

THE ADVENT ANNOUNCER



January 2020

Advent Lutheran Church

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WITH HOLY COMMUNION

4 PM - A new, child-friendly service led by our praise team. The service is the sermon, "The ABC's of Christmas!" Glow sticks for all.

7:30 PM - Led by organ/piano/choirs and including a sermon. LED candles will be used.

11:00 PM - Late night Festival Mass. Real candles will be used.

Pastor Chris' Open House 8:45 PM to 10:50 PM & 12:05 AM to ?
We will be collecting toilet paper, paper towels and tissues for ACT in Faith on Christmas Eve.



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION 10:30 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, ONE SERVICE AT WILLISTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

Join your Advent and Willistown friends, 10:30 AM for worship. (RT 3. Just east of 352)



DONATE BLOOD AT ADVENT'S RED CROSS DRIVE:

DECEMBER 31, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Call the church office at 610-436-0807 to offer last minute assistance with the drive and/or to schedule a donation.

SUNDAY JANUARY 5th: START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS!?!

The first Sunday of 2020, is still part of the church's "12 Days of Christmas Celebration." This gives you one more chance to sing some favorite carols! Also, you will hear the second part of the Christmas story, only recorded in Matthew's Gospel, describing the coming of the wise men, bearing gifts for Jesus.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12th: "GIFTS OF PRAISE" RETURNS AS WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BAPTISM

We again welcome "Gifts of Praise," also known as the Tuscarora Youth Retreat Band. They will be leading worship at both 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM. As we celebrate Jesus' Baptism by John, we will also have the opportunity to remember our own baptism. See if you can find/bring your baptismal certificate and/or any pictures or mementos from your baptism! We will create an area to display them in the Narthex!

RENEW YOUR VOWS EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR: SUNDAY JANUARY 19th!

As we hear the Gospel of John's account of Jesus' first miracle, changing water to wine during the wedding at Cana, why not renew your vows? What a great Sunday to renew your own vows. The renewal will occur just before the singing of the last hymn. Those who find this difficult may head to the social hall following Holy Communion. Get ready for some cake and a procession!



LAST CHANCE FOR AN END-OF-YEAR DONATION TO ADVENT

Perhaps your financial condition is better than you expected? Why not consider thanking God for the blessing by making an end-of-year donation to Advent. You can designate that donation as you wish. Some ideas? Capital Fund. Youth Ministry. Mortgage Principal Reduction. Scholarship Fund. Garden Fund. Hospitality Fund, Etc.

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

Hear a summary of Advent's mission to worship, invite, nurture and serve in the year 2019, as well as a review of a detailed summary of our financial health. Additionally, the "Pray Ground" will be discussed and we may ask for congregational approval of a potentially huge opportunity for Advent involving the acquisition of real estate. Watch for updates in the weekly e-mail blast, bulletin and in church announcements. Meeting to approve 2020 budget for mission will be presented for approval on December 22, details to be announced.

MEALS MINISTRY

Did you know Advent has a meals ministry? This ministry can provide meals for those going through a difficult time, where such a benefit would be greatly appreciated. If you know of someone in need of a meal or if you would like to be involved in this ministry, please email Abnelson26@gmail.com.

ONE FINAL STAINED GLASS WINDOW FOR THE SANCTUARY?

The final clear glass window in Advent's sanctuary will be enhanced in memory of Steve Fedor. Steve's wife, Barb, has "opened up" the opportunity for other donations to support this work, which is now in the early planning stages. A music theme may be used and the window could take the form of a window hanging. Bud Schillinger directed money given in memory of his wife Shirley to this project to enhance our worship space.

SKI TRIP/SNOW TUBING TRIP

Youth, families friends and individuals interested in joining Advent members for day of skiing and/or snow tubing are invited to e-mail AdventofficeJM@gmail.com. Indicate dates that would work for you and we will see what we can arrange, depending on interest and weather.



A SOCIAL GROUP TO JOIN: THE QUILTERS!

The Advent Quilters meet on the second Thursday of every month at 10:30 AM, next on January 9. We welcome anyone with an interest to join us to plan for and construct quilts for baptisms and comfort, then consider coming with us afterward for lunch at a nearby restaurant. Sewing is encouraged but not required! We are also a "sewcial" group! Recently, we welcomed Kim Broach to our ministry.

CARE AND CONNECTIONS TEAM HAPPENINGS

CCT focuses on our mission of Community, Outreach, Newcomers, Neighbors, Engagement, Caring, and Togetherness---enhancing ways for our faith community to CONNECT.

2019 Accomplishments, in just 6 months, included:

- Creating a new "Narthex Welcome Center" to better greet guests
- Establishing partnerships with WEGO Police Department, Brandywine SPCA, and Veteran's Brotherhood, supported by the generosity of Advent's members
- Engaging multiple Advent ministries. For example, our preschool students made a thank you banner for First Responders, and wreaths for veterans. Our Sunday School collected toiletries/snacks for veterans. Thank you, Luci Keeler and Janey Wolff, for your help.

Looking ahead to 2020, the CCT hopes to. . .

- Organize a newcomers' brunch
- Identify at least one intergenerational project
- Participate in Rise Against Hunger
- Support the new "Green Team."

CCT members are: Shirley Bannar, Judy Bell, Alex Carden, Kristi Crum, Barb DeHaven, Terri Dettinger, Carol Flynn, Alicia Hutzleman, Nancy Jamieson, Sharon Knoedler, Maureen Muehsam, and Denise Shearman. Please reach out to us with your ideas. We wish you joy, friendship and peace in the New Year, especially the "peace only Jesus can give." *John 14:27.*

NEW SIGNAGE TO INCREASE ADVENT'S VISIBILITY

- The sign face on Green Lane is rotting under the plastic coating and does not account for our growing ministries and connection to the community. A new sign, incorporating our logo, constructed of longer-lasting aluminum-covered plastic composite is being created. It will have individual panels, which could be separately changed if needed. Cost: About \$2,000. Current posts, set in concrete by Kathy and Ron Wegryzn, with help from Nick and Regina Gentile, will be repainted and reused. This sign would be an excellent memorial opportunity or will be paid for from your generous donations to the "Capital Fund."
- Don Thornton, the owner of the Gulf gas station at the corner of Green Lane and W.C. Pike, 1/4 mile from Advent, agreed to let Advent place large road banners at his location. W.C. Pike traffic is about 10 times that of 352. When making these arrangements, he shared that Pr. Jo did his wedding at Advent many years ago. **Why not stop by to get gas there to say thank you? They pump your gas!**
- A member offered to pay for an electronic sign to replace the signboard on our Rt. 352 sign. First proposed several years ago at a congregational meeting, when the existing sign roof was replaced, such signs were not then permitted but that recently changed. As Advent members have not volunteered to change the current sign, not even youth, when offered pay, staff would appreciate this and it would garner more attending. The sign would require updating, congregational approval and would reuse the present structure.

ORGAN UPDATE

Our new pipe organ continues to settle in.

- It is regularly played with our piano and sometimes with our existing electronic organ. All four of our "keyboard" instruments were played together on November 16th for the first time as we raised over \$150 for world hunger and the West Chester Food Bank as part of a wonderful "Celebration of Music."
- Our organ fund continues to grow through member donations, fulfillment of pledges, and a \$2,500 refund from the builder, after the optional trumpet rank was replaced with the organ's original crumhorn. The fund covers routine maintenance/tuning and because it continues to grow, may one day support an even more impressive instrument.
- Tunings, to happen twice per year, cost \$300, not \$500, as was anticipated.
- **Pastor Chris recently met a young father while cold calling. He was interested in Advent for his family. Their conversation took an interesting turn when the man said, "Does your church have a pipe organ; I'm a sucker for pipe organs."**

Dear Advent Lutheran

ACT in Faith has been blessed so to have your support of time, talent, and treasure for the last 4 years. "Thank you" seems to be a bit of an understatement given the impact that your support has had on our mission and the community we serve. Your generosity has helped us provide the important gap services that, left unfilled, become debilitating barriers that compromise people's household stability and employment.

In the first 10 months of 2019 you have helped

- prevent 17 families/individuals from becoming homeless,
- prevent 14 utility shut-offs, and
- filled 172 requests for cell phone minutes, birth certificates, car repairs, resumes/job searches, and photo IDs to people who were seeking employment and/or housing.

In addition, over the last 4 years you have donated over 5,500 lbs of personal care and household items to our Community Cupboard.

It goes without saying, your support has be integral to our ability to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. On behalf of everyone at ACT in Faith and the community we collectively serve, God Bless you!

In gratitude,

Hallie Romanowski ACT in Faith of Greater West Chester

ADVENT'S NEW MORE WELCOMING BULLETIN BOARD

Our new bulletin board outside of the social hall now has a format that should serve us for an extended period of time. Pastor Chris came up with the design after a conversation with Sue Peck who previously installed a permanent fabric background. Did we miss anything?



PASTOR'S LETTER

Why do you go to church? Has anyone ever asked you that? If they did, how would you answer? My answer to that question, before I was a pastor, was probably much the same as it is now. I go to church to meet Jesus. To strengthen my relationship with Him. To be reminded of His love, grace and forgiveness in the midst of the challenges and joys of life. To be reminded of His presence. To be with brothers and sisters in Christ, people I would likely not otherwise cross paths with, but who, like me, come together around Word and Sacrament. To join my voice and gifts with others as we worship, invite, nurture and serve. To be reminded that, come what may, there is a bigger picture, which includes the promise that I am loved and that God is with me, giving me a purpose in life. As we begin our ninth year together, surely we can see the hand of God at work though the mission we share. Who knows what God will do next through us at Advent? Come share the Spirit!

God's peace, Pastor Chris

FINANCIAL/ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Through October, Advent's average weekend attendance was 134, up from 131 last year. Total income showed similar growth and expenses grew somewhat less than income so we have a small, but larger surplus than last year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 8, Rise Against Hunger Meal Assembly

Friday, March 27 to Sunday March 29, Tuscarora Youth Retreat - Discounted, Early Registration Deadline is January 19 @\$135. Regular Registration Deadline Is January 31 \$175.

Scout Sunday - February 9th - The Scout Troop will provide a Continental Breakfast between Services.