

Advent

VOICE

MARCH 2017

A Publication of the Mission of Advent Lutheran Church



Lenten Soup Suppers and services, Pg. 4



**Designate Your Thrivent Choice Dollars,
Pg. 6**



Meet our new Office Manager, Pg. 5

Upcoming

EVENTS

- Daylight Savings Time, March 12
- Mill Creek Food Bank, 4-6pm, Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall
- Soup Suppers 6 p.m. Wednesdays, followed by Lenten Worship at 7pm
- Graduating Senior? Piece-makers request names by March 19.

Picking Up Silence for Lent

We are picking up silence as we journey to the cross in the Season of Lent this year. Instead of a river rock, or a cross, or a star word, this year see where you can create silence this season to begin to hear the gentle, still voice of God. During worship, we've added a time of silence between the Sermon and the Hymn of the Day.

"Silence is God's first language; everything else is a poor translation. In order to hear that language, we must learn to be still and to rest in God."

--Thomas Keating

"Prayer is not hearing yourself talk, but being silent, staying silent and waiting until you hear God."

--Soren Kiekegaard

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

We take vacations now, we don't go on pilgrimage. I don't think it's just that there is no credit to be gained in heaven for visiting a holy site or a holy relic, and it's not just that we no longer expect God to meet us in certain holy places – I worry that we no longer expect God to meet us at all.

In some ways it is good that the idea of holy place has been replaced by a notion that God can meet us anywhere. But nothing is gained if every place becomes absent of God rather than full of God.

It's one of the enduring elements of the Reformation that we do not need a priest or holy person to speak to God on our behalf; we are bid to speak to God as a child to their loving parent. But nothing is gained if we do not open that conversation. And it's part of the genius of the Reformation that the place we serve God – our altar – is not the table in the sanctuary, but the kitchen table where we serve our family, and the desk, machine or tractor where we serve our neighbor through our work. I fear that we too easily forget that the place where we work and live and love is holy, that the sacred gets swallowed up by the profane rather than the profane being sanctified.

We describe Lent as a journey, taking the 40 days of Lent from the 40 days of Jesus in the wilderness, which is itself taken from the 40 years of Israel journeying towards the Promised Land. It's not for us a physical pilgrimage, taken by foot over hill and dale toward that place where we hope to be touched by the transcendent power of God. It's an invitation to a spiritual journey in the expectation that forty days from now, in the water washing our feet, the bread broken and placed in our hands, the altar stripped, the wooden cross

set before the altar, and the procession into the church through the waters of baptism into the full light of Easter – in those wondrous three days God will meet us anew in ways rich with meaning for our lives.

The majestic view is made sweeter by the climb to the mountain top. The journey through airports and foreign streets provides a time for leaving the old behind to be ready to welcome the new vistas of new places. The journey prepares us for the encounter. And so we speak of the journey of Lent: the spiritual journey of prayer, reflection, study, worship, simplicity, charity. The journey of daily mindfulness of the presence of God. The journey into a deeper awareness of Heaven's grace. The journey into a fuller participation in the mission of God's dawning reign.

"Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God," writes Paul. I think he has in mind the fullness of God's kingdom when Christ is all in all. But I suspect it is also true that the world yearns for Christians to be Christians, for us to walk the walk, not just talk the talk, for us to be agents of healing and grace in a world short of both. The drive through town and the walk from the parking lot to the sanctuary is not an arduous journey toward a place where I expect to be in the presence of the holy. But it can be part of that greater pilgrimage in which I am ever more deeply conformed to the image of Christ.

Lent reminds us that this is our calling. Glad to be on the journey with you,

Pastor Scott

Beyond the Book - Advent's Monthly Book Club

Beyond the Book meets Wednesday, March 8th at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall (immediately following the Lenten "Holden Evening Prayer" worship service.) This month we're discussing "The Last Apostle" by Dennis Brooke, a semi-finalist in the American Christian Fiction Writers Genesis Contest. What if John, the last living apostle of Jesus Christ, was still alive...? Come share your thoughts and some lively discussion. The next book for Beyond the Book will be "The Girl on the Train" by Paula Hawkins.



**Remember to
set your
clocks
forward!**

**Daylight Savings Time starts
Sunday March 12th.**



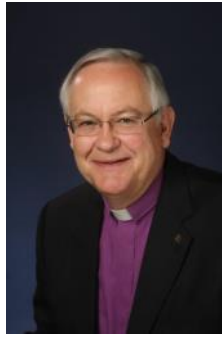
GIVE ONLINE

Online giving is a great way to support the ministries at Advent.

WWW.ADVENTLUTHERAN.NET

Know what you are for!

By the Rev. Kirby Unti, NWWA Synod Bishop
From the March 2017 edition of *The Spirit*



I have been told that the phrases, "Do not be afraid" and "Have no fear" appear in the Bible 365 times. While I have never counted them for myself, it is a fitting idea that there would be one for each day of the year. No doubt it is a central message of the scriptures proclaimed in both the Christmas and Easter stories.

God knows us so very well. God knows that we tend to become focused upon the things that frighten us. We develop a form of tunnel vision which prevents us from seeing what life is giving around us. Most importantly, fear short circuits our ability to put our trust in God. "Do not be afraid. I go before you always." Deuteronomy 31.8

It is a teaching that speaks to the uncertainty and fear that many are experiencing in today's hyped political world of uncertainty.

I spent a few days in Olympia in my role as a trustee in our Community and Technical College system. I spoke to multiple legislators who told me there is a growing interest in Town Hall Meetings and other kinds of public gatherings. More and more people are asking the question, "What can we do as concerned citizens?" I am keenly aware that many people in our churches are asking this same question. I want to suggest that we not forget the words spoken throughout history by angels and prophets alike, "Do not be afraid."

In late January, I attended the International Holocaust Commemoration Day event at Seattle University. Jewish author and holocaust survivor George Elbaum shared his personal story of how fear can lead people to develop a form of hate that has no limits. George, his voice cracking from the pain that still resides in his soul, shared this wisdom with the students, "Know what you are *for*, not what you are *against*." He went on to explain how people who are only against always rely upon fear as their method of persuasion.

I find this to be a helpful guide in trying to navigate the times we are living in. It gives us a helpful frame in which to be clear about our own beliefs and can assist us in understanding our neighbor who may see the world differently.

It calls us not to be against another person, race, gender, or nation but to strive together to discover what is it we are for. Try this out for the next 365 days and let's see what we learn.

Advent Lutheran Church

Making the Love of Christ Known

Contact Us:

4306 132nd St. SE Mill Creek, WA 98012

Phone: 425-337-5373

Website: www.adventlutheran.net

E-mail: churchoffice@adventlutheran.net

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 and 10:30am

Sunday School: 9:40am, in the Sanctuary

Adult Forum: 9:40am, in Portable C1

Advent Staff:

Pastor: **Scott Postlewait**,

pastor@adventlutheran.net

Visitation Pastor: **G. Lee Kluth**

Office Manager: **Jennifer Schroeder**

churchoffice@adventlutheran.net

Choir Director/Accompanist: **Kirsten Lysen**

Volunteer Pastoral Care Minister: **Jill Bossen**

prayerrequests@adventlutheran.net

Church Council:

Fred Row—President/Admin

George Howard—Vice President

Kim Hall—Secretary

Kathy Stamey—Fellowship

Bill Case—Worship

Deb Shaffer—Youth

Pamela Stubsten—Finance

JoAnne Purvis—Social Justice/Outreach

Ken Krause—Education

Jon Schneider—Facilities/Columbarium

Irene Bizier/Karen Young—Treasurers

Carolyn Johnson—Finance Secretary

churchcouncil@adventlutheran.net

Advent Voice

is the monthly newsletter of Advent Lutheran Church

The deadline for articles is the **15th of each month**.

Please submit articles, graphics, and photos to
churchoffice@AdventLutheran.net



LENT SOUP SUPPERS AND WORSHIP

Our theme for Lent this year is "The Small Catechism".

We gather together on Wednesday evenings to share a soup supper at 6:00, and then a brief worship at 7:00.

Each week our reflection will dig a bit deeper into Luther's "Small Catechism" (no, no memorization is required!), and we'll worship using Marty Haugen's "Holden Evening Prayer."

Our offerings will go to a different ministry that Advent supports each week.

Invite your neighbors, friends, and family! Wednesdays during Lent are a time when you don't have to worry about what to fix for dinner, a time when you can gather with your Advent family and friends, and a time to engage your faith. Let these Lenten evenings be a beautiful point of peace for you and your family in the middle of your week. Be sure to sign up in the Fellowship Hall to help provide soup or bread on April 5th, the "Everybody Bring Soup" night.

Wednesday Offering Recipients

March 8 Mill Creek Food Bank
 March 15 Penny Creek Elementary School Outreach
 March 22 Open Door Ministries
 March 29 Bethany of the Northwest
 April 5 Everett Union Gospel Mission



QUILT RAFFLE

Piecemakers, Advent's quilting group, are selling raffle tickets for a beautiful quilt. \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The money from the raffle will pay for the batting for the next 100 quilts! Tickets are available through April 2nd. Come and check out their beautiful quilt in the Fellowship Hall.



MILL CREEK FOOD BANK AT ADVENT TURNS ONE!

Help us celebrate the 1st Anniversary of the Mill Creek Food Bank at Advent on Thursday March 9th. We'll get the Food Bank set up at 2:30, and then enjoy a little celebration before we start serving clients at 4:00. The Food Bank continues to grow and to become better known in the area as a place of grace and respect. We can always use volunteers! All ages and abilities are welcome! Come when you are able to on Thursdays. This is a great place to live out your faith.

Western States Youth Gathering

The Western States Youth Gathering for High School Youth (9th-12th grades) occurs every three years - and 2017 is it! Join us as we travel to Thousand Oaks California and join with hundreds of other youth for great speakers, music, service projects, and learning about our faith. The Gathering is at California Lutheran University, and runs June 28-July 2. We're driving down, so will leave June 27th and return July 3rd. Interested? Talk to Pastor Scott soon and reserve your spot!



Sunday School CORNER

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

We have an amazing team of teachers in Sunday School this year. Please come and sing with us in the Sanctuary at 9:40, then go with your teachers to class until 10:20. We have classes for pre-school through 6th grade.

Plan to dress for the weather as we help the Garden of Giving on Sunday, April 2nd. Also, as you shop this month, please consider purchasing individually wrapped Easter candy for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. We will fill eggs during Sunday school on Palm Sunday - as well as learn how to make Palm Crosses that day!

Thank you for keeping our teachers and children in your prayers, as we learn the stories and grow in our faith.

WELCOME OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER!

Welcome Jennifer Schroeder, our new office manager! Jennifer is a life-long Lutheran and belongs to a Lutheran church in Monroe. She has a wonderful husband and two amazing children, Trenton 19 a sophomore at Western



Washington University, and Megan 16, a high school sophomore in Monroe. Jennifer is an avid reader and enjoys many different genres of books. She also loves to garden and spend time outside hiking with her family. She is pleased to be a part of Advent's amazing family. Please take some time to stop in and say "hello."



The Garden of Giving has rested over the winter, but with the Spring is beginning to awaken! The Garden will have its first work party on Thursday morning, March 16.

Looking ahead, the Sunday School children will plant onions, peas, and radishes on Sunday, April 2. And be sure to mark your calendars - on Sunday, May 7, we will have our 3rd Garden Open House between the church services.

In 2016 we harvested 2572 pounds of produce for the Everett and Mill Creek food banks. There were 22 volunteers giving over 1100 hours of work in the garden.

This year we will be able to bring fresh produce for the Mill Creek food bank every Thursday. If you are interested in helping please contact Pauline Siekas at psiekas@mac.com or 425-948- 6522.

Is food a problem for you?

- Do you eat when you're not hungry?
- Do you binge, purge or restrict?
- Is your weight affecting your life?

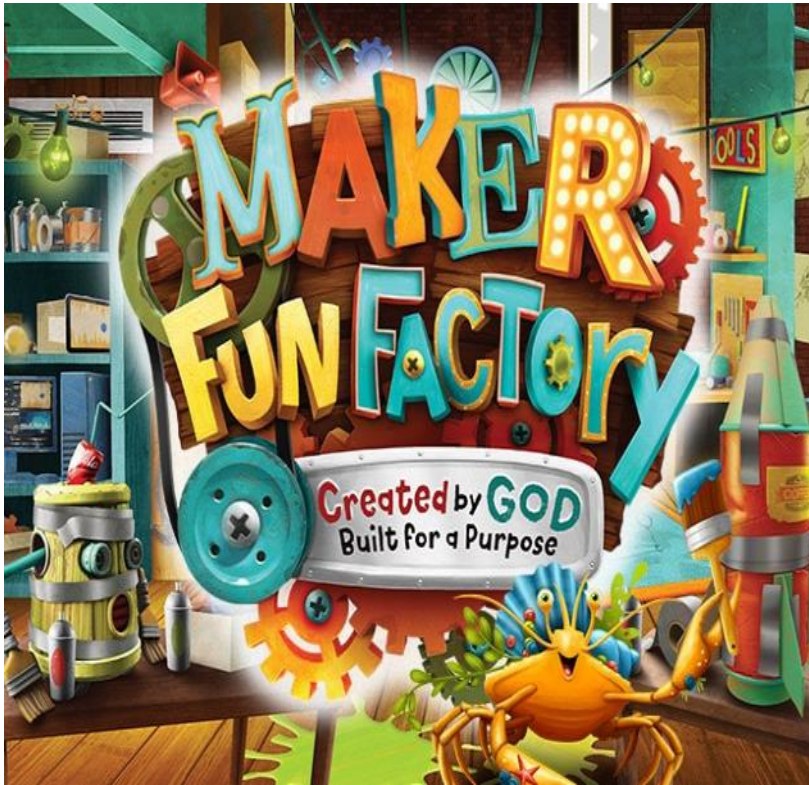
Contact **OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS**

NO dues • NO fees • NO weigh-ins • NO diets

PLACE Advent Lutheran Church / Building A-3

DAY Saturday's TIME 8:30AM CALL 425-344-9223

www.oa.org



Vacation Bible School is coming again this summer!

Be sure to mark July 10-14, 2017 on your calendar.

We are looking for people who are excited to volunteer to make this amazing week happen. The more the merrier and more help equals lighter work.

You will find this week incredibly inspiring as 200 kids between 4 years old and 5th grade join our youth and adult volunteers in singing and dancing, playing and praying, making new friends and learning about Jesus' love for each and every one of us.

Please contact Kim Hall and Diane Krause at ybs@adventlutheran.net to let us know where you would like to volunteer or if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you!

GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL THIS YEAR?



It's a tradition at Advent that High School graduates receive quilts handmade with love by our quilting ministry, The PieceMakers, on Graduation Sunday. If you'd like to be on the list to receive a high school graduate quilt, please let the church office know no later than March 19th.

churchoffice@adventlutheran.net or 425-337-5373. Graduation Sunday is June 4th.

Thrivent Choice Dollars



Are you an eligible Thrivent Financial member with Choice Dollars to direct? Did you know that you have until March 31 to designate any of your remaining 2016 Choice Dollars?

Charitable grant funding through Thrivent Choices lets you and other Thrivent members recommend where you feel Thrivent should distribute some of its annual outreach funding by choosing from thousands of enrolled churches and nonprofit organizations nationwide, including Advent Lutheran Church.

If you have not yet made your annual designation of your Choice Dollars, please consider designating Advent Lutheran Church as a way to enhance our many ministries. Directing Choice Dollars is easy! Simply go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call [800-847-4836](tel:800-847-4836) and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Thank you for the many ways you support our ministry at Advent. Together, we share the love of Christ with our neighbor.

MARCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>If you would like to add or delete something from the church calendar, or have questions about room availability, please contact</p> <p>FH = Fellowship Hall A = A building (Preschool bldg.) SAN = Sanctuary</p> <p>C1 = Portable C1 C2 = Portable C1</p>			<p>1</p> <p>5:45pm TOPS (C1) 6pm Soup Supper (FH) 6pm Girl Scouts (A3) 7pm Women's AA (A1) 7pm Lenten Worship (SAN)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00pm Piecemakers (FH) 3:00pm Food Bank (FH) 6:30pm Lynnwood (FH) Community Band 7pm Men's AA (C1) 7-8:00pm Choir (SAN)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3:00pm Girl Scouts (FH) 4:00pm Girl Scouts (A3) 7pm AA (C1) 7pm AI-Anon (A4) 7pm AI-"Anon Newcomers (A3)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00am: AA (C1) 8:30am. OA (A3) 9:00am, AA (C1) 10am: AA Women (A1)</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Food Drive Sunday 8:30am Worship 6:00am Korean Worship (SAN) 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Kirsten's Shower (FH) 6pm AA (C1)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am Bible Chicks (offsite, 425-493-9260) 4:00pm Girl Scouts (A1) 6:00pm: Boy Scouts (FH) 6:00pm AA Women's Group (A4) 7pm: Women's Support Group (A1) 7pm AA, (C1)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5pm Mill Creek Children's Chorus (FH) 6:30pm Korean Bible Study, (A1) 7:00pm Mill Creek Chorale (FH) 7pm AA (C1) 7pm Bible Study (offsite)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10am: Bible Study (FH) 12:30pm Classics Luncheon (FH) 5:45pm TOPS (C1) 6pm Soup Supper (FH) 7:30pm Beyond the Book (FH) 7pm Women's AA (A1) 7pm Lenten Worship (SAN)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>3:00pm Food Bank (FH) 6:30pm Lynnwood (FH) Community Band 7pm Men's AA (C1) 7-8:00pm Choir (SAN)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>3:00pm Girl Scouts (FH) 7pm AA (C1) 7pm AI-Anon (A4) 7pm AI-"Anon Newcomers (A3)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00am: AA (C1) 8:30am. OA (A3) 9:00am, AA (C1) 10am: AA Women (A1)</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time Begins 8:30am Worship 6:00am Korean Worship (SAN) 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship 6pm AA (C1)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30am Bible Chicks (offsite, 425-493-9260) 4:00pm Girl Scouts (A1) 6:00pm: Boy Scouts (FH) 6:00pm AA Women's Group (A4) 7pm: Women's Support Group (A1) 7pm AA, (C1)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5pm Mill Creek Children's Chorus (FH) 6:30pm Korean Bible Study, (A1) 7:00pm Mill Creek Chorale (FH) 7pm AA (C1)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10am: Bible Study (FH) 5:45pm TOPS (C1) 6pm Soup Supper (FH) 7pm Women's AA (A1) 7pm Lenten Worship (SAN)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:00pm Piecemakers (FH) 3:00pm Food Bank (FH) 6:30pm Lynnwood (FH) Community Band 7pm Men's AA (C1) 7-8:00pm Choir (SAN)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3:00pm Girl Scouts (FH) 4:00pm Girl Scouts (A3) 7pm AA (C1) 7pm AI-Anon (A4) 7pm AI-"Anon Newcomers (A3)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00am: AA (C1) 8:30am. OA (A3) 9:00am, AA (C1) 10am: AA Women (A1)</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:30am Worship 6:00am Korean Worship (SAN) 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship 6pm AA (C1) 7:00pm Youth Group (FH)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30am Bible Chicks (offsite, 425-493-9260) 12:30pm-IRG—CD Mtg., (FH) 4:00pm Girl Scouts (A1) 6:00pm: Boy Scouts (FH) 6:00pm AA Women's Group (A4) 7:00pm 3rd Mon Bible Study (offsite) 7pm: Women's Support Group (A1) 7pm AA, (C1)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5pm Mill Creek Children's Chorus (SAN) 6:30pm Church Council (FH) 6:30pm Korean Bible Study, (A1) 7:00pm Mill Creek Chorale (SAN) 7pm AA (C1) 7pm Bible Study (offsite)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10am: Bible Study (FH) 5:45pm TOPS (C1) 6pm Soup Supper (FH) 7pm Women's AA (A1) 7pm Lenten Worship (SAN)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>3:00pm Food Bank (FH) 6:30pm Lynnwood (FH) Community Band 7pm Men's AA (C1) 7-8:00pm Choir (SAN)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:00pm Girl Scouts (FH) 7pm AA (C1) 7pm AI-Anon (A4) 7pm AI-"Anon Newcomers (A3)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00am: AA (C1) 8:30am. OA (A3) 9:00am, AA (C1) 10am: AA Women (A1)</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:30am Worship 6:00am Korean Worship (SAN) 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am Adult Forum 10:30am Worship 6pm AA (C1)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30am Bible Chicks (offsite, 425-493-9260) 4:00pm Girl Scouts (A1) 6:00pm: Boy Scouts (FH) 6:00pm AA Women's Group (A4) 7pm: Women's Support Group (A1) 7pm AA, (C1)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5pm Mill Creek Children's Chorus (FH) 6:30pm Korean Bible Study, (A1) 7:00pm Mill Creek Chorale (FH) 7pm AA (C1)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10am: Bible Study (FH) 10:45 Preschool Trike-a-Thon (Perimeter of Advent) 1:45 Preschool Trike-a-Thon 5:45pm TOPS (C1) 6pm Soup Supper (FH) 7pm Women's AA (A1) 7pm Lenten Worship (SAN)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>3:00pm Food Bank (FH) 6:30pm Lynnwood (FH) Community Band 7pm Men's AA (C1) 7-8:00pm Choir (SAN)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>3:00pm Girl Scouts (FH) 4:00pm Girl Scouts (A3) 7pm AA (C1) 7pm AI-Anon (A4) 7pm AI-"Anon Newcomers (A3)</p>	

Advent Lutheran Church



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Mill Creek, WA 98012



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Advent VOICE

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Lent



Celebrate Lent With Us

**Join us Wednesdays for our Lenten Soup
Supper and Worship**

6:00pm Soup Supper

7:00 Worship