

THE ADVENT ANNOUNCER

February 2020

Advent Lutheran Church

1601 Green Lane, West Chester, PA 19382
610.436.0807
adventwc.org



ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 26, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 10:30 AM SERVICE

Celebrate another year of fulfilling our mission to worship, invite, nurture and serve, and hear good news about the state of our finances and ministries. Additional agenda items will include an update about a potential opportunity to acquire property and approval of a motion from council to join an ever-growing number of churches in having a permanent "Pray ground" in their sanctuary.

2020-2021 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION Preschool registration for the 2020-2021 school year will begin on **Friday, January 31, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** Registration is open to current preschool families and church members first.

We offer:

- 2 days (Tues. & Thurs.) for children who are 2 turning 3 by Feb. 1, 2021
- 3 days (Mon., Wed. & Fri.) for children who are 3 on or before Sept. 1, 2020
- 4 or 5 days in our 4 year old class for children who are 4 on or before Sept. 1, 2020
- 4 or 5 days in our Pre-K class for children who are 5 on or before Jan. 31, 2021
- Half day (9-noon) or full day (9-3) options are available for all classes except the 2 day class which is half day only.
- We also have a lunch bunch and enrichment options for half day students. Enrichment topics include Art, Science, Spanish and more

Interested, but want to know more? Contact our Preschool Director, **Luci Keeler** adventprek@yahoo.com to set up your tour today!

RISE AGAINST HUNGER, FEBRUARY 8, 1 PM

Once again, Advent will be assembling 10,000 meals as part of our Rise Against Hunger Event! Join us as we make a difference in the lives of some individuals finding themselves in desperate situations around the world. (We will learn where our meals went a few months after we assemble them.) A few individuals are needed to help with set-up at 11:30 AM as well! Want to see what this event is like? Check out the many videos available on "You Tube" by typing "Rise Against Hunger" or see one to be shown at Advent on February 1.



SOUP SALE, FEBRUARY 8TH/9TH

A fundraiser for ASP and Youth Ministry. We will be gathering to make soup on Saturday, February 8, 9 AM to Noon. Soup may be picked up until 3 PM on Saturday or Sunday following worship. Two Options: Vegetarian Vegetable and Chicken Noodle. Cost: \$5 one pint, one for \$8, or three for \$10. Mix and match.

SCOUT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 10:30 AM SERVICE.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST FOLLOWS THE SERVICE

This year's Scout Sunday may well be our biggest one yet, as we now not only charter Troop 222, we also now charter Pack 69, which meets at Starkweather Elementary School, and host Pack 108. In addition to serving a continental breakfast, scouts will assist with the 10:30 AM service and process into the sanctuary. Don't miss it! Pastor Chris has also recently become more active in supporting the leadership of Troop 222.

5 PM SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE OF WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION, February 15

We continue to offer a Saturday evening service the second Saturday of the month. Won't you join us, especially if Saturday morning does not work for you? The March service will also be the second Saturday of the month. April date for the service will be announced. In December, this attendance drew 33 people including two guests.



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES, WE NEED NAMES/ADDRESSES

Do you have a college student who would love to receive a surprise in the mail?

Email AdventofficeJM@gmail.com with their address information, as our youth look forward to making a "college care package." The packages will be assembled by our youth and adults on Sunday, February 23, during the Sunday School hour.

TUSCARORA YOUTH RETREAT, MARCH 27-29

For the ninth straight year, Advent youth will be participating in this incredible retreat. First called Harvey Cedars, until we outgrew that location, our youth will join hundreds of youth from across our synod. For all 6th through 12th grade youth. If you act fast, depending on when you are reading this, you might still be able to join us!

HOW DO YOU LIKE TO PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER?

Most Advent members prefer using the traditional words of the Lord's Prayer. These come from the King James Version of the Bible, a translation from 1611 using English very different from how we now speak/write. Yet, few Advent members use this translation for their own study and it is not used in our worship. The Lord's Prayer is found in the sixth chapter of Matthew and eleventh chapter of Luke, as Jesus says, "Pray then in this way.

. . . / When you pray, say" The last stanza of the Lord's Prayer, "For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory . . . is (likely correctly) NOT included as part of the Lord's Prayer in the Roman Catholic celebration of the Mass. While included in the King James Version, this final stanza is usually only included as a footnote in more recent Biblical translations. Since the King James translation, older manuscripts of the Gospels according to Luke and Matthew have been discovered and they do NOT include this final stanza. Ian James brought to the attention of the worship and music committee that it has been 50 years since the ELCA started encouraging congregations to consider using contemporary English for the Lord's Prayer, including both versions in the hymnal. It was decided that both would now be included on the screen. Members are free to choose whichever version they are comfortable with. Did you know that some Christian churches NEVER use the Lord's Prayer in worship, believing Jesus was teaching people a form of prayer, rather than the actual words to use?



ASP SECOND PAYMENT DUE

The next payment of \$150 per person, for ASP is due February 2. There may still be room for youth entering 9th grade and adult leaders to join this year's June 20-27 trip to make homes warmer, safer and drier, likely in West Virginia. For more information email Adventofficejm@gmail.com.

PROPERTY NEWS

- Planning continues on two Eagle Scout projects at Advent: (1) Replacing the long-problematic river stones next to our main entrance sidewalk with an attractive low maintenance solution/adding a bench/hardscape area near the parking lot for those waiting to be picked up/finding walk to church difficult and (2) re-grading the lawn area between the playground and garage/sheds to eliminate long-standing water issues that form gullies in the playground. Thank you, Travis and Jim Teague, for your work with these projects.
- Thanks to Sam Heinz for completing replacement of tile at all social hall entrances, including hand cutting tile to add the word "Advent" to the tile at the courtyard entrance.
- Thanks to Bill Boyer for remaking the former cabinet behind the altar (that he made an oak replacement for) to serve as an attractive storage unit for the copier room. Bill replaced glass panels and shelving with wood. Bill also replaced two small glass panels in the youth room TV storage cabinet with wood for safety reasons.
- Thanks to Rob Brutsche for various handyman jobs performed around Advent, including installing the posts for our new 6 foot by 2.5 foot banner signs. These were placed on Rt. 3 at the corner of Green Lane, at Don Thornton's Getty gas station. Three signs have been procured, the first three paid for as part of a Thrivent Grant. (Thanks Dave Wolf - the signs were for the Craft Fair, Christmas Eve Services and preschool registration.) Next, a sign will advertise our church and web site.
- Thanks to Travis Crum and Jim Teague for their design work on the new Green Lane Sign that may be in place by the time you read this.
- Watch for a new water cooler, replacing a broken and impossible-to-repair unit, in the social hall lobby. The new unit enables refilling of water bottles. We hope more Advent members will bring such bottles with them. Also, a new, high quality, three-stream-recycling trash container replaced the plastic trash can in the social hall lobby, paid for by Pastor Chris' discretionary account with council approval.
- Thanks to Kyle Scribner and his men for removing a large, overgrown evergreen next to the church. Removing the evergreen enabled our security cameras to have better view of our property.

HOSPITALITY

We continue to offer refreshments and of course coffee following both the 8 AM and 10:30 AM services every week. Many thanks to Kristi Crum for taking over leading this ministry from Alex Carden, who will now have more time to focus on her volunteer efforts with the preschool and Sunday School. Some Advent members serve every month on a set Sunday of the month. Might you like to serve to give them a break one month or serve on another Sunday? Or might you do what Annabelle Carden did when she celebrated her birthday with cupcakes during



hospitality? Can you imagine the surprise of your spouse if we did something like that on their/your special day? Give Kristi a call at 484-678-3274 or email her at sktlt@aol.com. Kristi has already spent a significant amount of time improving the functionality of our kitchen.

FINANCIAL/ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Come to the January meeting for final figures. Through November, we had a small surplus and attendance was running slightly ahead of last year.

CARE AND CONNECTIONS TEAM HAPPENINGS

CCT members are planning memorable events at Advent to enhance our welcoming ways within our church community and raise the bar on how we reach out to local, national, and global communities. Place your ideas in the suggestion box at the Welcome Center to add your input. Or talk to one of our CCT members, listed on the suggestion box. A salad/pizza meal follows the noon service on Ash Wednesday and a 6-7 pm homemade soup and pizza supper precedes the evening service. Details will follow. As we prepare our hearts and minds for the Lenten season, won't you please consider making a commitment to attend with family and friends? The CCT will support Rise Against Hunger on February 8. A newcomer brunch is being planned for early spring, coupled with a ministry fair. Judy Bell will chair a Volunteer Lunch on a Sunday in April or May. A date in November to honor our veterans is being finalized, due to overwhelming requests to repeat this successful event held in November, 2019. Let's all make 2020 a year to engage in more ways to know, love, and serve the Lord.

LOOKING AHEAD. . .

ASH WEDNESDAY -February 26, Services at Noon and 7 PM (See above.) Thank you Judy Rife for suggesting a meal last year!

CELTIC GROUP SEASONS RETURNS TO ADVENT, Sunday March 8, both services! ELCA YOUTH GATHERING "BOUNDLESS, GOD BEYOND MEASURE" FOR ALL YOUTH CURRENTLY IN 7th GRADE OR OLDER. June 26-29, 2021. We will need to register early fall of 2020.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

As I write this, the 2019 calendar year is quickly coming to a close and again it looked like we would end the year with a balanced budget/small surplus. I want to thank you for your continued support of Advent's mission to worship, invite, nurture and serve. Your generosity each and every week in offering financial support enables Advent to have more of an outward focus rather than simply maintaining what some refer to as "The Institutional Church." Make no mistake about it, support for the "Institutional Church" plays a vital role in changing people's lives and supporting the Christian journey of Advent's members. Giving toward "the budget" provides a place and materials for worship, learning and service, as well as covering the salaries of our staff. The "Institutional Church" houses our ministries and many community groups.



However, in the past several years, as our finances have improved, we increasingly can and do look beyond ourselves and support the work of other groups and organizations that make a difference in the community we share. Fundraisers, like "Friends helping Friends," for example, raised \$285 to support Veterans rather than going toward a budget line item at Advent. At the end of the year we have been much more able to encourage members donating food, clothing, over-the-counter medicines and paper products for Act in Faith, Cradles to Crayons, the Food Bank, veterans and Northstar. Because our finances are stronger, we can do this, rather than desperately asking for funds to fill budget deficits. We no longer rely on spending down reserves to continue our mission. Being better stewards of how we operate the "Institutional Church" certainly helped, but equally important was the generosity of you, the members of the body of Christ at Advent.

For the past few years, in addition to supporting the work of the synod, our budget now financially supports area charities. At this year's congregational meeting on January 26, we will ask for attendees to rank the importance of some of the charities we support financially. We want your input as to how those funds should be shared.

So, brothers and sisters in Christ, I say, "Thank you! Thank God, for you! Keep up the good work!"

God's Peace, Pastor Chris