

# Advent Lutheran Herald

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

Dear Advent Faith Family,

For the second time in my life it actually snowed on Halloween this year. That is so unusual that I remember the very first time. I was trick or treating surrounded by huge white flakes in Kalamazoo, Michigan at the age of 11. It is the simple, albeit unusual things that seems to live most vividly in our memory. As we prepare for another Christmas here at Advent and as I have often written before my mind travels back over the many years of Christmas celebrations both forgotten and remembered. Well none is really forgotten altogether for I have read that everything we experience in life is stored somewhere in our psyche like in a computer's memory disk or these days cloud. The Christmases of my childhood all stand out because of the context in which they were experienced during those early immigrant days. I have shared those stories with you before. At this stage of my life with more Christmases behind me than ahead my thoughts go mostly to family times shared as our children were born. I remember the first Christmas as a father, sitting next to Aina and holding our firstborn baby during the worship service. That moment is fixed in time because I was moved to tears of joy thinking that life is so very beautiful. The Christmas in Hyde Park while in Seminary with very little by way of material things but two healthy toddlers, a big dog and the laughter of our girls as he tried to catch the electric toy train on the floor of our living room. The old train was the only entertainment we could afford and wonderful it was! Every single Christmas Eve while our children were growing and the house was filled with their chatter and excitement at opening presents and spending the precious few minutes after the midnight service together before it was time for bed. Those middle years for our growing family were mostly focused on Christmas Day and lounging lazily in our pajamas with no pressure to do anything but enjoy the day reading, listening to music and snoozing happily in the warmth of the day. As I travel through the Christmases that I do remember one thing becomes crystal clear. Unless I really strain to purposely remember presents or gifts they do not surface at all. I remember sights, smells, feelings, colors, thoughts, people, but no "things" really. That is why it saddens me to see where our culture has shifted its emphasis with the madness of Black Friday and the frenzy surrounding the rush to buy what most of us don't need and will forget in time anyway. Every year, the sales start earlier and earlier and the suggestions to buy get louder and louder. And I for one am less and less inclined to be part of in any way! I pray that your Christmas this year regardless of what else is happening in your life will be filled with the opportunity to spend time with family, remember the Christmas' past, and ponder as Mary did so long ago why we celebrate Christmas at all.

Blessed Christmas and much love and grace be yours, Pastor Janis, Aina and our growing family

***So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. (Luke 2:16-20)***

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**Thanksgiving Service**

**Thursday, November 27 – 10 am**

*Come, worship and give thanks for all the blessings the Lord has provided.*



***Advent Season Soup's On and Worship***

***Wednesday, December 3, 10 & 17***

***6 pm ~ Soup's On - bring a soup or side to share***

***7 pm ~ Advent Worship***



***Christmas Services***

**Children's Service December 14 – 10:30 am**

**Christmas Eve December 24  
5:00, 7:00, and 10 pm**

**Christmas Day December 25 – 10 am  
New Year's Eve December 31 – 7 pm**

***Cross Church  
Commitment Sunday  
December 7, 9:30 am***

***Would You Like to Win  
a Kindle® Fire?***



You may have a chance on Sunday, December 7 at our Commitment Sunday event! Come join the fun and learn about all the opportunities to serve our community and church in the coming year.



**Advent Live Nativity, Friday, December 5**

**6:30 – 7:30 pm Advent Prayer Garden**

Come join this beautiful evening of song and prayer with Advent's choir and youth.

***Poinsettias to Decorate the Sanctuary***

Order your poinsettia(s) to decorate our church for the Christmas season. The sizes, colors and prices are listed below and are the same as last year. Your beautiful plant comes with decorative foil pot cover and may be picked up following the Christmas Day service.

**Deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 7**

Single stem - \$12.00

Two stems - \$19.00

Three stems - \$29.00

Contact Cheri Hesse at 377-2710, or pick up a form in the Narthex and return with payment to the church office.





**Baptisms:**

November 9, 2014

Paige Marie Lemke

Parents: Scott & Lorraine Lemke

**Burials:**

October 25, 2014

Jo Ruth Garcia

b. 10.23.24 – d. 10.19.14



**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, Jackie Vandenberg
- 16 John Cerbins
- 17 Fran Bentz, Sasha Sullivan
- 18 Sheri Bestor, Kaitlin Boesch, Jack Butcher, Nicholas Loth, Meredith Milburn, Cindy Weber
- 19 Ric Czarnecki, Amanda Hoefert

**December Birthdays**

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

**December Anniversaries**

- 7 Mark & Carol Maletzke (29)
- 19 Kathy & Ralph Duret (14)
- 21 John and Sue Gyarmati (40)
- 28 Russell & Barbara Soderberg (48), Jaime & Lisa Gonzalez (26)
- 29 Mark & Jan Trede (42)
- 30 Lucas & Sarah Griffin (14),
- 30 Joel & Teri Schwab (19)

**EMBRACE – With Love and Prayers**

In Your Prayers .... Please remember: John Stahmer, Bertha Surges, Doris McMahon, Ray Norene, Connor Wolosz, Dennis Bjorge, Margaret Anderson, Ellen Haynes, Millie Czarnecki, Jean Schulz, Marian Jones, Nikki Walters, Sue Blankenheim, Bob Cenar, Mary Dommer, Jim White, Richard (Dick) Heinzelmann, Pat Chase, Courtney Wolosz, Kimberly Trester, Lowell Weber, Christina, Allison Nolan, Sonja Kalgren, Sam, Olivia Stern, Wendy Rauwerdink, Tim Preboski, Doug, Chrissy Sunter, Jack Zbiegen, Deb Volkert, Nora Kamp, Russ Wanta & family, Keith Reid, William Beseke, Fr. Roger Veik, Steve Lettau, John Trepanier, Mary Ann Wirth, Alan Kindt, Dillon Witzel, Wendy Rauverkink. Marco and family, MABO Orphanage and all Haitians, all men and women serving in the armed forces, all victims of natural disasters, and the volunteers committed to their relief and our homebound and those in homes away from home.

**In Homes Away from Home**

Marcy Rasmussen, at Lasata; Doris McMahon at The Crossings; Arlene Saltzmann, The Heights, Mildred Trede at McKinley Place and Dennis Bjorge at Heritage in Port Washington

**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, Ruth Lee, Jean Schultz, Joe & Linda Herkert, Jessica Zappia, Laurie Bell, Kay Walters, JoAnn Nennig, Marcy Mattson, and Heidi Lundgren.

**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.***





## Homeless in Milwaukee

Repairs of the Breach and Mr. Bob's Under The Bridge are two shining gems of Milwaukee serving the homeless community.

Many of you may remember the old TV show, the Wild, Wild West focusing of the antics of the fictional James West- well a visit to Repairers of the Breach uncovered another James West. This real life James West is equally wild with his passion, leadership, intuition and innovation for serving the homeless population of Milwaukee.

Several members of Advent Church and Immanuel Church toured the facilities at 1335 W Viliet Street where 250 sleeping were delivered two weeks ago. The second delivery will be in December. Joe Herkert started this program about 12 years ago and his vision will continue with Pat Herkert and Family.

Today, Repairers of the Breach is a beautifully renovated three-story building with an attached clinic. Rooms contain art therapy, women's sharing, respite, job training, laundry, Chapel, Boston Store (donated clothes) reading/ education center, mailroom, computer room, showers for men and women, haircutting, and finally a common area with a kitchen facility. About 144 clients receive breakfast and lunch as Repairers is the only daytime homeless facility in Milwaukee.

As long as you make steps to improve yourself, Repairers is there to help. It's a place where hope is turned to reality for many of the clients. In some cases it's as simple as showing that someone cares about you and is there for support. In other situations, it may be just feeling good about yourself. For many it is getting proper medical care to overcome treatable issues.

It's a remarkable illustration of customer service- their goal is to create an environment enabling clients to succeed with whatever their goal or situation might be. The environment is a "hand up" approach where clients are nurtured with love, hope, hugs, fellowship and laughter. After visiting with James West and his paid and volunteer staff, one can not help but feel good about their work. The remarkable fact is that Pastor West was a past client of Repairers along with many members of his staff. They have the secret sauce for transforming lives because they have direct homeless experience and provide a safe haven for the homeless.

Beyond financial donations, the ongoing list of needed items include:

Garbage bags

500 Sturdy paper bowls and cups

Paper towels and 40 count TP

Cleaning supplies

Men and women's underwear

Travel size soap, deodorant, shampoo, and hand cream

Walking shoes and socks





## MABO Haiti Update

Let's "Un-Trim" the Christmas Tree  
...and make Christmas MERRY for the Children  
of MABO!

**Here's how it works:**

Choose an ornament from the MABO Christmas Giving Tree with a child's name and photo- this is yours to keep. In the envelopes provided, please enclose a donation of \$20 cash, or check made out to Advent with "MABO Christmas" in the memo section. Please write **your** family name **AND** the name of your MABO **child** on the envelope. Donations in ANY amount are also needed for their Christmas dinner. Place envelope in the giftwrapped "MABO" box on the table. Gifts may be made anonymously, but we encourage you to include your name so that the children are able to write return letters. *Rachel Wegner and Ruby Slavin help with the project.*



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Advent,

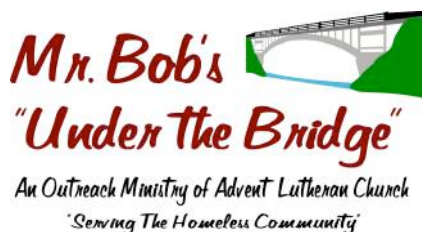
We are so honored to have had Marco Lisius come and speak to our classes at West Bend High School's in October. My students were so moved by his stories of Haiti and MABO that raising \$1,400.00 to offset their school expenses seemed the least we could do for the children of MABO. My students were so happy to participate even giving most of their paychecks in some cases. Amazing what our youth can do for others. We look so very forward to a continued relationship and the opportunity to correspond with the children through letters. Thank you again for sharing this mission with us. God's Blessing to All

*Madame Christi Fischer*

West Bend High School's  
French Teacher



Check out the New MABO website  
[www.mabohomehaiti.org/](http://www.mabohomehaiti.org/)



## **Cross Church Lunch**

### **Third Wednesday of the Month**

*Come join in the fun in preparing a wonderful lunch for our friends at Cross Church. It is such a special mission of Advent.*

## **What are you thankful for?**

I must have seen four of these bumper stickers while I was walking my son's dog the other day. Some bumper stickers make me chuckle; others irritate me. This one made me think. I have many things for which I am thankful – my family, friends, health, home, and job all come to mind. I tend to go through periods in which I consciously give thanks for these things, but they are all too often followed by times of complacency.

There have been many families with young children coming to us at the park and Salvations Army. Their children range in age from newborn to teenage. I am always heartened by their smiles and gratefulness. They are thankful for the smallest of things, like socks, underwear, and used clothing. These are things that other people donated from their closets and drawers. Seeing this makes me grateful for all the people who donate to our ministry. I am grateful for all of our volunteers and the people we serve. And I am grateful to be part of this ministry of action because it makes me appreciate all that is truly important.

In everything give thanks.

*Cathy Norene and the Mr. Bob's crew*

***Come help sort on***

***Thursday evenings, 6-7 pm***

***Advent Church Basement***

***Many hands make light work!***



*Thank you Patrick and Patti Doughman, Christine Eckhardt and Cross crew.*





## Children's Ministry News

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

### Christmas Is

Do you know what *Christmas Is*? That's the question the Sunday School children will answer in this year's Children's Christmas Program during the 10:30 service on December 14. This year's program will bring out the religious meaning of the holiday in by posing the question and answering it. *Christmas Is* will include lots of traditional Christmas songs, with more music than in the past. Please join us for this special presentation.

For those who would like the traditional nativity story, the children and youth will be acting out the story for the Live Nativity with our Advent choir providing the music on Friday, December 5, at 6:30 PM.

### Who Are You Connected To?

During their meeting with Janey White to learn about the yarn ministry, the older Sunday school children passed a ball of yarn back and forth to form a web. The web helped them visualize how we are connected, indirectly, to so many people. The donation of yarn connects them to the women who crochet the items, AND to all the people who receive the items. The children will continue making connections during the month of December as they continue to bring in yarn for the yarn ministry. A shopping trip to Michael's to purchase additional yarn will also take place.

*Lisa Wegner*

Child and Family Ministry



"Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good"



**Mt Meru Coffee  
in Gift Bag \$18**

A reusable Masai shuka pattern cloth bag made of cotton woven in Tanzania, embellished with an ornamental Masai bead work cup coaster, a product of local women in Tanzania along with an imprinted coffee scoop. Enclosed is a package OR 18 single-serving cups of delicious Mt. Meru Select Tanzanian Coffee.

**Mt Meru  
Coffee Project  
Baseball Cap \$10**



**Java Mug**

**Coffee Lover's Mug**



***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.***

**Order forms for all of these items are available on the table in the narthex. You can visit the [mtmerucoffee.org](http://mtmerucoffee.org) website for more information about the project.**

***Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good!***



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The holiday season is upon us, and with it comes two months of family, friends, dinners, gifts, and comforting traditions. During this time it's especially important to remember Jesus' calling for us to serve and offering the gifts of love and kindness- especially to the vulnerable. The Youth embarked upon this mission for those less fortunate with several rewarding outreach projects in November, and continuing in December.

At the beginning of the month we visited Lasata with comfort dog Hoover, bringing smiles to resident's faces (as well as a few licks) and recalling stories of favorite pets. It's not easy to know the right thing to say or do when visiting the elderly in a care setting, but the kids did a wonderful job offering their company and conversation to brighten the day.

We also shopped for Thanksgiving meals for local families in need. Twelve Turkey dinners with pie and fixings will make the holiday special for these families. Finally in November, each of our Youth shopped at Target for needy children of various ages, with a set budget from Advent to purchase a small gift for each child. This year we are donating gifts to children close to home at Cross Church Milwaukee. Several of our kids expressed a desire to do more, and many even generously supplemented the purchases with their own money. A few days after our shopping trip, prayers were answered- we received news that Thrivent would be matching funds, allowing us to provide additional gifts for the children at Cross. What a powerful message we received...Give, and it shall be given to you!

*Many thanks to Thrivent representative Pete Kolin, for being the catalyst to this blessing. We will deliver the gifts to Cross Church early this month.*



As we move into December, the Youth will attend Advent services on Wednesday evenings with reflection and announcements to follow. Youth will be helping to coordinate the MABO Christmas Project, and we will also visit the Ozaukee Humane Society. We will celebrate with our annual Christmas party on December 17<sup>th</sup> before break, and resume classes on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

*In Peace, Love and Kindness*

*Sarah Slavin*



**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**

## Thank You From Ellsworth

Hello:

My name is Valerie. I am a prisoner at Robert E. Ellsworth.

I 've been here since November 6, 2013. I 've been involved in community service since I have enjoyed making things for the Wig Bank. I am proud to be a part of it and now the new project with the Stork's Nest makes my heart feel so good. Here is a little story for you that I would like to share. When I was with child back in 1999, I was with the Stork's Nest. There were so many nice things I had to choose from. Now being a part of this makes my heart, soul, and mind feel wonderful. I couldn't afford any of the nice things they had to offer.

Thank you for letting me give something back to my community.

God Bless you for your donations.

Valerie



## COUNCIL CORNER

### ADVENT STEWARDSHIP REMARKS ANNUAL MEETING DECEMBER 14, 2014

As the Holiday season starts, please consider supporting Advent in lieu of an unneeded or unwanted gift. Thank you for not only your generous sharing with Advent but with the many ministries that we support. This type of "quiet giving" is what makes Advent unique.

The Advent Church Council would like to thank the congregation for keeping Advent in a healthy financial condition.

The POWER OF 5 continues to work. With each of us contributing just a little more each week, we are achieving our collective budget goals. The 2014 budget is looking positive and the finance committee is currently preparing the 2015 preliminary budget.

In addition to meeting fixed expenses of salary, heat, electricity, insurance etc., the budget contains provisions for current and future repairs related to building expenses. Plus, if we continue to experience giving in excess of our budget expenses the difference can be allocated to a reserve for the future- this is essential for a healthy Advent Church and community.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Kaylor

**As a reminder, please plan on attending the meeting between services on December 14<sup>th</sup>. This is the annual budget and elections meeting.**



## COLLEGE CORNER



Valerie Kukla, Sophomore  
University of Wisconsin Madison  
School of Business

### *What do you like about UW - Madison?*

I love the variety. The student body is so diverse; everyone has a drastically different story to tell. Because it's such a large campus, there are so many different ways to get involved. On any given night, there are two dozen events you could be at, so there's something for everyone. Great sports (Go badgers!), student organization events, renowned speakers, art shows, and charity events- the list goes on. There's never a dull moment!

### *What is your major and which classes do you like best?*

I am double majoring in Marketing and Management with a certificate in Spanish. I am also pursuing the campus Leadership Certificate. My favorite class this semester is my Leadership Seminar, which counts towards that certificate. It's a class of upperclassmen that have a variety of leadership positions (from all kinds of clubs, volunteer/academic groups, Greek life, etc.) that meets to develop and enhance leadership skills in a manner that is applicable to our student organizations and the workforce. It's such a different environment from all my other classes - it's my favorite by far. Vice President of Consulting of Mu Kappa Tau, academic society.

### *What advice would you give to high school students?*

Get involved! There is no better way to meet people. Be brave - show up to kick-off meetings by yourself, or grab a friend from your dorm if you need to! I have so many different circles of friends because of my different student orgs. Besides looking great on a resume, if you get involved in a club your freshman year, it's that much more rewarding to gain a leadership position later on.

### *What did you least expect?*

Looking at my schedule, I was so excited to switch from a 8 hour day to only having two or three classes a day. Still, the workload is increased tenfold. It's a lot less busywork and a lot more of simply forcing yourself to put in the time. Because there's always so much to do between homework and activities, students have to practice allocating time. Just because your schedule looks that much smaller doesn't mean you'll have free time. I learned pretty quickly to put the work in so that I have time to do the fun stuff.

### *What do you hope to do with your education?*

I would love to pursue a career in Marketing/Public Relations; I've always loved writing and public speaking. I'm also considering entering the field of consulting; I could work for a firm, which companies hire to do leadership development training and workshops with their executives or committees.



**GO BADGERS!**



**Giving and Attendance**

	General	Expenses	Over (Short)	Average Attendance
2009 Total	\$340,718	\$338,596	\$2,121	218
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
<b>2014 Through October</b>				
	<b>\$266,096</b>	<b>\$262,373</b>	<b>\$3,722</b>	<b>175</b>

**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	David Kukla
Evangelism*	Bethany Thiede Wray
Finance	Tim Gergens
Family Ministry	Sarah Slavin
Membership Care *	Kitty More
Memorials & Wills	Kent Wuebben
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*

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**Church office (262) 377-2710**

**[Cheri@adventchurch.org](mailto:Cheri@adventchurch.org)**

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