

ADVENT ✠ NEWS

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

Dear Advent:

A parable. A man owned a restaurant. He served only the healthiest and tastiest of foods. It was acknowledged by all of his customers that the restaurant was unique, precious to them, a place where, if they were ever to eat out, that restaurant would be the place.

Soon, however, other things began to distract the customers. Life's pressing demands came to be so great that they only had time to eat meals at home. On the road so much and with so little time, they began to eat fast food. Some found that they didn't even have the time to eat at all.

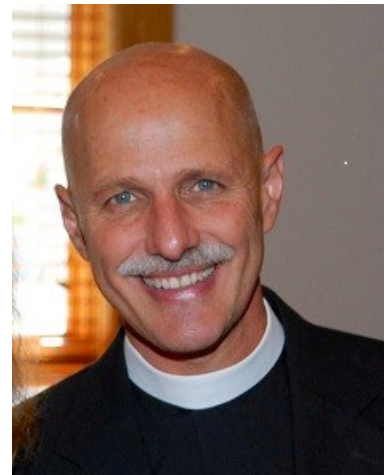
Since every restaurant relies upon new customers and walk-ins, the absence of those faithful customers began to create a new set of problems for the restaurant owner. When people walked by and they only saw a few people at the tables, they assumed that this was an indication of the quality of food, so they passed on by. In addition, the hard work that the owner put into his food preparation and the care with which he made his creative presentations seemed to be waste of his time, at least, that is how he felt. Perhaps his hurt feelings made him doubt whether the extra effort was worth it.

It did not take long before the restaurant owner felt that creating wonderful food for his customers was no longer needed, so he closed his shop. Soon thereafter the customers stood in disbelief at the door of the closed restaurant. Admittedly, they had not been there very often lately, but where did the owner go? They most certainly loved his food, when they had time to eat it. Now the food was no longer available. All that was available was the fast food down the street, on the way to the next best thing.

Does this parable need to be explained? During my absence from January to mid-March, the attendance at Advent dropped more than 500 people from the year before. It must have been the weather! I am nothing, Christ is everything. I will be gone, but Christ will always be here. Advent is a congregation with liturgical tables of linen and fine china. The wine of the Word is exquisite. The entree of divine forgiveness is sumptuous. The desert of joyful music and song tantalizes the palate of the soul.

What we don't realize, I think, is that each of us has a confession to make, for the sake of our Lord who owns the restaurant and offers us such wonderful food. What do people think when they come to a house of worship and half the congregation is eating elsewhere that day? It is good that we

May/June, 2018



In This Issue

- Message from Pastor Fiene
- Vacation Bible School
- Summer Sunday School
- Congregation Chairman
- Special Events May 20
- Assistant Pastor Grady
- Summer Schedule
- School News

From the Pastor (continued)

would all choose this place to eat above all others. It is also good that we so greatly appreciate the fine food and drink. But eating at home? Eating fast food while we are on the run to those “other commitments?” Would we be disappointed if the restaurant were closed?

Please make your retiring waiter a happy waiter. Don't let this restaurant be half full. Your presence is vital in making others understand the greatness of the meals that are being served here. Don't let your attendance become an act of obligation, but an act of appreciation. Focus upon the sumptuous food and drink offered here so that you cannot wait to return. And please, don't starve yourself. Fill the restaurant every single Sunday with tables of saints, eating and drinking with the mirth and laughter and joy of the Holy Spirit, consuming in heart and mind and soul the wonderful meal that the Lord has prepared for you.

Pastor Fiene
Luke 14:15-23

Special Guest Speaker—May 20th

Pastor Stephen Preus (Solveig Fiene's nephew) will speak on Johannes Bugenhagen who was Martin Luther's pastor and confessor in Wittenberg, Germany. Bugenhagen helped Luther with his translation of the Bible into German, opened the debate on Zwingli's reforms, became one of the first Protestant doctors of theology, and was the most important figure in the Reformation in northern Germany and Scandinavia. Please be sure to attend his class.

ALSO ON MAY 20: GERMAN DINNER & SILENT AUCTION (SEE PG. 6)

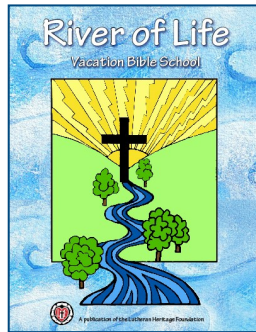
Senior Pastor Call Meeting

All Advent members are invited to attend the Congregational Meeting for the purpose of calling a new senior pastor. The meeting will be held on **MAY 30, WEDNESDAY evening at 7 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall.



“Please make
your retiring waiter
a happy waiter.
Don't let this
restaurant be
half full.”

Vacation Bible School 2018



Register your children, family, neighbors, and friends now for Vacation Bible School. The 2018 theme is River of Life and will cover lessons on Creation, The Flood, The Red Sea, and Jesus' Baptism.

VBS will begin Monday June 25 – Thursday June 28th, 9am to 11:30am, for ages 3 ½ to entering 5th grade.

Registration is \$10 per child or \$20 max per family. Please register by Sunday **June 10th**. Registration forms can be found on the credenza outside the fellowship hall. Please return completed forms with payment to the church office. You can also register for VBS online at our website: www.adventlutheran.org/events/vbs

VBS 2018 Volunteer help needed is also needed to make this years VBS the best ever. This is a big community out-reach program and needs many volunteers. Please, we need your help. **A sign up form can be found on the credenza outside the fellowship hall.** Please contact Catherine Casciani or Jim Kranich if you have questions.

Sunday School

The regular Sunday School year will come to a close on Sunday May 20th. **A huge THANK YOU to our dedicated Sunday School teachers this past year.** Your commitment and love of teaching our youth is immeasurable. Enjoy your time off this summer. Advent is blessed to have you teaching God's word, and His unending grace, love and mercy. Thank You!



Beginning June 3rd the summer schedule will begin and run through Labor Day. This summer, Preschool through 6th grade will be combined into one group, and meet in the library. We are asking for volunteers to sign up to teach this summer, and while all children will participate in the lesson the older kids can also help lend a hand to help the younger ones as needed during the class time. **Please consider signing up for just one Sunday to help teach** (grab your spouse or friend to sign up as co-teacher if you don't want to go it alone). This gives our regular Sunday School teachers a much needed break, and allows them to attend bible study and fellowship. **The signup sheet is in the narthex** and all materials are provided (materials will be in the Sunday School office on the desk).

Assistant Pastor Grady

Have you had a look at Advent's library lately?



Our church Library is undergoing a bit of a makeover and facelift. Over the span of nearly twenty-five years, we have seen many materials placed on the shelves, sometimes in no apparent order. Some items were not related to the needs of the library at all but were stashed VBS or Sunday school materials. Others were no longer useful due to them being physically unfit, worn, etc. The goal of our library should be to connect you, our members, to God's Word through a variety of materials. God's Word is timeless in its salvific application to His people's lives as it proclaims the Law and Gospel. We all realize this whenever we come across an old and tattered bible and cannot simply toss it in the trash. We know its Word is just as valid as the day it was printed even if its outward appearance is tattered. The materials that help us apply biblical truth to our lives, however, can be somewhat dated, just as materials in any field of study can be.

At the start of a recent confirmation class I pulled a copy of the World Book Encyclopedia 1978 Year Book from the shelf in our library and began to recall some of the advances noted during the year I graduated from high school. It spoke of heart valve replacements being done experimentally on dogs. Barcodes and light pens were futuristic. Smoke detectors were now readily available to put into your home at a cost of \$30-\$75 each (replacement batteries from Radio Shack \$14.95... Oh the things I remember). All of these things are still with us; however, heart valves are implanted daily (and in some of you), we have barcodes for everything and read them with our phones, and smoke detectors are available for free and are in just about every structure we enter. Wait... Radio Shack is gone.

Sin is as ubiquitous as the above items in our lives but the way the devil tempts us to sin changes. In 1978 homosexuality was present, but it was taboo, hidden, shameful, and to many unknown. Much the same for divorce. Now we have legal same sex marriages and divorced people outnumber those who remain married to one spouse. Even those that have engaged in same sex marriage are dealing with divorce. These sins, and others that are purposely woven into our culture so as to look normal and right, need to be addressed with our youth and those around us. This fits with our goal of making Advent's library a "go to" source when you wonder how to talk to your kids, friends or neighbors about what God's Word says about these and other things. Things like bullying and the fact that a bully needs their sin exposed in order to repent, receive forgiveness from God and the

The goal of our library should be to connect you, our members, to God's Word through a variety of materials.

Pastor Grady *(continued)*

strength to change. Better yet, simply learn to flee from unrighteous and sinful behavior in the first place.

Soon, thanks to a generous donation of time and talent by a real Lutheran librarian, you will see greater organization and new materials that will hopefully help you to apply God's never changing Word to our seemingly everchanging world and the complexities within it that tempt us all to turn from Christ and sin.

Advent's Board of Education has approved this effort and has attempted to showcase new books by placing selections on the credenza near the kitchen and preschool office. There is a sheet where orders can be placed for these materials. The books themselves will soon find their way into our freshly organized church library and hopefully in to some individual libraries as well.

We will be developing a "wish list" of books and materials we would like to have so that those so inclined can donate new materials. The hope is for our library to become the place for families to turn to for current and relevant Christian materials with solid Lutheran messages about God's grace, mercy and hope for His people... that's you by the way.

Pastor Jim Grady



Summer services:
Sundays at 9 a.m.
and 2nd
Saturdays of the
summer months
at 5 p.m.

Advent Church will change to its summer service schedule beginning **Saturday, May 26, with service at 5 p.m.**, and a single service on Sunday, May 25 through Labor Day weekend, at 9:00 a.m. **All summer services will offer communion.**

In addition, on the second Saturday evening of each month we will hold a service at 5 p.m. This is to accommodate the busy lives of members who may have vacations, sporting events or family activities during the warm summer months.

Please put the following Saturday dates on your calendar in case it is more convenient for you to attend those evenings.

May 26 (Memorial Weekend)

July 14

June 9

August 11

Special Events at Advent on May 20!

Please mark your calendars for May 20 -- a big day to celebrate our Lutheran Heritage as a congregation! Events will include:

German Dinner after Late Service

Join in celebrating our German heritage of faith by enjoying authentic German food prepared by our own **Dan and Janet Rusyniak**. Menu items include: Bratwurst, German potato salad, sauerkraut, red cabbage, desserts, wine & beer!

A free will offering will support the fundraising effort for Youth Scholarships to cover a portion of the travel expenses for our high school youth going on June's Heritage Tour. Tour participants will share with the congregation special choral music they have been preparing for the trip. The dinner also serves as an important time of fellowship in the life of our congregation, bringing us together soon before we meet to prayerfully call our next pastor.

Silent Auction

To benefit the Heritage Tour Youth Scholarships

On May 20, we also will be accepting written bids for silent auction items on display. Winners will be announced as dining wraps up at the German Dinner. **Gift certificates** to be auctioned include: Brookshire Golf Club, Bub's Burgers, Carmel Symphony Orchestra, Colts tickets, Holiday World amusement park, Hoosier Heights indoor climbing wall park, IU/Purdue football with prime parking at IU, K1 Speed electric go-kart racing, mindfulness stress-reduction session, Stony Creek swim lessons, Tina's Traditional Tearoom high tea, and UPaint Pottery Studio activity.

Items to be auctioned include:

Brookshire Golf: Foursome of golf with cart
Hoosier Heights: 1-day indoor climbing wall park passes
Carmel Symphony Orchestra: 2 symphony tickets
Holiday World: 2 1-day amusement park passes
Sprint Cup Team Owners' Championship leather jacket
1 Hour Flight Lesson
Intro Flight & Lunch at Rick's Café Boatyard
Wall art
Fresh floral arrangement
Tina's Traditional Tearoom: high tea for two
U-Paint Pottery Studio: gift certificate
Pine2Posh: Creative Pallet Art Workshop for 2

Please bring your checkbooks and be thinking about which items your family might be able to use or give as gifts!

School News

We are coming up on the close of our 2017-18 school year--last day is May 24th. Once again our Lord has blessed us with a wonderful year! Enrollment for next fall is going well too. Some classes have filled, but we have a few openings in each grade level—Mom's Morning Out for 2 year olds (M/T/W or F mornings), M/W morning 3's, M/W/F afternoon 4's, T/ the afternoon EXPLORE and daily morning kindergarten. If you or someone you know is interested in enrolling, **please contact me soon to secure a spot.**

We will need a new T/Th 3's teacher and a couple of part time aides in the fall. So again, if you or someone you know is interested in joining our school staff, please contact me.

Many of the Valentine Dinner attendees have requested that I publish the recipe for the Tortellini Soup. The recipe is originally from Tina Weimer (giving credit where credit is due). Here is the recipe...

Valentine Dinner Tortellini Soup

1 pkg. Refrigerated cheese tortellini
2 cans Italian diced tomatoes
8 oz. Cream cheese
32 oz. Chicken (or vegetable) broth
1 lb. Browned Italian sausage (optional)
1 bunch Baby spinach

Put all ingredients except tortellini in crock pot 4-5 hours on low. Add tortellini during the last hour.... ENJOY!

Harp, anyone?

Have you ever wished you could play the harp? One is going to be available starting this summer, to keep at your home to practice on.

Several years ago Advent was able to purchase a student harp at a very reasonable cost with funds from a music/education scholarship. Since then, one of our confirmands has been using that instrument to practice at home while taking lessons from Advent member and professional harpist and teacher, Stephanie Hall. Already that student has blessed Advent's Sunday worship with her skills. She is now ready to move up to a bigger instrument, and Advent's student harp will again become available for yet another person to try—of any age. If you are interested in giving it a try, please contact Phil Spray or Deb Trewartha.

Advent Preschool
will need a new
3's teacher and 2
aides in the fall on
Tuesdays and
Thursdays.

Advent Roof Repair Update

The Advent Council decided that a full roof replacement is warranted. Although only 43% of the roof is damaged, an additional 22% will need to be replaced due to aesthetic reasons (mismatches of adjoining surfaces). The roof is 18 years old, with a useful life of 25 years. Even if we just replaced the 65%, in another 7 years we would need to replace the remaining 35% at an additional estimated cost of \$20,000 for the extra setup and edging.

The Trustees received 3 independent quotes. They ranged from \$125,035-\$141,869. Additionally, the Trustees met on multiple dates with independent insurance adjusters and on two separate occasions with structural engineers to help guide us through our decisions. Let's compare these quotes to the insurance settlement: \$60,992. That's for 43% of the roof. Scaling that up to 100% comes to \$142,715, slightly higher than the highest quote we received. Another way to look at this is square area. A typical 2,000 square foot ranch home has a roof area 11 times smaller than the roof at Advent.

How much money will the Church need to spend?

- \$128,565 Total roof replacement with 50 year life shingles
- \$ 60,992 Insurance settlement
- \$ 10,810 Special donations from congregational members
- \$ 56,763 Church expense (coming out of the Trustee's existing budget)

Recognizing this is such a large expense, the Trustees have put on hold all non-emergency expenditures for the rest of the Fiscal year (end of June). They will be creating a 5 year plan for future building related expenses that will be brought to our next council meeting as we plan the budget for the upcoming year.

As stated earlier, if you would like to contribute to repairing the roof, there are special envelopes in the Narthex area. Repair work will begin in June after Pre-School lets out for the summer. Our special thanks to the Trustees for the many hours of work involved with the insurance settlement and quoting process.

God's Blessings!

Chuck Long, Advent Chairman