

Advent Lutheran Church Newsletter



PASTOR MATT'S CORNER

By Pastor Matthew Larson

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"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." Romans 12:9-13

The current Bible Study group on Wednesday mornings has been going through Romans and a few weeks ago we came to chapter 12 which talks about living by faith as an individual and as a community. The verses above direct us as a community of Jesus not only in how we treat fellow church members but those outside our church. I have always thought if a church could not think of a mission statement that this would suffice. Actually, more than suffice. There is so much in these verses. Yet, it does us good to remind ourselves what it means to live together, in community. Especially a community of Christ. You will all start seeing transitions back to ways we had been doing things pre-covid.

We will begin to allow those who are fully vaccinated to not have to wear a mask, but still strongly recommend those who are not to keep wearing a mask to worship. We will not be policing this, this is a decision of yours that is made for the best interest of those all around you. After we finish our current stock of the pre-packaged communion cups we will go back to communion up front.

There still remains a varied spectrum of what should or should not be done and I hope that verse 10 from above can be a guiding principle as we "go back to normal". "Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." Things are still fluid but along with myself and our Council we will look at and make the best decisions we can for the health and safety of all of you. I understand that there are some that are still reluctant to come to worship and that is fine, we are going to continue to find ways to make our online presence as user friendly as possible. My hope is by the end of summer we will be able to burst into September with worship, fellowship, classes, small groups, etc. and make Advent "open season" once again.

Thank you to everyone who have made suggestions, concerns, and compliments on this very weird time. Your support continues to be wonderful and very much appreciated!!



LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

By Sharon Pegau

Before I start my letter, I need to make a correction. It was pointed out to me that in last month's letter I stated there were four positions opening up on the Council with this next election. I said four in one place and three in another. Three is the correct number of new Council members we will need. We have had two people step up, **Julie Meyers-Lehman and Tes Sturges**. We need one more person to join us on the Council. Please consider it and let someone on the Council or in the Church know if you would be willing to serve. We will get your name on the agenda.

Pastor Matt and I attended the **Northwest Intermountain Synod Assembly** in April. It was my first attendance at a Synod Assembly, and I found it quite interesting. I have to say it was very well organized. The Synod made sure everyone had plenty of opportunities to learn how to use both Zoom and the voting platform. Other than the usual budget items and representative elections, the only resolution was regarding educating congregations on climate change. As you can imagine, the topic was not without controversy. There was much conversation. What I found interesting was that good arguments, and some not so good arguments, were made on both sides. In the end the resolution was changed to read that we would simply encourage our congregations to become educated on the topic.

Afterwards, I was reminiscing on how there could be so many different thoughts in our spiritual family and how it reminded me of my own family and all the different beliefs we have on controversial items. In my family we try to focus on those items we can agree on. What if we turned that concept to this issue in my spiritual family? We pray all the time for the hills, trees, waterways and other aspects of our environment. We pray for our leaders. I think we can agree to keep praying for those.

What if we focused on taking small steps to protect our environment, climate change or not. Since we are praying for the earth, what steps can we take to protect that earth? Maybe something small like bringing our own reusable coffee cups for coffee hour, when we are able to celebrate again. I like the idea of having a "church cup." What if we only took a bulletin if we planned on using it during the service and if we are using the screens, not take a bulletin. Eventually, not only would we be helping planet earth, but we could possibly reduce a small portion of the costs of running the Church. What if we made a small change in the home with the idea of helping protect the environment? Maybe cutting the grass a little taller so we don't have to water so much. Maybe making a more conscious effort to buy products that come in recyclable packaging. I believe we have a creative membership. What ideas do you have that you can take in your house or maybe we can use at Church?

I pray that whatever side of the climate change fence you land on, you are able to continue to be committed to caring for the creation that God has entrusted to us.

PARISH NURSE

By Debbie Martin, RN, Parish Nurse

Hi fellow congregational members. Here is some information that a few of you have asked me. I hope and pray that you are all well.

POLST

If you are seriously ill or in very poor health, your health care provider can use the **Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST)** to represent your wishes for future care as clear and specific medical orders, indicating what types of life-sustaining treatment you want or do not want in the case of a medical emergency.

Is POLST For You?

If you have poor health from one or more chronic or serious medical conditions, it is important to talk to your health care provider about the risks you face if you were to have a medical emergency. You may want to make decisions about whether you would want to have life-sustaining treatments, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation, started by emergency responders and be taken to a hospital or intensive care unit. Some people with poor health want to have the choice to not pursue some treatments in an emergency.

Your health care provider can use the **Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST)** to represent your wishes as clear and specific medical orders, indicating what types of life-sustaining treatment you want or do not want in these emergencies.

POLST is not for everyone. POLST is designed for seriously ill individuals, or those who are in very poor health, regardless of their age.

How to obtain POLST

Patients are encouraged to ask their health care providers for POLST but may also obtain a form by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to **WSMA, Attn: POLST, 2001 6th Ave., Suite 2700, Seattle, WA 98121.**



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

By Babs Velategui

Please consider sending a donation to Spokane Valley Partners for their Food Bank. You may also drop off food at the Church for the barrel.

The **Outreach Committee** continues to encourage food donations to "Fill The Shelf" for **Spokane Valley Partners**. As we gather in person, let us remember that the needs in our community are great with many people still affected by loss of jobs or housing. Let's see if we can overflow the barrel!



BLOOD DRIVE

We hope to host a **Vitalant blood drive** on **Sunday, August 22nd, from 8:00 am-11:30 am**. We are hopeful that with appropriate safety precautions, we can once again provide this life-saving service to the community at our church. Questions? Contact **Babs Velategui at 701-8041**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Online Worship:

www.youtube.com/c/adventlutheranspokane

LADIES MONTHLY LUNCHEON

"The **ladies monthly luncheon** is going to resume in June for all vaccinated women in the congregation. We are planning our first luncheon for **June 12th at 11:30 a.m.** at The Max. Weather permitting we can sit outside on their patio. If you are interested please contact **Gerry O'Rourke** at **509-893-0787** or email address geraldineorourke4837@comcast.net. Responses are needed the week prior to the 12th so that we can make reservations. Looking forward to seeing all of you again."
Gerry O'Rourke

Lutherhaven Camperships: Camp Lutherhaven is accepting applications for summer camp. If you wish to sign up your child for camp this summer, we are again offering our camperships. Please call the **Church office** at **928-7733** to place your child's name on the list. If you have questions about the camps, please contact **Laura** at Camp Lutherhaven: laura@lutherhaven.com or **208-667-3459**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued

Dinner to Go: Thursday, June 3, from 5:00 pm-6:30 pm, Advent will be offering a sack dinner to go. If you are interested, please call the church office at **928-7733** by **Tuesday, June 1** to sign up so we know how many dinners to prepare. Everyone welcome! **Questions?** Contact **Terry Powell** at **263-7048**.

The **Wednesday morning Bible Study** begins at **10am** each Wednesday morning. If you would like to join us, please let **Pastor Matt** know so he can send you the **Zoom** link.

The Semiannual Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, June 27 following the Worship Service. We are planning to **meet in person using the recommended safety protocols**. At this meeting we will vote to approve the use of reserve funds to help finance the Sullivan Campus Roof project, elect three new Council members, nominating Committee members, and review Committee and small group reports.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Naomi Community has several needs coming up this spring at NAOMI and could use some extra help:

- **Landscaping:** Help spread beauty bark in the garden beds, mow, fertilize, spray weeds.
- **Flip a NAOMI Home:** Help deep clean, paint and decorate a NAOMI Home for the next round of families.
- **Atrium Cleanup:** Deep clean and paint our Atrium which we use as a main entrance and collect material donations for pantry.

These are our most pressing needs. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these projects, please contact Naomi's Director, Angela Slabaugh, at the numbers listed below.

Angela Slabaugh
Executive Director
Office: (509) 926-6492
Cell: (509) 879-0539

RECYCLING NEWS

By Roger Scheurer

Ten years of recycling at Advent!!

When we became a "new" congregation at Advent we set up a small recycling program as a fundraiser for the **Happy Helpers**. Bins were set up at the northwest corner of the parking lot. We could bring our newspapers and aluminum cans and leave them in these bins. These items were then taken to a recycling center and turned into cash. During this time, we collected **102,000 lbs. of newsprint** and **3875 lbs. of aluminum beverage cans** which generated **\$4,000.00** for the **Happy Helpers** and their fixing projects around the church. Not bad!!! Huh?

So, thank you to everyone who has donated cans and newspaper since then, however, the market **value of newspapers has declined to the point that we NO LONGER collect them**. Aluminum beverage cans, however, are still a good item for us. So, drink up and save your empties for us!!

HAPPY HELPERS

By Forrest Diehl

Time to recommend and share another book with you. The book is entitled **Truman by David McCullough**. It is a very detailed biography of Harry S. Truman, the thirty-third President of the United States. McCullough's book starts with President Truman's ancestral beginnings and ends with his death in 1972. The book was published in 2003, and I have had a desire to read it for quite some time, but to be honest, I was intimidated by the volume (over a thousand pages) and being classified as a historical biography. I wanted to read it, mostly out of curiosity of that time period, and chiefly motivated by memories of my parents talking about President Truman and he being one of their favorite presidents. I am not a fast reader nor am I a history buff – thus my procrastination in reading the book, despite the many great reviews. But, as it turns out, I was over-cautious for waiting so long. Thanks to David McCullough writing style and skills, the book reads like a novel. It is both engaging and energetic (making the pages seem to fly by, although it took me almost two months to read it). The reader can't help be awestruck by the detail – detail that is given, not just for "detail's sake", but given in such a way to help the reader "flesh-out" the event, person or scenario being written about. The book is really interesting and fascinating! Indeed, McCullough is a gifted writer, and this will not be the only book I will read of his. I saw where this book was referred to as a hagiography in one of the reviews. Not knowing the definition of hagiography, I looked it up, and I agree – that McCullough definitely had a great respect for President Truman. Truly it took a steady hand to guide our nation through a tumultuous time and President Truman provided that strong leadership - through the times of: death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, continuance of WWII to the war's end, Atomic bomb, Marshall Plan, National Railroad and Steel Labor Strikes, Pendergast association, Cold War beginning, Korean War, McCarthyism, General Douglas MacArthur, etc. Anyway, I really enjoyed this book and recommend it to you.

Although we are still waiting for "April showers" to arrive here in Eastern Washington (at the time of my writing), I am happy to announce that "May flowers" have proceeded the "showers" arrival at Advent Lutheran Church, and are ready to be enjoyed for the months to come. **Carol Scheurer** and **Karen Nelson** planted flowers near the east entrance to the church, in the planter pots located by the east entrance door, in the raised flower bed at the south-west corner of the building, and at the base of the church sign on Broadway Avenue (**Ken & Amaryllis Otteman** planted these plants). They even had plants left over for the Child Center children to plant in the flower beds located by the west entrance. Thank-you **Carol and Karen; Ken & Amaryllis** for bringing Spring flowers for us to enjoy throughout the year! Your work helps bring us a step closer to normalcy that we are all longing for.

Some ancient humor:

My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness. I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."

I thought the dryer made my clothes shrink. Turns out it was the refrigerator.

Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say: "Close Enough!"

HAPPY HELPERS-Continued

Being an adult is the dumbest thing I have ever done.

I'm a multitasker. I can listen, ignore and forget all at the same time!

At my funeral, don't take the bouquet from my coffin and throw it into the crowd – it might not be seen as "humorous"

Went to an antique show and people were bidding on me.

I won't say I'm worn out, but I don't get near the curb on trash day.

Sometimes it takes me all day to get nothing done. I'd grow my own food if only I could find bacon seeds.

Losing weight doesn't seem to be working for me, so from now I'm going to concentrate on getting taller.

Some people are like clouds, once they disappear it's a beautiful day.

My body is a temple, ancient and crumbling, perhaps cursed or haunted.

Common sense is not a gift. It's a punishment because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it.

PLEASE KEEP YOUR DISTANCE. Nothing to do with viruses. I'm just a grouch.

I came. I saw. I forgot what I was doing. Retraced my steps. Got lost on the way back. Now I have no idea what's going on.

During the month of May, there were maintenance and upkeep tasks completed at the church. Included in tasks were: turned on irrigation water (**Ken Otteman**); did sprinkler head check on irrigation water lines and repaired sprinkler heads (**Ken Otteman, Bill Thurston**); sprayed the church lawn for weeds/dandelions and fertilized lawn grass (**Don Klages**); sprayed weeds growing in asphalt along curb line (**Don Klages**); replaced ballast in two light fixtures in Child Center classroom (**Jeremy Hostetler**); identified electrical current problem to electrical receptacle in Child Center hallway, corrected it, and replaced TRR outlet (**Jeremy Hostetler**); changed on/off times on east exterior soffit and entrance lights (**Jeremy Hostetler**); changed light bulb in ceiling light canister located in the narthex (**Jeremy Hostetler**); continuing to refurbish, re-stain, and reseal Child Center classroom doors (**Ken Otteman**); turned on exterior water for drip lines located in the patio area off the narthex (**Ken Otteman**); turned on and made repairs to water lines to the flower bed area located outside Bonnie's and Pastor's office windows (**Ken Otteman**); prepared flower beds for planting spring flowers (**Ken Otteman, Linda Camp**); detached and removed 4'X4'X6' sheet metal air duct vent from Sullivan campus building roof (the building is being reroofed this month) (**Ken Otteman, Bill Thurston**); etc.

We (**Harry Benton, Dave Cook, Steve Emig, George Harrison, Clancy Howard, Ken Otteman, Roger Scheurer, Bill Thurston, Kent Tibbetts, Wes Todd, and Wade Wipperling**) continue to look forward to the time at which we can once again meet on Thursdays. Many others are "on call" and willing to help! The upcoming month, June, will bring us the first day of summer. Are you ready for the summer and maybe celebrate some of our "newfound freedom" from the pandemic?

INCOME/EXPENSE INFORMATION

By Bonnie Calhoun

Advent General Fund Income/Expense

| | <u>April</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Income | 31,168.58 | 117,313.79 |
| Expense | <u>24,998.66</u> | <u>108,679.42</u> |
| Net | 6,169.92 | 8,634.37 |

Child Center Income/Expense

| | <u>April</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Income | 66,102.06 | 270,460.35 |
| Expense | <u>62,991.06</u> | <u>254,192.30</u> |
| Net | 3,111.00 | 16,268.05 |

Notes for Advent Lutheran Church

- **In April, income exceeded expenses by \$6,169.92.**
- Average monthly income came in \$792 lower than average budgeted monthly income.
- Sunday offerings for January– April 2021 came in \$4,310 lower than January–April 2020.
- Average monthly expenses came in \$2,946 lower than average budgeted monthly expenses.
- Expenses included the budgeted disbursement (10%) of benevolence dollars for the ELCA, Spokane Valley Partners, Maasai Health Systems, and Lutheran Community Services.

Notes for Advent Lutheran Child Center

- **In April, income exceeded expenses by \$3,111.**
- Total income for January–April 2021 increased by \$24,980 when compared to January– April 2020. The increase in income is primarily due to the Grant income (\$30,000). The Center is dealing with the challenge of keeping classrooms staffed according to guidelines while enrollment numbers are down. The Grant is giving the Center time to adjust to the changing enrollment and corresponding staffing demands.
- Total expenses for January–April 2021 increased by \$13,330 when compared to January –April of 2020. This increase is primarily driven by increases in payroll costs due to increases in minimum wage and an increase of staff corresponding with increases in enrollment.
- **The Center has \$62,081 in reserve, which translates to .8 months of average expenses. In order to maintain financial health, it is the goal of the Center to reach one month of average expenses in its reserve (\$77,509).**

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

For our Church Family and Friends: COVID-19 pandemic crisis, Altha & her family, Bennie and his wife Linda, Phyllis Bauer, Harry Benton, Gordon Bolster, Kathy Bowers, Joelene Boyd, Mark & Bonnie Calhoun & family, Chris Conway, Bud & Betty Jo Cook, Tomas Corsini, Georgia Coulston, Henry Domine, Tillie Funk, Jim Gunby, Steve & Leigh Hopkins, Arlo & Gwen Huber, Audrey Knuttel, Midge Kiourkas's daughter Jodi, Midge Kiourkas & her family, Eddie LaBabera, Vern Lahman, Lexi & Serenity, Doug Linerud & family, Connie Luna, Jan Madden, Mike McCune, Flo McDougall, John & Nancy McLaughlin, Myrna Rehn, Tim O'Rourke, Randy Peterson, Ken Roberts & the Wilson family, Sharon Ruth, Kimberley & Kreagan Shipbaugh, Bonnie Stedman & family, and Atiya Yeoman.

For Family Members & Friends Serving in the Military:

1 Lt. Ashley Allingor-Army; CPT Zane Allingor-USAF, CPL Damien Anderson, MSGT Ryan Armstrong, Major Ryan Baker, Majors Megan & Robert Barnwell, SGT Alex Baron, USAF, Capt. Jordon Bolster, CPT Christopher Finch, Robert Guyton, TSG Christine Johnson, CW2 Aaron Lang, Sr. Airman Richard Luna III, MSgt. Duncan McFarlane, Bryan McGoon, SSG Aaron Moeller, Sam Nelson, GySgt. Alex Pohle, AF Staff Sgt. Garytt Shirey, Kurt Strigel, Sgt. Cody Strunks, Colin Wells, U.S. Air Force, Ryan Wells, Master Sgt. AF Nat'l Guard Sarah Meddock, TSG Jason Wood, CPT Michael West, Sgt. Steven West, Staff SGT Jacob McKenzie, Capt. Stephen King, Airman Chase Strunk, U.S. Air Force, LCPL Jared Martin, Rafe Rector in Marines, Staff Sgt. Dan Zabriskie in the National Guard, LCPL Breandan LaFontaine, and Airman Justin Wise, US 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 or call the church office at (509) 928-7733.*

THANK YOU

“Norm and Audrey Knuttel wish to thank our church family for prayers, cards, and phone calls regarding our health. Audrey's temporal arteritis will take time to heal but she is making good progress for recovery. We hope to be back to church when it opens up to all. We do follow the church service on YouTube and we want to congratulate Advent on its 10th year anniversary. We miss you all.”
Norm and Audrey

Advent Church extends a **very hearty THANK YOU** to **Carol Scheurer and Karen Nelson** for donating and planting the beautiful flowers around the church, both at our East entrance and in front of the church on Broadway. These ladies spent several hours of planting to beautify our church grounds. The flowers are very inviting and beautiful! **THANK YOU Carol and Karen!** We greatly appreciate all our volunteers! You are very appreciated!

Advent Lutheran Church
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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

Sunday Morning: 9:30 am In-Person and Online
Wednesday Morning Bible Study: 10:00 am- Zoom

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