



Happiest of New Years to the Advent Family

Wonderful Christmas Eve Services

Advent welcomed the Christ Child with four festive Christmas Eve worship services on December 24th. The 3:00 & 6:00 p.m. services featured musicians from our new contemporary worship service. The 8:30 & 11:00 p.m. services featured traditional organ and other instruments. All four services included carols, candlelight and communion and were preceded by 30 minutes of pre-service music featuring numerous Advent disciples sharing their incredible gifts including woodwinds, harp, cello, flute, guitar, piano, hand bells and voice. Thank you to everyone who shared their gifts with us during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Longest Night Service

Recognizing that the Christmas season is not always a joyous time for everyone, the Stephen Ministers of Advent and Pastor Jerry offered a meal and an inspiring worship service on December 21st (the longest night of the year) for those facing their first Christmas following the death of a loved one, separation or divorce, loss of employment, empty nest, health issues, etc. This worship opportunity allowed 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.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, December 13th at 12:00 p.m. Many Advent disciples participated in this important meeting which included the election of Church Council members and the approval of our 2016 Spending Plan for Ministry. Special thanks to all who participated in this meeting and the Finance Forums on Nov. 29th and Dec. 6th.

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The monthly
newsletter of Advent
Lutheran Church

Advent Lutheran Church

Orange Park, Florida ✝ January 2016

President's Corner

As Lutherans we actively celebrate Epiphany. Epiphany is the season of the church year that begins on January 6th and ends on Ash Wednesday. January 6th is the date, according to church tradition, when the Magi paid homage to the baby Jesus. Therefore, up until Ash Wednesday on February 10th we will celebrate Epiphany over 4 Sundays through Bible readings that teach us about the early ministry of Jesus.

On the first Sunday after the Epiphany we will read about the Baptism of Jesus. On the Second Sunday after Epiphany we will learn that Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding in Cana where he turned water into wine. The third Sunday after Epiphany describes Jesus in his hometown of Nazareth where he reads a passage from Isaiah and declares that he has fulfilled those prophetic words. The fourth Sunday describes the reaction from his hometown residents about that declaration of prophetic fulfillment.

That is the outline for 2016. Last year, the second and third Sundays described how
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In this issue:

- ✚ Youth Events
- ✚ Upcoming Events
- ✚ Annual Meeting
- ✚ Community Projects
- ✚ Birthdays and Anniversaries

Editor's Note:

Advent news due no later than January 11th 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
January 28th at 7:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall. ✚



Preschool is closed until January 5th for the Holidays

Save The Date!
Sunday, January 17th

The Youth Group from Nativity Lutheran Church in Arden, North Carolina (near Lutheridge Camp) will share a musical with us, here at Advent, the evening of January 17th. We will be looking for host families to provide a place for them overnight before they return to NC on Monday the 18th. Watch for more information to come and plan now to attend this special musical presentation. Exact time will be announced soon.

Jacobs Brothers Coming Back to Advent
Saturday, February 27th 6:00 p.m.

Save the date! The Jacobs Brothers, veterans of gospel music since 1962, will be in concert at Advent on Saturday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m. They have traveled millions of miles over the years sharing the Gospel through music and have produced over 50 albums. The group is comprised of two brothers, Bob and Mike Jacobs, who are original members of the group that began in the small town of East Berlin, PA. The third member, Mike Lawver, from McClure, PA, joined the group in 1972. Although they specialize in traditional and sacred music, their approach to the Gospel is varied by using the diversified talents of the singers throughout the concert making for an appealing program for all ages.

President's Corner (Continued from Page 2)

disciples were called to follow Jesus. The fourth Sunday relates the miracle of Jesus driving a demon out of a man. In 2017 we will learn additional aspects of Jesus' early ministry that will also include his Sermon on the Mount. The first Sunday in every year is about the Baptism of Jesus as written in the gospels.

Although Epiphany is about Jesus and his early ministry, our Bible readings should also remind us that Epiphany is a call for our service to Advent and our local community. Prayerfully consider a volunteer assignment that excites your passion and then participate.



Peace and blessings,
Ken Johansen

RECYCLING BIN IS HUNGRY FOR YOUR PAPER

Did you know there is a recycling bin in the Advent Church Parking Lot near the entrance? This bin is for paper and newspapers. (NO plastic bags, trash, cardboard or phone books). You are encouraged to bring all of your paper and newspaper for recycling each week when you come to worship and place it in the bin. Your donations will help the bin to not suffer from hunger and proceeds received will be used for youth scholarships. The youth will tithe 10% to ministries in our local community. So, bring your paper!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER 2015

	8:00	9:30	10:45	Total
Nov 1	49	71	103	223
Nov 8	57	97	79	233
Nov 15	52	66	128	246
Nov 22	53	86	86	225
Nov 29	68	83	62	213
November Avg	56	81	92	229



Youth Christmas Musical

“Isaiah Jones and the Seekers of The Lost Christmas Treasure”

The children and older youth of Advent presented a special Christmas Musical *“Isaiah Jones and the Seekers of the Lost Christmas Treasure”* on Sunday, December 13th. We watched as our youth braved overwhelming obstacles and challenges to find the “Lost Christmas Treasure,” the baby Jesus. They helped us see that in giving us his Son, God gave us his most precious gift, and finding our true purpose is living a life that is used by God’s Holy Spirit to give his love away to others. Special thanks to all who made this presentation so meaningful.



Youth Lead Carolers to Entertain Elders at local Care Centers

Youth Ministry

Saturday, January 9th – 5:00 p.m. CHRISTIAN CONCERT

Christian mega-concert at the Arena. Skillet and a bunch of other bands will be there. We meet at Advent at 5 and head on out for a great night of Christian music. Cost = \$10 (plus extra for a snack/drink). Please RSVP so we can arrange rides.

Saturday, January 16th – 6:00 p.m. ICE SKATING

Saturday, January 16th EPIC hits the ice (only metaphorically) for our annual demonstration of grace and prayer on slippery surfaces. We gather at Advent at 6 PM. Cost is \$11 (plus money for hot chocolate)

Leaving a Legacy or How do you want to be remembered?

"My church family". How many times have we heard that statement, or made it ourselves? For many of us, our church family is an extension of our own. Many get involved in their church family by serving; serving on the council, teaching Sunday school, or singing in the choir, for example. Many families who move into new communities, get involved in a church right away, and become part of its family. How often does that love and commitment translate into a living legacy?

Annual stewardship is a focus here at Advent. But what about after life stewardship? Many members might include Advent, and other ministries of the church, in their estate plans if they only knew the possibilities. As we include the congregation as a vital part of our family during our life, so too should we include it in our estate plans. After all, you can't take it with you!

Advent has an endowment program where one can 'Leave a Legacy'. It is called the **Advent Endowment for Ministry**. It is an enduring gifts fund of Advent Lutheran Church. Members and friends of Advent may wish to give lasting support to Advent's mission and ministry through its endowment. These charitable gifts may be in the form of bequests, memorials, honorariums, and special gifts as follows:

- Bequests of specific dollar amounts
- Bequests of a percentage of the estate
- Primary or successor beneficiary designation on a life insurance policy
- Remainder interest in a charitable life income trust or a revocable living trust
- Remainder interest on a retirement plan or IRA and Keogh accounts
- "Payable on death" designation on a savings account or certificates of deposit
- Transfers of property (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and real estate)

The donor should designate ADVENT ENDOWMENT FOR MINISTRY as the beneficiary of their gifts. Donors are urged to contact any member of the endowment committee, or the Pastor Jerry, when preparing papers to make such a gift.

Endowment brochures can be found in the Narthex.

January Anniversary Celebrations

Robert & Evelyn Kissinger	January 20, 1975
Charles & Susanne Kresol	January 6, 2007
Daniel & Melissa Middleton	January 11, 1991
Tim & Denise Pingel	January 10, 2009
Dean & Audrey Ramsey	January 25, 2003
Paul & Carolyn Schlichtman	January 4, 1975
Brad & Danielle Shuppert	January 1, 2003
Ron & Kathy White	January 10, 1970

Life's Transitions

To the Church Triumphant

Thomas Streeper – November 30



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.)



January Birthday Celebrations

- 2 Patricia Benko, Lisa Felegy, Joe Meekins, Cordelia Painter, Walter Roberts, Tom Scarbrough, Donna Smith
- 4 Jacob Moss, Joseph Moss, Nancy Silki
- 5 Duane Brown, Gene Schwab, Ellen Vernon
- 6 Margaret Currie, Dawn Marnell, Karen Wilkins
- 7 Jessica Eichhorn
- 8 Chuck Mendat, Charles Mendat IV, Rebecca Rau
- 9 Margaruite Nagy, Rex Rachel
- 10 Kathleen Rowlinson, Carolyn Veres
- 11 Margaret LaPlace, Marie Long
- 12 Jordan Luther, Ruth Schmandt
- 13 Shane Turcotte
- 14 Holly Brown
- 15 Marion Christiansen, Brogan LaBranche
- 16 Lynn Comiskey, Johnathan Dews, Alexis Mizeur, Nancy Patrick, James Shockley
- 17 Cynthia Buhlert, Emily McClelland, Sophie Willadsen
- 19 Lori Brown, Brian Cordes, Bob Currie, James Lambert, Brody Schiffer, Bonnie Whitehead
- 20 Ryan Currie
- 21 Gordon Schaeffer, Marcus Schwartz
- 22 Sherwood Krause, Robert Lambert Chris Meekins, Mike Phillips, Andrea Redlitz
- 23 Susan Eichhorn, Barb Jenkins, Matthew Linde, Stephen Lowe, Amber Snyder
- 24 Alexa Gohl, Mary Scarbrough, Carolyn Schlichtman
- 25 Kira Luther
- 27 Barbara Herman, Marie Roberts
- 28 William Rudin
- 29 Matthew Brown
- 31 Teresa Doerr, Hailey Johns, Timothy Mitchell, Sam Pedersen

LESSONS FOR JANUARY

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
January 3	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:10-18
January 10	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalm 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
January 17	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalm 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
January 24	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31	Luke 4:14-21
January 31	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalm 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30

STAFF AT ADVENT

Rev. Gerald A. Nordsiek, Jr. Pastor
 Cell Phone (727) 741-0959
 Rev. David Winter, Pastor Emeritus
 Jennifer Dews, Pre-School Director
 Joanna Corbett, Music Master/Organist
 Rebecca Johnson, Secretary
 Sandra Auer, Bookkeeper
 Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Mon.-
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2015 CONG. COUNCIL

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



Before there were Chrismons there were lights...

A special thank you to all Advent disciples who helped decorate the church, donated to our Christmas charities, served in the kitchen and attended or participated in our programs or invited family and friends to services as we celebrate Christ's birth...blessings to you all.

Messenger from:

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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.