

# Advent Lutheran Church Newsletter



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## PASTOR MATT'S CORNER

By Pastor Matthew Larson

Well, here it is September and we continue to be interrupted by Covid. We have some wonderful events planned and activities to share with you but it seems that with this step back we may have to delay some of our fun. I have been talking up a Homecoming Sunday to invite everyone back and "come home." And if you have noticed, we have a number of new faces at Advent but we may need to delay a **New Faces Sunday** also. I know that one aspect of Sunday morning continues to be missed, and that's coffee hour. We have had some discussion about this and our hope was to start again on September 12<sup>th</sup> but here again we may need to delay this. If it is nice outside we may try having it outside.

I have to tell you with all honesty that this is hard on all of us that try to plan and implement activities and gatherings with the changing protocols but we will continue to be flexible in these times and try to find ways to stay together in study, fellowship, and worship. I thank all of you that have been coming to in-person worship and the different protocols that we have had and then got rid of and then had again. Your patience and kindness are really a wonderful reflection of the "atmosphere" that we try to create at Advent.

I will be starting **Wednesday morning Bible Study** on **September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.** with the intention of having in-person class and zoom available for those who wish to be with us online. If you are interested in the Bible Study please let the office know or email me and let me know ([adventpastor@comcast.net](mailto:adventpastor@comcast.net)).

I hope that you will take the time and fill out the survey in this newsletter about the Sullivan Campus property. Your input will be very valuable as we continue to discuss what to do with the property. Thank you.

I want to thank those of you who have been worshipping with us on YouTube and your feedback on how we can make it better. As you know we have had our share of hiccups with the technology but I think we have found a good set up that will transmit a smooth and audible livestream. Thanks to Ian Larson for his time and energy in getting all of this set up and working!

Also, I want to acknowledge our musicians and singers who have been working through all the different ways that we have been bringing you worship in the last year and a half. Between recording video to waiting for microphone levels that work for the sanctuary and the livestream, they all have been fabulous in their flexibility and professionalism. We look forward to our choir coming back, in some form, this month.

One last thank you. Your prayers for our Child Center have finally come through! We are seeing people coming and interviewing for open positions that are desperately needed. There was almost nothing for two months and now we have seen a number of interviews in the last two weeks. Thank you God!!

Take care, be well!

Pastor Matt



## LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

By Sharon Pegau

While I was jogging the song "Dream Small" by Josh Wilson came on. Do you know that song? The premise is that we don't have to try to do everything, the little things we do are just as meaningful. It was such a good reminder that I listened to the song again!

I know there are so many times when I think to myself, "this problem is so big and what can I do about it?" Maybe I can't fix the bigger picture but maybe I can make a small difference and you never know when that makes a big difference.

Let me give you some examples from here at church of people who dreamed small but probably are making a bigger impact than they know.

**Ken Otteman** saw a crack in the church foundation in the quilter's rooms. When we first heard we were all scared this could be a big problem. But Ken dreamed small and fixed it with some simple silicone caulk. That small fix will hopefully save us from big problems later on.

**Terry Powell** saw there was a need in the community and started the **Dinner to Go** program. He is preparing between 25 and 30 meals a week and if there are extras, people in the church help get those meals to the homeless. Now maybe only 3 or 4 homeless get the meals that week but I am pretty sure it is a big deal to those who receive it.

**Karen Nelson** and **Carol Scheurer** planted flowers out front. **Jodi Meddock**, **Karen Nelson**, and **Linda Camp** helped weed and prune. That may seem like a small thing, but it makes us all proud of the facade of the Church, which is a big deal. And who knows, maybe someone drives by and says, "What a pretty church, I should check them out."

**Babs Valetgui** organizes blood drives at the Church which allows members to donate. It may seem like a small thing but to the person receiving the blood I am sure it is a big deal!

**April Marshall** helped organize the Pizza in the Park. The church kids finally got to see each other after being apart because of COVID. That was a big deal!

**George Harrison** greets us all, acolytes, and ushers without fail each week. There are so many who help out that I can't list them all but don't think we don't notice. You make a big impact.

So don't think you need to do it all in order to pitch in. Maybe you can help the quilters make blankets for those in need. Maybe you can help us clean up around the Church. Or maybe you can just let us know your thoughts on the Sullivan campus. All those small things add up and become a big deal.

## LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT- Continued

*"Don't buy the lie you've got to do it all  
Just let Jesus use you where you are  
One day at a time  
Live well  
Loving God and others as yourself  
Find little ways where only you can help  
With his great love  
A tiny rock can make a giant fall  
Yeah five loaves and two fish can feed them all  
So dream small, dream small"*

**Dream Small, Josh Wilson**



Sullivan Property Committee Report

Committee: Linda Lahman, Jeff Peck, Arnie Weinman and Bill Thurston

Sullivan Campus:

The campus consists of 135,318 sf or 3.11 acres of land. The current building includes 9,430 sf on two levels for uses that include church functions. Existing paved and gravel surfaced parking provides about 57 parking spaces including lower level drop off area. Zoning for the campus was changed from Single Family Residential (SFR) with a Single-family Residential Urban District (R-3) zoning classification to Neighborhood Commercial (NC) designation with a Neighborhood Commercial (NC) zoning classification. The county 2021 assessed value of the Sullivan Campus is \$541,270 land value and \$440,900 building etc. value for a total of \$982,170. The insured value of the building is \$1,301,000 and furniture, fixtures and equipment value of \$63,900 for a total value of \$1,364,900.

The campus can accommodate significant growth beyond its current use. The current building value is relatively small in relation to the potential value of the developed site. The carrying capacity, assuming the existing building was to be removed, there is space for significant development.

Currently the Sullivan campus is being rented by Genesis Church. On February 1st 2021 the rent went for \$1,600 to \$1,800 per month for a 2021 projected total income of \$21,400. Budgeted expenses for 2021: Insurance \$5,270, Maintenance (not including roof) \$2,500, Taxes \$950 and Moon Security \$1,550 for a total expenses \$10,270. The 2021 projected total income is \$11,130.

**The actual income and expenses for 2012-2020:** Actual income \$155,900, actual budget expenses \$82,769.40 and 2016 roof repair of \$2,990 for an actual net income of \$70,140.60. The actual net income for 2012-2020 is \$70,140.60 and the projected income for 2021 is \$21,400 for a total projected 2012-2021 income of \$91,540.60. The 2020 budgeted expenses are \$10,270 and the 2021 roof replacement cost of \$76,064.59 for a total 2012-2021 projected expenses \$86,334.59 That is a projected net income for 2012-2021 of \$5,206.01.

**Continued on next page**

Sullivan Property Options:

1. Continue to rent out the property to Genesis Church or other similar group for a comparable rent amount. Advent would still have insurance, maintenance, taxes and security expenses
2. Rent the property to someone else for a higher/commercial rental rate. Advent could still have expenses similar to the present contact with Genesis.
3. Long term lease of the property - by leasing this could reduce Advent present expenses.
4. Sell the property - Advent would not have any future expenses. Must make a decision on what should be done with the income from the sale.
5. Advent could use the property for some other church mission. Example - daycare, school, some other social program or something else that would meet our church mission.

The committee believes that the council must determine what our church mission is and how each option will fulfill our mission.



## HAPPY HELPERS

By Forrest Diehl

In the July newsletter, I stated that I would probably miss writing an article for the August Newsletter, and indeed I did. We spent the latter part of June in Bellingham, WA, visiting our daughter's family and living in our 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel. While there, we went on a couple of outings with the grand-kids.

The first part of July, we returned to Spokane to enjoy some of the Eastern Washington heat wave, recover from our Bellingham RV trip, and prepare for our flight to Alaska to visit friends / do some fishing. I must be a suspicious looking character. On the flight out of Spokane, to SeaTac, I was singled out for a pat-down inspection. That took longer than I expected... each time, before touching me, the TSA officer would ask permission to touch a certain part of my body. Well, with the background noise, trays banging, scanners whirling, conveyor belts turning, people talking, and periodically alarms going off, it was hard for me to hear him. The officer expected a verbal approval from me after each question. After me asking him to repeat the question a couple of times, I could see he was becoming irritated. Somewhere in the "back of my mind" I could hear a voice reminding me to never madden/tick-off a TSA officer. So, each time I would hear his murmurings stop, I would say "Yes". Finally, after 5 or 6 of my "Yes"s, he said authoritatively "You are free to go", and thrust the scrap paper he had found in my pockets into my hand. Thus, ending another chapter of TSA incidents in my life after 9-11.

Our Alaska trip and stay were wonderful. We were able to find outdoor relief from the Spokane heat and had a great stay and visit with our friends. It rained the first couple of days we were there, which felt like a blessing after experiencing first-hand the drought we are having here in Washington this year. The fishing was spotty at first, but then the sockeye salmon run turned into a near record-breaking one for the Kenai River. Unfortunately, my friend's health did not allow him to fish, but we were able to share our daily activities with him at the dinner table at evening time. Overall, we had a great visit and experience.

Here is a list of items that I thought somewhat humorous:  
\*My tolerance for idiots is extremely low today. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously there is a new strain out there.

- As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of ... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.
- Sorry I haven't gotten anything done today. I've been in the produce section of the grocery store - trying to open this stupid plastic bag.
- Turns out that being a "senior" is mostly just googling how to do stuff.
- \*Do you ever get up in the morning, look in the mirror and think "That can't be accurate."
- I want to be 14 again and ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.
- Teacher: Give me a sentence which includes the words: defense, defeat, detail.  
Student: When a horse jumps over defence, defeat go first and then detail.

## HAPPY HELPERS-Continued

- I'm on two diets. I wasn't getting enough food on one.
- Apparently RSVPing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time," isn't the correct response.
- I put my scale in the bathroom corner and that's where the little liar will stay until it apologizes.
- My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, 3 of them are frozen and I have no clue where the music is coming from.
- Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling, and I'm still alive.

My estranged feeling of the church's upkeep and maintenance happenings continue, especially after last month's hiatus. I stopped by the church and talked to Cheryl and Pastor Matt. Here's what I know of - since my last update in the July newsletter: the kitchen grease trap was pumped and cleaned by Roto-Rooter (**Bonnie Calhoun**); replaced two broken sprinkler heads at the Broadway Campus (**Don Klages**); adjusted the Broadway Campus watering times and durations (**Don Klages**); replaced lock on Child Center toddler room storage door (**Ken Otteman**); repaired crack in brick wall located in the Quilter's Room (**Bob Dunlap, Ken Otteman**); donated church's recycling money to the Happy Helper dedicated fund (**Roger Scheurer**); replaced fluorescent light bulbs in Child Center office and outside hallway. Cleaned fixtures. (**Ken Otteman**); purchased two cases of T-8 light bulbs for church and Child Center (**Mike McCune**); sprayed Broadway Campus lawn for weeds (**Don Klages**); trimmed hedge outside Child Center Office that was encroaching onto sidewalk (**Pastor Matt**); air-conditioner not working in gym (reported to **Church Administrator**) etc.

Needless to say, the **Happy Helper Breakfast** is cancelled again this year. Usually, the Happy Helpers host a donation breakfast on the first Sunday in October. Typically, we begin planning for the breakfast in August, and do the preparation and purchasing in September, but these are not typical times. And, I am not sure of the near-term fate of the Happy Helpers, as a body; especially with the new emergence of the Delta strain of the COVID-19 virus. One thing that has been brought to my attention is that the shrubs and bushes around the Broadway Campus are in desperate need of pruning, trimming, and care. If you see bushes and shrubs that need trimming on the Broadway campus, **please feel free to trim them as you would bushes and shrubs on your property at a time that is available to you.** If you do this, please let me know so I can "sort of" keep track what is going on. Additionally, I hope to find a date in September when congregational members can meet collectively at the Broadway Campus in work clothes, gloves, pruning tools, rakes, and containers in order to prune and trim bushes and hedges. Thanks! With the new variant of COVID, unfortunately it may be appropriate to say: "stay home, stay healthy" – I certainly hope not!

**HAPPY HELPERS-Continued**

The Happy Helpers remain ready to meet maintenance and upkeep needs at the church and child-care facility. We are looking forward to the time at which we can once again meet on Thursdays (**Harry Benton, Dave Cook, Steve Emig, George Harrison, Clancy Howard, Ken Otteman, Roger Scheurer, Bill Thurston, Kent Tibbetts, Wes Todd, and Wade Wipperling**). Many others are “on call” and willing to help! As summer ends and autumn begins in September, we keep families who have school-aged children in our prayers. With this pandemic, public education and home schooling are a real challenge!



**THANK YOU**

We extend a VERY HEARTY THANK YOU to **Karen Nelson and Jodi Meddock** for ALL their hard work pruning and weeding in our courtyard here at Advent! What an AMAZING job these ladies did! They donated the better part of their day last week to beautify the courtyard. If you see them, please take a moment to thank these amazing ladies!



## SUPER YOUTH TEAM

By April Marshall

Well I'm a little rusty at writing newsletter articles, but here we are at the beginning of a new school year, and while on some levels I have enjoyed my Sabbatical from teaching Sunday school and leading youth activities (which is how I like to refer to the last 18 months for the most part), I'm pleased that we can start offering more opportunities to the youth at Advent once again.

This past summer, we were able to get some of the kids together on occasion, and it was amazing to see how quickly they all reconnected. Our core group of Sunday School children have grown so much, with many of them now in Confirmation. But we still have some kids—and of course, would always be pleased to have new students—who are still in their Sunday School journey for a few more years.

With that, I'm excited to welcome our youth back to **Sunday School starting September 12<sup>th</sup>**. Our first class will basically be a welcome back party, a time to just allow the kids to connect and play games. It's been a while, so just a reminder that we do a **"soft start" at about 9:15 and begin class at 9:30**. We typically finish up our lessons about the same time as the Sharing of the Peace during the church service, so kids can rejoin their families and take part in Communion and the final parts of worship. We will get back into lessons following the Lectionary, as we have in previous years. For the most part we like to take a hands-on, creative approach to connecting kids to the messages from the Bible. Often this includes artwork and games, which the students enjoy. In light of recent developments, I will do my best to make sure our Sunday School environment is as safe as possible for our students, our teachers, and their families. Given the recent mask mandate, we will ask students to wear their masks, and we will try to keep them spread out during class time. I will also ask that if a student has any symptom such as a runny nose, fever, sore throat, or trouble breathing, or any child exposed to somebody that has tested positive to Covid within the previous week that parents keep them home that Sunday. By taking these precautions, I hope we can keep our Sunday school classes up and running with everyone as safe and healthy as possible!

**I can't wait to see a bunch of smiling young faces on September 12<sup>th</sup>!**



## SUPER YOUTH TEAM-Continued



Our July get together at Orchard Park in Liberty Lake. At the end of July, our Youth and families, got together for a fun night of pizza, socializing, and yard games at the Orchard Park.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Please keep your food donations coming as the need continues to be great, so let's "FILL THE SHELF"!!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DINNER TO GO

Our next 'Dinner to Go' nights will be on Friday, September 3 and 17, from 5pm-6:30 pm. Advent will be offering a dinner to go. If you are interested, please call the church office at 928-7733 or place your name and the number of meals you wish on the **signup sheet on the table in the Narthex.**

### MENU

**September 3:** Chicken, green beans, stuffing  
**September 17:** Spaghetti, salad  
(Dinner menus are subject to change depending on availability of food items).

**Online Worship:**  
[www.youtube.com/c/adventlutheranspokane](http://www.youtube.com/c/adventlutheranspokane)

### MONTHLY LADIES LUNCHEON

Our next luncheon will be **September 11<sup>th</sup>** at **11:30 a.m.** at **The Max.** Please contact **Gerry O'Rourke** at [geraldineorourke4837@comcast.net](mailto:geraldineorourke4837@comcast.net) or **893-0787** by **September 8th** so that we can make a reservation.

### BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all who participated in **Advent's blood drive.** We collected **13 units** of blood, including a double donation. You know you are heroes and that your blood will save lives. BRAVO!!

### SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATIONS

Thanks for the abundant giving of school supplies. The quilters group has a generous supply that will also be donated. All will be delivered to the **Central Valley Student & Family Engagement Center.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS-Continued

### ADVENT CHORAL GROUP INVITATION

As we work toward resuming more of the regular aspects of worship, we are hoping to gather interested singers to provide special music once a month. Plans are underway for a **special kick-off Sunday** on **September 12th.** We would like to put together a choral group to offer a special song on that day. If you would like to participate, please let us know by contacting me directly at [pjkenney42@comcast.net](mailto:pjkenney42@comcast.net), the church office, or putting your name on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. There will be two practices at the church prior to **September 12th: Tuesday, August 31 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, September 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

### WEDDING RECEPTION

You are cordially invited to celebrate the marriage of **Emma Rose Larson to Austin Conner Burrows.** Reception following worship on **Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** Please join us for cake and coffee to celebrate **Emma and Austin!**

The **Men's Prayer group** meets each **Friday** morning at **7:00 am** at **Denny's Restaurant** on Sprague and Pines.

**Housing Needed:** An 83 year old lady is looking for either a room to rent or a small unit, no stairs, please. She is very self-sufficient and cares for herself with no assistance needed. She owns her own business, a quilting shop, and goes to work each day. If you know of anyone willing to rent to her, please contact **Christine Ulrichsen at 925-407-7179.**

### ALTAR GUILD

**Attention EVERYONE!** Would you like the privilege of serving our Lord, and this congregation, for one month of Sundays, three times a year? **Altar Guild** has four teams, each with a team leader, that is responsible for preparing the altar and communion for our Sunday services. This is usually done on Fridays, and seldom takes more than an hour. We are also in charge of clean-up after church. This rarely takes longer than half an hour. Would those interested in joining, please call **Jodi Meddock at 951-7356** or **Karen Nelson at 928-7849.** Also, if any current members would like to take a break, please call **Jodi, Karen, or your team leader.** Thank you!

### SULLIVAN CAMPUS SURVEY

At the last Council meeting, the Council received the report from the team that is looking into what are our options with the Sullivan campus. The report lists five different options for consideration. A couple things became obvious. First, we need to narrow down our options from five to a more manageable two or three in which we can get some in-depth information on. Second, we want to take into consideration the Congregation's thoughts on the matter. A Survey is included in this newsletter for your input. **The deadline to return your Survey is September 12th.** Please take a moment and complete and return the Survey to the Church office. Thank you.



### INCOME/EXPENSE INFORMATION

By Bonnie Calhoun

#### Advent General Fund Income/Expense

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	26,450.15	197,128.08
Expense	<u>27,824.75</u>	<u>195,526.16</u>
<b>Net</b>	<b>-1,374.60</b>	<b>1,601.92</b>

#### Child Center Income/Expense

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	66,586.57	476,625.97
Expense	<u>66,915.56</u>	<u>454,316.87</u>
<b>Net</b>	<b>-328.99</b>	<b>22,309.10</b>

#### Notes for Advent Lutheran Church

- **In July, expenses exceeded income by \$1,375.**
- Average monthly income came in \$1,675 lower than average budgeted monthly income.
- Sunday offerings for January - July 2021 came in \$6,203 lower than January- July 2020.
- Average monthly expenses came in \$2,166 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.
- In addition to budgeted operating expenses, the congregation voted to appropriate \$30,000 of reserve funds for the Sullivan Campus roof replacement project. The current reserve fund balance is \$31,740, which is 1.1 months of budgeted expenses.

#### Notes for Advent Lutheran Child Center

- **In July, expenses exceeded income by \$329.**
- Total income for January-July 2021 increased by \$41,288 when compared to January- July 2020. The increase in income is mainly due to the Grant income (\$45,100). These Grants are giving the Center time to adjust to the changing enrollment and corresponding staffing demands.
- Total expenses for January-July 2021 increased by \$44,797 when compared to January - July of 2020. This increase is driven by increases in payroll costs due to increases in minimum wage and an increase of staff corresponding with increases in enrollment as well as increased administrative costs due to increased enrollment.
- **The Center has \$68,189 in reserve, which translates to .9 months of average budgeted expenses. In order to maintain financial health, it is the goal of the Center to reach one month of budgeted expenses in its reserve (\$77,509).**

### PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

**Church Family and Friends:** Loretta Orr's brother Bennie and his wife Linda, Harry Benton, Joelene Boyd, Barbie Byford, Bunkowske family, Bud & Betty Jo Cook, Tomas Corsini, Georgia Coulston, Jean Debuhr & family, Henry Domine, Jordyn Dunn, Sebastian (Sebi) Dutcher, Jim Gunby, Steve & Leigh Hopkins, Arlo & Gwen Huber, Beth Klim, Audrey Knuttel, Midge Kiourkas's daughter Jodi, Lexi & Serenity, Connie Luna, Jan Madden, Mike McCune, Connie Moseman, Marlyce Murphy, Robert Pegau, Myrna Rehn, Tim O'Rourke, Michael Ruth, Randy Peterson, Kimberley & Kreagan Shipbaugh, Strunk family, Olga Underdahl, and Wendy Zehm.

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY

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

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