

# ADVENT NEWS

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD



*He said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.”* Mark 16:6-7

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!  
Alleluia! Amen.

The women were alarmed and afraid. Who could blame them? They had witnessed the disturbing events of our Lord’s Passion: betrayal, whipping, scourging, physical exhaustion, dehydration and excruciating capital punishment in the form of Roman crucifixion. Their family member, friend, Master and Lord had experienced all of this and was now stone-cold-buried-in-the-ground dead. But . . .

You have likewise witnessed trauma of varying degrees in your life. Perhaps you are experiencing it now. It leaves an ache, a void, a pain that no words could ever express. And perhaps like the women at the tomb, you hear the precious Good News that Christ is yet alive! But like the women, you are still seized by trembling and astonishment who even after hearing such remarkable hope and joy-filled words . . . said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

I often find that the hardest truth for Christians to accept is that death (physical) and life (spiritual) go together. Pain and pleasure. Sorrow and joy. Sinner and saint. Law and Gospel. Confession and Absolution. Water and the Word. Bread and Body. Wine and Blood.

My mother likes to sing. She would wake us up in the morning with silly songs that she made up on her own. She would sing old radio and TV commercials from her childhood. She would sing hymns and spiritual songs. It was often annoying! But regardless of the current events in a busy and tumultuous household, she found some way to strike a balance. Her faith in Christ was and is her one true joy. And so I now annoy my own children from time to time!

We sinners need balance. We need some way and means of truly dealing and wrapping our head around the events of our life.

Christ is your balance. Silly songs and other such things have their place in our day to day lives, but they are but a result of what and who our faith grasps and hold dear. Ultimately, in the grand scale of death and life, our Savior is the only way to strike a balance and forge a path forward.

Consider Pastor Apostle Paul, who in the introduction of his first letter to the Corinthians says this: **we preach Christ crucified.** That’s all about death, pain, sorrow and sin!  
*(continued, pg. 2)*

April, 2019

*We sinners need balance. We need some way and means of truly dealing and wrapping our head around the events of our life.*

## In This Issue

- Pastor Mackay
- Board of Ed News
- Flood Victims
- Phil Spray
- From the Chairman
- Confirmation 2019
- “Summer” Service Schedule
- Making the Case Conference

## Pastor Mackay *(continued)*

But yet later in the same letter he says: ***if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.*** These are seemingly two completely different things! Death and resurrection. But in Christ, they are one. For you.

***“Our hope comes from God. May He fill you with joy and peace because of your trust in Him. May your hope grow stronger by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*** Romans 15:13

The women at the tomb did not yet grasp this or even possess such a balance. But Jesus keeps His word. He appears to them in Galilee, showing forth His resurrected body and even eating food with them to prove His yet intact divine and human nature. Marvelous!

If this Easter season finds you and your household in a good place, thanks be to God. If this Easter season finds you yet struggling with trembling and astonishment, thanks be to God. For your Lord yet comes to you! This is the heart of our Divine Services, every Sunday morning, where we gather on the weekly day of His resurrection. It is here that He meets us poor sinners. It is here that He brings joy and encouragement. *“I forgive you”* He speaks to you. *“Peace be with you”* He says through the mouth of your pastors. Through His Holy Gospel He comes and even stands among you and speaks to you in our Gospel Processional. *“Take and eat, take and drink”* He says of the bread and wine now also His body and blood . . . for the forgiveness of your sins.

He also continues to go ahead of us, preparing a place in heaven and the resurrection of our very bodies yet to come. So bring your alarm, your fear, your worries and your very sin and gather with others who confess such a simple truth, even in the midst of such a culture that calls such a faith *“folly”* and nonsense. He who was dead is now alive! And so shall it be for us. For He comes to be with us in Word & Sacrament. There you will see Him, just as He told you. Even still today. For you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

Pr. Mackay

P.S. Ponder once more the depth of this simple words sung by our women here at Advent as we began our Easter celebration at the early service in the dark. Marvelous.

### **Christ is Arisen *Christ ist Erstanden* (c. 1100)**

*Christ is arisen from the grave's dark prison.  
So let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our comfort true will be.  
Alleluia!*

*Were Christ not arisen, then death were still our prison.  
Now, with Him to life restored,  
We praise the Father of our Lord.  
Alleluia!*

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
Now let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our comfort true will be.  
Alleluia!*

## Board of Education



**Help Needed!** The VBS committee is looking for various volunteers for this year's Vacation Bible School to be held June 17 – 20th., 9-11:30 a.m. We are looking for additional teachers, helping in the kitchen with

snacks, shepherding children around and assisting with arts and crafts, or other areas. **Please prayerfully consider helping us this year. Please contact Jim Kranich [jkranich@comcast.net](mailto:jkranich@comcast.net) or Catherine Casciani [cjc31370@gmail.com](mailto:cjc31370@gmail.com)**

Save the date! VBS 2019 to be held mornings, 9am to 11:30am, Monday June 17 – Thursday June 20th, daily for ages 3 ½ to entering 5th grade

This year's theme is "I AM" is a VBS program based on the seven "I Am" statements from the Gospel of John. I AM, the Good Shepherd, the Door, the Light of the world, the Way the Truth and the Life, the Bread of Life, the True Vine, and the Resurrection and the Life. Through these "I Am" passages, children will be taught Christian truths about the resurrection, law and gospel, the Word, the ministry, Holy Communion, and Holy Baptism.

## Sunday School News

Regular Sunday school has just a few more weeks to go. April 28, May 5, and the 12th. (April 21st is Easter. There will be no Sunday School, but there will be an Easter Egg hunt for grades PreK-2nd.) May 19th we will join in the library all together for a Sunday School party! Summer Sunday School starts June 2nd.

## Summer Sunday school

Summer Sunday School will start June 2 and run through August 25. We plan two groups this summer. Group one, Preschool-2nd grade and Group two 3rd-6th. Older kids would help with either group. A signup sheet for teacher volunteers will start circulating after Easter.

## HELP Flood Victims in Midwest

"Blessed are those who mourn; for they will be comforted." - Matthew 5:4

### Dear Friends at Advent Lutheran Church:

We join you in praying for victims of the recent tornadoes that ripped through the South and the devastating Midwest flooding that continues today.

When disaster strikes, Christians are among the first to roll up their sleeves, open their wallets and look for ways to help neighbors in need. Thrivent members and others in your church can help in the following ways:

### ***Donate online; Thrivent will boost it.***

For every \$2 donated through Thrivent.com to specific organizations helping with the recovery efforts, Thrivent will add \$1.\* Thrivent will also pay all online processing fees so 100 percent of the donation will go directly to support victims in need.

Thrivent members can also give of themselves to help recovery efforts by leading a Thrivent Action Team. Members can use promo code "MW Flooding 2019" or "Southern Tornadoes 2019" to have their Thrivent Action Kit expedited.

Thrivent members and others interested in learning ways to help with the recovery efforts are encouraged to visit [Thrivent.com/disasterresponse](http://Thrivent.com/disasterresponse)



## Asparagus, Ribeye, and a Great Tune

Think of a time when you've gone to the grocery store and someone squeezed a bunch of asparagus, or thumped a watermelon, or traced a finger along the marbling of a ribeye and said, "Ah....what I could do with this!"

That's the way it is with a great tune and a great composer. And much more in the olden days than today.

Before the days of radio, recordings and copyright laws, a tune was more like common property. Anybody could use the tune. The art of a composer was not so much in tune writing as in how best to "cook" it.

Such was the case with the beautiful melody we sang all through Lent—"Behold the Man before You." People might better know that tune as "Upon the Cross Extended LSB 453," or "Arise and Shine in Splendor LSB 396," or "Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow LSB 880." But the tune has more varied history even than that.

That music was composed by Heinrich Isaac in 1490, about the time Columbus was looking for funding for three ships. Isaac was a contemporary of Martin Luther although the two likely never met. Isaac died in 1517, the same year Luther nailed the 95 theses to the door in Wittenberg.

Isaac was considered one of the greatest composers of his day. When he composed this piece in 4 part harmony (the norm at the time was 5 part harmony) he did something outrageous and placed the wistful melody in the soprano line (that's the norm for us today, but in his day, the norm was to put the melody way down in the tenor line. Only crude Italian street songs put melodies in the soprano line).

The text originally written for Isaac's music was probably a secular one: "Innsbruck Ich Muss Dich Lassen" Innsbruck, now I must leave you." If you have visited Innsbruck, you might have felt the same tugging regret at leaving. So heartfelt was his new music that quickly a sacred text was written to it, "O Welt, ich muss dich lassen," O World, I must now leave you. Within a few years Lutheran composer Johann Cruger arranged it for choir and two violins. Then in 1647 the famous Lutheran hymn writer Paul Gerhardt wrote the text for it that we recognize, Now Rest beneath Night's Shadows.

That was just the start. J. S. Bach cooked up Isaac's melody multiple times, as did the composers Gesius, Schein, Franck, Kauffmann, Telemann, Walther, Stolzel, Krebs, and even Franz Liszt and Johannes Brahms.

Recently on the Sunday before Palm Sunday this year, Advent's choir presented as part of our worship the music that started it all, Isaac's original composition from 1490, using the later text "Upon the Cross Extended".

Phil Spray  
Music Director

*"The art of a composer was not so much in tune writing as in how best to "cook" it.*

## From the Chairman

### Keeping it Between the Ditches

I spent my high school years in Northern Minnesota. There were a number of times I found myself in blizzard conditions and getting home safely was a real chore. Especially at night, one could barely see where the road ended and both ditches began. So if no cars were coming from the other direction, the center of the road was the safest place to be.

Our Christian walk is also sandwiched between two ditches. Remember the prodigal's son? Well, there were actually two prodigals. The most obvious was the son who blindly spent his inheritance on licentious living. He finally recognized his depravity and returned humbly back to his father's house in repentance. The other son also struggled, but with a different problem. He found it easy to recognize his brother's sin but was blinded to his own. This made it difficult for him to forgive and extend grace to others.

So as you reflect on this, there are really two ditches and Christians can find the narrow road to be rather slippery at times. We don't always recognize the peril. We can be "snow blinded" by the Devil – or experiencing "white out" as we used to call it. Are we spending too much time finding the spec in our brother's eye, and ignoring the log in our own? Or in contrast are we enjoying sin too much to listen to our conscience?

Back to the blizzard analogy; when experiencing white out, the best option is to slow or stop until visibility improves. As Christians we can slow down to attend Church on Sundays and allow God to put his word and sacraments to work in our hearts. If the unfortunate should happen and we slide off into the ditch, we can humbly pray to our gracious God to restore us. He does have his tow truck fueled with grace and forgiveness to pull out penitent sinners!

Chuck

Advent Chairman

*"...Christians can find the narrow road to be rather slippery at times."*



## Congratulations!

The following students were confirmed on April 14th, Palm Sunday. Please congratulate them and their parents for diligently working toward this milestone in their faith journey!

<i>Christian Michael Brown</i>	Michael & Jennifer Brown
<i>Evan John Cummings</i>	Travis & Jennifer Cummings
<i>Christian Wyatt Gasche</i>	Eric & Susan Gasche
<i>Allison Mae Hubert</i>	Eric & Jennie Hubert
<i>Jackson Paul Kazmierczak</i>	Kris & Shelley Kazmierczak
<i>Rachel Elizabeth Kinnaman</i>	Chris & Kate Kinnaman
<i>Micah Jonathan Mackay</i>	Pr. Marcus & Jena Mackay
<i>Leo Edward Rusyniak</i>	Dan & Janet Rusyniak
<i>Alexandra Nicole Shaw</i>	David Shaw

## Summer Service Schedule

Humans are creatures of habit. We all find comfort in regularity! So Advent will maintain its **regular Sunday service schedule during the summer months**—Sundays at 8:15 and 10:45 with Bible study at 9:30 a.m. Hope to see you all then!

## Making the Case Conference

Issues, etc., will hold its annual Making the Case conference Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8, 2019 in Chicago, Illinois. Featured speakers are:

- Ross Douthat of the *New York Times*  
***“Making the Case Why the Public Square Needs Christianity”***
- Wesley Smith of *National Review*  
***“Making the Case for the Hippocratic Oath”***
- Rev. Matt Harrison, President of the LCMS  
***“Making the Case for Being Joyfully Lutheran”***
- Aaron Wolf of *Chronicles* magazine  
***“Making the Case for Conservatism”***
- Rev. Hans Fiene of *Lutheran Satire*  
***“Making the Case for the Lord’s Supper”***
- Rev. Will Weedon, Director of Worship for the LCMS  
***“Conference Hymn Sing”***



For more information go to [www.issuesetc.org/2019conference](http://www.issuesetc.org/2019conference).