

THE ADVENT ANNOUNCER



May, 2020

Advent Lutheran Church

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ADVENT RESPONDS TO CORONAVIRUS - PASTOR'S LETTER

Shortly before this newsletter was submitted for publication, all worship services, ministries and activities at Advent were suspended. I hope you agree that while difficult, this appeared to be a necessary decision, at least in the short term. That does not mean our mission ended. In many ways, Advent's mission is more important than ever before and just as vital. Thanks be to God, our staff and members have already risen to the occasion that we might continue to worship, invite, nurture and serve. How?

We immediately began to broadcast an online worship experience on Facebook and YouTube each week. **We were amazed that our first worship experience was viewed about 200x by different people in the first 2 days!** We also implemented the use of "Zoom," enabling meetings to occur online. **This will help members and those you and we invite connect or stay connected with Jesus, who is the ultimate source of hope, comfort and faith in challenging times.** Who might you invite to "tune in," should we not be able to gather in person for worship? Many may now be more inclined to seek such an opportunity. Maybe they will one day join us in person or just be part of an "online congregation" if we can maintain an online worship presence? Already having learned more about this new way of being church, combined with the extensive skills of staff and member volunteers, we were able to offer this service without delay. Many thanks to Tim Porreca for filming/editing our first such service and to Kate Kreno, for joining Jamie Wunder to provide music and to Jim Teague, Travis Crum and Jenn Miller for providing technical assistance.

Several Advent members also quickly called/mailed offering to help deliver food and/or medicine for seniors and even make lunches for school children. Remember, you can also drop off food to the food bank. If there is anything Advent or I can do for you, at any time, please call the church office at 610 436 0807 or email AdventofficeJM@gmail.com or Pastorchrisfranz@gmail.com. I will continue to reach out to members via phone and Facebook. Social media and the telephone provide unlimited ways to stay connected with each other while practicing social distancing. Might you post words of encouragement, prayers, songs, music etc. on Advent's Facebook Page, Instagram Page or YouTube Page? Speak with Jenn Miller if you need assistance to do so.



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Finally, please be faithful in your financial support of Advent during these trying times. We know some will not be able to do this as their income has or will be affected. We hope that those that can will be especially generous. You can mail in your offering, make an online donations through our website (which accepts credit cards) or sign up for & "Simply Giving." Our administrator, Jenn Miller can answer questions regarding using this service and can also help you with access to our new "online worship experiences." We will do all that we can to reduce our expenses. But, ministry and mission do not come free!

So, in this trial, we continue to pray. . .

God of Mercy, be with the tens of thousands of people who have contracted the Coronavirus around the world. Comfort those whose loved ones have died. Bring peace to those living with uncertainty after perhaps being exposed to the virus. Give patience to those who are quarantined and unable to move freely in their communities.

Dear Lord, watch over and protect other people from catching this deadly virus. Strengthen those who are risking their own lives to care for sick patients.

Knowing the presence of Jesus, may we all be filled with compassion for those who are suffering.

AMEN

God's peace,
Pastor Chris

Note that all the information that follows in this newsletter is subject to change/cancellation. We continue to provide weekly email updates with the latest information. If you are not receiving them, and would like to, please let us know!



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON, APRIL 26

In recognition of volunteer appreciation week, Volunteers will be recognized, Sunday April 26, during worship and in a catered luncheon to follow the service. Our theme is "Remember whenever you are in a position to help someone, be glad and always do it because that may be God answering someone else's prayer through you." Advance Reservations

are required for the luncheon and must be made by Monday, April 20, 5 PM.

FLEA MARKET, MAY 9, 8 AM to 2 PM FLOWER SALE? BIKE SHOW?

Our first flea market for 2020 is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 8 AM to 2 PM. Do you have items to donate for the ever popular "church tables?" If you do, please bring items a couple days beforehand. Once again we will partner with Wedgewood (located just south of Advent on 352) to raise money for our ASP mission trip. They will be giving "Advent Percentage Off" coupons. Use them to save money and earn money for Advent's ASP trip. The more you spend, the more you save and donate! Pastor Chris has met with them and this year, they agreed to hold the sale May 2 through May 10th, giving you a full week and two weekends to participate!

SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP 5 PM

Continues this month on May 9th. Bring a friend!

MOTHER'S DAY/CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S ORDINATION, MAY 10

A CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST BY THE MEN OF ADVENT!

We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ordination and Mother's Day during worship on May 10. Guest preacher Pr. Jo Wilhelmsen, a "daughter of Advent" and one of Advent's Pastor Emeritus, will assist Pastor Chris in leading the services and will share some thoughts from her ordination and being a mom. A continental breakfast, sponsored by the "Men of Advent" will follow both services.





TAKE A RIDE ON THE WEST CHESTER RAILROAD

Advent Christian Preschool, Before and After School and Sunday School students will be enjoying a fun trip on the West Chester Railroad, Friday, May 22, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. We will be joined by students from the West Chester Care Foundation. This fun, end of year celebration is being funded in full, for all students, by a donation from Pastor Chris' discretionary fund as a way to support the community. We expect well over 150 participants.

QUILTERS MEET, SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 10:30 AM

Join the Advent Quilters to help to construct quilts at church for the newly baptized and those going through a tough time. Often, the group continues to be "sewcial" at a restaurant afterwards. Even if you can't sew, there is a task for you!

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES, THURSDAYS 10 AM, WILLISTOWN UMC

We continue to study Matthew's Gospel. Recently, we have studied Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and several of Jesus' miracles. Pastor Chris has been leading as Pastor Jim recovers from major heart surgery. If necessary, it will continue online using Zoom. All you need is a computer to participate.

ADVENT TO HOST SYNOD WIDE CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT

Advent will be hosting a synod wide continuing education event on Simulcasting, Monday, October 12. The event is open to clergy and lay leaders who would like to learn the how's and whys of churches using this service to enhance their mission. Save the date. Details will follow.



GOD AND COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR SCOUTS AND EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS TAKING SHAPE AT ADVENT

Sean Yarrison and Pastor Chris will be leading a God and Country Project for Cub Scouts at Advent on April 25. For details, or to participate, email him as soon as possible at PastorChrisFranz@gmail.com. Pastor Chris has worked to increase our connection to scout troop 222 whom we have long chartered. He also worked to help facilitate Advent chartering cub scout pack 69, and Advent hosting pack 108. We have a growing number of Eagle Scout projects being completed at Advent: The following 3 projects will be completed in the coming months.

- Main entrance sidewalk river rock replacement and creation of waiting area/rest area near parking lot.
- Playground drainage project to eliminate long standing water runoff issues.
- Repainting/Water Proofing, 3 classrooms, 352 side of Christian Education Wing.



PENTECOST MAY 31

We celebrate the Coming of the Holy Spirit, the birth of Christ's church and the Confirmation of 5 of our youth on Sunday May 31.

BE GREEN AND ADVERTISE ADVENT

We have higher quality, made in U.S.A. reusable shopping bags available for sale. They cost \$5. All profits will be split between the Nature Conservancy the Okehocking Preserve. (Located just East of 352 on West Chester Pike.) As many long time area residents know, open space is becoming scarce in our part of Chester County. This is our way of helping preserve such space for future generations, doing our part to be good stewards of God's good creation.



CARE & CONNECTIONS TEAM MEMBERS PUT THEIR FAITH INTO ACTIONS

The CCT is an amazing group of people, and we always find ways to rekindle the God given gifts within us. Below are some of the many ways our talents are being put into actions as we continue to help Advent members

CONNECT with each other. Judy Bell is organizing a Volunteer Recognition Lunch, scheduled for April 26th. Calling all volunteers to come celebrate your time and talents at Advent and in your community. Did you know that this year the ELCA celebrates 50 years of Lutheran women's ordinations in the U.S.? Look for ways the CCT plans to commemorate this wonderful milestone. Please share your ideas with any of the team as we honor our women pastors and leaders, recognizing that God calls **all of us** to share his Love. An "Advent Goes Green" bulletin board near the social hall is underway, with the help of Cindy Oursler, one of our new members. Please reach out to Cindy or any of the CCT with your ideas on how you are preserving our Earth, and demonstrate them on the board! Pictures would be awesome to share! Also, the team is selling environmentally friendly grocery totes with the Advent logo on the front for only \$5. Look for CCT members selling these totes in the narthex before and after services. All proceeds will go to a local and also to a national "green" charity. Our holy and beautiful Earth belongs to God, and God calls us to steward it. Please support this important green initiative at Advent, with many more to come during the year. Stay tuned! All of us are blessed with many talents to serve our church and communities. Join us anytime at our CCT meetings as we all continue to discover new ways to worship, learn, and celebrate. Come and rekindle your God given gifts!!

FEBRUARY FINANCES / ATTENDANCE

After a strong start in January, February attendance and offering declined. Year to date, offering and income are now running below last year, leading to a deficit position. And as we all know March was off to a slow start with all worship and activities suspended as of March 13. Please help us avoid a cash crunch by continuing your generous support of Advent.

LOOKING AHEAD

6/7 Celebration of "Earth Day," first Outdoor 8 AM service.

6/20-27 ASP Mission Trip

7/13-17 Vacation Bible School

7/19 Christmas in July