



M
E
S
S
E
N
G
E
R

The monthly
newsletter of Advent
Lutheran Church

“... For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.”



Christmas EVE at Advent

December 24th 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m. 11:00 p.m.
Carols, Candlelight and Communion

We will welcome the Christ Child with festive Christmas Eve worship on December 24th with four services. The 3:00 p.m. service is designed for those who do not wish to drive at night and those who may have other Christmas Eve plans. The 6:00 p.m. service will feature the Worship Team from our contemporary worship providing the music along with a special children's message. The 8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. services will feature traditional organ and many other instruments. All four services will be preceded by 20-30 minutes of pre-service music and all four services will include your favorite Christmas Carols, Holy Communion and a Candlelight Celebration. Invite family, friends, and neighbors and join us on this most special night.

Christmas DAY at Advent

December 25th 10:30 a.m. ONE Service Only
Christmas Carols and Holy Communion

Advent Confirms Worship Schedule for Wednesdays in Advent Season

Wed. Evening Nov. 30th 6 p.m. Soup followed by 7 p.m. Advent Service

Wed. Evening Dec 7th 6 p.m. Soup followed by 7p.m. Advent Service

Wed. Evening Dec 14th 6 p.m. Soup followed by 7 p.m. Advent Service

We are looking for volunteers to provide soup for the Advent Services.

Please sign up on the signup sheet located on the bulletin board outside of Church's entrance.

Advent Lutheran Church

Orange Park, Florida ✝ December 2016

President's Corner

We will soon be celebrating the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We are told that Joseph went there to register for a Roman census, but the Old Testament also tells us that this was the town where Jesus was to be born. This prophecy is found in Micah 5:2 During this festive season you may recall that Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled to Egypt to avoid the wrath of King Herod who was determined to kill the baby. After Herod dies, Joseph is told by an angel to return to Israel. However, they do not return to Judah where Herod the Great's son Archelaus was king. They feared that Archelaus might still try to fulfill his father's edict. Matthew considers this return from Egypt as the fulfillment of another prophecy that we find in Hosea 11:1 – "... **out of Egypt I have called my son.**" Therefore, Joseph, Mary, and the infant Jesus bypass Judah and settle in Galilee in a town called Nazareth. Returning to Nazareth made sense because it was the home village of Mary and the place where she received the Annunciation from the angel Gabriel. In retrospect, we can be thankful that Jesus survived his infancy to become the source of our salvation through his death and resurrection.

With my best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year,

Ken Johansen

In this issue:

- ✠ Annual Meeting
- ✠ Pre School News
- ✠ Musical Notes
- ✠ Youth Christmas Program
- ✠ Birthdays and Anniversaries

Editor's Note:

Advent news due no later than December 12th to be included in the next issue.

E-mail to ncschroyer@aol.com (preferred) or leave in church office.

W E L C A

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Naomi Circle meets

December 15th at 7:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall. ✠

Longest Night Service
Wednesday, December 21st
6:00 p.m. Meal and 7:00 p.m. Worship

We recognize that the Christmas season is not always a joyous time for everyone. Facing our first Christmas following the death of a loved one, separation or divorce, loss of employment, empty nest, health issues, etc. can be very difficult. This worship opportunity allows us to be open to the working of the Holy Spirit to offer healing and hope to those who have feelings of sadness, loss or brokenness. The Stephen Ministers of Advent and Pastor Jerry will offer a meal at 6:00 p.m. and lead this inspiring service at 7:00 p.m. Transportation will be provided if needed.

Youth Christmas Pageant Planning Underway
Christmas Around The World Program
December 14th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come all and be lifted!

Calling all youth who would love to be in this year's Christmas program! We have spots open for wise men, shepherds, carolers, and peasant children. Epic Youth (high school), CIA youth (junior high), and The KICKs (elementary school) are all invited to take part. We are also looking for volunteers to help set up the stage area for this event. Joanna Corbett (music), Kimberly Flint (costumes), and Jessica Molendyk (staging and costumes) are looking for a few good hands to help.

Practice Dates: Sun, Dec 4th, 9:10 am to 10:10 am

Wed, Dec 7th, 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm

Dress Rehearsal: Sat, Dec 10th, noon to 2 pm, (light lunch provided)

Set up crew/stage crew Dates: Dec 3rd, 1 to 3 pm, Dec 10th following dress rehearsal (done around 4 pm)

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 11th 12:00 p.m.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11th at 12:00 p.m. ALL confirmed disciples of Advent are encouraged to participate in this important meeting which will include the election of new Church Council members and the approval of our 2017 Spending Plan for Ministry. A Finance Forum for all wanting more information regarding our Spending Plan will be held on Sunday, Dec 4th following the 10:45 a.m. service.

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on December 26th & 27th and January 2nd in celebration of Christmas and the New Year.

Nominating Committee Names New Slate of Officers, Vote Set for Annual Meeting

Advent's nominating committee is pleased to present the following people to fill the positions listed. Additional nominations from the members of the congregation are welcome. If you want to recommend an individual for consideration by the committee or for vote at our congregational meeting on December 11th, please contact Todd Luther, Pastor Jerry, or Ken Johansen.

To date, the following people have been nominated:

- * President – Todd Luther
- * Vice President - _____
- * Secretary - _____
- * Treasurer - _____
- * Christian Education Board Director – Jason Merritt
- * Church Properties Board Director - _____
- * Evangelism Board Director - _____
- * Fellowship Board Director - _____
- * Social Ministry Board Director - _____
- * Stewardship Board Director – Sandy Emery
- * Worship Board Director – JR Redlitz
- * Youth Board Director – Tiffany Czalovszki



Did You Forget to Schedule or Miss Your Picture Schedule?

Lifetouch photographers are scheduled to have a makeup session on December 12th from 2 to 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a signup sheet on the bulletin board for folks to sign up for specific times on that date. Should you have any questions regarding this please contact May Ann Ball at 626-8621.

A Christmas Gift for Advent

As we near the end of the year, many of Advent's Disciples find they want to financially "Give Advent a Christmas Gift" either as an appreciation for all the love and support this church family has shown to them over the year or to help maintain and expand the many ministries of Advent. Like most churches and other non-profit organizations, Advent's yearly budget is tight and often it is difficult to even maintain what is currently happening in the life of our church. In addition, a special appeal will be necessary after the first of the year, to fund the critical roof repair and lighting necessary to keep the building functional. If you ever wanted to do something more for Advent, please prayerfully consider an end of the year donation as your personal "Christmas Gift for Advent". All donations are tax deductible and may be contributed through your bank bill payer feature, through the Advent website, mailed or placed in the offering plate during the month of December. Thank you, The Stewardship Board

Community Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols

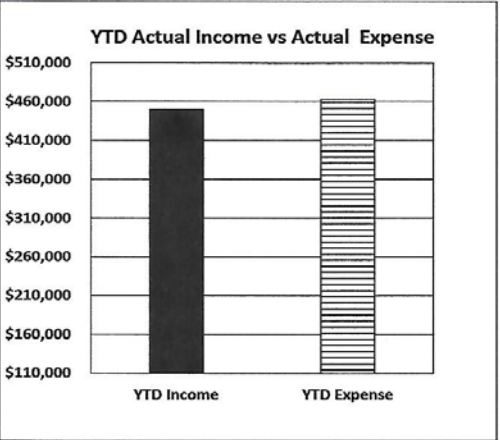
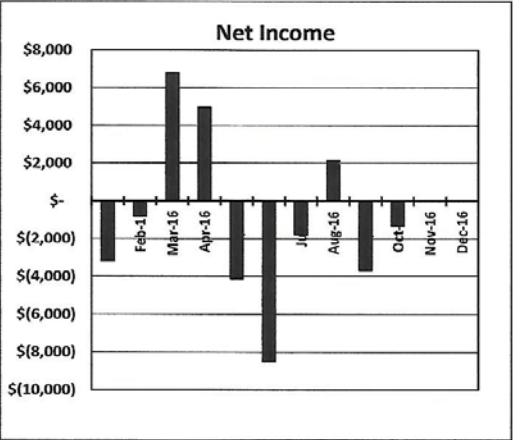
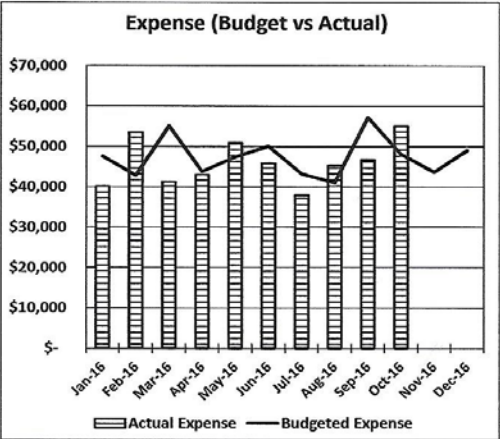
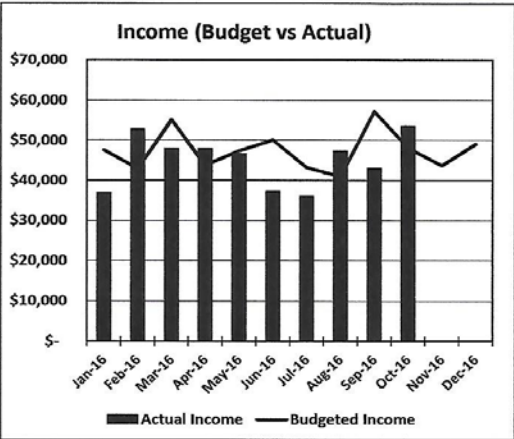
On Sunday evening, December 4th, at 6:30 pm, the Institute for Worship Studies <http://iws.edu> will present the 6th annual community-wide ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS. This year the event will be held at Grace Anglican Church, 5804 U.S. 17, Fleming Island, FL. This choral worship service is composed of a stirring collection of Advent hymns and carols interspersed between Scripture readings, and is intended to heighten the expectation of the coming celebration of Christmas. The IWS Festival Choir, love local musicians, pastors and community leaders will be featured.

The service will benefit Waste Not Want Not (WNWN) <http://wastenotflorida.com>, a food rescue nonprofit that fights hunger and poverty in Northeast Florida. A number of local organizations are providing sponsorship of the event. IWS desires to heighten the spiritual impact of the Advent season by giving to those in need in our community. Please join us! There is no cost for this event, but an offering will be taken for WNWN. A reception will follow.

From The Nordsiek Family

What a blessing it is to serve and be a part of the Advent community of faith. The outpouring of love, prayers and support we have received during this difficult time has been simply overwhelming. It is impossible to put into words just how appreciative we are for everything you have done - and continue to do - for us as we grieve the loss of our beloved Gerald Sr., Carol, and Carol's Mom - Carolyn McLamb. Advent Lutheran Church has truly shown us the love of Christ in action. We love you all, *The Nordsiek Family*

Advent's Finance at A Glance





Preschool News

The season of Joy is here and we have so much to celebrate. We will talk about and investigate winter and review what we've learned so far before we go on break. Our little ones will learn the Christmas story through Bible class and their teachers. Then they will perform their version in our show "Christmas in Our Jammies" on Tuesday, December 13th. Everyone is welcome to come watch and listen to our preschoolers sing. Our school will be closed from December 19, 2016-January 3, 2017 for the holidays. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



As always, thank you to everyone for all you do to support our preschool. The children truly benefit from your generosity, dedication and love.
Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas. –Dale Evans Rogers



Sending Out Our Advent Love



Many thanks to the 140 Disciples who attended and helped with the Stewardship Dinner on November 6. Approximately 62 family groups were represented, with 20 families renewing their Faith Commitment pledges. If you were unable to join us, you still have the opportunity to "Send Out Your Advent Love" by completing a *Faith Commitment for God's Work* pledge. They will be available on the Welcome Wagon (as you enter the sanctuary) through the month of December. As in the past, seal your commitment in the envelope provided and place it in the offering plate.

Your pledges will never be opened.

Please prayerfully consider these questions as you complete your *Faith Commitment for God's Work* pledge:

Am I moving backwards, staying the same, or moving forward in my faith relationship with God?

Is God calling me to get more involved with the ministries of Advent?

Is God leading me to step out in faith and increase my weekly/monthly tithe to support God's work through my Advent family?

December Anniversary Celebrations

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Gene & Gerri Aschenbeck | December 18, 1958 |
| Keith & Jennifer Bernauer | December 4, 2004 |
| Rex Rachel & Joanna Corbett | December 31, 2004 |
| Edward & Beverly Gribbin | December 4, 1965 |
| Paul & Theresa Heggood | December 20, 1986 |
| Ken & Ruth Johansen | December 19, 1959 |
| Dick & Linda Laflamme | December 9, 1967 |
| Philip & Carol Potts | December 31, 1989 |
| Karl & Brenda Rau | December 30, 1989 |
| Jai & Leena Seeram | December 1, 1991 |
| Lew & Kelly Whiting | December 17, 1999 |
| Randy & Carolee Williams | December 31, 1988 |

Life's Transitions

To the Church Triumphant

Nov 3: Carol Ann Nordsiek



Join us for our Prayer Time: Each Wednesday at 12:00 noon we will gather in the Sanctuary to lift up in prayer all who are in need of God's love and healing.

(Editor's Note: Please forgive any typos or omissions of members. Notify church office of corrections. Thank you.)



December Birthday Celebrations

- 2 Tyler Snyder
- 3 Averie White
- 4 Laurel Hendrix, Hugh Hopkins, Fennigan Kenney, Sean Veres
- 5 Charles Landschoot, Patricia McPhail
- 9 Kiel Clements, Timothy Willadsen
- 10 Rhonda Oberto
- 11 Paxton Shuppert
- 12 Amanda Parke, Emily Tennant
- 13 Christopher Barrett, Linda Meekins, Joshua Poff
- 14 Megan Dorsey, Jo Kelly, Noah Rector
- 15 Michael Dorsey
- 16 Tina Hodges, Dea Kendlage, Clark McPhail, Marty Smith
- 17 Piper Holley, Carrie McEuen
- 19 Randy Morrison, Patrick Shuppert, Lori Weisner
- 20 Roseann Ellis
- 21 Barbara Denton, Jayna Kuhlkin, Paul Lunetta, Mark Marnell
Nancy Poff
- 22 Vivian Schiffer
- 23 Ronald White
- 24 Robert Wirt
- 26 Amy Barber, Sarah Dittman, Sophia Lee, Paul Schlichtman
- 27 Chuck Mendat,
- 29 Philip Ordenez
- 30 Patricia Barrett, Gloria Love, Nathan Schiffer, Dick Stokes
- 31 Sydney Cahall, Tiffany Csalovszki, Katherine Kissisnger

LESSONS FOR DECEMBER

| | | | | |
|--------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Dec 4 | Isaiah 11:1-10 | Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 | Romans 15:4-13 | Matthew 3:1-12 |
| Dec 11 | Isaiah 35:1-10 | Psalm 146:5-10 | James 5:7-10 | Matthew 11:2-11 |
| Dec 18 | Isaiah 7:10-16 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | Romans 1:1-7 | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| Dec 25 | Isaiah 62:6-12 | Psalm 97 | Titus 3:4-7 | Luke 2:1-7, 8-20 |

STAFF AT ADVENT

Rev. Gerald A. Nordsiek, Jr. Pastor
 Cell Phone (727) 741-0959
 Rev. David Winter, Pastor Emeritus
 Kristina Ranieri, Pre-School Director
 Joanna Corbett, Music Master/Organist
 Kristin Sakamoto, Worship Arts Spec.
 Rebecca Johnson, Secretary
 Vacant, Bookkeeper
 Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Mon.-
 Fri.
 Office Phone: (904) 272-6370
 E-mail: adventop@bellsouth.net
 On the Web: www.adventop.org

2016 Cong. COUNCIL

Ken Johansen, President
 Todd Luther, Vice President
 Sadako Long, Treasurer
 Brenda Rau, Secretary
 Jason Merritt, Education
 Mary Ann Ball, Evangelism
 Becky Solberg, Fellowship
 DeWayne Brown, Property
 Katherine Morrison, Social
 Ministry
 Sandy Emery, Stewardship
 J. R. Redlitz, Worship
 Tiffany Csalovski, Youth

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC MASTER / ORGANIST



Ring those bells! Give praise to the Lord, rejoice in His salvation, tell the good news of His coming once again as we celebrate the Advent Season. We are blessed to have two groups of bell ringers, both youth and adults. In addition to these wonderful musicians, Lighthouse Christian School benefits from outreach provided by sharing these marvelous bells with their students. A great time to join in the fun of ringing handbells is when rehearsals begin again in January. No experience is necessary!

The Lord be with you all during this beautiful season!!

In His Love, Joanna

REHEARSAL SCHEDULES

| DAY | TIME | GROUP | PLACE |
|-----------|------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Tuesday | 7:00 p.m. | The Advent Choir | Sanctuary |
| Wednesday | 12:30 p.m. | Lighthouse Handbell Groups | Sanctuary |
| Wednesday | 4:45 p.m. | Youth Bells (gr. 3-8) | Sanctuary |
| Wednesday | 5:30 p.m. | Joyful Juniors (gr. K-5) | Room 109 |
| Wednesday | 7:30 p.m. | Advent Ringers | Sanctuary |
| Thursday | Noon | The Early Ensemble | Music Office |
| Thursday | 7:30 p.m. | New Worship Musicians | Sanctuary |
| Friday | 9:30 a.m. | Preschool Music Classes | Room 109 |

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"Christmas Around the World"

Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Messenger from:

Advent Lutheran Church
2156 Loch Rane Blvd.
Orange Park, FL 32073

A Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 34
Orange Park, FL 32073

Church Office: (904) 272-6370

Fax 272-2896

Office Hours: 8:30-2:30, Mon.-Fri.

E-mail: adventop@bellsouth.net

Web Site: www.adventop.org

Preschool: (904) 272-6370,

Hours: 9:00 a.m.-12 Noon, Mon.-Fri.

-OR- CURRENT RESIDENT



Advent's mission is to proclaim God's reconciling grace in Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament while educating, equipping and empowering each other so that we will serve and care for all people.