

Rev. Joseph Schattauer Paillé, Pastor
adventwyckoffpastor@gmail.com
Saturday 5:00 pm: Contemporary Worship
Sunday School 9:20 am September - May
Sunday 9:30 am Traditional Worship
Email: adventlutheranwyckoff@verizon.net



ADVENT
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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FROM PASTOR JOSEPH

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a mental illness is a “health condition that changes a person’s thinking, feelings, or behavior (or all three) and that causes the person distress and difficulty in functioning.” This wide definition includes depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions. According to the NIH, one in six U.S. adults lives with a mental illness (44.7 million people). Of those affected, fewer than half received any treatment in the past year.

One of the many reasons many people do not receive treatment is the stigma surrounding mental illnesses. Stigma refers to the way people are labeled, stereotyped, and pushed out of their communities because they are no longer seen as “normal.” For example, mental health illnesses are often wrongly seen as a moral shortcoming instead of a medical condition. Many people who suffer from mental illnesses don’t seek treatment for fear of the prejudice, discrimination, and exclusion that stigma leads to. Reducing the stigma surrounding mental illness is one area where the church has a vital role to play in the public sphere.

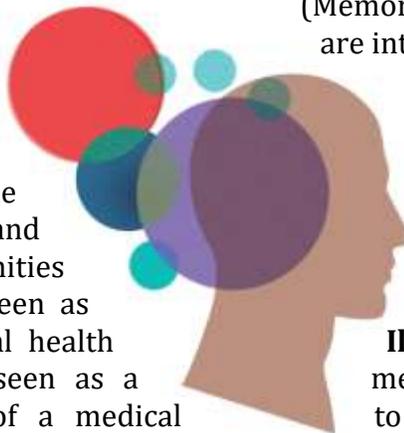
On Sunday, May 6, Rev. Jim Knol (LCSW), Director of Pastoral Care at Christian Health Care Center, has generously offered to come to Advent to give a presentation on mental health. Jim will do an introduction to mental illnesses, stigma, and what skills we need to learn to be a more effective in ministering to and with people with mental illnesses. There

will be time for Q and A as well. Jim is a very knowledgeable and engaging speaker, so I hope you will be able to attend. The presentation begins directly after worship.

There are two more educational events on mental illness education in our community that may be of interest to you. The first is a Stigma Free Walk and Talk-a-thon at Ramsey High School on Tuesday, May 1 from 7 P.M. to 8 P.M. The second is an educational event with live music and food trucks at Faith Community Church in Wyckoff on May 28 (Memorial Day). Please shoot me a note if you are interested in additional information.

If you are looking for additional resources, the ELCA’s social message on mental illness entitled *The Body of Christ and Mental Illness* is worth reading. You can find it on the ELCA website: elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Mental-Illness. It offers some basic facts about mental illness, a brief outline of barriers to treatment, and some theological framework for understanding the church’s response. One of the important points it makes is that the church not only ministers to people with mental illnesses but also receives ministry from people with mental illnesses. People who live with mental illnesses are more than their diagnosis; they are children of God whose lives shine forth the mercy of God into the world. Ignorance should not prevent us from appreciating their gifts.

Peace and courage,
Pastor Joseph Schattauer Paillé



FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Where did the time go? This is a question I ask more frequently as I get older, but it truly boggles my mind that more than a year has passed since Pastor Joseph joined us. As the Frank Sinatra song goes, "It was a very good year". (Now I'm really dating myself!) Thanks to Mary Pensallorto and the Fellowship Committee for organizing a special observance on Sunday, March 18. And thanks to them for their hard work on the Easter breakfast. It was delicious!

Advent continues to move forward. I am pleased to report that our reconstituted Endowment Committee is up and running under the chairmanship of Chris Reynen. At its March meeting, the Church Council approved two recommendations from the Committee: a distribution of \$4,000 to support Annie Borgeson's work with Manna Project International in Ecuador, and a \$5,000 donation to the Wyckoff Love Fund, which supports local families in crisis. (Pastor Joseph serves on the board.)

The Endowment Committee is actively seeking other worthy causes. If you are aware of a need, in the community or elsewhere, please contact Chris. Applications are available in the church office.

Looking ahead, Advent will have a booth at the Y for Wyckoff Day, Saturday, June 2, from 12 to 4 PM. If you can spend some time with us, even an hour, please let me or Pastor Joseph know.

Finally, Spring didn't come a moment too soon after a harsh winter that drove up our heating and snow removal costs. The final blow was the series of March nor'easters that brought down so many tree limbs on the property. We will need to monitor our budget very carefully in the months ahead.

Enjoy the warmer weather!

Bill Whitney
Council President

Thankful offerings to...

- Bob Thompson and Carol Brighton for their voices on Easter morning
- all the people who helped with the Easter Baskets and Walk-in Dinner
- Heidi Teitelbaum, Sue Brislin, Diane Backhaus, Marge Fisher, Nancy Thomas, and Linda Ganger for their help at the Walk-in Dinner
- the Fellowship Committee and their help with Easter.
- the cleanup crew that tidied up for Easter

FROM THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Advent's Endowment Committee met in March and approved two proposals that were later reviewed and supported by Council.

These proposals were:

- Manna Project International, an organization that employs Annie Borgeson
- The Wyckoff Love Fund

We look forward to receiving more proposals from the Congregation. If you have any questions on the Endowment Funding process or what constitutes a proposed beneficiary, please reach out to any Committee member: Christie Rutherford, Dick Freimuth, Clint Poff, Lynda Ganger, or Chris Reynen.

The Endowment Committee's next meeting will be in June.

Chris Reynen
*Endowment
Committee Chair*



GRAD SCHOOL FOR THE DISCIPLES, PART 2: How Would You Like Your Joy to be Complete?

What would it be like to be taught by Jesus Christ so that your joy may be complete? In John, chapters 13-17, Jesus and the disciples got together for one last round of teaching. Jesus knew his time on earth was short, and the disciples were not ready to carry on without him. Consequently, he needed to jam a lot of teaching into the supper meal before the festival of Passover. As we discussed last month, in Chapter 13 Jesus provided an example of service by washing the disciples' feet. He also told them that his betrayal was at hand. Then in chapter 14, he reveals that despite his leaving, an "advocate" – the Holy Spirit – will be provided to strengthen and comfort them. In chapters 15-17, we begin to understand life with the Advocate.

Chapter 15 begins with Jesus declaring he is "the true vine", and tells the disciples they are branches. To bear fruit, the disciples need to "abide" in him. Verse 16 declares, "I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

I am giving you those commandments so that you may love one another."

Well, so far so good, but not for long. Things turn much darker in verse 18, when Jesus discloses that the world will "hate them", and persecute them. They are going to need help, and in verse 26, Jesus tells them the Advocate will "testify on his behalf". The next few verses contain an essential description of life with the Advocate. Jesus proclaims, "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away the Advocate will not come to you." Then later "when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and will declare to you the things that will come." Jesus will equip his disciples with the partner they need to carry on.

They cannot crucify this partner, and he can be present at all times. Pretty good going away gift, no? The section ends with "very truly I tell you that if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you . . . ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete". (Chapter 16, verse 24)

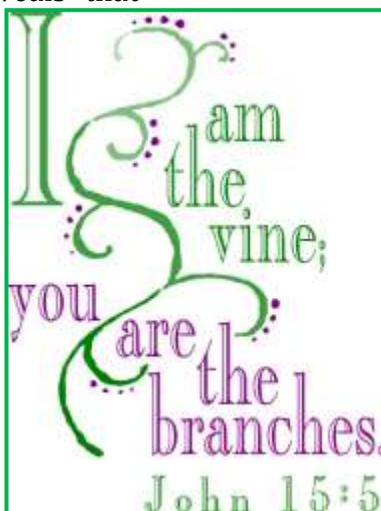
Jesus prays in chapter 17, and speaks a few nuggets that apply to us today. In verse 11, Jesus asks God "to protect them in your name", and "I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves . . . I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one". He finally concludes the chapter saying, "I made your name known to them . . . so that the love which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them".

The crucifixion sequence begins in Chapter 18, so graduate school has concluded for the disciples. What did they learn? On the negative side, with Jesus gone the world will get a lot darker for them. They will face opposition and hatred. Yet, on the positive side, Jesus has anticipated this and provided them with an Advocate to carry them through it all. Just as

importantly, Jesus stresses that he wishes their joy to be full. This does not have to be a dutiful slog to righteousness – just the opposite. Life, post-Jesus, with the aid of the Advocate, should be a life filled with joy.

I think many people today are hung up on the term "holy spirit". It sounds too much like Casper the Friendly Ghost, and they tend to ignore exploring what Jesus made sure the disciples had. Do not get fixated on the metaphysics. The Advocate came on Pentecost, and is available to protect you from the evil in the world today. Perhaps even more importantly, life with the Spirit makes available the possibility of "your joy being full". That sounds like a winner to me.

Gerry Lauro



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Memorial Garden Committee

B&G is looking for a few dedicated folks to contribute their time and energy on the Memorial Garden Committee over the next several months. The committee responsibilities are as follows:



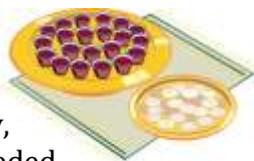
1. Develop a plan to update the Memorial Garden
2. Present the plan to the Church Council for approval
3. Solicit and review bids
4. Select a contractor to accomplish the work
5. Monitor the contractor through completion of the work

If you are interested, please contact David Swenson via email at dswenson@spacers.com or at work at 201-327-8500. Thank you.

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Communion Care

Setting up bread and wine is a very important, but easy, duty. New volunteers are needed.



We have 12 people each scheduled about four times a year; with more volunteers, it would be less frequent! If you've never done it before, partner with someone; one person sets up and one cleans up – that can be arranged. Please contact coordinator Christie Rutherford, with questions or to volunteer. Thank you.

christierrutherford@hotmail.com
or 201-848-9576

ADVENT'S BOOK GROUP



Join us on Monday, May 21, 1:00 pm to discuss *The Women in the Castle* by Jessica Shattuck. Our last get-together before summer is on June 18 when

we share our thoughts on *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

"Our love to God is measured by our everyday fellowship with others and the love it displays."

Andrew Murray

Please join us as we celebrate Advent's 2018 Confirmation Class, Pentecost, and honor the Sunday School teachers and youth on Sunday, May 20th with a luncheon immediately after worship. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

The Fellowship Committee

EMERGENCY PHONE TREE



We have many people in our church community who live alone, have mobility issues, are caretakers, or use medical equipment that may malfunction during an emergency. After our last winter storm, our church council decided to organize an emergency phone tree to reach out to our folks who may need assistance. This may be because you need water, some shoveling, or a ride to a warming/charging center. If you would like someone to check on you in the event of a storm or an emergency, please let the pastor or a council member know.

Pastor Joseph & Council

Pastor	201-891-1031
Bill Whitney	201-848-9059
John Havens	201-848-1371
Christine Vajda	201-612-9738
Elise Geiger	201-327-7873
Peter Rutherford	201-848-9576
Roy Borgeson	201-694-7686
Tina Miles	973-506-7006
Mary Pensallorto	201-670-4127
Bob Thompson	201-760-1350
Cheryl Cunningham	201-389-3255
Janice Reynen	201-847-9824
Bill Joseph	973-427-8698

Happy MAY Birthday to...

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 4 Bob Thompson | 15 Janice Reynen |
| 4 Samantha Weir | 20 Doug Macke |
| 8 Jean Olenich | 23 Monika Zinn |
| 11 Megan Arnone | 24 Elisabet Miles |
| 11 Roxanne Hammond | 24 Wilma Rathjen |
| 12 Ted Schulz | 28 Magnus Skonberg |
| 13 Elena Rizzo | 31 Victoria Cunningham |
| 15 Irene Jaeger | 31 Caroline Hatfield |

Happy MAY Anniversary to...

- 1 Dottie & Paul Surdez
- 10 Carolyn & Larry Tedesco



A BIG THANK YOU to Wyckoff Stop & Shop and Inserra Shop-Rite of Ramsey. Over the past few years they have donated and/or discounted food Advent serves at the Walk-in Dinner in Hackensack. With their help, hundreds of people have been fed nutritious meals.



**MEMORIAL DAY
MONDAY
MAY 28TH**

Thanks to Those Serving this Month...

May 6

- Assisting Minister** Linda Ganger
- Reader** Diane Havens
- Ushers** Joe Salerno & Anthony Rizzo
- Communion Prep** Barbara Lauro
- Fellowship** *Please sign up*

May 13

- Assisting Minister** Carolyn Tedesco
- Reader** Mary Pensallorto
- Ushers** Gerry Lauro & Bob Thompson
- Communion Prep** Kay Tangen
- Fellowship** *Please sign up*

May 20 Pentecost & Confirmation

- Assisting Minister** Jody Eiden
- Reader** Jody Eiden
- Ushers** Diane Backhaus & Sue Brislin
- Communion Prep** Carol Saliu
- Fellowship** Luncheon

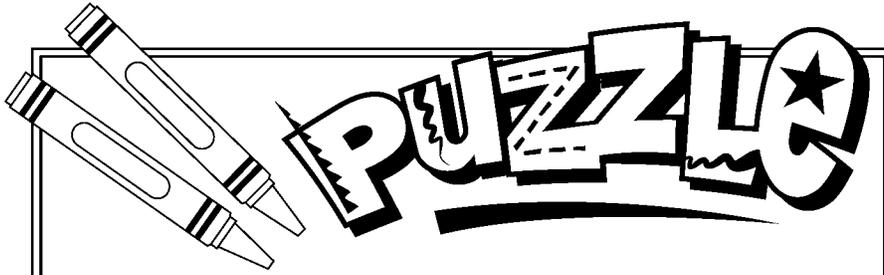
May 27

- Assisting Minister** Bill Whitney
- Reader** Gerry Lauro
- Ushers** Roy & Bethel Borgeson
- Communion Prep** Christine Keeler
- Fellowship** *Please sign up*

- Teller (Council)** John Havens
- Counter** Neil Spector



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WORTHY OF RESPECT

On Mother's Day, we celebrate our moms and everything they do for us. How does God tell us to treat our moms?



Directions: Using the key below, fill in the blanks to complete Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV.

A	C	D	M*	N*	O*
E	F	G	P*	R*	S*
H	I	L	T*	U*	Y*

" _____ your _____
 and your _____,
 the _____ your _____ has
 _____."
 _____ 5:16, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16, NIV



Happy
 Mother's
 Day
 SUNDAY
 MAY 13TH

HEART LIGHT

This Mother's Day, make a bright gift for someone special in your life.



What you need:

- Scissors
- Cardstock
- Tape
- Mason jar
- Primer paint
- Acrylic paint (3 colors)
- Paintbrushes
- Battery-operated tea light
- Paper and pen
- Hole punch
- Twine

What you do:

1. Cut out two cardstock hearts and tape them to the jar sides, near the bottom.
2. Paint the entire jar with primer paint. Let dry.
3. Paint splotches of acrylic paint over the primer. Let dry. Remove the heart shapes.
4. Place the tea light in the jar.
5. Write a note that says, "Mom, you're the light of my life!" Punch a hole in one corner of the note, thread twine through the hole and tie the note around the jar's neck.