

Advent Adventures

Vol. 39 No. 12

DECEMBER
2011



December 3	Inter-generational Advent Festival Messiah Sing with the De Anza College Orchestra Loren Tayerle, conductor	10:00 AM 5:00 PM
December 6	Midday worship: Scripture, Prayers, Communion	12:00 Noon
December 10	Advent Retreat (please RSVP no later than Dec. 6)	Noon – 4:00 PM
December 14	Mary & Martha Circle; potluck luncheon follows	10:00 AM
December 18	Chancel Choir Cantata in worship “For Us a Child Is Born” by J. S. Bach Love in Action boxes due in Room I Cor Aingli Gaelic Christmas Concert	8:00 & 10:45 AM Noon 5:00 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship Carols, Children’s Message, Communion, Candlelight Carols, Chancel Choir, Communion, Candlelight	7:00 PM 10:00 PM
December 25	Christmas Day worship: one service only	10:45 AM
January 1	New Year’s Day worship: one service only	10:45 AM
January 8	Luncheon and report from New Life Band School (please RSVP by Jan. 3)	12:15 PM



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Pastor Anita Warner

Simple Gifts

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are given to us to celebrate the most simple and profound gifts: the loving kindness of God, the gift of Christ taking on human flesh in the baby Jesus, the peace of God come to those who otherwise have no hope for peace.

Jesus entered into a world ruled by the empire of Rome and identified with those without health, freedom from oppression, or peace (*pax*). The theologian Dorothee Soelle wrote,

“I understood rather late what the tyranny of the *imperium romanum* meant for the people in the subjugated provinces. Up to this moment I held unsuspectingly to my humanist illusions about the *pax romana*. I regarded it as a kind of constitutional state with a cosmopolitan trading system and grandiose architecture. I had learned to read history only with the eyes of a victor. That the *pax Christi* was intended precisely for those who could expect nothing from the *pax romana* gave me a new key to the Christmas narrative and to the whole New Testament. How and under what conditions had people lived then in Galilee? Why had I never noticed the number of sick who appear in the Gospels? Who or what made them sick? Political oppression, legal degradation, economic plunder, and religious neutrality in the scope of the “permitted religion” were realities that the writer Luke kept in view in his story, which is so sublime and yet

so focused on the center of all conceivable power. At last I saw the *imperium* from the perspective of those dominated by it. I recognized torturers and informers behind the coercive measure, “All went... to be registered” (Luke 2:3). Finally I comprehended the peace of the angels “on earth” and not only in the souls of individual people. I understood for the first time the propaganda terms of the Roman writers who spoke of *pax* and *jus* when they really meant grain prices and militarization of the earth known at that time.” (from *On Earth As In Heaven*).

Christ rocked that world, and when people comprehend those simple, powerful gifts, Christ rocks our world today.

What are the gifts God wants to give to you?
What are the gifts you will offer back to God?

This month in worship, you will have an opportunity to write and pray about simple gifts. As you ponder these things in your heart, may the new dawn of Christ right here in the world with us break into your heart and life.

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed on Mondays and be open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Tuesday through Friday. If you have any questions please contact Sherry in the office.

Thank you

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

FRIENDS IN CHRIST

by Valerie S.



CATHERINE & JEANETTE H.

Advent has more than its share of "Adventurers". We are all accustomed to hearing about Tom and Judith D. devotion to the people they visit and work with in El Salvador. Well... Catherine H. and her daughter Jeanette left on Nov. 18 to spend a week doing their part to help out at the same location.

Catherine is a Labor and Delivery nurse at St. Louise Hospital, so she has a lot to share with the clinic in the community. Daughter, Jeanette, is 18 years old and taking classes at both Gavilan and going to classes at West Valley in her field of choice, Fashion and Design. Both mother and daughter sponsor "kids" in the town.

Catherine shared with me that Jeanette has a part time job and uses her own money to sponsor her "kid" and can't wait to meet her. It sounds to me like the next generation is going to be a caring and sharing one.

(Pause for a commercial...) Catherine said the hospital, in Gilroy, is always eager for volunteers. People can do all sorts of things... answer doors, help discharge people, just talk to patients. (You could always check in with Rosemary Perry for more info, too. She's already a volunteer there.) Catherine said it's comforting to have the Sisters of Charity working at St. Louise. In times of need, there is spiritual help near at hand.

The Holmes family has been a presence here at Advent for approximately 10 years now. Son, Christopher, is a student down south. When I asked Catherine about her Spanish fluency, she laughed and said "poquito". I have a feeling she'll do just fine. It didn't seem to bother her that they will be living in a classroom and sleeping on cots.

I want to hear about their adventures. You can find Catherine at the 10:45 service. She works the evening shift and doesn't get off until midnight. Those hours would make 8 AM pretty impossible. "Buen viaje" to Catherine and Jeanette!

FOR THOSE ON YOUR GIFT LIST

This year, consider giving gifts that honor Christ through supporting the lives of others living in vulnerable conditions. Pick up and ELCA "Good Gifts" catalogue on the resource table in the narthex and discover how much there is to choose from: barnyard animals, water, mosquito nets, farming tools, Bibles, starting a Sunday School, to name just a few! You can make ELCA Good Gifts through our congregation, online, or with the form in the catalogue.

THE GIFT OF RETREAT

by Casey Carlson

One of the gifts of my vocation as youth, children, and family minister is to be involved in the planning, creating, and shaping of retreats for youth throughout the year. Though summertime is wonderful because it allows for longer retreat experiences, shorter retreats sprinkled throughout the school year offer a different gift. Life gets busy; days grow shorter, sports, homework, traveling, and holiday parties accumulate on our calendars. This is when I picture myself as Mario or Luigi in the old Nintendo game, Super Mario Brothers. You're moving ahead, jumping around, doing what you need to do to pass the level, but if you're moving too fast, you might speed right past one of those shining gold coins that's just sitting there, waiting for you to grab it. I like to think of retreat opportunities as those little gold coins, shining in our life, just waiting for us to grab them. However, even for us Lutherans, who talk and act as though Grace is our middle name, gifting our lives with these retreats can be a hard thing for us to do. It's almost as though there's an idea that we need to do more to deserve those weekends than just reach out, grab that shining "save the date" announcement, and make it yours. Our busy-ness becomes a badge of honor to wear so we can prove to the world we deserve all that we have. If we aren't busy, then we're too lazy or too selfish. Fortunately though, those are not our only options. Those options do not show the whole truth. Just as we make choices every day about what we will eat, who we will speak to, or how we will deal with the issues of our lives, we can make the choice to live simply and invest.

Living simply is not only about de-cluttering your home, it's also about de-cluttering your life. It's about finding worth in the quality of what you have and do rather than the quantity.

It's about trusting yourself enough to define your own self rather than letting the outside world define you, or living in constant reaction to what the outside world is pushing you to be. Living simply also means living a life of trust. As we live more simply, we "walk the talk," trusting that just as God cares for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, God knows all of our needs, and even cares more-so for us (Matthew 6:25-34).

Investment is not only about where you put your money. Though our money and possessions often become the one place we go for comfort and self worth, investment in ourselves, our over-all health, and our life of faith are the things that are our constant. No matter how much we try to control life, things happen unexpectedly, often without any coherent reason we can hold onto. What we can hold onto is who are as beloved children of God and who we are called to be in the world, disciples following the way of Jesus, loving God, loving our neighbor, loving ourselves. As we invest in life in this way we strive after the kingdom of God.

It's easy to say, "Yeah, I know all of that." It's also something that we usually only really know when someone else says it. In order to let that truth completely take over our lives, we need constant reminders, we need practice, we need a community of people to work through it together. A lot of time, we are only open to really take all of that in when we remove ourselves from our normal routine. Retreats offer all of the above. Retreats offer a new setting, a new way of seeing, a new routine, a new air to breathe, and if not a completely new community, a new way of knowing oneself and our God. Retreats offer an opportunity to become totally immersed in the truth that we already know, but so often let fall into the shadows of our every-day. As this truth is pulled forth through all of the newness that surrounds us during our time in retreat, one of the greatest gifts of retreat begins to really shine, and that is the gift of encouragement.

It doesn't matter what age group is in retreat together, they leave their time together filled with encouragement. They are encouraged in their relationship with God, the community of faith, and in their relationship with themselves. While every retreat is different, there is always a glimmer of newness, shining like a golden coin waiting to be grabbed, that finds its way into our hearts, minds, and lives. The newness is a gift from God, blessing us with reminders of the life of love that God wishes for everyone. This gift, this life of love, is pure grace. We need to do no more than take it and let it fill our lives.

Let this be an encouragement to you. Next time you see the gift of retreat being made available to you, your friend, your son, or your daughter, accept that gift. Share that gift. Take the time to accept these simple life-investments, which surround us more than we are aware. Sometimes they are retreats; sometimes they are an unexpected hour of reconnecting with ourselves, God, or an old friend. The shining gold coins are the gifts of God that fill our lives every day. All we need to do is reach out, grab them, share them, and celebrate them.

Peace be with you.

CHERUBOGRAPHY

"Cherubs in Motion"

Who: 3rd Grade - 6th Grade

When: 9:15 - 10:00 AM

Where: Room 1 in Youth Building



Please come and join us as we choreograph different movements to music for the upcoming Christmas Season.

For more information, contact Michelle F.

Youth Fundraisers

Sunday Dec. 4 Bake Sale after each service

Members of Advent's youth group will provide a variety of baked goods for sale. All proceeds go toward a yearly tithe and summer trips.

Sunday, Dec. 11 See's Candy Pick Up after each service

Pick up your order today!

Friday, Dec. 16 @ 4 pm Tamale Fundraiser Prep.

The youth and adults preparing for their trip to New Orleans will meet on this day to begin preparations for the tamale assembly.

Saturday, Dec. 17 @ 8 am Tamale Fundraiser Assembly

Youth and adults will meet all day, assembling tamale orders to be ready for pick up on Sunday morning after each service.

Dec. 18 after each service Tamale Pick Up

The pre-ordered tamales will be ready for pick up today. All money raised through this fundraiser go toward the yearly tithe, along with youth and adults attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Advent Festival
 Saturday, Dec. 3
 10:00 am—12:00 pm



All members of Advent Lutheran Church are invited to be part of this intergenerational experience. Let's gather together for activities, crafts, fellowship, and an opportunity to reflect on "the reason for the season."

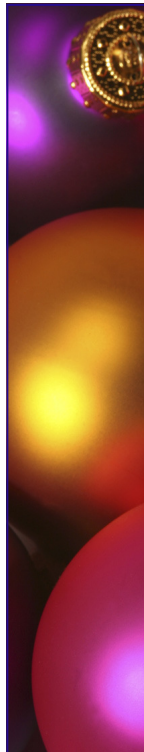
**Confirmation
 Christmas Party**

Wed. Dec. 21
 7:00 pm –8:30 pm
 Friends are welcome to come out for treats, games, and hanging out too!
 Happy Christmas!!



High School Christmas Party & Movie Night!

Thur. Dec. 22
 6:30 pm—8:30 pm
 We'll play some games, build-then-eat graham cracker Christmas cottages, and watch a classic Christmas movie!
 Friends are always welcome!



Ice Skating, Christmas in the Park & Season of Hope Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 20
 5:00 pm—9:00 pm

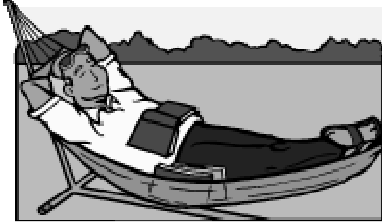
7—12 grade youth are invited to meet at church, carpool downtown, and celebrate the season with Christmas in the Park or ice skating. We will end the night at Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph to enjoy a free Christmas concert put on by the San Jose Youth Chamber Orchestra.

Youth & Family Calendar December 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
				5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Faith Journeys I 7:30 pm Faith Journeys II		10:00 am—12:00 pm <i>Advent Festival</i>
<p>Contact Casey Carlson at Phone: 408.761.6673. E-mail: youth@advent-lutherian.org</p>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:15 & 11:45 am BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER! 9:30—Sunday School			7:00 pm Confirmation Lesson	5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Faith Journeys I 7:30 pm Faith Journeys II		See's Candy Order Prep.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:15 am—12:00 pm See's Candy Pick Up 9:30—Sunday School 12:30—Parents' Day Off Fundraiser			6:30 pm—8:30 pm Confirmation Caroling	5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Faith Journeys I 7:30 pm Faith Journeys II	4:00 pm Tamale Fundraiser Prep.	8:00 am Tamale Fundraiser Assembly Line
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:15 & 11:45 am Tamale Fundraiser Pick Up 9:30—Sunday School		5:00 pm—9:00 pm Ice skating, Christmas in the Park, and Season of Hope Concert	7:00 pm Confirmation Christmas Party!	5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:30 pm H.S. Christmas Party & Movie Night		Christmas Eve Worship
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day Worship No Sunday School				6:45 pm Faith Journeys I 7:30 pm Faith Journeys II		

PARENTS' DAY OFF

Dec. 11 12:30 pm – 5:00 pm



This is a donation-only fundraiser for all parents who would like a little time for themselves to shop, rest, or take care of you might need. The money raised will go towards those attending the National Youth Gathering this summer. Lunch, a variety of activities, and snacks will be provided. Please RSVP by contacting Casey Carlson at youth@advent-lutheran.org.



This picture was taken at the middle school retreat held at Mt. Herman in November. Casey Carlson is leading an activity that reinforces our connection to each other and ultimate connection to the cross as our center.

“FOR US A CHILD IS BORN” CHANCEL CHOIR CANTATA ON SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 18

During both worship services on December 18, the Advent Chancel Choir will present a Christmas Cantata, “For Us a Child Is Born” by J. S. Bach. 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 some 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.

JAMBO RAFIKI OF NEW LIFE BAND!

The New Life Band's Secondary School in Tanzania is thriving. The school was rated "Best" performance in the National Examinations last year and they have seen a growing interest in students wanting to attend their school. They had their first Form Four (12th grade) graduation ceremony on October 1st, graduating 50 students. With growing construction, they are now also able to board 30 students on site.



Pastor Sharon Brostrom, of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Oakland, has recently returned from one year of volunteer teaching at the New Life Band Secondary School in Tanzania. She will be sharing her stories and insights of her time at the school with us on Sunday, January 8th, 2012, before she returns to Tanzania. Come listen and find out why she believes that "education is the key to bringing people up and out of poverty."

Please join us for lunch and slideshow presentation !!!!

Date: Sunday, January 8th, 2010

Time: 12:15 pm (immediately following our 10:45 am service)

Where: Room 2

Perhaps she will spark the interest of future visitors/teachers to the New Life Band School in Tanzania! We anticipate our NLB friends' return in October 2012!

Please RSVP to Gretchen L. by January 3rd, 2012.

SIMPLE GIFTS

Advent season is a time for contemplation, anticipation and preparation. With this in mind we are offering you an opportunity to think about "gifts". Simple Gifts. In today's world, at this time of year, we are inundated with "gift giving", finding the "perfect present", spreading holiday cheer in the form of giving "things". You are invited during this Advent Season to prayerfully consider what "gift" you would give to the Christ Child. We're not talking about a better crib, diapers, a casserole for the family or a savings bond. These, of course, are good things to give a child. BUT,

What, of yourself, would you present to the Christ Child?

Throughout Advent season there will be a table set up next to the Advent wreath with paper and pens for you to write or draw your "gift(s)" to the Lord.

Prayers.

Thanksgivings.

Blessings.

Praises.

Honors.

Truths.

There will also be a simply wrapped box on the table in which you may place your gift. Our "simple gifts" will be boxed and will decorate the tree and sanctuary for Christmas.

ALL CHURCH MINI RETREAT
Prepare our Hearts



As we prepare our hearts during the season of Advent for the coming of the Christ Child, we have an opportunity to gather for an all-church mini-retreat. On December 10th we will gather for lunch and an afternoon of fellowship, Bible study, meditation, and reflection that is intended to touch the heart and refresh the spirit.

December 10, 2011
 12 noon – 4:00 PM
 Berkland Fellowship Hall

Advent Lutheran Church
 16870 Murphy Avenue
 Morgan Hill, CA

**The Rev. Lee Tyler, Spiritual Director
 and Parish Associate at Advent
 Lutheran church will be the retreat
 leader.**

All are Welcome!
 And bring your friends.

***Please RSVP to the Advent Lutheran church
 office (408) 779-3551, by November 29th***

A donation is appreciated to cover the cost of the luncheon

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

**9th Annual Messiah
 Sing-a-Long**

at

**Advent Lutheran Church
 16870 Murphy Ave.
 Morgan Hill, CA 95037**



**Saturday, December 3
 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 Advent Choir and Musicians

There will be light refreshments after the performance.

There is no charge for the event, however, there will be a free-will offering, with proceeds going towards the Light and Sound System at Advent Lutheran Church.

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 contribution) 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 for the boxes. This will include clear

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 18, 2011.. Please deliver all boxes to room 1. The boxes will be dispersed to the appropriate families in the South County area on Tuesday, December 20th.

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



POINSETTIA TIME IS HERE!

The Liturgical Arts Committee will be purchasing 30 poinsettias. If you would like to donate a poinsettia please fill out the special envelopes found in the poinsettia boxes in the Narthex. They are \$10.00 each.

Thank you!

**CELEBRATE
"A GAELIC CHRISTMAS"
WITH MARY MC LAUGHLIN,
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 7:00 PM**



Renowned Irish singer and songwriter Mary Mc Laughlin will present her sixth 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 serves as conductor for *Cór Ainglí*. The choir will be accompanied by traditional instruments including harp, flute, whistle, guitar and bodhran.

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.

For advanced ticket information visit
<http://coraingli.com>

Tickets also available at the door.

For more information on Mary Mc Laughlin
visit Mary’s website at
www.marymclaughlin.com.

**Friday, December 9: 8:00 p.m., Holy Cross
Church, Santa Cruz,**

\$18 general admission, \$12 students/seniors.
Purchase tickets online at [Brown Paper Tickets](#).
Tickets also available at door.

**Sunday, December 11: 2:00 p.m.,
Vallombrosa Retreat Center, Menlo Park,**

\$25 adult, \$20 youth (under 16).
Reserve tickets online at the [Vallombrosa website](#).

**Sunday, December 18: 7:00 p.m., Advent
Lutheran Church, Morgan Hill,**
\$18 general admission, \$12 students/seniors.
Purchase tickets online at [Brown Paper Tickets](#).

COMMUNITY TABLE

By: Cathy B.

Are you aware that there are over 1300 people in Morgan Hill that go to bed hungry every night? This statistic is from 2010, and with the continued economic downturn, this is probably a conservative estimate. Advent Church Community Table volunteers have been providing hot meals once a week for over five years to the Morgan Hill Community. The Community Table ministry is comprised of about twenty dedicated congregation members, who give their time to pick-up food, serve, clean-up, and provide a little compassion for Morgan Hill's hungry citizens. A nutritious, hot meal is something many of us take for granted. If it weren't for the vision of Brian Cunningham, Community Tables' originator, and leader with the partnership with Martha's Kitchen, all of this great work wouldn't be possible. Community Table celebrated five years of service this year.

Brian's vision is to serve as many families as possible through this great ministry, so he provided new sandwich signs to promote the Tuesday night event, and also printed thousands of postcards which were distributed throughout Morgan Hill businesses, churches, community center locations and schools. In addition, Advent purchased a banner which is raised every Tuesday to help people find their way to Advent's Fellowship Hall. The number of meals served over the last six months has increased tremendously, and is a testament to the volunteers who give their time for this great service.

About six months ago, Brian challenged the Community Table group to expand their services to a second site in Morgan Hill, so those living on the west side of town could participate in this great ministry. He pledged the support of Martha's Kitchen to increase the number of meals, and suggested the Friendly Inn

site as a potential location for this venture. Brian had even held some preliminary conversations with the City to start the process. The Community Table Committee came together in March to brainstorm the possibility of expansion, and discussed strategies for making this a reality. Within a few months, Community Table was working in partnership with Community Christian Church, 305 West Main Avenue, inspired by the Community Table, it intends to open an evening meal on a different evening of the week. Now those neighboring church volunteers are trained and ready to take on the second site as their own ministry. It's very exciting to see such tremendous giving in our community. Cheryl F. is the Chair of the Community Table Committee and is to be commended for her leadership and passion for this work.

Community Table is always looking for more volunteers to support their ministry, please contact Cheryl or the office at Advent if you would like to participate on this committee.

LWR INGATHERING UPDATE

The volunteer list in last month's article was missing an important name. We would like to thank Ed Carr for all his help with our successful ingathering in October.



FOOD N' FELLOWSHIP WINTER PARTY

It's time for our Food n' Fellowship Winter Party..... All are invited.....All are welcome!
Please reserve the date on your brand new calendars!

Date: Sunday.....January 29, 2012
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: Westside Grill
8080 Santa Teresa Blvd
Suite 100
Gilroy, CA

Menu: Drink and Dessert Included
Choose one entree below.....
\$15 per person
Cobb Salad (soup included)
Steak House Salad (soup included)
Crab n' Avocado Melt Sandwich
(green or caesar salad included)
French Dip Sandwich
(green or caesar salad included)
Chicken n' Artichoke Cannelloni
(green or caesar salad included)
Prawn Pomodoro Pasta
(green or caesar salad included)

Party Agenda:

Business meeting
White Elephant gift exchange
Dancing (yes, they have a dance
floor in our private banquet room)

Note: Let me know your "wish" so that I can put it on our "wish list" to be voted on at our event.

I hope to see a HUGE turnout for our Annual F&F Winter Party.....and the Westside Grill is the place to go for a really nice lunch.....so get your RSVP to me soon!

Peace n' Blessings,
Nancy L.
Coordinator

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.

November 6, 2011 Memorial service volunteers

Today we celebrate our members who assist with memorial services at Advent. The families first contact Pastor Warner and express their wishes for the memorial service. Pastor then contacts Ellie Pederson who makes calls to the 10 or so members of this ministry to start preparations.

Typically the food after the service is provided pot-luck style with attendees bringing dishes. The group then sets up, helps with serving, cleans up and takes down what was needed for the service. Members take linens home to be washed and return to the church for the next Advent function.

If you're interested in becoming a member of this ministry please contact Elli P.

November 13, 2011

Veterans Day

History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”



Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect. In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the

opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..." The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m. The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

November 20, 2011

Discovery Class participants

Discovery Class is for all who want to discover what Lutheran Christians believe, and why. Participants will be provided with resources for discovering the Christian faith and transparency and openness about our tradition. Along the way, participants will be invited to explore their own beliefs. Most Discovery Classes are made up of a mix of new Christians, seekers who wish to know more about the Christian faith and Lutheran Church, longtime Christians of other denominations, and longtime Lutherans who are new to our congregation or wanting to renew their understanding of our church's teachings. Those who attend are free to participate at the level, which is comfortable for them. Those who participate in this class may then decide whether or not they wish to become members of this congregation. This class also serves as preparation for Baptism or Affirmation of Faith for adults. For more on our faith in the Living God, see What We Believe and Statements of Faith

The Pastor leads a Discovery Class once each year and the class is currently in its fifth Sunday. If you have any questions about membership or would like to be a part of a Discovery Class, please contact Pastor Anita Warner at pastorw@advent-lutheran.org or at 408-779-3551

Information obtained from the Advent Lutheran website

Advent Lutheran CERT participants

Help in an Emergency

Community Emergency Response Team, CERT

A major disaster is coming—sometime. It might be an earthquake, landslide, flood, wildfire, tsunami, or other serious occurrence.

When a widespread disaster strikes, emergency agencies are likely to be overwhelmed. People will have to rely on each other—for hours or even days.

Under these conditions, experience shows that family members, neighbors, and co-workers will try to help, but have they been trained?

The South County, Morgan Hill and Gilroy, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), is a group of community based volunteers trained in disaster preparedness and emergency response.

The South County CERT members undergo an intensive 8-week training program that provides basic response skills needed for fire safety, light search and rescue, disaster medical, disaster psychology, terrorism, command system/operations, and emergency preparation. Fire and Police department personnel are best equipped to respond to emergencies; South County CERT members are trained to support and assist when Morgan Hill and Gilroy first responders are overwhelmed.

During non-emergency situations, South County CERT members educate their community and neighborhoods about disaster preparedness through teaching, training and public sharing. South County CERT has approximately 300 members trained and ready to respond.

For more information contact James D.

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

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

OFF THE RECORDS

Baptisms



November 6,

Cindy Lou Q.

Parents: Teresa and Adolfo Q.

Sponsors: Nace and Kathy P.



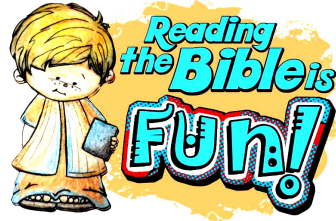
November 27,

Kaden Gregg R.

Parents: Karyn and Tim R. and older sister Kylie

Sponsor: Diane G.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS



December 2011

December 1 - 10

Thu	Micah 2:1-13	<i>God will gather you all</i>
Fri	1 Thess 4:1-18	<i>A life pleasing to God till the end</i>
Sat	Psalm 79	<i>Prayer for deliverance</i>
Sun	Isaiah 40:1-11	<i>God's coming to the exiles</i>
	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	<i>Righteousness and peace</i>
	2 Peter 3:8-15a	<i>Waiting for the day of God</i>
	Mark 1:1-8	<i>John appears from the wilderness</i>
Mon	Isaiah 26:7-15	<i>The way of the righteous is level</i>
Tues	Isaiah 4:2-6	<i>God will wash Israel clean</i>
Wed	Mark 11:27-33	<i>The authority behind John's ministry</i>
Thu	Malachi 2:10 – 3:1	<i>The coming messenger</i>
Fri	Acts 11:1-18	<i>John and Peter baptize</i>
Sat	Psalm 27	<i>God's level path</i>

December 11 - 17

Sun	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	<i>Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden</i>
	Psalm 126	<i>God does great things for us</i>
	1 Thess 5:16-24	<i>Kept in faith until the coming of Christ</i>
	John 1:6-8, 19-28	<i>A witness to the light</i>
Mon	1 Kings 18:1-18	<i>Elijah condemns King Ahab</i>
Tues	2 Kings 2:9-22	<i>Elisha receives Elijah's spirit</i>
Wed	Mark 9:9-13	<i>Questions about Elijah</i>
Thu	Malachi 3:16 – 4:6	<i>Elijah and the coming one</i>
Fri	Acts 3:17 – 4:4	<i>Peter preaches about the prophets</i>
Sat	Psalm 125	<i>Prayer for blessing</i>

December 18 - 24

Sun	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	<i>God's promise to David</i>
	Luke 1:46b-55	<i>The Lord lifts up the lowly</i>
	Romans 16:25-27	<i>I sing of your love</i>
	Luke 1:26-38	<i>The angel appears to Mary</i>
Mon	1 Samuel 1:1-18	<i>Hannah is promised a child</i>
Tues	1 Samuel 1:19-28	<i>Hannah presents Samuel to God</i>

December 18 – 24 (con.)

Wed	Mark 11:1-11	<i>Jesus enters Jerusalem</i>
Thu	Judges 13:2-24	<i>Manoah's wife bears Samson</i>
Fri	Hebrews 8:1-13	<i>The mediator replaces the sanctuary</i>
Sat	1 Samuel 2:1-10	<i>Hannah presents Samuel to God</i>

December 25 - 31

Christmas

	Isaiah 52:7-10	<i>Heralds announce God's salvation</i>
	Psalm 98	<i>The victory of our God</i>
	Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)	<i>God has spoken by a son</i>
	John 1:1-14	<i>The Word became flesh</i>
Mon	Luke 2:1-20	<i>The story of Jesus' birth</i>
Tues	Isaiah 62:6-12	<i>Your salvation comes</i>
Wed	Psalm 100	<i>God's steadfast love</i>
Thu	Genesis 1:1—2:4a	<i>The first creation story</i>
Fri	Psalm 136	<i>God's steadfast love</i>
Sat	Titus 2:11—3:7	<i>The life of those newly born</i>

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory. The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Psalm 98: 1-3

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

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

**“To Follow and to Serve:
The Gospel of Mark”**
from *Gather Magazine*
(formerly *Lutheran Women Today*)

“Beyond the Boundaries”

Theme verse: Mark 6:38

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Fellowship: 10:00 AM

Bible study: 10:30 AM

Potluck luncheon follows the study

All women are invited!

Please join us!