



THE ADVENTURE



JULY 2025

PREPARING WITH FAITH AND COURAGE FOR AN UNKNOWN FUTURE

by Rev. Dr. Gabriele Schroeder

The greatest enemy of faith isn't doubt. Jesus recognized a place for authentic, honest doubt when he healed the son of a father who expressed his doubt that Jesus would be able to heal his demon-possessed son (Mark 9.24). The most formidable antagonist to faith is fear. Faith and fear often stand in direct opposition to each other in the Bible. This is why Jesus admonished people on so many occasions, "Do not fear". Fear is what undermines trust in God. Courage in the Bible is not the absence of fear; it is faith in the midst of fear.

Fear is the theme of numerous poems and prayers. Take for example, this short 1921 poem, titled "Courage":

**Courage is armor
A blind man wears,
The calloused scar
Of outlived despairs:
Courage is Fear
That has said its prayers.**

~by Karle Wilson Baker (1921)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY KARYL CIMINI

Hello Again!

I guess my message of appreciation in last month's newsletter was a little premature. It seems my time on church council is not yet over. Maybe I was just in a hurry to move on. So, let's continue where I thought was my finishing point for my tenure with the council.

It seems, today, we tend to be in a hurry - a lot. We're all guilty of it - being in a hurry. Hurry to our various activities, engagements and appointments. Hurry to finish this, that or the other thing. Hurry to complete our commitment - to have more time for ourselves. Even all the technology we have available to us propels us to move quickly through the task at hand. Now, I'm not saying technology is a bad thing, but perhaps we need to take time to really recognize where God wants us to be.

We talk a lot about following in God's footsteps - being more like him in our day to day lives. Perhaps we should take a cue from Jesus - be more like him...Jesus was never in a hurry. He always took time to be in the moment with whomever he was with at the time. Granted, Jesus didn't have all the distractions we have today, but just being there for the person or people he was in conversation with is a strong example of how he wants us to be.

As we start our year with our new council, my hope is to make this year more about connecting as a congregation, no, as a family of God and let the rest fall into place. I think our being in a hurry causes us to lose track of what's really important - our personal relationships with others. So, I encourage you to take time to say hello to someone new on Sunday morning (someone you don't normally talk to). Let's really get to know each other - let's be more like Jesus and be in the moment, wherever we are or whoever we're with.

Take time, slow down, enjoy all that God has provided for us - let's live in the moment and not be in a hurry.

Peace,

Karyl



HOW LUTHERANS READ THE BIBLE *by Pastor Gabi*



SUNDAYS AT 10:45 AM

JUNE 22 – AUGUST 3, 2025

June 22 Introduction - What the Bible is and what it is not

June 29 4 Ways of Studying the Bible

1. Devotional Reading
2. Historical Reading
3. Literary Reading
4. Lutheran Theological Reading

July 6 Devotional Reading (assumptions & guiding principles; how to)

[July 13 No Class – Summer Potluck]

July 20 Historical Reading (assumptions & guiding principles; how to)

July 27 Literary Reading (assumptions & guiding principles; how to)

August 3 Lutheran Theological Reading / 5 Key Lutheran Principles

1. Law and Gospel
2. What shows forth Christ
3. Scripture interprets Scripture
4. The Plain Meaning of the Text
5. Public Interpretation

SUNRISE CHRISTIAN FOOD MINISTRY



Community Effort Secures Future of Sunrise Christian Food Ministry

Sunrise Christian Food Ministry is proud to announce a major milestone in its mission to fight hunger: a new 10-year lease agreement with Advent Lutheran Church, ensuring the food closet will have a home to serve the community through 2035.

Advent Lutheran is one of 20 faith-based partners in Sacramento County that provide ongoing support through donations of food, funds, and volunteer time, making the daily operation of the food closet possible.

The local business community is also a vital pillar of support. Every July, our local Citrus Heights Grocery Outlet spearheads the "Independence From Hunger" campaign, rallying local businesses to join the cause. This month-long fundraiser consistently brings in \$10,000 to help restock the food closet's shelves during the busy summer season.

Corporate partners continue to step up in big ways. Republic Services recently began providing waste hauling and recycling services at no cost, allowing Sunrise Christian Food Ministry to redirect those savings toward other community-focused expenses.

Generous contributions from businesses like Dutch Bros, Cricket Wireless, PG&E, Abound Food Care, and SMUD have helped the food closet weather rising costs. Notably, SCFM was honored with a \$30,000 Shine Award to fund much-needed facility weatherization and energy upgrades.

Facility improvements kicked off last month during the Citrus Heights Big Day of

SUNRISE CHRISTIAN FOOD MINISTRY(CONT'D)

Service, when volunteers—including crews from Camacho's Custom Painting, Pride Career Hub, and Citrus Heights Grocery Outlet—gave the food closet a facelift with a fresh coat of paint.

Looking ahead to the holiday season, Sunrise Christian Food Ministry has been chosen as a featured charity in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Light the World Giving Machine at the Roseville Galleria Mall—offering a new way for community members to give back.

This wave of support comes at a crucial time, as looming cuts to local, state, and federal funding threaten food assistance programs across the region.

If you or your business would like to join the vital network of supporters, visit www.sunrisechristianfoodministry.org to learn how you can help make a difference. *(This article will appear in an upcoming issue of CH Messenger!)*

ST. JOHN'S PROGRAM FOR REAL CHANGE



Advent's volunteers served a festive, 4th of July meal on June 23 at St. John's Program for Real Change! Pictured are the Flag Cupcakes that topped off a meal of Sloppy Joe's and Watermelon. Thank you to all who helped prepare and serve a fun meal, and especially to Jenny Stern for her coordination of this ministry!

Quotables:

"A friend is a present you give yourself."

Robert Louis Stevenson

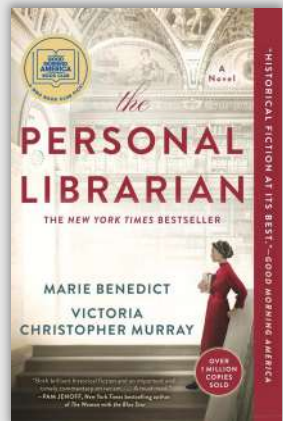


ZOOM BOOK CLUB

Our book club meets monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm via Zoom. The next meeting is on July 21st. The book club has selected "*The Personal Librarian*" for July's discussion:

A remarkable novel about J.P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, the Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation, from New York Times bestselling authors Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J.P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection.

But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.



The Personal Librarian tells the story of an extraordinary woman, famous for her intellect, style and wit and shares the lengths she must go to—for the protection of her family and her legacy—to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.

All are welcome to join the discussion. Contact Beth Mora at emorab@comcast.net for the Zoom link. We'll look forward to seeing you!

GELLI PRINTING

Many thanks to Pastor Gabi for leading this fun event on June 18, and to the Ways to Wellness and Christian Education Committees for coordinating it! Creative juices were flowing!



HART HAPPENINGS



Dear Citrus Heights HART Supporter,

We're reaching out today with **gratitude—and urgency.**

Thanks to supporters like you, **Citrus Heights HART** continues to keep families safely housed and stable through our **Rental Assistance Program**. These aren't just numbers. They're real people—**single parents starting over, seniors on fixed incomes, and students in crisis**—who now have the stability they need to move forward.

But the need in our community is growing. **Rental assistance requests are at an all-time high**, and our funds are critically low.

A Look at Just One Week of Need in Citrus Heights:

- We helped a **family of five**, including three young children, avoid eviction by covering rental and utility costs. We also connected the father with two promising job leads. Without help, they would have been unhoused—with an eviction on record, making future housing nearly impossible.
- We assisted a **disabled family of five** who lost their home in a fire. With our help covering the deposit, they've now moved into a new, safe home.
- We bridged the gap for a **formerly homeless man** who couldn't cover rent while waiting for his new job to start in two weeks.
- We supported a couple facing eviction due to a **one-time medical crisis**. Despite 11 years of on-time payments, they fell behind. Our assistance ensured they could stay in their home.
- We provided **two weeks of temporary housing** for a blind man and his son. They'll be moving into permanent housing this month.

And beyond housing, we were also able to assist **two individuals with car registration and smog support** so they could maintain employment.

Why This Matters:

Once someone becomes unhoused, the barriers to stability become much greater.

HART CONTINUED...

Affordable housing is scarce. Resources are limited. Our goal is simple but critical: **prevent homelessness before it starts.**

But we can't do it without you.

Will you help us continue this life-changing work?

Your donation today can:

- Cover a **security deposit** for a fire-displaced family
- Prevent eviction for a **working parent**
- Help a **student and their family** remain safely housed

Cover a **utility bill** for an elderly neighbor facing medical hardship
Even **\$25 a month** can provide hygiene supplies, meals, or transportation for someone working toward stability.



Your gift is more than a donation—it's hope, dignity, and a path forward.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we can continue to be the HART of housing in Citrus Heights.

With gratitude,

The Citrus Heights HART Team

Before referring or calling HART for assistance, please note, all requests are thoroughly vetted. We are only able to help with gap needs (one month) and the client must be able to pay moving forward.

Donate via Check/Cash:

Please make checks payable to Citrus Heights HART. Checks can be delivered to Irene Hronicsek at the general meeting or mailed to:

**Citrus Heights HART
8095 Greenback Lane Ste D
Citrus Heights CA 95610**



SUMMER
PICNIC

A graphic for a Summer Picnic Karaoke event. It features a green grassy field with a string of American flags hanging across the top. A vintage-style microphone is positioned in the center. The word 'KARAOKE' is written in a stylized font on a red and white banner at the bottom. The date 'JULY 13' and the phrase 'AFTER WORSHIP' are also present.

JULY 13

AFTER WORSHIP

KARAOKE

Sing in the
SUMMER
CHOIR

A graphic for a Summer Choir event. It features a yellow background with a red border. The text 'Sing in the' is in a cursive font, and 'SUMMER CHOIR' is in large, bold, block letters. The letters are filled with various colorful floral patterns.

8:30 AM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025

Lay & Rostered Leaders

Preaching Retreat



Pastor Gabi helped to facilitate the Synod's Lay & Rostered Leaders Preaching Retreat June 20-22. In preparation, she prepared her Guiding Principles for Preaching ... you can see them below!

Gabi's Guiding Principles for Preaching

- Believe what you preach; do not preach more than you believe.
- Admit when you wrestle with something or don't know something.
- Preach to yourself first. You are your first audience. Trust that what you need to hear, your audience will, too.
- A sermon is persuasive speech, not an informative lecture
- Preach 1 sermon, not 2, 3, or 4 sermons in one.
- If you cannot remember what you intend to say, how can you expect your audience to remember?
- Use your whole body to preach.
- Quoting Luther is not what makes a sermon Lutheran; the message of God's grace and the good news of the Cross of Christ are what makes sermons Lutheran.
- Do not regularly use your family as illustration and never without their permission.
- Preaching comes with certain power, do not abuse it by saying things that better belong in a situation where people can respond.

JULY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

DATE	7/6	7/13	7/20	7/27
GREETER	Tom & Cornelia Chancellor	Diane Peterson	Dorothy Michaelis	Nancy King
PASTOR	Rev. Dr. Gabi Schroeder			
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Josh & Cole Tolman	Dean Henricks	Luke Patterson	Pat Johnson
LECTORS	Ken Johnson	Leslie Scheurer	Cornelia Chancellor	Mary Grivna
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
ALTAR FLOWERS	Twila Engler	Available	Available	Available
AV TECH	Nolana Mymka	Joyce Montag	Nolana Mymka	Bruce Hansen
LIVESTREAM TECHIE	Adam Pollock			
USHERS	** Richard Robinson, Beth Mora			
ALTAR GUILD	TEAM F: **Linda Mathews, Erika Shepherd, Cheryl Adams			

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Tony Bubba.....July 2
 Jennifer Tolman.....July 3
 Carolyn Brian.....July 4
 Josh Tolman.....July 6
 Dorothy Michaelis.....July 14
 Bette Squier.....July 17
 Erick Ammons.....July 18
 Kris Heath.....July 23
 Amy Gariano.....July 24
 Rebecca Williams.....July 25
 Jenny Stern.....July 27
 Britta Peterson.....July 27

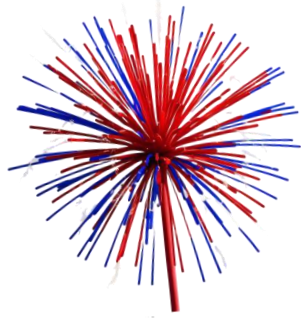


Interested?? Please reach out to Pastor Gabi!

**COLLABORATORS WANTED TO PARTICIPATE
 IN DESIGNING OUR**

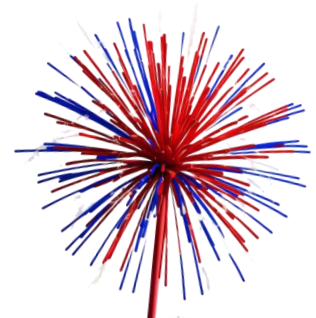
**Reformation
 SUNDAY**

SERVICE



ADVENT CALENDAR

JULY 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 7:00pm Christian Education Committee (ZOOM)	2 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group	3 5:30pm - 8:30pm Knitters Guild	4 Independence Day 1:00pm Ways to Wellness	5
6 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion www.youtube.com/@Advent_Citrus_HighlightsStreams 10:45am How Lutherans Read the Bible 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	7 9:30am Offering Counters 6:00pm AA Meeting	8 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 3:00pm Finance Committee ZOOM Meeting 3:30pm - 4:30pm Fellowship Committee Meeting 6:00pm HART Meeting	9 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group	10 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	11	12 8:30am Stern-Johnson Bike Club
13 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion 11:00am Summer Potluck w/ Karaoke 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	14 9:30am Offering Counters 11:00am Bunco Babes 6:00pm AA Meeting	15 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters	16 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group	17 6:30pm Park Oaks Neighborhood Association Meeting (Area 5, PONA)	18	19 5:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 
20 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:45am How Lutherans Read the Bible 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	21 9:30am Offering Counters 6:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Zoom Book Club	22 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters	23 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group	24	25	26 8:30am Stern-Johnson Bike Club
27 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:45am How Lutherans Read the Bible 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	28 9:30am Offering Counters 10:00am Serve Lunch @ St John's Program for Real Change 6:00pm AA Meeting	29 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters	30 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group	31 		

OUT N' ABOUT

This "Getting to Know You" group took a trip to the Alpaca Farm in Orangevale! Have you done some fun activities with your group? Share your pictures and ideas with the rest of us!



PRAYER CHAIN INTERCESSIONS & THANKSGIVING

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Patty Barnes, sister of Russell Beeck and Carol Whyte, who was diagnosed with kidney cancer in mid-2024. Prayers for the success of her cancer treatment in stopping the progress of the disease.

Marcia Becwar, a close friend of Jenny Stern, who is undergoing treatment for recurring cancer. Please pray for Marcia's comfort and successful treatment.

Russell Beeck, who continues to struggle with health issues. Please pray that his spirits can be lifted and his frustrations eased.

Dan Chancellor, Tom's brother, following another surgery on his foot after an accident at work. Please pray for continued healing for Dan and the increased functionality of his foot.

Dave Curtright, Jr., Melinda Malaspino's brother-in-law, has returned home following a long stay in ICU. Please continue to keep him and his wife, Kathlee, in prayer as they navigate through Dave's increasing health concerns.

Jeff Henry, Kathy and Ken Johnson's son-in-law, diagnosed with cancer. Please pray that Jeff's medical team is able to come up with an effective treatment plan.

Tom Kent, prayers for increased physical strength and mobility, and the optimal functioning of his main medical devices.

Jann Knutson, who has moved from the hospital to a rehabilitation facility. Her Parkinson's Disease continues to worsen, and will make it difficult for her to return home. Let us pray that a solution can be found and that Jann will feel the love of God and those around her.

PRAYERS CONTINUED...

The family of Darik McAllister, who passed away on June 22 from cancer. Darik was the father of Ally and Kaylee (former Advent youth). Let us pray for peace and comfort for Darik's family during this difficult time.

Shirley McIntyre, Nancy King's aunt, who returned to her home from a rehabilitation facility on June 24. Please pray that Shirley's condition continues to improve, allowing her to stay in her home.

Barbara Olson, as she recovers from knee surgery (May 28th). Please pray for a full and fast recovery for Barbara so she can resume her previous activities.

The family of Pamela Owens, the cousin of Melinda Malaspino, who passed into life eternal on June 23 at her convalescent home in Turlock. Please pray that Pamela's family may experience God's comfort as they mourn.

Winnie Parish, prayers for continued recovery from her neck injury.

Betty Rockwell, as she lives with the long-term effects of a stroke. Please pray for comfort and patience for Betty.

Joy Rowland, who is undergoing chemotherapy and radiation to treat uterine cancer. Let us pray that Joy's treatment will have minimal side effects and be successful in removing the cancer.

Sylvia, the wife of former Matimba Parish pastor, Rev. Twesige Georges. Sylvia is now recovering at home following a long hospitalization for significant stomach surgery. Please pray for Sylvia's continued healing.

Mary Toutonghi, who has moved to assisted living (Fair Oaks Villa). The long-term plan is for Mary to sell her home and move to a facility closer to her son. Let us pray that Mary improves and adjusts well to all these changes.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ADVENT

The Story of How Advent Lutheran Church Improved its Campus
הסיפור על איך הכנסייה הלותרנית באדוונט שיפרה את הקמפוס שלה

¹In the beginning, there were potholes, cracked concrete, peeling paint, and a dead lawn. ²Then the congregation said, "Let there be new concrete, a retaining wall, new landscaping, and fresh paint on the Advent sign." ³And it was so. The workers removed the old concrete, built a retaining wall, landscaped the Front 40, and painted the church sign and the cross. ⁴And the people saw that it was good. And there was a full moon and a new moon, the first month.

⁵And the congregation said, "Let there be a working irrigation system, new plants, a memorial rose garden, a repaired sanctuary carpet, and a rebuilt choir platform." ⁶And it was so. The workers repaired the broken irrigation system, planted roses and other plants, repaired the carpet, and rebuilt the choir platform. ⁷And the people saw that it was good. And there was a full moon and a new moon, the second month.

⁸And the congregation said, "Let there be new asphalt in place of the previous potholes and cracks. Let there be stripes on the asphalt, separating the lanes and parking stalls from one another."

⁹And it was so. The workers removed the old parking lot cover, put down new asphalt, painted the stripes to mark parking stalls, entrance lanes, and handicapped parking spots. ¹⁰And the people saw that it was good. And there was a full moon and a new moon, the third month.

¹¹The people saw everything that they had made, and indeed, it was very good. ¹²Thus the Campus Improvement Project was finished. ¹³Within the span of three months, the congregation finished the work that they had done, rested from all the work that they had done, and gave thanks to their leaders and for the work that was now finished.

¹⁴This is the story of how the church campus was improved for future worship and ministry.

"REMEMBERINGS"

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
5901 San Juan Ave. Citrus Heights, CA.

First Worship Service: October 13, 1957
Organization Day: February 16, 1958
First Confirmation: November 30, 1958

Compiled for the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary
Celebration of Advent Lutheran Church, Citrus
Heights, California. November 5, 1978.
We would extend our appreciation to Nels and
Hattie Olson, Yvonne Munoz and Gerry Lillya for
their efforts in compiling this record.

Tonight we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of Advent Lutheran Church. It seems almost impossible that 20 years have past since the Organization Day of our church. It is hoped that all will enjoy reminiscing some of the highlights of Advent's beginnings which have made this church very dear to us.

Our thoughts go back to May of 1957, when Pastor Ragnar Kastman, who was serving the Board of Missions, recommended that this very desirable 5 acre tract of land be bought for a future church sight. He told us that he had to do some "haggling" on the purchase price. But, the purchase was made and 5901 San Juan Ave. was to become the site of Advent Lutheran Church.

It wasn't until August 1st of 1957, that two eager figures made their way up the long steep hill to what was to be their parsonage home. We might add that at night from the top of this hill the only lights that could be seen were those from the newly built Sky Crest Terrace tract of land. When Pastor J. Glen Sandquist and wife, Charlene, moved into the little old house, the water pump broke the 3rd day they were here, and the plumbing needed repairs. Their furniture was slow in arriving, but the house was already well occupied.... with mice, lizards and the usual flying insects! In spite of this and the 100 degree heat and the endless calling on prospective members, Pastor Sandquist gathered together the small flock of worshippers for the first time on October 13, 1957.

The faithful gathered for the first formal worship service of Advent Lutheran Church in the old Fair Oaks Theatre, which originally was a quansit hut! We appreciated the use of the theatre even though the surroundings were far from church-like. As we entered the theatre we were greeted with large glaring posters advertizing the coming attractions (movies). "The Vampire Lady"; "Splendor in the Grass"; and the "Untouchables" were current then! The lighting consisted of one spot-light which was used for cleaning purposes. As we groped our way in the twilight-zone, the words "excuse me" were almost part of the ritual. However, we all felt in truth that the awe and reverence of our first worship could not have been enhanced more by the finest cathedral in the world. This truly was Advent in our hearts!

On February 16, 1958, there were enough members required to complete the original charter and Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church was on its way! Besides devotional services of worship each Sunday, the Lutheran Church Women's group was organized. We also organized a prayer group and a visitation team to remember those who become ill and also visit the convalescent home in Fair Oaks, under the guidance of Pastor Ramsey. The Altar group was also started with devotions and Bible study at each meeting. We were very busy with our hearts and hands in service to our Lord.

The first confirmation class to be confirmed at Advent was on November 30, 1958. It wasn't long before the theatre building was sold, and again came the task of finding another place to worship. The Vetrans of Foreign Wars Hall in Orangevale was the only available location. If anything, this involved more problems. The Hall had to be cleaned each Sunday morning after Saturday night of dancing and poker playing. Pastor Sandquist and several of the men had to drive to the hall sweep and clean the floor many times, break up all-night card games and air th the building out. Many times they would come at 5:30a.m. because of the debris and air pollution. The pulpit, altar, portable organ and chairs had to be set up. There was another factor than influenced the meeting at the Hall. It is located right at the end of the runway of the Pheonix Airport, and planes would continually fly over the building. We couldn't always hear what was said, but the "soul satisfaction" more then made up for these minimal distractions.

(Continued on pages 20-21)

We shall never forget the Service of Ground Breaking on February 15, 1959.. The highwinds and pelting rain didn't phase our little group. After endless committee meetings and congregational meetings we were on our way to our very own church home. One of the biggest concerns was whether to specify a cross for the building. Finally, one small girl's desire to worship in a real church "with a cross as her friend had" brought a unanimous decision from the congregation to have a cross erected on the building (presently on the north end of the Education Building), and the first unit was started on March 2, 1959

It might be added that when the bids were let out a Mr. Knapp who had built several churches in the area, allowed and accepted congregational help -- of which everyone pitched in! "Remember the tools the men brought: some hammers were too heavy, too light, others too worn out, ground too much like cement....blisters, lumbago... 'We hit oil!', no, just the old leech line."--These were just some of the comments heard during the construction of that first unit. Some even said, "Women use paint brushes like they are scrubbing floors!" or "Don't put the ladders away until everyone's off the roof!" Work progressed so rapidly, that on July 19 of the same year, 1959, the Dedication Service was held.

The service was filled with feelings of Thanksgiving and praise to God. We were thankful, proud and happy! The Dedication Service was held at 2:30p.m., with a heatwave in progress. But the joy of the moment was not consumed in the mid-days heat. 240 attended with 6 visiting pastors. Dr. Karl Segerhammer, President of the California District of the Augustana Synod gave the dedication sermon.

We were thankful to Pastor Sandquist and Charlene for their faithful service when they decided to accept a call for a new mission field in Texas.

An intern by the name of Kurt Gust was recommended to our congregation as interim pastor while he attended Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. Within a month he brought his family here and we can truly say he was one of the busiest pastors in Sac. Co. He was a blessing and inspiration to all of us, and his year here was much appreciated. We shall never forget his last sermon at Advent. He spoke lovingly and encouragingly to us. He finished by singing without accompaniment "How Great Thou Art." There was hardly a dry eye in the church that morning. He had told us that when he was 12 years old, he and members of his family were lined up to be executed after almost being starved to death by the Nazi Gestapo. Then the American forces entered their village and saved their lives. Pastor Gust passed away 3 years after he left Advent in Annandale, Minn.

1962 found us bursting at the seams. The neighborhood was growing fast as Aero-Jet continued to hire more people. We were hoping for a new building and looking for a new pastor, when, suddenly, a car drove up the hill and out jumped young, suma cum laudi, Pastor Herb Anderson! Now we had a pastor again and with his enthusiasm we looked forward to a larger building to worship in. In the meantime, the youth group had cleaned, painted and furnished the old shed on the back lot, where they could enjoy their own "youth hall", and extra Sunday School room. Several of the teachers also cleaned out and scrubbed the garage for more classes! But, Oh how we needed to expand!

On June 20, 1965, the Ground Breaking Service was held for the 2nd building, and on November 28, 1965, the Dedication Service of the building presently used for Worship was held. Again, it was with much thanksgiving and joy! Dr. Charles Cooper, President of the Seminary, preached the dedication sermon with 6 other pastors participating. It was simply wonderful to worship in this light and airy structure after being so crowded. The Altar furnishings, Communion service, organ, the pulpit, Baptismal font (which were made to match the Altar backdrop), these were all Love gifts by members of the congregation. The church library was also started then. Most of the books were donated by the congregation and the cataloguing and supervising has been done for many years under the great care of Nancy Chorman.

During Pastor Anderson's pastorate at Advent, the congregation had the pleasure of attending the beautiful and moving wedding service for him and Phyllis, at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in San Francisco. Pastor Anderson and Phyllis later took a call to serve in the Mid-west, at which time Pastor Korsrud served Advent as interim until a new pastor was called.

We well remember at about this time Aero-Jet Corp. decided to drastically cut back production at its plant in this community. Many of our congregation were transferred or found work elsewhere. Houses were for sale at reasonable prices. We all felt the loss, and were thankful this building had been completed, when our new pastor arrived. Pastor Martin Wager, Junia and sons, Stephen and Gregg. Under Pastor Wager's guidance we became a community serving church. We had enough room now so the Parish Hall was used by various community organizations. The little house on the hill was rented to the San Juan School District for a Parent Participation Preschool. The Seventh Day Adventist Church rented both buildings each Saturday for several years. Our Youth group were encouraged to serve on the Church Council, and several of them fulfilled their terms faithfully. The group also attended the All Lutheran Youth Gathering at Houston, Texas, in the summer of 1973. Pastor Wager and family bid Advent farewell in the Fall of 1976, leaving for a call to Monterey, Calif.

We were blessed again to have Pastor Kastman serve as interim pastor until Pastor Ray Olsen, Jill and children Nathan and Heather came to Advent in July of 1977.

This past year has been one of love, activity, learning and growth. We look forward with enthusiasm to each year allowed us at Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church!

Psalms 122: "I was glad when they said unto me: 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"

Thank you for sharing in these memories.

REMEMBERING OUR PRAISE IN SONG

This is a short history of our memories in music which has always been a great Lutheran heritage, and quite a number of our senior members who are here today were choir members.

Charlene Sandquist was a music major so taking charge of congregations music area was a natural for her. We were loaned a little old foot-pump organ from the Chapel at McClellan Field which was moved each Sunday to our worship services. The first choir consisted of 6 women. We were small in numbers but great in enthusiasm, and it wasn't long before the congregation enjoyed the welcome of mellow voiced of our men in harmony - a full choir! At choir practice we women took turns bringing cake and coffee, in those days and after practice a social break was enjoyed.

After the Sandquists left, Gerry Lilly directed the Adult Choir. She had been directing the Children's Choir. When Robert Tidings arrived, he directed the Adult Choir. He donated the robes the choir is presently using as a memorial to his wife Carol, who passed away while they were living in the community.

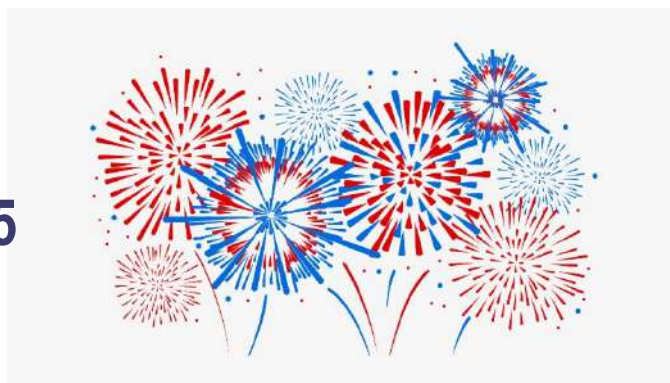
Norm Green then became choir director until Betty Rockwell, who is our faithful director now, took over. Phyllis Hemingway also helped direct and also played the organ whenever needed. Norita Barrios has been our faithful organist at the present time for several years.

One can't imagine all the effort and time these faithful song-birds have given in love to bless our services, to sing with the "heavenly hosts praising God, and saying: 'Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, Peace and Good will toward men.'"

This gem was found by Cornelia Chancellor (thanks for sharing, Cornelia)! Advent was—and is—truly blessed by the people who make up our community of faith, allowing us to be a blessing to others!

TREASURER'S REPORT

PROFITS & LOSSES MAY 2025



	TOTAL
Revenue	
Total 4000 Budgeted Offering	18,797.95
Total 4030 Facility Use	323.00
4035 Interest Earned	135.62
4050 SCFM Rent	1,000.00
4056 Other Income - Misc	4,277.79
Total Revenue	\$24,534.36
GROSS INCOME	\$24,534.36
Expenditures	
Total 6000 Personnel	13,597.28
Total 6220 Payroll Taxes and Benefits	2,468.14
Total 7030 Finance	134.70
Total 7050 Property	120.06
7070 Stewardship	70.63
Total 8190 Office Expense	84.84
8260 Property & Casualty Insurance	939.34
Total 8280 Service Contracts	1,662.85
Total 8330 Utilities	1,681.16
8345 Bank Charges	8.60
Total 8350 Benevolences	1,993.94
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	237.00
Total Expenditures	\$22,998.54
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$1,535.82

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 MANY THANKS!

Congratulations, Nargis Karamatova. B.Sc.



PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUED...

(continued from page 1)

A prayer that since 1958 was incorporated into the "Morning and Evening Prayer" section of Lutheran hymnals (ELW, p.317), was first written in 1941 when its author – Anglican priest and academic Eric Milner-White – served as military chaplain in the British army:

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

**O God,
you have called your servants
to ventures
of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths
as yet untrodden,
through perils
unknown.
Give us faith
to go out
with good courage,
not knowing
where we go,
but only
that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord.
Amen**

~by Eric Milner-White (1941)

Eric Milner-White was an Anglican priest who had deep affection for the *Book of Common Prayer*, yet he soon discovered many of its time-honored prayers failed to connect with soldiers in the field. Such prayers seemed overly formal to troops in the trenches who daily faced the chilling prospect of injury or death. Eric began to write prayers of his own to share with frightened soldiers. Later, he compiled these prayers into a book titled *Daily Prayer*. Today, The Call of Abraham is better known as "The Prayer of Good Courage."

I am sharing these resources with you because we live in anxious times. The world around is changing at a harrowing pace. At the same time, US society is reaching new heights (or lows?) of conflict, division, aggression, and rudeness.

The anxiety of the times can be felt particularly strongly within mainline Protestantism. For most of U.S. history, mainline Protestants (Lutherans, Reformed, Methodists, and Episcopalians), comfortably occupied the theological middle ground between religious extremists on either end ... with most Protestant churchgoers attending

(Continued on next page)

PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUED...

mainline worship services. While we still hold down the theological middle, that middle ground has become smaller with each passing decade.

Overall, Americans continue to be more religious than Europeans, yet, more and more of the people who state that they believe in God, subscribe to fundamentalist/Pentecostal or post-Christian/New-Age beliefs. When you add to this development the rise of distrust of institutions, it is no wonder that churches like Advent are shrinking. The stronger the polarization, the less room there's left in the middle. For mainline denominations this means smaller worship attendance, less people to share in the work of ministry, and shrinking budgets. No wonder that anxiety is growing in mainline denominations! These observations are simply facts that we cannot ignore any longer. Lament alone will not help and certainly won't bring back the olden days.

Our biggest challenge over the coming years will be to acknowledge these facts yet doing it without fear. *Being smaller* is not the same as *being irrelevant*.

Relevance must never be measured by numbers. After all, the One whom we worship died on a cross, in his dying and

rising, became the grain that fell into the earth and died, but in the end, bore much fruit. (John 12:24). Looked at from the outside, Jesus' earthly life was a story of failure. Only after God raised Jesus from death, did the trajectory of his story change. Only after his followers learned to interpret his life and ministry in radically new ways, did they grow as a community.

Congregations that honestly address their numerical decline can prepare for the future and even reinvent themselves. Congregations that face the facts can recapture power that they thought they had lost.

If I look at Advent, for example, this is what I see: A congregation that has worked tirelessly and successfully over the past seven years to upgrade its

technology,

financial stability (paying off its mortgage and building up reserves)

constitution,

policies,

inside appearance and safety, and

outside appearance and safety.

At the same time, we have continued to invest in our youth and to celebrate them

PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUED...

(just in different ways), we continue to serve low-income food-insecure neighbors via our food closet, we continue to support the ministry of our sister parish in Rwanda and the work of faith-based non-profit organizations each month (list them?).

Likely, 10 years from now, our congregation might have fewer regular members than it has today. Most of Advent's income comes from the offerings of those who have formally joined the congregation as members. While we are deeply grateful for the regular visitors who attend worship services and for their offerings, it is members who help us pay most of our bills.

So, what then should we do, given that our future membership and future offerings likely will be smaller than today? Should we panic? Should we cut back our stewardship support to our denomination (Sierra Pacific Synod and ELCA Churchwide Organization)? Businesspeople typically would offer two suggestions – if finances are tight, an organization must either cut back on expenses or find new sources of revenue. I believe that for churches there is a third option – learn to change

the ways we “do” church.

For centuries, the two largest expenses congregations incur have been building expenses and professional staff salaries. I propose that we use the coming years to prepare for that future prepare and learn novel ways of being church with a smaller staff, especially without a full-time pastor. Those changes need time, imagination, and vision. To be successful and sustainable, they should not be done hastily.

I am fully committed to staying at Advent for another 7 years (God willing and provided that my health permits). I propose that we use this time to build up lay leadership in new ways over this time, so that the congregation would be able to not only survive but thrive in partnership with a part-time pastor.

To just give a couple of examples of what comes to my mind:

Our current bylaws call for certain committees that we are unable to ever fully populate. Instead of agonizing over committee vacancies, let's find other, more nimble ways of doing ministry and then change our bylaws.

Currently, it is the pastor who plans worship services, presides at

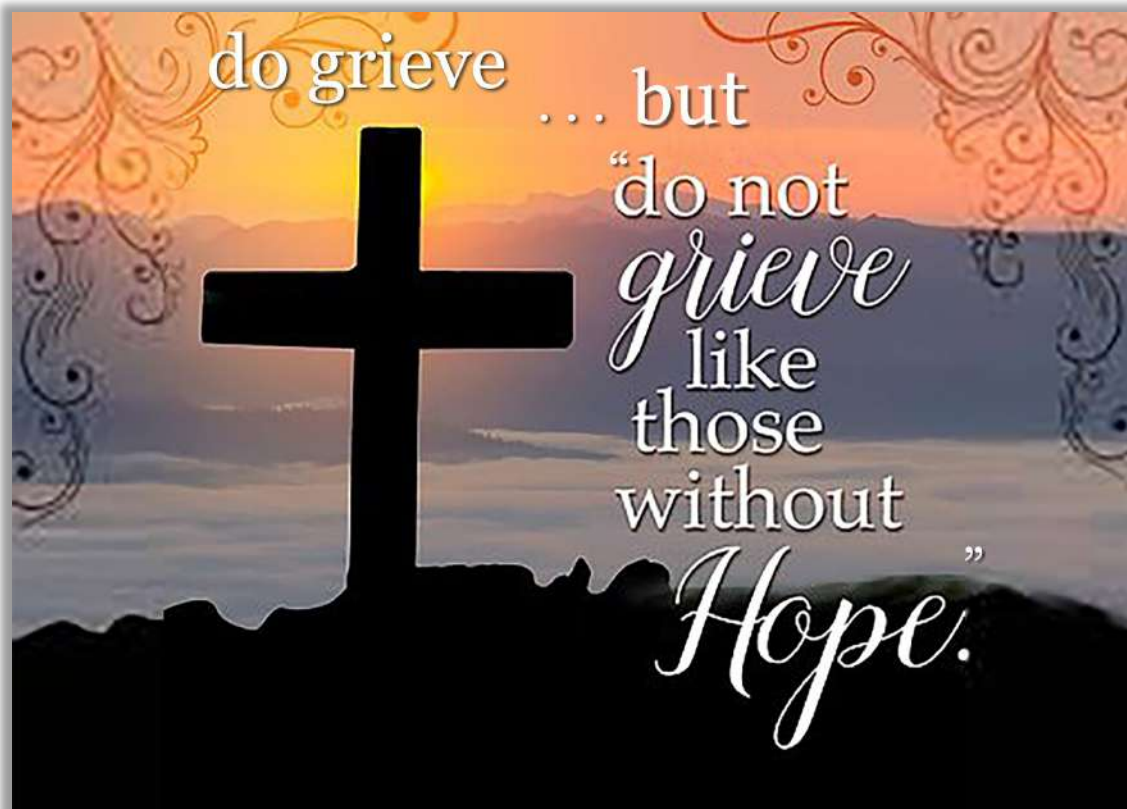
PASTOR'S ARTICLE CONTINUED...

communion, and preaches. While this works just fine for a full-time pastor, part-time pastors may lead only 2-3 monthly worship services. Let's equip our members to cover the rest by offering training for lay preachers and lay worship leaders, beyond what assisting ministers are already doing. Preparing sermons and worship services is deeply rewarding, builds up personal confidence, and can even serve as an instrument to grow in faith, hope and love while doing so. Who knows, we might even be able to build this up into an "Advent Lutheran Lay Academy," making this a synod-wide

resource (and source of new income for Advent?) and serving the Lutheran Church beyond our congregation.

These are just a couple of examples of how we can prepare for an unknown future. If you selflessly care for Lutheran ministry in this place beyond your own life-time, if you care for Lutheran voices and Lutheran witness for generations to come, please join me in preparing for that future.

Pastor Gabi





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THROUGH GOD'S GRACE,
WE GATHER, WORSHIP,
GROW, AND CARE

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