

ADVENT NEWS

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Lent and Giving Up...

At this writing we are entering the holy and penitential season of Lent. From Ash Wednesday to Easter are forty days (not counting Sundays) of repentance and preparation for the joy of Easter. For some, this may involve the act of giving up something so that daily, or many times through the day, they remind themselves of Christ's suffering, death, and ultimately His resurrection. Their giving up something should help them focus on Christ who gave up his life to pay the penalty for all of our sins. It might be giving up chocolate or some other pleasure that helps one remember the suffering of Christ. With this is also remembered the grace and mercy shown by God and the faith given to trust in Christ, freely repent of sins and receive forgiveness. The Lutheran church does not hold to the mandatory giving up of things or fasting during lent, but views doing so as within the freedom we have in Christ. We may personally do or not do this, and we should not look down on those that do or don't so as not to create a law either way. But, we are called to repent.

The first of Luther's Ninety-Five theses states, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said 'Repent' (Matt. 4:17), he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." To Lutherans, repentance is part of our very existence as God's children and it is brought into greater focus as we observe and remember the passion and suffering of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in the season of Lent. We see His humiliation in His incarnation and humble birth where He took on the form of our humanness and laid aside the glory and power that was His in heaven. He chose not to use it to save Himself but to glorify His Father in heaven. This glorification took place on the cross where, as eternal God, He gave up His life, defeating the power of the devil, so that we could have life eternally with Him through the power of His resurrection. This is by no power of our own. God sent His Son to have the sins of all men placed on Him. God's perfect law in the Ten Commandments shows us our sins and our total depravity and the gospel, the good news, shows us Christ who has taken the punishment we truly deserve. With faith in Christ and the atonement He has made for our sin, we are penitent and contrite about our sins and trust in the mercy and grace given to us in the forgiveness of our sins. The absolution we receive in the name of Christ Jesus.

On Ash Wednesday, as we begin Lent, you may have ashes placed on your forehead before the start of the service. The ashes are in remembrance that we are only dust and will return to dust. And, the sign of the cross they are applied in is a remembrance of our being made alive with Christ in our baptism, where our sins are forgiven, and we are given eternal life through the power of His resurrection. On the Last Day our dust will be gathered up again and our bodies given eternal life with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As Luther reminds us, our entire life as believers, is to be one of repentance. A life where we daily, with a contrite heart, confess our sins to God and have faith in the forgiveness God has freely given us through His Son. This gift of forgiveness, along with the gift of faith to believe it, allows us to be free to give up the one thing that Jesus tells us we must give up... "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it." (Luke 24:5) As Christians, through the gift of faith in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, we give up our entire lives to Christ, not just a piece of our lives for forty days, and He saves our lives and makes them eternal.

A blessed Season of Lent to all of you!

In Christ,
Pastor Grady

Lent/Spring 2018



"To Lutherans, repentance is part of our very existence as God's children..."

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Advent School

Thank you, Advent for welcoming our school children and their families on Sunday, January 21st for the opening of National Lutheran Schools Week. The students were enthusiastic about being a part of our worship service. Right after Lutheran Schools week, **on Monday, January 29th we open registration for the 2018-19 school year** to the general public. Please pass on brochures and registration forms (narthex table and just outside school office) to anyone you know who is interested in enrolling for next fall. To schedule a tour or get more information, they may contact me by phone (317-873-6318) or email (dtrewartha@adventlutheran.org).

In February, there is another opportunity to hear the school children's sweet voices as they provide a short "concert" at the opening of our **Annual Valentine Dinner on Saturday, February 10th**. Invitations/reservation forms went in hymnal boxes a few weeks ago, but if you have misplaced yours, there are extras by the red reservation collection boxes in the narthex and credenza outside Fellowship Hall. We have another wonderful dinner planned, so please plan to attend. There are also organized activities and dinner for children on the lower level while adults are enjoying dinner in Fellowship Hall. ***Anyone interested in helping with the children, please let us know. (In the past some of our High Schoolers have volunteered.)*** Other than our ongoing Scrip Card program, the Valentine Dinner is our fundraiser for the year, so all proceeds from the freewill offerings benefit the school.



Youth Music

Thank you, Confirmation and High School youth for providing the anthem for our services on January 21st. It is always wonderful to have our youth actively participate in worship services with voice and instrument! Since we were commemorating Lutheran Schools Week, it was especially appropriate to have our Advent youth participating. (Many are also alumni of our school!)

*The younger children will be preparing in the coming weeks to sing the **Palm Sunday processional** (March 25th)

Deb Trewartha
School Director
Assistant Director, Music

"...the Valentine Dinner is our fundraiser for the year, so all proceeds from the freewill offerings benefit the school."

From the Chairman

I hope all of you had a blessed Christmas as we celebrated Christ's birth.

I would like to take the opportunity to discuss with you a couple of items that could use fund raising support: Creating new altar paraments and repairing our hail damaged roof.

New Altar Paraments

We at Advent have been blessed to have beautiful paraments that; cover the altar; hang behind and on the pulpit and lectern; and are the veil over the chalice and paten that sit on the altar for the Lord's Supper. Time has taken its toll on them in the form of both wear and fading that has made the colors loose much of their original vibrancy.

Chris Colson, who designed the altar furnishing more than 25 years ago, has worked with Pastor Fiene and a seamstress to design and create new paraments that will edify our worship visually and glorify God for many years to come as we gather around His Word and Sacraments. These will be of a different style for the altar, more fitted without material flowing around the altar onto the floor. They will also allow for the base of the altar to be seen. Also, the wood hardware used to hang the banners will be replaced with wrought iron, better matching the other fixtures in the sanctuary.

We have a few thousand dollars in gifted funds in a dedicated account that are being used to help purchase the six sets of needed paraments in colors of gold, white, violet, green, red, and black. The cost of all the materials and labor is \$13,500 or \$2300 per set. A set consists of approximately ten different pieces. If you would like to make a donation to help with part or all of the cost of a set of paraments, you will find special envelopes on the round table in the narthex. If you are making a memorial contribution, please note that as well. While we do not have the practice of labeling and placing plaques on memorialized furnishing or other items, we will list the memorial contributions (not dollar amounts) in printed announcements when the paraments are dedicated for use. We will also record the memorial contributions in the church records.

The new paraments will freshen the sanctuary, chancel, and altar, pointing all who worship at Advent, for the next twenty plus years, to the honor, glory and praise given to our Lord for His abundant grace shown to us. We hope to be able to dedicate and begin using the new paraments at some point during the season of Lent.

Roof Repair

As many of you may already know, our roof received major hail damage on April 26, 2017. A claim was filed and after several reviews by adjustors, contractors and structural engineers, it was determined that roughly 50% needs repair. Damage was primarily sustained on the west and South slopes. The roof is approximately 20 years old, so we will

From the Chairman (continued)

need to replace even the undamaged shingles sometime soon regardless. So for those who desire to look at this glass as half full, God is providing us a new roof for ½ the cost. From the glass half empty perspective; one can't help but recognize a complete roof replacement requires a substantial outlay in addition to the insurance settlement.

Here are the numbers:



Full roof replacement: \$128,565

Insurance settlement: \$ 59,747

Out of pocket expense: \$ 68,817 (if we choose to replace the whole roof)

This seems like a lot of money if you compare it to what it would take to replace your roof at home. Keep in mind, though, that the square footage is roughly 10 times greater. The council will need to decide in March whether to replace the entire roof or only half. Matching shingles can be challenging, so we will need to look at adjoining faces as one unit if we don't replace everything. We will be assessing our remaining budget, cash reserves, and any fund raising contributions before making a final decision.

As stated earlier, if you would like to contribute to either one or both of these projects, there are special envelopes in the Narthex area. Thanks for your prayerful consideration.

God's Blessings!

Chuck Long, Advent Chairman

Board of Education

Lutherwood Thanks You

Thank you for your contributions to the Giving tree project again this year. The gifts benefited the children at Lutherwood and were very appreciated. Thank you Cathy Middaugh for heading up the project this year and Shelley Kazmierczak for getting the tree up and decorated with tags.

Sunday School News

Thank you, Advent children who participated in this year's Christmas program. Thank you, Deb Trewartha for leading the program along with the Sunday school teachers who helped.

Now that the winter weather is upon us and some Sunday's the weather can be brutal with cold weather, ice, and snow, the Sunday

Board of Education (continued)

school teachers would like to thank the parents of the Sunday school children for getting your children to services and Sunday school each week. We know some of you travel great distances and very much appreciate your efforts.

On behalf of Bud and Pauline Kurtz, Thank you for your participation in the Sunday school offering project and item donations to help those in need who have recently entered our country as refugees.

The Board of Education is still in need extra teachers for kindergarten to 2nd grade. Please volunteer and help us out. Please see any BOE member if you can assist in any way.

Jim Kranich

Vacation Bible School

Please save the date, **June 25 -28**, Monday—Thursday, **four days of FUN!** Hands on bible stories, music, games, crafts, and themed snacks. Look for more information in the coming months.

The VBS committee is looking for many volunteers to help make this years VBS a learning experience, fun, and lots of excitement. Please contact Catherine Casciani or Jim Kranich.



Lutheran Women's Missionary League



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) faithfully supports the work of the LCMS through Mission Grants, which are funded in part through contributions collected in the familiar **mite boxes**.

Their 2017-2019 Mission Goal is \$2,075,000. As of January, 2018, \$100K has been disbursed to Mercy House for Women and Children in Flint, Michigan to purchase a residence to house homeless, pregnant or abused women and children. Funds from the grant will help to renovate, refurbish, and furnish the residence. This grant attempts to help break the cycle of poverty and decreases the potential for abuse by housing women and children in a safe, caring and Christian environment. To learn more about the LWML, visit their website at www.lwml.org/mission-grants.

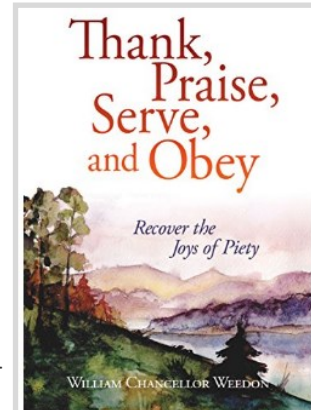
The Board of Education is still in need of additional teachers for kindergarten to 2nd grade.

Book of the Month

To promote the Advent church library the Board of Education is pleased to present this month's Book of the Month "Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety" by William Weedon

About the book

Piety has fallen on hard times. Some associate it with its evil twin, pietism, and reject piety based on the incorrect assumption that the two are one and the same. Pietism is inwardly focused, obsessed with carefully following spiritual to-do lists and rules. Piety, rather, fights against that inward focus, turning our attention out toward God and His promises and toward our neighbor in love and care. Piety is simply the cultivation of godly habits—habits that befit the household of God, the family of our heavenly Father. In *Thank, Praise, Serve, and Obey: Recover the Joys of Piety*, Martin Luther's small catechism and the Book of Concord serve as our trusty roadmaps as we explore how to properly hear in the Scriptures our heavenly Father summoning us to the joy and freedom of living and growing as His beloved children through Jesus Christ.



About the author

Rev. William Weedon is Director of Worship for Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Chaplain of the International Center of the LCMS, host of KFUD radio's Thy Strong Word daily Bible study, and an author.

The book can be found for your review on the table in Fellowship Hall. If after reviewing you would like to have a copy of your own, there is a signup sheet next to the book. You may also find the book in the church library to check out next month.

Pastor Fiene returns

For those of you who have been following Pastor and Solvig Fiene on their Facebook account, they have had quite a time with their new vehicular acquisition, which they have affectionately named "Bill" after Pastor's father. Be sure to ask them about their exploits across and around America, visiting Lutheran churches and missions, when they return to the congregation during Holy Week.



Advent's Lenten Calendar

See sign-up sheets
in Fellowship Hall to
volunteer!

Ash Wednesday —Feb. 14	7:00 p.m.**
Sunday Services	8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Feb. 18, 25; Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25	
Midweek Lenten Services	7:00 p.m.**
Feb. 14, 21, 28; Mar. 7, 14, 21	
Maunday Thursday —Mar. 29	7:00 p.m.
Good Friday —Mar. 30	7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday —April 1	8:00 a.m.
<i>Easter Breakfast</i>	9:30-10:30 a.m.
<i>Easter Egg Hunt</i>	10:00 a.m.



preceded by Advent's traditional **Midweek Lenten Dinners at 5:30 p.m. See sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall to volunteer!

Post on your bulletin board as a reminder!

