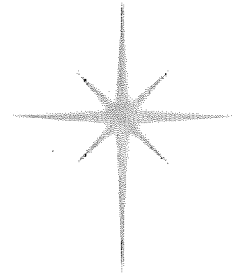
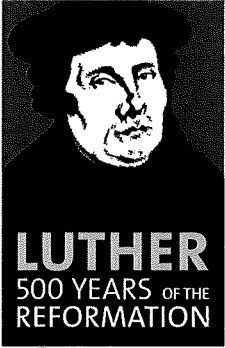


# Advent's Events

## December 2016



### ROAD TO THE REFORMATION



As a young student, Martin Luther attended several boarding schools. There he studied many subjects including Latin and the catechesism of the Roman Catholic Church. He and his classmates often sang in the streets for money and food. Later he would write about 40 hymns, including "From Heaven Above" (LBW 51) which he wrote to tell the Christmas story to his children.

Continue to watch for upcoming information on Martin Luther.

## Volunteers for December

**Lay Assistant:** Bill Monogan

**Altar Guild:**

12/4 Johanna & Bill Monogan

12/11 Ron & Ruthie Padgett

12/18 Barbara & Forrest Greer

**Greeters:** All Members of Advent

**Audio Assistants:** Jade Jones

**Lay Readers:**

Jade Jones

Cameron Buskirk

Joliene Bowers

### Prayer Lists

Ed	Ernest	Rae	Jack
Bill & Vivian		Virginia	
Smiley & Mary		Bill & Bunny	
Tommy & Ann		Lula Mae	

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Joliene Bowers 1<sup>th</sup>

Jenny Hooker 4<sup>th</sup>

Nancy White 8<sup>th</sup>

Christopher Monogan 10<sup>th</sup>

Alexander Maier 11<sup>th</sup>

Doug Barnett 15<sup>th</sup>

Victor Buskirk 15<sup>th</sup>

Kyle Owens 19<sup>th</sup>

Chuck Godwin 24<sup>th</sup>

Steve Padgett 27<sup>th</sup>

Randall Shealey 30<sup>th</sup>

**Golden Agers:**

**Vivian Barnett 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Mary Corbin 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Lula Mae Bouknight 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Mel Twite 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Ramona Lawrence 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Christine Cole 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Andrea Young 29<sup>th</sup>**



## FLOWERS & LAMPS DEDICATED IN November



11/6 In memory of Dallas Harken given with love by his family.

11/13 In celebration of Lance's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. given by Greg & Lisa's Harrelson

11/20 To the Glory of God given by Judy Goff.

11/27 To the Glory of God given by Judy Goff

11//6 In memory of Advent members who passed to the Church Triumphant in 2015  
given by Rae Wolfensberger

11/13 In memory of Advent members who passed to the Church Triumphant in 2015  
given by Rae Wolfensberger

11/20 To the Glory of God given by Judy Goff.

11/27 To the Glory of God given by Judy Goff

### Important Note:

Flower and Candle forms are provided near the charts -please complete and turn in as charts are signed. Payment may be made on/near the dedication date. Flowers are \$14.00/vase; Candle is \$4.50

Dear WALC,

I appreciate the Lutheran Book of Prayer that I received from you. Thank you for thinking of me and for offering your guidance through the year.

*Sincerely, Hannah*

### Please Note

**The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. 2016**

### SAVE THE DATES.....

Christmas Party for all on Dec 9<sup>th</sup> at Advent. 630-830pm.

Golden Agers Christmas Party on Dec.18<sup>th</sup> after Service, in Jan Eaton room.

Council Meeting and Christmas party at Tom and Ann Long's on Dec.

20@6pm. All Council members and newly elected council members and a guest are welcome.

Christmas Eve Service 7pm on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Day will be at 11am.

New Years Eve Service with Pastor Davis 11pm ...Meal following

Our Website is up and running!!!!

Please let the office know what you would like to see on our website, also share the website with others. [Adventnalc.org](http://Adventnalc.org)



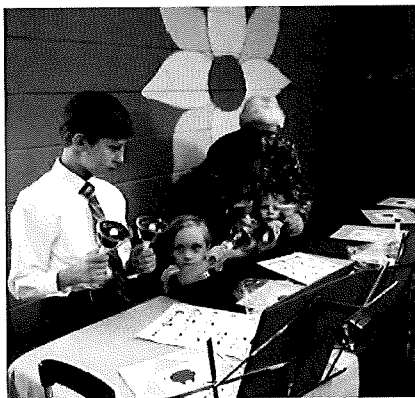
### Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Retreat was fabulous this year!!

We all enjoyed Dr. Rev Amy Schifrin. We also enjoyed our dedicated Pastor's who put in so much time and energy to make this a wonderful retreat for all every year! A very special thanks to our own Pastor Jones for the many long hours she puts in to arrange everything.

If you haven't attended one of these sessions....please plan on next year. It truly is a blessing of learning, fellowship, singing and of course food!!!!



### We have a new Handbell Group!



If you would like more information or have a little one who would love to ring bells...Please contact the office...843-554-1181. Ms. Thelma would love to have you join!

# Advent - A time for teaching the faith

Dear Followers of Christ in the North American Lutheran Church:

During my recent trip to China to meet with church leaders and “church workers” or missionaries, I was able to engage in conversations regarding the Word, the Sacraments, and worship. I raised these concerns because there are no denominations in China. There is only the CCC — the Chinese Christian Church.

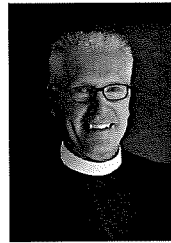
However, Lutherans were among the first and the strongest missionary presence in China beginning in the 19th Century. The Lutheran confessional understandings are deeply embedded in the faith of Christians in China.

In addition, the Church is continuing to grow and expand both in the congregations that are registered with the government and those that are not. The number of young adults coming to faith in Jesus Christ is astounding. The entire church throughout China is highly committed to Life-to-Life Discipleship.

Since there is little opportunity for overt evangelism and witnessing, people share their faith through every possible relationship. It begins in homes and spreads to extended families, neighborhoods, work and business associations, and especially on college campuses. In the midst of the constraining regulations of the government, Christian faith is being shared in the privacy of these personal conversations.

The congregational leaders focus on teaching the faith, preparing adults and entire families for Baptism, insuring their continued growth in the faith in the context of the Christian community in the life of the local congregation, and equipping them for sharing their faith in Jesus Christ with others.

Preparation for Baptism is a major priority for the congregation. It is clearly focused on the grace of Jesus Christ and the primacy of Christ’s presence and promises. The work and the power of Baptism are from the Holy Spirit conferred through the water and the Word.



## *From the Bishop*

**Bishop John Bradosky**

There are two times in the Church year specifically reserved for Baptism. Easter is obvious. During the course of my ministry I always tried to ensure we had baptisms to celebrate on the Eve of Easter. I only wish I had taken as much time in preparing those individuals and families as the CCC does. They devote the entire season of Lent for that preparation.

I confess that in my own ministry I was often more concerned with finding some innovative plan or program to give our own people a compelling reason to attend a midweek worship opportunity. Often there was more time spent on menus than the mission of teaching the faith, preparing and equipping people for life in Christ, life in the community of faith and a life of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

Historically, the Body of Christ took seriously these responsibilities of discipling those who came to faith in Jesus Christ. Their commitment to this mission kept the Church growing numerically and maturing spiritually.

The second major opportunity for Baptisms in the Church year for the Chinese Christian Church is Christmas, and the season of preparation is Advent.

As the Chinese Christians described this to me, I was ashamed that throughout my ministry I was often overwhelmed with fitting in all the special celebrations and fellowship events, cantatas and concerts, Sunday School programs and events for staff and lay leaders, designing midweek worship

*Continued on Page 5*

*Continued from Page 4*

and Christmas Eve services focused on interesting themes. The mayhem of this season overshadowed any sense of mission in teaching the faith. It was a very rare occurrence that I ever celebrated a Baptism on Christmas Day. If there was a season when preparation for Baptism was “shortchanged,” it was Advent and Christmas. Yet, when I returned and researched the history of Advent, I discovered that the focus of the CCC was more historically faithful to the mission of the Church than the focus of my ministry for many years.

Advent is the beginning of the Church Year. The word “Advent” means coming or arrival. The entire focus of the season is one of preparation. We prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth, His incarnation, His arrival into our world. The texts also force us to deal with the reality of His return in power and glory. In this season of preparation and anticipation, filled with hope, we also encounter themes of accountability, faithfulness, judgment regarding sin and the promises of forgiveness and eternal life.

This double focus on past and future is symbolic of the spiritual journey of both the individual and the congregation. We affirm that Christ has come, Christ is present, and Christ will return. From the Incarnation to the consummation of history, we live in this reality focused on mission — celebrating and proclaiming the truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ through His reconciling life, death and resurrection.

We are not mere passive observers but active participants in this reality. We participate as we faithfully follow Christ, living in a community of mutually-accountable relationships, and participating in Christ’s mission by sharing our faith and discipling others. The Messiah, the One who reigns in our life, will one day bring His righteousness, justice and peace to His entire kingdom. This is our hope and the hope we have to share with the entire world, life in Christ Jesus.

It is my prayer as you prepare for Advent and Christmas that you will not miss a precious opportunity to teach the faith, focused on the mission of the Church, to not only have hope, but to bear witness to the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus in word and deed through every relationship.

# ADVENT-

Make ready  
the way of Lord.



Rather than finding some creative plan or innovative program for Advent, I encourage you to focus on teaching the faith, preparing people for Baptism, helping the the baptized to mature in faith, and equipping them to share their faith in Christ in every relationship this Christmas. I am convinced that this is the heritage that we must reclaim as we move forward in mission and ministry. It is a heritage that is still alive and well in China. The Lord is blessing their faithful focus. As millions continue to come to faith in Christ, it is obvious their witness is bearing fruit abundantly.

May our hope and commitment to the mission of making disciples be renewed and strengthened this Advent.

With you following Christ, filled with hope and expectation,

**Bishop John Bradosky**



## Life Changes

We congratulate and welcome into our church family :  
*Hannah Bowers* and *Taylor McCray* on their Confirmation. Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>  
*Michael Forte* and *Butterfly* on their Baptism on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>



Note to Youth of Advent and ZionOlivet:  
We will be going to James Island's Holiday Festival of Lights on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. Leaving church at 4:30. Please call office at 843-554-1181 to RSVP. We need to know how many vehicles we will need. We will be having hot chocolate, and snacks.

Hope to see you there.

### Family Crosses ...

Thank you to all who have brought in a cross to represent your family. We are working on nameplates and will keep you updated as to when this will be completed.

### Wednesday Nights at Advent !!

November 30<sup>th</sup> thru December 21<sup>st</sup>.  
Dinner at 6pm  
Hymn sing and Vespers at 6:45

To the Dear Ladies of Dorcas Society,

Just when I was feeling cynical and depressed about my piling health issues, I was surprised by your present. I opened the bag and pulled back the tissue paper and did my best not to burst into tears of joy.

I just could not believe my eyes! To receive the Commemorative Reformation stole in preparation for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation of the Church was simply a stunning and grace filled moment.







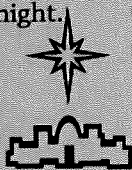

The Ladies of Dorcas are as generous as ever and continue to be a tremendous witness to me and the members of Advent of the love of the Gospel.

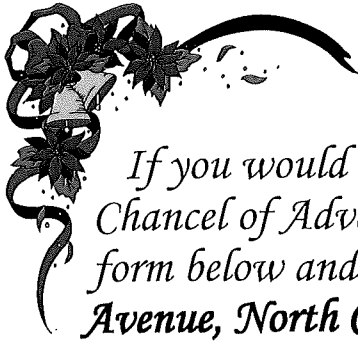
Love, Pastor Jones



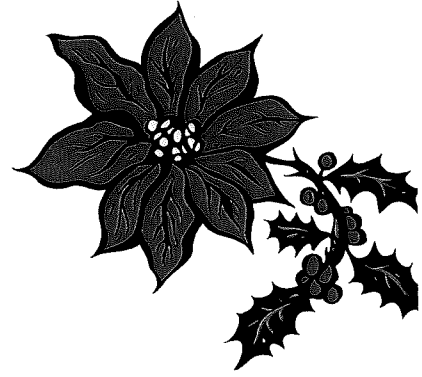
# Advent 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November 27</p> <p>Light the first candle on the Advent wreath. Why are the First Sunday of Advent and the first Sunday of a new church year the same day?</p>	<p>November 28</p> <p>The first candle on the Advent wreath is often called the Prophets' candle. Who is the child the prophet speaks of in Isaiah 9:6-7?</p>	<p>November 29</p> <p>The prophets and people of Israel were waiting for Jesus. List 10 things your family is waiting for as Christmas nears. Is it hard to wait?</p>	<p>November 30</p> <p>Read John 1:19-23. Who was John waiting to see? Sing "On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry."</p> 	<p>December 1</p> <p>Bake Christmas cookies! Is it hard to wait for them to come out of the oven? Don't eat them all! Save some for tomorrow's activity.</p>	<p>December 2</p> <p>Take some Christmas cookies to a friend. Call before you go, so they'll be awaiting you. Were they excited to see you and talk to you?</p>	<p>December 3</p> <p>Jesus is always excited to see you and talk to you. Where do we hear Jesus' words? Sing "The B-I-B-L-E." When will we see Jesus again?</p>
<p>December 4</p> <p>Light the second candle on the Advent wreath. It is often called the Bethlehem candle to remind us of how Jesus was born. Read Micah 5:2. What does it say Jesus would be?</p>	<p>December 5</p> <p>Tomorrow is St. Nicholas Day. Research who St. Nicholas was. Put out your shoes tonight and wait to receive a small treat or gift!</p> 	<p>December 6</p> <p>St. Nicholas was known for his kindness. Perform a random act of kindness today.</p> 	<p>December 7</p> <p>Sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Jesus was born during the census and the little town was very full of visitors. What do you think Bethlehem was like at that time?</p>	<p>December 8</p> <p>Sing "Away in a Manger." What's a manger, and why did Mary put Baby Jesus there? Would we consider that a good place to put a baby today? Why or why not?</p>	<p>December 9</p> <p>Pray with your family for the world's presidents, kings and other leaders. Pray that they will lead their countries wisely, justly and in the ways of Christ.</p>	<p>December 10</p> <p>Where would you expect a ruler to be born? Think about Jesus being born in a stable. If you can, visit a farm with a barn to see what that might be like.</p>
<p>December 11</p> <p>Light the third candle on the Advent wreath. This candle is often called the Shepherds' candle. It reminds us of how the shepherds told the news of Jesus' birth. Read Luke 2:8-20.</p>	<p>December 12</p> <p>Sing "Go Tell It On the Mountain." Do you have to live near the mountains to "go tell it on the mountain"? What is this song really telling us to do?</p>	<p>December 13</p> <p>Like the shepherds, we also are called to go spread the good news of Jesus to the world. What does Jesus say to the disciples — and to us! — in Matthew 28:19-20?</p>	<p>December 14</p> <p>Spread the good news! Invite friends or family members to attend Sunday school, a church service or a mid-week Advent service with your family this week to hear the word of God.</p>	<p>December 15</p> <p>A missionary's calling is to spread God's word. Does your church support a particular mission or missionary? As a family, pray for this outreach or person.</p>	<p>December 16</p> <p>Is telling people about the Gospel the only way to share Jesus with the world? Read Matthew 25:35-40.</p> 	<p>December 17</p> <p>How can you share Jesus today? Consider dropping off a donation at a food bank, visiting patients in a nursing home, etc. If you need ideas, ask your pastor.</p>
<p>December 18</p> <p>Light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath. The fourth candle is often called the Angels' candle, and it reminds us of the angels' message of peace on earth. Sing "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear."</p>	<p>December 19</p> <p>Send a Christmas card to a person serving in the armed forces or a member of your local police force. Thank them for helping ensure peace in our country. Wish them a merry Christmas and blessed New Year.</p>	<p>December 20</p> <p>Pray together for peace around the world: peace among families, peace among co-workers, peace among races, peace among countries.</p> 	<p>December 21</p> <p>Read Psalm 46. Where does this psalm say we Christians can always find peace during times of trouble?</p> 	<p>December 22</p> <p>During Advent, we get ready to celebrate Jesus' first coming on the first Christmas, but we also await his return. Are we alone until he comes back? Read John 14:26-27. Who and what has he left with us until he returns?</p>	<p>December 23</p> <p>Together with your family, read or recite the Apostles' Creed. Pay special attention to the Second Article ("And in Jesus Christ, his only Son ..."). Why did Jesus come to earth? Whom did he come to save?</p>	<p>December 24</p> <p>Bake and decorate a birthday cake for Jesus — his birthday is tomorrow! Attend a Christmas Eve worship service with your family tonight.</p> 
<p>December 25</p> <p>Merry Christmas! Attend a Christmas worship service with your family. Later, sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and enjoy a slice of his birthday cake. As you are eating cake, read Luke 2:1-20.</p>						



If you would like to order a poinsettia to beautify the Chancel of Advent this Christmas, please complete the form below and return it to the church, (3347 Rivers Avenue, North Charleston, SC 29405) along with your payment. Cost per plant is \$12.00. Make checks payable to **Advent Lutheran Church.**



**Deadline is Tuesday, December 13th** Poinsettias remaining after the Christmas Eve worship service will remain in the Sanctuary for the following Sunday.

2016 Poinsettia Order Form

December 13th

**PLEASE PRINT**

Given to the glory of God and

In loving memory of

-----*(cut here)*-----

In honor of

In celebration of

Given by

Best number in which to contact you: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of poinsettias ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_