

THE ADVENTURE - 2020

July 

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



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In-person worship and church activities at Advent continue to be canceled until restrictions are lifted.
We invite you to listen to services on our website and follow these lessons with your Bible.

Pentecost V Sunday, July 5, 2020

Introduction

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

Readings and Psalm

Zechariah 9:9-12 - *The king will come in humility and peace*

Psalm 145:8-14 - The LORD is gracious and full of compassion. (Ps. 145:8)

Romans 7:15-25a - *The struggle within the self*

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 - *The yoke of discipleship*

Pentecost VI Sunday, July 12, 2020

Introduction

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 55:10-13 - *The growth of the word to accomplish God's purpose*

Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13 - Your paths overflow with plenty. (Ps. 65:11)

Romans 8:1-11 - *Live according to the Spirit*

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 - *The parable of the sower and the seed*

Pentecost VII
Sunday, July 19, 2020

Introduction

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 44:6-8 - *There is no other God than the LORD*

Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 (alternate) - *God's sovereignty: both righteous and forbearing*

Psalm 86:11-17 - Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11)

Romans 8:12-25 - *The revealing of the children of God*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 - *The parable of the weeds*

Pentecost VIII, Year A
Sunday, July 26, 2020

Introduction

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Readings and Psalm

1 Kings 3:5-12 - *Solomon's prayer for wisdom*

Psalm 119:129-136 - When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. (Ps. 119:130)

Romans 8:26-39 - *Nothing can separate us from God's love*

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 - *Parables of the reign of heaven*



ADVENT ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Advent's worship leaders are bringing the worship experience to us each Sunday:
Thank you to . . .

Pastor Jo, Karen & Bob Matlack, Nancy Slight, Mike Dettra, Geoff Duffy and Paul Henke
We are pleased to participate in the music, the readings and sermon, prayers and Communion.
Look for services on adventrichboro.org on the Media page. These services may be accessed any time that suits your schedule . . . You can invite friends and family to access them, too!



BIBLE STUDY FOR KIDS **God Hears Our Prayers**

When a child prays, does God listen ? - **Yes !**

Does God understand a child's prayer, even if it's short and simple? - **Yes !**

God knows why you are praying and what's on your mind. He wants you to talk to Him in prayer, because He hopes you will ask Him to be with you and ask Him for His care and guidance.

You may have ideas for God to consider. You may think of ways to make things better – in your life or in the world - and ask Him to help you to work toward those goals. We also think about what we have done wrong, our sins, and ask God to forgive us.

Is there something else we want to say to God? Yes – We want to say **thank you** to God for all of our blessings; for creating us and all of nature around us. We thank Him for our family and friends and for teaching us to care for one another.

Prayer opens a way for both children and grown-ups to express our faith. We often pray by ourselves, but we can also pray together with our family and look forward to praying at church as we worship. We can set a routine to say meal prayers or morning and evening prayers, even in a poem or song.

In the Bible, we learn that Jesus taught His disciples to pray in Luke 11:1–13 and John 16:23–33.

It is The Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught to His disciples. Now is a perfect time to say the prayer at home and learn and memorize it. Children or parents can choose a time of day to say the prayer together, such as before or after meals or before going to sleep. Say one phrase at a time and then repeat it. Soon, you'll be able to say the prayer anytime!

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,**

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

These printable prayer journal pages are designed to help children come up with a list of items to pray for - on their own - each month. The author offers four designs to choose from:

<https://cherilynnngamble.files.wordpress.com/2016/12/prayer-journal-1.pdf>

On the last page is a crossword puzzle created from the verses in The Lord's Prayer.



The Pastor Ponders - Summer 2020

Just around the corner, is summer, but this summer is different than any we have experienced. Hopefully, by the time you read this we will once again be having worship services in our church and not just on-line.

How we look forward to summertime when we are able to be out doors, enjoy sports, gardening, long walks and picnics. But this summer has been so very different with masks, distancing each other and if you are like me you miss those hugs from relatives and friends.

For me, as a pastor, the most frustrating aspect (although there are so many) has been not being able to minister to those in the hospital or the sick and home bound. Speaking on the phone, email or zoom at least is something, but for a person who is very ill there is nothing having someone holding their hand, praying with them and anointing them with healing oils that have been blessed. We all have tried to do our best despite of our limitations.

Patience has been tried and some of us have had real difficulty with accepting the isolation and restrictions. In spite of all though, we trust our Lord and know that somehow good will come from this. Indeed, there has been more family time for those whose family is in house; priorities have been examined and we remember what is really important and what we can do without. This has been a time to examine ourselves, to focus on what is really important in our lives. We have had time that we never had before and an opportunity to read and who of the wives doesn't have a clean closet now?

As we look to the future we are assured that God is in control and by our side, will guide us through this and strengthen us for the work in His vineyard. And we remember that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Jo

Update on Church Worship Services

Our church council members know that our congregation is anxious to worship in-person again. We appreciate your support, prayers, and patience during this unprecedented time. The health and safety of our members and friends are of our utmost concern.

We have been following the mandates of our governor and bishop and have been preparing for the eventual re-opening of the church building for worship and activities. The building has been disinfected by our cleaning service. We have begun to coordinate how to create social distancing, safe seating arrangements (outside or inside), traffic flow, use of masks and sanitizers, etc.

As we continue to make our final preparations, Advent will stay the course and continue to suspend in-person worship and all activities in the building until further notice in conformance with the other Lutheran churches in the S.E. PA Synod. Our online service will be available each week on our website adventrichboro.org.

Our Bishop, Rev. Patricia A. Davenport, recently shared this: “I remind our churches to follow a slow, cautious and deliberate process while moving toward reopening. As the church our chief concern is for the health of our members, staff, and rostered ministers, and the people in our communities who would be affected by increased community spread – particularly those who are elderly or vulnerable to COVID-19.”

Please pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. We ask you to watch for updates in your e-mail/regular mail or on our website. Please contact the church office to inform Pastor Jo of any pastoral needs you may have.

Stay safe and be healthy!

In Christ,
George Henry, Church Council President
On behalf of Advent’s Church Council members

We thank all of Advent’s Church Council members for their dedication in serving The Lord.

Interim/Bridge Pastor, Josephine Wright
President, George Henry
Treasurer, Nancy Hill
Financial Secretary, Karen Becker
Secretary, Cindy Frey
Youth, Katie Dettra
Worship & Music, Gail Oines
Social Ministry, Nancy Sclight
Congregational Life, Rhona Slawter
Property, Lynn Roccograndi
Finance & Stewardship, Tony Gryszka
Christian Education (Vacant)

Pastor Call Committee Update

As reported in the June 2020 Newsletter, the call process has progressed to the phase of the Synod's Council of Deans matching candidates' profiles (e.g., background, qualifications) with Advent's profile (e.g., Site Ministry Profile, job description). The process includes candidates' reviewing our profile and determining their level of interest in advancing to the interview phase of the call process.

The Call Committee is pleased to report that we are actively engaged in reviewing several candidates for Advent's call. We anticipate a 2-step interview process, the first being a video conferencing interview with the candidate. We are presently scheduling the first interviews.

If you have any questions concerning the call process, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Sitler (215 498 7698).

It is asked that all members hold Church Council, the Call Committee, and the congregation in prayer throughout the call process.

Report Submitted by Call Committee Chair, Mike Sitler

Special Thanks from Finance Committee

Thanks again to everyone who has been able to financially support the church during this time. Your support is much appreciated! Offerings may be mailed to Advent at P.O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954-0840, online through our website: adventrichboro.org, or by signing up for recurring monthly debited donations. Contact me at tonygee517@gmail.com or at 267-408-3255 if you have any questions.

Thank you to those church members and friends who have assisted others by coordinating grocery, pharmacy, and medical appointments during the pandemic! It's time like these that the church shows its strength as a community of faith, which loves our friends and neighbors, and glorifies God.

Tony Gryszka, Finance & Stewardship Chairperson

Report from Social Ministry

During the months of May and June our church delivered 205 and 163 lbs of food respectively to the Warminster Food Cupboard. As volunteers Rhona Slawter and I see a growing need for donations each month. Clients are so grateful for everything we give them! If you have a vegetable garden overflowing with produce we would be more than happy to deliver some on Mondays only!! Simply put it in our outdoor bench and it will be picked-up on Monday morning! Thanks for your continued support!!

TO CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

If you need immediate assistance, you may reach Pastor Jo at 215-364-2298 (home) or at 215-499-5856 (cell). You may also leave a message at the church office at 215-355-2529, with Church Council President, George Henry, at 215-970-8523, or with Finance Committee Chairperson, Tony Gryska, at 267-408- 3255.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CANCELED



Each summer, our highlight at Advent has been Vacation Bible School. We especially enjoy inviting children from our community, near and far, to join us each summer, as we share the joy of knowing Jesus with our friends, old and new. This year we have to cancel our beloved program of fun activities and patiently look forward to next year’s VBS.

To our students: We wish you well and challenge you to read your Bible, including the verses and lessons in our recent church newsletters. As we pray for our world to heal, we look forward to everyone getting together again!!



PRAYER CIRCLE AT ADVENT

Prayer has become even more important to us during this pandemic quarantine. When we can't physically be with our friends and family, we feel isolated. But - God is there! Right with us! Just send a quick prayer, or longer if you can, and wait for the response.

Please submit your prayer requests to us. Since we are not worshipping together, we are not aware of the needs of so many people. A quick email or phone call or text will get you connected, and then we connect with God - the greatest power ever!

Some thoughts: the power of prayer is the power to carry on; God isn't holding out or holding back at all; there is nothing God loves more than keeping His promises.

We look forward to seeing our Advent friends when the church opens in July. We can pray for you in person then, but for now - just let us know what you need!

God Bless You!

Call the church office: 215-355-2529; email: kmatl22349@verizon.net; text: 215-932-1283

Karen Matlack
kmatl22349@verizon.net



REACH OUT TO OTHERS

Many of us have taught ourselves new skills during our months of shelter-in-place. We may have had time to try a new recipe, add plants to our garden or enjoy a favorite book. While we are staying close-to-home, we'll also want to keep in touch with friends from church, whether with a phone call, a written note, a text or an e-mail. We can update one another now as we look forward to getting together in the future!



THE ARMED FORCES

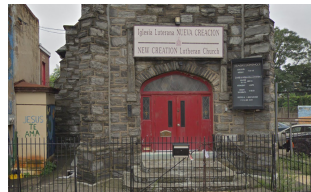
Please keep in your prayers all our service men and women and especially those related to our congregation:

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.

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 an impoverished area of Philadelphia.



ADVENT'S BIRTHDAY CORNER
JULY BIRTHDAYS

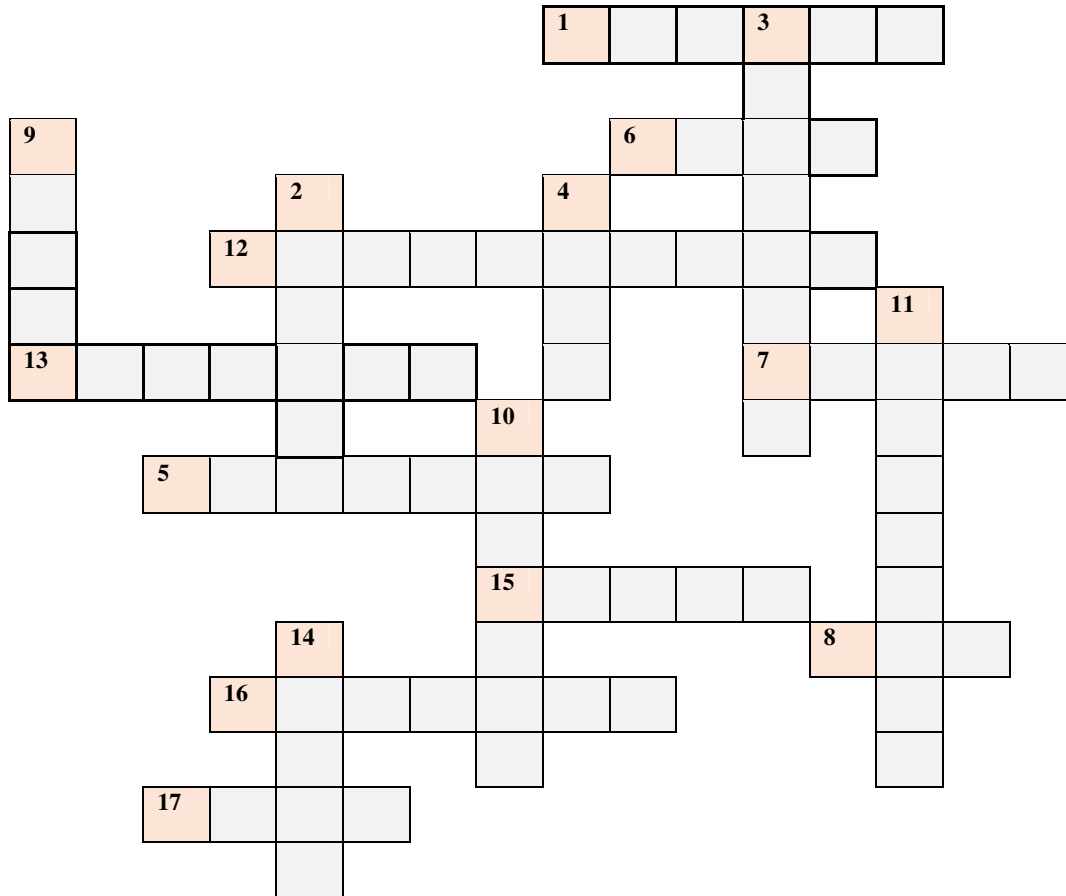


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|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jenna Geragi | Joyce Heiss | 22 Pat Brown |
| Jen McQuiggan | 11 Angela Janet Casale | 24 Raffaele Manco |
| 4 Liz Holford | 12 Laszlo Kovacs | 25 Andrew Frey, III |
| 5 Judy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

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

you

The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13



1. Our _____
2. who art in _____.
3. _____ be
4. thy _____.
5. Thy _____ come,
6. thy _____ be done
7. On _____ as it is in heaven.
8. Give us this _____
9. our daily _____.
10. And _____ us our trespasses
11. as we forgive those who _____ against us.
12. Lead us not into _____
13. but _____ us from evil.
14. For thine is the kingdom and the _____
15. and the _____,
16. _____ and ever.
17. _____.

name Earth deliver power Amen day bread trespass heaven forever
Hallowed glory kingdom will forgive temptation Father