

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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August 4, 2014

Dear Pastor and members of Tewe Parish,

Greetings in the name of our Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ! I and the members of Advent Lutheran Church of West Chester are very excited that we are companion congregations. You already are in our prayers and we hope that we are in your prayers. Some of our members now say “AMIN” rather than “AMEN” during worship and our children always do this at the end of the children’s sermon when I pray with them.

We will be sending you some pictures from our Sunday worship services from the date our partnership was recognized earlier this year. In September, our Sunday school children will be making cards for your children and we will be including their pictures when we forward them to you. I will be teaching our Sunday school children a fact about Tanzania and/or your Tewe parish every week at the start of Sunday school which begins again September 7 with an opening rally. At the rally, we will be celebrating God’s Good Creation with special guests from the Philadelphia Zoo. I am hopeful the Zoo will be able to bring an animal that is found in Tanzania! Later this year, we will be having a prayer vigil where we pray for your church and your members for 24 hours. Could you please let us know some of the prayer concerns you have? Also, we would like to have some recipes of some dishes that are popular in Tanzania for our members and for “Pot Luck Suppers” at Advent.

It has been a very good summer of ministry at Advent. We celebrated the Confirmation of 14 of our youth on Pentecost Sunday. (That was one of our largest classes in many years. I have found pictures from a Confirmation Celebration at Tewe Parish on your synod’s web page from a few years ago which I shared with the congregation. We were impressed with how many youth were confirmed in your parish!)

Also, this summer a group of 22 youth and adults from Advent went on a mission trip to the Appalachia region of the state of West Virginia to rebuild homes. We had a wonderful week of vacation Bible school with 42 four year old through eleven year old children. Many of our teenagers helped serve as staff members. We also had a fun youth retreat to Wildwood, NY with 25 youth and 5 adults. I will send you a picture that shows our youth celebrating Holy Communion on Sunset Beach.

In September, many ministries at Advent that take a summer break will start up again, including our Bible study groups, Confirmation Class, Youth Group, Quilters Group, Choirs and daily Christian Preschool. I also have lots of meetings with ministry groups and will include Tewe parish in my prayers at each of those meetings. In October, about 4,000 Pumpkins will come to Advent from the state of New Mexico from an American Indian Reservation. We will be selling them to the community to raise funds, mainly for the 2015 ELCA Youth Assembly in Detroit, Michigan. At the end of October, a group of our children will celebrate their First Holy Communion.

Again, many greetings and thanks for being our companion congregation in Tanzania. May God continue to bless us all.

Yours in Christ,

Christopher J. Franz, Pastor

PS. I will be sharing this letter with my congregation!