

# THE ADVENT ANNOUNCER

November 2019

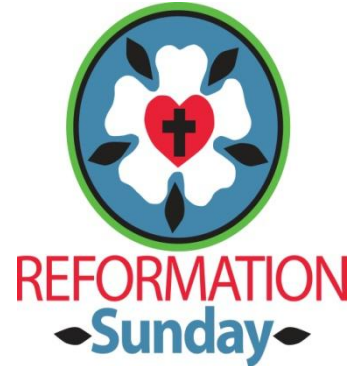
Advent Lutheran Church

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## REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

We celebrate the First Holy Communion of a large group of children this year on "Reformation Sunday." Both services will include Bible readings influential to Martin Luther. Most notably is the third chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans, the text that led to Luther's feeling as if he were "born again," as it opened his eyes to the grace of God made known through Jesus Christ. Bagpipers from Ceol Neamh ([www.ceolneamh.org](http://www.ceolneamh.org)), with whom we share space, will add a festive flare before/after worship. It should be noted that Luther wished to reform the Church and have it be ever-reforming, not to create a new church. Therefore, many feel that he would not approve of making a "big deal" of the day, especially in this more ecumenical age. Yet, the Reformation is one of the most influential events in world history.



## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

On "All Saints Sunday" we celebrate those individuals, friends and family members, who inspired us, loved us, and were in relationship with us. We remember not only those who have gone before, but also those with us still today. This year's service will include "remembrance tables" placed near the altar for you to place pictures of personal "Saints" important for you. Names of Advent members who died in the past year will be called out as bells toll and those present will be invited to call out names of loved ones who are no longer

present. We also invite members to call out the names of living saints as bells toll, and candles will be lit for those newly baptized this year.

## HONORING OUR VETERANS AS WE SHOW OUR COMMITMENT TO ADVENT, NOVEMBER 10

We will be recognizing Veterans on Sunday, November 10. Additionally, this will be our "Stewardship Sunday," when we prayerfully reflect on our support for the mission of Advent to worship, invite, nurture and serve. In the weeks before, several Advent members have volunteered to give "Temple Talks" on their personal views on stewardship. Watch for a mailing about this opportunity in order to estimate your giving for the coming year. A wonderful community meal will follow the 10:30 AM service and there will be a continental breakfast following the 8 AM service.

## AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC TO BENEFIT ELCA WORLD HUNGER AND WC FOOD CUPBOARD SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH AT 2:00 PM

We are having a music afternoon at Advent to celebrate the talents and gifts of Advent musicians, musicians who sometimes play at Advent for funerals and weddings, and musicians who are family and friends of Advent members. We may even find a way to have all our instruments play at once! Musicians are donating their time, and we will take an offering to benefit the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and the West Chester Food Cupboard. There is room for more to participate. E-mail [Adventofficejm@gmail.com](mailto:Adventofficejm@gmail.com) to volunteer.

## JESUS SAYS, "IF YOU LOVE ME, FEED MY SHEEP"

November is a wonderful time to make an extra donation to the West Chester Food Cupboard. We invite you to place your items around the altar or in the usual spot, the shopping cart in the Narthex. Proteins, such as canned fish or peanut butter, are especially appreciated. Remember that while you may still place altar flowers by making your own arrangements with a florist (Matlack is suggested) or by providing your own floral arrangements, you can also place a food basket or make a donation to the Garden Fund in memory or honor of a loved one, and this is recognized in the bulletin. E-mail [AdventofficeJM@gmail.com](mailto:AdventofficeJM@gmail.com) should you have any questions.



## GRACE SPACE/PRAY GROUND COMING TO ADVENT!

Following the Worship and Music Committee's recommendation to Council, and Council's previous endorsement of the idea, Advent will have a child friendly space, in our sanctuary, for children through Kindergarten age to stay during worship. Parents are asked to sit nearby as needed. The space will include a carpet, pillows, quiet toys and learning activities for children. Creating such a space within the sanctuary is not new. Many churches have had such a space for decades. Why? Worship is not really geared for children, and many parents are not comfortable making use of a

nursery. In fact, Advent's nursery is rarely used. Having such a space is more inviting to parents with younger children and should make it easier for children to attend services without being disruptive. The space will be portable, may be tried in different locations, and may even move to the Narthex on Sundays such as Easter, when many children are anticipated to be in attendance. Advent's "Grace Space" will be presented to the congregation for further discussion at the January congregational meeting, at which time the congregation can decide on its future. It may even bring generations together and help form new friendships as some seniors would love this opportunity to connect with our youngest worshippers.

## CARE AND CONNECTIONS TEAM

The CCT made "Kickoff Sunday" special for Advent members and First Responders. Special thanks to Amy Nelson and Janey Wolff for their input and assistance as Community Meal and Sunday School leaders and to Judy Bell, who generously provided the make-your-own sandwich station. We hope to build on this partnership with WEGO Police Department. Brenda Bernot, Police Chief, and Nancy Jamieson, CCT leader, will identify mutually beneficial projects. If you have ideas to share, contact Nancy (215-300-5250, [Nanbarjam@aol.com](mailto:Nanbarjam@aol.com)) At the time of the newsletter publication, Judy Bell was coordinating the Blessing of Pets event for September 29, and also creating the pet blessing certificates to be signed by Pastor Chris. Denise Shearman and Janey Wolff were working with the Brandywine SPCA to create a partnership. Thank you, to all who helped us to distribute flyers created by Nancy Jamieson and Louise Whitelaw. And thank you, Jenn Miller, for all the behind-the-scenes work you do in support of CCT. Stewardship Sunday is November 10. (See related article) The CCT will be reaching out to the West Chester area veterans to break bread with Advent members and, hopefully, other guests, at the Community Meal, also being held on November 10. Want to learn more about CCT? Call or email Nancy Jamieson. There are so many ways our lives will be enriched when, as a faith community, we care and connect! "Community, Outreach, Newcomers, Neighbors, Engagement, Caring, Togetherness are what we are about and define our mission.



**ADVENT TO BECOME MORE GREEN**  
Advent has long prided itself on working to be a good steward of the environment. In the last few years, all of these steps began: supporting perennial gardens that provide home to wildlife, installing LED lighting and removing excess bulbs, eliminating the use of Styrofoam, which may cause cancer and is not environmentally friendly, and recycling clean paper/cardboard. (Some members have asked

about also recycling plastic, glass, and metal, and have even taken these items home to do so.) An open meeting to hear ideas and suggestions for further investigation will be held Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 pm. Come bring your suggestions. Can't attend the meeting? Email suggestions to [Adventofficejm@gmail.com](mailto:Adventofficejm@gmail.com).

## NEWS BITS

- Thank you to Sam Heinz for replacing crumbling floor tile at social hall entrances. Thank you Bill Boyer, Sam Heinz and Jim Teague for replacing baseboards following major repainting of the hallways, restrooms, social hall lobby and one peeling area of paint in the social hall.



- Nearly 5,000 articles of clothing, some donated by Advent members, were sorted in our social hall in early October, as part of an Eagle Scout Project. The clothing was then forwarded to the Salvation Army for distribution. Don't forget that we receive clothing all year in two recycling bins located in our parking lot. Donations benefit Advent's mission and the St. Vincent DePaul Society. The next Eagle Scout project at Advent will be to replace the stones to the left of the walkway with a maintenance-free, permanent, attractive solution.

- Our Community Garden provided the West Chester Food Cupboard with lots of tomatoes, fresh corn, green peppers and beans

during a good part of the summer. The garden is yet another new outreach/service activity supported by Advent.

- Badly damaged parish house gutters will soon be replaced with larger units and wooden soffits and fascia covered with vinyl and aluminum siding. The cost will be paid by Pastor Chris's discretionary account and an account with \$2,000 discovered when we consolidated our accounts to one bank from three. (PNC, Wells Fargo closed their Westtown branch.)
- Embroidered Hats are now available for \$10.00! Pick one up in the office!
- Recently, a young mom and her son worshiped with us, expressing interest in Advent. What brought her here? She discovered Advent when she came to Stroller Strides, which meets here on bad weather days. Yet more evidence of the wisdom of opening up our building to community groups.
- Thank you, Pastor Chris, for removing the overgrown hydrangeas outside of the social hall entrance and creating another perennial garden using plants from our existing gardens.



## PRESCHOOL NEWS

- Our young preschoolers had their first Chapel Chat in 2019 with Pastor Chris in September!
- If you would like to support our Preschool, you can sign up for Giant A+ School Rewards! We use the rewards to bring special programs to the children such as The Philadelphia Zoo on Wheels.  
Visit [giantfoodstores.com](http://giantfoodstores.com) and select "SIGN IN" at the top right to log into your online account. Once logged in, select "MY ACCOUNT", followed by "MANAGE MY ACCOUNT", then "REWARDS & SAVINGS" to select our preschool. Our ID # is 26770.
- You'll need your 11-digit BONUSCARD® number. If you don't know it you can call 1-888-814-4268 for assistance. Thank you for your continued support!



## MUSIC NOTES

- Advent provides the opportunity to participate in adult choir, praise team and bell choir. This year, we are more intentional about scheduling practices at times that will be most beneficial for worship and that will correspond to members' availability. The result is added flexibility for participants. E-mail [Wunderjamie@gmail.com](mailto:Wunderjamie@gmail.com) to be part of her email blasts for participants. She is glad to add you to the list, even if your availability is very limited.
- If you ever wish to add your musical gift, especially at the 8 AM service, please speak with Jamie Wunder or email her at [WunderJamie@gmail.com](mailto:WunderJamie@gmail.com).
- ALL MUSICIANS WHO WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LEADERSHIP OF MUSIC ON CHRISTMAS EVE MUST SIGN UP/SPEAK WITH JAMIE BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23!

This will ensure adequate time to plan how best to use our talent to support worship.

Our new version of the Hymn of Praise, "This is the Feast," has been well received. Led by organ or piano at 8 AM, it is usually led by our praise team at 10:30 AM.

## ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIAL UPDATE

Particularly strong August attendance lifted our year-to-date average attendance to 136 from 133 last year, and September was off to a very strong start. Through August, Advent's income totaled \$227,514 and expenses totaled \$225,093. August income offering was up 18% over last year which helped bring year to date overall offering income to within 2% of last year. Year to date, overall income was unchanged compared with last year while expenses were up 1.2%, as we continue to do our best to make the most of every dollars received by operating efficiently. Please do your part to support Advent's mission to worship, invite, nurture and serve!

## THANK YOU NOTE RECEIVED

Dear Pastor Chris and Advent Members,

Thank you so very much for the surprise recognition of my service with ASP. I am grateful for the financial, moral, and prayer support you have given to me and this ministry over the past seven years. We have been God's hands and feet helping eradicate substandard housing in central Appalachia one home at a time. It has been a joy for me to serve in this way! I continue to hold Advent and ASP in prayer.

With Blessings

Pat Polilli

