

# Advent Lutheran Church Newsletter



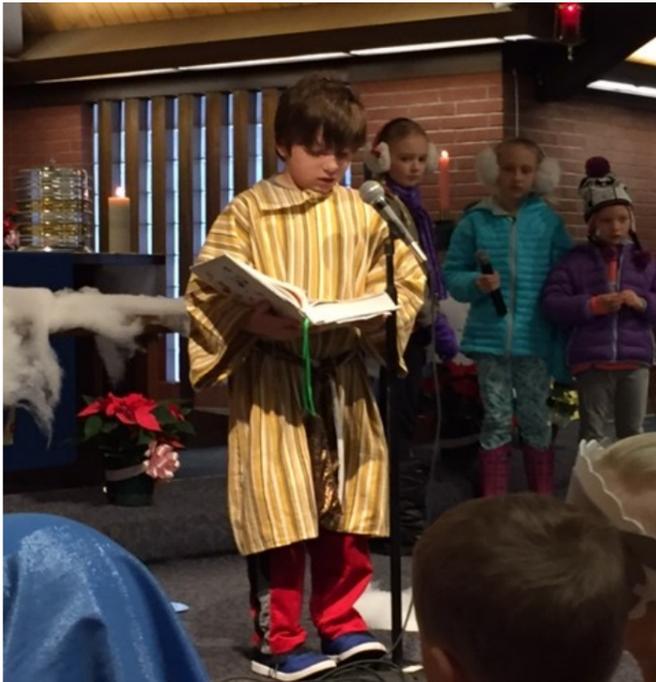
## PHOTOS OF OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND CAROLING

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## PHOTOS OF OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND CAROLING



Dashing through the snow! We would like to extend a huge Thank You to **Dave Opsal** for providing his tractor and trailer during our 'GIFT' night on December 11, 2016. Everyone had a wonderful hayride while singing Christmas carols! Dave drove the carolers throughout the neighborhood spreading Christmas cheer to our neighbors! And we must thank David's right-hand-man on the caroling excursion, **Wade Wipperling**, for making sure no one fell off the back of the trailer!



### **PASTOR MATT'S CORNER**

By Pastor Matthew Larson

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)*

2017! Are you ready? How have you prepared yourself for the new year? Or have you? Do you find yourself reflecting on the past year or do you do more pondering on what lies in front of you? What about all the hurts, grief, losses and concerns that happened in the last year? How will that affect me in the new year? What about the joy, the new experiences, the celebrations? There is so much that shapes us for good and for ill. Our lives are many choices, many actions, many thoughts. We don't always make the right choices nor act justly at all times. We are sinners.

However, we are also new creations reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. No matter what....I say again, no matter what happens to us in this life God has promised to be there, to be merciful, and to love us. We are always being made new through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have been washed in the waters of Baptism and given words of hope and promise. So whether we are looking back or looking ahead we do so knowing we are forgiven and renewed to be Christ's hands and feet here and now.....and into the future.

Know that Jesus reaches out to you and gives to you peace and joy in this life and life everlasting.

PS – My thanks to the congregation for its unanimous vote to accept the Lilly Endowment Renewal Grant. I look forward to the benefits of this for me, for the church and child center staff, and for the congregation!!

### **FROM THE BISHOP**

By Bishop Martin Wells

***“Let us make music more beautifully, more eloquently, and more devotedly than ever before.”***

--Leonard Bernstein

God's Beloved People,  
Blessed New Year to each of you! Whether you're reading these words while still in the run up to Christmas, or during what I hope is family time between Christmas and New Year's, or after the football feast of January 1, blessings, blessings and prayers for this new year in chronological time!

At the beginning of this new year it seems good to celebrate beauty as a source of inspiration and comfort. Two instances of beauty have graced my life in the last week and the beauty of the incarnation of God in the baby Jesus is still to come. How shall we give thanks?

Some of you know that Susan and I had the deep privilege of offering campus ministry at Pacific Lutheran University for eight years with our dear friend Daniel Erlander. A highlight of each year came as the university choirs joined forces to offer a glorious Christmas concert. Those

concerts still go on and this year was our first time to return for a concert since 1994. How shall we give thanks to all of you who so generously funded the Mary Baker Russell music building, a glorious, resonant space for the music of the spheres? Thanks be to God for David Dahl, our university organist and the inspiration for the great and beautiful organ accompanying the voices! How shall we give thanks for your beautiful children and their desire to create beauty and show discipline in learning to sing? Thanks indeed to the God of the creation and the vibrations of sound that move our emotions. And thanks be to God for all of you who have invested in this university of the Church where discipleship is measured in curious and critical inquiry and faith is expressed as wonder and the harmonies of song!

The second encounter with beauty came that same night as we were invited, with other Regents and spouses, to dine with President Tom and Patty Krise. In the beautiful Gonyea House the university food service delighted our senses with smells and tastes and the vision of a heavenly banquet. May you, in this season of the senses, be charmed by the memories invested in the food you will eat and the beautiful people who will join you!

All this beauty, all this grace; all these memories and all this hope! Here, at the cusp of a new year we give thanks that we are not alone, but surrounded by a creation of beauty and the beauty of relationships grounded in love. All this is founded on the great visitation by our promising God who has moved from far off in the cosmos to Kairos time in the vulnerability of the child Jesus. His is the ineffable beauty of love and desire, especially God's desire that we form a companionship in life for one another. Jesus both saves us from ourselves and knits us together again as different voices all serving the song of thanksgiving.

Dear brothers and sisters, I hope you get to experience the beauty of this season brought to a great Amen in "God With Us," Immanuel, Jesus of Nazareth, very God of very God. Fortified by such beauty and grace we enter the uncertain time of a new year with reflected beauty in our eyes, songs of joy in our ears and on our lips, and the desire that everyone know this vulnerable, hopeful God.

Blessed Christmas. Happy New Year!



### ADVENT LUTHERAN CHILD CENTER NEWS

By Heidi Perry, Director

Happy New Year! This past year has been busy and full of change for us. Changes in staff, new bathrooms, and small updates here and there in the effort to improve always!

We welcomed several new faces and said goodbye to some well-loved ones, as well. Mr. Ryan finally finished his degree and left us to pursue his career as a high school teacher. We gained new School Age, Ones, and Preschool Lead Teachers, all with lots of experience and plenty of love to share. We also created a drug testing policy to ensure that all of our staff are of the quality our children deserve.

We also lost our cook, **Miss Monica**, but we were able to find a fabulous replacement in **Miss Adina**. **Miss Lindsey** has been working to update the menus to include more homemade, fresh meals, and Adina has been a huge help in this. We have been able to do much more than we ever have before because of her expertise.

With the help of **Arne** and the **Happy Helpers**, we were able to update our bathrooms to make them more functional for our classrooms. This was a huge project that I had been dreaming of for a while, so it was incredibly exciting to see it finalized. The children and staff have benefited immensely from this.

We have also been working hard all year to get ready to be re-rated again by **Early Achievers**. This rating process affects our Infant through Pre-K classes and helps us to improve quality as well as giving parents an easy way to tell which centers are better than others. We also started a new rating program in our School Age classrooms so that they can benefit from extra training and tools to increase quality specifically geared towards their age range.

In addition to all of these big changes, we have also started working on improving the appearance of the hallways and building. We have added new bulletin boards and pictures throughout the hallways. Now anyone passing through, be it a current or future family, or even a staff or church member, will be able to see pictures of the children at play, information about our staff, and appealing art displays.

It's my plan to continue making these small improvements throughout 2017 so that we are always striving for quality and improvement. Thank you for all of the help and encouragement you give us, and once again, Happy New Year!

### PARISH NURSE

By Debbie Martin

Blessings everyone in this New Year! I can't believe it is 2017.

As with the New Year, there brings new hope, new wishes, new resolutions, and new beginnings. I would like to do the same with being your Parish Nurse.

I have new hope to provide our congregation with new ideas, new information, perhaps some classes. However, I would like your help. Let me know what your wishes, your desires are in what you would like to see in this new year.

Blessings again, **Debbie Martin RN**  
Parish Nurse, **509-701-6689**

### CHRISTMAS MAIL

By Ted Hooser

Cards in each mailbox,  
angel, manger, star and lamb,  
as the rural carrier,  
driving the snowy roads,  
hears from her bundles  
the plaintive bleating of sheep,  
the shuffle of sandals,  
the clapping of camels.  
At stop after stop,  
she opens the little tin door  
and places deep in the shadows  
the shepherds and wise men,  
the donkeys lank and weary,  
the cow who chews and muses.  
And from her Styrofoam cup,  
white as a star and perched  
on the dashboard, leading her  
ever into the distance,  
there is a hint of hazelnut,  
and then a touch of myrrh.

(Submitted by Wes Todd)

### TRI-PARISH THANKSGIVING REPORT

By Amaryllis Otteman

The **Tri-Parish Committee** would like to thank everyone who generously donated food and money at our annual **Tri-Parish Thanksgiving Worship and Dinner** on November 20, 2016. We collected **\$382** and **201 lbs.** of food for the Spokane Valley Partners Food Bank. Our next **Committee meeting** will be held at the **Episcopal Church of the Resurrection** on **January 18, 2017, at 5:00 pm.**

## HAPPY HELPERS

By Forrest Diehl

Happy Calendar New Year, Everyone! And since it is still fresh in my mind, as I write this, I must say thanks to all who planned, organized, directed, made costumes, made props, participated, and supported the 2016 Christmas Program that was performed during the Worship Service on December 11. **Footprints to the Manger** was a great program with a wonderful message! It reminded me of the poem "Footprints in the Sand". I think Mary Stevenson was the first to write that poem. Following the poem's publication in the 1930's, there were many variations published. Similarly, and afterwards, many variations of a poem called "**Footprints in the Snow**" appeared. One variation, often seen on Christmas cards is:



### Footprints in the Snow

One white and wintry Christmas Eve in a village long ago,  
A young child took a journey, leaving footprints in the snow.

Clutched within her tiny hand she carried a small  
tattered heart,  
Fashioned from some scraps of cloth, wrapped in the  
charm of childlike art.

A manger scene of wood and straw was the child's  
destination.

Her only Christmas wish - to join Christ's birthday  
celebration.

She placed her precious handmade gift upon the straw  
with care;  
And before she turned to leave, whispered a simple prayer.

The villagers who stood nearby recall that night with awe,  
Retelling every detail of the miracle they saw...  
A second set of footprints appeared next to the girl's own.  
They seemed to walk right by her side; to see her safely  
home.

But there's no mystery in the presence of this unseen Friend  
For once God's touched your heart, you'll never walk alone  
again.

A Christmas poem is indeed apropos since we are still in the  
Christmas season until Friday, January 6, when the season  
of Epiphany begins. So Merry Christmas everyone!

And thank you to the Church Council and Administrative  
Staff for the informative and well-organized Congregational  
Meeting on Sunday, December 4. Our congregational  
president, **Ian Moore**, along with our Parish Administrator,  
**Bonnie Calhoun**, did a wonderful job in explaining the 2017  
Congregation and Child Center budgets and answering all  
questions. As **Arne Weinman** pointed out during the meet-  
ing, the administrative staff deserves kudos for having the  
2017 budget in printed form and available to the congrega-  
tion weeks before the congregational meeting. That really  
facilitated the voting process. The voting for and discus-  
sions on the **2017 Renewal Program, Endowment Fund,**  
and **Campus Facilities Report** were exciting and showed  
the congregation is truly interested in growth, giving, and

being good stewards of our resources. **Pastor Matt** gave an  
excellent overview of next year's renewal program. **Darwin  
Ronngren** described how our endowment funds fared  
during this year's stock market. It was plain to see from the  
discussion that was generated by Darwin's report, that our  
congregation is very generous and focused on giving. With  
our endowment funds, the **privilege of giving** is now, not  
limited to just us, but can be passed on and shared with  
future members of Advent Lutheran Church. Lastly, **Bruce  
Blackmer** gave an excellent report on Advent Lutheran  
Church's real property assets. In his report, Bruce  
expressed the importance in identifying a specific congrega-  
tional ministry/goal/vision set – before truly evaluating the  
intrinsic and financial worth of our assets. All of which ties  
back to the significance of chartering and identifying a future  
congregational course during our 2017 Renewal Program....  
**Past, Present, and Future** .....events.

The remodels and upgrades of the restrooms located in the  
Child Center are now complete. Many thanks go to the  
**Child Center staff and teachers** for their patience and  
endurance in "making-do" during the construction and shift-  
ing "potty schedules" to accommodate the work (we began  
work on October 8). This was not a simple project and  
required professional expertise. A listing of the professional  
help that we received follows:

- **Arne Weinman**, General Contractor (First Team  
Construction - Retired)
- **Bruce Wisor** and Quality Floors
- **Tieson Lodahl** and **Jake** from Epic Electrical  
Enterprises, LLC.
- **Five-Star Plumbing, LLC.**

**Steve Simonson**, who did the dry walling and texturing.  
And a special thanks to all the congregational members  
(also Child-care friends and parents) who donated their time  
and energy to bring this project to a successful finish.

Some of the Happy Helpers' accomplishments during the  
month of December are: erected Christmas the tree in the  
Sanctuary (**Ed Orr, Wade Wipperling, Linda Camp,**  
**George Harrison**); watered indoor plants and poinsettias  
in Narthex and Sanctuary (**Linda Camp**); attached cloth-  
covered bulletin boards to Child Center hallway walls (**Ed  
Orr, Wade Wipperling, Jim Gunby**); had a great Christmas  
Potluck Luncheon with invited guests, administrative church  
staff and Child Center staff at Good Samaritan Community  
Center (**All**); delivered Christmas decorations from storage  
to the church (**George Harrison, Don Hodge**); installed  
new sink water faucet in Child Center restroom (**Kent  
Tibbetts**); installed toilet stall in Child Center restroom  
(**Arne Weinman**); cemented vinyl laminate to face of  
kitchen cabinet (**Wade Wipperling, Ken Otteman**);  
coordinated to have kitchen grease trap pumped (**Harry  
Benton**); replaced lightbulb in Child Center laundry room  
(**Harry Benton, Steve Emig**); transported totes containing  
Lutherhaven Auction files from church to Sullivan campus  
storage (**Ken Otteman**); repaired Child Center classroom  
bulletin board with Plexiglas cover (**Ed Orr, Kent Tibbetts**);

(Continued on next page)

### HAPPY HELPERS-Continued

repaired curtain rod holder in Child Center classroom (**George Harrison, Don Hodge, Linda Camp**); repaired child-proof cabinet lock in Child Center classroom (**Steve Emig**); installed child gate to Child Center classroom door (**Kent Tibbetts, Wade Wipperling, Clancy Howard**); helped organize and clean-up in narthex area (**Linda Camp**); returned ladders to Carl's cabin (**Harry Benton, Steve Emig, Ed Orr, Jim Gunby**); coordinated Good Samaritan payment for Happy Helper Christmas Potluck use of community center (**Clancy Howard, Harry Benton**); delivered food donations to the Valley Food Bank (**Ken Otteman**); tidied-up and organized hymnals, bibles, pamphlets, etc. in sanctuary pews (**Leroy York**); did weekly operator's maintenance checks on church bus and van (**Ken Otteman**); donated \$200 to Pastor Matt's discretionary fund (**All**); installed protective plastic corners on kitchen cabinet (**Ken Otteman**); researching repairs/replacement of Bunn coffeemaker in the kitchen (**Wade Wipperling**): etc.

The Happy Helpers are looking forward to 2017! We meet each Thursday morning, 8:00 A.M., at the church. Coffee, tea, and "goodies" are provided. During December, **Wade Wipperling** provided the goodies. Thanks **Wade**! Visitors and new members are always welcome. On December 15, **Dave Opsal** visited the Happy Helpers. Thanks **Dave**! If you can't make it by 8:00 A.M., come anytime. Usually, we finish talking by 9:00 A.M. and completing our work by 11:00 A.M.

### SUPER YOUTH TEAM

By April Marshall

Happy New Year! The **Super Youth Team** has important changes coming for 2017, so I will get right to explaining what's going on. Sadly, we are no longer going to offer GIFT. When GIFT began several years ago, we looked at it as an outreach ministry, but we just weren't get the participation we hoped for. We discussed how the children who do attend really like GIFT for the social aspect and could we offer an alternative that might also interest more youth and families? Consequently, we have decided to offer a once-a-month **Second Sunday Youth and Family Fun Day**. Each month, on the second Sunday, we will offer an activity aimed at our youth and families. We will also offer a monthly evening activity. Our hope is to build stronger relationships within our church and bring in more participants in the process.

Our first activity will be **Tubing at Mt Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park**! We have been advertising this event for the past couple of weeks, as advance reservations are strongly suggested. On **January 8<sup>th</sup>**, we will head up to the mountain for some tubing-fun **from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.** The cost is \$5 for participants and the church will cover the rest. If you are interested in going, talk to **Anna Tsakarestos** or **myself** to if there is still space available.

Our second January activity will be a **Movie Night at Advent on January 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.** During this time, we will be offering pizza, popcorn, treats, and beverages. In the sanctuary, we will have **Storks** playing for our younger kids. **Storks** is rated PG and is an animated family-friendly movie. In the classroom, we will be viewing **Sully**, which is rated PG. If you have a movie suggestion, please talk to me. I'm happy to entertain your recommendations. We will be asking for people to sign up for this event so we can get an idea of how much pizza to purchase, but a confirmation is not absolutely necessary. We also invite children to wear their pajamas and bring a favorite blanket and/or pillow to watch the movie. It should be a blast for them!

Keep a close eye on the bulletin and next month's newsletter for our February events!

Before I conclude, I would like to extend a thank you to a handful of folks who made December more merry and bright for the children at Advent. For help with our wonderful Christmas program, I would like to thank **Kathy Bowers** for volunteering to be our Director. It is so nice to get assistance outside of the usual suspects who work behind the scenes to make the program a success. I'd also like to thank **Wes Todd** for helping with the set. And those usual suspects I mentioned? I definitely need to thank **Kristin Larson, Amber Haveman, Anna Tsakarestos, and Missy Bliesner** for all their help with the play, too! And finally, thank you to all the kids (and the parents and grandparents who supported them) for their participation in the play.

Also, for the first time ever, Advent sent a charming group of carolers out into the neighborhood, and it was a lot of fun. We have to thank **David Opsal** for pulling us around on his trailer with his tractor. The folks who were able to hear the carols seemed delighted. And we must thank David's right-hand-man on the caroling excursion **Wade Wipperling** for making sure no one fell off the back of the trailer! Hopefully this neighborhood caroling becomes an annual tradition for Advent.



**INCOME/EXPENSE INFORMATION**

By Bonnie Calhoun

**Advent General Fund Income/Expense**

	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	33,137.14	339,945.96
Expense	<u>30,881.58</u>	<u>334,189.08</u>
<b>Net</b>	<b>2,255.56</b>	<b>5,756.88</b>

**Child Care Center Income/Expense**

	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	55,994.38	636,719.93
Expense	<u>51,743.13</u>	<u>630,899.58</u>
<b>Net</b>	<b>4,251.25</b>	<b>5,820.35</b>

**Notes for Advent Lutheran Church**

- **In November, income exceeded expenses by \$2,256.**
- 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 \$1,864 lower than average budgeted monthly expenses.
- 2016 January-November expenses are \$17,064 lower than 2016 January-November expenses.
- Average monthly income is coming in \$1,672 lower than average budgeted monthly income.
- Sunday offering giving for January-November 2016 is **\$10,036** lower than in January-November of 2015. This decline in income was considered in budget planning for 2017 budget.

**Notes for Advent Lutheran Child Center**

- **In November, income exceeded expenses by \$4,251.**
- Average monthly income is exceeding average monthly expenses by \$529.
- Payroll and grocery expenses were down for the month. That coupled with a grant receipt of \$1,875 helped the Center finish in the black for November.
- Total income for the Center had decreased by \$52,557 when compared to this time last year. Expenses have decreased by \$47,565..
- Income and expenses are expected to increase in 2017. The increase in tuition rates will help to offset the projected increase in payroll expenses due to the 16.2% increase in minimum wage hourly rates.

**November Services  
Average Attendance: 154**



**SPOKANE VALLEY PARTNERS FOOD BANK  
AND CLOTHING BANK DONATIONS**

By Ken Otteman

Last month Advent donated a total of **287 lbs.** of food for the **Spokane Valley Partners Food Bank.**

**PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS**

**For our Church Family and Friends:** Steve Amundson, Beverly Armstrong, Ginny Besemer, Tara Bradley, Brown family, Belle Campbell, Mike Canney, Hazel Cascaden, Bud & Betty Jo Cook, Lonnie Day, Darwin Ehlers, Flanagan family, Sonja Fording, Tillie Funk, Gerdt's family, Alisa Gergawy, Margaret Gilcrease, Abby Green, Dolores Hanson & family, Inez Hodge and family, 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, Connie Martin, Sue May, Julie McMillan, Bonnie Mertes, Jack & Flo McDougall, Katie McIntyre, Joyce Mertes, SaraLu Moore, Marian Moseman, Gloria Nicol, oanne Okert, Opsal family, Rob Rector & family, Glen Preuninger, Connie Pyle, Myrna Rehn, Gerry O'Rourke, Tim O'Rourke, Martha Schneider, Marvin & Darlene Schwartzenberger, Keith Shipbaugh, Shoquist family, Kathy Sordorff, Louise Sperline, Tito Tinajero, family of Beverly Turner, Duane Yates, Ann Young, Denise Walker, Woodard family, Florence & Keith Wilson, 20 year old young man in rehab.

**For Family Members & Friends Serving in the Military:**

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

**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 [alcspokane@comcast.net](mailto:alcspokane@comcast.net) or call the church office at (509) 928-7733.*



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **INLAND NORTHWEST BLOOD CENTER-BLOOD**

**DRIVE:** It's time to save lives and give blood! Advent will host a blood drive on **January 22nd** from **8:30 to 11:30 AM**. Sign up at church, online at [www.inbc-saves.org](http://www.inbc-saves.org) or feel free to call **Babs at 926-9858**. Sign ups are now available!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Come join us at the Civic Theatre, **Wednesday, February 15, 2017** for '**A Little Night Music**'. This is a benefit for Lutheran Community Services and Lutheran Campus Ministry at EWU. Tickets are **\$30 each**. For tickets, contact **Christie at 509-343-5020**. Stephen Sondheim's **A Little Night Music** explores the tangle web of affairs centered around traveling actress Desiree Armfeldt and the men who love her. As everyone gathers together at a country house for a weekend, infinite possibilities of new romances and second chances bring endless surprises.

#### **Lutherhaven Scholarship Celebration Dinner** **February 4, 2017**

Please join us to celebrate 30 years of raising funds to send youth to Camp Lutherhaven. Gourmet chef, Tes Sturges, will prepare a 5 course gala dinner at Advent Lutheran Church. In lieu of the annual auction, we will relax and dine!

**5-6:00 PM** - Social Hour: Music by Daniel Baker, wine bar and hors-d'oeuvres

Baked Sausage Mushrooms, Stuffed Cherry Tomatoes  
Black & Green Tapenade with Goat Cheese Crostini

**6:30 PM** – Dinner: Music by Kevin Kelly

Traditional Caesar Salad  
Minty Grapefruit Sorbet  
Roast Beef Tenderloin with Marsala Glaze Sauce  
(Vegetarian Option)  
Twice Baked Potatoes  
Green Beans with Almonds & Thyme

**7:30 PM** – News from Lutherhaven, auction of autographed Gonzaga basketball & paddle raise!

Baked Cheesecake  
With Raspberry Coulis & Dark Chocolate Sauce

**8:00 PM** —Drawing for raffle and door prize

**A suggested donation of \$75** per person will be asked to attend this dinner. Deadline to purchase tickets is **January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**. You can send a check to Advent Lutheran Church at 13009 E. Broadway, Spokane Valley, WA 99216 indicating "Scholarship dinner" in the by-line. Prepaid tickets will be available at will-call the night of the event. You can also purchase your ticket in person at Advent on any Sunday in January from 10:30-11:30 AM by cash, check or credit card. **Pam Clark** will also have tickets available at **Zion Lutheran Church!**

If you would like to reserve a table for 8 for your group, please call **Rick Velategui at (509) 701-8040**. We look forward to seeing you!



### **THANK YOU**

Thank you to all that contributed to the **UGM Women's Shelter** with travel toiletries. Every time I make a delivery, they are so appreciative. The need for women and children is outnumbering the needs of the men these days. If you are not traveling and would still like to be part of the giving, there is room in the bins for "NEW" women and children underwear and socks. There is **always a need**. **Praise to all for caring. Selma Hair**

Our Christmas Program on December 11 was wonderful! We also want to say a **very special thank you** to our parents: **Anna, April, Kristin, Missy, and Karen Bowers** who worked so hard to help make our Christmas program a special presentation! And also thank you to our Youth who participated! Everyone did a great job!

**Tree of Sharing:** Thank you so much to our generous Congregation! Because of your generosity, many families from the Child Care Center, Hearth Homes, and teens from Spokane Valley Partners had gifts under their Christmas trees. **Thank you** for making this outreach activity a huge success and for creating smiles on the faces of members of our own Spokane Valley community. **We offer a special thank you to Sandra and Kelsey McCune** for heading up our **Tree of Sharing** again this year!

Thank you to the church staff. You are the greatest! All of us appreciate the fine job that you do in administration of Advent Lutheran Church. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God Bless you fine folks. **Ken and Amaryllis Otteman**

Advent Lutheran Church wishes to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for all the dedicated service given to us by **Carol Gerdts, our faithful servant**. Carol had been so instrumental with many of our 'behind the scenes' tasks here at Advent, and for that, we are truly grateful. Carol passed away on December 10, 2016, and she will sorely missed. Please continue to keep the Gerdts family in your prayers as they mourn her passing.

We thank the Congregation members of Advent Lutheran for generously supporting our many ministries throughout the year!

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**'LET'S SOCK 'EM' SOCK DRIVE**

Thank you again to everyone for your generosity in contributing socks, hats, scarves, and other warm items for **'Blessing Under the Bridge'**. And we thank **Manda & Harry Benton** for again heading up this important drive for those less fortunate. Below is the total of what was generously donated by Advent:

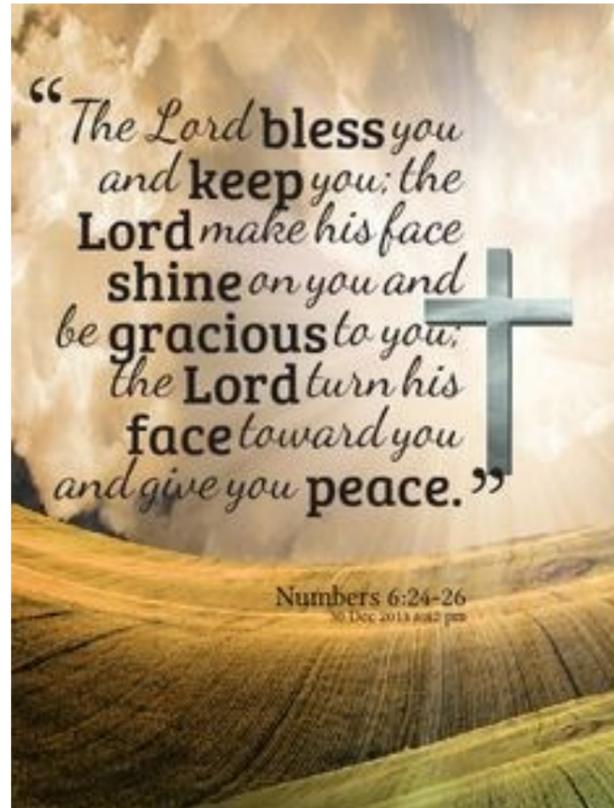
- 512 socks
- 64 hats (most of the hats and scarves were homemade)
- 8 scarves
- 4 blankets
- 1 sleeping bag
- 2 coats
- 3 backpacks
- 1 pair-small gloves
- 1 pair-women's tennis shoes
- Package of Hand Warmers
- Package of tooth brushes
- Package of Bar Soap
- Package of Hankies
- 1 shaver

Wow! People will be so blessed! **Big Thank you** to Advent Lutheran Church!

**'Fill the Shelf'  
Sunday' is  
January 29!**



**Manda Benton** and sock donations



## JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Happy New Year 2017!</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Worship Service/Communion <b>After Worship-</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>7:30 pm-</b> AA Meeting K/106 Al-Anon 122	<b>2</b> <b>Church Office &amp; Child Center Closed</b>	<b>3</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Happy Piecemakers <b>9:30 am</b> Child Center Chapel S <b>5:30 pm</b> Executive Committee <b>6:00 pm</b> Cub Scouts F/106/158	<b>4</b> <b>9:30 am-</b> Mid-week Bible Study <b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>5</b> <b>8:00 am</b> Happy Helpers Happy Cut-Ups <b>6:30 pm</b> Praise Team Practice <b>7:30 pm</b> AA Meeting 106	<b>6</b> <b>6:30 am</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's Restaurant <b>6:00 pm</b> Co-DA Meeting 122	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>9:15 am</b> –Kids' Worship <b>9:30 am</b> -Worship Service/ Communion/Confirmation <b>After Worship</b> Coffee Fellowship Pastor Matt's Bible Study Praise Team Practice Happy Cut-Ups Monthly Card Sale <b>10:45 am</b> High School Bible Study at Star-Bucks <b>1:00 pm-2:30 pm</b> -2nd Sunday Youth & Family Fun Day- Mt. Spokane Tubing <b>7:30 pm</b> -Al-Anon 122 <b>7:30 pm</b> -AA Meeting 106	<b>9</b> <b>10:00 am–11:30</b> ALCC Happy Feet <b>10:30am</b> ALCC Board Mtg. <b>10:30 am–11:30</b> ALCC Happy Feet <b>6:30 pm</b> Super Youth Team Meeting <b>7:00 pm</b> Boy Scouts F/158	<b>10</b> <b>9:00am</b> Happy Piecemakers <b>6:00pm</b> Council Meeting 122 Cub Scouts F/106/158	<b>11</b> <b>9:30am</b> Mid-week Bible Study <b>7:00 pm</b> - Choir	<b>12</b> <b>8:00 am</b> Happy Helpers Happy Cut-Ups <b>7:30 pm</b> AA Meeting 106	<b>13</b> <b>6:30 am</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's Restaurant	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>9:15 am</b> –Kids' Worship <b>9:30 am</b> -Worship Service/ Communion/Confirmation <b>After Worship</b> Coffee Fellowship Pastor Matt's Bible Study <b>10:45 am</b> High School Bible Study at Star-Bucks <b>7:30 pm</b> -Al-Anon 122 <b>7:30 pm</b> -AA Meeting 106	<b>16</b> <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> <b>Church Office &amp; Child Center Closed</b>	<b>17</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Happy Piecemakers <b>9:30 am</b> Child Center Chapel S <b>5:30 pm</b> Head of Committee Mtg. <b>6:00 pm</b> Outreach Committee 106 Cub Scouts F/106/158	<b>18</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Mid-week Bible Study <b>7:00 pm</b> - Choir	<b>19</b> <b>8:00 am</b> Happy Helpers Happy Cut-Ups <b>6:30 pm</b> Praise Team Practice <b>7:30 pm</b> AA Meeting 106	<b>20</b> <b>6:30 am</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's Restaurant <b>9:00-12pm</b> Spokane Valley Partners Food Sorting <b>6:00 pm</b> Co-DA Meeting 122	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>8:30 am-11:30 am</b> -INBC Blood Drive <b>9:15 am</b> –Kids' Worship <b>9:30 am</b> -Worship Service/ Communion/Confirmation <b>After Worship</b> Coffee Fellowship Pastor Matt's Bible Study <b>10:45 am</b> High School Bible Study at Star-Bucks <b>7:30 pm</b> -Al-Anon 122; AA Meeting 106	<b>23</b> <b>10:00 am–11:30</b> ALCC Happy Feet <b>6:30 pm</b> Worship & Music Committee 106 <b>7:00 pm</b> Boy Scouts F/158  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>24</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Happy Piecemakers <b>9:30 am</b> Child Center Chapel S <b>6:00pm</b> Cub Scouts F/106/158	<b>25</b> <b>9:30 am</b> Mid-week Bible Study <b>7:00 pm</b> - Choir	<b>26</b> <b>8:00 am</b> Happy Helpers Happy Cut-Ups <b>7:30 pm</b> AA Meeting 106	<b>27</b> <b>6:30 am</b> Men's Prayer Breakfast at Denny's Restaurant	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>9:15 am</b> –Kids' Worship <b>9:30 am</b> -Worship Service/ Communion/Confirmation <b>After Worship</b> Coffee Fellowship 'God's Work. Our Hands.' (Spokane Valley Partners' Food Bank) Praise Team Practice <b>10:45 am</b> High School Bible Study at Star-Bucks <b>7:30 pm</b> -Al-Anon 122 <b>7:30 pm</b> -AA Meeting 106	<b>30</b> <b>10:00 am–11:30</b> ALCC Happy Feet <b>6:30 pm</b> Synod Assembly Planning Meeting <b>7:00 pm</b> Boy Scouts F/158  <b>NEWSLETTER MAILED</b>	<b>31</b> <b>9:00 am</b> Happy Piecemakers <b>9:30 am</b> Child Center Chapel S <b>6:00 pm</b> Cub Scouts F/106/158				

**JANUARY HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE**

<b>Ministry Description</b>	<b>January 1 9:30 am</b>	<b>January 8 9:30 am</b>	<b>January 15 9:30 am</b>	<b>January 22 9:30 am</b>	<b>January 29 9:30 am</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Virginia Buszkohl Francie Shoquist	Virginia Buszkohl Audrey Knuttel	Mary Ann Klemmer Beverly Lee	Virginia Buszkohl Audrey Knuttel	Mary Ann Klemmer
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Mike Canney	Jeff Zaleski	Kara Wilson	Jeff Zaleski	Kara Wilson
<b>Reader</b>	Mike Canney	Jeff Zaleski	Kara Wilson	Jeff Zaleski	Kara Wilson
<b>Acolyte</b>					
<b>Media Person</b>					
<b>Ushers</b>					
<b>Greeters</b>	Roger Scheurer	Patt Scott		Norm & Audrey Knuttel	
<b>Altar Flowers</b>					
<b>Fellowship Host</b>					
<b>Fruit Tray</b>					
<b>Cookies</b>	Mary Ann Klemmer	Audrey Knuttel			

**Team #3 Ian & SaraLu Moore:993-4564**

**Rick & Babs Velategui: 926-9858**

**“Share with God’s people .....,Practice Hospitality”  
Romans 12:13 (NIV)**

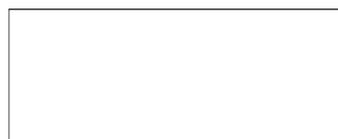
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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY

**9:15 am** Super Youth Sunday  
**9:30 am** Worship Service with Holy Communion  
**10:45 am** High School Bible Study at Starbucks on Sprague

**“Called by God’s Grace to Love and Serve”**