

ADVENTure



Advent Lutheran Church

June/July 2021

This year Advent was able to celebrate with Elizabeth Doak as she was confirmed on Pentecost weekend. Although the service was again virtual, and our stay-at-home orders were in place, Pastor was able to arrange it so that Elizabeth’s confirmation and first communion were able to be celebrated and captured with her family at the church on Saturday May 22nd. Congratulations to Elizabeth and her family on this wonderful milestone!



Congregational Council Update

Even though the doors of Advent are still closed, the work of the congregation still continues. Here are some of the items going on in and around our church:

- Cynthia Aikins worked very hard for several weeks to repaint the foyer and entry of the church. It now is a beautiful light green. The colours really lighten up the space, and it looks clean and bright! In addition, Cynthia repainted the bookshelves and table to coordinate with the walls. It is truly beautiful, and we thank Cynthia and her husband Paul for their work and dedication!

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- As part of the foyer refurbishment, we have hung a beautiful hanging created by Walter Rothenberger. Photos will be included in our next newsletter. Thank you Walter for sharing your many talents with the congregation!
- Work continues on installing our high-speed internet. Bell has put in the new fiber-optic conduit, and Siamak Fadavi has arranged and installed all of the cabling infrastructure within the building. Thank you Siamak for all of your talents and efforts! We are just waiting for Bell to complete their work.
- The Community Garden has reopened for the season. It is lovely to see gardeners and families congregate in the garden as they prepare their plant beds. The gardeners continue to be respectful of social distancing.

As we move into the summer season, your council continues to monitor the situation and discuss possible worship possibilities going forward. Please continue to watch the weekly emails for any updates.

*Respectfully submitted,
Gabi Schickedanz*

We remember:

- The family and friends of Ruth Wesioly as they mourn her passing. The presence of Ruth, a founding member of Advent, will be greatly missed when we are able to return to our Sanctuary.
- The family and friends on the sudden passing of Leland Munro. We will continue to hold Leland and his family in our prayers.
- Julie Omazic and her husband Vel on the sad passing of her father-in-law. Please continue to hold Julie and her family in your prayers.

Prayers for Peace

Please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East. The situation in Gaza is devastating.

Prayers for Healing

Please continue to pray for healing in our homes, communities, our nation and our world.

Prayers for those who grieve

Please continue to pray for those who have lost loved ones, in our Advent family, our community, our nation and our world.

Pastor Elaine Writes....

Peace be with you!

As I write it is feeling very summery! The sun is shining - the birds are singing and flowers are blooming everywhere. The community gardeners are getting ready for another season. Hopefully there is a "spring" in your step!

Spring is a time for renewal and rebirth. This spring we are getting good news with active cases of COVID on the decline, ICU numbers falling and many many people becoming vaccinated.

I hope and pray that soon we will see restrictions lifted and we can look forward to worshipping in person once more. Over the next month or so I will be participating in a workshop offered by the Synod & Martin Luther University called "Ok What's next?" as we look to the future of worship in a post pandemic world. This is designed to be a series of conversations. I will also be attending our Synod Assembly (virtually). I have been nominated by our congregational council to be a delegate at the 2022 National Convention in Calgary. The delegates will be voted for at our Assembly in June. I also plan to attend the joint Anglican/Lutheran National Worship Assembly (virtually). So it appears I will be spending quite a bit of time staring at a computer screen! Once again, this summer the ELCIC has made available a summer sermon series.

These sermons are given by the Bishops and their assistants. We will share these sermons either integrated into our virtual worship services or with the weekly emails. I hope you enjoy hearing or reading these sermons from across the country.

These verses have been on my mind...

Isaiah 41:9b-10 & Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (look them up!!)

Peace,

Pastor Elaine

Pastoral Care

Do you feel like chatting? We can arrange zoom visits or phone calls while Advent remains closed. Please continue to pray for one another and check in, especially with those who do not receive our weekly emails. Staying connected as part of the Advent family remains so important.



Pastor Elaine is pictured in a new stole commissioned by her husband Ross and daughters for her birthday (May 30th) The stole was designed and handmade by Walter Rothenberger

Christian Education

Our confirmation student - Elizabeth Doak was confirmed as part of our Pentecost service! Congratulations Elizabeth!

Our Sunday afternoon discussion group has had a series of lively discussions over the past few months. I have really enjoyed this time of conversation. We will be listening to a number of podcasts until the end of June. Perhaps a topic will interest you?

May 30th - The Devil

June 6th - The Soul

June 13th - Good and Evil

June 20th - Hope

June 27th - God (2 podcasts)

We will take July and August off and resume in September.

Help Needed!

- If you are interested in reading lessons or psalms for our services, please let Pastor Elaine know. There are many options. You can film yourself at home, you can meet Cynthia or Gabi at the church to be filmed, or you can meet us at the church when we are filming services to read in "real time" within the service. There are many options and arrangements can be made to fit your availability. It is nice to have a variety of readers.
- If you love plants and flowers, we are looking for a few people to help out with our Advent flower beds at the front of the church. Many hands make light work, and our dedicated crew of Brit, Carol and Theresa are looking for a few more volunteers.
- Please let Pastor Elaine know if there are any hymns you would like sung during our filmed services. Pastor will endeavour to incorporate your selections as we film services through the summer.

From the Loft....

For this edition of "From the Loft," I would like to share with you the note that accompanies the score to *A New Thing*, a new anthem that I was invited to compose for the upcoming Eastern Synod Assembly.

The coronavirus pandemic has plagued the world for over a year as of this writing [April 2021]. Churches of every denomination in every part of the world have been forced to adapt nearly every aspect of worship in the interest of public safety. The uncertainty that has ensued has no doubt caused great stress and while we lament at the loss of in-person worship and changes to long-held traditions, we may find ourselves forgetting some of the positive by-products of a time that we'd rather have not happened at all.

A New Thing aims to encourage us all to look at the pandemic through a different lens: a lens of joy rather than sorrow; a lens of creation rather than destruction; and a lens of positivity rather than negativity. In the scripture passage from Isaiah that forms the basis of *A New Thing*, God announces that something new is taking place, something extraordinary. The example given in the text is a flowing stream in a once barren land, the idea of something unexpected and beautiful emerging in a place where no one would have expected. It was my goal to interpret this scripture in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is not to say — and *A New Thing* should not be interpreted to mean — that God caused the virus or that it is God’s will that it transpired. But, to deny that God could cause good things to happen amid the devastation of a global pandemic would be to deny the amazing power that God has over creation. Just like the stream that appeared in the barren land, our God has called us to a newfound sense of collaboration through the sharing of resources; our God has brought new colleagues and friends into our lives through communication and networking; our God has bestowed new gifts to us that we use to bring the Gospel to a virtual audience; and our God has brought new people into our church families thanks to worship that has brought the church to the people rather than expecting the people to come to the church.

“Behold, I am doing a new thing!” Praise be to God!

*Yours from the loft,
Trevor*

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