

THE ADVENT ANNOUNCER

September, 2020

Advent Lutheran Church

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610.436.0807
adventwc.org



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE START OF THE "PROGRAM YEAR"?

Currently, we continue to offer in person 8 AM and 10:30 AM Worship services. (Reservations required, please call 610-436-0807.) The 10:30 AM service is being recorded and placed on Advent's YouTube channel. You can also attend this service live online via Zoom. For more information or to be a remote reader/worship assistant, please email Pastorchrisfranz@gmail.com. Many Advent members are involved in these efforts and are being thanked/recognized in weekly email blasts.

Regrettably, it is not possible at this time to announce firm details regarding our fall schedule. Kick off Sunday is scheduled for 9/13 and we are scheduled to have a Sunday AM "Rise Against Hunger" event, during which 10,000 meals will be assembled as part of celebrating "God's Word Our Hands." (Rise against Hunger confirmed they work with smaller groups, socially distanced, over a longer period of time.) On Saturday, September 19, an 8 AM to 2 PM flea market and family fun day is scheduled to coincide with the Scout Mum Sale. First Communion Class and Confirmation Orientation for 7th and 8th graders were to be scheduled in September as well. Watch weekly email blasts for details/updates, including information on scheduled times and offerings of worship opportunities and Christian Education. Watch for information about ASP, which may be together with WCCEC this year.

IT HAPPENS RIGHT HERE AT OUR PRESCHOOL EACH AND EVERYDAY!

Do you want something totally heartwarming and amazing to happen in your life once, twice or more a month????

It happens right here at Advent Christian Preschool each and every day to quite a few people. And it can happen to you too! All you have to do is love kids! We supply the fun, the experience and the joy your heart receives!

For several years we have had the pleasure of having Mrs. Violet Hill come to read stories which relate to our Bible verses. Additionally, Alex Carden, Jolene Garner, Paula Horner, Sharon Knoedler, Judy Scheffler and Joyce Shields

assist in a variety of ways by providing an extra pair of hands in our classrooms and helping our enrichment teachers in the afternoons.

We would love to have even more volunteers for the 2020-2021 school year!

Contact our preschool director, Luci Keeler, today to see how you can become a part of this heart rewarding program! You can e-mail Luci at adventprek@yahoo.com

Editors note: Above is our new proposed logo and we may adopt the slogan to add to it, "Where education, children and the love of Jesus go hand in hand."





SURVEY RESULTS

In light of the virus, Church Council and Worship and Music deferred making any decisions/changes to our fall schedule. However the results of the survey, completed by 70 family units representing a broad spectrum of members, will guide us as we move forward. We hope to continue to make use of online technology and other resources to offer worship in a new way for those unable/unwilling to gather in person. (Many thanks to those who contributed to the music and worship technology fund to help make that

possible.) The survey revealed:

- A substantial majority prefer having Sunday school offered simultaneously during part or all of the service. For those having Sunday school age children, a very strong majority wanted their children to attend part of the service. A small number of responders said children's attending the service was not important to them.
- Of those to whom it applied, 83% would like "to have the opportunity to worship while their children/grandchildren/friend's children attend Sunday school."
- A small but significant number of Advent members wanted children to have the opportunity to conveniently attend BOTH the entirety of worship and Sunday school.
- The previous 9:15 AM Sunday school starting time appears to be nearly ideal. There is some preference and/or acceptability to a slightly later start. Very few would accept or prefer an earlier start.
- 8 AM worshippers expressed very limited flexibility in an earlier worship start time but they expressed quite significant flexibility in moving to a later start time, up to and including 9 AM. Some 8 AM worshippers prefer the present start time. Others prefer a later start time.
- A high degree of preference and acceptability for the 10:30 AM service time to remain unchanged was expressed. A later start was widely rejected. However, a substantial number of later service attendees would accept and some would prefer to move this service to an earlier time, up to and including 9 AM.
- Thirteen respondents indicated interest in Sunday adult education but they also noted time constraints, schedule conflicts and varying content desires.
- Thirty-nine positive comments and helpful suggestions regarding our online worship practices were expressed.

May God give us the discernment to know when/how to move forward for the future of Advent's mission, regardless of personal preferences.

NOW MORE THAN EVER, ADVENT IS A SIGHT FOR EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS. THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE CONFIRMED/BEING PLANNED/DISCUSSED

- Paver Waiting Area, river rock replacement next to courtyard sidewalk. Work is scheduled to begin in August.
- Playground drainage Project.
- Repainting and Waterproofing 352 side of Christian Education Rooms
- Addressing drainage/erosion issues, far south side of Parish House Property
- Installing raised stone edging around flower beds/creating clearly defined pathways for sanctuary and Christian Education wing Emergency Exits
- Constructing small roofs over social hall parking lot exits.



Your donations to the memorial fund or capital improvement fund will help provide necessary funding.

CARE & CONNECTIONS TEAM CELEBRATES THE MEANING OF HOPEFULNESS

Optimism, sanguineness, and promise are just some of the many ways to describe HOPEFULNESS. A sign on the highway last week read: Stay healthy, stay strong, stay positive!

We should all have confidence and HOPE for a great future at Advent. Below are some of the many ways the CCT has reached out to our community recently to provide HOPE.

- A blood drive held on June 27th, with 13 Advent members participating, resulted in 32 units of blood collected which were sent to area hospitals, and giving HOPE to many seriously ill patients.
- Christmas in July to benefit North Star was held July 19th. An email blast will summarize just how generous Advent members were. North Star provides HOPE to single parents and helps them achieve self sufficiency and financial independence.
- CCT members continue to send cards and make phone calls to our shut-ins to encourage them to remain HOPEFUL at this challenging time.

All are welcome to join the CCT. We would love to hear your ideas of ways to celebrate HOPEFULNESS in our faith community. Stay positive everyone!

PASTOR'S LETTER

How are you doing? As I write this, the Coronavirus is again raging, especially in certain parts of the country. Having just attended the third of three two-hour-plus meetings as part of WCASD's reopening task force, I wonder where things will stand by the time you read this. I wonder what September will look like at Advent?

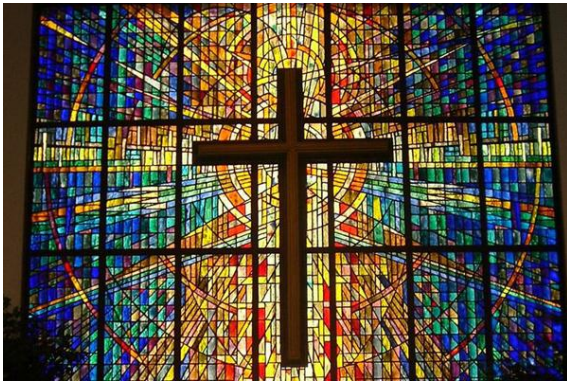
The virus and the resulting social distancing have caused just about everyone increased stress and anxiety, along with disappointments, frustration and uncertainties -except maybe for those who have gone on living their lives as if nothing has changed. But at what cost to society? And so much is still out of their control and our control based on how society decides to/is able to respond to this virus.

Our present situation made me think about the five stages of grief, as identified by Elisabeth Kubler Ross and David Kessler. Originally these were defined as stages following the loss of a loved one or the diagnosis of having a terminal illness. Later, they were applied more broadly following any loss. Certainly, this virus has resulted in loss. Ross and Kessler defined the stages as: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. The stages can serve as tools to help us frame, identify and reflect on the sense of loss we may be feeling. Some do not experience these stages in a linear fashion and some do not experience all of the stages. Others suggest experiencing different stages multiple times. Still others suggest including other categories such as "testing" and "hope."



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Which stages have you experienced as a result of this virus? Where are you now? Maybe the virus led you to your knees in prayer. Maybe it caused you to view life differently, realizing how much we tend to take everyday blessings for granted. Or maybe it has caused you to be angry at God or other people. Certainly, many have deeply missed gathering at Advent for worship or are left disappointed, being able to only gather in a very different way. Yet, there have been

many new connections made through online worship. I met a family in the parking lot that seemed to know me (despite never meeting before) through our YouTube services and they said they hoped to join us some Sunday. Unfortunately, so many of our connections with each other as the body of Christ at Advent have suffered these last few months.

Yet, regardless of how we find ways to gather: in person, online, through notes, through phone calls, we remain part of the body of Christ. God be with you until we meet again.

Pastor Chris

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thanks to the continued generous offerings of Advent members online and through the mail, along with the B4/After school program's annual \$5,000 donation in June, for the first six months of 2020, Advent has had a small surplus. Paying only mortgage interest for the months of May and June along with reduced expenses helped our financial position and helped to offset a sharp drop in building usage donations. Member offering through June was slightly lower than last year. We must resume paying our entire mortgage in August and cash flow often is tight over the summer, so please continue your generosity. We also face the prospects of having to replace the Sanctuary and Christian education wing roof in the not too distant future. Your contributions toward the capital improvement fund and/or roof fund are greatly appreciated. Together we can assure we have a church to come back to! In the meantime, we are thankful that some have returned to in-person worship and the gift of technology has helped preserve connections

*Thank
You*