

# THE ADVENT ANNOUNCER

December 2019

Advent Lutheran Church

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adventwc.org



## ASP REMINDER

The deadline to register for ASP and make a \$100 payment has passed. Contact [AdventofficeJM@gmail.com](mailto:AdventofficeJM@gmail.com) for information. There may or may not be space available.

## PRESCHOOL SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

We will be celebrating our preschool on Sunday, November 24, with the children offering a special presentation. We look forward to having more guests than usual on this day, so please be sure to offer a warm welcome.

## MAKING ADVENT MORE GREEN

There will be a "Green" meeting at Advent on Tuesday, November 26 so that we can discuss the following:

- Expanding recycling to include plastic and metal
- Continuing to purchase eco-friendly products for use in the kitchen
- Replacing the broken water cooler with a new unit that also enables refilling bottles
- Encouraging members to bring refillable mugs/bottles rather than using paper cups



## FIRST OF FOUR SUNDAYS OF ADVENT BEGINS ON DECEMBER 1

In the church liturgical calendar, the four Sundays before Christmas are set aside as a time to watch, wait and hope for the coming of Christ. Each week another candle on the Advent wreath will be lit, with a brief responsive reading and prayer, preceded and followed by singing a single verse of "Oh Come, Oh Come Emanuel." Acolytes and their families will participate. New this year, we will be singing a Christmas Carol as our closing hymn each Sunday during Advent. If you have a favorite, email [PastorChrisFranz@gmail.com](mailto:PastorChrisFranz@gmail.com).



## CAROL WITH THE CONFIRMANDS, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

As has become an annual tradition, our Confirmation Class will go caroling in place of their class on Wednesday, December 4. The class will gather for their meal at 6 PM. Gather with them at 6:20 PM to inspire senior residents at an area retirement community by singing carols. Be inspired by the joy your presence brings.

## **WORSHIP ON SATURDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 14, 5 PM!**

Our monthly services continue! We will be singing lots of carols and looking at the Christmas story as recorded in the Gospels! This is a great way to learn what the Bible tells us (Matthew and Luke) versus how pageants and Hollywood often tell the story. Why did Mark's Gospel say nothing about Jesus' birth, while John chooses to tell us Jesus, the Word, existed in the beginning of time? How do Matthew and Luke describe the birth of Jesus?

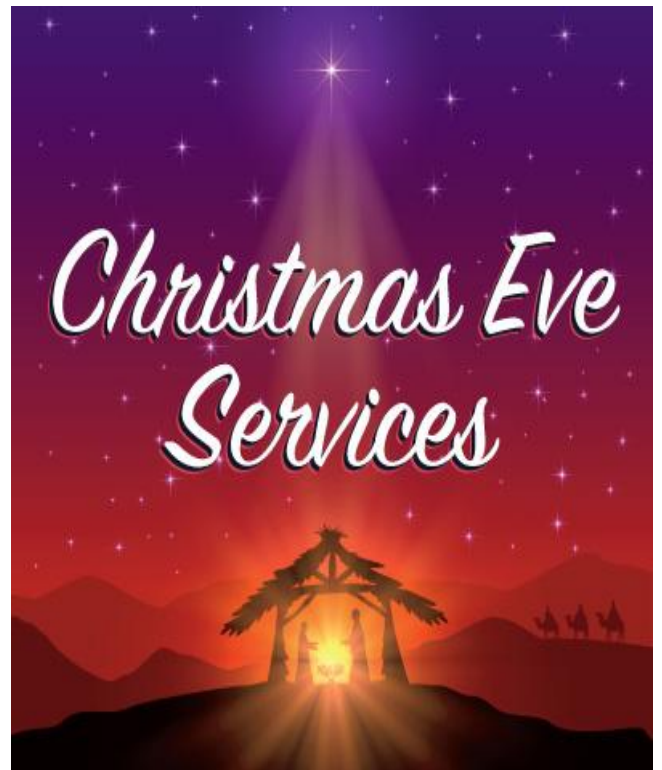
## **LAST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION, DECEMBER 22**

The fourth Sunday of Advent will be celebrated on December 22 at our 8 AM service. Our Sunday School Christmas Program will be offered as part of the 10:30 AM service. This service will begin in the Sanctuary and conclude in the social hall, with various stations and an opportunity to share breakfast. Come and experience the joy of Jesus' birth through the eyes of children. As the prophet Isaiah writes, "A child will lead them."

## **CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES on December 24**

- ❖ 4 PM, a service for all God's children, featuring our praise team and a short presentation by our Sunday School children.
- ❖ 7:30 PM, a service featuring our choir and bell choir.
- ❖ 11 PM, Traditional "Late Night Mass."

Pastor Chris' open house will follow the 7:45 PM service, and new this year, will also follow the 11 PM service! All services will include the singing of many beloved carols and Holy Communion. The 4 PM service will include a children's message, while the later services will include a sermon. (We will have glow sticks and LED candles at 4 PM and 7:45 PM. We will have real candles at 11 PM.)



*Note: If you would like to offer a special musical offering at one or more services, your last chance to "sign up" to be included in the will be November 24!*

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10:30 AM, Carols, Reading, Reflection and Communion**

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS SERVICE - DECEMBER 29TH, ONE COMBINED WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY WITH WILLISTOWN UMC AT WILLISTOWN.** WC Pike, just east of 352 and west of 926. 10:30 AM



**CRAFT AND COLLECTIBLE FAIR, A CHRISTMAS SHOPPER'S PARADISE DECEMBER 7, 10 AM to 2 PM**

Our seventh annual craft fair will once again be a shopper's paradise. Why run from store to store, using precious time to save a little money, when you can come to Advent and see a huge variety of unique and interesting gifts that you will not find in stores? Youth may assist and earn money for their youth accounts.

Contact [Pastorchrisfranz@gmail.com](mailto:Pastorchrisfranz@gmail.com) to do so or if you would like to be a vendor.

**NEW AND REPEAT YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS**

In October, Kathy Squillante, Bill Schwake, Jen Schwake and Pastor Chris led a small group of Sr. High Youth volunteering to feed the hungry at Sunday Breakfast Mission in Philadelphia. Also, in October Jim Teague graciously shared his property for another huge Bonfire with Jr. High and Sr. High Youth. Special thanks to Judy Bell for providing hamburgers for the grill along with other food. In November, Sr. High youth were looking forward to going to the "Top of Philly" and South Street, led by Kate Bird. Pictures of youth events are regularly posted on Facebook.



**CARE AND CONNECTIONS TEAM ( CCT ) HAPPENINGS**

Bringing people together and identifying new opportunities for our faith community to connect with each other is the key focus of the Care and Connections Team. With these goals in mind, the team has created a mission statement which spells the word CONNECT, and describes the importance of our work. The CCT mission is: Community, Outreach, Newcomers, Neighbors, Engagement, Caring, Togetherness. One of the team's new outreach initiatives involved partnering with WEGO Police Department's charity called "One Warm Coat". New coats, hats, gloves, and mittens were requested from October 13th through November 17th. Look for updates in an upcoming email blast on how generous Advent members were with their donations. The CCT began welcoming our baptismal families and their guests to a designated area of the social hall 30 minutes prior to the service. This concept will allow the families to meet, relax, take some pictures, and pray prior to the service. Additional volunteers are always needed. Please contact Nancy Jamieson ( 215-300-5250 or [nanbarjam@aol.com](mailto:nanbarjam@aol.com) ) with any questions and to sign up. Many plans were put into place to honor our local veterans at both of Advent's services and to provide a brunch for all Advent members and our vets on November 10th. CCT will share all the good news from this event in an upcoming email blast. The CCT welcomes all of your ideas as we continue to discover new ways to engage our members and our community. All meetings are open and are announced on email blasts. Join us!

## FINANCIAL UPDATE THROUGH SEPTEMBER

This year's September's offering, a 5 Sunday month, was remarkably strong, up more than 35% over last year, with the result being that year to date, offering, building usage donations and Thrivent Choice Dollar Income all now show growth over last year. (Have you designated your Thrivent Choice dollars to support Advent? Time is running out to do so in 2019.) Year to date receipts totaled \$263,426 and expenses totaled \$254,691. Many thanks for your generous support. Thank you also to members of Advent, friends of Advent and members of the community that serve as handymen, sometimes donating their labor and sometimes working for a nominal fee to address many small and not so small maintenance and improvements on our facility. This saves us thousands of dollars every year! To be on the list, speak with James Teague, our property chair or email him at [Jtea64@gmail.com](mailto:Jtea64@gmail.com).

## PASTOR'S LETTER

Ever since I first heard these words, I have used them as the Benediction at Advent on Christmas Eve . . . *May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ Child.* These simple yet incredibly profound words seemingly summarize the feelings of the characters in the Christmas story. More than two thousand years later, these same feelings continue to be experienced by many at Christmas. Preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth, with gift giving/receiving, family gatherings and worship, may we again also take time to ponder, as Mary did, what it all means for us that God so loved the world that God became part of the world by becoming one of us. In Jesus, God shared the same joys and struggles of life that we experience in order that we might know God's presence in all aspects of our lives. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. Not just on Christmas, but throughout the year. The often heard slogan, "Keep Christ in Christmas," is far too limiting. Rather, might we invite Jesus, whose birth we Celebrate at Christmas, to be part of each day of our lives -not just the 12 days of Christmas. In so doing, Jesus, born on Christmas, also will be born in us, living with us and through us. In our families. In our neighborhoods. In our jobs. In our lives.

Best wishes for a blessed celebration of Christ's birth. **If you will be worshipping at Advent, please invite friends, family members, co-workers and neighbors to join you.** This is an opportunity to ask acquaintances, "What are you doing for Christmas?" If worship is not part of their answer, why not invite them to come with you to Advent and hear the real reason for the season?!?

God bless you,  
Pastor Chris



Blood Drive, December 31, 10 AM to 3 PM  
Want to sign up to donate or help in any way? Call the church office or email [AdventofficeJM@gmail.com](mailto:AdventofficeJM@gmail.com)