

ADVENT ✠ NEWS

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD



As we now enter the summer rush, that time when we try to get every little last thing done before school starts... oh... wait it already has. Ok, that time when we get our last few days of vacation time used while... oh... wait, that is gone too. No... wait... I've got it. It's the time when the whole family still has one day off during the week on Sundays and it means we... _____. (You can fill in the blank).

I am truly thankful that Advent is blessed with many faithful members for whom Sundays mean... we gather together to hear God's

Word and receive forgiveness for our sins. It is a beautiful thing to partake of the eternal richness of God. I say eternal to point out the brevity of every single thing we seek pleasure and joy from as we go about our daily lives. We rightly understand that vacations and other leisure activity is a gift from God, and he wants us to enjoy our time with family and friends. But he also wants us to draw near to Him and call on Him, and not just in times of trouble or distress. God desires a pattern and rhythm of worship that brings us regularly to Him to receive what he has to offer.

I visit my Keurig machine every morning... possibly some of you visit Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts to receive what is offered there. I will say... it makes my day better (better for those around me too). However, that ritual or any other cannot give me what God gives through regular communion with Him. The gift he gives is faith in Christ, salvation from sins, and eternal life.

I have pointed out before that as Christians we are actually living that eternal life now... we are in a state of now and not quite yet. Having been brought from death to life through baptism, we are no longer dead in our sin and unbelief, but have been given faith in Christ, a faith that can fear, love, and trust God. As we gather in the Divine Service to confess our sins, receive forgiveness, and the very body and blood of the risen Christ, there is no closer place on earth to heaven and the joy that waits there.

Let that soak in for a moment. We can seek happiness and contentment in any and all matter of locations and activities, but God chooses to come close and touch us through the means he has given. It is Word, water, bread, and wine all in the place he has set apart for that to happen -

Summer, 2018

“God desires a pattern and rhythm of worship that brings us regularly to Him to receive what he has to offer.”

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From the Pastor (continued)

the body of His Church. Perhaps it is too simple... too available, and we can easily come to the point that we take it for granted. It will always be there next week, next month, or at Christmas and Easter. God so richly gives to us and we can barely see and comprehend what takes place. If we could visually see it, we would never leave or long for anything else! Or, perhaps, like many who saw Jesus face to face, we would desire it for all the wrong reasons. They simply wanted the earthly kingdom of glory to come with richness, power, and physical fulfillment of their fleshly desires; not seeing the eternal life given through faith in Jesus and the receiving of His body and blood. Many turned away at this difficult teaching and they still do today. But Peter rightly and succinctly answered the question Jesus posed to the twelve in John 6:67 "Do you want to go away as well?" Peter answers... "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

In John's Gospel all of the people referenced stood before the incarnate, living, and breathing Christ and many did not believe. Near the end of John's Gospel he tells of Thomas and his need to see the risen Christ in order to believe. When Jesus appears before his eyes he speaks to Thomas. "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

I give thanks to God that you come... you hear the Words of Christ, receive forgiveness, and receive His Sacrament, in faith seeing what is unseen and its eternal glory... that you see Christ. I give thanks to God that he has blessed you with that gift of faith.

Amen.

Pastor Grady



Adult Bible Study

Wake up your mid-week morning! Advent's **Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study** class will recommence starting Wednesday, September 5th. It will be held in the Advent Library from tarding 9:30—11:00 a.m. **JOIN US!**

"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

John 20:29

Advent School



Revving up for 2018-19 School Year!

Orientation Night is Wednesday, August 29th from 6-8 p.m., with classes starting right after Labor Day (Tuesday, September 4th).

All of our 3's and 4's classes have filled, with waiting lists to open another class for each age. There are a few openings left for Kindergarten, Mom's Morning Out classes and EXPLORE. If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling for the fall, please contact me soon. Brochures and registration forms are available on the table just outside the school office (across from Fellowship Hall).

We are fully staffed except for a Teacher's Aide to assist with a Pre-K class on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me ASAP. Phone: 317-873-6318. Email: dtrewartha@adventlutheran.org.

Deb Trewartha
School Director

Vacation Bible School

Advent's theme for VBS this summer was "The River of Life" where we led 84 children through the Bible stories of Creation, The Flood, The parting of The Red Sea and Baptism. It was four days of high energy and fun hearing God's word, singing, making crafts, eating snacks and playing games.

Pastor Grady and Deb Trewartha led our program each morning and we sincerely thank them! We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following volunteers that helped in every way possible to make VBS a success: Sandra R., Bethany J., Stephanie H., Celia and Izzy C., Bud and Pauline K., Becky B., Katie K., Sarah W., Allie and Lauren H., Halle V., Katie K., Amanda, Mary and Jacob M., Kari P., Tierney and Koen W., Rebecca M., Natalie G., Whitney L., Dorothy G., Kay L. and Anne M.

If we have forgotten any of the wonderful people who showed up last minute to volunteer, please forgive us and know we thank you sincerely in our hearts!

Catherine Casciani and Jim Kranich



Board of Missions

International Missions

Advent's Board of Missions will be welcoming Rev. Dr. David Preus and his family the weekend of Sunday, September 9th. Rev Preus is a missionary and seminary professor in the Dominican Republic. Advent has been supporting him for the past few years and will continue to do so with your gifts marked for his mission during the coming year. Please join us on September 9th when Rev. Preus will be our guest preacher and be updating us on his work in the Dominican Republic.

English District Mission Projects

The English District has begun a new mission funding program called 1.1.1. The intent is to harness the power of simple \$1 donations by encouraging each baptized member of the district to donate \$1 per week toward English District mission projects. Two new mission projects, one national and one international, will be selected each year to receive funding.

This year the missions are:

- **Concordia Lutheran Mission in Lebanon, PA.**—\$25,000 is needed to fully fund this new mission congregation.
- Our current international mission is **Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission** in Santiago, Dominican Republic. \$30,000 is needed to fully fund this mission of which our English District is a managing partner.

One of the goals of this program is to have the entire body of Christ participating together in support of the church's outreach. Another is to develop a pattern of regular mission-minded stewardship.

Beginning September 9th, simple \$1 donations per member can be left in one of two drop boxes located in the narthex and in fellowship hall. The Sunday School will be participating in this and their offerings will go to the 1.1.1. program as well. You are welcome to put your entire family's \$1 donations there.

Local Missions

The Board of Missions is seeking to develop an ongoing level of mission work with Lutheran Child and Family Services. They offer many types of assistance to those in the local community. The goal in this endeavor is to have some outlet for members of Advent to participate in local mission work vs all of our efforts being made in faraway places, where we often seem to have little contact with those we are supporting. It may be there are opportunities for groups or families from our congregation to assist their mission work directly and in person. We hope to have more information soon.

Board of Missions



Sunday, September 9th—SAVE the DATE

Advent 's Rally Day for Sunday School and annual Church Picnic will be held Sunday, September 9th—the same day that our guest, Rev. Dr. David Preus, will be visiting to update us on the progress being made at the mission in the Dominican Republic.

Rally Day

Sunday School students will begin a new season of Bible study class on September 9th. We ask that children first gather together in the Advent Library, where they will meet their teachers and be led to their classrooms.

Annual Church Picnic

Watch for sign-up sheets to appear soon in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall. Advent will provide an exciting meat entrée for everyone to enjoy, but we're counting on help with sides and desserts.



More details will be shared in Advent Announcements once they become available!

Book of the Month

Echo: Unbroken Truth. Repeated. Again.

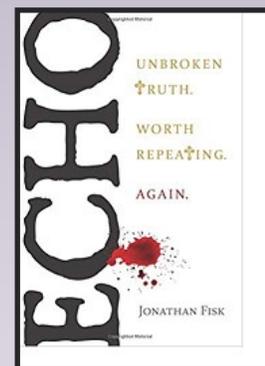
by Jonathon Fisk

Christianity is not the ability to memorize or recite from books of Scripture or doctrine. It is not magic. It is not social club, counseling group, or self-help support group. It does not promise that you will be healthy, wealthy, wise, or even happy.

Christianity is a truth—a truth first heard at the beginning of time that has echoed to this present age. A truth so profound that no man can master it, yet even a child can learn it.

Jonathan Fisk introduces his readers to that truth. He lays it out as simply as a child counts to ten on his fingers. Yet, training to hear the Echo, the reader will come to understand the wisdom that Fisk imparts is bottomless.

Fisk teaches nothing less than the distilled, unbreakable Christian Echo, the very thing which has radically changed humanity in every nation and tongue that it has ever been repeated. It the most astoundingly complete description of what life is and why it is worth living. And it's worth repeating. Again.



From the Chairman

“As we enter round two of the calling process, we can have confidence that God will lead us, but it will require a certain amount of patience on our part.”

Anxious for spring

I was driving into work today, the start of a new week. It was rainy with low, gloomy clouds; so much different than the sun shine on Saturday. It made me think of Advent. So much sunshine has come our way the last 25 years. Now we are feeling gloomy with our faithful Pastor Fiene retiring.

I think we need to look at the rain as healthy for Advent. The watering will prepare us for a renewal that comes with spring. It will be an exciting time as Advent enters the next phase of its history. Reading Psalm 27 is helpful in carrying us through this transition period:

¹³ I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

As we enter round two of the calling process, we can have confidence that God will lead us, but it will require a certain amount of patience on our part. The Call Committee has already reconvened to look at a fresh list of Pastors. This includes new and previous names from the Synod as well as suggestions from our own congregational members. I have participated in two of their meetings and they earnestly desire to provide the congregation a very well qualified list of Pastors to choose from.

Advent will move forward as quickly as possible, but tempered by the need to let God work through this process to provide the right Pastor.

Please pray for Pastor Grady with the extra burden he must carry and for Monte Weimer and the call committee as they down select to a manageable list of candidates for the congregation. Hopefully this 2nd Voter's meeting will occur in October.

God's Blessings!
Chuck Long, Advent Chairman

Wait
WAIT FOR THE
LORD;
BE STRONG AND
TAKE HEART
AND WAIT
FOR THE
LORD.



Psalm 27:14

Giving Statements

Watch your hymnal boxes for your six month giving statements. If you have any questions, please e-mail the office and your inquiry will be forwarded to Advent's Financial Secretary. Thank you!

E-mail: info@adventlutheran.org.