May 2013
A Publication of the Mission of Advent Lutheran Church

Upcoming EVENTS

- Family Game Night, 1pm, May 4 in the Fellowship Hall
- May 5, Food Drive for the Volunteers of America Food Bank
- First Communion takes place May 12
- Synod Assembly, May 16-18
- Memorial Day, May 27. The Church office will be closed.
- Lynnwood Community Band Concert, 7pm, Friday, May 31

368 Pounds of Food Donated
The Mill Creek Food Bank was thrilled to receive our generous donation of 180 pounds of food for their snack pack program. This program provides food for the weekends for 40 needy school children who attend Woodside Elementary School, which is part of the Everett School District. The Mill Creek Food Bank is one of the Volunteers of America network of food banks that serve Snohomish County. Our congregation also contributed an additional 188 pounds of food to the Volunteers of America via their Everett Food Bank. That makes total giving for this month 368 pounds!

Family Game Night
Join us on Saturday, May 4th at 6pm for Family Game Night and Cinco de Mayo fiesta at Advent Lutheran Church.

Bring yourself, your family, your friends and your favorite game(s) and come enjoy good times with new and old friends.

We will supply tacos and all the fixings. Please bring a dish to share.

If you have any questions, please contact Ann Tracy at (425)338-2909 or adtracy@frontier.com
An Easter card I was given says:

“Easter is a time we gather in church,
to see if they’ve done anything to the place since Christmas

Happy Easter…. (pray for me.).”

While there is a good deal of cynicism in that card, it does reflect the question “has anything changed?”

We can change the colors of the paraments and change which liturgy we use, but the real question of Christmas and Easter is “What has changed in us because of Emmanuel, God-With-Us?” “What has changed in us because ‘He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed?’”

Easter is a season of fifty days during which we hear texts of the slow dawning on the disciples of the transformation that comes with the risen Lord: a transformation from fear to boldness, a transformation being settled to being on the move, a transformation from disciples to apostles.

As we have moved from Christmas to Easter, do you detect the moving of Christ’s Resurrected Spirit among us? Can you perceive the presence of New Life? Are you aware of how God is commissioning you and our entire congregation to move from being followers to being ones sent out to proclaim the good news?

Read the ways this month that new life is happening: children fed and homeless bathed, all ministry leaders “Next Steps” gathering and “God’s GPS” beginning.

Easter is the reality that things have changed since Christmas. May the empowering presence of our Risen Lord continue to transform us.

Pastor Karen L. Hanson

What is This Little Piece of Yellow Paper?

For the year 2013, 150 boxes of offering envelopes were ordered at a cost of approximately $450.00. Of those 150 box sets, 60 were never picked up by the intended members.

During April we are asking those who count the offerings to count the total checks and the total envelopes. Initial results are that a little over half of the checks were in envelopes; the rest were put in the offering plate without any envelopes. We will continue to count during April.

The recording of checks does not require an envelope. The correct posting is done by entering the envelope number, or by entering the name on the check. Either way, the offering is posted to the correct person or family.

If it were decided not to order envelopes for the year 2014, small blank envelopes would be provided in the pew rack for those who wanted to have a cash offering posted to them, or for those who wish for the extra privacy offered by using an envelope. The individual giving cash would need to write their name or their assigned number on the envelope.

The small yellow ballot will be handed out with the bulletin during May. If the pre-printed offering envelopes are something you feel you still need, include your name on the yellow ballot.
A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

This is an exciting time for all of us in the Northwest Washington Synod. Just as our Call Committee prepares to receive names of candidates for our new Pastor, delegates to the 26th Annual Synod Assembly prepare to elect our next Bishop. While electing a bishop is a process governed by the ELCA constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions, it is also a form of call process similar to what we are experiencing.

There are sixteen candidates nominated for Bishop, with information about each posted on the Synod Website. While delegates will cast the electoral vote at the Assembly, we are all encouraged to pray for our delegates and God’s guidance during this important selection process.

Two forums have been announced as an opportunity for all of us to meet the candidates. They are: Saturday, May 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church, 2529 North Laventure Road, Mount Vernon; 360-336-3600; and Sunday, May 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 9625 NE Eighth Street, Bellevue; 425-454-4344.

Not a delegate but interested in attending the Synod Assembly? There is an opportunity to attend by volunteering to work a shift on the registration desk and then the rest of the day attend and observe sessions as a visitor. Want to attend the full assembly, sign up to work a shift each day. A sign-up sheet is on the church office counter. If you have questions you can give me a call at 425-787-0858 or e-mail me at Fred-Row@comcast.net. This is a unique opportunity to attend without having to pay a visitor registration fee and to be a part in this all important Synod gathering.

Thank you Jan McWherter! With Jan’s election to the Council, she felt it was time to pass on responsibilities of the appointed position of Financial Secretary. The Financial Secretary is responsible for maintaining confidential information about members giving and preparing quarterly and annual giving statements. What many of us were not aware of is the dedication and commitment to fulfilling this responsibility Jan has provided over the past 30 years. Her years of service truly demonstrate her commitment to our Advent Family. Thank you Jan!! At the April Council meeting Jan’s service was recognized. In addition, the appointment of Carolyn Johnson was approved to fill this very important position. Thank you Carolyn for agreeing to serve as our Financial Secretary!

On Sunday, April 28, as a congregation we will be blessing approximately 150 Quilts prior to being mailed to Lutheran World Relief. Their handiwork beauty will grace our pews during the blessing. What you may not know is that the majority of the materials for each quilt are purchased and/or donated by members of our Piecemakers Ministry Team. It is estimated that material used for each quilt would run about $90 if funded fully though Advent’s budget. Please take a minute to thank members of this Social Ministry Team for their commitment and work. On Sunday, you will find a special offering envelop at the end of each pew to help support high postage costs involved in sending all the quilts to World Hunger.

In closing, May God continue to bless and guide us as an Advent Family!

Blessings to you and your family,

Fred Lord

Missing Something?

Is your child missing a jacket, or have you lost your sunglasses or coffee cup?

Check the lost and found box in the Fellowship Hall across from the copy room. Items left in the box at the end of each month will be donated to Goodwill.
Church Council Update—April 2013

MILL CREEK FOOD BANK

Guests from the Mill Creek Food Bank and Volunteers of America presented their current situation and future needs. Today, they have a small portable at Jackson High School and storage unit at a commercial storage firm. They are serving 38 families once a week. The portable is about 700 square feet and has no water or power. They have a contract only through August 31st.

Their requirement is 1200-1500 square feet, with power, water, a small kitchen, and sewer connection. They have come to Advent because they know of our outreach efforts and our location. They have funds to erect a building, so Advent’s part would be to provide a location on our property, including power and water.

Housing a food bank at Advent seems a natural outgrowth of our other efforts to be part of the community, and to help feed those in need. However, we have some obstacles:

1. The contract with Polygon is still being negotiated, but is expected to be finalized soon. We are not sure how these two projects would impact each other.

2. The current sewer system seems to be barely adequate today, and we are not sure what the impact of adding a building would be.

3. The food bank is open Thursday night between 5 PM and 7 PM. We have other activities on Thursday night that might become a conflict.

4. Although our portable ‘B’ seems like a possibility, it is truly not a useful building anymore. There are just too many issues with it to bring it back into use. Replacement of portable B is one option, but the cost may be prohibitive for the Mill Creek Food Bank.

These seem to be the primary issues, but the Council is concerned about trying to accomplish all that would have to be done in time for the August deadline. The Social Ministry team will continue discussions with representatives from the Food Bank.

FINANCES

Jeff reports that we will need to transfer money from savings or wait until next week’s offerings to pay salaries. Local giving during the month of March was down, including Easter Sunday.

Carolyn Johnson has accepted and was confirmed as our Financial Secretary, relieving Jan McWherter after 30 years of service in this position. Many thanks to Jan for her dedication and service.

The Council discussed a motion to exempt the youth from the fund raising and budgetary rules put in place last year. After lengthy discussion the motion did not pass. It is believed that the current policy does not preclude the ability to fund raise for special purposes or hinder youth activities.

MINISTRY GUIDE

The Church Office and Council are creating a Ministry Guide that is meant to document and make available to members and guests a description and contact information about each of our ministries.

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee spent April preparing to interview candidates for Advent’s new pastor. First, we submitted the Ministry Site Profile to the bishop and answered questions about it. Then we learned about behavioral interview questions as well as questions to expect from the candidates. We chose questions, we asked practice question and we answered practice questions. We created a video and packet to help answer the candidates’ questions. Now, we are ready. We will be interviewing five candidates during the last half of May. Please pray that the Holy Spirit gives us the right questions and answers so we may discern God’s will for Advent.

In God’s service,

Advent Call Committee: Gail Walters, Mark Thiele (alternate), Steve Osher, Kaye Lysen, Brian Hall, Jennifer Faddis, Mary Case

Garden of Giving wins a grant

Thank you to Andrea Boushey for her well written proposal to the Master Gardeners Association. The proposal resulted in a grant for the Garden of Giving. With that grant we can now replace our ailing irrigation system and helps make this year’s crop an abundant one.

If you’d like to volunteer to help with this year’s garden of giving crop contact Fran Zingleman at fzingle2@frontier.com
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If you would like to add or delete something from the church calendar, or have questions about room availability, please contact Laurie in the church office 425-337-5373 or laurie@adventlutheran.net

FH = Fellowship H
A = A building (Preschool bldg.)
C1 = Portable C1    C2 = Portable C2
SAN = Sanctuary

If you would like to add or delete something about room availability, please contact Laurie in the church office 425-337-5373 or laurie@adventlutheran.net
Bethany of the Northwest...

Pastor Rod Vereb will be at Advent on May 12

Bethany of the Northwest has been a household name in our community since 1931. Bethany delivers state of the art, non-discriminatory, multi-level supportive care and nursing services designed to meet the physical, spiritual, social and psychological needs of elderly and disabled persons with the goal of offering a life of independence, dignity and purpose.

Bethany is the fourth largest not-for-profit provider in the state. In three Everett locations, we provide: 231 beds for skilled and sub-acute nursing including rehab and dementia/Alzheimer’s care, and 54 apartments for assisted living.

In 2011, Bethany served 1858 residents. Most of these residents are vulnerable low-income Snohomish County senior citizens with over 63% of them relying on Medicare/Medicaid for housing, clothes, food and services.

*From the Bethany of the Northwest website*

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**Towels for Compass House**

Many thanks were said over and over when the 115 bath towels were unloaded from my car on Monday following Easter.

Kevin Friedrich, the co-ordinator of volunteers at the Compass House Hygiene Center, had such a smile on his face as he carried the two large boxes and four giant size bags into the building.

We, as a congregation of Advent, have once again shown our compassion in helping the many unfortunate people in our communities. Please know that each of us are appreciated by the many we help.

Thank you for sharing the love of Christ.

Carleen Lorenz
Liaison for Compass House
Next Step
Leadership Gathering
- Care
- Community
- Connection
When: Tuesday, April 30th
Where: Advent Fellowship Hall
Time: 7:00 pm

All are welcome!
For more information contact Kim Hall at bk.hall@comcast.net or Kim Plata at kimann222@aol.com

The Classics Senior Group
The Classics met on Wednesday, April 10th for their monthly potluck. We had 36 people in attendance. As always, lots of good food was shared. The Classics voted to pay to have the pews in the sanctuary steamed cleaned and hopefully remove some of the stains from the roof leak several years ago. We had a speaker from the Mill Creek Police Department, Officer Pigott, tell us of some of the scams that are going around in this area that are mostly directed towards seniors. She had some good information to share. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8th, at 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Bring a dish to share and join us. Any questions, please call Cindy Steenis, 425-338-5339

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 a.m.
Nursery: During both services Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Advent Staff:
Interim Pastor: Karen Hanson, pastor@adventlutheran.net
Office Administrator: Laurie Dunlap, laurie@adventlutheran.net
Volunteer Sunday School Coordinator: Diane Krause sundayschool@adventlutheran.net
Volunteer Youth Leader: Paige Cavanaugh gertiematrox@aol.com
Choir Director: Janet Hitt
Custodian: Erika Graf

Church Council:
Fred Row: President
Darryl Plata: Vice President
Jeff Case: Treasurer
Jim Bertrand: Secretary
Gail Kautzman: Social Justice
Ken Lysen: Youth
Darryl Plata: Education & Children’s Programs Deb Shaffer: Worship
Don Tracy: Property
Chuck Christensen: Stewardship
Jan McWherter: Fellowship
curchcouncil@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 Laurie@AdventLutheran.net

This Month’s Contributors:
Jim Bertrand, Mary Alice Hack, Pastor Karen Hanson, Gail Kautzman, Carleen Lorenz, Kim Plata, Fred Row, Cindy Steenis, Fred Stone
Epiphany

As a child I was terrified of our Christian God who was described to me in the very harshest of terms. God was everywhere, saw everything and judged everyone. The Old Testament spoke of the terror and death God rained down on enemies of the Jews and to the Jews as well when they fell short of what God expected. I was told all humanity had fallen short of what God desired of us—beginning with our birth into sin.

God saw everything I did and I knew there was no way I could be perfect. I was doomed to a life in hell. And though I had simply to ask God for forgiveness and it was granted, I was also told it was little more than a temporary reprieve as I would sin again—very soon, be it intentional or unintentional. There just didn’t seem to be any way I could please God on a continuing basis. By my late teens I was so conflicted, so certain I could never please God, I gave up trying.

But I would return. My epiphany was not instantaneous; rather, it evolved over time midway through my life. It came from the realization God was not terrifying; that while our God was omnipresent, kind, and compassionate, God was also, above all, forgiving. I came to realize God understood full well that intentionally bestowing the gift of free will on his children carried with it the inevitability that they would all sin. But God is forgiving beyond our understanding. As we are told every Sunday, all our sins are forgiven regardless of magnitude; we need only ask. The peace I feel now that begins each morning with a prayer of thanks continues and is strengthened with each succeeding prayer throughout the day. Some are just a few words of thanks; some are a bit longer, but all are an acknowledgement of how blessed our family is in the knowledge that God, our forgiving Father, is always at our side.

An Advent Member

152 Quilts!

This year the Piecemakers, Advent’s quilting ministry pieced together 152 quilts that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you to everyone who has donated fabric and toward purchasing batting for the quilts. They couldn’t do it with you.

$300 was collected for the shipping of the quilts on April 28.

For more information contact Cora Evans at 425-743-3691
Thank YOU!

- The last day of preschool is May 17. Thank you to Prince of Preschool for providing such an enriching and positive ministry at Advent.
- Thank you to Marilyn Klose for sharing her ceramic sheep with us during worship on Good Shepherd Sunday.

New Communication Tool

“This Week At Advent” is a weekly, Thursday afternoon email highlighting the events and happenings at Advent for the upcoming Sunday and following week. It brings together information that has been coming to you in multiple emails into one format. It also has a “Two Weeks Notice” section for a “heads up” about things ten to fourteen days out.

If your ministry team has information you would like added, please contact Laurie by Thursday morning. Attachments can be added if you need forms sent out to the congregation.

Don’t have email? Information will still be available weekly during the Sunday announcements and Sunday bulletin.

May Blood Drive

Our next blood drive at church will be on Monday, May 6, from 1 pm to 7 pm. Please sign up on the chart in the Fellowship Hall, or walk-in on the day.

Vacation Bible School 2013

9AM-NOON JULY 15-19

Registration began on April 24 for Members of Advent; General registration begins May 1. Registration forms will be available in the church office or on our website April 23.

Volunteers are needed!

If you can help please check the Volunteer board in the Fellowship Hall for descriptions and volunteer registration forms, or contact Erika Graf at vbs@adventlutheran.net.
In Christ The Future Is Known  
by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop

Always being made New, this phrase will serve as the theme of our Synod Assembly and of the 25th Anniversary commemoration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We know that we are in a time of rapid transition. Much of the ways we used to function as a congregation, synod or Churchwide Organization is under question today. Can we still do it that way? What will the church look like in the future?

This year, as we elect a new bishop, makes this theme very real for this synod. We will have a new leader. We will still be the same people. We still live in the same communities. Much of our world is changing. We had hoped that the church would be a place where we could count on the sameness of the past. But God does not work that way.

As followers of Jesus we should recognize that the gospel turns the old world upside down. We are being made new each day. Our reality as Lutherans is that we seemed surprised when this new thing happens. God is at work in our lives and in the world to do a new thing. God uses grace to build a community of faith. God calls us to share this newness not just for ourselves but also for the neighbor. We are forgiven not by our being good, but by God’s grace apart from our goodness.

I want to propose that we should expect new things to happen among God’s people, in church. We ought to provoke each other into living new lives. The old constant in our lives and in the church’s life is that we are being made new. Even in the face of death we are given new life. That is the reality of our world in Christ.

Much of our anxiety is due to our fear of the unknown. In Christ the future is known in this promise that we will be a new creation. I don’t know all of what that means. I do know that the future is in God’s hands. That is the newness that gives life and hope to the world. That is the work of God through the church. God is doing a new thing. That would be you.

All Are Invited

A Thank You Celebration  
For Bishop Chris Boerger  
Trinity Lutheran Church, 6215 106th St SW, Lynnwood  
Thursday, May 16, 2013  
5 pm — Hors d’Oeuvres Buffet  
6 pm — Thank You Program  
7 pm — Worship  
ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson Preaching; Bishop Chris Boerger Presiding
The 2013 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will take place Thursday, May 14, through Saturday, May 18, at the Lynnwood Convention Center in Lynnwood. On-line registration is now open. Please register before Friday, May 10, at www.lutheransnw.org/assembly2013. Materials are being added weekly, so be sure to check back on a regular basis to familiarize yourself with the documents. Please share the information about the event on Thursday, May 16, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood. This event is to thank Bishop Boerger for his ministry as Bishop of Northwest Washington Synod and includes a worship service with Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. All are welcome. (See first page of this publication.)

Registration is now open for the event Joining With God In Our Neighborhoods and Communities with Alex Roxburgh. Alan has dedicated his life to helping churches find their way in a time of great disorientation and disruption. This event is a special opportunity for your congregation to begin a process of discovery and engagement with what God is doing in the neighborhoods where you live. This day will introduce you to mission habits and practices, not to strategic plans and procedures. This event will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 1, at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue. Cost is $20 and includes lunch. For questions contact Debra Caldwell at debrarcaldwell@gmail.com or Jerry Buss at jerry.buss34@gmail.com. Register today at www.lutheransnw.org/roxburgh.

The Women of Region 1 (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana) will gather together for a weekend of fun, fellowship and learning from June 21 through June 23 at the Healthman Lodge, 7801 NE Greenwood Dr, Vancouver, WA. Keynote Speaker is author Jane Kirkpatrick (to learn more about Jane visit www.jkbooks.com). An introduction to the fall Gather magazine Bible Study by author Bishop Kay Ward.

Go! Night A Success
by Becky Cole, Director Children & Family Ministries, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Kirkland

On March 8, 150 youth and 40 adults from 17 congregations throughout the synod attended our Junior High/Middle School GO! Night.

We started the night at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Kirkland and Camp Lutherwood led our Livin’ it up with a Lutherwood style opening. Pr. Katy McCallum Sachse led us in Holden Evening Prayer for worship.

We jumped on trampolines and ate pizza at midnight at Sky Mania, Kirkland, before heading to Kingsgate Ice Arena for ice skating, hot chocolate, coffee and cookies. At 2:45 a.m., we were all back at Holy Spirit. Some people watched a movie, others played board games, some slept, and others found the photo booth and inflatables irresistible.

We wrapped it up with breakfast before...
Inside This Issue

- Call Process Update
- Family Game Night
- The Piecemakers’ Quilts
- Garden of Giving Grant

All are welcome to the Lynnwood Community Band Spring Concert

7:00pm
Friday, May 31
in the Sanctuary
Admission is free
Donations to the Volunteers of America Food Bank appreciated