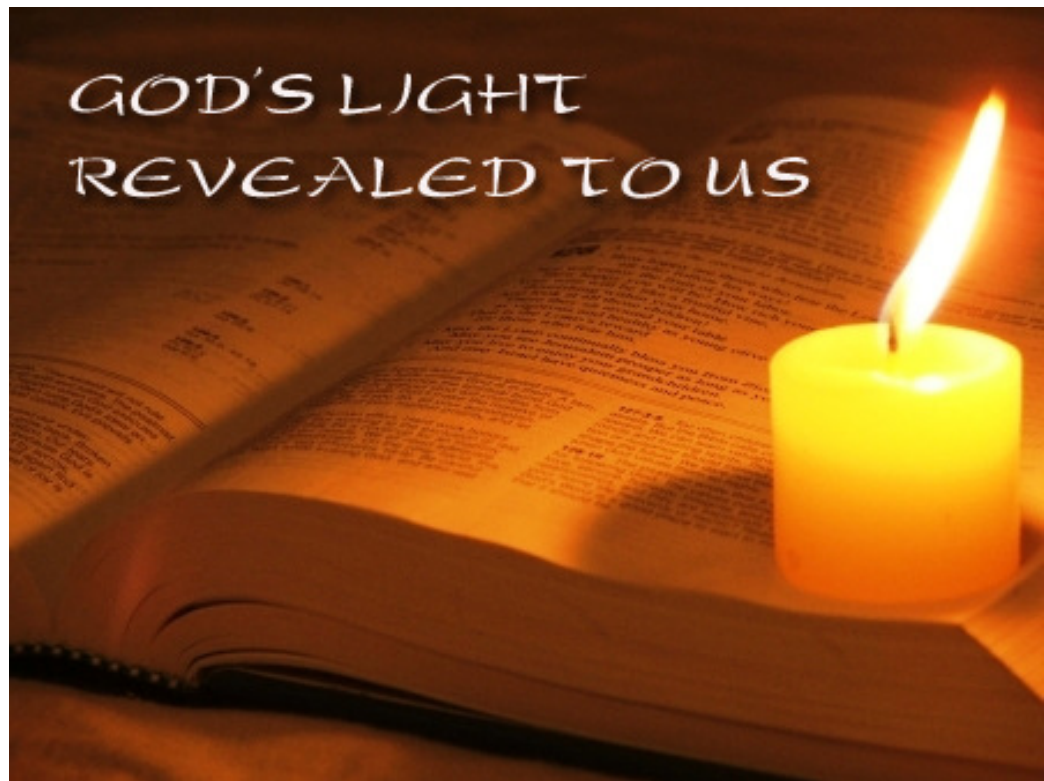


Advent Adventures

Vol. 39 No. 1

J
A
N
U
A
R
Y

2
0
1
1



January 2	Christmas season Service of Lessons and Carols	8:00 & 10:45 AM
January 4	Midday Worship: scripture, prayers, communion	12:00 noon
January 9	Guest speaker Dale Loepf on Faith Journeys for Adults	9:40 AM
January 15	Council and Strategic planning task force retreat	9 AM – 4 PM
Saturday, January 15	All-Congregation potluck and “An Evening to Remember” historical reflection with Rev. Roy Oswald	6:00 PM
January 16	Beginning of “Jesus at the Center” sermon series on I Corinthians Father River’s American Mass	8:00 & 10:45 AM
January 30	Youth-Led Worship Food & Fellowship winter party	8:00 & 10:45 AM 1:00 PM



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Pastor Anita Warner

Body Building

January in our culture is famous for belt-tightening. If people have spent more than usual at Christmas, they endeavor to be frugal in the first month of the year to balance their budgets. Retail sales are usually down, except January is the biggest month of the year for selling gym memberships. It seems we're interested in all kinds of belt tightening at the beginning of the year.

In his correspondence with the Corinthian church, the apostle Paul began calling the people of God the Body of Christ. This was an important metaphor, and more – the Body of Christ is also the reality of who we are. We are the crucified body of Christ. When one suffers, all suffer. We are the risen body of Christ. When one rejoices, all rejoice, and the angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner who was lost is found.

This body is going to begin a new workout program this month. Strategic planning for a church is a spiritual and practical process. We will do some familiar stretches of prayer and listening for God and to one another. We will eat together and enjoy fellowship while telling stories of this body's life history to this point, on Saturday, January 15. We will also discover some muscle groups we may not be so used to using as we work through this process together.

I warmly invite you to participate in this process as much as you can. I believe we will all learn and grow through this opportunity. And the body does better when all the parts are engaged and none are shut down.

I am excited to embark on this journey with you. I am so happy that our strategic planning process will be led by the kindly, generous and wise Rev. Roy Oswald as we discover what God is calling us to do and be for the next 5 years. Praise be to God, who has made us one Body in Christ!



THANK YOU

We thank you for your kind and generous gifts, cards, and remembrances during the Christmas season. God's blessings and peace to you in the New Year!

Advent's staff:

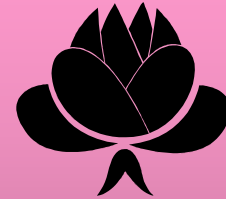
Pastor Anita Warner
Casey Carlson
Sherry Quick
Phil Robb
Marc Northcott
Ruth Winter
Dave Johanson
Susan Persing
Ernestina Atanacio
Azucena Atanacio

Youth Led Worship! January 31



Music Rehearsal—Jan. 27
General Rehearsal—Jan. 29

Be a part of this month's youth led worship! Consider how you might like to try something new, like read, write prayers, lead the children's sermon, or prepare the artwork of the day. Let Casey Carlson know what role you would like to play in this month's YLW asap!



SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, Feb. 13

Valentine's Dinner
Youth Fundraiser

SAVE THE DATE
FEBRUARY 6, 2011



Get your orders in for Super Bowl
Pizzas & Subs coming right up!
Order forms can be found on our
church website or in your bulletins
beginning this month!

Advent Lutheran Youth & Family Calendar

JANUARY 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

1

2 **3** **4** **5** **6** **7** **8**
 6:00p H.S. Book Talk 7:00p Guide Huddle 5:30 Youth Choir

9 **10** **11** **12** **13** **14** **15**
 7:00p Confirmation 5:30 Youth Choir

16 **17** **18** **19** **20** **21** **22**
 6:00p H.S. Book Talk 5:30 Youth Choir
 6:30 Faith Journeys I
 7:30 Faith Journeys I

23 **24** **25** **26** **27** **28** **29**
 6:00p H.S. Book Talk 7:00p Confirmation 5:30 Youth Choir
 6:30 Faith Journeys I
 & YLW Music
 Rehearsal 7:30 Faith Journeys I
 10:00a YLW General
 Rehearsal

30 **31**
 8:00a/10:45a
 YOUTH LED
 WORSHIP 6:00p H.S. Hang Out

Advent Lutheran Church
 16870 Murphy Avenue
 Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Phone: 408-761-6673
 Email: youth@adventlutheran.org

There Once Was a World

by Peter L. Steinke

There once was a world where the church functioned according to what some have called the "attractional" model (others have named it the participatory model). People come to a place, consume the spiritual goods, and serve as patrons to "meet the budget." But a shift has happened. North American culture has taken new turns.

Christendom refers to a period of time when the Christian faith profoundly informed the culture. And, in turn, the culture carried the traditions, symbols, and rituals of the Christian faith. Another often-used term—*post-Christian era*—captures the reality that the importance and influence of Christianity in North American society has been in decline for at least three decades. In a "post-Christian" world, the church cannot expect favorable treatment or higher visibility.

One could say that a gathering storm—a confluence of factors—has assailed the church and its dominant perch on the societal ladder. None of this has to do with the church's internal functioning. The sea change is external or contextual. There once was a world that was eager to be hospitable to Christian churches and supported "blue laws," soccerless Sundays, eating fish rather than meat on Friday, public prayer in schools and at nodal events, deferring to clergy by way of discounts, weekly religion sections in urban newspapers, and greeting others with "Merry Christmas." Now, suddenly, with steep changes happening in our society, congregations have to ask themselves whether they are responding to a world that no longer exists.

The loss of members, influence, and a sense of mission—the church's misfortune of the moment—resembles the experience of Israel's exile. The lesson of the present dislocation is clear, if still not learned. The era of Christendom is gone. No longer is culture subsidizing and supporting churches.

Today's rapidly changing world is pressing the church to respond to a shift of paradigms—but not for the first time. In previous shifts, the church has both responded slowly and responded imaginatively. More than once, much of what people have thought and done has had to be reworked.

Each shift carried both danger and opportunity. In today's context, the church is challenged by the astonishing pace of change in the world. We are in some ways ill prepared to act rapidly, since the church is as an entity made up of people who are creatures of nature, subject to seasons, rhythms, and stages. We cannot be mechanically geared for shifting quickly.

Regardless of the nature of change, the church affirms that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the God who has been active in history and who will be active in the future. Faced with a strange new world, the church is challenged to be true to its purpose and attuned to its context. I believe the paradigm shift of rapid change constitutes a rich *opportunity* for the church. God has set the door open to the future. But the new day is as perplexing as it is promising. As Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann explains, "It is abundantly and unmistakably clear that we are in a deep dislocation in our society that touches every aspect of our lives." We are living in a new context where old certainties are disappearing, old institutions are less dependable, old assumptions are questionable, and old neighborhoods are less cohesive. Logically, if not spiritually, we may even have to allow for the possibility that these dislocations could be part of God's new creation. It may be God working through the unknown that contributes to the destabilization of the world. God is no stranger to Eden's deportation, Babel's scattering, the exodus, the exile, and crucifixion. God can be surprising, mysterious, taking history into unexpected turns.

The challenge of change for a congregation on a steady downward slope is precisely to redefine and redirect its mission. They have to realize that decline is not an end to mission. Yes, they are

mere shadows of their past. Yes, rethinking mission is difficult, for congregations are burdened by big or deteriorating buildings, smaller staffs, a paucity of young families, and a shortage of hope. But expansion is not the sole gauge of mission orientation. One problem with this thinking is the belief that, for congregations, all things are equal. But congregations are not in the same place, same stage, or same circumstance. That's not reality.

Congregations may hanker for a technique that will bring about results they want to achieve; they want to replicate what has been discovered by someone else: "Give me a copy of the wonderful plans." Seeing what those plans have done for others, they want the same result—but without going through the process that got the others to that point. The shortcut of imitation certainly bypasses a lot of pain. How churches hunger for precisely this situation.

Meaningful, lasting outcomes are the result of the journey and the learning that takes place. Maybe a word of caution should be stamped on all programs: "Not transferable." Transition time is life's curriculum. Being on the path opens new insight; *being on the path*, not the steps one takes, is the very condition necessary for learning.

The Bible is replete with stories of transition and exile. Jacob, who was always a wimpy character, is on his way to meet the brother he tricked and fooled. He struggles with an angel on the wet banks of the Jabbok River, and out of the struggle finds strength to meet his brother. Jesus spends forty days in the wilderness—alone, hungry, numb—and the devil tempts him three times. The process of thinking, testing, and exploring contains the lessons. Churches need to remember that no handbook is available on freelancing mission. Only by going out, being there, and seeing from a fresh angle will the process lead to learning. Discovering how to *respond* to shifts and changes is the learning. Self-confidence is a byproduct. But growth is in the struggle, the push, and the journey.

FOOD OF THE MONTH FOR JANUARY



Baby Food & Diapers

Happy New Year!! Food of the month will be baby food and diapers for those newborn babies. 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 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-code of where the person lives and nearby zip-codes.

CHRISTMAS / EPIPHANY

LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 8:00 & 10:45 AM

Join in this special worship service of hearing the story of salvation in scripture and song, as told and sung by single voices and by the whole congregation.

FAITH JOURNEYS FOR ADULTS

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 Faith Journeys group meets on Wednesdays, resuming January 5, at 7:00-8:30 PM. Drop-ins are welcome. 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...

FAITH JOURNEYS, OR AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CATECHUMENATE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 9:40 AM

Guest presenter Dale Loepp from St. Mark Lutheran Church in San Francisco will engage us with news about this ancient process of receiving newcomers into the fellowship of the church and accompanying one another on the journey of faith and how churches are engaged in this process today.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The first-ever strategic planning process for our congregation begins this month! The Rev. Roy Oswald meets with the Church Council and Strategic Planning Task Force for a day-long retreat on Saturday, January 15. The Strategic Planning Task Force appointed by the Church Council is Alyce B., Janel J., Mike O., Jane O., Floyd S., Rolf S., and Peter W.. The entire congregation is warmly invited to the first big event that evening, An Evening to Remember.

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 6:00 PM

As we look back in the sands of time, we probably see God's footprints alongside ours. It is important that we perceive and acknowledge that God has been with us. We also need to notice that our forbears were able to place their trust in God in their journeys.

Each person who has touched the life of Advent Lutheran Church is a part of our story. The Evening to Remember will begin with a potluck meal, then the Rev. Roy Oswald will lead us through storytelling to piece together our congregation's story. His presence is well known in the church world as a gracious leader who evokes this story in a very enjoyable way. Old timers enjoy sharing what they know, and they learn some new things; new timers are fascinated to hear the remembrances and have their own valuable perspective to bring.

This event is for everyone, members and nonmembers, any and all who care about Advent Lutheran Church. Please plan now to participate in this special event that will begin the strategic planning process for our congregation.

“JESUS AT THE CENTER”

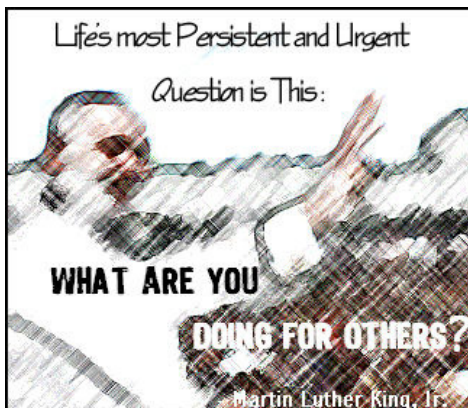
I CORINTHIANS SERMON SERIES BEGINS SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

I Corinthians is a very important part of the New Testament for our understanding of Paul’s teaching on how a church can appropriate the gospel of Christ crucified and risen to their life together, and for life in the community and in the world. This sermon series will work through I Corinthians 1:1 through 4:5 to unpack this teaching for us. As our congregation begins engaging a strategic planning process, prayerfully considering God’s calling for us, we will be listening to Paul’s counsel for the church in multi-cultural, globally connected Corinth.

January 16 Jesus at the Center
January 23 Science and Faith, part 1:
Divisions among the people
January 30 Youth-Led worship, preaching on
I Corinthians 1:18-25

FATHER RIVER’S AMERICAN MASS

In honor and celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, and the contributions of African Americans to the church’s song throughout the year, we will sing this special liturgy on Sunday, January 16.

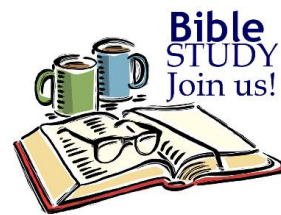


DID YOU KNOW ?

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 Meetings 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, DECEMBER 5, 2010

MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY



The Mid-Week Bible Study ministry was formed about five years ago when Francis A. began attending Advent Lutheran. Although the group started out small, it now includes about 14 to 15 members of the congregation and through its weekly meetings this ministry has really blossomed. In addition to Bible study, the group often discusses religious books and their authors, and participates in personal faith stories. Virginia M. leads the meetings and encourages its members to “get involved” during their time together. This group also was the catalyst for the Mid-Week Worship Service which had its first service on December 7, 2010. Meetings are held at the church from 10:00 AM until 11:30AM. All are encouraged to attend and information may be obtained by contacting Jim C. or Francis A..

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010

SING ALONG MESSIAH

Advent Lutheran hosted the eighth annual Sing Along Messiah on Saturday, December 11, 2010. The event is a great opportunity to sing beautiful music together and members at Advent were encouraged to invite friends, family and neighbors to attend. Ruth Butterfield Winter has coordinated this annual event from many years with this year's festivities being coordinated by Dave Johanson.

The De Anza College Orchestra, directed by Loren Tayerle, accompanied the Advent Choir and musicians in performing the music, and all in attendance were giving the opportunity to join in or just listen. There is no charge for this event, however a free will offering was taken to help pay for the orchestra's travel expenses and light refreshments were served.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2010

ADVENT'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

"Away in a Manger", written and directed by Marc Northcott was Advent's Christmas program this year. The play featured children from Godly Play and the 3rd - 5th grade class with some Middle School and High School students also participating. "Away in a Manger" is one of six versions written by Marc, and features shepherds and angels announcing the birth of Jesus.

A few other versions telling the Christmas story have been performed over the years, but the congregation has always had an affection for those plays with the "little kids" as the shepherds and angels. When Pastor Anita and Marc came to Advent, Dorothy Berkland, wife of Advent' Pastor at the time, Pastor Gary Berkland, directed the Christmas Pageant. Ruth B. accompanies on the piano and this year Nancy S. was responsible for the costumes.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2010

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Communion Assistants serve communion to the congregation at each Sunday worship service at all special services that include communion. A Communion Assistant is assigned to serve as part of a team serving Communion to worshipers. The team consists of the Pastor, a Communion Assistant and an Acolyte. During the Communion, the Communion Assistant follows the Pastor and serves the wine or grape juice saying "the Blood of Christ, shed for you." Through sharing the gift of Communion, they exemplify the Apostle Paul's word when he wrote "Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries." (2 Corinthians 4:1)

Instructions for serving as a Communion Assistant are given by the Pastor. Previous experience is not necessary, just a willingness and availability to attend the worship service. If you would like more information about serving as a Communion Assistant, please contact the Pastor at pastorw@advent-lutheran or call the church office at 408-779-3551.

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 more than a 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 you about my church, Advent Lutheran, and the wonderful things we're doing here." You'll have a great story to tell.

Your Gifts and Participation Make a Difference.
From Your Stewardship Committee

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 23, 9:30 AM

All confirmed members of Advent are encouraged to come and participate in this meeting. Business will include the approval of the 2011 budget and an update on the Strategic Planning process.

BY POPULAR DEMAND BY THE MEMBERS OF ADVENT MONTHLY WORK DAYS!!

Beginning February 12th 2011 and continuing each 2nd Saturday of the month (weather permitting), we will meet from 8-12 to do yard work and maintenance around the church. List of projects will be on George's office door in the back parking lot behind the youth rooms if George or I are not there. Bring your own tools and suppliers. Hope to see a lot of you there

1ST QUARTER MISSION: AWASO, GHANA, MISSION JANUARY- MARCH 2011

Awaso, Ghana, is a community of about 6,000 people in the heart of Africa. Approximately 90% of the adults can neither read nor write. There are two private and two public schools, neither of which have electricity, running water or flush toilets. Overcrowding and lack of supplies and curriculum materials make for poor quality of instruction, and therefore, 98% of the children are unable to pass the National Government Exams. The schools are poorly

supported by the parents who need their children to work helping supply the families with daily water and wood supplies and do the babysitting. Many children drop out before the eighth grade.

Advent's 1st Quarter Mission for 2011 will focus on supporting education in Awaso. The mission will be coordinated by Jacqui Kanode, who spent 17 days this past summer visiting Awaso with a group from St. Catherine's Church, Morgan Hill. Jacque is returning to Awaso in April 2011, with a focus on helping the schools, children, teachers and parents. She is excited by the interest of the local teachers, 100% of whom turned out for a teaching in-service during her summer visit, with many of the parents also attending. The teachers are thrilled and very enthusiastic about the possibility of further help this spring.

Jacque's goals for the upcoming mission include:

1. Safely ship materials from the US to Ghana.
2. Locate school supplies available for purchase in Ghana.
3. Inservice Awaso teachers, both private and public.
4. Inservice Awaso parents.
5. Get pictures and names of students and teachers for Advent Prayer Partners and sponsorship.
6. Collect donated school supplies and/or purchase 200 lbs. Cost: \$800.00 for shipping.
7. Make connections to remain in contact with the schools when she returns to the US.

Your support of this mission will bring new educational opportunities to the community of Awaso. Checks may be made payable to: Advent Lutheran Church, with a memo of Awaso, Ghana, Mission.

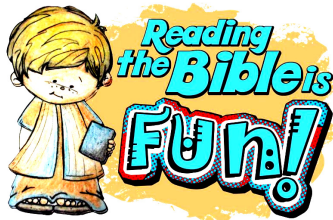


**THE CHILDREN PUT ON
A WONDERFUL
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**



MARIANNE AND THE YOUTH PROVIDE SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR THE FRIENDS OUTSIDE FAMILIES



DAILY BIBLE
READINGS

JANUARY 2011

January 1 - 8

Sat	Psalm 71:1-16	<i>Prayer for deliverance</i>
Sun	Jeremiah 31:7-14	<i>Joy as God's scattered flock gathers</i>
	Psalm 147:12-20	<i>Praising God in Zion</i>
	Ephesians 1:3-14	<i>Wisdom lives among God's people</i>
	John 1:[1-9] 10-18	<i>God with us</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>
Epiphany		
	Isaiah 60:1-6	<i>Nations come to the light</i>
	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	<i>All shall bow down</i>
	Ephesians 3:1-12	<i>The gospel's promise for all</i>
	Matthew 2:1-12	<i>Christ revealed to the nations</i>
Fri	1 Kings 10:1-13	<i>The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon</i>
Sat	1 Kings 10:14-25	<i>The wealth and wisdom of King Solomon</i>

January 9 - 15

Sun	Isaiah 42:1-9	<i>The servant of the LORD brings justice</i>
	Psalm 29	<i>The voice of the LORD upon the waters</i>
	Acts 10:34-43	<i>Jesus' ministry after his baptism</i>
	Matthew 3:13-17	<i>Christ revealed as God's servant</i>
Mon	Genesis 35:1-15	<i>God calls and blesses Jacob</i>
Tues	Jeremiah 1:4-10	<i>God calls Jeremiah</i>
Wed	Matthew 12:15-21	<i>The words of Isaiah applied to Jesus</i>
Thu	Isaiah 51:7-16	<i>God saves the people through water</i>
Fri	Acts 8:4-13	<i>Philip preaches and baptizes</i>
Sat	Psalm 89:5-37	<i>God anoints David to be a son</i>

January 16 - 22

Sun	Isaiah 49:1-7	<i>The servant brings light to the nations</i>
	Psalm 40:1-11	<i>Doing the will of God</i>
	1 Corinth 1:1-9	<i>Paul's greeting to the church at Corinth</i>
	John 1:29-42	<i>Christ revealed as the Lamb of God</i>
Mon	Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28	<i>The Passover lamb</i>
Tues	Isaiah 53:1-12	<i>The one like a lamb</i>
Wed	Matthew 9:14-17	<i>Christ, the bridegroom, the new wine</i>
Thu	Isaiah 48:12-21	<i>God saves the people through water</i>
Fri	Acts 8:26-40	<i>Philip teaches about the lamb</i>
Sat	Psalm 40:6-17	<i>Not sacrifice, but divine mercy</i>

January 23 - 31

Sun	Isaiah 9:1-4	<i>Light shines for those in darkness</i>
	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	<i>The LORD is light</i>
	1 Corinth 1:10-18	<i>An appeal for unity in the gospel</i>
	Matthew 4:12-23	<i>Christ revealed as a prophet</i>
Mon	Judges 6:11-24	<i>God calls Gideon to lead the people</i>
Tues	Judges 7:12-22	<i>God leads Gideon to victory</i>
Wed	Luke 1:67-79	<i>Christ, the light dawning</i>
Thu	Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26	<i>Judah, Zebulum, Naphtali blessed</i>
Fri	Phil 2:12-18	<i>Call to shine like stars</i>
Sat	Psalm 27:7-14	<i>God, our light, our victory</i>
Sun	Micah 6:1-8	<i>The offering of justice, kindness, humility</i>
	Psalm 15	<i>Abiding on the holy hill</i>
	1 Corinth 1:18-31	<i>Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God</i>
	Matthew 5:1-12	<i>The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes</i>
Mon	Ruth 1:1-18	<i>Ruth, one of the poor</i>

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. Psalm 27: 4

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

“Worship”

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Study Text: John 4:3-30

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