

Advent Adventures

Vol. 40 No. 2

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Questions of Faith and
Practices of Faith

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| February 5 | Super Bowl youth fundraiser (get orders in by Friday, Feb. 3) | |
| February 7 | Midday Worship: scripture, prayers, communion | 12:00 noon |
| February 11 | Church Council retreat | 8:30 am – 4:00 pm |
| February 12 | Worship with prayers for healing | 8:00 am & 10:45 am |
| February 14 | Youth babysitting + youth & family at Community Table | |
| February 17 | Pasta Feed youth fundraiser | 6:00 pm |
| February 19 | Campus Ministry Sunday; Science and Faith
Pulpit exchange with Pastor Clark Brown | 8:00 am & 10:45 am |
| February 21 | Fat Tuesday pancakes from youth & family at Community Table | |
| February 22 | Ash Wednesday Joint worship service at
St. John the Divine Episcopal, 17740 Peak Avenue | 7:00 PM |
| Feb. 24-26 | Elementary (grades 3-6) retreat at Mt. Cross | |
| Feb. 26 | "Walking Wet: Living Our Baptismal Covenant" Adult Class Begins | 9:40 am |



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Pastor Anita Warner

Questions of Faith and Practices of Faith

At the end of my sermon on Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, January 8, I invited people in the congregation to write down a question of faith and make an offering of it. Here are the responses:

- Does everyone have a specific purpose in life?
- If my life path is known by God, what can I do to better understand it?
- How do we know when it's God's will that we are doing?
- How can I know when Jesus is trying to tell me how to proceed?
- In the messiness and chaos of this world, how can we keep centered in Christ?
- What does the Bible say about Judgment – the end of life, heaven & hell type of Judgment. What is the context – how do you interpret that?
- Does the Bible say anywhere that we will be reunited with loved ones (who have passed) at some point in the future? Or is it just our hope that this will happen?
- For the Kingdom, the power, and glory are yours now and forever. Amen. If King Henry VIII added this to the Lord's Prayer, and it was meant for the King and not God, why do we still say this?
- How do we reconcile creationism with evolution?
- How do you reconcile Genesis with evolution? Did God create evolution?
- I am curious about the strength of the Holy Spirit in one person to the next.
- What are the differences between "sinning" and "sin"?
- How can we be forgiving to others who wish to do harm?
- Healing Miracles. How did Christ heal people for he was also human. Is it possible for us to heal others? Why or why not?
- What exactly is Faith? Is there any effort on my behalf?
- What do I do next? What is my new ministry?
- Who created God?
- Why can't Christians love everyone and let God sort them out?
- Why are people so unaware of God's presence in the world?
- How was Jesus human, but perfect? Did Jesus ever make mistakes? Is being sinless the same as being Perfect? Can you make mistakes and still be perfect and/or without sin?
- Isn't Jesus – God? Shouldn't we live as all of God's children, Muslim, Jew, Christian? Aren't we all one family? If Jesus is God & if you believe in God then won't all people who believe in God go to heaven?
- Many of my friends are Catholic. I am just curious what are the differences? What beliefs do we differ with them?
- How do people know Jesus intimately? And how do they proclaim his greatness and still recognize other faiths – other saviors?
- How do we reconcile the Old Testament God (eye for an eye, stone adulterers) with the God of the New Testament (Inclusion, serve others, love your neighbor)? Are the laws of the Old Testament (purity, food, etc.) still valid?

- Is God responsible for the good and bad in our lives? Or does the devil bring misfortune in our lives and God tries to right those misfortunes?
- How does one reconcile the unfairnesses in life under a loving God? For example, people who are mean & unkind have/get what they want & kind, believing people don't.
- Why is there war? Why is there hunger?
- Why do bad things happen to good people? Where is God then?
- Why is there so much hurt/pain in our lives?
- How can God watch us suffer?
- Why do people get cancer?
- Why does God let bad things happen to innocent people? Or let people die like my grandpa?
- No matter how I struggle to answer this, I don't know if I will ever understand who a loving God, creator of all, can allow so much hunger and hurt to exist amongst his people.
- Where do animals go after they die?
- I don't think you have to go to church in order to go to heaven but I still come to church because I love how I feel welcomed and loved.

I have been addressing some of these good and thoughtful questions each week in my preaching and will continue to do so.

I love that the life of faith is living the questions. We seek to have our questions addressed, and the church definitely has a teaching role. There are definite things we can and do say about each of these faith questions, and about other faith questions. Yet some questions can never be fully, completely answered. So, I think at that point the best way of discipleship is to hold the question, live the question, and keep practicing the faith.

What do I mean by practicing the faith? I mean concrete habits and activities that nurture us in faith. I think of practices of prayer, study, giving, worship, service, and fellowship. Good faith practices cultivate the virtues of hope, joy, simplicity, faith, generosity, courage, honesty, humility, and kindness. Congregations, families, groups of friends, and small groups are all wonderful communities for practicing the faith. Let's keep living the questions and practicing the faith together!

LIFE ISSUES ADULT BIBLE STUDY

February 5, 12 & 19
9:30am Sunday School hour



All are welcome to attend a new adult Bible study class beginning Sunday, Feb. 5 during the 9:30 am Sunday School hour led by Curt G.. This class is intended to address "non-threatening" open-ended questions to get people into the Scripture and hopefully lead to some Biblical truth and life application. The study will look into the following issues:

Feb. 5 "My Future"
Matthew 14:22-33, 2Tim. 3:10-4:8

Feb. 12 "Stress"
Mark 4:35-41, 2Cor. 4:1-18

Feb. 19 "Self Worth"
Luke 19:1-10, 2Peter 1: 3-11

Come join us for these three Sundays for a time of study, prayer and fellowship! Hope to see you there!

FRIENDS IN CHRIST

by Valerie S.



THE H. FAMILY

Many, many years ago, my favorite uncle enjoyed saying, "Can you believe that I went from one grandchild to five in a period of two weeks!" My cousins both had twins! How he loved those children, and would also relish the fact that he could go home to peace and quiet!

If this were a card game, 4 of a kind would beat 2 of a kind, and Advent is the winner because the H. family chose us. Craig and Jan, his wife found Advent via a web search. They moved to Gilroy from (Prince of Peace Lutheran) Saratoga. They met with Interim Pastor Lavinia last summer, enjoyed the Discovery Class and think Casey Carlson is great with the kids.

Craig describes the community here as warm and friendly. Their focus is, of course, on their four girls (count them- four gorgeous little girls!) The girls will be five years old in March and will enter kindergarten next fall. Jan and Craig think the Godly Play program is wonderful and the girls have fallen under the spell of what I refer to as "Marc Magic" in the cherub choir that Marc N. meets with on

Saturday mornings. We all got to hear their rendition of "Away In A Manger" during Christmas services.)

I had two girls, 21 months apart . My cousins both had twins. People can do this, but four would send me screaming for help, so I asked..."How do you do this?"

Craig works in North San Jose for Phillips Health Care and Jan works, 3-11, at Kaiser in San Jose as a nurse. Two of Jan's brothers live with them . One of them has breakfast duty. The other brother transports them. Craig does bath time and bedtime and (Jan was at work so I didn't get to talk to her) I would imagine that Jan does everything else (think laundry, meals, etc.)

Craig said, "You just go day by day...Oh!...time to eat ...time to nap...bedtime...it isn't beer and a newspaper!"

I really appreciated the fact that I got a moment of their lives. When our conversation was almost over, one of the girls came over and asked him "Am I a good girl?" Not a moment of hesitation..."Yes, you are."

A home full of love ...and a lot of humor. Welcome to the H. Family!!!

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

Super Bowl Youth Fundraiser Snacks and Hot Dishes

Make your Super Bowl Sun. easy with your choice of veggie platter with ranch & blue cheese dips, corn and black bean enchiladas, or chili and cornbread Casserole. Get your orders into the front office by Friday, Feb. 3.

Orders will be ready for pick up after each service on Sunday, Feb. 5

Order forms can be found in the narthex or e-mailed by request



Sweetheart's Babysitting
Tuesday, Feb. 14
4:00 pm—9:00 pm



Longing for a dinner-for-two on Valentine's Evening? Drop the kids off at the youth room to take advantage of this donation-only fundraiser. Give what you can and let the priority be a night off with your sweetheart.

Please R.S.V.P. by contacting Casey Carlson by Monday, Feb. 13

February Service Events

Tue. Feb. 14 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Serve our neighbors through the ministry of Community Table.

Tue. Feb. 21 6:00 pm

With a twist on our usual Community Table experience, the group headed to New Orleans in July will also serve pancakes in honor of Fat Tuesday.



All friends and members of Advent are invited to enjoy this night of food and fellowship.



PASTA FEED

*Come hungry!
Invite your friends!*

Feb. 17 @ 6:00 pm

Support our youth who are headed to Lake Shasta and/or New Orleans this summer with an all-you-can-eat pasta feed.

\$10.00 for everyone 10 years old +
\$5.00 for everyone under 10 years old

This price includes all the pasta you can eat, salad, bread, and ice cream sandwiches.



Feb. 24-26, 2012

All 3—6 graders are invited to come to Mt. Cross, learn more about their faith, meet new friends, and have a blast!

The cost is \$115 if signed up before Feb. 7, or \$130 if signed up after.

God's Love is NOT hidden!

God's Love is for EVERYONE!

Jesus is the ULTIMATE agent of GRACE

Come spend a weekend with us in the Santa Cruz Mountains and become a Not-So-Secret Agent of God's grace!

FOOD OF THE MONTH



Soup

The Food of the Month is soup. 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-code of where the person lives and nearby zip-codes.

Youth & Family Calendar February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00 pm Guide Huddle	2 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Faith Journeys I 7:30 pm Faith Journeys II 9:00 pm FJ III	3	4 Super Bowl Fundraiser Prep.
5 Super Bowl Fundraiser Pickup after each service 9:30—Sunday School	6	7	8 7:00 pm Confirmation Lesson	9 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Faith Journeys I 7:30 pm Faith Journeys II 9:00 pm FJ III	10	11
12 9:30—Sunday School	13	14 4:00 pm SERVICE EVENT: Youth-led Community Table 4:00 pm-9:00 pm Valentine Babysitting Fundraiser	15 7:00 pm Confirmation Lesson	16 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Faith Journeys I 7:30 pm Faith Journeys II 9:00 pm FJ III	17 6:00 pm Pasta Feed Fundraiser	18
19 9:30—Sunday School	20	21 6:00 pm SERVICE EVENT: Fat Tues Pancake Feed followed by NOLA: Getting Ready Session #2 @ 7:30 pm	22 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	23 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Faith Journeys I 7:30 pm Faith Journeys II 9:00 pm FJ III	24	25
26 9:30—Sunday School	27	28	29 7:00 pm Confirmation Lesson			
3-6 grade retreat						

Mission Possible:
God's Not So Secret Agents

3-6 grade retreat @ Mt. Cross

Contact Casey Carlson at:
Phone: 408.761.6673.
E-mail: youth@advent-lutheran.org

WATER MARKS LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

Again this year the Stewardship Committee is providing Lenten devotionals to everyone in the congregation. "Water Marks" is published by Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Luther Seminary and provides daily devotions during the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. Pick up your own copy of "Water Marks" at Advent to use throughout the season of Lent.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SHARED BY ADVENT LUTHERAN AND ST. JOHN THE DIVINE EPISCOPAL



February 22, 7:00 PM

We continue our tradition of sharing worship and holy communion on Ash Wednesday with St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, 17740 Peak Avenue in Morgan Hill. Our worship service will be at St. John's this year, with Pastor Warner preaching, and a reception following.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. Lent, which means "springtime," is a time and season for spiritual renewal. This renewal begins with confession on Ash Wednesday, and the imposition of ashes as a sign of our mortality.

MIDWEEK SOUP SUPPERS

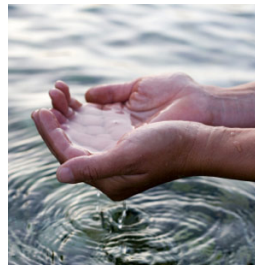
THURSDAYS AT 6:00 PM
beginning March 1



We will gather for soup and bread each Thursday in Lent beginning March 1. A sign-up list will be posted in Berkland Fellowship Hall so that anyone who wishes can bring soup and bread, along with Advent's committees who are hosting the soup suppers. Come share a meal and fellowship before evening prayer Thursdays in March.

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM
beginning March 1



Each Thursday evening in Lent, beginning March 1, we will gather for a half-hour service of evening prayer using Holden Evening Prayer, a contemporary musical setting of evening prayer, and we will consider the theme of water in our faith and lives and for those in need of clean, safe water. Contributions will support "Life-Giving Water" through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

YOUTH AND FUNDRAISING

by Pastor Anita Warner

When you are in and around Advent, you may notice that on a regular basis our youth are engaged in fundraisers. What is this about? Are the youth just raising money for themselves? Do they serve also?

The youth are fundraising for two particular events this summer: Bible camp on houseboats in June, and participating in the “Citizens with the Saints” ELCA National Youth Gathering in July. So the first thing to notice is that they are raising funds *for their faith development*. Yes, there is fun in these trips (faith development and fun are not mutually exclusive, after all!), but the focus of each is on faith development. Significant scripture study and prayer and worship time is a part of houseboats each day – ask any youth who has been on the trip. Worship, learning, and devotions will be a part of each day in New Orleans, and service in the city of New Orleans will also be a major component of the national youth gathering. As the youth are working all year to earn funds to participate in these events, I wonder: how many adults work this hard and sacrifice this much for the sake of their own faith development?

The commitment and ability of our youth to fundraise for these major events keeps our overall budget as a church lower, too. Some ELCA congregations simply budget what is needed for their youth to participate in these events. Our congregation budgets some money for the chaperones’ participation costs, but the youth cover their own cost. Furthermore, they tithe whatever they earn before putting the 90% they earn toward an event.

The youth fundraisers are often donation-only, and oftentimes they provide a service to the congregation, as well, such as fellowship at a dinner or Easter breakfast, or a variety of baked

goods to choose from on a Sunday morning, or babysitting.

And yes, the youth regularly serve without any money involved. They are ushers, sound and light team members, cantors, acolytes, youth choir members, and musicians. They lead worship each quarter. They visit elderly and shut-ins in December. Some work with their families, others work directly with Love in Action in November and December. Youth and families will be working the second Tuesday of each month on the Community Table, and will be providing pancakes for the Community Table on Fat Tuesday. Some youth and families have long been involved in this ministry, others will just be beginning. We have a vision for interested youth to begin working alongside the Men’s Fellowship in repair projects for members and neighbors. The youth participate in the 30 Hour Famine in Lent, which is purely focused on service, faith-building, and funds they raise with the 30 Hour Famine are entirely for world hunger relief.

Some youth are just getting involved in our congregation, and they are bringing their parents to church more regularly than before they were involved. They are among our best evangelists and invite their friends, too. I have witnessed some really hearing the gospel for themselves for the first time on houseboats, and others having their faith come alive through the teaching and challenges offered at a national youth gathering. It is a privilege for me to know and work with them and with Casey Carlson and with their families in their faith development.



FIRST QUARTER MISSION: CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Lutheran Campus Ministries are present at UC-Santa Cruz and CSU-Monterey Bay and are our first quarter mission in 2012. To contribute toward Lutheran Campus Ministries during the first quarter, write checks payable to Advent with the notation "Lutheran Campus Ministries" or "First Quarter Mission."

News from Lutheran Campus Ministry – UC-Santa Cruz

*Inese Dahl, DCE, Messiah Lutheran Church
/ Campus Minister, UCSC*

Greetings and wishes of a blessed and Christ-filled New Year of 2012!

As always, I would like to start with thanking you for your support of Campus Ministry of Monterey Bay serving UCSC and CSUMB Campuses. The longer I am involved in Campus Ministry, the more I see the importance of the Church being present in the lives of young people during the formative years of college and, thanks to your support, we can do that on these two campuses.



As UCSC Campus is entering winter quarter, I would like to share some highlights from the fall quarter. I am always amazed at students' willingness to serve and be involved in the community around them. Fall Quarter was filled with service opportunities and students committed to make a difference in this world. We helped with Habitat for Humanity Builds. Through Trick or Treat event, we collected canned food for Santa Cruz AIDS Project. And we were blessed to re-start an After-school Program at the Homeless Center this year. Although this program had existed in the past, the Homeless Center did not have

volunteers to continue it this year before our students took the initiative on themselves. As a result, students are there two days a week helping kids from the Homeless Center with their home-work, doing crafts, playing games, and just providing positive and meaningful interaction.

Besides that, we have seen an increase in student attendance of worship, our monthly lunches, and the special Pre-Thanksgiving dinner at the home of one of Messiah Lutheran Church members. As a Campus Minister, I have had a privilege to have hours of personal interaction with students, be it helping them move, praying with them for up-coming father's surgery or discussing dating issues. Through all of these interactions, be it big events or a cup of coffee with a small group of students, Christ is present and active changing lives and revealing Himself.

Thank you again for your support for this ministry through prayers, volunteering and financial contributions. Please know that it is touching and changing lives.

News from Lutheran Campus Ministry – CSU-Monterey Bay

*Pastor Clark Brown, St. Timothy Lutheran,
Monterey and Campus
Minister, CSU-
Monterey Bay*



The Fall 2011 semester at CSUMB draws to a close on December 16, with this last week being filled mostly with tests and final papers. At first glance it can appear as though students are entirely focused on their classes, especially as the semester ends, but there is more than just class-learning happening here. As the Lutheran Campus Minister at CSUMB, I have seen first-hand how students are truly exploring their world in so many different ways and trying to discover what it means to be a healthy and

whole person in our time. They are asking questions about what it means to be a Christian and what gives their lives meaning.

This last semester the Episcopal Campus Minister and I have continued our work of building relationships with students, as well as faculty and staff, so that we can be a resource for their life journeys. In our weekly times for drop-in conversation at Peet's Coffee and Bible study, the conversation often circles around how students are making sense of their lives and their faith. Frequently students ask about whether faith and science have to be in conflict with each other. Other times, they are just trying to make sense of the confusing variety of churches in our culture. Sometimes, they are exploring their sense of call; that is, how is the vocation they are pursuing also a way of living out of their beliefs.

From planning and leading special on-campus services for 9/11 and memorials to offering individual pastoral care, the campus community at CSUMB knows it is supported by this ministry. I would like to pass on the appreciation that we have received from students, faculty, staff, and even President Diane Harrison to all who support this Lutheran Campus Ministry. We truly could not do this work without your prayers and financial offerings.

Pastor Clark Brown and Pastor Anita Warner will exchange pulpits on Sunday, February 19. Both will address "Science and Faith," and Pastor Clark will also talk about Lutheran Campus Ministry. You are invited to offer special support for campus ministry.

Our congregation is also being asked for one or more members to serve on the campus ministry board. If you have a passion for campus ministry and can attend noontime board meetings (alternating between Santa Cruz and Monterey) six times a year, please speak with Pastor Clark or Pastor Anita.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

by Pastor Warner

Westmont Living of Morgan Hill is a retirement community that has 99 residents in independent living, assisted living, and memory care living. Westmont has invited our congregation to provide spiritual activities for the residents there on a regular basis. Please pray about this invitation and opportunity. Could you or your group lead a weekly or monthly activity for 30 minutes to an hour? It could be scripture study, singing, contemplative prayer, a communion service, expressive art, or another spiritual activity. An existing group could simply meet at Westmont and invite the residents to participate. Let's talk about this. Please contact Lee Tyler, Parish Associate, to talk more about it.

GREAT THREE DAYS PLANNING



Every year, the Advent community prepares special worship times for the Great Three Days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter morning. This is the heart of the Christian year and our worship is so special because of the creative contributions of many people of all ages in our Advent community. We will gather to envision and prepare for these services on Wednesday, February 15, at 10 AM, and you are invited! Speak with Linda L or Pastor Warner if you would like to participate, or if you have thoughts to contribute and cannot come at this time.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUMMARY

The annual Congregational Meeting was held on January 22, 2012 with fifty-four voting members and three guests present. Council President Ed M. presented the annual reports and a Strategic Plan update. The congregation approved Budget B, which includes a line item for “Future Intern Reserve” with an annual allocation of \$8800 to fund a Pastoral Intern beginning in fall of 2014. Donations may also be made directly to the reserve account for a future intern. Bookkeeper Bruce Naylor explained that the approved 2012 budget assumes a 4.2% increase in giving over the 2011 budget. The congregation also passed a resolution to amend Advent’s Constitution to conform to the current ELCA Model Constitution.

Members of the congregation who are interested in receiving regular financial reports should note that quarterly financial reports are sent with statements of giving, and monthly financial reports by email may be requested from the church office. An important point to note is that 2012 pledges do not currently reflect an increase of 4.2% in giving. Those interested in making a pledge or increasing their pledge may find Commitment Cards on the Resource Table in the Narthex or may request a card from the church office.

CHURCH MOVIE NIGHTS



Advent has scheduled monthly Movie Nights on the last Friday of the month. . These are intended to be an event for all ages. A full-length movie will be shown in the sanctuary with a discussion period following. Activities for children will be offered in the Fellowship Hall if they do not want to watch the movie. Child care for younger children is available upon request to the church office.

The first Movie Night is scheduled for February 24, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, showing “Chocolat,” with Parish Associate Lee Tyler as host. The second Movie Night will be March 30, same times, showing “Tree of Life,” with Jill C. as host. Future Movie Nights are planned for April 27 and May 25, both on the last Friday of the month.

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.

January 1, 2012 Liturgical Arts

Advent has a Liturgical Arts team whose responsibility it is to decorate the sanctuary and narthex. They affectionately refer to themselves as the Ladder Men and LaLa Girls for the men who climb the ladders to help decorate and the women who are members of the Liturgical Arts team. The team decorates the sanctuary and narthex according to the Liturgical Season and on special Sundays. They have no set meeting schedule but rather meet when necessary. This fun loving group is responsible for decorating the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. This year's tree was the largest ever and was filled with photos of church members and their families throughout the holiday season and the 12 days of Christmas. They also put together the Advent Wreath and decorate it.

A goal for the Liturgical Arts team is making more banners to celebrate the seasonal changes and special Sundays. If you have a gift for sewing or art and would like to offer your time and talent, the group would love to hear from you. Or, if you would like to be a part of this special ministry, contact Jennifer H..

Members of the team include

Barbara B.

JoAnn B.

John B.

Jennifer H.

Linda L.

Rosemary P.

Sherry Q.

Valerie S.

Zoe S.

Dick S.

In Christianity, color symbolism is primarily used in liturgical decorations (banners, vestments, etc.), but rarely used in the Bible. Below are some common Christian colors and the symbolism attached to them.

Black is symbolic of death, and is therefore the liturgical color for Good Friday.

Blue, the color of the sky is symbolic of heaven. Blue is gaining acceptance as a liturgical color for Advent.

Brown is the color of spiritual death and degradation.

Gray is the color of ash, so is sometimes used to represent repentance and may be used during Lent.

Green is the color of plant life, abundant in spring. It is used to represent the triumph of life over death. Green is the color for the Trinity season in some traditions, and may be used during Epiphany in others. It is the most used color with 26 weeks of green.

Purple is the color for penitence and mourning. It is also the color of royalty. Purple is the liturgical color for the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Red is the color of blood and therefore is the liturgical color for the commemoration of martyred saints. Red is used as the color for Pentecost since it is the color of fire. Red is also used for Reformation Sunday.

White is a symbol of purity, innocence and holiness. It is the liturgical color for the Christmas and Easter seasons.

January 8, 2012 Church Council installation

The membership of the Congregational Council consists of the Pastor, officers of the congregation, and the chairpersons of the committees listed in bylaw C12.01.01. The officers of this congregation are President, 1st Vice-president, 2nd Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. Advent has standing committees whose chairpersons shall be members of the Council. Those committees are Faith Development, Worship and Music, Stewardship, Operations, Communications and Community Connections.

Members of the council, except the Pastor shall be elected at the annual congregational meeting. The term of office shall be for two years with approximately one half elected each year. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. The church council meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 in the Berkland Fellowship Hall.

Advent's Church Council

Pastor	Pastor Anita Warner
President	Ed M.
1 st Vice President	Janel J.
2 nd Vice President	Dick S.
Secretary	Judith D.
Treasurer	Dennis H.
Financial Secretary	Craig J.
Communications	Matthew P.
Faith Development	Jill C.
Operations	Daniel C.
Worship and Music	Linda L.
Community Connections	Cathy B.
Stewardship	

January 15, 2012 Children

The children of Advent were recognized at both services today.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

I'm sorry, it's true. Having children really changes your view on these things. We're born, we live for a brief instant, and we die. It's been happening for a long time. Technology is not changing it much - if at all.

Steve Jobs

Modern cynics and skeptics... see no harm in paying those to whom they entrust the minds of their children a smaller wage than is paid to those to whom they entrust the care of their plumbing.

John F. Kennedy

Kids' thoughts on love and the proper age to get married:

* "Once I'm done with kindergarten, I'm going to find me a wife." (Tom, 5)

Funny children's quotes about when it's okay to kiss someone:

- "You should never kiss a girl unless you have enough bucks to buy her a big ring and her own VCR, cause she'll want to have videos of the wedding." (Jim, 10)
- "It's never okay to kiss a boy. They always slobber all over you...that's why I stopped doing it." (Jean, 10)

Is it better to be single or married? This is a funny quote about love:

- "It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need somebody to clean up after them." (Lynette, 9)
- "It gives me a headache to think about that stuff. I'm just a kid. I don't need that kind of trouble." (Kenny, 7)

What do you really think of love? Some funny quotes about love for wedding speeches:

- "I'm in favor of love as long as it doesn't happen when "The Simpsons" is on television." (Anita, 6)
- "Love will find you, even if you are trying to hide from it. I have been trying to hide from it since I was five, but the girls keep finding me." (Bobby, 8)
- "I'm not rushing into being in love. I'm finding fourth grade hard enough." (Regina, 10)

**January 22, 2012
Nominating committee**

Advent Lutheran has a nominating committee. According to the church constitution,

C13.02 A Nominating Committee of three voting members of this congregation shall be appointed by the Congregation Council for a term of one year. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.

C13.02.01 On or before September 15, the Congregation Council shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of one member of the Congregation Council and two members from the congregation at large. The

pastor(s) may serve as advisory members. The term office of the members of the nominating committee shall be one year.

The nominating committee shall nominate one or more candidates for each office and for each committee chairperson to be filled and shall secure the consent of each candidate.

The nominating committee shall also nominate one or more candidates for each delegate position allotted to this congregation for parish and synod assemblies

- a) The list of nominees shall be announced to the congregation in connection with the announcement of the regular November meeting.
- b) Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- c) The Congregational Council shall fill vacancies on the nominating committee.

The members of the Nominating Committee are:
Dick S.
Marcia N.
Floyd S.

**January 29, 2012
Mortgage modification**

At one of the Council Conversations last year, a number of members of the congregation asked if we could look into refinancing the mortgage on the church. Since Advent has approximately nine years left on the mortgage, and we're starting to pay off a substantial amount of principal each month, it seemed best to keep our existing mortgage. However, the church council recommended looking into a refinance so the process began. It was discovered that we could simply modify the existing mortgage without having to extend the length of time for payoff.

By modifying the loan, we were able to drop our interest rate from 6% to 5.25%, and if we made the same payment we had been paying for years, the extra principal could pay off the mortgage in a shorter period of time saving even more in interest charges.

Those who participated in the loan modification are Ed M., Craig J., Bruce N., Dennis H. and Brad B..

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

WALKING WET: LIVING OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT



During the season of Lent the Adult Sunday School class will focus on what it means to live out our baptismal covenant.

February 26th,
to live among God's faithful people

March 4th,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper

March 11th,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed

March 18th,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus

March 25th,
and to strive for justice and peace on earth

Please plan to join us for study and reflection during the season of Lent. All are Welcome!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS



February 2012

February 1 - 4

Wed	Mark 5:1-20	<i>Jesus heals a man with a demon</i>
Thu	Jeremiah 29:1-14	<i>Jeremiah speaks God's word</i>
Fri	1 Corinth 7:32-40	<i>Paul on marriage</i>
Sat	Psalm 35:1-10	<i>God is our salvation</i>

February 5 - 11

Sun	Isaiah 40:21-31	<i>The Creator cares for the powerless</i>
	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	<i>The LORD heals the brokenhearted</i>
	1 Corinth 9:16-23	<i>A servant of the gospel</i>
	Mark 1:29-39	<i>The healing of Peter's mother-in-law</i>
Mon	2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37	<i>Elijah raises the Shunamite child</i>
Tues	2 Kings 8:1-6	<i>The Shunamite window's land restored</i>
Wed	Mark 3:7-12	<i>Jesus heals many people</i>
Thu	Job 6:1-13	<i>Job's lament at misfortune</i>
Fri	1 Corinthians 9:1-16	<i>An apostle's life</i>
Sat	Psalm 102:12-28	<i>Prayer for healing</i>

February 12 - 18

Sun	2 Kings 5:1-14	<i>Naaman is healed of leprosy</i>
	Psalm 30	<i>You restored me to health</i>
	1 Corinth 9:24-27	<i>Run the race</i>
	Mark 1:40-45	<i>The healing of one with leprosy</i>
Mon	Leviticus 13:1-17	<i>The law concerning leprosy</i>
Tues	Leviticus 14:1-20	<i>The purification of lepers</i>
Wed	John 4:46-54	<i>Jesus heals a boy</i>
Thu	Job 30:16-31	<i>Job's lament at his condition</i>
Fri	1 Corinth 10:14-11:1	<i>Do all to God's glory</i>
Sat	Psalm 6	<i>Prayer for healing</i>

February 19 - 25

Sun	2 Kings 2:1-12	<i>Elijah taken up to heaven</i>
	Psalm 50:1-6	<i>God shines forth in glory</i>
	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	<i>God's light seen in Christ</i>
	Mark 9:2-9	<i>Christ revealed as God's beloved Son</i>
Mon	Exodus 19:7-25	<i>Moses meets God on the mountain</i>
Tues	Job 19:23-27	<i>Job will see God</i>
Ash Wednesday		
	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	<i>Return to God</i>
	or Isaiah 58:1-12	<i>The fast that God chooses</i>
	Psalm 51:1-17	<i>A plea for mercy</i>
	2 Corinth 5:20b--6:10	<i>Now is the day of Salvation</i>
	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	<i>The practice of faith</i>
Thu	Daniel 9:1-14	<i>Daniel prays for the people's forgiveness</i>
Fri	Daniel 9:15-25a	<i>An angel speaks to Daniel</i>
Sat	Psalm 32	<i>God forgives our sin</i>

February 26 - 29

Sun	Genesis 9:8-17	<i>The rainbow, sign of God's covenant</i>
	Psalm 25:1-10	<i>Your paths are love and faithfulness</i>
	1 Peter 3:18-22	<i>Saved through water</i>
	Mark 1:9-15	<i>The temptation of Jesus</i>
Mon	Job 4:1-21	<i>Eliphaz speaks of sin</i>
Tues	Job 5:8-27	<i>We are to seek God</i>
Wed	Matthew 4:1-11	<i>Matthew's account of Jesus' temptation</i>

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good.

Psalm 25: 4-7

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

ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

February 2012



Communion Bread – Doris S.

Susan G.	02/05	Green—Epiphany-5
Ellie P.	02/12	Green—Epiphany-6
Jan H.	02/19	White—Transfiguration of Our Lord
	02/22	Purple—Ash Wed. (St. John's Episcopal)
	02/26	Purple- Lent-1

“MARY & MARTHA CIRCLE”

ADVENT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

“Tough Questions”

Theme verse: Mark 10:49
Study Text: Mark 10: 1-52

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

Fellowship: 10:00 AM

Bible study: 10:30 AM

All women are invited!

Please join us!