

News from Advent Lutheran Church

January 2024

the Adventurer

STAFF

Pastors

Jason Peterson
Andrea Windsor-Peterson

Director of Music/Organist

Joel Haywood

Financial Secretaries

Steve & Debbie Merziak

**Church Council
President**

Heather Herrmann

Vice President

Lynn Reed

Secretary

Phil Hanes

Treasurer

Carolyn Teffeteller

At Large Members

Joan Kruscavage
Gina Hammock

**Ministry
Chairpersons**

Christian Education

Heather Herrmann

Evangelism

Fellowship

Joan Kruscavage

Property

Mike Gamlen

Service

Gina Hammock

Stewardship

Worship

Pastors

Youth

Kristina Fischer

Happy
New Year
2024

A Word from the Pastors

“When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.” Matthew 2: 10-11

The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.

As we conclude the Advent and Christmas Seasons, we too are kneeling down paying homage and thanking God for the gift of Jesus and for calling us to serve at Advent Lutheran Church.

- We give all thanks and glory and honor to God for the many blessings we have here at Advent Lutheran Church. We thank our God for you, the people of God at Advent. We thank the many people here at Advent who have shared their love, gave gifts and held us in prayer during this busy time of the year. Your love, support and prayers mean so much to us and we are forever grateful for this shared ministry. Thank you all!
- Thank you Joel Haywood for all you have done making this such a worship filled and Holy time of the year. In just a couple short months you have led the Sanctuary and Bell choirs to share such powerful music lifting our worship to God. You led an orchestra for Christmas Eve Worship that allowed us to give glory to God in the highest. You built and worked tirelessly to install an organ in the Sanctuary. We are undone by your dedication and talent and thank God for bringing you not only to Advent, but into our lives personally. Thank you Joel for all you do to the Glory of God!
- Thank you to all of you who serve on the Altar Guild throughout the year, but especially these past couple of months as seasons changed quickly. Each of our altar guild members give generously of their time behind the scenes. We thank you all for the ways the Altar Guild sets up and prepares the worship space each and every week, and for special worship times. We thank you for the care and reverence that is displayed as you care for the worship area.
- Thank you to the choirs for your sharing your gift of music. Thank you for all the practices you attend week in and week out, and especially the extra practices this past month. Your work and dedication is truly inspiring and lifts our worship to God!
- Thank you to all those who help to lead worship. A special thank you to all who serve as greeters, acolytes, crucifers, ushers, lectors, assisting ministers, and counters. Your dedication and use of your gifts each and every week help the whole church to give glory to God.
- Thank you to our congregational council members, Heather Herrmann, Lynn Reed, Carolyn Tefeteller, Dr. Phil Hanes, Gina Hammock, & Joan Kruscavage. You continue to lead in such faithful and faith-filled ways. We are truly blessed to have a council of such wise and dedicated members. We value your leadership and thank God for you all.

- Thank you to Gina Hammock for leading the Service Ministry and for all the service opportunities we participated in this year including the Angel Tree and Holiday Breakfast Baskets and many food donations to GAP Ministries. Thank you Nancy Tokarska for your work with the Hats and Gloves for persons in need at GAP. Thank you Kath and Mike Gamlen for all your work with the Little Free Pantry and for faithfully keeping it stocked each week. The efforts of the service ministry at Advent blesses many throughout the year.
- Thank you to all who helped beautify the sanctuary and decorate the Chrismon Trees for Christmas. Thank you to Joan Kruscavage for all your work with the Fellowship Ministry. Joan you blessed this congregation along with all your faithful helpers who decorated the fellowship hall and providing such amazing treats during this Holy time! Thank you!
- Thank you Property Ministry for all you do to keep the grounds of Advent so beautiful. Thank you Mike Gamlen for organizing the projects over this past year. Advent is blessed to have such gifted caretakers.
- Thank you Steve and Debbie Merzlak for all you do at Advent, but especially as Advent's Financial Secretaries. Your work is often done behind the scenes and there is always so much to do at the end of each year. Thank you for all the ways you are faithful stewards of what God has blessed us with at Advent.
- Thank you to Advent's tellers, Carol Hanes and Noreen Gaynor and to the many council members who have stepped forward to help in the transition. We thank you for your trustworthy stewardship of time and care of the offerings given to God in this place.
- And THANK YOU again people of God at Advent. Your continued dedication and faithfulness to this Church really shines through each week and your love for God is displayed in abundance.

We know that God IS at work at Advent. Each time we gather together for worship or fellowship or any gathering it feels like home for we are surrounded by family. We look forward to a blessed 2024.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Jason and Pastor Andrea

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way. Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, color or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day. Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

- Rev. Marcy Sheremetta

In the Gospel according to Luke we hear the angels
say to the shepherds,



Glory to God IN THE
HIGHEST HEAVEN,
and peace to God's people
ON EARTH.

At this time of the year, perhaps our longing for peace is even more acute. We know the world isn't right. Nevertheless, we wait for and trust in Jesus, the Prince of Peace. The angels proclaimed, "Peace on Earth. Good tidings we bring." We pray for peace in our world and in our communities. Every week we take time during worship to greet one another with the message of peace. We reach out, grasping hands across pews, across the aisle. Some may walk to other areas of the sanctuary to give a message of peace to a neighbor or a visitor. "The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you." We share the peace, the love of God, and as we do, we know that God has reached from heaven to earth and, in the Prince of Peace, is sharing God's peace with us. In this season and all year round, may the peace of Christ be with you.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

Elyahon L. Eaton



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

January Worship Schedule

Sunday, January 7th
Baptism of Our Lord with New Year Blessing

9:30am Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, January 14th
Second Sunday After The Epiphany

9:30am Worship with Service of the Word

Sunday, January 21st
Third Sunday After The Epiphany

9:30am Worship with Holy Communion
10:45am Sunday School & I I am Confirmation Class

Sunday, January 28th
Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany

9:30am Worship with Holy Communion
10:45am Sunday School & I I am Confirmation Class

MUSIC MINISTRY

Dear Sanctuary and Handbell Choir Family,

I couldn't let another moment pass without expressing my deepest appreciation for the truly holy Christmas Eve service we shared together.

Your offering of music was nothing short of stunning. The passion, dedication, and sheer talent that each of you brought to the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs made the evening an unforgettable experience for everyone present.

As we reflect on the reason for the season—the birth of our Savior—I am reminded of the profound impact your music had on our worship. The way your voices and handbells blended together created a harmony that transcended mere music – it was a gift that touched the hearts of everyone in the room. I've heard from many in our congregation, and the consensus is clear: your music not only elevated our Christmas celebration but also served as a beautiful reminder of the joy and hope that this season represents.

Thank you, not just for your musical prowess, but for the spirit and energy you poured into every note. Your love for singing and playing was palpable, and it made our Christmas Eve truly special.

As we wrap up this year, I find myself reflecting on the incredible moments we've shared as a choir family in such a short time. Each one of you brings something unique and beautiful to our choirs, and I am grateful to know and work alongside such talented individuals.

Wishing you all a joy-filled Christmas season, centered around the love and grace that Christmas brings, and looking forward to making more beautiful music together in the coming year.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Joel





Christians
confronting emptiness
choosing compassion
creating community

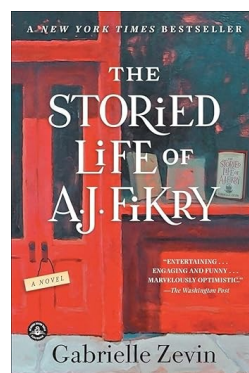
January GAP Donations – Peanut Butter or Alternatives!

- Please place items in the box in the narthex!
- Great Peanut Butter Alternatives (Sunflower Seed Butter or Soy Butter):



ADVENT BOOK CLUB 2024

Meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month at 11am unless otherwise noted.



Join us on Monday, January 22nd at 11am
in the Adult Sunday School Room as we meet to
discuss the book, "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin
The Discussion Leader for January will be
Pat Grim. All are welcome!

Help Keep the
Little Free Pantry
Stocked

Donations are always welcomed. Please place items on the table in the hallway near the fellowship hall.

Here are some suggestions but feel free to bring anything you think people might need or would appreciate.



Canned protein items such as fish or chicken
Soup packets or cans
Fruit (dried, canned or small cups)
Vegetables
Snack items (granola bars, fruit bars, protein bars)
Drinks (juice boxes, bottled water, powdered mixes)
Dried potato mixes
Pasta and pasta mixes including those with protein
Small packets of pancake mix, syrup
Peanut butter
Jelly
Crackers
Cereal (small boxes or packets)
Baby food
Diapers and wipes
Oral health items—toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, etc
Personal hygiene products—toilet paper, soap, deodorant, etc.
Feminine hygiene products

Thank you Kath Gamlen for overseeing the Little Free Pantry. Thank you for continuously checking on the pantry and making sure it is stocked throughout the week.



All are invited to Advent's Prayer Shawl Ministry on January 16th at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. You don't have to know how to knit or crochet, but you do have to **BYON** (that's **Bring Your Own Needles!**) Folks at the meeting will be happy to teach you. Yarn will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. Please contact Kath Gamlen if you have questions.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 AA 8-9am	2 AA 8-9am	3 AA 8-9am	4 AA 8-9am	5 AA 8-9am	6 8am Property
7 <i>Baptism of our Lord</i> Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am	8 AA 8-9am	9 AA 8-9am	10 AA 8-9am Bell Choir 6pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm	11 AA 8-9am	12 AA 8-9am	13
Pastors are away 1/8-1/15						
14 Worship & Service of the Word 9:30am	15 AA 8-9am 	16 AA 8-9am Prayer Shawl 9:30am Ministry Night 6pm	17 AA 8-9am Bell Choir 6pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm	18 AA 8-9am	19 AA 8-9am	20
21 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am & Confirmation 11am Youth Planning 12-2pm	22 AA 8-9am Book Group 11am	23 AA 8-9am Bible Study 10am Church Council 6pm	24 AA 8-9am Bell Choir 6pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm	25 AA 8-9am Bible Study 6:30pm	26 AA 8-9am	27
28 Worship & Holy Communion Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am & Confirmation 11am	29 AA 8-9am 	30 AA 8-9am	31 Bell Choir 6pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm			

Keeping the Dream Alive: Why Dr. King's Message Still Matters

16th Annual Interfaith Celebration



The most diverse interfaith event in the CSRA:
Baha'is, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews,
Muslims, Religious Humanists, Sikhs
& Unitarian Universalists

Sacred Heart Cultural Center
1301 Greene St, Augusta, GA
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
6:30 Gathering Music
7:00 Service

Service is free and open to the public.

The Progressive Religious Coalition Presents

Jon Meacham

Jon Meacham is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author of 15 bestsellers. Two of great current relevance are: *His Truth Is Marching on: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* and *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*. He is a distinguished visiting professor at Vanderbilt University, a contributing writer for The New York Times Book Review, a fellow of the Society of American Historians, and a frequent commentator on MSNBC and CNN.

For more information, go to prcaugusta.com



Youth and Family planning meeting scheduled for January 21st, 12-2pm. We will order pizza for lunch and plan Youth Activities for the remainder of the year. Come with ideas for activities everyone would like to do and we will discuss Summer Camp options. We hope to see everyone there!

JANUARY

Happy Birthday

1/2 Megan Tokarska
1/2 Greg Van Bladel
1/4 Irmgard Crowder
1/9 Carolyn Teffeteller
1/11 Carol Billings
1/13 Dean Summers
1/15 Pastor Fred Fiedler
1/16 Jim Barton
1/16 Barbara Williams
1/18 Brent Billings
1/19 Erin Taylor
1/20 Robert Pendergrast
1/21 Kath Gamlen
1/23 Joey Tupper
1/24 Diane Aizcorbe
1/24 Kateri Engelin
1/12 Anita Fiedler
1/27 Gary Agenbroad
1/27 Hilda Sullivan
1/30 Jim Heaney

Happy Anniversary

1/3 Jared & Kristina Fischer
1/6 Pastors Jason & Andrea
Peterson
1/7 Karin & David Krog
1/24 Steven & Helen Burns
1/26 Pastor Robin & Colt Pingilley



The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face
shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up
His countenance upon you, And give you peace.



Happy New Year



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**DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**