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The monthly newsletter
of Advent Lutheran
Church

Christmas Eve at Advent

Sunday, 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 4 services. The 3 p.m. service is designed for those who do not wish to drive at night and those who have other Christmas Eve plans. The 3 p.m. & 6 p.m. services will feature the “Awaken” Worship Team from our contemporary worship providing the music. The 8:30 p.m. & 11 p.m. services will feature traditional organ and other instruments. All 4 services will be preceded by 20 minutes of pre-service music and all 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.

4th Sunday of Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 24th 9:30 a.m. (Continental Breakfast 8:30 a.m.)

The 4th Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve this year. With 4 Christmas Eve services later in the day, we will celebrate the 4th Sunday in Advent with ONE morning service at the SPECIAL TIME of 9:30 a.m. A Continental Breakfast will be served from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. followed by a service of Lessons & Carols with special music you will not want to miss. Join us Sunday morning for 4th Advent worship & breakfast and then come back later in the day for Christmas Eve worship.

Creating Christmas

Celebrating the Art & Heart of the Season

Saturday, December 9th 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Advent will present “Creating Christmas – Celebrating the Art & Heart of the Season” on Sat., Dec. 9th from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. Our entire community is invited to enjoy Christmas crafts for all ages, Nativity presentation, holiday treats, visits with angels, carol singing, handbell ringing and much more. See Kristin Sakamoto, Worship Arts Specialist, with any questions. Rehearsals for the Creating Christmas Handbells continue each Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Those wanting to participate in the Nativity presentations are asked to meet at 5:00 p.m. Invite family and friends and join us for this special celebration.

Advent Lutheran Church

Orange Park, Florida ✠ December 2017

Wednesdays in Advent Season – Holden Evening Prayer

Join us for 4 Wednesday Evening Advent Services **Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th at 7 p.m.** Worship will include Holden Evening Prayer and opportunities for disciples of all ages to assist with decorations and preparations as we await the coming of the Christ Child. We are looking for volunteers to provide soup for the Advent Services. Please sign up on the bulletin board near Pastor Jerry's office.

In this issue:

- ✚ Youth Events
- ✚ Pre School News
- ✚ Musical Notes
- ✚ Upcoming Events
- ✚ Birthdays and Anniversaries

Editor's Note:

Advent news due no later than December 18th to be included in the next issue.

E-mail to: news@adventop.org
(preferred) or leave in church office.

W E L C O M E

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

***Naomi Circle* meets**

December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

in the Fellowship Hall. ✚

Longest Night Service
Thursday, 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.

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, December 10th 12:15 p.m.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 10th immediately following the 11:15 a.m. worship service (starting as close to 12:15 p.m. as possible). ALL confirmed disciples of Advent are encouraged to participate in this important meeting which will include the approval of our 2018 Spending Plan for Ministry.

Finance Forums

Sunday, December 3rd 9:05 a.m. AND 12:15 p.m.

In preparation for the Congregational Meeting, Advent's Church Council and Finance Team will present Finance Forums on Sunday, December 3rd during the Sunday School time (9:05 a.m.) AND following the 11:15 a.m. worship service (approximately 12:15 p.m.). If you have an interest in the financial plans for 2018 please attend one of these forums as they offer us the opportunity to ask and answer questions well ahead of the Congregational Meeting.

Altar Care News

Do you feel a calling to help out in the church, but don't know where to start? Busy schedule? Limited time? Like predictable schedule and responsibilities? Maybe the Altar Care Committee is just right for you! We are looking for willing women and men to join our committee to assist with Altar set up and clean up, and care of the sanctuary in preparation for and following worship. Responsibilities are easy to learn and require minimal time. If interested in volunteering, or just want more information, please contact Andrea Redlitz at (904) 318-8341 (talk or text), or redlitz@gmail.com, or catch her before or after worship.



Preschool News

The holidays are always a fun time at our preschool. The halls are buzzing with excitement and anticipation.

December is a short but very full month.

The children will learn about forests, bears, hibernation and of course, Christmas!

Pastor Jerry will teach the children all about the Christmas Story.

The Early Learning Coalition is coming out to put on a demonstration for VPK all about the books by Eric Carle.

Our halls will be filled with Christmas art created by little hands, lots of laughter and of course, singing of all of our favorite Christmas songs. We will celebrate Christmas with a program Tuesday, December 12 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars now...nothing is cuter than young children singing Christmas songs!

Our last day before vacation will be time to party. Teachers and parents will lead our students in some fun Christmas themed games, read stories and share delicious treats throughout the day.

The preschool will be closed from December 18, 2017-January 2, 2018 for the holidays.

Thank you all for your continuous support. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Together Not Alone

Stephen Ministers hosted a new group for widows and widowers to a Hoedown Social on November 12th. The men and women attending the social enjoyed conversation and fellowship before being served dinner. A chili dinner was served while festive country music played in the background. Janet Dechman, the Hoedown Leader, kept the evening lively with cheerful banter. A game of Hoedown bingo was played using dried beans as chips. Of course, the winner had to call out Yehaw, instead of Bingo when he or she won. Line dancing followed, led by Sandi Myers, a Stephen Minister from Pinewood Presbyterian Church. The dancers had fun learning the steps and then using them in two dances. It is not certain who had more fun, the dancers or those who watched. A dessert of various pies was enjoyed while playing another game of Hoedown bingo. The evening was full of laughter and sharing of stories. The 29 attendees are looking forward to another meeting in December.

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on December 25th & 26th and January 1st & 2nd in celebration of Christmas and the New Year.

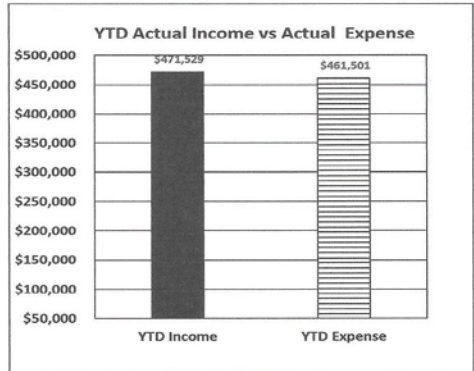
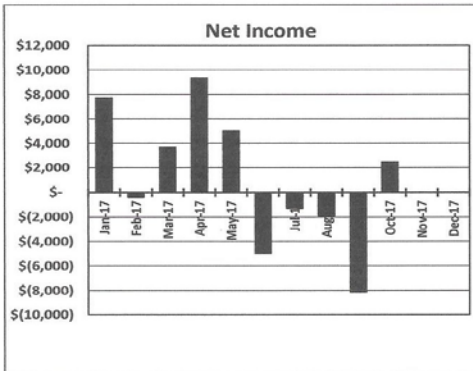
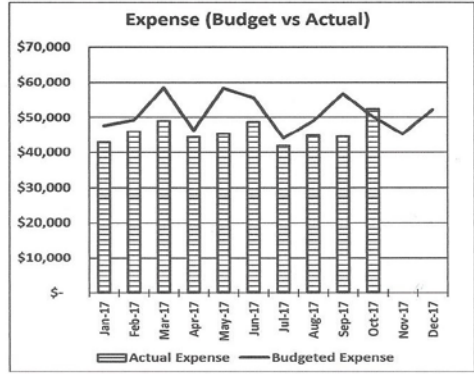
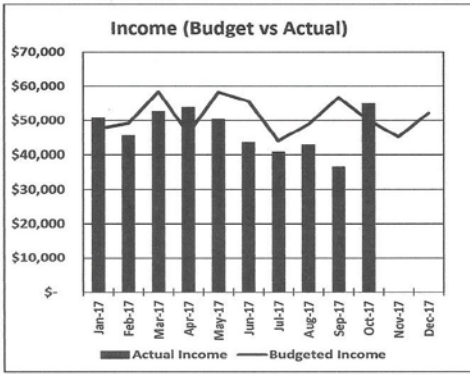
Orange Park Farmer & Arts Market Team

Our first day at the Market was a big success. Thank you to everyone who came out to spend time at the booth, we could not have done it without you! We are seeking to double the number of volunteers for our next day at the market (Dec. 17) so that no one needs to commit to more than an hour at the booth. If you are interested in helping, either with preparation or in greeting people, please join our Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/advent.market.team/> or contact Dana Luther (dana.luther@gmail.com) or Mary Ann Ball.

Shoe Boxes for the Less Fortunate

Advent's Social Ministry Board is sponsoring Shoes Boxes again this year for the less fortunate in our community. The boxes or items can be placed in the Fellowship Hall on the card table near the door. If you can donate to this cause we will need the following by Sunday, December 3rd - Shoe boxes can be any that you may have at home (cardboard or plastic). They may be purchased from Dollar Stores. Once they are filled, please wrap them (lids separately) and labeled; Boy 2-4 Years Old, 5-9 Years Old, 10-14 Years Old or Girl with one of the same age groups. Include some of the following items: **TOYS!** Age appropriate like a beautiful doll, a deflated soccer ball with pump, or a plush stuffed animal, cars, puzzles, jump ropes, etc. **School Supplies** pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, coloring books, etc. **Hygiene** Items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, washcloths, combs, etc. **ACCESSORIES** such as socks, hats, t-shirts, flip-flops, hair bands, sunglasses, etc. **Younger Children:** Stickers, picture books, blocks, finger puppets, pages of colorful stickers. **Older Children:** Small tools, tape measures, sewing kits, fabric squares, etc; and needles; solar calculators, rulers, scissors; jewelry; deodorant.

Advent's Finance at A Glance



Welcome Back Joanna!

Our Music Master, Joanna Corbett, has returned following an extended medical leave. We give thanks for the healing she has experienced and for her continued music ministry with us. Desiring to stay active in our music ministry - while “slowing down a bit” - Joanna will be responsible for the 8 a.m. worship service (including choral and hand bell groups for that service). She will continue to work with the Lighthouse Christian School hand bell groups, play for special services (including mid-week Advent, Christmas Eve, etc.) and, of course, remain an integral part of our worship planning team. Kristin Sakamoto will be responsible for the 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. While assisting Joanna, this new schedule and change in responsibilities will have the added benefit of helping us multiply our music ministry offerings for all of our worship services with extra emphasis on special music for our 8:00 a.m. service.

New Music Rehearsal Schedule

Sundays 4:00 p.m. – 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir (Starting in January)
Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. Handbell Choir (Advent Ringers)
Thursdays 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. Early Ensemble
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. – 11:15 a.m. Advent Choir
Thursdays 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 a.m. Awaken Worship Team

December Anniversary Celebrations

Gerri & Gene Aschenbeck	December 18, 1958
Keith & Jennifer Bernauer	December 4, 2004
Edward & Beverly Gribbin	December 4, 1965
Paul & Teresa Heggood	December 20, 1986
Ken & Ruth Johansen	December 19, 1959
Donald & 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



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
- 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, John Longworth, Noah Rector
- 15 Michael Dorsey
- 16 Tina Hodges, Dea Kemlage, Chuck McPhail, Marty Smith
- 17 Piper Holley, Carrie McEuen
- 19 Randy Morrison, Patrick Shuppert, Lori Weisner
- 20 Roseann Ellis, Judith Himes
- 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 Ordonez
- 30 Patricia Barrett, Gloria Love, Nathan Schiffer
- 31 Sydney Cahill, Tiffany Czalovski, Katherine Kissinger

LESSONS FOR DECEMBER

	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
December 3	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
December 10	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15	Mark 1:1-8
December 17	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
December 31	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

STAFF AT ADVENT

Rev. Gerald A. Nordsiek, Jr. Pastor
 Cell Phone (727) 741-0959
 Kristina Ranieri, Pre-School Director
 Joanna Corbett, Music Master/Organist
 Kristin Sakamoto, Worship Arts Spec
 Ines DeMartinez, Bookkeeper
 Rebecca Johnson, Secretary
 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

2017 CONG. COUNCIL

Todd Luther, President
 Dana West, Vice President
 Sadako Long, Treasurer
 Kathy Ordonez, Secretary
 Jason Merritt, Education
 Dana Luther, Evangelism
 Becky Solberg, Fellowship
 Wes Ordonez, Property
 Pat Benko, Social Ministry
 Sandy Emery, Stewardship
 Steve Benko, Worship
 Tiffany Csalovski, Youth

EPIC YOUTH (High School) & CIA YOUTH (5th – 8th Graders)

Lockin & Laying Of Wreaths At The National Cemetery In Jacksonville - Friday, Dec. 15th - Saturday Dec. 16th CIA and EPIC youth will gather for a lockin on Friday night and depart for the National Cemetery early Saturday morning (we must be at the cemetery before 7 a.m.). We will be honoring our fallen veterans by helping to lay Christmas wreaths at each grave site.



Heartship for God

Many of you received your “Faith Commitment Pledge” after the worship services on November 19. If you were not able to pick up your envelope, it will be mailed to you shortly. Please prayerfully consider your gifts of time, talent, and financial resources to the ministries and mission of Advent Lutheran Church. In particular, any increase in your weekly/monthly giving will allow Advent to maintain current ministries and increase our outreach into the community. Perhaps it has been quite a few years since you have increased your weekly/monthly tithe. If all of our Disciples would consider just a small increase, what a year it will be for the Lord’s work! Don’t miss out on the joy of giving back what God has already given us!

As a reminder, if you have fallen behind on your financial commitment for this year, God understands. If you are able to make it up, what a great Christmas present for Advent! Also know that the easiest way to remain consistent in your giving is to do an automatic debit through your personal bank’s bill payer system. This greatly helps Advent when you are unable to join in worship on a given Sunday and especially helpful during the summer months when so many families are out of town.

Blessings from the Stewardship Board

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

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Fax 272-2896

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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.