



M E S S E N G E R

Wonderful Advent & Christmas Seasons

Advent added something new during the season of Advent with mid-week worship opportunities! Each Wednesday evening we gathered for food, fellowship, crafts, worship, and decorating. All who attended assisted with the weekly addition of decorations and furnishings in the sanctuary as we made preparations for the coming of the Christ Child. We concluded our 4-week gatherings with a wonderful Children's Christmas Program. On December 21st we shared the powerful "Longest Night" worship service with those in our community experiencing feelings of sadness, loss or brokenness. Advent welcomed the Christ Child with over 500 worshipers at our four festive Christmas Eve services on December 24th. We also gathered for one combined service on Christmas Day. Thank you to everyone who shared their gifts with us during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Is Advent Making A Difference?

Our ministry and hospitality to our community touches others in powerful ways. Thank you, Advent disciples, for being Christ to others. The following comments were recently posted on our Advent Lutheran Church Facebook page:

"Great experience New Year's Day worship. It was a combined service. Easy to follow, Great music amazing message and welcoming diverse congregation. Next visit to Florida we will be back!"

"There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place, and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord." Every time I worship here, I am renewed and refreshed like that of a gentle, soft rain. Bless this place, Lord."

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, December 11th at 12:00 p.m. Many Advent disciples participated in this important meeting which included the election of Church Council members, the approval of our 2017 Spending Plan for Ministry, and reports from our Ministry Boards. Special thanks to all who participated in this meeting and the Finance Forum on Dec. 4th. New Church Council Members will be installed on Sunday, January 8th at all three worship services.

The Church Office will be closed January 16th

In Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

In this issue:

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

Editor's Note:

Advent news due no later than January 17th 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

26th at 7:00 p.m. in the

Fellowship Hall. ✚

Pictorial Directory Update

The Evangelism Ministry Board has gathered a team of talented disciples to work on the final layout of our Pictorial Directory. They will send their designs to the *Lifetouch* company as soon as they are completed. It takes a while, but we will have this process completed as soon as possible. Thank you to everyone who participated by having your pictures taken!

New and Refresher Worship Leadership Training

We will have a training for new worship leaders the early part of January. Those of you who completed the Worship Leader helper form a couple months ago identifying the leadership role in which you would like to serve our Lord - please plan to come to one of the 3 following training days. If you did not complete a form that's no problem just contact JR and he will get you started.

1. Sunday January 8th, 9:00 a.m. (after the 8 a.m. Service), or 12 p.m. (after the 10:45 Service)
2. Saturday January 14th, 10:00 a.m.
3. Sunday January 15th, 9:00 a.m. (after the 8 a.m. Service), or 12 p.m. (after the 10:45 Service)

If you cannot make any of these times, we can set up a different, more convenient time for you. Just need to let us know. We would ask that everyone e-mail JR Redlitz, (JRREDLITZ@GMAIL.COM) as to which training day/time you plan to come. We have already scheduled some new leaders to serve as early as the end of January so it is important you get your training completed. Thank you.

O.W.L.S.

The O.W.L.S. (Older, Wiser, Lutheran Sojourners) will meet on Sunday, January 8th following the 10:45 a.m. worship service to work on plans for the upcoming months.

Christian Education

New Year: Stronger Faith

Start the year off right with a return to Bible study. God has great plans for you, and for Advent, in 2017. But how can you fully participate in God's great adventure if you don't study His word? The more you study the Bible; the more powerful and effective your faith becomes. Advent has several opportunities to study God's word:

- Sunday @ 9:30 - The Bible in the Big Room continues their video study of the Gospel of Luke.
- Sundays @ 10:45 - The Other Opportunities for Personal Study (OOPS) continues their video study by Andy Stanley.
- Tuesdays @ 6 p.m. - The Tuesday Night group continues their study of the Book of Nehemiah; then they will move onto the Book of Esther (in February).
- Thursdays @ 11 a.m. - The Thursday afternoon group continues their study of the Gospel of John (narrated by Christopher Plummer).

Everyone is invited to participate in any and all of these. All of these studies are very accessible and will help you grow in your faith.

Children Need Sunday School

As parents, we are concerned about our children's health: physical health, mental health, emotional health AND spiritual health. One of the best ways to help your child have a healthy spirituality and grow in Christian faith is to attend Sunday School. We have classes for all ages, from preschool to adolescence. In Sunday School, your children will hear and discuss God's Word, sing songs, make crafts, play games and generally have fun while growing in faith and wisdom. Questions? Please contact Sandi Ricketts, our Sunday School Director

Weeders Welcome!

The Property Board invites anyone who can “weed” to help with weeding the courtyard area until we reach the planting season. Weeding can be done at any time and requires no prior authorization or approval. Just make sure the only thing being weeded is the weeds! Also, watch for information about our next Property Workday.

E.P.I.C. (High School) Youth Ministry Saturday, January 21st

Advent will be hosting youth from all of the First Coast Conference ELCA congregations for an overnight “Lock-in” Saturday, January 21st through Sunday, January 22nd. Watch for more details to come.

C.I.A. (Middle School) Youth Ministry

C.I.A. (Christians in Action) is Advent’s 6th-8th Grade youth group. This group is devoted to fun, fellowship and ministry. CIA enjoyed playing “Adventopoly” in December with Samantha the winner!

Next Event: Bowling – Sunday, January 15th at 8:15 p.m.

We will meet at Advent at 8:15 p.m. (No school on Monday, Jan. 16th so you can sleep in). Bring \$20 for shoes, bowling and possible snack. Also, bring a friend! (Please speak with Pastor Jerry if cost might prevent you from attending) Please email Andrea Redlitz, or Christina White if you plan to attend.

Your CIA Coordinators, JR Redlitz: jredlitz@gmail.com, Andrea Redlitz: redlitz@gmail.com, Christina White: Christina.white@yahoo.com

Jacobs Brothers Coming Back to Advent Saturday, February 25th 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 25th 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.



Preschool News

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's. Our Christmas production was a smashing success thanks to the hard work of our performers and staff. The children returned to school Wednesday, January 4th eager to see their friends and start learning again.

This month the children will learn all about Polar animals, healthy habits and winter. Then we will go on a Safari to learn about jungles and the animals that live there. Pastor Jerry will be teaching them about the love of Jesus. The children will continue to enjoy cooking, music, art appreciation and P.E. We are looking forward to enjoying the second half of our school year and seeing what 2017 has to offer!

In the past, many of you have donated to our Preschool scholarship fund. As a direct result of your generosity, three children are able to attend our preschool who would otherwise not be able to. Funds are running low though and our students continue to need your help. Thank you for your generosity.

We still have openings for this school year and will begin enrolling for the fall of 2017 very soon. If interested, please contact Kristina Ranieri at 272-6370 or at adventpreschool@bellsouth.net.

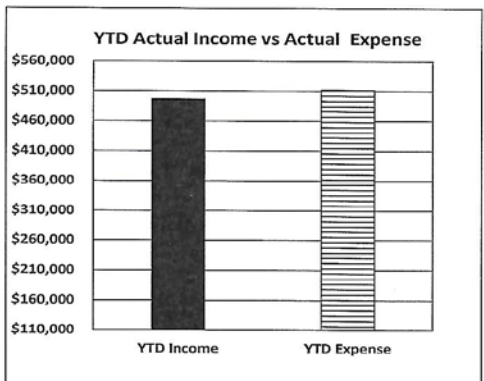
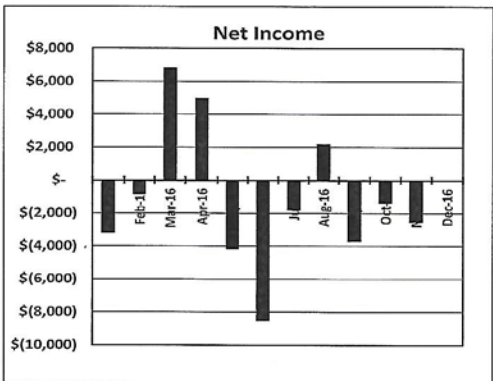
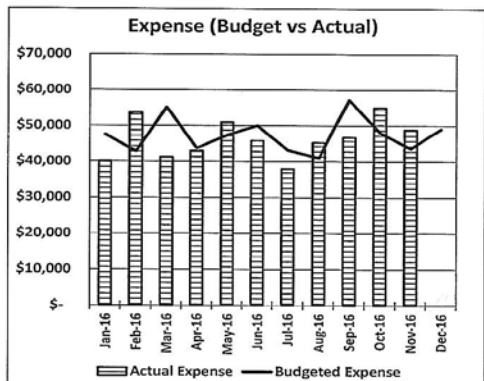
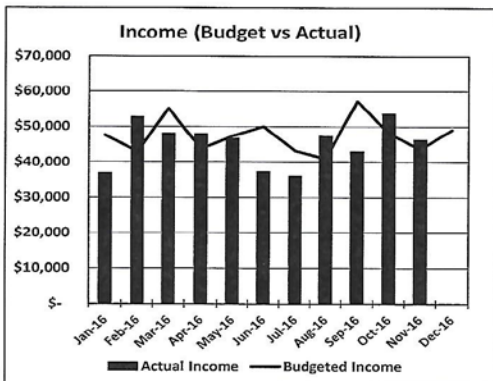
As always, thanks to the Property Board for keeping our playground clean and safe. The children truly enjoy their time outside! A special thank you to Charlie for building the shelves in our storage closet. They are perfect! Also, thanks to all of you for your continued support of our preschool through material and monetary donations as well as the love you bring. We are all blessed to have such a wonderful place in which to teach these children.

Happy New Year! Kristina

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!

Advent's Finance at A Glance



January Anniversary Celebrations

Robert & Evelyn Kissinger	January 20, 1975
Charles & Susanne Kresosl	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
Ron & Kathy White	January 10, 1970

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.)



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, Clara Schreiber, 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 Jordon Luther, Ruth Schmandt
- 13 Shane Turcotte
- 14 Holly Brown
- 15 Brogen LaBranche, John Longworth, Marilyn Longworth
- 16 Lynn Comiskey, Johnathan Dews, Alexis Mizeur, Nancy Patrick, James Shockley
- 17 Cynthia Buhkert, Camden Flint, Emily McClelland, Sophia 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

Jan 1	Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21
Jan 8	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Jan 15	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Jan 22	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23
Jan 29	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12

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

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
Vacant, Property
 Pat Benko, Social Ministry
 Sandy Emery, Stewardship
 J. R. Redlitz, Worship
 Tiffany Csalovszki, Youth



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC MASTER /

ORGANIST

Happy New Year!! Opportunity stretches out before us. What will we do with the days? Experience MUSIC! Not just the listening, but the making of music.

Put yourself and all your emotions into God's hands. Notice the change that music creates.

Do you feel Sad?



Add Music!



Be Happy!



Are you Angry?



Add Music!



Be Joyous!



Are you Fearful?



Add Music!



Be Loving!



THEN SHARE WITH OTHERS!! In His Love, Joanna

CELEBRATE WITH MUSIC

The Advent Choir:	7:00 p.m.	Tuesdays
Lighthouse Handbell Groups:	12:30 p.m.	Wednesdays
Youth Bells (gr. 3-8):	4:45 p.m.	Wednesdays
Joyful Juniors (K - 5):	5:30 p.m.	Wednesdays
Advent Ringers:	7:30 p.m.	Wednesdays
The Early Ensemble:	Noon	Thursdays
New Worship Musicians:	7:30 p.m.	Thursdays
Preschool Music Classes:	9:30 a.m.	Fridays

NEW MUSICIANS WELCOME!!

Find Your Place in a Choir!

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 RESIDENTS



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.