

February

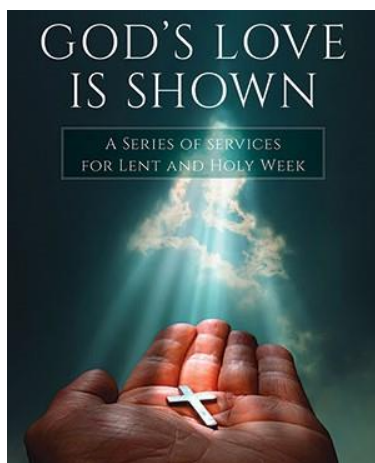
News 2021

“⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.” **1 John 4:7-12**

2021 began with the pandemic at an all time high on many levels. Hospitals have been at max capacity for some time and our healthcare and essential workers are exhausted. Many of our members have been affected by COVID-19 either directly or through loved ones. We most recently lost a member to COVID-19 complications at Advent and are deeply grieved. We know that large group gatherings have always been a risk in spreading this virus which is why we have continued to use Zoom to keep everyone safe and healthy.

There is hope in that more and more people are beginning to get vaccinated, including Advent members. But there are still many who wait patiently for a vaccine, including your pastors. Until the numbers continue to decrease and more and more become vaccinated, this makes future planning difficult on how to gather. Each month we meet with the Task Force and Council to look at the numbers and make the most informed decisions to keep everyone safe and healthy. The Taskforce will meet February 3rd and report their recommendation to council. Following the Council’s decision, there will be an update to the congregation.

We are about to embark on the Lenten season. It was almost one year ago that we at Advent were directly affected by this pandemic. We have come a long way since then and we believe that the time of being able to gather together in person is hopefully coming soon. With Spring right around the corner and the weather getting better, we hope to move to outside worship soon. However, with things still being too unknown, we are hesitant to make any promises of in person gatherings at this time. Therefore, for planning purposes, we will make plans based on our use of Zoom for February. As things develop and change, plans may be altered, and we will let you know through email and the calling post when we are able to gather in person. Until then, we wanted to give you a glimpse into our Lenten schedule as we continue to pray for the diminishing of this virus, and the possibility of in person gatherings.



Our Lenten Theme for this year is: “God’s Love is Shown”. For Lent this year there will be two opportunities to worship per week. We will hold midweek Lenten services at 7pm for a time of Service of the Word and Prayer. Our hope is to open Zoom at 6:30pm for a time of fellowship where everyone can share a meal digitally and then gather together around prayer and worship.

For Sunday worship, we will incorporate this year’s Lenten Theme of “God’s Love is Shown” in worship by focusing on a characteristic of our Savior’s love for us. We will delve into the rich and diverse aspects of our Lord’s love for us shown mostly clearly in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each Sunday worship will focus on a meaningful descriptor of God’s

love that describes the words and actions of our Lord who is God’s love incarnate come down to save us.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. We will have a noon service on Zoom and then put the recording on Facebook and our Website for those to worship when they are able. We have individual ashes for each family at Advent which to practice social distancing while still receiving the ashen cross. We will arrange a way to get them to you soon, whether it is by mail or setting up a pick up time. There will be more information on this soon.

Lenten schedule:

Feb. 17	12pm Ash Wednesday – Redemptive Love
Feb. 21	9:30am 1 st Sunday in Lent – Compassionate Love
Feb. 28	9:30am 2 nd Sunday in Lent – Steadfast Love
Mar. 7	9:30am 3 rd Sunday in Lent – Enriching Love
Mar. 14	9:30am 4 th Sunday in Lent – Living Love
Mar. 21	9:30am 5 th Sunday in Lent – Holy Love
Mar. 28	9:30am Palm Sunday – Saving Love
Apr. 1	7pm Maundy Thursday – Selfless Love
Apr. 2	7pm Good Friday – Sacrificial Love
Apr. 4	9:30am Easter Sunday – Joyous Love

Midweek Dinner and Worship – 6:30pm - Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24

We pray that this Lenten season we will grow together in God’s love!

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Jason and Pastor Andrea



There are not enough ways to say thank you to the people of God at Advent. We wanted to take a moment and say thank you personally. Thank you on behalf of the Staff at Advent for the end of the year Staff and personal gifts which were extremely generous. Thank you to the Advent Church Council and Covid-19 Taskforce for your leadership throughout this pandemic. We couldn't have done any of this without your help. Thank you to those who have shared their musical gifts whether through the Advent Virtual Choir or by sharing your vocals/instrumental music during various worship opportunities. Thank you to our ministry chairs who found new and creative ways to do ministry in Jesus' name. Thank you to all who have led and contributed to the many and different varieties of service opportunities this past year whether it was through God's Work, Our Hands weekend, Angel Tree, AU Heroes Drive, GAP ministries and many more. Thank you to our children, Kate and Timmy, who have assisted us each and every week during this pandemic. Thank you to all of our Zoom lectors and leaders. Thank you to our financial secretaries and counters for your dedication and continued hard work throughout this year. Thank you, Advent members, for your faithful giving even in the midst of our not being able to gather together in person. Thank you, faithful Advent members, who each week, gather together through Zoom to worship our Lord together! Thank you all for your willingness to think outside the box to make the ministry we have all been called to possible. This has been the most difficult year of ministry for us as your pastors. And yet, we give God all thanks and praise to be called as pastors here at Advent. One of the things we have experienced this past year is... Even though the physical Church building has been closed most of this year, the Church has never closed! The ministry at Advent has never been stronger because of the work you all do in Jesus' name together! Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Andrea and Pastor Jason

SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS

The Social Justice Class will meet via zoom on Wednesday, February 10th at 6:30. Please join us as Chris Utley shares his thoughts on the insurrection and his experiences. Chris is a member of Be the Bridge, an award-winning anti-racism educator, and playwright. Chris and Sonja Brock recently won the 2021 Plano ISD Diversity Leadership Award for their work with North Texas Allies, a group they founded to have honest conversations about race and diversity.

Starting on February 25th we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:30 during Lent. We will be reviewing the ELCA anti-racism pledge and brainstorming ideas on how we as individuals, a class and Advent can continue our journey to be anti-racist. The class is led by Gail Pendergrast, Amy Smith and Mary Filpus-Luyckx. All are welcome to join us for any session.

God's Peace and Stay Safe,
Amy, Gail and Mary

REMEMBRANCE OF THE SAINTS FROM ADVENT

Many of you may not be on Advent's prayer chain email. If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, please email the church office. We use the prayer chain to pray for Advent members, friends and family. When someone at Advent has died, prayers go out on the prayer chain. This past year during this time of Covid-19, Advent has suffered the loss of our some of our homebound members. We are aware that many of you may not have heard or knew about some of these great losses. Since we have not been able to hold in person funerals, we wanted to take a moment to remember these dear saints in light who faithfully ran the good race and fought the good fight.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH SAINTS



Marge Rahn – August 1, 2020



Robert Rankin – December , 2020



Tonia Hayes – December 29, 2020



Bill Burkman – January 24, 2021

PRAYER

Let us remember all the saints before God. We praise and bless you, O Holy Trinity. You have taught your church that it is an ageless communion of saints. We thank you for gathering those who faithfully waited in hope for the redemption you promised, and now for adding us who celebrate the love of Christ for the redemption of the world. Prepare a place for us among those who are already with you. Help us remember them as an encouragement to saintly living, exciting us to love, in anticipation of an eternal reunion. With them we praise and bless you, O Holy Trinity, Father, + Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD UPCOMING EVENTS




**Evangelism
Listening Posts**

Thursday, January 28, 7pm EST / 6pm CST
Sunday, January 31, 3pm EST / 2pm CST

Sign up at
ELCA-SES.org




Facilitator Training
for
**Unbinding
Your Heart**



Thursday, Feb 11
7-9pm EST
6-8pm CST

Sign up at
ELCA-SES.org



To benefit ELCA
World Hunger



40-40-40
Lenten Hunger Appeal

February 17 - April 3, 2021

40 Days. 40 Miles. \$40

Sign up at
ELCA-SES.org
TODAY!



Movie Viewing & Discussion



Sunday, February 21, 2021
Movie begins at 3pm EST / 2pm CST
with discussion to follow

Sign up at ELCA-SES.org

This event is sponsored by the Diversity & Justice task force of the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA

**ALL GA
YOUTH GATHERING**

**Saturday,
February 27, 2021**

Registration opens January 16
on SESYouth.org

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events are on Zoom unless noted otherwise.

9:30am Worship & 11am Sunday School and Confirmation each Sunday

Events on Calendar are subject to change. Please check weekly email

Feb. 2	10am Bible Study
Feb. 3	12pm Task force meeting
Feb. 4	6:30pm Bible Study
Feb. 9	6:30pm Ministry Night
Feb. 10	6:30pm Social Justice Class
Feb. 13	Baptism of Maren Moran
Feb. 15	6:30pm Council
Feb. 16	10am Bible Study
Feb. 17	12pm Ash Wednesday Service
Feb. 18	6:30pm Bible Study
Feb. 20	TBD Youth Group – Outdoor Hiking (meet @ Church)
Feb. 24	6:30pm Dinner; 7pm Worship
Feb. 25	4:30pm Youth Group
Feb. 25	7:30pm Social Justice Class



February Birthday's

Pam Tipler	2/1
Danny Moran	2/2
Samantha Jimenez	2/3
Alice Glisson	2/4
Christopher Hoops	2/6
Billy Smith	2/6
Daisy Morgan	2/8
Chris Rasmusson	2/9
Sheree Cartee	2/12
Joy Jiminez	2/13
Dalton McCarty	2/14
Fritz Mertins	2/18
Sheila Eastman	2/19
Paul Filpus-Luyckx	2/19
Mackenzie Yerger	2/20
Ronald Zimmerman	2/22
Kevin Jiminez	2/24
Gayle Ricklefs	2/24
Elizabeth Aiello	2/25
Miranda Grim	2/27
Derrick Paulus	2/27
Amanda Carter	2/29



February Anniversary List

Sheree & Mike Cartee	2/7
Larry & Sukcha Suttinger	2/15
Greg & Karen Willis	2/15
Derek & Heather Herrmann	2/18