

# Advent Lutheran Herald

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

Dear Advent Faith Family,

On New Year's Eve a small group of us will gather once again to quietly reflect on what the last year of life here at Advent Lutheran Church has been like. As always we lost some members to death and bid them farewell with the hope that our faith gives us that the next life is even more wondrous than this one. A very special presence among us was and is Joe Herkert. As the ministry Joe started many years ago continues to provide hope to the most desperate among us we remember Joe every day and every time our outreach ministry goes forward.

This last year has also seen times of stress and times of celebration. We continue to believe that one day our beautiful Memorial Prayer Garden will be completed as planned and we pray that the City of Cedarburg will be able to see the value and service it will provide. Nothing important in this life happens without resistance and hard work, so we patiently move forward one step at a time. Please plan to attend our Annual Meeting on January 18, 2015, between services in the Sanctuary. You will hear what a productive and exciting year of ministry we had in 2014. Truly God is blessing us with renewed faith, energy, commitment and dedication as we collectively continue to practice more kindness than is necessary. It really works! The Power of 5 works too and may we also see that the blessings we have received as a result of practicing kindness grow even more as we enter a new year of life and faith at Advent.

All of the things I mention here happened in the context of time; as I recently wrote in my column in the ***News Graphic***, have you ever thought about what time actually is? Is there really such a thing as time? We use phrases like, "*Don't waste your time!*" Is it really ours to waste? Or perhaps, "*Time passes so quickly!*" Can the passage of time actually be slow or fast? Or is it our perception that makes us think it fast or slow? *Albert Einstein once quipped: "The only reason we have time is so that everything doesn't happen at once."*

Actually, Einstein believed exactly the opposite. When his lifelong friend Michele Besso died, Einstein wrote a letter to Besso's family, saying that although Besso had preceded him in death it was of no consequence, "*...for us physicists believe the separation between past, present, and future is only an illusion, although a convincing one.*" Interesting, isn't it? These days it is common to hear people suggest that we should live in the moment, in the "*now.*" Is there such a thing as a single moment in time? Or is our life a continuous experience that physically had a beginning and will likewise have an end like everything else we observe in life?

*(Continued on page 2)*

***Just Janis continued***

I remember when the little plastic throw away cameras became popular and being a camera collector I was saddened that people were losing interest in the classic quality of cameras made of chrome, leather and glass. Cameras that were permanent. Everlasting. That is until I realized one day that nothing is permanent in this life except impermanence. Even my beloved Leica and my father's bellows Zeiss Icon will one day be dust. At first read that may sound depressing but alas it is the opposite.

It reminds me of what author Tim McCarthy writes in his book, *Empty Abundance, Finding Meaning Through Mindful Giving*: "We look for permanence in an impermanent existence. It's a fool's journey."

I am reminded here of Native American culture and understanding of life, which to me seems so much more in sync and balance with nature. In America we have factory farms, which are by any measure an obscenity for the unnecessary cruelty they foist on animals. Native Americans considered the hunting and killing of game like the Buffalo a sacred experience in fact praying a prayer of thanksgiving as the animal was slain expressing that the same Great Spirit that provides this meal will one day take the hunter as well. They also marked time in a way that reflected the rhythms of nature, i.e. if something happened several months ago they would say, "*Many moons ago.*" If the event were several days ago, it would be "*six or seven sleeps ago.*" I think it would be wise if we would open ourselves up to the obvious passage of our lives and take the opportunity to pause long enough to see the sacred that surrounds us all the time. And here at Advent especially we are bathed in the sacred every time we encounter one another at worship and at work!

***God bless you dear people of Advent faith family, may the New Year be as exceptional and gracious as you are!***

***Much Love, Pastor Janis and Aina***



***Thank you Joan Scholz for the beautiful new bell table covers. We so appreciate your time and talents to make our sanctuary look so beautiful and especially just in time for our special Christmas services.***

***Bell Choir your music is such a blessing to Advent. Thank you for the beautiful music for all to enjoy during worship.***





**Baptisms:**

December 7, 2014

Ava Christine Swanson

Parents: Drew & Amanda Swanson

**Burials:**

Ruth Lee, 12/20/14

DOB 5/17/37; DOD 12/16/14

Patricia B. Mabry, 12/30/14

DOB 12/27/39; DOD 12/27/14



**January Birthdays**

- 1 Cheryl Motiff, Pam Gergens
- 2 Nathan Awe, Michael Oehme
- 4 Eric Jay
- 5, Judith Ashley, Adeline Dahl, David Gonzalez, Kris Hanson, Jason Kunschke, Lindy Mayerl
- 6 John Lerand
- 7 Olivia Arcuri, Kristin Dillahunt, Charlie & Laura Lerand , Kent Wuebben, Jory Dorn,
- 9 Dale Waldo Dominick Zappia
- 10 Julia Gergens, Jeff Wandschneider
- 11 Mary Pomplun, Harriet Montaba
- 12 Steve Thompson
- 13 Martin Gross
- 14 Emily Adams, Susan Baumann
- 16 Courtney Wolosz
- 17 Michael Schade
- 18 Lauren Brueggemann, Ruby Slavin, James Vinson, Sandra Weber
- 19 Julie Mett, Virginia Riewesthal, Colin Weber
- 20 Kathy Waldo , Katie McIntyre
- 21 Travis Vander Hoop

**January Birthdays**

- 22 Evan Peters, Mary Schraut
- 23 Deanna Czarnecki, John Grosenick, Alexander Pook, Madeline Waskiewicz
- 24 Amy Beseke, David Knuth, Janice Trede
- 25 Sabrina Borg, Shelly Riehle
- 26 Shelby Loth, Sharon Nourse
- 27 Mickey Else, Carissa Martino
- 29 Katherine Ciha, Sharon Jungkans
- 31 Ivy Curran, Jacqueline Swenson, Chris Wrobbel

**January Anniversaries**

- 3 Larry & Lisa Hanson (34)  
David and Heidi Janous (34)
- 14 Stuart & Dyann Hannam (37)
- 21 Mickey Else & Dereck Vander Hoop (33)
- 23 Ray & Elizabeth George (44)
- 25 Jack & Claudia Butcher (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, Keith Reid, William Beseke, Fr. Roger Veik, Steve Lettau, John Trepanier, Mary Ann Wirth, Alan Kindt, Dillon Witzel, Wendy Rauverkink, Barbara Else, Sandy Lange, Pat Mabry, 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.*



**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](mailto:donandbobbi@wi.rr.com).

**Thank you Sarah Slavin and Advent Youth for taking gifts to the children of Cross Church.**



## Advent Women's Evening Circle Bake Sale

### MABO Haiti Update



Women's Evening Circle member Millie Czarnecki with some of the beautiful gift baskets from the bake sale.



Thank you to all Advent members who contributed to the Women's Evening Circle Christmas bake sale. They exceeded their goal of \$1000, and the proceeds will go towards Advent's Embrace Ministries.

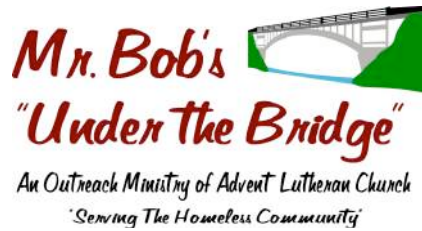
*Thank you to all who contributed to our "Un-Trim" the tree for MABO event and Christmas party fundraiser. Our children at MABO had a wonderful Christmas because of your contributions.*

*A trip to Haiti is being planned for February. Please contact Dale Waldo (262)375-4567 for details or interest in attending.*

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



Janet Blank's "Pretty Useful Bags" are still available to purchase!



## HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

The New Year brings about many promises to change behaviors, such as exercising more, eating less, watching our tongues, etc. Instead of calling them promises, we call them “resolutions.” These usually become short-lived ventures that die out within the first two months of the year. I am a realist, so I don’t make resolutions anymore. I am about as good at keeping resolutions as a sieve is at holding water, hence, no resolutions for me. Instead, I have decided to offer up my New Year’s wishes.

For you, my friends, I wish

- A dwelling that you can call home
- Heat to keep the cold out
- Enough food to nourish your body
- Clothing that is clean, cozy and comfortable
- Clean water to drink
- Safety from not only the elements, but from those who would bring you harm
- Occupations that allow you to use your talents and be productive
- Friends and family to share your life with (people who love you unconditionally and whom you love unconditionally as well)
- Faith strong enough to carry you through life’s toughest tests
- Love for yourself and those around you
- Gratitude for all you have been bestowed

I am sure that this list can go on and on, but I will end it here. May 2015 be a wonderful year for you and yours. To all of our families, volunteers, and friends: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May God’s blessing be with you.

*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.*

### December Highlights

December was busy month for the Sunday School children. We started out the month with Live Nativity. We had just enough to make a nice presentation with a good crowd watching. Additionally, the children did an outstanding job with the annual children's Christmas program. "Christmas Is" was the title, and it was a departure from the traditional acting out of the Bible story but still conveyed the message of Christmas. We also wrapped up our yarn collection with a trip to Michael's and a presentation to Jane White. I challenged the children to fill one large basket with yarn, and they not only filled that one but a smaller one as well. Thank you to the families who so generously contributed.

In January we will resume a regular schedule of classes and begin work on the next outreach project, The Souper Bowl of Caring. Watch for the ever-popular soup mix sale to return.

All our children continue to grow in so many ways. It is nice to see how happy they are to be at Sunday School each week and participate in the ministries of Advent.

There is no Family Service in January because we don't have time after the Christmas Program to learn new songs. We will return the first Sunday in February and hope you will join us then.

Lisa Wegner  
Child and Family Ministry





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We wrapped up 2014 with some great activities and service projects. Our friends at LaSata were delighted by carols and handmade ornaments shared during our holiday visit. In addition, letters of appreciation and encouragement were written to Dillon Weitzel (older brother of 6<sup>th</sup> grader Reagan) and his fellow Service Men and Women serving in Kosovo. We also made a trip to Cross Church to deliver the Christmas gifts that we purchased for families in need. Pastor Michelle expressed her gratitude on behalf of the families and also gave us a tour of Cross, with an explanation of the important services provided by the church. We look forward to cultivating our relationship with Cross Youth in the coming year. Our annual Christmas party was a blast, with Chinese food, games and crafts.

The New Year brings with it hope and excitement for new opportunities. After Christmas break, classes will resume on **Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**. We want to remind ALL Youth that even if you haven't attended our Wednesday night meetings in the past, we would love to have you join us and see what it's about. We explore putting faith to action in our everyday lives through discussions, service projects, and social activities. Everyone is welcome, so feel free to bring a friend! This month we will talk about the lives and teachings of both Martin Luther King Jr. and Martin Luther.



Youth Group missions to LaSata with Hoover Slavin the Companion Dog



We will also meet with Bob Burmeister to discuss an ongoing service project with Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge. Our activity for the month will be skating at Ozaukee Ice Center.

*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**

## COUNCIL CORNER – *Simplify*

Happy New Year!

Whew! Christmas is over! For many of us, this time of the season is a time of quiet reflection. One of the things I have on every single New Year's resolution list is "simplify". How did I get so much clutter? Not only in my physical space, but in my emotional and spiritual space as well? Advent will be offering a small group discussion to study "Voluntary Simplicity", using the Northwest Earth Institute curriculum. Let's share ideas about how to simplify and to find time to focus on what really matters. Classes will be lead by members of the group. There will be a small cost to cover the price of the accompanying book. Keep your eyes peeled for class times coming up in the bulletin!

Warmly and simply,  
Jessica Zappia



Advent Lutheran Children's Christmas Program

### *Annual Congregational Meeting*

**Sunday, January 18 at 9 am  
between services**



### *Advent Church Council Meeting*

*January 8, 2015 - 7 pm Church Narthex*

*At the last council meeting in December, it was decided the Columbarium Committee would explore all the possible options to continue the process for the Advent Prayer Garden and Columbarium. When their research is complete as to what is best for Advent they will report back to the full council with recommendations, cost, and the next steps. If you have questions or comments feel free to contact: 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.***

**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 November</b> |                  |                  |                |                    |
|                              | <b>\$293,603</b> | <b>\$287,014</b> | <b>\$6,588</b> | <b>177</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.*