountability rather than living in a constant state of reactivity. This means taking the time to practice and build our technique. We can do this in a number of ways; through daily devotions, Bible study, worship, fellowship, confession, and grateful living.

What better time is there than now, in this season of Advent, to practice our faithful techniques, to reorient ourselves with a fresh spot check? We await the birth of the Messiah, the Christ! It is to this birth that we look and orient ourselves. As we move from one event to the next, as we fight for balance in our lives, we spot and check and spot again so that we are constantly oriented to the one thing that will give us the strength to keep it all balanced. Christ. A fragile baby, born to bring all people a new life, new hope, a new focal point for our lives. We weigh the commitments, we weigh our needs, and Christ brings it all together again with the fresh hope of forgiveness and grace. This is more than a special day filled with beautiful music, artfully wrapped gifts, delicious food, and glittering centerpieces. This is even more than just making sure we do those things we should... church on Sunday or praying before meals. This is living our life as the gift God gave us, effortlessly breathing into each new turn, constantly oriented to the One who centers us, strengthens us, and gives us life every single day. Together we receive this blessing so that we can be blessings to one another.

Without Christ as our fixed focus, our lives can seem to spin uncontrollably without balance and with that ever-present pressure to regain control. As we continually return to God, we will find our balance regained and our ability to handle the weight of the world heightened because we are no longer stuck on our own, trying to be strong enough. After reorienting ourselves to God, we are refocused re-energized, able to look at our lives with new eyes so we can reorganize and recommit ourselves to those things that are most in line with our focus.

Christ is with us, beside us, before us, as the One we can return to again and again. As we return to God, we join the dance uninhibited, with control and with strength. While we may still find ourselves spinning with the world around us, we also find ourselves turning again to the Christ, gifting us with the peaceful, centered stillness of an infant's first, blissful sleep in his mother's arms.

YOUTH AND FAMILY RESOURCE STORE BOOK REVIEW



This month the Family Resource Store is highlighting our Advent books. These are books written for the whole family. No matter what age your children are there is something that can help you to share the amazing Christmas story. Each is full of daily devotionals and ways to tell the Christmas story. [Follow That Star](#), [Getting Ready For Christmas](#) and [The Birth of Jesus Story Cube](#) are all written for families with young children. Each has a special part of the story to tell each day of the Advent season. What a wonderful way to start a dinner conversation or end a busy day with your children or grandchildren. [In My Heart I Carry a Star](#) and [Child of the Light: Walking Through Advent and Christmas](#) are full of daily devotions to be used with your own Advent Wreath or as a daily reflection time for family. These are more appropriate for families with teens. We hope you will stop by our display and see what's new.

Have a Blessed Advent Season.

Jill D. and Marianne G.



FAITH JOURNEYS



How does someone with spiritual questions grow in their life of faith? How does someone new to faith grow in life in Christ? Faith Journeys will be weekly

small group gatherings to reflect together on the Sunday scriptures, sermon and worship as well as our lives. Faith Journeys is a simple, authentic and non-pressured way of growing in life in Christ in the company of others and it is for people at every stage of their walk in faith. No experience is necessary!

The first Faith Journeys group meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 7:00-8:30 PM. Please call Tom D. or Virginia M. for more information; if you need child care during the Faith Journeys group; or if you cannot come on Wednesday evenings but would like to be a part of a Faith Journeys group at another time. If you would like to serve as a sponsor for a Faith Journeys participant, please call Jim C..

TEACHING YOUR CHILD

ABOUT WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 9:40 AM

led by Pastor Warner

Jesus openly included children. On one occasion, as he taught his disciples he put his arm around a child and told the disciples that welcoming a child was much like welcoming him (Mark 9:36-37). The children learned by participating and asking questions.

Today's children learn in much the same way. Any qualified teacher will tell you that children learn best as they experience life. There is no better way we can help our children grow in their relationship with God than through worship. Furthermore, it is important to involve children in worship during the early years. If they learn songs and hymns, the creeds and prayers, and understand the various parts of worship, they will most likely continue to appreciate worship later on in life.

Pastor Warner will lead this session for parents of children of all ages in Berkland Fellowship Hall, during the children's Christmas program dress rehearsal.

AWAY IN A MANGER

Everyone is invited to Advent's annual Christmas pageant on **Sunday, December 12th at 9:30 AM** in the sanctuary. This year's program is titled "Away in a Manger." It is written by Marc Northcott and features the students from Godly Play and the 3rd – 5th grade class. Some Middle School and High School students will also participate. Come and see the shepherds and angels tell the story of Jesus' birth!

Rehearsal schedule:

Sunday, December 5th

9:30 to 10:30 in sanctuary

Saturday, December 11th

10:00 to Noon in sanctuary (Dress Rehearsal)

Sunday, December 12th

9:45 "Away in a Manger" performance

Note: Cast members should arrive at 9:00 AM on 12/12 to get into costume.



Please join in the

8TH ANNUAL SING ALONG MESSIAH

Saturday, December 11, 5:00 PM

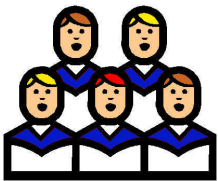
Come and sing along or come and just listen!

Accompaniment provided by the DeAnza College Orchestra, directed by Loren Tayerle, symphony director at DeAnza College; and the Advent Chancel Choir and Musicians

There will be light refreshments after the performance.

There is no charge for the event, however there will be a freewill offering, with proceeds benefitting the Sound and Light system at Advent Lutheran Church.

CHANCEL CHOIR CANTATA ON SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 19



During both worship services on December 19, the Advent Chancel Choir will present a cantata of music and readings entitled "A Candlelight

Christmas" by Benjamin Harlan. Worship will also include the Advent liturgy and holy communion. Invite others to join you in worship this day!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

At 7:00 PM, we will join in a worship service including traditional carols, candlelight and communion. There will be special music and a children's message with puppets at this worship service, and nursery care for infants and young children.

The 10:00 PM worship service will also include traditional carols, candlelight and communion. The Chancel Choir will provide special music for this worship service.

Note that the time of this later service is 10:00 PM rather than 11:00 PM as it has been in years past.

Christmas Eve worship is sometimes a person's first time coming to Advent. Members of Advent, park in the back parking lot if you are able and please warmly welcome all who come to worship with us.

MIDDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Beginning December 7, at 12 PM we will be worshipping God with a monthly Worship Service, for the first Tuesday every month. The current plan is to have an abbreviated Worship Service including Word, Eucharist and Healing Prayers for Advent members and inviting others from the community,

All are invited to midweek Bible study group meeting from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. We are asking for your suggestions in planning this service. If you would like to help shape the content of our service please email or contact Jim C. or Francis A..

CELEBRATE “A GAELIC CHRISTMAS” WITH MARY MC LAUGHLIN DECEMBER 12.

Renowned Irish singer and songwriter Mary Mc Laughlin will present her fifth annual “A Gaelic Christmas” concert, featuring original arrangements of traditional Christmas songs in Irish Gaelic, at Advent Church as one of four venues in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties this year.

Featured performers will be Mary Mc Laughlin and her *Cór Ainglí* (Irish Gaelic for “Angelic Choir” pronounced “Kor AN-gee”), a community-based choir of 25 experienced choral singers whom Mary taught to sing in the Irish language. Kathleen Loveless will serve as guest conductor for *Cór Ainglí*. The choir will be accompanied by guest musicians Steve Coulter on harp, Owen Meehan on flute and whistle, Bruce Abraham on guitar and percussion, and Shiloh Hellman on piano.

Born and raised in Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, Mary began to learn the Irish language at the age of eleven and was influenced by *sean nós* (old style) singing which she heard in the Donegal *Gaeltacht* (Irish-speaking area). She was also heavily influenced by Latin church music in her early years and this year completed her MA in Gregorian Chant and Sacred Irish Music at the internationally acclaimed Irish World Music Academy at Limerick University, Ireland. She has published two songbooks and four solo albums, and is featured on many compilation albums on BMG and EMI.

Mary formed *Cór Ainglí* in Santa Cruz in 2006 to perform original arrangements of Irish Gaelic Christmas songs she had developed for her CD *A Gaelic Christmas* (Placed in the 2009 “Best Holiday Album” category by Just Plain Folks International Indie Awards, www.jpfolks.com), and they have performed to sell-out crowds in the Monterey and San Francisco Bay areas each

Tickets: at door or in advance from <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/>

For more information on Mary Mc Laughlin and on *Cór Ainglí*, visit Mary’s website at www.marymclaughlin.com.



Join Mary Mc Laughlin and her *Cór Ainglí* for:

A Gaelic Christmas

**Original choral arrangements of Christmas song in Irish Gaelic,
with performances by international recording artist MARY MC LAUGHLIN,
and Mary’s community based Cór AINGLÍ gaelic choir,**

Featuring:

**Steve Coulter (harp) Bruce Abraham (guitar) Owen Meehan (flute)
Shiloh Hellman (piano/keyboards)**

***Sunday, December 12, 4:00 p.m.,
Advent Lutheran Church, 16870 Murphy Ave., Morgan Hill***

ADVENT WOMEN INVITED TO ATTEND WOMEN OF ELCA TRIENNIAL GATHERING 2011

Evelyn S.



Women of the ELCA gather in convention every three years to set the direction of the organization. During July 12–14, 2011, in Spokane, WA, convention delegates also will elect 4 officers and 17 women to the church-wide executive board. Following the convention, **July 14–17, 2011**, women will gather for a weekend of learning, inspiring speakers, worship and service in the largest gathering of women in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America..

The gathering theme “Renew, Respond, Rejoice!” finds its roots in Scripture, in Philippians 4:4–9: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ...” This is your time to pray, to sing, to see and to hear--to be renewed--and to respond to God and to the world around you as a testament to God’s love and grace.”

Schedule-at-a-Glance

The gathering begins Thursday, July 14, with special film screenings and an informal evening meet-and-greet with Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hansen. Closing worship is Saturday evening, leaving Sunday morning open for one of our many optional tours, worshipping at a local congregation or exploring Spokane on your own.

Worship Services

Singing and praying with many sisters in Christ is an uplifting and moving experience that you won’t want to miss:

Workshops

No advance registration is required for these 90-minute sessions.

- “Understanding the Gospel of Mark”: Introduction to the 2011–12 *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible Study
- “Luther’s New Appreciation of Sexuality, Marriage and Family”
- “On Our Way: A Living Faith That’s Good for the World”
- “Charitable Gift Planning: A Gift from the Church to the Church”
- “Intercultural Competence for Leadership in a Diverse World”
- “Chemical Craze: Detoxifying Your Home”
- “The Power of Language”
- “Walking in Solidarity with Your Global Sisters”
- “Spirituality of Anti-Racism”

Activities

- “Run, Walk and Roll”--a fundraising Run, Walk and Roll in support of Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls
- “Film Screenings”-- two special films: "Pray the Devil Back to Hell," and "A Walk to Beautiful"
- “Chocolate Lounge: A Young Women’s Gathering”--Kick off the 2011 Triennial Gathering at a late-evening get-together especially for women in their 20s and 30s

- 🌿 “Artist in Residence”--During the gathering, seminarian Mary Button will be interpreting our theme—Renew, Respond, Rejoice!—by creating a tapestry in the exhibit hall.
- 🌿 “Prayer Shawl Collection”--Get out your knitting needles and crochet hooks and create a prayer shawl
- 🌿 “Quilt Challenge”--Quilters of all abilities are invited to create a quilt interpreting the theme: Renew, Respond, Rejoice
- 🌿 “Gathering Choir”--No matter your vocal range, you are invited to participate in the gathering choir.

Optional Tours

Pre- and Post-Triennial Gathering Optional Tours and Trips are planned for July 14 and 17.

Early Bird Rate for registration ends January 7, 2011 -- \$299 per person

Regular Rate for registration after January 7, 2011--\$325 per person

For more information see web page--
<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/Triennial-Convention.aspx>

or contact Evelyn S. or Sheila W.

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Your Liturgical Arts Committee would like to have all the congregation help us decorate for Christmas! You may, of course still donate a poinsettia but more than that we'd like each person/family to submit a personal or family photo in a frame, without glass, that we may hang on the tree.



This way even if some of your family can't be with you for Christmas they will be celebrating with you and your church family. It can be an old photo or a new one; nostalgic or present day. These photos can be any size up to 8"x10" with your name on the back so that it may be returned to you after Christmas.



Poinsettias may be donated for \$10.00 apiece with a note on your check for whom or for what it is to be donated. The poinsettias will be purchased by December 14th so please submit your check to Sherry in the office no later than December 12th.

Thank you from the
“Laddermen and the LALA Girls”!

SABBATICAL UPDATE

Pastor Warner received a \$15,000 grant from the Louisville Institute through their Sabbatical Grants for Pastoral Leaders program. These funds will be given to Advent in the spring and will be used for sabbatical expenses. Thirty-nine pastors in the United States and Canada were awarded grants for 2011 out of more than 400 who applied.

Pastor Warner's grant proposal was entitled "The Transformative Word." The summary is:

Language is the primary means of communication I employ as a parish pastor. Weekly I write prayers, preach sermons, engage in pastoral conversations, share information through writing and speaking, teach, pray, tell stories, and collaborate with community leaders. I am aware of the potential of language for good and for evil, to create and to destroy, to build walls and to build bridges, to bore and to inspire. I will to attend to language first in renewal in my word-centered spiritual life, through daily scripture reading in both English and Spanish; in beginning regular conversation with a spiritual director; and in creative meditation on the word through calligraphy. Second, I will attend a two week immersion language school in Guatemala. The community I serve has a significant and growing Latino population, and I believe that Spanish language ability is important for the present and future of our ministry here. Third, I will consider how language is changing, by going to theater and reading literature, experiencing language in other churches, lingering on what gives power and persuasion to certain uses of language, reflecting on this in relation to the ministry of the gospel, and experimenting with my use of language.

Pastor Warner and the Church Council are working with Synod leaders to provide pastoral coverage during Pastor Warner's sabbatical next summer.

ADVENT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, MARY & MARTHA CIRCLE



Raffle Items:

"Blue Jeans Quilt" – 82 1/2" x 92 3/4"

Quilt made using gently used jeans

Donated by Advent members

Quilt made by Rosemary Perry & Sheila Walton

Raggedy Ann Doll – 20" tall

Handmade by Rosemary Perry

Raffle Tickets:

\$1.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5.00

Tickets on sale:

October 17th through December 5th

CAN YOU FIND YOUR BLUE JEANS?

Raffle Purpose:

To be determined, watch for details!

Any Questions: Feel free to contact Rosemary P. or Sheila W.

LOVE IN ACTION

4TH QUARTER MISSION OUTREACH

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

Advent has been able to adopt needy families each holiday season for almost 30 years, thanks to Friends Outside. This organization supports families with at least one head of the household in prison. This program is our fourth quarter mission project because it offers us so many different opportunities to help people in need.



This year Advent will be adopting 25 families. If you like to shop and have the resources, you can adopt a family and purchase gifts and food. You may also get a friend or another Advent member involved to divide the cost and effort associated with some of the bigger families. If you have less time, but still want to help, donations for meat certificates can be made. Towards the final week, if families are not adopted, Advent shoppers (using money donated by others) can participate by buying gifts for those remaining families. This year there will also be lap quilts available (Sew Seeds contributions) for families as extra "comfort" gifts.

If you decide to help, first select a family from the poster board located in the narthex. Then sign your name in the numbered box of the family you have chosen to adopt. Find your corresponding numbered ornament in the basket and place it on the Love in Action Christmas Tree. Next, select the sheet of paper with your family's number on it. This will include a list of gift suggestions and or special needs for each family member. Don't forget to also pick up the grocery list of recommended items to purchase

and instructions as to how to box and label your family unit. Expect to spend about \$25 per person for gifts and \$20 per person on food items. Donations for \$20 meat certificates can also be made.

Completed food and gift boxes are **DUE** on Sunday, December 12th, 2010. Please deliver all boxes to room 9. The boxes will be dispersed to the appropriate families in the South County area on Tuesday, December 14th.

Marianne G. will be the coordinator for this fall project. Please contact her if you have any questions regarding this mission or if you would like to volunteer to help with any aspects of this ministry.

FOOD OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER



HOT OR COLD CEREAL

Food for the month of December is Hot or Cold Cereal. However, you can donate other nonperishable foods as well. When you shop, pick up two of something, and put one in a bag for church. Then leave it by the door or stick it in your car so when you are running late for church, you haven't forgotten your food bag.

Many people in south county need our help. This is a simple way we can make a difference.

If you are interested in helping others find food:

- Make sure they have a picture I.D.
- Call the Food Information Hotline at 1-800-984-3663.

Give the zip-codes of where the person lives and nearby zip-codes

SEW SEEDS MINISTRY HOLDS INGATHERING

Evelyn S.

Participants in the Sew Seeds ministry of Advent are pleased with their accomplishments so far in 2010 and are continuing to work on their service goals. Every quilt and kit that Lutheran World Relief ships overseas is an expression of love and caring by the church groups who made them. Thirty-six churches in addition to Advent participated in the October 23 Ingathering of quilts, health, school and sewing kits, layettes, and yardage sets. That's something to celebrate!

During a special dedication at Advent on October 17, 106 quilts, 80 school kits, 32 health kits, 25 layettes, 14 sewing kits, and 9 fabric yardage sets were blessed. On October 23, second-year confirmation students packed up the Advent quilts, while adult volunteers helped organize deliveries from other churches, loaded the truck, and served refreshments to those making deliveries.

"Craig and Judy S., Advent members, donated their time to drive the three tons of goods to Portland, Oregon. All the goods were then shipped by rail to the LWR Warehouse in Baltimore, MD. Money contributed by the congregation helps to pay for the expenses of transporting the quilts and kits to Portland and around the world through Project Comfort."

Marge J., Advent member, is LWR Key Leader for this area of Northern California, and is responsible for the excellent logistics and coordination of the Ingathering at Advent. Jeannett S. is the Sew Seeds coordinator.

Future Plans and Needs

At this writing, Sew Seeds has prepared hats, lap quilts and baby quilts for Friends Outside Families, lap quilts for members and friends in convalescent homes, and quilts for St. Catherine's Reach Out program; and costumes for Christian Musical Theater. In addition to increasing the number of Lutheran World relief quilts made in 2011, Sew Seeds volunteers intend to make lap quilts for Advent's graduating seniors and for veterans.

Sew Seeds participants appreciate the contributions the congregation members have made to this ministry, both of material and funds. Recently, Sew Seeds received a large donation of fabrics. To transform all of it into quilts, Sew seeds will need donations of thread, backing, and filler material. Clean sheets, thin bedspreads, and curtains make good backings as they usually are large, single pieces of material. Blankets, some draperies, and clean mattress pads make good fillers as they add warmth to the quilts.



DID YOU KNOW ?

Each week a different Ministry or group at Advent Lutheran is recognized both in the bulletin and during service. The members are asked to bring the Communion elements to the altar along with the offerings for the day and receive a thanksgiving prayer and blessing by the Pastor. This recognition came about after careful review of the Cottage Meeting survey results, particularly question # 18; "I tell stories of how this congregation makes a difference in the lives of others." These ministries and groups do make a difference and we wanted to share them with you. Here are their stories.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2010 – MILITARY VETERANS

Today, it is our privilege to say "thank you" to all of Advent Lutheran's veterans, to let them know that we appreciate them for their service and honor them for their sacrifices.



Veterans Day is considered a yearly American holiday honoring military veterans. It is commemorated as Remembrance Day or Armistice Day in other parts of the world. Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11th, the anniversary of signing of Armistice that finished World War I. The main hostilities of World War I were finished at the 11th hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month of 1918. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed an Armistice Day for November 12, 1919 honoring Veterans of World War I. The United States Congress conceded a resolution on June 4, 1926 applying for Presidential declaration that made the 11th of November a national and state holiday; "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'."

In 1953, an Emporia, Kansas shoe store owned named Al King had a plan to increase Armistice Day to commemorate all veterans. He started a crusade to turn the Armistice Day into "All" Veterans Day and with the help of then U.S. Representative Ed Rees, from Emporia, a bill for the holiday was pushed through Congress. President Dwight D. Eisenhower marked it into law on May 24, 1954.

These words are inscribed on the Korean War Memorial in Washington D.C.:

"Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a county they never knew and a people then never met."

Those words apply equally to many of our World War I, World War II, Vietnam War and Gulf War veterans as well. They apply to today's active duty service members – tomorrow's veterans – who are helping to maintain peace throughout the world.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2010 – CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL GIVERS

Today we celebrated Commitment Sunday with a processional offering. Those who give to the daily operations of Advent and to the building/mortgage fund were asked to complete pledge cards for either or both of the funds and take them to a table that had been placed at the foot of the altar. At noon we held a congregational potluck where the totals for the pledge cards were announced. The General Fund had received 71 pledges for a total of \$281,675.60 and the Building/Mortgage Fund had received 83 pledges for a total of \$127,510.00.

Pledges for the Building/Mortgage Fund make up almost 100% of the payment for the mortgage and the in-lieu of fee to the City of Morgan Hill, where the General Fund does receive loose change gifts from guests and others who don't make a pledge. If you missed Commitment Sunday and would like to pledge to either or both funds, you may talk with Sherry Q., office administrator, Craig J., Financial Chair, or Brad B., Stewardship Chair.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2010 – STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The current Stewardship Committee is comprised of the following members. Virginia M., Craig J., George C., James D., Norman O., Pastor Anita Warner and Brad B.. The team came together in the summer of 2009 as we prepared for our Fall Campaign, One Bread, One Body. We decided to organize our fall program around Cottage Meetings which were held at member's homes. It was a very grass roots campaign intended to offer a casual atmosphere for discussion. Many good things came of the campaign, one of which is the "Did You Know?" that you see each week in the bulletin and as an expanded article in Advent Adventures.

Everyone is welcome to attend a Stewardship meeting. Meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. and generally run about two hours. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please contact Brad B..

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2010 – FAITH JOURNEYS



A Faith Journeys Group meets regularly at Advent to reflect on Scripture and worship, talk about our community, and explore our walk of faith along with how we integrate our faith

in our daily lives. This was taken verbatim from the Faith Journeys brochure that should be available soon. Faith Journeys is a simple, authentic and non-pressured way of growing in life in Christ in the company of others and it is for people at every stage of their walk in faith. No experience is necessary!

The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8th starting at either 6:30 PM or 7:00 PM. Members to date are Jim C., Tom D., Virginia M., Allen S. and Pastor Anita Warner. Please call Tom D. or Virginia M. for more information or to express your interest or time preference; if child care would be helpful to you; or if you cannot come on Wednesday evenings, but would like to be a part of a Faith Journeys group at another time. If you would like to serve as a sponsor for a Faith Journeys participant, please call Jim C..

Special Guest Speaker, Dale Loepp from St. Mark's Lutheran in San Francisco, will speak with our congregation about Faith Journeys for Adults and the process of evangelizing and growing in faith as a community on Sunday, December 5, 9:40 – 10:30 AM.

Today, we celebrate the Faith Journeys Group.

On the inside of the tri-fold brochure used at the Cottage Meetings last year were all of the ministries at Advent. When members were asked to open the brochures, most were astounded at the scope of what is offered at Advent. We literally can and will celebrate a different ministry each week for an entire year. We hope you have enjoyed learning a little more about what Advent Is and Does and the next time someone asks you, "What does your church do to make a difference in the lives of others?" you can say "Let me tell about my church, Advent Lutheran, and the wonderful things we are doing here." You'll have a great story to tell.

Your gifts and participation make a difference !

From Your Stewardship Committee

DAILY BIBLE READINGS



DECEMBER 2010

December 1 - 4

Wed	Matthew 24:23-35	<i>The end is coming</i>
Thu	Isaiah 54:4-10	<i>God will save the people</i>
Fri	Heb 11:1-7, 32-40	<i>By faith Noah was saved</i>
Sat	Psalms 124	<i>We have escaped like a bird</i>

December 5 - 11

Sun	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	<i>A ruler brings justice and peace The righteous shall flourish Living in harmony Prepare the way of the Lord</i>
Mon	Isaiah 24:1-16a	<i>Judgment is coming, yet glorify god</i>
Tues	Isaiah 40:1-11	<i>A voice crying in the wilderness</i>
Wed	Matthew 12:33-37	<i>A good tree bears good fruit</i>
Thu	Genesis 15:1-18	<i>God's covenant with Abraham</i>
Fri	Acts 13:16-33a	<i>Paul preaches about John the Baptist</i>
Sat	Psalms 21	<i>God comes with judgment and strength</i>

December 12 - 18

Sun	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10	<i>The desert blooms God lifts up those bowed down Patience until the coming of the Lord</i>
	Matthew 11:2-11	<i>The forerunner of Christ</i>
Mon	Isaiah 29:17-24	<i>The infirm will be healed</i>
Tues	Ezekiel 47:1-12	<i>The wilderness will flower</i>
Wed	Matt 8:14-17, 28-34	<i>Jesus heals</i>
Thu	Zechariah 8:1-17	<i>God's promises to Zion</i>
Fri	Acts 5:12-16	<i>Many people healed by the apostles</i>
Sat	Psalms 42	<i>Hope in God</i>

December 19 - 25

Sun	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	<i>The sign of Immanuel Show the light of your countenance</i>
	Romans 1:1-7	<i>Paul's greeting to the church at Rome</i>
	Matthew 1:18-25	<i>Our God near at hand</i>

December 19 - 25 (cont.)

Mon	Genesis 17:15-22	<i>God promises Sarai a son</i>
Tues	Genesis 21:1-21	<i>God saves Hagar and Ishmael</i>
Wed	Matthew 1:1-17	<i>Matthew's genealogy</i>
Thu	Genesis 37:2-11	<i>Joseph dreams</i>
Fri	Galatians 3:23-4:7	<i>Paul writes of Jesus' birth</i>
Christmas	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Heb 1:1-4 (5-12) John 1:1-14	<i>Heralds announce God's salvation The victory of our God God has spoken by a son The Word became flesh</i>

December 26 - 31

Sun	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148	<i>Israel saved by God's own presence God's splendor is over earth and heaven</i>
	Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23	<i>Christ frees humankind The slaughter of innocent children</i>
Mon	Hosea 11:1-11	<i>God's care for Israel</i>
Tues	Jeremiah 31:15-22	<i>God's care for Ephraim</i>
Wed	Matthew 13:54-58	<i>Jesus rejected</i>
Thu	Exodus 1:15-2:10	<i>God saves Moses from Pharaoh</i>
New Year's Eve	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalm 8 Revelation 21:1-6a Matthew 25:31-46 Hosea 11:1-11	<i>For everything there is a season How exalted is your name A new heaven and a new earth The sheep and the goats God's care for Israel</i>

Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

Psalm 98: 7-9

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

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

“The People of God:
Unity in the Midst of Diversity”
from Lutheran Women Today

“Gifts of the Spirit”

Wednesday, December 8 2010

Study Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Fellowship: 10:00 AM

Bible study: 10:30 AM

All women are invited!

Please join us, and bring a guest!

Potluck luncheon follows the study