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# ADVENT

LUTHERAN WYCKOFF

**Worship**  
Saturday 5:00 pm Contemporary  
Sunday 9:30 am Traditional  
**Sunday School 9:20 am**  
September – May

**VOLUME 57**

**NUMBER 12**

**DECEMBER 2018**

## FROM PASTOR JOSEPH

Starting December 2<sup>nd</sup>, you'll notice a number of changes at the Sunday liturgy. In addition to the new paraments and decorations for Advent, we'll be using Setting Three of the mass from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Setting Three is similar to Setting Four, which we are currently using. Setting Three was first published in *Lutheran Book of Worship* and may sound familiar since it is used in many ELCA congregations.

Throughout the year, we will also be learning the service music from Setting Two. This setting was written by Marty Haugen, known for hymns like *Gather Us In* and *Shepherd Me, O God*. Haugen's music draws from folk, jazz, and blues influences to create liturgies that are both memorable and singable. We will be learning Setting Two this year with the intention of using it as our primary setting starting in Advent of 2019. During the summer, we will be using Setting Ten. Unlike the *ELW*'s other nine

settings, Setting Ten is written to well-known hymn tunes. We are using this setting during the summer so we can still have a robust liturgy when our attendance dips.

Jason and I work intentionally to curate liturgies that are participatory, dynamic, and universal. By participatory, we mean the liturgy should be accessible so that the entire assembly can join in worship. Because liturgy is something you do and not something you watch, the music should be reasonably learnable for a wide range of musical abilities. By

dynamic, we mean that the liturgy should not become stale. Liturgy should feel familiar, but it should never become something we can do without thinking. By universal, we mean the liturgy should draw from all the gifts of the church. Every week, some of our liturgical elements are just a few years old and some date back over a millennium. Using the gifts of our neighbors across time and space is both a sign of our catholicity and an opportunity for us to learn from one another's witness.

Making changes isn't easy, so let me offer a few unsolicited pieces of advice. One: Relax. God will not smite Advent if you sing the wrong notes. Liturgy is how we worship God.

Liturgy is not what we worship. Two: Keep an open mind. We all have favorite hymns and settings but remember that there was a first time when you sang those, too. I don't think I sang my favorite hymn, *Holy God, Holy and Glorious* (ELW #637), until 2015. Three: We don't all have the same experiences. Some of

us know Setting Three and Setting Four by heart. I'm more familiar with Settings Two and Five. Others of us are used to using Eight and Ten. "We all know Setting \_\_ really well," usually means, "I know Setting \_\_ really well." Four: When in doubt, sing! The psalmist tells us to "make a joyful noise to the LORD," not make a beautiful noise.

Peace and courage,  
Joseph Schattauer Paillé, Pastor





## FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Winter is settling in, but I was reminded recently that Spring will be here before very long. The reminder came in the form of our tax accountant's annual message to clients about preparing for April 15th. The tax code is incredibly complex and always changing, but one thing she always urges us to do is give, give, give. Charitable contributions now make nice deductions later.

If you're doing year-end tax planning, I ask you to consider a special gift to Advent. You'll have a deduction AND the satisfaction of knowing you've helped our church start the New Year on solid financial footing.

Speaking of the New Year, a good resolution might be to make the switch to electronic giving. It's paperless, easy and helps Advent's cash flow. Just visit our website and click on the link. And if you're already giving electronically, please take a moment to update your pledge amount for 2019.

I wish you all the blessings of Christmas.

Bill Whitney,  
Council President

The **2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are on the table in the narthex. Please take yours home as soon as possible. Remember, all contributions for tax year ending 2018 must be in by Sunday, December 30. Thanks!



## “MOO SHU YULE”

Again this year, Peg and Bill Whitney will observe their long-held tradition of having Chinese food between services on Christmas Eve. Anyone who's involved in both services – or has no family plans that night – is invited to join us at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Just let us know you'll be there, and whether you have any dietary restrictions.

Email us: [bpwhitney@aol.com](mailto:bpwhitney@aol.com) or  
call: 201-848-9059.

**ADVENT Bible Study:** Wednesday evenings, 7:00 pm, December 5 and December 19, and 7:00 pm Tuesday, December 11. We will read selections from Walter Brueggemann's *The Prophetic Imagination*. This is a wide-ranging and provocative book on the Hebrew Bible and Jesus's use of Jewish ideas and traditions. No prior reading required. Come join us at 7:00 pm for any or all weeks.

## FROM FELLOWSHIP

**December 2:** Fellowship Committee will host coffee hour for the wreath making.



**December 9:** Cookie Swap. Please bring at least 2 to 3 dozen cookies. Gift wrapping is also that morning, so enjoy some

cookies and help wrap.

**December 16<sup>th</sup>:** Someone is still needed to host coffee hour that day.

## MITTEN TREE

Each year we decorate the tree with mittens, hats, scarves, socks, etc. that are given to local people in need. The tree will be up through the end of the year. Thank you for your generosity. You are encouraged to place your personal Christmas card on the tree to share with your church family.



## ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS



Sign up is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Cost is \$15 per plant with choice of red, white, or pink. Last day to order is **Sunday,**

**December 16.** Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Day service. Make checks payable to Advent Lutheran Church: *designation poinsettias*

## ADDITIONAL DECEMBER HAPPENINGS



### Advent Wreath

**Making, Sunday, December 2, 10:45 am:** I am so excited we are making Advent Wreaths again. This is an excellent opportunity to invite people to our church and experience the lovely people who are inside. I've invited the greater Wyckoff community; flyers are at Starbucks, Stop & Shop, Library, YMCA, I'll post on Wyckoff Moms. So please invite people to join us!

Please bring all the pairs of hand clippers you can to make the branch trimming easier.

*Janice Reynen*

**Lille Juleaften Party:** Saturday, December 22 at the parsonage from 6-9. Lille Juleaften is an "Eve of Christmas Eve" celebration common in many families with Norwegian roots. Anna and I will provide appetizers, desserts, beer, wine, and soft drinks. There will be gluten free options. We will not play *Last Christmas* by Wham! but we will have that Paul McCartney Christmas song turned all the way up.

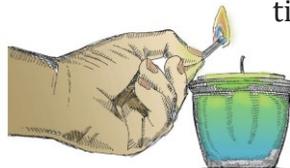
**Council:** We have three seats open on next year's council. Susan Poff has volunteered to stand for election as Social Ministry Chair (committee responsible for giving and advocacy, overseeing events like Walk-In dinners, Souper Bowl collection, Seafarers, etc.), which leaves us with a Mutual Ministry seat and another seat which will likely be "at large." Please prayerfully consider serving. Advent is blessed to have excellent lay leadership because of people like you who step up. The responsibilities are not so overwhelming that they can't be done but not so insignificant that we can have vacant seats and still be a vibrant congregation. If you are interested in serving, please speak with Pastor or Bill Whitney.

**High School Events: Messiah Lutheran Church,** Oakland is hosting a holiday card writing for deployed troops on Tuesday, December 4 at 7 PM.

**Advent** is organizing **snow tubing** on the afternoon of Sunday, January 13. We need to

reserve tickets in advance, so contact Pastor or the church office ASAP if you are interested in going to either event.

**Community Events:** Christmas can be a hard time for people who are grieving. If you would like a liturgical space for grief and remembrance, consider one of these services



offered by our mission partners. I am happy to go with you if you don't want to go to one alone. – *Pastor*

- **Blue Christmas:** Saturday, December 1 at 2:30 pm, hosted by Grace Methodist Church.
- **Blue Christmas:** Thursday, December 20, at 7:30 pm, hosted by Wyckoff Reformed Church.
- **Longest Night:** Friday, December 21 at 7:00 pm, hosted by Calvary Lutheran Church in Allendale.

## Thankful offerings to...

- All the Priceless Treasures volunteers
- Mary Pensallorto for coordinating the library cleanup
- Tina & Hanna Miles for the college care packages and social ministry coordination
- Bill Whitney and the Stewardship Committee for the 2019 campaign
- Pastor Joseph and the Advent members who attended the Shabbat service on November 2 to show their support

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*Dear Members of Advent,  
Thank you so much for the care package. It is always nice to receive a package in the mail. The snacks always come in handy. Thank you again. – John Pensallorto*

*Dear Pastor,  
Thank you so much for the care package! It was so thoughtful of you to think of me during my crazy exam schedule. – Matt Rizzo*



## MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE

Since the 1980's Advent's Memorial Garden has served as a final resting place for many of Advent's members. It has also provided space for prayer and meditation, as well as public liturgies such as the Easter Sunday Sunrise service. Over time, the garden has become overgrown and some features are in need of repair. At the request of Advent's Council, a Memorial Garden Committee was formed consisting of Pastor Joseph, Karen Arnone, Sue Brown, Elise Geiger, Christie & Peter Rutherford, and David Swenson.

The Memorial Garden Committee has contracted with Stone House Nursery (our neighbor), Vanderbeck Tree Experts, and Steenstra Landscaping (our landscaper).

Stone House Nursery will provide the new trees, shrubs, and mulch. Vanderbeck Tree Service will remove the cherry trees, remove some pine trees, and trim the remaining pine trees. Steenstra Landscaping will provide the labor to remove the shrubs, install the new trees and shrubs, install an underground sprinkler system, reset the existing brick walkway, add a brick walkway extension, and install two new benches. To preserve the integrity of the remains placed in the garden, approximately four inches of soil will be removed and set aside prior to installing the new trees and shrubs. Once the renovation is completed, the soil will be placed back in the memorial garden.

As of November 15, the following items have been accomplished: Vanderbeck Tree Service removed three cherry trees, three pine trees and trimmed the remaining pine trees; Steenstra Landscaping removed the old shrubs, leveled and reset the existing brick walkway, installed a new brick walkway extension, installed a portion of the underground sprinkler system, and installed 16 skip laurel shrubs as a boundary for the Memorial Garden. The balance of the work for the Memorial Garden will be completed in the Spring of 2019.

The Memorial Garden budget is \$20,000. The total for the three proposals is \$19,450. To date we have spent \$7,983.

The completed project will make the Memorial Garden a more tranquil place for prayer, a more welcoming place for worship, and a more gracious place for your loved one's remains.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the Memorial Garden Committee members. Thank you.

*David Swenson Building & Grounds Chair*

201-327-8500

[dswenson@spacers.com](mailto:dswenson@spacers.com)



## FROM SOCIAL MINISTRY

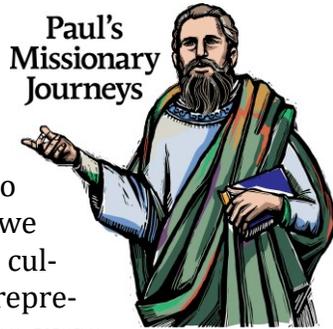
### THANKS FOR GIVING!

As we gathered around our tables with family and friends joined for Thanksgiving, we rejoiced that other families in our area also could enjoy a grace filled meal. Thanks to all of you, Advent provided 52 bags of canned food and fresh produce, 8 big turkeys, and \$495.00 in gift cards from local grocery stores for our neighbors. When we pulled up to deliver the food and said we were from Advent, the director of the Mahwah Center for Food Action site exclaimed, "Oh, yes, you do so much for us!"

The Thank You note we received included this statement:

*Our mission at CFA is "to help end hunger and homelessness in New Jersey." Your donation helps enable us to provide families with their Thanksgiving meal that includes all the traditional holiday fixings. We are deeply grateful for your support!*

## PAUL'S THIRD JOURNEY: SHAKING UP THE STATUS QUO



Through his first two apostolic journeys, we have examined the cultural revolution represented by Paul. There were strong cultural prohibitions against Jews and Gentiles mingling socially, yet Paul, guided by God, pushed those barriers aside and brought gentiles into what was considered a sect of Judaism. The improbability of this success remains hard for me to express. In today's terms, it would be like a Christian pastor preaching to members of the Taliban, and then making them full members of a Christian sect. Needless to say, other current Christian pastors might have a problem with this, and Paul certainly did with the Jews. However, things really got touchy as Paul began to teach at Ephesus during his third evangelical trip. This time, he messed with the Roman gods.

Paul spent almost three years in Ephesus during his third journey, from about 54-57 AD. Ephesus was a major city in the ancient world. A seaport trading mecca, goods from near and far (as well as ideas) travelled along with the ships that docked there. There was a beautiful promenade through the center of town, and dominating all, a temple to Diana of the Ephesians, the hometown goddess of the city. It is said that the Temple of Diana was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, so it must have been impressive.

Diana was a big deal. The philosophy of the ancients toward worship was paying respect to the gods. There was no formal doctrine such as we have today, but individuals were expected to make an offering to the god out of duty. Failing to do so meant engendering the wrath of that god, which was bad for all. This was why the Jesus believers ran afoul of the generally tolerant Roman authorities. By refusing to sacrifice, and even worse, denying the existence of Diana, the members of "the

Way" presented an existential threat to the status quo.

Paul, by boldly teaching, obviously was successful in getting people to turn from idol worship. This led, in Chapter 19 of Acts, to a riot instigated by the idol makers (of Diana) in Ephesus. When you read the record, you see that Diana statue sales were down, and the merchants were mad. The crowd rioted, and they seized two of Paul's associates on the way to a noisy demonstration in the arena. Only after the Roman authorities got involved did things settle down.

This sort of behavior illustrates a few things. To turn a major city like Ephesus into a "riot" area was not easily done. Whatever Paul and his followers were doing was working, and God's plan was being advanced in a dynamic manner. Imagine a "street preacher" walking into New York City and having that impact. Truly, Paul had turned the world on its ear. It also illustrates the resistance that fanned up in the wake of Paul's success. Whenever Paul's ministry began to gain momentum, he immediately faced opposition from a number of sources. That mattered little to Paul, who kept moving and teaching.

After three years with the Ephesian believers, Paul journeyed on to a few other spots before finally heading back to Jerusalem, despite warnings to stay away. His adventures in Jerusalem and subsequent voyage to Rome will be dealt with next month. We have seen a lot of excitement, but the fun has just begun.

As usual, I ask why we should care about Ephesus, or any other ancient cities and Paul's impact on them. Paul believed God and boldly followed what he believed was God's plan for him. He was undeterred by obstacles, dealing with them as he went along. Paul had no more ability than any of us, and God will stand by us just as he did for Paul. All we have to do is ask. Not all of us are as strong willed as Paul, but we can ask God to work with us and help us to serve him. Try it out.....maybe you too can turn the world on its ear.

*Gerry Lauro*

### **Happy DECEMBER Birthday to...**

|    |                  |    |                    |
|----|------------------|----|--------------------|
| 2  | Richard Carbone  | 12 | George Collard     |
| 3  | Bobby Schoendorf | 12 | Marisa Lightenberg |
| 3  | David Wilson     | 12 | Matthew Ritacco    |
| 6  | Terry Carbone    | 14 | Ian Havens         |
| 6  | Richard Zinn     | 14 | Suzanne Weir       |
| 7  | Jennifer Spector | 16 | Karen Campbell     |
| 8  | Carol Brighton   | 18 | Kevin Aquino       |
| 9  | Joan Agner       | 18 | Carl-Erik Skonberg |
| 9  | Kelly Macke      | 20 | Ryan Spector       |
| 9  | Clinton Poff     | 23 | Alice Stroh        |
| 11 | Daniel Keyser    | 25 | Carol Saliu        |

### **Happy DECEMBER Anniversary to...**

|    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 3  | Ed & Kathy Soares        |
| 6  | John & Diane Havens      |
| 13 | Chris & Alice Stroh      |
| 30 | Frank & Gretchen Ritacco |

### **Thanks to Those Serving this Month...**

**PLEASE NOTE:** There are many opportunities to help with our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Please contact either Pastor Joseph or the Church office (as indicated) to serve.

#### **December 2**

**Assisting Minister** Bob Schoendorf  
**Acolyte** Matthew Hammond  
**Reader** Diane Havens  
**Ushers** John Havens & Chris Reynen  
**Communion Prep** Jean Olenich  
**Fellowship** Fellowship Committee

#### **December 9**

**Assisting Minister** Carolyn Tedesco  
**Acolyte** Please contact Pastor  
**Reader** Jody Eiden  
**Ushers** Frank & Mary Pensallorto  
**Communion Prep** Melissa Rizzo  
**Fellowship** Cookie Swap

#### **December 16**

**Assisting Minister** Jody Eiden  
**Acolyte** Please contact Pastor  
**Reader** Bill Whitney  
**Ushers** Gerry Lauro & George Collard  
**Communion Prep** Linda Ganger  
**Fellowship** Please sign up

#### **December 23**

**Assisting Minister** Bill Whitney  
**Acolyte** Please sign up  
**Reader** Carolyn Tedesco  
**Ushers** Joe Salerno  
**Communion Prep** Barbara Lauro  
**Fellowship** Please sign up

#### **December 24 5 pm Christmas Eve**

**Assisting Minister** Please contact Pastor  
**Acolyte** Please contact Pastor  
**Reader** Please contact the church office  
**Ushers** Please contact the church office  
**Communion Prep** Please contact Pastor

#### **December 24 10 pm Christmas Eve**

**Assisting Minister** Please contact Pastor  
**Acolyte** Please contact Pastor  
**Reader** Please contact the church office  
**Ushers** Please contact the church office  
**Communion Prep** Please contact Pastor

#### **December 25 10 am Christmas Day**

**Assisting Minister** Please contact Pastor  
**Acolyte** Please contact Pastor  
**Reader** Gerry Lauro  
**Ushers** Please contact the church office  
**Communion Prep** Please contact Pastor

#### **December 30**

**Assisting Minister** Linda Ganger  
**Acolyte** Please contact Pastor  
**Reader** Roy Borgeson  
**Ushers** Roy & Bethel Borgeson  
**Communion Prep** Carol Saliu  
**Fellowship** Anna Schattauer Paillé

**Counter (Council)** John Havens  
**Teller** Anthony Rizzo

Pastor's email: [adventwyckoffpastor@gmail.com](mailto:adventwyckoffpastor@gmail.com)  
Church email: [adventlutheranwyckoff@gmail.com](mailto:adventlutheranwyckoff@gmail.com)

### **REMINDER: Christmas At Sea deadline is Wednesday, December 5** – there's



still time to participate. Imagine being far away from home and family at Christmas time doing dangerous work in the middle of the ocean. We can share the Christmas spirit to seafarers coming through the NY and NJ ports by filling satchels for our Lutheran Seafarer's Mission *Christmas at Sea* project. Chaplains give these bags to every ship coming in to dock in December; on Christmas Eve the ship's captain distributes the bags to all the seafarers. You can pick up a white bag and a shopping list in the narthex. Typically, you can buy the whole shopping list for under \$25.

Please put your name on the poster by the number on your bag and return the filled bag by **Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**; check off your number when you return the bag. **Christmas Blessings and Calm Seas in the New Year.**