



ANNOUNCER



SEPTEMBER 2007

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF RALLY DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH BEGINNING AT 9:15 AM in the Family Life Center

You have gotten the school supplies, made their lunches and started working on the spelling lists. Now's the time to make plans for their formal spiritual education! Come on the 9th for welcome music, special projects and to meet the teachers as we begin a new Sunday School year at Advent.

Please include these individuals in your personal devotional prayers. Prayer does make a difference!

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Amanda Smith (niece of Richard) - excellent response to treatment for Lymphoma.

Lois Richrath (Gale Mott's mother) - recovery from stroke

Prayers of Concern:

Bishop Warren Freiheit – recovery from cancer surgery
Rev. Joe Bleakley (Synod staff) – recovery from open heart surgery.

Dave Hager - hospitalized in St. Louis

Linda Allgaier – Cancer (Friend of Sue Usgaard)

Pr. John Bachman – Cancer Treatments

Bob Beyer – in home dialysis, treatment for Parkinson's

Louise Christensen – Jerry's mother

Joanne Evans – continuing medical difficulties
(Cheryl Carlson's Mother)

Matt Fentem – treatment for rare medical disorder

Jeff Heft – ongoing Dialysis

(Ex. Dir. Of His Helping Hands)

Dean Heidenreich – ongoing chemotherapy

Chuck Kinney – Recovery from knee surgery

Tom Kinney – recovery from orthopedic surgery
(Chuck & Jan Kinney's Son)

Norma Larson – in rehab at Methodist Hospital

Bonnie Newman – multiple health issues
(Brian's Mother)

Bill Patterson, Sr. – radiation therapy for lung cancer

Verneva Roberts—Ongoing medical challenges & falls
(Sue Neil's Mother)

Sherry Stark – Recovery from Surgery

Joy Sullivan – Cancer (Jane Brusco's Friend)

Pray for Homebound Members & Caregivers

Jim & Betty Anderson, Clarice Carriere, George & Shirley Cone, Dean & Margaret Heidenrich, Mel & Dode Kelso.

Pray for those who serve to protect our country:

Michael Black – Deployed to Afghanistan
(Nephew of John & Joyce Opem)

Adam Johnson – Serving in Iraq
(Friend of Maragos family)

Pete MacRitchie – Serving tour in Iraq
(Friend of Richard Smith Family)

Aaron Halford – Iraq
(cousin of Sue Neal)

FAREWELL & THANKSGIVING...

To Joyce Goldhammer as she has resigns her position at Advent and moves to other ventures. We thank Joyce for her hard work and years of service as Choir Accompanist and Assistant Organist.

THANK YOU...

To Mugs Major for coordinating the blood drive which was held at Advent in July.

CONGRATULATIONS...

To Craig McLaughlan upon receiving a Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) award from the National Science Foundation. Information about this prestigious award is posted on the kiosk. Craig is assistant professor of CHEMISTRY at ISU in Bloomington.

OUR SYMPATHIES AND PRAYERS...

To Dennis & Karen Darling & families on the death of Dennis' dad, Louis Darling, August 19.

To former member, Shirley Brenkman and family on the death of her husband, Carl.

PRIME TIMERS

Prime Timers will meet on **Tuesday September 4th at noon** in the Family Life Center for a potluck lunch and fellowship, sharing and to plan the Family Night.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible study will meet at the home of George and Sue Neal on **September 23rd at 5:30** for a potluck and our continuing study of "No Experience Necessary". George will be the Bible study leader. Since "no experience is necessary", all are invited to join us. There is a sign up posted on the kiosk.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet on **Wednesday, September 19, 11:30 AM** at Emerald Tea Room, 132 McKinley, East Peoria. Reservations are needed, please sign up on the kiosk. To carpool, meet at the church at 11:00 AM.

ADDRESS UPDATE

Lynn Goffinet
119 Marvin Court
Metamora, IL 61548-8612
Phone: 309/383-4149

EMAIL ADDRESSES: Please email Linda Showers at lss@a5.com if you would like to be on the Advent Email list - to receive email announcements & prayer requests. Also email Linda if you are not receiving the email & should be on the list.

A WEDDING SHOWER FOR STEPHANIE

PETERSON on Sunday, September 16 in the FLC, from 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM. See the Kiosk or Marla Gould for more information.

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT
Wednesday September 26, 2007
Potluck 6:00 PM
Program Follows

The entire Advent Family is invited. Please sign-up on the special sheet in the entry area bulletin board if you plan to attend.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for this event. Sponsored and organized by the PRIME TIMERS.

Theravadin Buddhist Monk to Speak at Advent

On Wednesday Evening, September 26 at the Advent Family Night, Pastor Paul Park will share his experiences as a Buddhist Monk in Thailand.

Pastor Park is the only ELCA Pastor who had previously been ordained in another religion.

For two years in the early 1970's He was in Thailand both in preparation to be ordained and later as a practicing monk.

Pastor Park originally went to Thailand to do research for his senior project in Asian Studies at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. It soon became apparent that in order to truly understand the religion that he would have to take on the life of a monk.

After ordination in Bangkok, He eventually went to far northern Thailand where he entered a very centered meditation center. Pastor Park went so deeply into the meditation process that he eventually lost all contact with external reality.

A series of very surprising events led him back to reality and to leaving the Buddhist religion.

Pastor Park will share not only the basic theology of Buddhism, but also his journey back to wholeness and well being. Even the experiences he will share are now more than thirty years ago, he still remembers them like the were yesterday. Come and hear his journey from death to life in Christ.

"BUSY HANDS"

BE INVOLVED with Busy Hands, Advent's newest women's circle. Our first gathering was August 28th and brought TEN willing workers. Thank you ladies for all your hard work.

We began our first project of quilt making for Lutheran World Relief.

DONATIONS are needed of the following items: sheets, sheet blankets, fabrics (cotton and cotton blends), yard, portable sewing machines and scissors.

Busy Hands will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM.

September gatherings will be Tuesday, September 11th & 25th at 9:00 AM in the Family Life Center.

Please plan to attend.

Even if you can't sew or knit—you can help! Co-Leaders are Ruth Smith and Norma Probasco. JoAnne Stover serves as the Recorder.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

SATURDAY SERVICES:
will continue thru September.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Beginning Sunday, September 9, we return to our full Sunday worship schedule: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM.

NEW WORSHIP BOOKS are coming!!

The worship committee has been busy coordinating the introduction of the new Worship Books. On Sunday, September 16, we will worship **EXCLUSIVELY** with the new books. (We are still in need 15 additional new books. DONATION forms are in the entry area at church)

NEW BULLETIN FORMAT:

Beginning also on September 16, all of the liturgy, lessons and service music will be printed in the bulletins. This will be on a 90-day trial basis. We will assess congregational response and production costs after 30 days. Your feedback is **VITAL**. Let us know what you think!!!

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP HELPER NEEDS:

Ushers for all three weekend services. Do you know—this is of no charge to you??

Altar Guild is looking for a new chairperson monthly servers to set up for Holy Communion.

GREETINGS ADVENT!

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

It looks like youth programming is going to be back in full swing. I have had a very busy but productive summer but I have to admit I have missed seeing the smiling faces of all of our wonderful youth at Advent. I know life gets busy and I have enjoyed hearing everyone's stories about vacations so keep them coming. I love pictures!

I am also excited to report that we have several Northern Conference events planned for the future. The very next upcoming JLYO and LYO event is the

Fall Fling that will be held at the Rockin P Ranch in Pekin! The date is Sunday, September 23rd; 1-3 P.M. The cost will be \$5.00.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Confirmation begins soon. I am so thrilled to be involved in this exciting new programming. High School Youth: if you are interested in participating with confirmation and would like to help facilitate the program please let me know.

I am also working on Wednesday night programming for our high school youth also.

SO PLEASE COME JOIN US!

Stephanie

SOS BREAKFAST

The next **SOS Breakfast** is set for **SATURDAY, September 29th** in the FLC at 9 AM.

Cathy Durlinger, Jan Kinney, Arlene Parr and Sue Usgaard will share their experiences with adoption and foster care. Lynn Goffinet will share her experiences as a staff member of LSSI. It will be a great program.

We will also talk more about special groups yet to be formed in the congregation. Since our last SOS breakfast, we now have our sewing circle, Busy Hands, up and running, thanks to Ruth Smith and Norma Probasco.

Join us for this time of fellowship, September 29. There will be a sign up for those who would like to provide food. It is not necessary to sign up to attend.

ALL WOMEN OF ADVENT (and friends) are welcome.

A VBS THANKS!

Does VBS stand for Vacation Bible School or Valued & Blessed Saints?!! Perhaps both. In any case, thank you very much to all the teachers, coordinators, helpers and students (both kids & adults) that made this past VBS program a real "splash".

With so many people involved in the program either directly or behind the scenes, it's difficult to start naming folks; however, we would like to go out on a limb and express our appreciation to Johnna Maragos and Mary Mills as Co-Directors of VBS this year. Thank you to everyone who said "Here I am Lord, send

me!" (or maybe it was "sure I will") when the coordinating committee came calling. Thank you also to the parents for leading your kids to this Christ-centered program while so many other summer activities were going on. The fun and Spirit-filled learning, worshiping and service activities throughout VBS week has gotten us all ready to "take the plunge with Jesus" with fun and Spirit-filled learning, worshiping and service activities throughout the year!

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, II Timothy 3:14

Advent Learning Committee

SCRIP ORDERS

SCRIP orders will be placed the first and third Sundays of each month. Please check the SCRIP information bulletin board in the narthex for updates on "back to school" bonus offers that are now in effect. Also, Sunday School students will be bringing home information about the SCRIP fundraising program the first week classes are held. Contact Jodi Schaefer if you have questions at 263-2533 or jodi_61550@yahoo.com.

EMAIL ADDRESSES: Please email Linda Showers at lss@a5.com if you would like to be on the Advent Email list - to receive email announcements & prayer requests. Also email Linda if you are not receiving the email & should be on the list.

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

Committee Meeting Rescheduled

The committee meeting originally scheduled for Thursday August 23rd has been rescheduled to Thursday September 20th at 6:30 pm.

2007 Grant Activity

The committee approved a grant for tuition support for Maxi Gould who is attending Pacific Lutheran University. This grant was forwarded to the

University to apply for matching funds. The Committee and Congregation are proud of her accomplishments as she continues her education.

Grant Funds available

As the end of the year approaches, the Committee still has funds available for grants. If you have suggestions of organizations or causes that fulfill our goal of additional outreach of Advent Lutheran Church, please give that information to one of the Committee members.

Advent Mission Endowment Fund

The Advent Mission Endowment Fund was established to provide funds to support programs or initiatives in the following categories over and above the annual operating budget of Advent Lutheran Church:

Supporting Education for Christian Life and Service

Promoting Christian Religion

Christian Charity

Help Grow the Mission Endowment Fund

Gifts can be made to the Endowment

- in honor of a special occasion,
- as a memorial for a departed friend or family member, or
- as part of your financial planning.

**A gift to the Mission Endowment Fund is
a gift that keeps on giving.**

The Committee is available to assist you:

Dennis Darling

Bill Patterson

Karen Kaufman

Dean Rohweder, Chairman

Linda Christensen, Council Liaison

Pastor Dennis O'Brien, ex-officio

THE HABITAT SIGN-UP IS FINALLY HERE !!

Our first volunteer crew date for Advent is **Saturday September 8th**.

-- PLEASE sign up on the Service Committee B. Board or call Linda Showers 359-8079 if you can help.

Babysitting will be provided at Advent; carpooling will be available too -- meet at Advent at 7:30. -- the house is located in Chillicothe. If you are interested in providing lunch for our crew, please call Linda)

UPCOMING VIA DE CRISTO WEEKENDS

**Via de Cristo ("Way of Christ") Weekends –
Men's 10/11-14; Women's 10/18-21
(Call Vince & Linda Showers
if interested 359-8079)**

A Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) weekend is the Lutheran version of Cursus or Walk to Emmaus or Tres Dias. It is a packed three day weekend, where the teachings of Christ are discussed in an atmosphere of joy. The Via de Cristo weekend is centered around 14 talks, which present various aspects of the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ as an ideal.

Via de Cristo offers those in attendance a living and personal understanding of basic Christian truths. If you want to learn more about your faith, or you feel like you need a refresher course or you simply want to enjoy a Christ-centered weekend where everything else is set aside for three whole days, this weekend may be for you.

Questions? Or want to know how to register? – call Vince & Linda Showers 359-8079. (Hey MEN – Pastor is going on the Men's weekend this Fall if you want to go with another Advent brother ☺).

VISION FOR MISSION OFFERING Weekend of September 22 and 23:

During the years, each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is asked to set aside a Sunday for a special VISION FOR MISSION focus and offering for churchwide ELCA ministries. Receipts from this special offering DIRECTLY support the work of ELCA global and domestic ministries.

Since its beginning, the Vision for Mission offering has generated over \$15 million

To develop new congregations,
Share the Gospel through global mission,
Equip people for leadership in their
congregations.

Engage young people in opportunities to
discover their gifts for ministry.

The GOAL for 2007, is \$100,000 .

Worship on this September weekend will include a special insert/offering envelope,
Excerpts from a DVD overview of ELCA ministries,
and special prayers and faith talk.

PEORIA DINING COUPONS

The Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria are offering the Peoria Dining Tour Coupon Book again this year. The dining coupons are valid until November 1, 2008. The cost is \$30. Ten dollars from each book will go equally to the Lutheran Hillside Village and Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.

You will find over 260 valuable BUY ONE -GET ONE FREE coupons valid at local area restaurants.
Contact Ruth Rohweder 263-2084 or Loretta Dirst 263-1327 to purchase a coupon book.

SCHOOL ADDRESSES For those members of Advent attending school, or living elsewhere post-high school, would you please send your new address!

AUGUST ATTENDANCE

June 30, July 1	94
July 7,8	95
July 14,15	114
July 21,22	129
July 28,29	177

THE SEARCH IS OVER... Karen Kaufman with the assistance of Linda Christensen have volunteered to replace Chuck Dirst who has been Advent's Financial Secretary for the past five years. Thank you Chuck for your dedication and Karen and Linda for answering the call!

CONFIRMATION ON THE GO AND ON THE GROW:

We continue our move to a high energy, relationship-centered, family-embracing program for this year.

EVENTS for September:

First two weeks: individual family conferences

September 5: 7 p.m. Family meeting
In the FLC at church

September 19: KICK OFF BBQ and Gathering

September 26: FAMILY NIGHT with Pr. Paul
Park. ALL CONFIRMANDS ATTEND and
Prepare a response paper.

October 3: FIRST regular Wednesday
Session, 7:00 p.m.

How you can help:

Small Groups of 4/5 kids and 1 adult guide

Will be the heart of this year's program.

We are looking for FOUR such adults,
individuals who are Authentic (a deep and
down to earth faith), Affirming (like kids and
Positive with them) and Available (easy to
talk to, seek out kids)

Pastor Dennis appreciates YOU giving him
names of folks you feel would convey these
qualities as a Small Group leader.

ALSO, if you know of a family with a child
middle school age, who may be interested in
confirmation and who may not be "on our list",
PLEASE let Pr. Dennis or the church office
know.

A NOTE FROM Pastor Dennis:

First off, THANKS SO MUCH to all of you who remembered the 29th Anniversary of my 29th birthday on August 12. The cards, phone calls and gifts received were very thoughtful AND much treasured.

Secondly as we enter the Fall season, let us remember in prayer and perhaps with letter or E mail, young persons whose schooling or military service carries them away from home. We will be publishing an address list of "away at school" and in service members & friends of Advent in October. Personal contact from folks back home means so much! I ask your prayers also for daughter Elise as she departs for a semester in Senegal on September 2. It is both exciting and a bit scary for her to be venturing so far from home, in a very new and unfamiliar setting.

Thirdly, I leave you with this reflection by Mother Teresa. Her recently published journals reveal her to be a person of significant inner struggle. Yet out of personal difficulty she lived a life of amazing self giving, profound faith and deep love. Her words:

***We can do no great things.
We can only do small things
with great love.***

Much of what we do in life, most of what we do each day, may seem small and insignificant. But great good and great meaning come from those who do the apparently small things of life with the GREAT LOVE we receive through Jesus.

In all your "small things" this month, may the GREAT LOVE OF JESUS shine through.

Pastor Dennis

WHAT'S COOKING WITH THE SERVICE COMMITTEE:

Advent Lutheran is partnering once again with Lutheran World Relief (LWR) to support those in need around the world. Advent members will have the opportunity to sew or help assemble quilts, donate items for Health Kits and buy Fair Trade Fair Wage (FTFW) coffee, chocolate and beautiful hand-crafted items.

LWR Quilts

A sewing circle is already up and running to make the LWR quilts. Call Ruth Smith [263-2265] if you are interested in joining them. See complete details in an accompanying article in this newsletter.

FTFW (Fair Trade Fair Wage) Coffee and Chocolate Coming Soon...

We hope to be selling FTFW coffee and chocolate soon at Advent – watch for more details in the bulletin and emails in September.

FTFW (Fair Trade Fair Wage) Store Coming to Advent – Sunday, November 11th

On Sunday, November 11th Crossroads, a FTFW shop in Bloomington, will bring their shop to us for your Christmas shopping convenience. You can choose from an array of beautiful hand crafted items, including pottery, baskets, embroidered linens, art, children's toys, clothing, jewelry, etc. – all hand made by artisans around the world who receive a large proportion of the profit. Crossroads uses the same vendors/suppliers as LWR. These not-for-profit organizations like Serve, Gift of Grace & Ten Thousand Villages support global artisans and serve as the distributor/reseller of their products. Sunday November 11th is also the day of the Advent Thanksgiving meal so you'll be able to shop at your leisure before and after church -- just in time for the holidays!

LWR Health Kits

Advent will collect items for Health Kits during September and October. LWR Health Kits are distributed around the world in refugee camps and recovery centers to families and individuals devastated by civil war, natural disasters such as tsunamis, earth quakes, etc.

During September and October we will be collecting the following items to assemble the kits: (This is the list for one entire kit.)

- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- One washcloth, dark color recommended
- One bath-size bar (4-5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One comb, wide tooth preferred, remove packaging
- One metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached, remove packaging (do not substitute cardboard emery boards for the file)
- Six Band-Aids® (or similar brand), preferably 1/2" to 3/4"; secure together with a rubber band

NOTE THAT NO TOOTHPASTE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE KITS – toothpaste is now added at the distribution centers

Our Central Illinois LWR collection date is the last weekend in October, so **Please bring your items to Advent by Sunday October 21st – a collection box will be in the Narthex.**