

Advent Lutheran Herald

***I worship at Advent
and my religion is
Kindness***

Dear Advent members,

This year when we celebrate Christmas at Advent we will have an opportunity to participate in and experience Christmas in a somewhat different way. Instead of focusing on receiving, we shall participate in giving. I believe you will both enjoy and be blessed by what we have in store.

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. It is in that spirit that I share a portion of what I wrote for my November column in the Cedarburg News Graphic about the international terrorism that is creating the largest number of homeless immigrants in recent memory. Also the mistrust and anger that is found in many places in the world including here in the United States and our own State of Wisconsin. We are among the states that have announced a refusal to accept immigrants from Syria. I am reminded of my own journey from Germany to the United States and freedom. I am also reminded of the McCarthy era that remains a shameful blot on Wisconsin's otherwise proud history. Over 300 actors, writers and musicians in Hollywood alone were blacklisted and called before the House Un-American Activities Committee ending for many their promising careers as artists, what a loss not only to them personally but for the rest of us as a nation. The "Communist behind every bush," radical thinking destroyed the careers and lives of so many people. There are some segments of the Christian family of believers among us that still hold on to doctrinal positions that are anything but inclusive or grace filled, we know the damage that is being caused by religious extremism internationally. How religion can blind us to reality, compassion and grace.



Photo courtesy of the Guardian

I have studied not only my own Christian tradition but many other religions as well; there is not one that at its base teaches what we have been experiencing at the hand of the terrorists. At best it is a perversion of whatever religion they cite and a twisted interpretation that does not even resemble the names they attach to it. We must find a way to transcend this religion-based madness. I find myself re-living my early childhood that I have written about here and in my column and there has been no better time to revisit the heart of my own immigration to the United States which coincides with the McCarthy era in the early 1950's. My family of 6 people, myself being the youngest, was

Page 1

Just Janis continued...

literally homeless and hiding from certain deportation or death in the heavily forested area around the home my father had built just two years prior to the Russian occupation of Latvia. Through an arduous and dangerous journey that took us to displaced person's camps in Germany we eventually made our way to Circle Pines Center in Michigan, one of the states that recently announced their refusal to accept any immigrants from Syria. How sad. It is quite likely that if we had landed in Wisconsin Senator McCarthy would have found a way to send us back to Germany. Some Latvians along with other Eastern European immigrants had been suspected of and known to have participated in the killing of Jews during the Nazi occupation of Latvia. Our family along with most Latvians had nothing to do with killing anyone. We were farmers forced off of our land by the invading Russian Army much the same as the plight of the Syrians today. The irony that will never escape me is that our sponsors at Circle Pines Center were primarily Jewish people who ran that co-op farm and summer camp knowing full well where our family was coming from.

Let us remember that we are all immigrants to this country and none of us accept Native Americans, can claim deep roots as if we were indigenous to this wonderful and free nation. Anyone who claims to be Christian in any of its many manifestations would do well to remember the words of Jesus in the Gospel of **Matthew: (25.43)**

"I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me."

Pastor Janis

My religion is kindness, and I worship at Advent Lutheran Church

***Advent Worship***

Through Music and Our Hand Bell Choir

Thank you Sandy Knuth, Director



Parish Register



Baptisms:

November 15, 2015

Luca William Schumacher, b. 6/14/15
Parents: Brett & Megan Schumacher

Clara Catherine Skaife, b. 8/14/15
Parents: Trevor and Lindsey Skaife

Burials:

November 14, 2015
Betty J. Schopp, 1/30/40--11/7/15



On Sunday, November 8th our Hand Bell Choir honored all veterans who serve and served in the military by playing *Salute to Our Military*, by Valerie Stephenson. This worship and prayer through music is a gift to all at Advent. Members of our Hand Bell Choir include: Margreda and David Kukla, Pam and Tim Gergens, Teresa Dorn, Heidi Janous, Leslie Feiler, Dave Poethke, and Director, Sandy Knuth. Substitute ringers are: Kristin Killahunt, Brian and Melody Harries, Nick Janous, Sue Karlman, Aina Kinens, Dave Kliss, Mary Schraut and Judy Weiss. We are so blessed to have these talented musicians as part of our Advent family. Thank you for your gift of music.

Advent Worship Schedule

Weekly Service – 8 & 10:30 AM

Adult Forum & Sunday school 9:15 – 10:15 AM

*Advent Soup's On/Worship 6 PM / 7 PM
(December 2, 9, & 16)*

*Advent's Live Nativity 6:30 & 7 PM
(Friday, December 11)*

Christmas Eve 5 PM, 7 PM & 10 PM

Christmas Day 10 AM

New Years Eve 7 PM

Cross Lutheran Church

Donations and additional servers are needed for Cross Lutheran Lunch on December 16, and additional 3rd Wednesdays in future months.

Thank you for considering your time, talents, and giving.

Contact the church office or Patrick Doughman with any questions.

December Birthdays

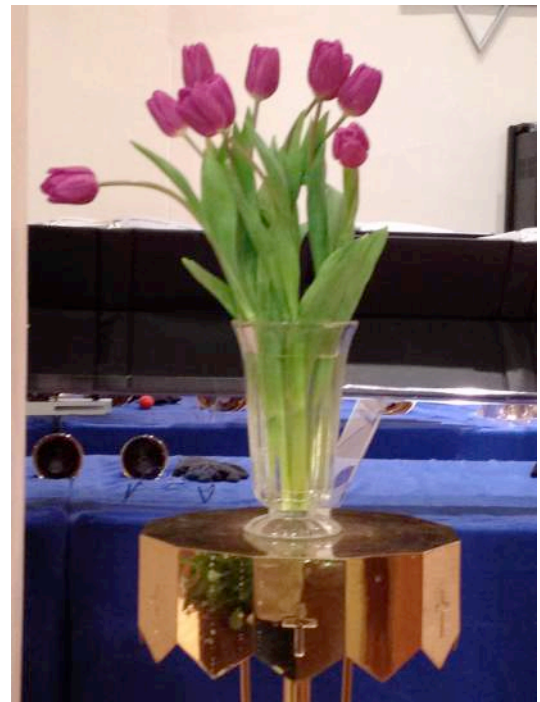
- 2 Kathleen Ahrens, John Westgor
- 3 Reagan Dahl, Cathy Norene
- 5 Peter Kobin, Kristen Nelson, Donald Welch
- 6 Kim Kraft, Jason Herkert, Norman Veik
- 7 Bertha Surges
- 8 Arielle Fay, Barbara Feil, Liam Zimbric
- 9 Susan Burmeister, Kristine Koepke, Ronald Mrowinski, John Regnitz
- 10 Paul Regnitz
- 11 Michael Hansen, John Knuth Sr., Cheryl Svehlek
- 12 Erica Blank, Matt Lewandowski
- 14 Rosalyn Isbell
- 15 Dona Czarnecki, Ann & David Tice, Jackie Vandenberg
- 16 John Cerbins, Sawyer Zimbric
- 17 Fran Bentz, Sasha Sullivan
- 18 Sheri Bestor, Kaitlin Boesch, Jack Butcher, Nicholas Loth, Meredith Milburn, Cindy Weber
- 19 Ric Czarnecki, Amanda Hoefert
- 21 Patty Hansen, Katherine Pook
- 22 Tasha Janssen, Elizabeth Semmann
- 23 Robert Burmeister, Lauren Rae Eckerdt, Jean Schulz
- 24 Karrie Suhr
- 25 Timothy Schraut
- 26 Tom Hesse
- 27 Donald Effenheim, Leslie Feiler, Kevin Kane, Rick Stark

December Birthdays

- 28 Brianna Fitzpatrick, Kaitlin Kuznacic, Callie Jo Lengling, Terry Regnitz, Michael Rhode
- 30 Michael Blank, Marie Golanowski, Kara Hanson, Macklin Ladd, Denise Nelson, Matthew Wegner
- 31 Clete Anderson, Christy Schwan, Cindy Westgor

December Anniversaries

- 7 Mark & Carol Maletzke (30)
- 16 Melinda and Michael Rhodes (10)
- 19 Kathy & Ralph Duret (15)
- 21 John and Sue Gyarmati (41)
- 28 Russell & Barbara Soderberg (49), Jaime & Lisa Gonzalez (27)
- 29 Mark & Jan Trede (43)
- 30 Lucas & Sarah Griffin (15), Joel & Teri Schwab (20)



EMBRACE – With Love and Prayers

In Your Prayers Please remember: Margaret Anderson, Jean Schulz, Doris McMahon, John Stahmer, Bertha Surges, Dennis Bjorge, Marian Jones, Bob Cenar, Steve Lettau, Lowell Weber, Connor Wollosz, Olivia Stern, Wendy Rauwerdink, Jack Zbiegen, Fr. Roger Veik, Sandy Lange, Magnus, David Wihowski, Linda Mehlum, Allison Johnson, Diane Dricken-Flynn, Joe Roach, Bailey & Lily, Tom Bowitz, Evelyn, Diana Jennett, Jim White, Pat Lewinski, Barb Suhar, Emmy Hein, Mark Beavins, Mike Hutton, Earl Lebakken, Kay Walters, William Wats, Sue Gyarmati, Emily, Dale Ellenbecker, Andy Pretty, Brianna Reel, Linda Oakes, Kate Bennett, Dolores Sandoval, Lynne Ruehl, Karen Lovett, The Wray family, The Schopp Family, The Mayerl family, Kelly Whepley, Our Cross Family, MABO Orphanage & staff, and all men and women serving in the armed forces, all victims of natural disasters, and the volunteers committed to their relief. &the



In Homes Away from Home

Marcy Rasmussen, at Lasata; Doris McMahon at The Crossings; Arlene Saltzmann, The Heights, Mildred Trede at McKinley Place; Dennis Bjorge at Heritage in Port Washington; Jean & Bill Schulz at Luther Manor

Pastoral Care

Hospital stays are brief these days; be sure to notify the church office of hospitalization, so pastoral care may be provided. The Federal Privacy Act may require you to give permission for church staff to visit. Check with your doctor or hospital admissions regarding visitation policies.

Pastor Kinens Cell Phone

(262) 573-9027

Advent Prayer Chain



Advent has an active prayer chain whose members are dedicated to add their prayers to yours upon request. You may call the church office with your request (262) 377-2710, or contact any member of the prayer chain. Members are: Fran Bentz, Aina Kinens, Jean Schulz, Linda Herkert, Jessica Zappia, Laurie Bell, Kay Walters, JoAnn Nennig, Marcy Mattson, and Heidi Lundren.

EMBRACE MINISTRIES

Everyone Ministers By Reaching out, Affirming, Caring, Encouraging

THE PURPOSE OF EMBRACE, THE COMBINED MINISTRIES OF EVANGELISM, MEMBER CARE, SOCIAL MINISTRY AND HEALTH MINISTRY, IS TO EFFECTIVELY ASSIST GOD TO DIRECT THE ENERGIES OF ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH AND FOCUS ON THE RESOURCES OF FAITH – ABILITY TO PRAY, SHARE, SERVE AND WORSHIP AND IDENTIFY WITH THE HELP AND HEALING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.

FAMILY SHARING

Continues to need our help. Currently they are in need of the following items:

Cold Cereals, Spaghetti-O's, Jam/Jelly, Ravioli, Canned Sloppy Joe Mix, Peanut Butter, Paper Towel, Toilet Paper, Diapers, and Toiletries.

There is a collection basket in the church narthex. Share your bounty with those who have little. Thank you for your help.



ADVENT HAPPENINGS

Herkert Sleeping Bag Sale – purchase one, purchase 10, for our friends who are homeless and need warmth. \$20. Per bag. Donate on line or in the church office.



CHECKOUT our Online Advent Directory

Check out the new online directory by logging in at: (simply click the link listed below and type in the privacy key password - peace)

<https://adventchurch.ctrn.co>

Privacy Key is: peace

If you would like a hard copy of the directory, contact Cheri Hesse. The cost is \$8 and \$10 if you need a new binder.



Gabi Jung looks on as great-granddaughter; Jolene Risch looks at a book with mom, Caitilin Reinartz. Caitlin is the daughter of Gay Reinartz. Our Little Library is such a special treat for all who love books.

Flower and Rose sign up sheets are in the Narthex. Thank you to all who contribute on a regular basis. We can always use others to sign up.

Worship assistants, ushers, and greeters are always needed. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Cheri Hesse with dates and times you are able to assist.

Advent Worship and Soups On

Advent Soups On & Worship held at 6 PM & 7 PM

Wednesdays (December 2, 9, 16)



Bring a soup, salad, or dish to pass and join in connections with Advent friends and family.

If you are not able to bring food, come anyway. We always have plenty for all who come.



This is a message of thanks. We at Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge would like to thank the many people who make this ministry run. Therefore, we wish to thank the following:

- All of the people who spend their time sorting the clothing on Thursday evenings
- Our "park gang" who show up in all kinds of weather to distribute coffee and clothing to our friends
- The other churches who come weekly to provide sandwiches and hot soup
- Our board members who keep things running smoothly behind the scenes
- Everyone who has taken the time to go through their closets and donate clothing and shoes
- Everyone who has made other donations, such as hygiene, coffee, or cash that allows us to purchase much needed items
- The many strangers who have stopped at the park to see what we do, only to become donors themselves
- Advent Lutheran Church, for allowing us to operate from that facility
- Our many friends that we serve at the park, Salvation Army, and in the various other places, for giving us the gifts of gratitude and humility

Coffee, hot cocoa, socks, sweaters, pants, coats, hats, glove and blankets needed.



Come help sort for Mr. Bob's Thursday evenings, 6-7 pm

May your holidays be filled with gratitude, kindness, and peace.

Cathy Norene and the Mr. Bob's Crew





MABO UPDATE

In this time of thanksgiving we all have much to be thankful for. We the Haiti Committee are thankful for all of you. You have been great this past year in supporting MABO. Your contributions, help at the rummage sale and lastly your prayers for not only the children but for us to make the right decisions

concerning MABO, have been very much appreciated. To run an orphanage is a lot easier said than done. There have been many challenges these past years. We have all prayed for guidance to make the right decisions. As the New Year unfolds, there will be many other challenges for us to meet. With Gods help and your prayers we hope to continue to make the right decisions.

We are going to again ask for you help in raising money for Christmas gifts for the children. We can't send gifts down to Haiti, since they likely will never arrive. We tried that once without success. Last year we had a Christmas tree with the kid's names on it. If you would like to buy a gift for a child, take a card and donate \$25 to buy a little one a gift. Look for this soon.

Lastly, we are planning a trip to Haiti in January or February. We will soon pick an exact date for this. The cost normally is around \$1100 for a 6-day stay. That includes air, hotel, meals and transportation. It will not be a vacation what it will be is and adventure.

Columbarium Update cont.

the trend in the idea, but illustrates successfully functioning zoning law addressing the local control about which Representative Brooks was so concerned at the outset, simultaneously giving a fair chance to religious association to request a reasonable installation. We are in contact with other City of Cedarburg Churches on this language, so it will have a broader appeal than simply Advent asking for such a change. It will take time and stay tuned because we will need everyone's prayers and support AGAIN!

Submitted by Doreen Lettau, Columbarium Committee

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

On November 11, 2015, The Columbarium Bills, AB285, /SB229, were signed into law by Governor Scott Walker.

The two bills, which are identical, create in a new state statute an exemption from the current cemetery and mausoleum statutes which will allow religious associations (churches) in WI to locate columbaria on their property as long as certain requirements regarding property ownership, record keeping, by-laws and funding are met.

Under the new law, approved columbaria may be located on property where the church building or other place of worship is located. Such property must also be owned by the church. The church must follow the same funding and certification requirements found in current statutes for mausoleums and cemeteries. If the church ceases to function as a church on the property where the columbarium is located, the church must relocate all of the urns elsewhere at church expense and there must be duly recorded trust fund in-place to do so. Authored by Representative Robert Brooks (R-Saukville), the bills passed unanimously on first vote in the Senate and the Assembly, highly unusual, but underscoring the bi-partisan support the bills had throughout the state as an idea whose time has come. We understand from a technical conversation with Jon Censky that the steps of the process include; 1) filling out an application for a Text Amendment to the Cedarburg Zoning Code requesting that 'columbaria' be added to the list of permitted uses in the (I-2) Institutional District, as a Conditional Use; 2) submitting a 'Model Ordinance' that reasonably illuminates parameters of installation regarding size, height, lighting character, etc.; 3) reviewing the application, the model ordinance and the State Law with City Attorney Mike Herbrand to confirm the legality of such a change; and 4) developing a statement from Attorney Hebrand that confirms his assessment and guides subsequent action in the Plan Commission and Common Council regarding legality; 5) scheduling an agenda item with the Cedarburg Planning Commission for discussion and possible recommendation for adoption; 6) scheduling a public hearing at the Cedarburg Common Council for ratification of the recommendation for adoption; 7) scheduling an agenda item with the Cedarburg Planning Commission for recordation and adoption of the plan. We have requested to be involved in the process of development of a Model Ordinance, in fact, we would like to submit one, along with other churches in Cedarburg, as a starting point in the discussion between Planner Censky and Attorney Hebrand. There are a number of such ordinances already adopted around the nation which not only underscores



REFLECTIONS

Silent Night Holy Night

May you and yours share in the love and giving of this blessed season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Peace on Earth
Goodwill to all.*

Cross Church Youth enjoy pumpkins donated by Wes and Margaret Anderson for Advent Youth to share some joy and love.



Mt. Meru Gifts

Looking for a delicious and meaningful holiday gift? Look no further than Mt. Meru! Offered for the holiday this year are two gifts to choose from- the Shuka Cloth Bags with a coffee of choice including flavored coffee, which we had last year, and new this year a Keep Fresh Reusable Jar containing 12 ounces of coffee, either whole bean or drip grind, also including drip grind flavored coffee. The jars are being supplied with a box for gifting and shipping. Order forms are on the table in the narthex. Order soon as supplies are limited. As always, your purchase of Mt. Meru coffee supports farmers in Tanzania.



The Mt Meru Coffee Project continues to improve the standard of living as well as economic and social justice to the Meru Diocese in Tanzania.



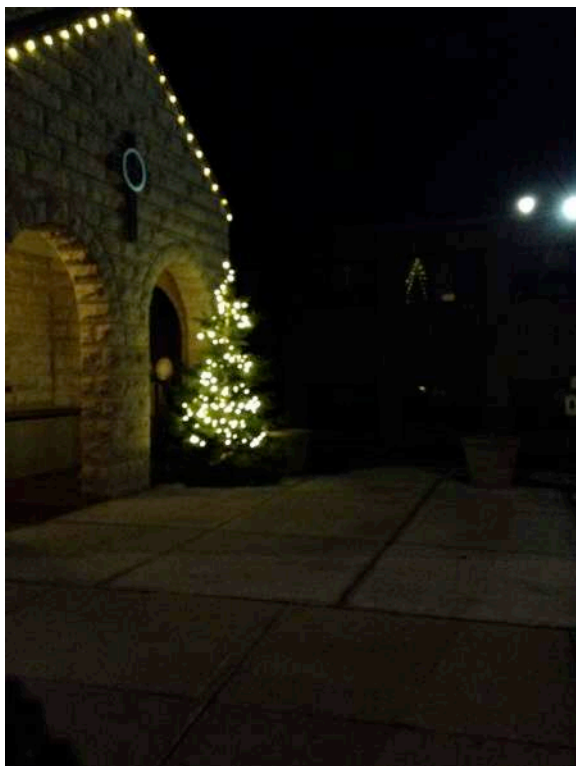
Children's Ministry News

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Thanksgiving

What do dinosaurs, hummus, and family have in common? They were all things that the Sunday school students said they were thankful for. As part of a prayer service I asked the children what they were thankful for and incorporated those things into the prayer. Yes, I included dinosaurs and hummus, and why not? As adults we may think these are silly, but these things were important to that person so they are important to God. We should thank God for the seemingly small and mundane things as well as the big profound things. Another spiritual lesson learned from the children. (Family in one way or the other was the most common item mentioned.)

The prayer was part of a special day in Sunday school. We talked about what we were thankful for and the need to actually say thank you to God. We used the story of the ten men healed where only one returns to say thank you. Following the prayer, the students made Thanksgiving crafts to take home.



December Events

December will be a busy month for Advent's children, but all the activities will help to reinforce the spiritual message of the season. **On December 6, the children will join the youth for a special song that will be sung at the 10:30 service.** This is a not to be missed piece that will remind everyone that it is the season of Advent.

Advent's choir and children will present the **Live Nativity on Friday, December 11, at 6:30.** This is a traditional presentation of the Nativity story using scripture, carols, and children in costume. It is a nice way to share the story with the shoppers who are out on Friday night. A light supper will be offered starting at 5:30.

Our annual Christmas Program will be on December 20 at the 10:30 service. The year we will be presenting an original program called "A Christmas Alphabet." Family members, friends, and the Advent community are all invited.



Y
O
U
T
H

N
E
W
S



With much to be thankful for, and many gifts to share, the Advent Youth continue to put their talents to work! Last month we visited Cross Church for Gospel Service Sunday. We brought with us a huge load of pumpkins to hand out to Cross Church children. The pumpkins were generously donated by Margaret & Wes Anderson, who were not only thinking of the kids, but also supporting the local farmer from whom they purchased 2 dozen pumpkins! The Cross kids had smiles as wide as jack o' lanterns as they accepted this delightful surprise.

Also in November we shopped at Pick n Save for Thanksgiving meals to be donated to families in need. Before shopping, we enjoyed dinner at Rosatti's Pizza, where we met a special waiter named Brandon, who was curious about our project. We told him about our outreach, and he was immediately inspired, sharing with us his own involvement in helping needy families in Milwaukee through promoting the arts. Brandon then demonstrated his enthusiasm with break dancing moves, and a back flip in the parking lot! Christ connects us all if we are open to it...even at a pizzeria!

Our shopping trip to Target was a meaningful event once again this year. We were grateful to receive a grant from Thrivent Financial to help support this project, and we thank Rosalyn Isbell for facilitating the donation. Once again this year, the gifts will be donated to children at Cross Lutheran. As we move into



December with joyous anticipation, we will make merry with residents at Lasata Care Center by handing out ornaments and singing carols. The Youth will also be baking Christmas cookies for the homeless, to be donated to Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge. It's a gift to remember that even a small gesture of caring and kindness can brighten someone's day.

The Youth will be attending evening services in lieu of our regularly scheduled classes during Advent. We invite families to join us for a Christmas Cookie Social following service on 12/2. Come and hear about what we've been up to! We will hold our annual Youth Christmas Party on 12/16, celebrating with white elephant gifts, and making our "Christmas wish list" of outreach and mission projects that we would like to work on in the next year.

The Advent Youth group wishes you peace, comfort, and joy this Christmas!

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD, PLANS FOR WELFARE AND NOT FOR EVIL, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE. Jeremiah 29:11

Giving and Attendance

	General	Expenses	Over (Short)	Average Attendance
2010 Total	\$348,270	\$343,459	\$4,811	218
2011 Total	\$327,561	\$343,339	(\$15,778)	209
2012 Total	\$323,397	\$329,103	(\$5,706)	208
2013 Total	\$335,908	\$326,881	\$9,027	188
2014 Total	\$377,827	\$317,398	\$60,428	190
2015 Through October 2015				
	\$256,289	\$275,031	\$(18,742)	165

ADVENT PARISH DIRECTORY

Officers

President	Stacie Stark
Vice-President	Tim Gergens
Secretary	Mike Schade
Treasurer	Ethel Veik
Pastor	Janis J. Kinens
Office Secretary	Cheri Hesse
Child & Family Ministry	Lisa Wegner
Youth & Family Ministry	Sarah Slavin
Organist/Handbell Choir	Sandra Knuth
Sr. Choir Director	Jackie Vandenberg
Financial Secretary	Kelly Cisar
Custodian	Krista Kinens
Wedding Coordinator	Brenda Schilke

COMMITTEES

Worship and Music	Christy Cummings
Evangelism*	Bethany Thiede Wray
Finance	Tim Gergens
Family Ministry	Bob Burmeister
Membership Care *	Kitty Moore
Memorials & Wills	Dale Waldo
Property	Rick Stark
Stewardship*	Joe Kaylor
Social Ministry*	Jessica Zappia
Staff Support	Mickey Else

• **EMBRACE Ministries**

HERALD ~ Editor, Bethany Thiede Wray
 Associate Editors, Cheri Hesse, Linda Oakes
 Editor Emeritus – Bill Schulz

Pastor Kinens cell phone:

(262) 573-9027 email: jkinens@gmail.com

Church office (262) 377-2710

Cheri@adventchurch.org

Worship assistants, greeters, and ushers are always needed for services. Please contact the church office to sign up.



Easter from Cross Church, Joe Kaylor, and Linda

Advent Youth sharing toys for children at Cross

Say thank you to Advent for all their giving.

“That’s What We Are About”

An innocent observation by Pastor Janis in mid November

Walking into the Narthex was a display of sleeping bags for the Repairers of the Breach, numerous hygiene items for Mr. Bob’s, various collections for our Orphanage in Haiti and an overwhelming collection of food items for the food pantry at Cross Church. Some might see complete chaos others might observe Advent ministries at work to those less fortunate.

In any event- that’s who we are. Amplifying the kindness theme at Advent. “Religion” does not get any simpler or meaningful than that.

It’s that time of year where thoughts turn to festive holidays and all the busy events that surround this wonderful time of year. We acquire a heightened awareness for those in poverty or lacking jobs and in need of the basics. Not wishing to preach, but the reality is that the basic human need continues year round. People don’t choose to live in poverty. I wonder how it feels to not be able to buy a Christmas gift for one’s kids? Lack of human dignity and loss of hope is the harsh result of living in poverty.

As you think about all we are blessed with in the Ozaukee area communities, please reflect about our neighbors in the Cross neighborhood, the homeless served by Mr. Bob’s and Repairers of the Breach, the orphanage in Haiti and other ministries that Advent supports.

Your financial, clothing, furniture, food and gifts are utilized 100% through the efforts of many Advent volunteers. Because that’s who we are and our religion is kindness.

Submitted by Joe Kaylor, Advent Church Council Stewardship