

THE ADVENTURE - JULY, 2019



ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- + To *gather* as God's people and nurture one another
- + To *know* the Word of God
- + To *grow* in faith, love, and service
- + To *go* into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ



Interim Pastor:: Rev. Michael A. McKillip
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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 7

9:30 am Traditional Holy Communion
Baptism of Lyla Jae Marino
10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 21

9:30 am Traditional Holy Communion
10:30 am Fellowship Time: Bell Choir

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST JULY 14

9:30 am Contemporary Holy
Communion
10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open
10:45 am Church Council Meeting

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - JULY 28

9:30 am Contemporary Holy
Communion
10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open
10:45 am Adult Bible Class

PASTOR'S MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH. . .

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

The following was read to the congregation on Sunday, June 9. It is included here for your information.

I want to take a few minutes to bring you up to date on what has been happening in the transition to a new pastor here at Advent. The office of the Bishop has gone to great lengths to create a process which helps to ensure that the transition from one pastor to the next is a healthy one and that the pastoral candidate a congregation selects is a good fit. In fact, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod is the leader in the ELCA regarding this the transitional process. Here in Southeast Penn, the process includes the work of a specially trained intentional interim pastor or consultant and a Transitional Ministry Team made up of a representative sample of the congregation. In late January, George Henry was asked to recommend folks for the Transitional Ministry Team here at Advent. The team was put together and met for the first time in mid-February.

There are two parts to the work that this team does. The first involves a self-study and visioning process which uses five focus points. A congregation needs to take time to discern God's mission for itself. What is God calling this congregation to be or to do? In what direction should it be headed? How did it get where it is? What needs to be different? The five focus points are really a process or a road map to help a congregation determine God's mission for itself, so it can then choose the pastoral leader who is best suited to accomplish God's mission in that congregation.

The Five Focus Points are:

- 1) Heritage – reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed.
- 2) Leadership – reviewing the membership needs and its ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership.
- 3) Mission – defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction.
- 4) Connections – discovering all the relationships a faith community builds outside itself.
- 5) Future – developing congregational and pastoral profiles.

The self-study and visioning process will enable the Transitional Ministry Team to complete the Congregational Profile, a description of the congregation's history, leadership, mission, connections, and vision for the future. Once the Congregational Profile has been approved by the Congregation Council, it will be forwarded to the Office of the Bishop. This action informs the Bishop that the congregation is now ready to enter the Call Process to select a new pastor. Once the Congregation Profile has been approved by the Office of the Bishop, the Committee of Deans will begin the process of identifying potential pastoral candidates. The pastoral needs of Advent will be different than the pastoral needs of another congregation, just as the gifts and skills of one pastoral candidate are different from those of another. The Committee of Deans works to match the congregation's needs with the gifts and skills of pastoral candidates.

This entire process takes time – rarely less than six months, usually 12-18 months, and sometimes as long as three or four years. How long it takes depends on several factors: the willingness of the congregation to invest their time and energy in self-study and visioning; the length of the tenure of the former pastor (the longer a pastor has served a congregation, the longer the transition process takes); and the level of conflict and/or resistance to change that exists within the congregation.

Initially, the Transitional Ministry Team planned to meet monthly. We have revised that schedule and now meet twice a month. A few months into the process, two members of the team resigned. This was a setback for the work of the team as two new members had to be identified and needed time to be brought up to speed. The current team members are: Gail Oines, Geoff Duffy, Jennifer Gardener, Mike Sitler, and Tanja Santiago.

So far, the team has accomplished several things. We have organized the *Discover Your Windows* project which is designed to help with all of the focus points but especially with Mission and Connections. The culmination of this project will be a congregational potluck dinner during which all of you will be invited to share with each other what you have learned and to discuss what each of you thinks the congregation needs to do in the future. This has been tentatively scheduled for late July.

The team has also begun some preliminary work on the Congregational Profile. Each member of the team has been assigned a portion of the profile to begin work on. Some of this work is easy. Some of it is rather challenging. All of it is vital. It is virtually impossible to determine how long this will take to complete.

I understand that this is a stressful time for all of you. Anxiety during transitional periods can become rather high. I ask only that you be patient and that you be willing and open to sharing your ideas and concerns. If we invest our time and our energy in doing this process the right way, the long-term benefits to Advent will be plentiful and your new pastor will be the leader you need to move you forward in mission and ministry. If we rush through the process, there is a high probability that your new pastor will not be the right one and you will have to do this all over again in a few years.

I invite you to seek out any member of the team, including me, if you have questions.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always,
Pastor Michael



NEW ELECTRONIC LAWN SIGN

The new digital sign has been installed on top of the Church's front monument, which has been repointed and strengthened. A stone wall was added to the front of the monument to meet township code. The sign will have the electric hooked up and be inspected the week of June 23-29. All functions should then be operational the first week of July 2019. Look for new church information on our sign. - Lynn Roccograndi.

CONTACTING PASTOR McKILLIP

If you need to speak with Pastor Michael when he is not in the office, particularly in the case of a pastoral emergency, please feel free to call his cell phone (215-603-7443). If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.



RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

We are pleased today to recognize those related to our congregation who have notified us of their graduation from high school, college, or professional schools:

Victoria Gardener - Graduated from Neshaminy High School. Victoria plans on attending Bloomsburg University for Secondary Math and Special Education.

Shannon McQuiggan - Graduated from Bloomsburg University with a Bachelor of Psychology, minor in Studio Arts Photography. Her plans are to go to nursing school to be a Psychiatric Nurse.

Laura Marie Roccograndi - Graduated from the University of Texas (Austin) with a Doctor of Pharmacology Degree. She has a one year residency planned at MD Anderson in Houston, Texas.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

During the month of July Social Ministry will be collecting breakfast foods to be donated to the Warminster Food Pantry for children as they begin a new school year in September. The Vacation Bible School children will assemble the breakfast bags in August. Items are needed in the following categories: cereal, fruit, juice, crackers, and cookies or muffins. Please keep in mind that the items must fit into a paper lunch bag so they must be individual size servings. Thanks again for your continued support of the Food Pantry.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Transitional Ministry Team is hosting a pot-luck dinner and conversation on **Saturday, July 27 at 5pm**. You are invited

to bring your favorite dish, your appetite, and your willingness to share your thoughts. During and after dinner, you will have the opportunity, in small groups, to discuss what you have learned through our Discover Your Windows adventure and to share your thoughts about the future here at Advent. It will be an evening of fun, fellowship, and discovery. Please plan to be there.

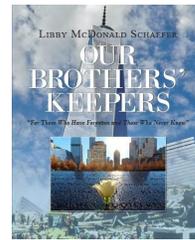


DiVe INTO GOD'S WORD

Vacation Bible School will be held at Advent on **August 5 through 9 from 9 am to noon**. We invite children age 4 through completion of grade 6 for a fun week of

Bible lessons, music, outdoor play, games and crafts with friends. Set your calendar! Registration forms are now available in the narthex/email/on the website or call the church office. We hope to see you at VBS!

MEET THE AUTHOR



Come join us on **Sunday, August 25th, at 3:00 p.m.**, at Advent to hear accomplished author, Libby McDonald Schaefer, present her latest book, **Our Brothers' Keepers**. The stories in the

book are told by survivors, responders, family members, and onlookers on 9/11.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Refreshments will be provided following Libby's presentation.

STITCH CLUB ITEMS AVAILABLE

If you would need anything throughout the year from the Stitch Club for babies or the elderly i.e. blankets, etc., please contact Hanna McCollum at 215-962-9032 or Jeff Jobses at 215-355-4149. They can have them available on Saturdays or Sundays.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:30 am service. The sign-up sheet thru September is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e. coffee & tea) and all paper products.



PRAYER CHAIN AT ADVENT

Advent is starting a prayer chain for anyone who would be in need of prayer. The success of the Grand Prayer Experiment let us know we have many needs for prayer. If you would like to either join as a prayer partner, or if you have a name to be prayed for, please see below:

Four Ways to Access the Prayer Chain:

1. Give your prayer request in person to either Bob or Karen Matlack
2. Email your prayer request (kmatl22349@verison.net)
3. Text only your prayer request (Karen 215-932-1283; Bob 267-357-9368)
4. Call Fran Zanis at the office 215-355-2529.

NURSERY ROOM AVAILABLE

Children are always welcome to participate in worship. However, should your child need a break, there is a nursery available next to the sanctuary. There, you can hear the service while your child has some quiet time apart. Should you need a break from your child, there is a child care coordinator.



JAZZ CONCERT AT ADVENT

On Saturday evening June 1st, the narthex was full of jazz enthusiasts to hear our music director's band, Dettra Mental. Students of the band members were also in attendance and performed along with Mike Dettra and the band. We are looking forward to the next performance towards the end of the year.

THANKS FOR BRUNCH

Thank you to all the women who came out and made the Women's Brunch so successful. We had a nice turnout and learned a lot about

volunteer opportunities in the area. If you would like any information on what we learned, check the round table in the narthex.



AID FOR FRIENDS MEALS

Advent thanks Hanna McCollum, Jeanne Gryszka, Joyce Heiss, Jeff Jobes, Helen Shearer, Linda Weaver for their help in preparing **64** meals to be taken to Aid for Friends.

TOOL SHED IMPROVEMENTS

Advent's backyard shed looks like new, with structural improvements and new siding and roof. We thank John Norton of Southampton Roofing and Siding for donating the roof shingles and Lynn Roccograndi for coordinating the work.

HELP IS NEEDED

The family of Gladys Keller is in need of a volunteer(s) to help transport Gladys's disabled son to work at Redner's Market in Langhorne from their home in Richboro at 6:30 am and picked up from Redner's at 3 pm. If you have any time in your schedule to help out or need additional information please contact Linda Bailey at 267-226-5111. (Compensation can be discussed).

LET'S FILL FOOD TRAYS FOR AID FOR FRIENDS

Aid for Friends, our nearby meal delivery program will need additional meal donations during the summer months. Please pick up a few of **their** aluminum trays, available in the narthex, and fill the three sections with those extra servings you might have left-over from a recent meal. Entree, vegetables and fruit/applesauce will bring joy to someone you've never met. Here's how it should be assembled, labeled and frozen at home - before you bring it to our church freezer:
<https://www.aidforfriends.org/photoalbums/>

how-to-make-meals-for-aff. For further information, please check with Hanna McCollum, our Aid for Friends coordinator at Advent. Thank you for sharing your food - Cooked with kindness!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT CHURCHVILLE NATURE CENTER

Advent received an email from Diane Sears the coordinator of volunteers at Churchville Nature Center. She is in need of volunteers to help at the front desk greeting visitors and registering people for various programs that are offered. If you or someone you know is interested you can contact her at 215-357-4005 x5038 or email dvsears@buckscounty.org.

GRASS CUTTERS NEEDED



Many thanks to those who have been cutting and trimming the lawn this season. There are still openings on the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Please volunteer to help keep our grounds looking neatly manicured.

FLOWER CHART & MISSION SUPPORT FOR 2019

The sign-up sheets for Altar Flower and Mission Support dedications for 2019 are in the narthex. The cost to dedicate one bouquet is \$25.00. One week of Mission support is \$25. 00. There are many openings available on the Mission Support chart.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED ADVENT IN YOUR WILL?

Those who have faithfully supported Advent through their regular offerings can also support the church by including it in your will. Gifts can be designated for the endowment fund, mortgage reduction or to support the regular expenses of the church. Remembering your church in your will can help Advent through the difficult economic times. Please speak with a member of the finance or endowment committee for more information.

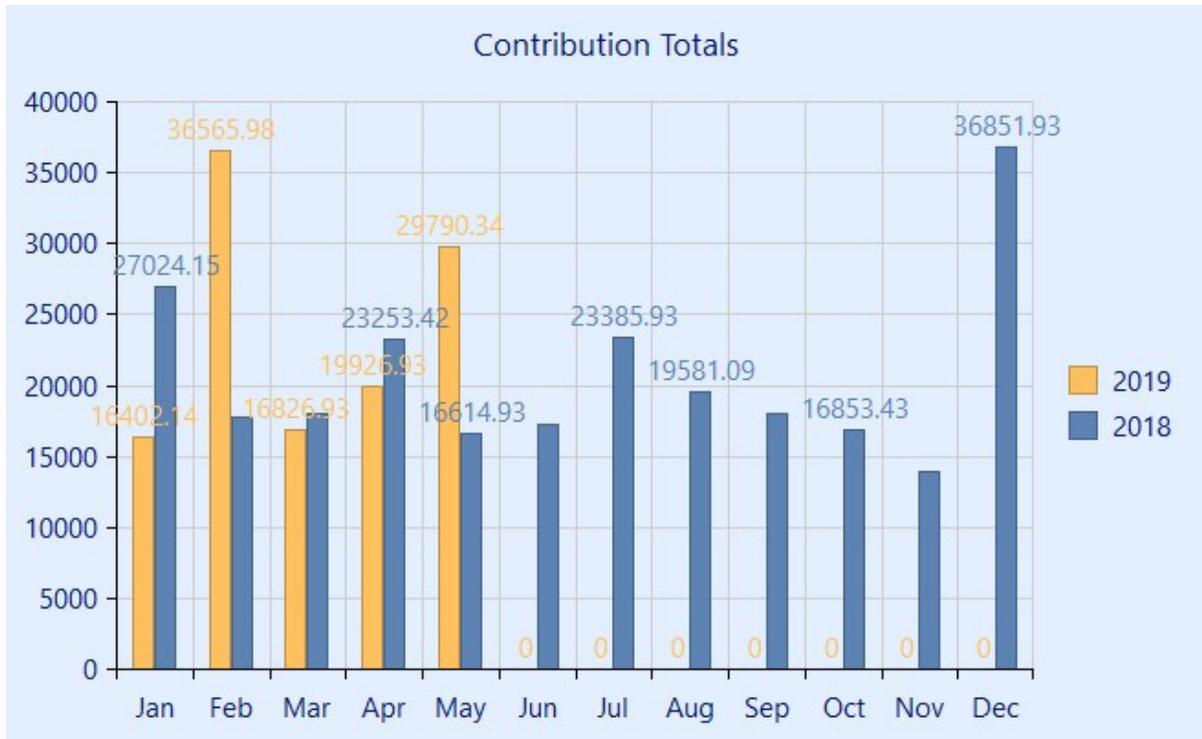
THREE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE

Did you know that there are three ways to give an offering to Advent Lutheran Church?

1. Offering envelope. (If you are going away on vacation you can mail your offering to the church office.
2. Simply Giving. This is an automatic deposit from a checking account into Advent Lutheran Church account that occurs every month. If you are interested in setting this up or for more information please contact me at 215-968-2675
3. Online giving. This option is with a credit card. Log on to our website www.adventrichboro.org. click "Give Now" button.

Respectfully, Kathryn Urbaniak, Fin. Sec.

FINANCIAL UPDATE



2018		2019	
January	\$27,024.15	January	\$16,402.14
February	\$17,790.84	February	\$36,565.98
March	\$17,964.93	March	\$16,826.93
April	\$23,253.42	April	\$19,926.93
May	\$16,614.93	May	\$29,790.34*
June	\$17,244.04	June	
July	\$23,385.93	July	
August	\$19,581.09	August	
September	\$17,959.43	September	
October	\$16,853.43	October	
November	\$13,969.93	November	
December	\$36,851.93	December	

*May 2019 total includes \$15,000 special gift

INCOME FOR APRIL 2019

Benevolence (LWR, Mission Support, etc.)	\$ 976
General Fund	\$17,410
Mortgage Fund	\$ 2,724



ADVENT'S BIRTHDAY CORNER JULY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Jenna Geragi
Jen McQuiggan | 10 Andy Frey, Jr.
Joyce Heiss | 21 Scarlet Belle Betz
Tyler McGee |
| 4 Liz Holford | 11 Angela Janet Casale | Fred Wagner |
| 5 Judy Rilling | 12 Laszlo Kovacs | 22 Pat Brown |
| 6 Andy Frey, Sr. | 15 Allison Kirschner | 24 Raffaele Manco |
| 7 Karen Breig
Bernadette Pearson | Lindsey Kirschner | 25 Andrew Frey, III |
| 8 Joshua Hanlon | 20 Larry Kovacs | 27 Andrew Breig |
| | | 29 Kathleen Pearson |
| | | 31 Steve Sanderlin |

Please contact the church office if you or someone you know has been omitted from the list. Thank you.



THE ARMED FORCES

Please keep in your prayers all our service men and women and especially those related to our congregation:

US Air Force Lt. Col. Andrew Frey is the Senior Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs, stationed at the Pentagon.

US Air Force Major Fred Gouse is a pilot and instructor stationed at Holloman AFB, New Mexico.

US Army Colonel (Ret.) Jeff Williams is serving in Dubai, UAE as a military advisor.

Please see our Armed Forces Display in the corridor leading to the ramp down to the fellowship hall.

If there are any errors or omissions, please notify the church office.

Thank you.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please keep Pastor Lyzette Rios Sanchez and our mission congregation Nueva Creación Lutheran Church in your prayers. Your mission support gifts help them to minister in a very impoverished area of Philadelphia.

SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP
JULY SCHEDULES

ACOLYTES

7/07	9:30 am	Erik Urbaniak
7/14	9:30 am	Courtney Korn
7/21	9:30 am	Unassigned
7/28	9:30 am	Unassigned

ALTAR FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

7/07	Audrey Savchuck
7/14	Nancy Slight
7/21	Kathryn Urbaniak
7/28	Kathy Sitler

LAY READERS

7/07	9:30 am	Nancy Hill
7/14	9:30 am	Mike Vassello
7/21	9:30 am	Jennifer McQuiggan
7/28	9:30 am	Ken Meyers

USHERS

1 st	9:30 am	Ray Heiss, Bob Matlack
2 nd	9:30 am	Tom Herbert, Bob Holford
3 rd	9:30 am	George Henry, Mike Sitler
4 th	9:30 am	Tony Gryszka, Mike Vassello

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

7/07	9:30 am	Jennifer McQuiggan
7/14	9:30 am	Gail Oines
7/21	9:30 am	Tony Gryszka
7/28	9:30 am	Karen Matlack

ALTAR GUILD

1 st	9:30 am	Kathy Sitler
2 nd	9:30 am	Gail Oines
3 rd	9:30 am	Jennifer Gardener-Schoch
4 th	9:30 am	Donna Duffy
5 th	9:30 am	George Henry

FELLOWSHIP TIME

7/07	Open
7/14	Open
7/21	Bell Choir
7/28	Open

MONEY COUNTERS

1 st	Janice Hoffmann, Tony Gryszka
2 nd	Cindy Frey, Bob Holford
3 rd	Ray & Joyce Heiss
4 th	Tony Gryszka, Janice Hoffmann



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	2	3	4 7:30 PM A.A. Topic Group happy 4th of JULY!	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	6
7 4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30 AM Traditional Holy Com. Baptism of Lyla Jae Marino 10:30 AM Fellowship Time-Open	8 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	9 7:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting	10	11 7:30 PM A.A. Topic Group	12 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	13
14 5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30 AM Cont. Holy Com. 10:30 AM Fellowship Time-Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16	17	18 7:30 PM A.A. Topic Group	19 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	20
21 6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30 AM Traditional Holy Com. 10:30 AM Fellowship Time-Bell Choir	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23	24	25 7:30 PM A.A. Topic Group	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	27 5 PM Pot Luck Dinner at Advent.
28 7TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30 AM Cont. Holy Com. 10:30 AM Fellowship Time-Open	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30	31	1 7:30 PM A.A. Topic Group	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	3
	Vacation Bible School all week 9am to noon					