



April

Advent Newsletter 2021

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name. John 20: 30-31

I have always loved this verse from the gospel of John. It is a profound statement that lifts up the reason the Gospel was written. It lifts up Jesus' purpose for all people. That we may come to believe Jesus is the son of God, and that through believing, we have life in His name. Earlier in this Gospel, John tells us that Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Jesus was speaking to the gift of eternal life when our earthly existence is over and that we will rise, and live with God in heaven forever, thanks be to Jesus. However, Jesus was also speaking to our life here and now. How wonderful is our God that his will for us is not only life, but a life that is abundant, an earthly life that is filled with His presence!

This past January, I was given the pleasure of serving on the Southeastern Synod Council to finish a term for a colleague. It was such a positive experience. Recently, I was asked to serve on Synod Council for my own two year term, to which I agreed without hesitation. You see, I was truly inspired by the enthusiasm and positivity by so many church leaders, both clergy and lay. I was inspired by the fabulous leadership of our Bishop, Kevin Strickland. I was inspired by the focus of our great church, and that focus was and is the abundance of God. The theme of the abundance of God is central to the financial ministry plan and appeal for the Southeastern Synod. God's abundance is central to the evangelism appeal, to the Latinx ministries, to the growing ministries of Advocacy. It is central to youth ministries, worship opportunities, partnerships, and faith formation, just to name a few. It is such a blessing to hear others speak about the abundance of God, because that thought process is catching! When we think on the abundance of God in the church, in our communities and in our own life, our focus shifts from what we want, to what we have and we are filled with an awareness of God's abundant blessings. This has been difficult during the pandemic especially when our focus, too often, has been on what we have been unable to do.

Last week, during our caucus conference meeting and introduction to the Southeastern Synod Assembly (which is set for June 5th, 2021 via zoom), we heard a beautiful presentation from many young people who attend Grace House, an ELCA Campus Ministry of the greater church. Students from UGA, GA State, GA tech, and others spoke to the pandemic and how this past 13 months has been for them. They did not focus on all the things they missed out on during the pandemic. They did not focus on all the things the pandemic took from them. Instead, the focus they spoke to was “the abundance of God during the pandemic”. Pastor Jason and I listened to college students speak to the ways they experienced God’s abundance with tears streaming down our faces. They spoke of an abundance of time, abundance in their prayer lives, abundance in outside experiences, abundance in growing relationships via technology, abundance in service opportunities, abundance in their sense of calling to help our world be a better place. It was so inspiring and left us feeling and believing that millennials have so much to teach us! It also inspired our own conversation of the abundance of God in our lives and the life of Advent. Here are just a few ways we have experienced the abundance of God during these past 13 months:

- Abundance of time we spent with Kate and Timmy teaching them and learning from them. Getting to know them even better and delighting in their uniqueness, work ethic, and humor.
- Abundance of opportunities to learn new things like sourdough bread and a vegetable garden.
- Abundance of support from the wonderful people of Advent through cards, texts, and phone calls.
- Abundance of help and guidance from the COVID Taskforce and the Congregational Council.
- Abundance of opportunities to meet new people through weddings, baptisms and those who worshipped through zoom and the weekly worship recording.
- Abundance of financial giving to the glory of God at Advent, by the faithful members of Advent.
- Abundance of loyalty to Advent, by so many who have worshipped week in and week out via zoom, and also during outside worship opportunities. What a gift you all are!
- Abundance in service by God’s people to God’s Work, our Hands, the Little Free Pantry, Gap Ministry, Angel Tree, Holiday Food baskets and the AU heroes drive.

- Abundance in commitment to our baptismal call to strive for justice through the amazing leadership in the Advocacy Ministry and Social Justice class.
- Abundance in ministry calls to serve the greater church through professional leadership training.
- Abundance in the gifts of forgiveness, mercy, and grace by the members of Advent when difficult times called for it.
- Abundance in opportunities to grow in patience and perseverance personally, and as a community of faith.
- Abundance of expressions of love by so many people in our lives, mostly from the people of Advent.
- Abundance of opportunities to bless others with words and expressions of thanks at the local hospitals.
- Abundance in the ways Jesus has made himself known to us.

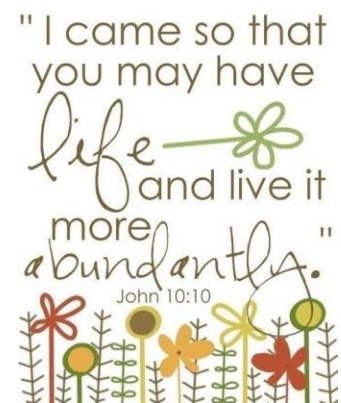
My goodness we are blessed with the abundance of God! How about you? What are the ways you have seen, experienced, felt the abundance of God in your life over these past 13 months? Take a moment or two and share them with one another and with us through a letter, email or a post on Advent's Facebook Page. Ask your children. Ask your partners, siblings, friends, co-workers. It will change your focus and theirs from what we have missed during the pandemic, to what we have been given abundantly. It will inspire you. It will fuel you!

We have a God whose will for us is an abundant life in Jesus. Jesus made this possible for us by first giving his life for the life of the world. Our God has power over all things, including death, for on the third day Jesus conquered sin, the evil one, and death by rising from the dead. Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

As we celebrate this foundation of our faith, the resurrection of Jesus, as Easter people, may we also live abundantly in His name. Amen!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Andrea and Pastor Jason





JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK WITH US.

Join Us!

Apr. 1 7pm Maundy Thurs.
Apr. 2 7pm Good Fri.
Apr. 4 9:30am Outdoor
Easter Worship

 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

HOLY WEEK INFORMATION

This year, Holy week will be a hybrid of Zoom and in person worship opportunities. After consultation with the Church Council and COVID Task Force, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will both take place through Zoom this year. Since it will be difficult to gather outdoors in the dark and with the solemnity of the services, Zoom will be the best way to worship together safely.

Easter we will be in person outdoors with Holy Communion. Zoom is still available for those who cannot be with us in person.

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt following worship for the children and a time of Coffee Fellowship for the Adults. There will be no Sunday school or Confirmation.

4/1 – 7pm Maundy Thursday Service (Zoom)

4/2 – 7pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service (Zoom)

4/4 – 9:30am Outside In Person Easter Worship with Zoom availability.

For those able to attend the outside Easter Worship, we invite you to bring the following items if able:

Prefilled Easter Eggs.

Cereal items for GAP ministries.

Cut flowers to place in the Easter Cross.



HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP UPDATE

In March, the COVID Taskforce recommended to Council that we could worship in person outdoors in March based on the numbers for our area. Council approved this recommendation and we have been worshipping outdoors in person.



We know that many of you are asking, “When can we move back to inside worship?” The Task Force will meet the first full week in April and make its recommendation to the Council based on the three criteria for indoor gatherings: Are the positive cases in the area under 5 percent; Are the cases per 10,000 people less than 10 percent; and Are the ICUs in the area operating at less than 70 percent capacity. After reviewing the numbers in the CSRA, the Taskforce will make its recommendation and send it to Council who will vote on the recommendation. The Taskforce/Council will send out a congregational update based on where we are on our multi step process to getting back to regular in person gatherings.

Until we have a new update, everything in this newsletter will reflect our previously approved plans with worship being outdoors (weather permitting) with a Zoom option. Please check your email for any future changes or updates to the schedule.

PASTOR’S VACATION

The Pastors will be taking vacation after Easter. Their vacation days will be **April 10-19th** including two Sundays. Pastor Terri Landers will be on call for any pastoral emergencies, please contact her at 912-247-1195. For any congregational matters, please contact Advent’s Council President, Mary Filpus-Luyckx at 706-394-7698.

APRIL 2021 WORSHIP PLAN

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| April 4, 2021 | Outside In person Worship for Easter with Zoom Availability. |
| April 11, 2021 | Special Southeastern Synod Worship through Zoom with full music and liturgy (See Synod News section). Mary and Paul Filpus-Luyckx will lead Advent’s Worship service through Zoom. (Pastors and Melinda are off.) |
| April 18, 2021 | Outside in person worship with Zoom option. Dr. Pam Tipler will give the sermon with Heather Herrmann leading worship with a special children’s sermon. (Pastors are off.) |
| April 25, 2021 | Outside in person worship with Zoom option. |

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD NEWS



2nd Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2021

Sermon Provided by:
Pr Patti
Axel

FULL WORSHIP
LITURGY
FOR
CONGREGATIONAL
USE

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD

A full worship service - Service of the Word - is provide for congregational use for the 2nd Sunday of Easter, April 11, 2021. The purpose is to provide a week of respite for all worship leaders, production teams, deacons, and pastors. Many thanks to the synod staff for the development of this worship service.



2021 E-firm
a digital event
June 26, 2021
Register at sesyouth.org



Stepping Up to Supervision

Learn...practical skills and tools for supervising the work of others & aligning the work of the team with the overall goals of the congregation

Tuesday, May 11 - 10:30 am - Noon & 1:30 - 3:00 pm
Tuesday, May 18 - 10:30 am - Noon & 1:30 - 3:00 pm
Tuesday, May 25 - 10:30 am - Noon & 1:30 - 3:00 pm
All times listed in Eastern Time

Cost: \$45

Register here: <http://tinyurl.com/supervise-elca>
or head to any of the synod websites below...

led by
Rev. Julian Beaumont

Virginia Lutherans
North Carolina Synod ELCA
SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
SC SYNOD



ILAG - Thanksgiving and Celebration ZOOM

Sunday, April 18th 3:00pm ET / 2:00pm CT

The Southeastern Synod Guatemala Team invites you to join a celebration of the partnership between the synod and ILAG (Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala).

UGANDA UPDATE



As you all know, COVID has kept me grounded from going to Uganda. That being said, I continue to talk with Patrick, William, Jackie, Titus, other leaders of RUHU, and the children on a regular basis. So although I could not be there physically, it has been a blessing to still be able to serve from across the ocean. It has been a few months since my last update, so I wanted to share with you all what has been going on.

In January, Uganda had their elections. It did not end in the way we had hoped. Museveni is still in power, now his 6th term. Violence once again broke out as there were allegations of electoral fraud, violent suppression of the opposition, and human rights abuses. The opposition was kept on house arrest after the election, with anyone approaching his home being beaten by police. Although some things have improved, Patrick informs me that there continues to be kidnappings.

On some positive notes, the Muwala Mulungi (translated as Beautiful Girls) program has been really flourishing. The women live communally and continue to learn trades. They have been mastering tailoring and are making lovely dresses, masks, uniforms, and other articles of clothing. They also have their own garden, growing fruits and vegetables. They are also led in daily devotions and are working through Rick Warren's "Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth am I here for?" Through this program, women who have been rejected, neglected, abandoned, unloved and outcasted now have new hopes and dreams.

Additionally, our secondary school students and older primary students have returned to school!! Our primary 7 (P7, think end of elementary/middle school) students are studying for their exams. These exams determine if they can go on to secondary school or if they go to a trade school. The average education level in Uganda is 6.8, thus many do not go beyond primary school. Please keep these children in your prayers as they embark on these exams.

Each year on March 15, they celebrate all the RUHU children birthdays. Most of the kids in the ministry do not actually know when they were born. So RUHU has

made March 15 the birthday to celebrate all of them. This year they were able to have it once again!!

And finally, Dr. Titus has continued to do medical outreaches in the slums and rural villages where we usually go together. Since I was not able to be there physically, I would send donations to him through Beautiful Response to buy the medications and transportation to the villages. I was also able to participate through tele-communications and “see” people over the phone. I am praying for the day I get to go back so I can continue sharing where all your support and prayers go!!! Thank you for your continued support and prayers for Uganda and through the missionary funds!! If you would like to become a sponsor/donor to Beautiful Response, please let me know!!

Love,
Dr. Pam Tipler (Advent Missionary to Uganda)



April Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
4/1	7pm	Maundy Thursday	Zoom
4/2	7pm	Good Friday	Zoom
4/4	9:30am	Easter	Advent/Zoom
4/4	11am	Easter Egg Hunt	Advent
4/6	10am	Bible Study	Zoom
4/7	12pm	COVID-19 Task Force	Zoom
4/8	6:30pm	Bible Study	Zoom
Pastor's Vacation 4/10-19			
4/11	9:30am	Worship	Zoom (SE Synod)
4/15	7pm	Social Justice Class	Zoom
4/18	9:30am	Worship	Advent or Zoom
Pastor's Return in office 4/20			
4/20	10am	Bible Study	Zoom
	6:30pm	Church Council	Zoom
4/22	6:30pm	Bible Study	Zoom
4/25	9:30am	Worship	Advent or Zoom
	11:15am	Sunday School	Zoom
	11:15am	Confirmation	Google
4/29	7pm	Social Justice Class	Zoom



April Birthdays

- 4/4 Jessica Aiello
- 4/8 Philip Hanes
- 4/9 Stephanie Tupper
- 4/13 Roberta Howell
- 4/13 Holly Sadenwasser
- 4/17 Maddie Lever
- 4/21 Gail Pendergrast
- 4/23 Brandi Pate
- 4/24 Timmy Peterson
- 4/26 Jaime Jimenez
- 4/27 Jordyn Krog
- 4/29 Lynn Reed
- 4/30 Angie Hubble
- 4/30 Jason Richardson



April Anniversaries

- 4/2 Phil & Carole Hanes
- 4/16 Fritz & Elaine Mertins
- 4/29 Jim & Amy Smith
- 4/29 Greg & Sarah Van Bladel
- 4/30 Sam & Marcy Jimenez

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