

Advent Lutheran Church Newsletter



PHOTOS OF OUR VETERANS; AND GOLDENAGERS AT CAMP LUTHERHAVEN

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Advent honors our Veterans



GoldenAgers' Day Out at Camp Lutherhaven



PASTOR MATT'S CORNER

By Pastor Matthew Larson

I thought it would be fun to look at some the traditions that we see around the world and how they celebrate Christmas or the Christmas season. You may know more of them, however this is an interesting cross section. Do any of these look familiar to you? How do you "observe" Christmas? Enjoy it, let it infiltrate your heart. The greatest gift that God has ever given us....Jesus.

Christmas Traditions in Australia. In Australia, December 25 falls during summer vacation, so many of the country's Christmas festivities take place outdoors. The most popular event of the Christmas season is called Carols by Candlelight. People come together at night to light candles and sing Christmas carols outside. The stars shining above add to the sights and sounds of this wonderful outdoor concert.

Christmas Traditions in China. The small number of Christians in China call Christmas Sheng Dan Jieh, which means Holy Birth Festival. They decorate their homes with evergreens, posters, and bright paper chains. Families put up a Christmas tree, called a "tree of light," and decorate it with beautiful lanterns, flowers, and red paper chains that symbolize happiness. They cut out red pagodas to paste on the windows, and they light their houses with paper lanterns, too.

Christmas Traditions in England. It is cold, wet, and foggy in England at Christmastime. The day before Christmas is very busy for families in England. They wrap presents, bake cookies, and hang stockings over the fireplace. Then everyone gathers around the tree as someone tells a classic holiday story, "A Christmas Carol." Children write a letter to Father Christmas with their wishes and toss their letter into the fire so their wishes can go up the chimney. After the children fall asleep on Christmas Eve, Father Christmas comes to visit.

Christmas Traditions in Ethiopia. Ethiopia follows the ancient Julian calendar, so Ethiopians celebrate Christmas on January 7. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church's celebration of Christ's birth is called Ganna. It is a day when families attend church. Everyone dresses in white. Most Ethiopians don a traditional shamma -- a thin, white cotton wrap with brightly colored stripes across the ends. Twelve days after Ganna, on January 19, Ethiopians begin the three-day celebration called Timkat, which commemorates the baptism of Christ.

Christmas Traditions in France. Christmas celebrations France begin on December 5, which is St. Nicholas Eve, but Christmas Eve is the most special time in the French celebration of Christmas. Church bells ring and voices sing French carols, called noels. On Christmas Day, families go to church and then enjoy an abundant feast of wonderful dishes, ending with the traditional buche de Noel, a rich buttercream-filled cake shaped and frosted to look like a Yule log.

Christmas Traditions in Germany. German families prepare for Christmas throughout cold December.

Four Sundays before Christmas, they make an Advent wreath of fir or pine branches that has four colored candles. They light a candle on the wreath each Sunday, sing Christmas songs, and eat Christmas cookies. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, homes are filled with the delightful smells of baking loaves of sweet bread, cakes filled with candied fruits, and spicy cookies called lebkuchen.

Christmas Traditions in Holland. Dutch children in Holland, or the Netherlands, eagerly await the arrival of Sinterklaas on St. Nicholas Day on December 6. Sinterklaas is a kindly bishop. He wears red robes and a tall, pointed mitre on his head. Sinterklaas travels by ship from Spain to Amsterdam's harbor every winter. He brings his white horse and a huge sack full of gifts for the children. Families celebrate St. Nicholas Eve at home with lots of good food, hot chocolate, and a letterbanket, a "letter cake" made in the shape of the first letter of the family's last name.

Christmas Traditions in Italy. The Christmas season in Italy begins on the first Sunday of Advent, which is four Sundays before Christmas. Christmas fairs feature fireworks and bonfires along with holiday music. Families go to the Christmas markets to shop for gifts and new figures for the manger scene. Some families set up a Christmas tree and decorate it. Families set up their presepio, or manger scene, on the first day of the novena. They gather before the presepio each morning or evening of novena to light candles and pray.

Christmas Traditions in Mexico. The weather is warm and mild in Mexico during the Christmas season. Families shop for gifts, ornaments, and good things to eat in the market stalls, called puestos. They decorate their homes with lilies and evergreens. Family members cut intricate designs in brown paper bags to make lanterns, or farolitos. They place a candle inside and then set the farolitos along sidewalks, on windowsills, and on rooftops and outdoor walls to illuminate the community with the spirit of Christmas.

Christmas Traditions in Spain. The Christmas season begins in Spain on December 8, with a weeklong observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Evergreens decorate the churches and outdoor markets throughout the Christmas season. Tambourines, gourd rattles, castanets, and miniature guitars are offered for sale to enliven the singing and dancing in the streets. Children go from house to house reciting verses or singing carols for sweets, toys, or small instruments.

Christmas Traditions in Sweden. In Sweden, the Christmas festivities begin on December 13 with St. Lucia's Day, which celebrates the patron saint of light. The eldest daughter gets up before dawn and dresses as the "Queen of Light" in a long white dress. She wears a crown of leaves. Singing "Santa Lucia," the Lucia Queen goes to every bedroom to serve coffee and treats to each member of the family. The younger children in the family help, too. The whole family helps to select the Christmas tree just a day or two before Christmas.

SUPER YOUTH TEAM

By April Marshall

The children of Advent Lutheran invite you to their performance of "Footprints to the Manger" on **Sunday, December 11, during morning Worship**. Please be sure to join us as the kids deliver an important message on Christmas and how God wants us to walk in the ways of the Lord.

The next **Super Youth Team meeting** will be **December 5 at 6pm**. One of our main points of discussion will be the future of **GIFT**. Back in August when we decided to move GIFT from Wednesday to Sunday, we knew we would evaluate that decision in December. If you have any thoughts about GIFT, I would be more than happy to hear them so I can share them with the Super Youth Team during our meeting. Please feel free to email me aprilmr.m@gmail.com.

Also, please note there will be **no Sunday School or GIFT on December 18, 25, and January 1**.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Raeann Ducar

TREE OF SHARING

Our **Tree of Sharing** is off to a great start! **Sandra McCune** placed out the ornament tags we had collected and they were all taken that first Sunday! What a generous congregation we have! The **Tree of Sharing** is an annual **outreach activity** of our church. For families, this can be an important way to teach children to provide for those in need. The deadline to **return your gift** will be **Sunday, December 11. IT IS IMPERATIVE THE NAME TAG IS ATTACHED TO THE GIFT**. Thank you in advance for your support! Questions? Contact **Sandra McCune** at **893-2694**. We thank **Sandra** and **Kelsey McCune** for once again heading up our **Tree of Sharing** this year!



SPOKANE VALLEY PARTNERS FOOD BANK AND CLOTHING BANK DONATIONS

By Ken Otteman

Last month Advent donated a total of **413 lbs.** of food for the **Spokane Valley Partners' Food Bank** in our food donation box and **'Fill the Shelf'** Sunday!

PARISH NURSE

By Debbie Martin

Happy Holidays!! I want to take this time to reflect on what a Parish Nurse is and how I can assist our congregation. A Parish Nurse is someone who helps guide, direct and seek health information. Parish Nurses help the mind, physical, and spiritual well being of a person. Some of the assistance has been in the form of bringing an AED to our congregation and accompanying a parishioner to a doctors appointment.

My plans for this next year include: assisting with the Visiting Ministry; planning another CPR class at Advent Lutheran Church; working on the possibility of having a health fair before school starts back up in the fall; and having some educational classes at Advent Lutheran Church.

I am available generally on **Wednesdays** and **week-ends**. I can hopefully answer medical questions in my scope or find the answers, provide information on where to seek help, or even check in on a church member. My phone number is **509-701-6689**.

"It has been rumored that 'Frantic Franny' is cruising the Caribbean and will be AWOL this Christmas! In this season of giving, please remember our less fortunate neighbors by donating to our **Spokane Valley Partners Food Bank** on **ANY Sunday in December**. Your food items may be placed in the collection barrel as usual.



FROM THE BISHOP

By Bishop Martin Wells
The Advent of God

God's Beloved People,
We have a full, five-week Advent this year thanks to the calendar, a full measure to get ready. As always the question is whether we will be ready for both the return of the Lord at the Last Day and the celebration of that First Day, the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

We are familiar with the admonitions of the season: "Keep awake!" "The Kingdom of God has come near!" "The blind receive their sight; the lame walk the lepers are cleansed." "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid....Mary will bear a son."

How do you hear these admonitions this year? What kind of urgency do they carry given the world situation, our recent elections, and the unseasonably warm weather? What a strange year! Apocalyptic news and I find myself standing flat-footed, anything but ready! And yet the future looms.

Two figures offer guidance. The first is the prophet Jeremiah who, when he was about to be taken into captivity and shipped to exile in Babylon, bought land as a symbol of the future he couldn't see, but wanted to affirm. The second guide refers to this story in the midst of Hitler's reign of terror as his own way to step into a future he couldn't see. Here is Dietrich Bonhoeffer declaring Advent in the midst of his own confused day:

"We used to think that one of the inalienable rights of persons was that one should be able to plan both one's professional and private life. This is a thing of the past. The force of circumstances has brought us into a situation where we have to give up being 'anxious' about tomorrow (Matthew 6:34). But it makes all the difference whether we accept this willingly and in faith or under continual constraint. For most people the compulsory abandonment of planning for the future means that they are forced back into living just for the moment, irresponsibly, frivolously, or resignedly; some few dream longingly of better time to come and try to forget the present. We find both these courses equally impossible and there remains only the very narrow way, often extremely difficult to find, of living every day as if it were our last, yet living in faith and responsibility as though there were to be a great future. "Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land," proclaims the prophet (Jeremiah 32:15) in paradoxical contrast to the bleakness of his time. It is a sign from God and a pledge of a fresh start and a great future, just when all seems bleak."

Dear people of God: Let us enter this season vulnerable and in faith, certain that God is ushering in a future beginning with a vulnerable family bearing the Christ to us, Jesus, our anchor today and our anchor in the future. As he is always ahead of us, let us follow! Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus!

THANKSGIVING MAGIC

BY ROWENA BASTIN BENNETT

Thanksgiving Day I like to see
Our cook perform her witchery.
She turns a pumpkin into pie
As easily as you or I
Can wave a hand or wink an eye.
She takes leftover bread and muffin
And changes them to turkey stuffin'.
She changes cranberries to sauce
And meats to stews and stews to broths;
And when she mixes gingerbread
It turns into a man instead
With frosting collar 'round his throat
And raisin buttons down his coat.
Oh, some like magic made by wands,
And some read magic out of books,
And some like fairy spells and charms
But I like magic made by cooks!
(Submitted by Wes Todd)

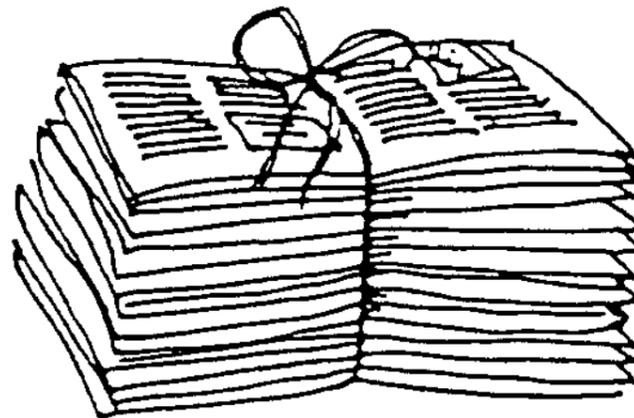
RECYCLING NEWS

By Roger Scheurer

The last couple of months have been pretty good for the Happy Helpers recycling program. We've been getting between \$40 and \$50 per month lately. This always helps pay for some of the little fix-it projects around the church. As you may know, we want you to bring all of your newspapers and those of your neighbors and all of the aluminum beverage cans that you can muster up and place them into the designated bins at the northwest corner of the parking lot. I monitor the bins and take the items to the recycling center for redemption on a regular basis.

Newspapers should be bagged in grocery bags or bundled and tied. Aluminum cans are just bagged before putting them into the bins.

November and December should produce a good volume of newspapers due to increased ads for the holidays. So remember, if you fill the bins, I'll empty them. Please check with me anytime that you have any questions. Thank you.



HAPPY HELPERS

By Forrest Diehl

Well, it is just too tempting.....Again, I am going to gingerly step over the red-line that separates religion and politics. Last month, I innocuously (hopefully) shared my voting strategy and light-heartedly offered you condolences on the choice of Presidential candidates. I must say that the events after the election were surprising to me. I was heartened to hear the tone of Trump's acceptance speech and Clinton's concession speech. But, as I followed subsequent political events, I began to become disheartened. Then I found, referenced in a sports article written by Richard Dietsch, a segment from a TV sports studio show, *Inside the NBA*. Deitsch's article stated that the TV show is hosted by Ernie Johnson (I, personally have never seen the show). And, in the article, Deitsch quoted an excerpt from Johnson on his observations on the election, while on the air. Here is some of what Johnson said:

"I know you're not supposed to talk about politics and religion (on a sports show), but we're already talking about politics, so I'm gonna go in the "R" direction, too; I never know from one election to the next who's gonna be in the Oval Office, but I know who's on the throne. And I am on this earth because **God** created me and that's who I answer to. I'm a Christian. I follow a guy named **Jesus**, you might have heard of him. And the greatest commandment he gave me was to love others. And scripture also tells us to pray for our leaders, and that's what I'm gonna do; I'm gonna pray for Donald Trump, I'm gonna pray for all those people right now who feel like they're on the outside looking in, who are afraid at this point. I'll pray for them too. In short, I'm praying for America, and I'm praying that one day we're gonna look back and we're gonna say; 'You know what? That Donald Trump presidency? That was all right.' But I'm praying."

I found Johnson's words comforting; I hope you do too. Happy New Year! During the month of December, we will be observing Advent Season (beginning of the church year) in preparing to celebrate Christmas. Now is the time to begin sending Christmas Cards. Advent Lutheran's **Happy Cut Ups** group offers a wide variety of Holiday Cards, including Christmas Cards. **Flo McDougall, Jan Madden, Tillie Funk, Waltraud York, Loretta Orr** and **Eva Sturges** actively restore old greeting cards and share their proceeds with other various ministries of the Church. You are encouraged to support their efforts this Christmas/New Year Season and, actually, throughout the year. Typically one can find their "table of cards" in the fellowship room during fellowship hour each Sunday, following worship service. Oh, Speaking of Christmas, **Happy Helper's Christmas Potluck Luncheon** is scheduled **Thursday, December 1st, at the Good Samaritan Village Community Center, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

There were a couple of facility improvements made to the church in October/November, by certain individuals, which deserve special recognition. The first was the improvements and expansion made to the choir area. In last month's newsletter, **Paula Kenney** wrote a wonderful

thank you paragraph for the improvements. But when I saw how well the choir area accommodated the **Combined Choirs** at the **Tri-Parish Thanksgiving Worship Service**, I felt obligated to thank those responsible also. So, again, thank you **Ed Orr** for designing, building, and expanding the choir platform, complete with carpeting, handrails, cabinet with shelving, steps, etc.! And, thanks to those who helped him install those improvements: **Don Newland, Kent Tibbetts** and **Harry Benton**.

The other improvement is the remodel of the restrooms (including reconfiguration of the ingress/egress) in the Child Center portion of the church. This was a challenging undertaking that required close coordination with outside contractors (electricians, plumbers, drywall contractors, tile contractors, etc.) and stay within a confined budget. **Arne Weinman** took-on that challenge and essentially, has successfully completed the required work. The only remaining task is the installation of a stall around a toilet located in the restroom near the outside playground door (we are waiting for the arrival of the stall). Last month I thanked the demolition volunteers that helped **Arne** begin the project on October 8. The folks that helped **Arne** periodically throughout the month of November are: **Norm Letha, George Harrison, Ken Otteman, Bill Thurston, and Steve Simonson**. Thanks **Arne Weinman** for your willingness to tackle this project, leadership, and expertise! And thanks to **all** who volunteered.

October/November tasks completed by the Happy Helpers were: installed and removed red Reformation streamers located in sanctuary (**Ed Orr, Harry Benton, Kent Tibbetts, Don Newland, Jim Gunby, Don Hodge, George Harrison, Bill Thurston, Steve Emig**); raked leaves and cleaned planting strip areas and parking lot (**Linda Camp**); repaired and replaced a broken classroom window, Sullivan campus (**Ken Otteman, Bill Thurston, Bob Dunlap**); built and hung art display bulletin board in classroom (**Ed Orr, Jim Gunby, Don Newland**); removed Christmas decorations from storage area and transported to Broadway campus (**George Harrison, Don Hodge**); changed air filters in furnaces (**Mel Carlson**); changed heat-pump/AC air filters on roof-top units (**Ed Orr**); replaced light bulbs in outside lamps at east entrance (**Harry Benton**); assembled new play table for Child Center classroom (**Bill Thurston, Wade Wipperling**); coordinated for lawn sprinkler blow-out (**Mel Carlson**); set-up Christmas sharing tree (**George Harrison, Don Hodge, Linda Camp**); repaired tricycles located in Child Center playground (**Wade Wipperling**); installed paper towel dispenser in classroom (**Clancy Howard**); installed TV wall mount in church classroom (**Bill Thurston, George Harrison, Don Newland, Ken Otteman**); inflated 25 each tires and balls with portable compressor (**Wade Wipperling**); modified old TV rolling table to a Lego play table for kindergarten classroom (**Don Hodge, Jim Gunby, George Harrison**); repaired classroom curtain rod (**Bill Thurston, Don Newland, Jim Gunby**); repaired window lock (**Ken Otteman, Don Newland**); cleaned spider-webs from pew area in narthex (**Harry Benton, Don Newland, Jim Gunby**); replaced electrical outlet in Child Center hallway (**Wade Wipperling, Ed Orr**);

HAPPY HELPERS-Continued

tidied-up and organized hymnals, bibles, pamphlets, etc. in the sanctuary pews (**Leroy York**); did weekly operator's maintenance checks on church bus and van (**Ken Otteman**); set correct time on clock located in gym (**Harry Benton, Mel Carlson, Steve Emig, Jim Gunby, Kent Tibbetts**); delivered food donations to the Valley Food Bank (**Ken Otteman**); mounted 14 each, bulletin boards to Child Center hallway walls (**Wade Wipperling, Ed Orr, Jim Gunby**) etc.

The Happy Helpers are looking forward to the Advent Season! The Happy Helpers meet each Thursday morning, 8:00 A.M., at the church. Coffee, tea, and "goodies" are provided. During November, **Mel Carlson** provided the goodies. **Thanks Mel!** Visitors and new members are always welcome. If you can't make it by 8:00 A.M., come anytime. Usually, we finish talking by 9:00 A.M. and working by 11:00 A.M.

In closing, the Happy Helpers, again, compliment and thank **Roger Scheurer** for the work he does in recycling. **Roger** donates his personal time and resources to make this revenue-generating activity work. Advent Lutheran Church is blessed to be active in recycling—a money generating and environmental friendly activity! Thanks **Roger** for depositing the recycling proceeds to the Happy Helpers' dedicated fund, and thanks to all who support this church activity!

CAMP CORNER

By Lauren Gust

Lutherhaven Ministries is your congregation's year-round outdoor ministry. We're Camp Lutherhaven on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Shoshone Mountain Retreat & Ranch up the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, Idaho Servant Adventures, and week-long Lutherhaven Day Camps held in communities around the Northwest. The Camp Corner features news and happenings at Lutherhaven.

Did you know? 2016 marks our **70th year** offering quality, safe, Christ-centered programs for campers of every age!

Here are a few things coming up at camp:

Deck The Halls Family Retreat :: December 9-11

- A relaxing weekend of crafting wood working, hay rides Christmas carols and more!
- Invite another family to share the joy of the season. A December family tradition for over 20 years!

Back 2 Camp Middle School Retreat :: January 20-22

- Classic middle school weekend full of camp friends, activities and worship!
- Bring a friend or five and give them a snapshot of this coming summer's theme. This is just one of two epic middle school weekends.

BYG (Building Youth Groups) Middle School Retreat :: January 27-29

- A weekend of team-building, group devotions, games and hopefully some snow!
- Facilitated time set aside for groups to dream, plan, covenant, reflect and be together.

This is just one of two epic middle school weekends!

Other camp news:

Find these events and more at www.lutherhaven.com/events!

Phase III of the Retreat Center is underway! Interested in volunteering? Email Steve Meyer at steve@lutherhaven.com.

Lutherhaven is a **Camp that Changes the World**, (for the second year in a row!) selected by Chicago's Center for Faith and Service for the crucial role we play in cultivating the talents and passions of our young people; nurturing faith formation in kids, teens, adults and families; and inspiring and equipping our next generation of leaders. Thanks for being part of making Lutherhaven the fantastic outdoor ministry it is!

*All of us at Lutherhaven wish you well!
Now we all thank our God!*

Thanks for joining us in our 70th year!



ADDRESS CHANGE

Betty Johnson: My address is: 6015 Miner Dr. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512. Home phone: 360-507-8750. Cell: 509-993-1256. If anyone is in the area give me a call. My regards to all. **Betty Johnson**



INCOME/EXPENSE INFORMATION

By Bonnie Calhoun

Advent General Fund Income/Expense

	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	32,592.00	306,808.82
Expense	<u>30,591.77</u>	<u>303,307.50</u>
Net	2,000.23	3,501.32

Child Center Income/Expense

	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	55,963.80	580,725.55
Expense	<u>57,579.79</u>	<u>579,119.10</u>
Net	-1,615.99	1,606.45

Notes for Advent Lutheran Church

- **In October, income exceeded expenses by \$2,000.**
- Expenses included the budgeted disbursement (10%) of benevolence dollars for the ELCA, Spokane Valley Partners, Grace Ministries, Lutheran Community Services and the Wenatchee Valley Lutheran Latino Ministry.
- Average monthly expenses are coming in \$1,914 lower than average budgeted monthly expenses.
- 2016 January-October expenses are \$18,922 lower than 2015 January-October expenses.
- Average monthly income is coming in \$1,895 lower than average budgeted monthly income.
- Sunday offering giving for January-October 2016 is \$11,095 lower than in January-October of 2015. This decline in income will be considered in budget planning for 2017.
- Budget planning for 2017 is underway. Preliminary budget proposals were presented to Council for final review at the November Council meeting. **Copies of the proposed 2017 budget will be available in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 13th.**

Notes for Advent Lutheran Child Center

- **In October, expenses exceeded income by \$1,616.**
- Average monthly income is exceeding average monthly expenses by \$161.
- Tuition income experienced a decrease due to the loss of four full-time DSHS students and Summer School Age children moving from full day to after school care.
- Total income for the Center had decreased by \$54,797 when compared to this time last year. Expenses have decreased by \$42,438. These changes in income and expenses will be considered during the 2017 budget planning.
- Budget planning for 2017 is underway. Preliminary budget proposals were presented to Council for final review at the November Council meeting. **Copies of the proposed 2017 budget will be available in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 13th.**

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

For our Church Family and Friends: Alboucq family, Steve Amundson, Beverly Armstrong, Ginny Besemer, Tara Bradley, Brown family, Belle Campbell, Mike Canney, Hazel Cascaden, Bud & Betty Jo Cook, Lonnie Day, Marlene Diehl, Darwin Ehlers, Flanagan family, Sonja Fording, Tillie Funk, Teddy Gamiao, Alisa Gergawy, Carol Gerds, Margaret Gilcrease, Abby Green, Dolores Hanson, Leigh & Steve Hopkins, Pastor Allen & Linda Ingebritsen, family of Elmer Jacquot, Aliyah Jahay and family, Elinor Johnson, Dana Kelley, Laurel Kenneally, Shirley Kjos, Mary Ann Klemmer, Alison LaFrance, Velma Linerud, Eloise Lorentz, Jan Madden, Sue May, Julie McMillan, Bonnie Mertes, Jack & Flo McDougall, Katie McIntyre, Joyce Mertes, Marian Moseman, Gloria Nicol, Joanne Okert, Opsal family, Rob Rector & family, Glen Preuninger, Connie Pyle, Myrna Rehn, Gerry O'Rourke, Tim O'Rourke, Martha Schneider, Marvin & Darlene Schwartzberger, Keith Shipbaugh, Kathy Sordorff, Louise Sperline, Tito Tinajero, family of Beverly Turner, Duane Yates, Ann Young, Denise Walker, Florence & Keith Wilson, 20 year old young man in rehab.

For Family Members & Friends Serving in the Military:

2 Lt. Ashley Allingor-Army; 2 Lt. Zane Allingor-USAF, CPL Damien Anderson, TSG Ryan Armstrong, Major Ryan Baker, MAJORS Megan & Robert Barnwell, SSGT Alex Baron, USAF, U.S. Army, Lt. Jordon Bolster, Steve & Christine Coulston, CPT Christopher Finch, Robert Guyton, TSG Christine Johnson, SGT Aaron Lang, Sr. Airman Richard Luna III, MSgt. Duncan McFarlane, Bryan McGoon, SSG Aaron Moeller, Sam Nelson, Sgt. Alex Pohle, E-4 Blaine Rector, Kurt Strigel, SPC Cody Strunks, Colin Wells, U.S. Air Force, Ryan Wells, TSgt Sarah Meddock, TSG Jason Wood.

For Family Members & Friends Serving in Mission Fields around the world.

If you have a prayer request, please send an email to the church office at alcsokane@comcast.net or call the church office at (509) 928-7733.

**October Services
Average Attendance: 159**



UPCOMING EVENTS

All are welcome to attend the **Happy Helpers Christmas Potluck** on **Thursday, December 1st**, from **11am to 2pm** at the **Good Samaritan Fellowship Hall**. Please bring a dish to share and a donation for a local charity. The charity will be determined that day. The Happy Helpers hope to see you there!

Christmas Program time is here! Our kids (and leaders!) have worked very hard on the Christmas program! Invite your family and friends to their performance of "**Footprints to the Manger**" on **Sunday, December 11**, during the Worship service.

Christ Clinic & Christ Kitchen is sponsoring a '**Gingerbread Build-Off**' at the **Davenport Grand Hotel** on **Sunday, December 11th**, from **10am-4pm**. Come watch the professional Gingerbread competition, decorate your own Gingerbread House, and take a photo with the Gingerbread Man & Woman, plus amazing raffle opportunities while supporting a great cause! *Admission is free and open to the public!*

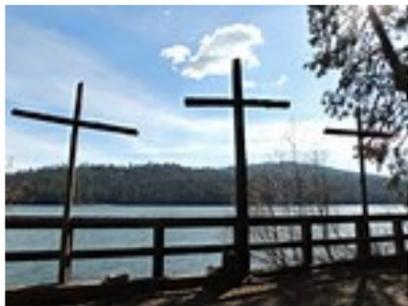
The **Messiah Choir** will be performing **The Messiah** on **December 11th at 4:00 pm** at the **First Presbyterian Church of Spokane**.

Hearth Homes presents **Plaid Tidings**, Wednesday, **December 14th at the Spokane Civic Theater**, 1020 N. Howard Street, Spokane. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Play begins at **7:30 pm**. All proceeds help house homeless women and children in Spokane Valley. The **Church office** has tickets available for **\$30 each**. Or you may call **509-926-6492** for tickets.

LUTHERHAVEN AUCTION

Save the Date

February 4, 2017 will be a celebration for **30 years** of putting on the auction to raise funds and send our youth to **Camp Lutherhaven**. **Gourmet Chef, Tes Sturges**, has offered to put on a five-course gala dinner at Advent Church. In lieu of asking for your time, donations, hard work and bids, please join us for a wonderful, relaxing evening! We will be asking for a donation of **\$75 per person** to attend the dinner. We know this may be a stretch for some, so start saving now! If you usually give more than this amount at the auction, there will be an opportunity to step up and do so. We do want to be able to continue to change lives by providing scholarships to **Camp Lutherhaven!** Ticket sales will start in December after the service and would make a nice Christmas gift! Check, cash or credit cards will be accepted. If you have questions, call **Rick Velategui** at **701-8040!**



INLAND NORTHWEST BLOOD DRIVE

Attention Blood donors! The next blood drive at Advent will be held **January 22, 2017**. **The need is always critical, especially during and after the holidays,**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Helping hands needed to decorate our church for Christmas on **Saturday, December 3 at 9:00 AM**. Questions? Call **Sherry Leatha** at **924-9523**.

The semiannual Congregational meeting will be Sunday, December 4th following the Worship service. The agenda includes approval of the Congregational Renewal proposal, electing representatives to the Synod Assembly, approval of the 2017 Budget Proposals for Advent and the Child Center, and a review of the Property Assessment Report. **Copies of the report packet for this meeting are available in the Narthex. The report contains detailed information about all of the agenda items.** Council members have been available to answer any questions you may have during the Fellowship hour the past few Sundays.

Wes Todd will continue leading the book study on "**The Shack**" during the Sunday Gift program **Sunday, December 4th**. We will meet right after the dinner.

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Worship With Those Who Mourn Worship Service

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope. **Episcopal Church of the Resurrection** invites everyone to their **Blue Christmas Worship Service** on **Sunday, December 11**, from **3:00 pm-4:00 pm**.

Santa Lucia: This year, we will incorporate our **Santa Lucia** tradition after our Worship service on **Sunday, December 18**, in conjunction with our Coffee Fellowship hour. Rather than have the traditional Swedish Meatballs dinner that we have had in the past, we plan to have an assortment of cookies during our Fellowship time. **Please bring cookies of your choice or other goodies to share.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Due to the Christmas holiday, the deadline to submit your articles and announcements for the **January Newsletter** will be **Friday, December 16.**

CHRISTMAS CANTATA!



JOY! by Joel Raney is an upbeat **Christmas Cantata** that will be presented by the **Advent Choir** on **Sunday, December 18, 2016** during worship. The choir has been working very hard on this musical and wants to share the story with you.

There will be NO 'Generations in Faith Together' (GIFT) or Sunday School on December 18, 25, and January 1.

On **Christmas Eve**, we will have two **Christmas Eve services:** One at **5:00 pm** and **7:00 pm.**

The Church Office will be closed Christmas Day through New Year's Day and will reopen on January 3, 2017. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Matthew Larson at 280-4140.

2016-2017 Pictorial Directories are available in the Narthex. They include Committee Heads, Team Leaders, Child Center and Church staff, as well as photos of members and friends. Please take one Directory per family.

Do you have **one hour** per **month** to spare? If so, the **'Food for Thought'** program can use your help! Contact **Marilyn Keith** at **808-3346** for more information. Thank you!

Team #2, led by **Darrell & Francie Shoquist** and **Kim Nurvic**, are taking sign-ups for the **December** Hospitality Schedule. See the **sign-up** sheet on the table in the Narthex.

Team #3, led by **Ian & SaraLu Moore** and **Rick & Babs Velategui**, are taking sign-ups for the **January** Hospitality Schedule. See the **sign-up** sheet on the table in the Narthex.

THANK YOU

Thank you from the ladies of the **UGM Women's Shelter** for the gifts of Travel Toiletries. They are so appreciated. They will be moving to their new home soon. (And a *special thank you* to **Selma Hair** for delivering the toiletries throughout the year).

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHILD CENTER NEWS

By Heidi Perry, Director

The Christmas season is my favorite time of year and I am so glad it is finally here. It is especially wonderful in the classroom because there is an endless supply of activities and lessons to do. The Christmas story is one of the best stories to share with children and one that they can grasp and understand very easily.

One year in particular sticks out vividly in my mind even still. It was when I was the Toddler Lead years ago, and it was the year the Christmas lasted the entire school year. Every baby in the classroom was "Baby Jesus" and we would sing "Away in a Manger" all day long while pretending to rock Baby Jesus. Even "Rock a Bye Baby" and "Happy Birthday" turned into songs for Baby Jesus. Each and every one could tell you that you followed the star to find Jesus and that his daddy was God.

My favorite part about the whole thing was months later when Easter rolled around. I read them a story about the cross and they all told me that "Baby Jesus died on the cross!" I learned very quickly that in the future I needed to express that Baby Jesus grew up and became "Big Boy Jesus."

Now that I'm in the Office, I try to make sure that all of the classrooms have the ability to teach their children as much as possible about the Christmas story so they can have fun stories like these to remember throughout the years. Between the play nativity sets, the books, and the art supplies, I know that the opportunities are endless.

Have a very Merry Christmas this year and find ways to make memories that will last for years to come.



DECEMBER 2016

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 10:00-11:00 am- Amazing Athletes 11:00am – 2:00 pm- Happy Helpers Christmas Potluck- Good Samaritan 7:30pm AA Meeting 106	2 6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's Restaurant 4:00 pm Valley Christian School Set-Up 6:00 pm Co-DA Meeting 122	3 9:00 am Decorate Church 8:00 am- 8:00 pm- Valley Christian School
4 Second Sunday of Advent Congregational Meeting 9:15 am-Kid's Worship 9:30 am-Worship Service/ Communion After Worship-Coffee Fellowship Congregational Meeting Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:45 am -High School Bible Study at Starbucks 5:00 pm -Generations in Faith Together/Dinner/Confirmation (Chrismons on tree/ decorate tree) 7:30 pm -Al-Anon:122; AA Meeting: 106	5 10:00 am–11:30 am ALCC Happy Feet 10:30 am ALCC Board Meeting 12:00 pm-5:30 pm- ALCC Parent Confer- ences 106, 122, 158 6:00 pm Super Youth Team 7:00 pm Boy Scouts F/158	6 9:00 am Happy Piecemakers 9:30 am Child Center Chapel 12:00 pm-5:30 pm-ALCC Parent Conferences 106, 122, 158 5:30pm Executive Committee 6:00pm Cub Scouts F/106/158	7 9:30am Mid-week Bible Study 106 12:00 pm-5:30 pm- ALCC Parent Confer- ences 106, 122, 158 6:30 pm Choir	8 8:00 am Happy Helpers Happy Cut-Ups 10:00-11:00 am Amazing Athletes 12:00 pm-5:30 pm- ALCC Parent Confer- ences 106, 122, 158 6:30 pm Praise Team Practice 7:30 pm AA Meeting 106	9 6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's Restaurant 12:00 pm-5:30 pm- ALCC Parent Confer- ences 106, 122, 158 6:00 pm Co-DA Meeting 122	10 9:00 am- 11:00 am- Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
11 Third Sunday of Advent 9:15 am -Kids' Worship 9:30 am -Worship Service/ Communion/Christmas Program After Worship Coffee Fellowship Pastor Matt's Bible Study Praise Team Practice Happy Cut-Ups Card Sale 10:45 am High School Bible Study at Starbucks 5:00 pm 'Generations in Faith Together/Dinner/Confirmation/ 7:30 pm -Al-Anon:122; AA Meeting: 106	12 10:00 am–11:30 am ALCC Happy Feet 6:30 pm Worship & Music 7:00 pm Boy Scouts F/158	13 9:00 am-3:00 pm Happy Piecemakers Christmas Potluck 6:00 pm Council Meeting 122 Cub Scouts F/106/158	14 9:30am Mid-week Bible Study 106 6:30 pm Choir	15 8:00 am- Happy Helpers Happy Cut-Ups 10:00-11:00 am Amazing Athletes 7:30 pm AA Meeting 106	16 6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's Restaurant 9:00-11:00 am Spokane Valley Partners Food Sorting 6:00 pm Co-DA Meeting 122 6:00 pm-9:00 pm AA Potluck NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 am -Choir Contata/ Communion After Worship Coffee Fellowship/Santa Lucia 10:45 am High School Bible Study at Starbucks Together'/Dinner/Confirmation 7:30 pm -Al-Anon:122; AA Meeting: 106	19 10:00 am–11:30 am ALCC Happy Feet 7:00 pm Boy Scouts F/158	20 9:00 am Happy Piecemakers 9:30 am Child Center Chapel 6:00 pm Cub Scouts F/106/158	21	22 8:00 am- Happy Helpers 10:00-11:00 am Amazing Athletes 7:30 pm AA Meeting 106 NEWSLETTER MAILED	23 6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's Restaurant Church Office & Child Center Closed	24 Christmas Eve Services 5pm & 7pm
25 Christmas Day 9:30 am -Worship Service/ Communion After Worship Coffee Fellowship 10:45 am High School Bible Study at Starbucks 7:30 pm -Al-Anon:122; AA Meeting: 106	26 Church Office & Child Center Closed	27 Church Office & Child Center Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30 6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's Restaurant Church Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve

DECEMBER HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

Ministry Description	December 4 9:30 am Second Sunday of Advent	December 11 9:30 am Third Sunday of Advent	December 18 9:30 am Fourth Sunday of Advent	December 24 Christmas Eve 5pm 7pm	December 25 9:30 am Christmas Day
Communion Assistants (4)	Manda Benton Shelle Seaholm Francie Shoquist Babs Velategui	Marian Moseman Kim Nurvic Shelle Seaholm Denise Walker	Manda Benton Audrey Knuttel Kate Larson Kim Nurvic	Manda Benton Janet Esser Karen Nelson Sue Wipperling	Neal Bedsted
Assisting Minister (1)	Jeff Zaleski	Jeff Zaleski	Jeff Zaleski	Jeff Zaleski Holly Gunby	
Reader (1)	Jeff Zaleski	Mike Canney	Mike Canney	Jeff Zaleski Holly Gunby	
Acolyte (1)	Demetrios Tsakarestos				
Cross Bearer (1)					
Media Person (1)		Abby Nurvic			
Ushers (3-4)	Bill Johnson Linda Semmen	Darrell & Francie Shoquist	Mike Canney	Mark, Mike Cindy Canney Shannon Wade Thompson Wipperling	
Greeters (2-4)	Darrell & Francie Shoquist	Patt Scott	Linda Rhoads		
Altar Flowers	Poinsettias	Poinsettias	Poinsettias	Poinsettias	Poinsettias
Fellowship Host	Darrell & Francie Shoquist	Darrell & Francie Shoquist	Kim Nurvic	XXX	XXX
Fruit Tray				XXX	XXX
Cookies	Kathy Bowers Holly Gunby: Cake	Jan Davis Marlene Diehl Jill Lay	Kim Nurvic Linda Rhoads	XXX	XXX

Team #2 Leaders: Darrell & Francie Shoquist: 926-7160

Kim Nurvic: 979-7553

“Share with God’s people.....Practice

Hospitality” Romans 12:13 (NIV)

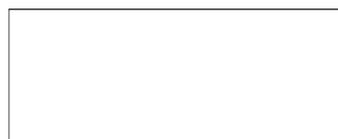


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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

9:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:45 am High School Bible Study at Starbucks on Sprague
5:00 pm 'Generations in Faith Together' (**December 4 & 11**)

"Called by God's Grace to Love and Serve"