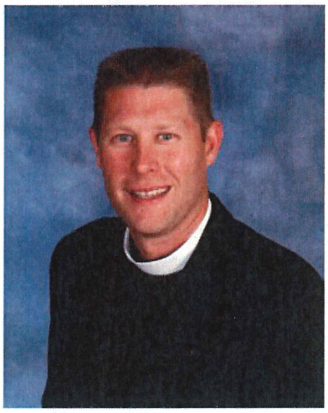
# ADVENT ✠ NEWS

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

November, 2019



**Dear blessed saints at Advent,**

A dear friend of mine, and fellow LCMS pastor, Rev. Ryan Loeslie, recently translated a mini-article that was included in the September 10th, 1907 issue of "Der Lutheraner" under the title *Warum ich auch bei Regenwetter in die Kirche gehe*. This magazine was the forerunner of the "Lutheran Witness". I share it with you, as he has, for "timeless encouragement to be in God's house when Sunday morning comes."

Peace be with you,
Pastor Mackay

**Why I Also Go To Church When It's Raining**

1. Because God sanctifies every Sunday through his Word and makes no exceptions just because it is raining.
2. Because I expect that our pastor will be tending to his duties, and I would be very astounded if he remained at home because of the weather.
3. Because my presence will be all the more necessary at church, the less the attendance unfortunately is on such days.
4. Because my example will have an influence on others under all circumstances, whether I attend worship or stay away.
5. Because I see that the unchurched people, even the weakest among them, do not abstain from their amusements just because it is raining.
6. Because the life to which a Christian is called may never be dependent on the change of the barometer, and because my behavior towards God's Word is a measurement of my love towards him.
7. Because I make the observation: those who use the excuse not to go to church because of the cold, heat, or because it is raining – these also make excuses when the weather is beautiful.
8. Because the man who shrinks away because of such small difficulties may finally fear hindrances which are only figments of his imagination. Whoever follows the Lord from afar, as Peter did on the night of Holy Thursday, he easily is in danger of denying him completely.
9. Because it can be, that according to God's will, a special blessing awaits me in church on a rainy day.
10. Because I do not know how many Sundays I have left on this earth.

*" ...those who use the excuse not to go to church because of the cold, heat, or because it is raining – also make excuses when the weather is beautiful."*

## In This Issue

Pastor Mackay
From the Chairman
Mission Update
Advent Youth
Something New!
Advent School

## From the Chairman—Disbursement of Designated Gift

***Hello everyone,***

By now most of you should be aware of the recent Designated Gift that was bestowed upon Advent from an anonymous donor. A letter was placed in your member mailbox a couple of weeks ago. If you have not read the letter or heard the public announcements, this gift totaled $1,000,000.00 and was designated to be used for the following, in order of priority: 1) Pay off the mortgage; 2) Repair/replace our parking lot; 3) Repair/replace our Organ; 3) Repair/Update our Playground; 4) Remainder to be used at Advent's discretion. *Thanks be to God!*

For the sake of clear communication, I now want to provide you with **an update on the disbursement plan** and related issues for this wonderful gift.

First of all, we as a Church Council are doing our very best to respect the wishes of the donor and to wring the most out of the donation dollars. By the time you read this newsletter article, **the first designated priority, paying off the mortgage, should be completed.** Fortunately, no early payment penalties were accessed. *God be praised!*

Our next order of business will be the **rejuvenation of the parking lot**. This will be more than just patching the holes or resurfacing over the existing base. We want a parking lot that will last for the next 25 years! There are places where the pavement has sagged and/or cracked so there may be some extensive work needed to be done. The Trustees are currently soliciting advice and bids from various companies that will result in a new paved and striped surface. As this project will be constrained by the weather, our hope is to get this accomplished as soon as possible, but certainly completed by the Spring of 2020. We will keep you posted once the Trustees report back to the Council.

**Regarding the Organ**, I have organized a Committee to review the options on upgrading the organ. This Committee includes our Music Director, Mr. Phil Spray, our Assistant Music Director, Mrs. Deb Trewartha, our Organist, Mr. Phil Lehman (who also works for a local organ company) and a yet to be named member from the Board of Trustees. Our current organ is a "hybrid" which means that it is an actual pipe organ along with a digital (computer generated) organ. We have not been able to use our pipe organ, due to climate control and repairs that are needed. The digital organ is approximately 25 years old, so imagine trying to update or use a 25 year old computer! This committee is also beginning its work and will report back to the Council. We will keep you posted on this project as well.

After these two priorities are completed, we will have a better understanding of the expenditures and can discuss the playground with our School staff and the type of playground equipment that is desired. If we still have some funds remaining, we as a congregation might even have to choose a final project. Stay tuned!

**So you may still have a few questions:**

**We've been making earmarked donations towards the mortgage pay off, what now?** A couple good suggestions come to mind. Our building is beginning to see some wear and tear. Carpeting and A/C systems are good examples, as well as other updates. We have established a **Building Fund** to help with the cost of such refurbishment and repairs. You might consider allocating your donations to this Fund and/or supporting the aforementioned projects and future needs.

**Now that the mortgage is paid off, what will we be doing with those dollars?** That has not been decided at this point. It will need some careful consideration. We as a congregation need to do some soul searching. Where do we want to head as a congregation? No, more importantly where does God want us to head? And we have to recognize that while not every door will open for us, most assuredly God will open some and bless us in our faithfulness! So back to the original question, if we are not ready to spend that money

## Disbursement of Designated Gift *(continued)*

what is the plan for it in the interim? For the time being, it will be placed in a special earmarked Fund while we consider our options. We have asked the Board of Stewardship to reassess the way we invest our savings and the process for perhaps even having a designated Endowment Fund. Obviously, we wish to receive the best return we can but that will be tempered by our level of risk tolerance. You will hear more in the next few months once we receive recommendations from the Stewardship Board. Please continue your giving as you have planned and are able and thank you for supporting our Lord's work here at Advent. The Lord loves a cheerful giver!

Finally, the Long Range Planning Committee has been meeting regularly, fulfilling the request of the Voters in continuing the process of **evaluating the feasibility of a Lutheran School** (adding grades beyond our current offering of PreK-Half Day Kindergarten). They are also evaluating other long-term possibilities as discussed in the past. They should have some recommendations to be brought before the Voters for further discussion.

Please pray for all of us as leaders, as well as our pastors. ***The Lord is gracious and merciful and will yet provide for all of our needs of both body and soul***. If you are interested in serving in any way, please contact one of us!

God's Blessings!

Chuck Long, Advent Chairman

## Mission update

**Mission Donations 1-1-1** – Thank you to all who have given to the 1-1-1 mission project by placing 1 dollar, per week, per member of their household into the white mailboxes in the narthex or near the fellowship hall. We are sending a check to the English District for close to $2,000 to be used to support our districts mission work. Our participation, in concert with many other churches in our district, provides another path for direct support to missions in the Dominican Republic and Church planting efforts in the US.

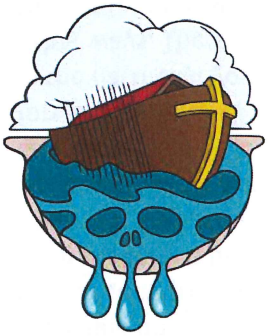
**Lutheran Child and Family Services Christmas Store** – Each year Lutheran Child and Family Services hosts a Christmas Store for some of the less fortunate families they assist. Advent has committed to helping them set up the store on ***December 8th.*** We will be seeking about 30 volunteers to help unload trucks and merchandise the goods that will have been donated. The location is on the east side of Indianapolis. ***This will be a good service project for our youth to gather together and participate in.*** They often need documented volunteer hours for honor societies and the like, but we will be looking for additional helpers as well. The Board of Missions will be putting out a sign up for those willing to help.

**Gift Cards for Seminarians at Christmas** – Again this year, Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne will be collecting donations of gift cards to be given to seminarians and their families at Christmas. They were thankful for our support last year and it would be good to offer it once more. Gift cards, in various denominations and from numerous businesses, ***can be purchased through our preschool scrip card program***. This provides a double blessing! These will have to be ordered by the November 22nd deadline so they may arrive on campus by December first. Orders marked "CTSFW" can be placed for the cards. When received, we will forward them to CTSFW along with the donor's name. There is also information in the narthex if you would prefer to send cards directly or support them in other ways. These are wonderful blessing to the students and their families as they prepare to serve our Lord in his Kingdom.

Pastor Grady

## Advent Youth

**Higher Things—Watermarked!**



Advent youth will be represented this year at the Higher Things Conference this July. We are debating two time and location options - Maryville MO from July 7-10 or Knoxville TN from July 14-17. We plan to have all the then newly confirmed 8th grade class to participate, along with as many high school students as possible.

The Higher Things conferences are where youth have the opportunity to worship and receive God's gifts daily, learn in plenary and breakout sessions, and play hard with a bunch of other Lutheran youth. Those that have attended in the past will tell you they are a blast. We will have a decision made shortly as to the location and associated dates and begin the registration process the first week of November.

For more information, visit the website at www.higherthings.org/conferences/watermarked2020/

## Thank you from CTS Student

Dear Advent Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent generous gift to Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. I am a second year deaconess student as the Seminary, and your gift is greatly appreciated. It is very helpful to our Seminary with fulfilling its mission to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. Thank you again!

In Christ,
Katie Aiello

## Here we Come A-Caroling!

Something new this year! On ***December 15th at 4:00 PM*** Advent will go a-caroling to local shut-ins and nursing homes.

We plan to gather at the church and split into groups/carpools before beginning our mission. Afterwards (around 5:30-6:00 PM) we will gather back at church for a pitch-in chili supper *(each family is asked to bring a pot of their special recipe chili and a side or dessert).*

**All Advent members, young and old (and in between) are invited to participate!**

Also, if you know of someone local (short driving distance) who would benefit from our musical cheer, please feel free to include them on our list. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can email me directly at dtrewartha@adventlutheran.org. Either way, please let us know if you plan to participate, although *you will be welcome to join us at the last minute, even if you haven't signed-up.* **The more the merrier!**

# Advent School & Youth Music

## Advent School

October was busy with a Pre-K field trip to Stuckey's Orchard on a beautiful fall day, Fall Break and School Picture days. Now we are looking forward to November and beginning preparations for the school children to participate in the ***December 11th Advent evening service*** as well as Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences to be held just before Thanksgiving Break.

Please note our ***Scrip Order date will be one week early*** (Friday, November 22nd) due to Thankgiving. Time to be thinking about gift cards for holiday purchases and as gifts. *Limited time $5/$10 cards from some retailers will be available again too--great for teachers, mail carriers, bus drivers, etc. Order forms will be available on the Narthex table and outside the school office.

**Note: If you would like to purchase gifts cards through our school for the Seminary Christmas gifts, please use the special form in the Narthex for that purpose and turn in by the November 22nd (9AM) order deadline. ***The Seminary requires the cards by December 1***, so this will be the only opportunity to place the order with us in order to get the cards to them by the deadline.

***Employment Opportunity:*** We will be in need of an aide for our Monday/Wednesday/Friday afternoon Pre-K class beginning in January. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me at 873-

## Youth Music

The 3rd-6th grade will be singing at the opening of both services on ***Sunday, November 24th*** and the 7th-12th grade will be singing the anthem in both services that morning. Parents, please have your children in the balcony by 7:50 AM that morning so we have time to run through each piece before service. If at all possible, ***we need all voices for both services.*** THANK YOU!!

All students--preschoolers through high school--are also busy learning music during their 15 minute music time each Sunday for the ***Sunday School Program on Sunday, December 15th*** during the Sunday School hour. In addition, 3rd-6th graders were given the opportunity to signup to be narrators or characters during their music time in October. Their parts will be assigned and handed out at the beginning of November. We will practice on Sundays, but parents, ***please practice with your children at home as well.*** The dress rehearsal for the program will take place during Sunday School on December 8th, so please put that Sunday on your calendars** as well to be sure to have your child here for the full Sunday School hour (9:30-10:30). Thanks!

Deb Trewartha
Director of Advent School and Assistant Director of Music

**See Calendar on pg. 6

There are a lot of dates to remember in the coming weeks,
so here is a calendar you can refer to in the busy days ahead.

**November 22** Scrip card orders due—*remember CTS students!*

**November 24** 3rd-6th grade—sing the Processional — both services
7th-12th grade—sing the Anthem—both services

**November 28** ***Thanksgiving Day service—10 AM***

**December 01** ***Giving Tree available***

**December 04** Midweek Dinner– 6 PM; Service 7 PM

**December 08** *Dress Rehearsal for December 15th Sunday School program—9:30 AM*

**December 08** LCEF—Assist with setting up their Christmas Store. *Thirty people needed!*

**December 11** Midweek Dinner– 6 PM; Prayer Service 7 PM

**December 15** *Sunday School program– 9:30 AM*

**December 15** ***Christmas Caroling– 4 PM***

**December 18** Midweek Dinner – 6 PM; Service 7 PM

**December 24** ***Evening Services—5 PM and 7 PM***

**December 24** ***Midnight Service—11 PM***

**December 25** ***Christmas Day Service—10 AM***