

Advent Lutheran Herald

*I worship at Advent
and my religion is
Kindness*

Dear Advent Faith Family,

As you no doubt know, the Paris shootings and the slaughter of innocents in Nigeria recently have caused the world to wonder what will be next. It seems like violence, war and wonton murder are becoming commonplace. What is it about the human condition that would allow or cause one human being to have such a low regard for another as to take their life without reason or cause save some fanatical interpretation of religion?

Questions like this are not easy to answer and unfortunately religion is just as often the cause as well as the remedy for the chaos that surrounds us. Some analysts are saying that religion has nothing to do with ISIS, the most militant of the religious terrorist groups these days that kill with seemingly no conscience whatsoever. Yet these acts are usually preceded by shouts of "Allah Akbar!" "God is great!" Many Muslim clergy and theologians decry this behavior as completely unacceptable to the faith of Islam, and as we know there are many doctors, teachers, professors and others within our community who practice the Muslim faith and yet are our neighbors and friends who also decry the behavior of the terrorists. In my sermon on Sunday, January 25, I spoke about something called "Empathy Marketing," which a business or company uses to figure out what their potential customer is thinking, feeling and hoping so that they might tailor the product more personally to the consumer and hence sell more of whatever they produce. In simple language to "get into their skin," and figure out what they really want.

This is not a new idea. There is a Native American saying that has been part of our American culture for years, "Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in his or her moccasins." The meaning of course is that if you put yourself in someone else's shoes you will be able to understand what it is like to be them. And most likely, when you understand what it is like to be them that will change the way you treat them. The example I used in my sermon was the book *Black Like Me*, written in 1959 during the height of the Civil Rights movement by John Howard Griffin. Griffin, who is white, darkened his skin with sun lamps and pigment darkening medication and spent six weeks travelling in the deeply segregated states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina. The experiment changed his life forever. He actually experienced what it means to be African American in the United States at that time rather than merely studying it. His experience taught him the profound lesson that I believe is at the heart of everything Jesus taught. Griffin writes in his book; "If only we could put ourselves in the shoes of others to see how we would react, then we might become aware of the injustices of discrimination and the tragic inhumanity of every kind of prejudice." (Underline emphasis is mine) Using race relations as the vehicle Griffin learned a much greater lesson, the universal lesson that Native Americans knew long before we arrived on these shores, and the lesson Jesus taught out of his own Jewish religious culture from the book of Deuteronomy; "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might." (Continued on page 2.)

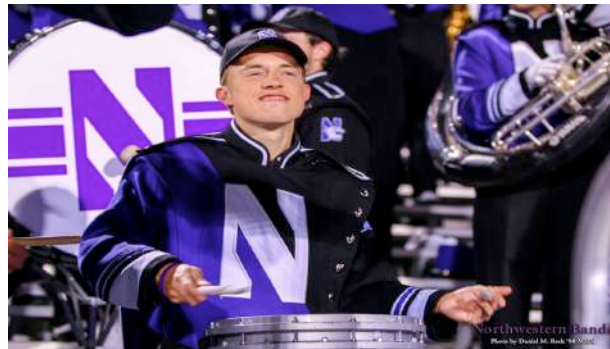
Page 1

Just Janis continued....

And then in the New Testament book of Mark he added; the second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." It is not a stretch, nor is it naïve to believe that if humankind could follow and live by just this simple command, there would be no need for religion, violence, hatred or war. Let's always practice not only kindness, but also experiential empathy by truly walking in our neighbor's shoes.

Much Love, Pastor Janis and Aina

Advent's Senior Choir gloriously singing and showing their spirit in green and gold.

College Corner

***Billy Kobi, Northwestern University
Class of 2018***

*Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated
Marketing Communications*

What do you like about Northwestern?

I like meeting people from many different backgrounds through classes and extracurricular activities. One of the highlights of the fall was being a member of the drum line in the "Wildcat" Marching Band. I felt connected to my university through this activity.

Which classes do you like best?

My major is journalism. My favorite classes are my journalism classes, which have focused on the history of media, reporting and writing.

What advice would you give to high school students?

My Advice to the youth at Advent is to learn to say "No" to certain things. If you try to join too many clubs and attend too many campus events you may become too stressed, and your health will suffer.

What did you least expect?

I have been surprised with how late I sometimes stay up to finish schoolwork. In high school I slept more.

What do you hope to do with your education?

I hope to become a journalist and write for a newspaper or news organization.

Parish Register

Burials:

Patricia V. Mabry

dob 12/27/39, dod 12/27/14



February Birthdays

- 1 Whitnie Bestor, Maxine Effenheim
- 2 Michael Maletzke
- 3 Vicki Capadona, Matthew Kennedy
- 4 Averi Malsom
- 5 Carl Lehnert
- 6 Anna Baumann, Michael McGraw
- 7 Heather Dalton, Michael Herkert
- 8 Connor Baumann, Angie Regnitz, Charlotte Slavin
- 9 Brian Kuemmerlein, Lorraine Hanson
- 10 Michael Bleau, Sue Covill, Elizabeth Eurich, John Gylland, Michael Savage,
- 11 Kevin Baumann, JoAnn Leonard, Kari Eckhardt, Tela Gerhke, Christine Hesse, Katherine Koepke, Melissa Oehme
- 12 Emily Arcuri
- 13 Dick Didier
- 15 Jim Kuznacic, Hadley Schwenzen, David Welky
- 17 John Pelikan
- 18 Patricia Christensen, Annika Schwab
- 19 Clare Kunschke
- 20 Elynor Kimmel
- 21 Patti Doughman, Lynn Salonen, MacKenzie Welch
- 22 Dennis B Jorge , Janet Blank, Amanda Groth
- 23 Kellan Zimbric

February Birthdays

- 24 John Isbell
- 26 Regina Curran
- 27 Sophia Buehler, Peter Gylland, Ray Norene
- 28 Mildred Trede

February Anniversaries

- 2 Michael and Kristin McGraw (7)
- 13 Dudley and Janet Blank (28)
- 14 Richard and Ellen Haynes (62)
- 18 Jeff and Lynne Ruehl (37)
- 25 Donald and Deborah Welch (26)
- 27 Wesley and Margaret Anderson (44)
- 29 Jim & Margaret Eggener (18)



EMBRACE – With Love and Prayers

In Your Prayers Please remember: Laurie Bell, John Westgor, John Stahmer, Bertha Surges, Doris McMahon, Ray Norene, Connor Wolosz, Dennis Bjorge, Margaret Anderson, Ellen Haynes, Millie Czarnnecki, Jean Schulz, Marian Jones, Nikki Walters, Sue Blankenheim, Bob Cenar, Mary Dommer, 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, Keith Reid, William Beseke, Fr. Roger Veik, Steve Lettau, John Trepanier, Mary Ann Wirth, Alan Kindt, Dillon Witzel, Wendy Rauverkink, Barbara Else, Sandy Lange, Jessica Taft, Magnus, David Wihowski, Eileen Andree Zwettler, 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; Dennis Bjorge at Heritage in Port Washington; Jean 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 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.



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. Sign up with the church office.

The following are food items especially needed for Cross Church food pantry:

Tuna, Ravioli/spaghetti, Soups, Fruit snacks, Fruit cups, vegetables, (corn, peas, green beans), peanut butter, jelly, mac & cheese, rice mixes, potato mixes, and pasta.

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.



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.



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.

Doing Justice Never Tasted So Good! Coffee orders may be submitted in the church Narthex.



Reminder: The 2015 Diner's Delight Get-togethers will begin in February! We would like to invite church members to join us. It is a great way to meet and socialize with fellow church members over a relaxing meal. We meet once every 3 months or so in each other's homes and have a great time.

If you would like to join or get more information, please call or email **Don or Bobbi Laine** at (920) 528-1472 or at donandbobbi@wi.rr.com.

MABO Haiti Update



"And they came bringing Him gifts " (for it was the first Christmas), in like fashion, this last Christmas the people of our congregation bought gifts for "our" children at MABO. There was also enough for small Christmas bonuses for the staff, a Christmas party, and real dinner for all. The reports indicate that Christmas at MABO was a great success and it seems, it is becoming an annual tradition. Thank you all for your generous support of Christmas at MABO.



Items Needed for MABO:

- 15 backpacks
- baseball caps
- personal hygiene products
- Crocs, new tennis shoes
- sun glasses, flip flops
- underwear

The next trip to Haiti is being planned for the week of February 21st. It will be five or six days on the ground with some sight seeing, along with time with the children. A high point for both the kids and travelers in the past has been age appropriate field trips. Please consider joining us. These trips are always a moving and a life changing experience.... Contact Dale Waldo (262) 375-4567 information.



We are excited about both the spiritual and educational aspects of the children's life. They have daily devotions at MABO led by staff. We currently have 12 kids in our MABO home school and 23 who have matriculated to formal out side schools. There are no (or very few, poorly run) government schools, so tuition must be paid for the children we send out. These private schools account for virtually all the education in Haiti. We are led to believe that 40% of the children of Haiti are now in a school of some type. This is up from a reported 10%, twelve or fifteen years ago. **The MABO Team**

If you want to get further involved with MABO, just make your wishes known.

The team is a great group of people and it is exciting and rewarding work. www.mabohomehaiti.org/

Reflections



I Missed My Mt. Meru

I have been drinking the Mt. Meru coffee we offer at Advent ever since we started offering it. I began drinking it to support the mission of providing coffee farmers with a fair price for their coffee and a sustainable income to support their families, and the coffee is good. I have often received compliments from coffee drinking friends about how good my coffee was. I was reminded just how well recently when I ran out of Mt. Meru. I had planned to purchase the last small bag from the table, but somebody beat me to it. Since I was out of coffee before a new order could come in, I purchased a fair-trade, shade grown coffee from the supermarket. I missed my rich flavorful Mt. Meru coffee the first day. This coffee is good, but not Mt. Meru good. The project purchases top quality Arabica beans, and you can taste the quality. If you haven't tried it, purchase a bag of Mt. Meru and see for yourself. If you haven't purchased it in a while, come and try it again. The coffee is available to order through the table in the narthex in regular, decaf, and flavors. It comes whole bean or ground, in small and large bags, perfect pot packages, and single serve cups. No matter how you make your coffee, there's a Mt. Meru coffee for you. **Mt. Meru is coffee that tastes good and does good!** Visit <http://www.mtmerucoffee.org/> to learn more. Orders are taken in the Narthex or contact Lisa Wegner.

Each new day begins at sunrise and is a gift of life from God who created us and all that's in our beautiful world. I begin every morning by thanking God for His many blessings and asking for guidance throughout the day to serve Him.

*Called to know, love, and follow you.
O God, we pray for the church, the world,
and all in need.*

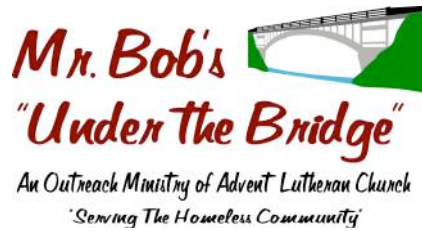
Gracious God, speak to your listening church, and send it to point eagerly to the many ways in which you reveal your life-giving presence. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Renew the face of the earth. Heal the wounds human carelessness inflicts on creation, and rouse us to increase our care of land and waters. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Restore and strengthen world leaders. Give them a clear vision of your power to move hearts and minds, and enable them to act with justice and compassion. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Celebrate January 16, 2015, Prayers of Intercession
Volume 46, Number 1*

Photos by Bethany Thiede Wray



COLD! COLD! COLD!

We worry when the weather gets too cold and we don't see our friends on Saturday morning. The first thing we do is ask around to see if anybody knows where the missing people are. Are they safe? Are they inside? If we are unable to learn anything, we drive around the city, looking under bridges, in doorways, in alleys, and behind abandoned buildings. We check with the police and scan the newspapers for news of anybody who may have succumbed to the cold. Thinking about this sends shivers down my spine. Even though we go downtown every Saturday to assist our friends, I am still amazed by the ability of people who can survive in weather like this. How do they do it? How can anybody do it?

When you go to your warm home in your safe neighborhood, do you think about those who are not as fortunate? I know that until I began to work with our friends, I used to pray for them. Now I know that my prayers were not enough. I needed to do something more than pray, so I got involved. It is easy to become involved. All it takes is a little action. It doesn't have to be a large gesture. Simple acts like donating used clothing and blankets or purchasing new hygiene products are always greatly appreciated. The thanks we receive from our friends at the park, under the bridges, and at Salvation Army are genuine. We are also grateful to have them in our lives. That was the unexpected bonus of getting involved. Never did I imagine that I would be so grateful as to be able to work with the poor and homeless in Milwaukee. I am grateful for their kindness, friendship, helpfulness, grace, and their uncanny ability to make me laugh. I think about them often, as I sit in my warm house, stocked with plenty of food and warm clothes.

May you always have plenty of food to eat and a safe, warm place to call "home."

God's blessings to you and yours,

Cathy Norene and the Mr. Bob's Crew

***Come help sort for Mr. Bob's
Thursday evenings, 6-7 pm
Advent Church Basement
Many hands make light work!***

This time of year items that are especially needed:

***Men's pants, socks,
long underwear,
shoes, winter coats, &
hats, hygiene
products, coffee and
hot chocolate mix.***



Children's Ministry News

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

Shop the Soup Mix Sale to Fight Hunger

The Sunday school classes will be holding their annual soup mix sale on **February 1 (Super Bowl Sunday)** beginning after the early service and continuing until we run out. Last year we ran out before the late service, so we have increased the amount we made. All your favorite flavors will be returning, but we have upgraded our packaging. The soup mixes will now be in glass canning jars. A mom who came to help when the children made them noted that these were nice enough to give as gifts. The suggested minimum donation is \$5. The soup mix sale is part of the children's annual participation in the Souper Bowl of Caring nationwide effort to fight hunger.

<http://www.souperbowl.org/> The money raised from the sale will be topped off by children's envelope money and given to the meal program at Cross Church, Ozaukee Family Sharing, and Meals on Wheels of Ozaukee County.

Many of you are familiar with the work of Cross as this has been an ongoing ministry of Advent for many years. You can visit them at <http://www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org/>

Family Sharing runs a food pantry that serves residents of Ozaukee County. Although we don't often realize it, there are people in need in our own area. Family Sharing distributes almost 30,000 pounds of food to 600 households each month.

<http://www.familysharigozaukee.org>.

Meals on Wheels provide delivered meals to those who are 60 or older regardless of ability to pay. Donations are requested, but meals will be delivered whether or not the person makes a donation.

<http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/517/Home-Delivered-Meals>. All the money collected will go to organizations doing great work to feed people. In addition to supporting our soup mix sale, you can support these organizations and expand our ministry by making additional donations of money directly to the organizations or volunteering time.

Additionally in February, we will be building on Valentine's Day to look at who needs to know about God's love and how the children can show them. The children will continue to learn Bible lessons and participate in music and worship.

Lisa Wegner
Child and Family Ministry



Shop the Soup Mix Sale to Fight Hunger Sunday, February 1 – Super Bowl Sunday Before and between services



Y
O
U
T
H

N
E
W
S

It's **Valentine's** month-so along with that theme, we will be devoting several classes to discussing emotions and how our faith can help to navigate the ups and downs. Youth will be starting the month with a visit to Lasata Care Center on February 7th to deliver Valentines. Last time we were at Lasata, several of the residents commented on how nice it was to have the group come to visit on a regular basis. We will also be sorting through 200 lbs. (yup, that's right!) of school supplies that were donated to us by the ReLearn Foundation to distribute to needy recipients. ReLearn is an organization of Ozaukee County high school students that gather unused school supplies from area schools for donation to students in need. Mrs. Slavin will deliver some of the supplies to MABO when the team travels there at the end of the month, and the rest will be donated to children at The Next Door Foundation and Cross Church in Milwaukee during our Youth Service Week this summer. Our social activity this month will be outdoor ice-skating at the rink in downtown Cedarburg...you've got to embrace these opportunities for cold weather fun when you live in Wisconsin! We'll warm up with a visit to the Roastery for hot cocoa. We continue to be thankful for our time together; our Wednesday evening meetings are a great mid-week break to relax, reflect, and reenergize.

Blessings & Peace~

Sarah Slavin



Share My love with all the world and I will bless you forever.



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



COUNCIL CORNER –

The Advent annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, January 18th in between services in the church sanctuary. The church council would like to thank our congregation and friends for all the generous giving of time, talent and tithes this past year. It is miracles like those that occur daily at Advent that bring us into a new year with the financial strength to accomplish the Lords work and care for those who do not have what all we may have.

We are so very thankful to those who served on the council and now are rotating off, Sarah Slavin (Family Ministry), David Kukla (Music & Worship), and Kent Wuebben (Wills & Memorials). We welcome our newly elected members, Bob Burmeister (Family Ministry), Christy Cummings (Music & Worship), and Dale Waldo (Wills & Memorials). May the Lord bless us and keep us and make us mindful of all who are in need of our love, kindness and care as we enter another new and exciting church year.

Church council meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 pm.

Fill our congregation with renewed zeal to love our neighbor as you love us. Open our mouths to invite friends and neighbors to come and see you.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Refresh the depressed and despairing. Comfort those who weep and mourn. Give companionship to the lonely and healing to the sick.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

(Celebrate January 18, 2015 Volume 46, Number 1)



Advent Prayer Garden & Columbarium

The prayer garden committee is working on additional ways to move forward with this project to enhance our church property and community. If you have questions or would like additional information please contact Paul Rushing at (262) 617-6180 or Doreen Lettau at (262) 339-0546.

Simplify your giving in 2015 and use our online electronic giving. Contact the church office for instructions or sign up online at our Advent website. Adventchurch.org



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
2014 Through December				
	\$377,827	\$317,398	\$60,428	190

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 More
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.