

**Advent Lutheran Church**  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, January 23, 2011

**Agenda**

**I. Opening Prayer**

**II. Strategic Planning Process/ Guided Conversations – Pastor Charles Miller**

**III. Approval of the Minutes from January 24, 2010**

**IV. Approval of Annual Reports of the Staff, Committees, and Task Forces of the Congregation**

**Pastor's Report**-Pastor J. Elise Brown

**Staff Reports**

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries- Julie Hagen  
Minister of Music Classical Tradition- Aaron Wunsch  
Ministers of Music Contemporary Tradition- Emily Ballentine and Jordan Clawson  
Building Administrator/ Property- Jane Huerta

**Ministries**

Council President's Report- Carlos Lopez  
Abiding Memorial- Dorothy Metzger  
Adventurous Adventonians- Kathy Matson and Kathy Carpenter  
Advent Maternal Health Initiative (AMHI) – Brelyn Johnson  
Advent LIFE- Kelly Kandler  
Adult Education- Pastor J. Elise Brown  
Altar Guild- Lynne Henderson  
Assisting Ministers- Ricki Ravitts  
Audit – Karen Cantrell  
Chalice Bearers- Karen Cantrell  
Counters- Nicole Johnson  
ELCA Malaria Initiative – Pastor Miller, Gail Wagner  
Equipo El Salvador – Norma Martin  
Flowers- Betsy Armstrong  
Food program reports- Carlos Lopez, Steven Fuentes and Frankie Thompkins  
Greeter/Ushers- Elba Cabrera and Kathy Matson  
Investment Task Force- Jim Kelly  
Lectors- Stacey Gunderman  
Lutheran Counseling Center- Dr. Tom Taylor  
Mission Fund- Madelyn Soussoudis  
Music Mondays- Aaron Wunsch  
Newsletter- Kathy Carpenter  
Personnel- Nathan Urquhart

Prayer Ministry- Grace Cobbinah  
Scholarship-Kathy Carpenter  
Spanish Ministry – Carlos Lopez & Rose Tresgallo  
Stewardship & Mission Interpretation- Mark Baldassare, Pastor Sudbrock  
Tiffany Restoration – Hans Kriefall  
Worship-Carolyn Riehl

Treasurer's Report- Hans Kriefall

#### **V. Action Items**

Nominating Committee- Nicole Johnson  
Fiscal 2011 Budget- Nicole Johnson and Linda Kelly for Hans Kriefall

#### **VI. Adjournment**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE JANUARY 2011 MEETING

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Minutes  
Congregational Meeting  
January 24, 2010**

After an opening prayer, the meeting was called to order by President Carlos Lopez.

The minutes of the January 25, 2009 Annual Meeting of the congregation were approved as presented, as were the minutes of the September 27, 2009 special meeting of the Congregation.

Annual Reports prepared by Staff, Committees, and Task Forces were distributed ahead of time so that the congregation would have time to read them in advance, in lieu of oral presentations at the meeting.

Carlos called on Pastor Brown to summarize her report.

Pastor thanked the staff for their fine work. She spoke about how well we managed the Moeller bequest and the Tiffany windows restoration project. These efforts took three years and came to fruition during the last year. Pastor feels in the congregation a whole new energy for us to be involved in the world and in action for social justice. It is God's work and our hands that make it become real.

Pastor has two goals for the coming year. The first is to work on quality of all the ministries particularly in worship. This pertains to every part of the worship, even before worshippers walk in the door. We will work towards improved worship attendance, and faithful worship attendance. These are Pastor's two primary goals. Pastor asked if anyone had questions for her or for any of the staff.

Carlos thanked the Church Council for their faithful participation on the Council and in worship.

Carlos called on Norma Martin for the report of the Nominating Committee. Norma said the Nominating Committee this year consisted of, in addition to herself, Council member Craig Schwalbe, and congregation members Suzanne Campise, Kathy Carpenter, and Dan Donovan. Norma thanked all of them for their work on the committee. She said the Council had appointed the Committee in September. The Committee studied best practices in church council nominating processes and reported on this to the Council. The Committee assessed the current membership of the council and ascertained that there would be three openings: one person completed the maximum of two three year terms, and two people resigned. A chart showing the membership of the Council was distributed. The Committee decided to work to ensure that major ministry areas were well represented on the Council. The Committee was blessed with several well qualified potential candidates, who were invited to an event at Pastor's home in December. The expectations of Council members were reviewed. People interested in serving on the Council were asked to respond in writing to four questions.

Norma said the Committee is pleased to present for election to the Church Council Erin Anderson, Lauren Johnson, and Rose Tresgallo-Grumm. Their statements are included in the reports distributed to the congregation.

Carlos opened the floor for additional nominations. Hearing none, it was moved and seconded to elect Erin Anderson, Lauren Johnson, and Rose Tresgallo-Grumm to three year terms on the Church Council.

**ACTION:** The motion to elect the three nominees was carried.

Carlos asked Hans Kriefall, our incoming Treasurer, to present the budget for the coming year. He opened his remarks by thanking Linda Kelly for her very fine work as our Treasurer over the last seven years. He lauded her accountability and sense of responsibility. Hans said the budget had been presented in detail to the congregation at an Adult Education hour on January 17. Prior to that a budget task force had met, and reviewed the 09 numbers budgeted and spent, and reviewed requests from ministry leaders. The Task Force tried to develop a balanced budget. A second principle was to push ourselves in terms of congregational giving. The proposed budget asks for a 5% increase over last year in congregational giving. We have pledges near that amount. Third, we are trying to rebuild our reserve. This is for unexpected overages in the budget. We should have this on hand depending on what happens during the year. It has been depleted due to some emergency repairs such as the roof. We budgeted \$5000 for the reserve in FY 10. The Property Task Force will determine what they anticipate as upcoming repairs and ongoing maintenance and repair to avoid emergencies if possible. The other budget guideline is we tithe on general congregational giving which is sent to ministries outside of Advent's walls.

The proposed budget anticipates revenues of \$470,281, expenses of \$470,965, and a deficit of (\$683) at year end.

**ACTION:** It was moved and seconded to approve the budget as presented. The motion was carried.

Pastor Lundblad spoke of our strong lay leadership, and expressed gratitude to our Pastor for her very fine ministry.

Carlos thanked all the members who contributed food for the lunch today and for other events.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma H. Martin

Secretary

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Report from Pastor Brown**  
Annual Meeting, January 23, 2011

*“But now thus says the Lord, the One who created you, O Jacob, the One who formed you, O Israel. Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you. When you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you...You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you. I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you.”*      *Isaiah 43:1-5a*

Baptisms:

Vidar Hageman  
Callie Hageman  
Haakon Miller  
Ian Eckerstrom  
Michael Eckerstrom  
Alan Yang  
Segi Mazzarino  
Tracy Keats  
Alani Helou

Confirmations:

Sydney Gannaway  
Claudia Huerta Serenity  
Steven Luong  
Carina Mondesire  
Derrell Francis  
Turrell Francis

Funerals:

Robert Sadler  
Hope Arlee (infant)  
Greta H. Kabir (neighbor)

Anniversaries of Ordination

Rev. Dr. Tom Taylor – 25 years  
Rev. James Sudbrock – 50 years  
Rev. Barbara Lundblad – 30 years

Weddings:

Hans Kriefall and Carl Levin

Average Attendance: (Includes all services): 196

Baptized Membership: 291

Dear Friends,

2010 was a strong year for Advent. We have made strides with the two main goals I set forth last year – strengthening the quality of our ministries and strengthening worship. I wish to thank the staff and newly formed Worship Committee for their partnership in this ongoing process. We have tried to maintain the richness of many of Advent’s worship traditions, while also being open to the winds of the Spirit. One of the primary areas that still needs our collective attention is helping our children and youth participate in worship in meaningful ways that encourage the spiritual health and growth of our young people. Julie Hagen has been a critical partner in helping us work toward this goal. It will remain an important part of our ministry in the coming year.

I am particularly grateful to the Church Council for unanimously voting to embark upon a Strategic Planning Process that will help shape our missional goals for the next 3-5 years and beyond. There have been many ideas floating around the congregation recently of ways we can grow our ministry in areas God might be calling us. Some of those ideas include expanding our Spanish Ministry, expanding our feeding programs, embarking upon a satellite ministry in an area of New York City currently not served by an ELCA congregation, developing a concentrated ministry to gay and lesbian individuals and families, developing a ministry to the theater

community, building on our ministry to young adults. I hope our planning process helps the congregation identify which areas we should be focusing both ministry and staff time and resources. I look forward to the results of our process to set goals for the next years of ministry.

We have reached a point where a volunteer treasurer is no longer realistic for an organization with a budget of almost \$500,000 and 9 separate investment accounts (mainly due to the allocation of the Moeller bequest). Part of our work this year will include strengthening and professionalizing elements of our infrastructure that heretofore have been done by volunteer lay leaders. I hope analysis of staff resources and ideas as to where we should deploy new staff resources will emerge from the strategic planning process.

Advent's stewardship continues to be strong; thank you all for your commitment to giving generously. For the first time in Advent's history, our congregational giving commitments have exceeded \$300,000. While the overall number of pledges was down by a few from the previous year (2009), we saw an overall increase in pledges for 2011 from \$291,000 (2010 figure) to \$312,000. Thanks be to God for inspiring us to be generous givers. We are working to continue expanding our giving to organizations and ministries outside the walls of our church. I believe Advent could do better in this area – we have been so richly blessed. How can we do any other?

The windows are restored; the Mission Fund had its first distribution year. Our staff continues to go beyond the call of duty in their respective ministry areas. New task forces and initiatives are growing organically from the passions of our leadership.

It is a wonderful gift to be the pastor of such a vibrant, outreach-oriented congregation. My heartfelt thanks to all of you!

In Christ's great ministry,

Pastor J. Elise Brown

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Children, Youth, & Family Ministries**

**Description and Goals of Children, Youth, & Family Programs**

We as a staff and congregation are committed to accompanying children, youth, and families as they grow in their relationship with Christ as we experience God's grace in our daily lives. As a community of believers, we support one another in our joys and challenges. There are opportunities for children of all ages to be involved in faith formation at Advent. From weekly worship, Sunday School, Lighthouse, Bible Explorers, Middle School ministry, Confirmation, High School Youth group, and service projects. Families with children of all ages are engaged in prayer, study of scripture and reminded of God's love, grace, and forgiveness given to us all.

**Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities**

•**Sunday School/Lighthouse:** Our Lighthouse ministry for children in Grades 4-6 is thriving. They meet up in the loft between services and are an enthusiastic group who are willing to ask questions and dig deeper into the Bible stories. We currently have about 20 children involved in both the Sunday School and Lighthouse ministries. This number is significantly lower than previous years and we are both prayerfully and actively working with parents to help address this issue. We are blessed to have gifted teachers; Erin Anderson, Sheldon Erb, Joanna Gugulski, Jenny Neumann, and our vicars Alisa Joyce and Marc Stutzel, who are enthusiastic about sharing the Gospel and love of God with the children. Emily Ballentine Erb leads music with the children.

•**Bible Explorers** is our Wednesday after school education program for children. The children are very animated about singing songs, asking questions and are eager to learn and participate in the Bible stories in kinetic ways. We had 10 children enrolled in Bible Explorers this fall with a few more children registered during the winter semester. Our goal is to strengthen the program through outreach and encouraging children who are currently enrolled to invite their classmates and friends.

•**Cradle Roll** is a monthly newsletter and a music CD that is mailed to families of children from birth through their first years of life. Each newsletter provides ways to incorporate faith formation in their young child through Bible stories, songs, prayers, and devotion time. We currently have 5 families who are receiving the Cradle Roll materials.

•**Vacation Bible Camp** has been a wonderful summer program for the past 6 years. This past summer, our program ran 4 weeks and we had 30 children enrolled and 8 youth volunteers. Our staff was exceptionally talented this summer. The teachers brought enthusiastic and nurturing attitudes and creative ideas to camp each day. Through our daily bible stories, songs, crafts, and games, we explored the importance of prayer, the seasons of the church and our call to care for our neighbors. Children made wonderful crafts, went on field trips to explore the diverse culture of New York City, including a visit to the Amsterdam House Nursing Home to sing songs and spend time with the residents. We had assistance from 3 different youth groups from Minnesota, Virginia and Ohio.

•**Special Events:** We held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cookie Sale Fundraiser on the same day as our Christmas Tree sale. In one day, we raised \$750 for the New York City Collation Against

Hunger. We thank everyone who helped bake cookies, those who helped prepare plates and especially thank Linda Kelly for her leadership.

**First Communion Preparation Class-** Ian and Michael Eckerstrom, Lindsay Falk, Vidar Hageman, and Ethan Kelly received their first Communion this past February 21, 2010.

•**Middle School:** This ministry is growing in exciting ways. Our young people in grades 6-8 met frequently for fellowship nights at church, skating, and other events around the city.

•**Confirmation:** Advent celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism of 6 youth in the past year. Darrell and Tarrell Francis and Carina Mondesire were confirmed on June 6, 2010. Sydni Ganaway, Claudia Huerta and Steven Luong were confirmed on November 28, 2010. Our Confirmation program meets twice a month, September thru June, to study the Creed, Lord's Prayer, Commandments, Old and New Testament and the Lutheran Tradition as well as attend Campfirmation at Koinonia in Highland Lake NY during the first week of July. Both Pastor Brown and Julie were able to attend Campfirmation with our youth this year.

•**High School Youth Group** at Advent are a lively group of young people ranging in ages from 14-18. We have been meeting for bible studies as well as service projects and fun events including scavenger hunts around the UWS, ice skating, and our annual lock-in at the church. Our youth have a strong passion for service and helped as Vacation Bible camp youth counselors, participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring collecting \$468 to go towards ELCA Disaster Response-Haiti and volunteered with the Tree Sale and Cookie Sale Fundraisers in December. We are looking forward to many of these events again this year as well as a summer mission trip in August and hope that Advent members will find opportunities to become more involved in the lives of these amazing youth.

•**CYF Team-** Linda Kelly chaired a team of parents; Julie Falk, Steven Fuentes, Joey Mazzarino, Anne Ofstedahl, and Nicole Schwalbe. As a team we began to think of ways to engage families and consider new ideas for ministry. Joey created an amazing Lenten video mystery series for the Lighthouse youth. Each week they watched a video and then helped solve the mystery during worship each week, being reward points for correct answers.

•**Block Party** - Advent held a block party on 93<sup>rd</sup> Street between Broadway and Amsterdam on a brisk Sunday in October. The Common Ground band played music, various Advent ministries had tables with information, Duane Reade gave flu shots, children played games and had face painting, and we had a visit from our councilwoman Gayle Brewer.

### **Plans for 2011**

I am excited and hopeful for the future of the Children, Youth, and Family ministry.

•**Strengthen attendance and participation among children, youth, and families in worship.** We are looking for ways we can involve children in worship in ways that children feel comfortable and engaged. **Our new Children's Church began during Advent, during the 9am service.** Younger children will go downstairs during the Gospel verse with the presiding pastor and Julie for a 15-20 minute active, hands-on exploration of the Gospel lesson for the day. They will return to worship at the passing of the peace to be able to participate in the offering and Holy Communion. We are excited to explore this new option and trust families will be present so the preparation for this time on behalf of the pastors and Julie is honored and well-used.

•**Middle School Ministry-** As mentioned earlier, we have a strong population of middle school aged youth who are excited to participate in events. We will continue to provide regular fellowship events for them to strengthen their relationships with each other as well as build

leadership skills. This summer we will be offering a week long **leadership camp** for middle schoolers. Each morning we will have a bible study and participate in group building activities and then spend the afternoon doing service projects around the city.

•**Communication and Outreach-** We as a church have a radical message to communicate with the world, a message you won't find anywhere else. God loves us and gives us mercy and grace, new each day. It is so important that we as a church find ways to communicate this message with those who walk in our doors and those who have never stepped inside. I am committing to reaching out to our families through phone calls, email, and personal visits. I will also work on communicating what is happening at Advent well in advance so families can be informed and invite others.

### **Acknowledgements**

I am blessed to be surrounded by such a talented and supportive staff, council, personnel committee, and congregation. There are many exciting things happening in the ministry to children, youth, and families and I encourage you to pray for this ministry but also to think about how you can be involved and take ownership in the faith formation of our young people at Advent.

Respectfully submitted by:

Julie Hagen  
Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Music Ministry—Overview and Advent Chorale**

**Description of Ministry Goals**

The music ministry seeks to enhance the spirituality of the worship experience for the entire congregation. In order to further this goal, the ministers of music work cooperatively to present diverse, well-planned music that will help move all members of the congregation to worship God more deeply.

The Advent Chorale helps lead the congregation in worship (liturgy music, hymns, processions, etc.) during at least three services per month and sings anthems, usually during the offering, which help illuminate the seasons of the church year.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

The music ministry had a bountiful year in 2010. Jordan, Emily, and I are grateful to the fifty-plus musical volunteers at Advent that offered their time and talents toward fulfilling our vision for a vibrant music ministry. The anniversary celebrations for Pastor Brown, Pastor Sudbrock, and Pastor Lundblad provided us with wonderful opportunities for musical creativity. Emily, Jordan, and I have enjoyed several opportunities to work together on Sunday worship and Common Ground services. Thanks to our many volunteer musicians, such as Brian Peck, Kate Sheeran, and Daniel Muhlenberg, we were also able to increase our liturgical accompaniment throughout the church year.

The Chorale has been extremely faithful and consistent in leading worship in 2010. This led to a higher overall level of singing this year, as well as an increased ability by the choir members to learn repertoire quickly. Furthermore, they rose to meet some of our most challenging repertoire ever, including several large-scale anthems for special occasions, such as Bach's *Gott der Herr ist Sonn' und Schild* for Pastor Sudbrock's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ordination, Lauridsen's *O Magnum Mysterium* for Pastor Lundblad's 30<sup>th</sup>, and Osvaldo Golijov's *Pasion Segun San Marcos* for Good Friday, which was probably the most challenging work we have ever undertaken together (a professional musician asked me in disbelief, "can they really sing THAT?"). The Chorale benefited greatly from several wonderfully talented new members: Travis Ripley, Tiffany Bizup, Naomi Frost, Dan Applegate, Laura Campbell, and Tim Joyce. We are so glad and blessed to have you with us!

**Plans for 2011**

During 2010, the musicians actively sought to strengthen the musical component of worship, including the liturgy and special music components of the services. In addition, we have been working on our organ skills (especially Emily—listen for her great use of foot pedals!), our improvisation skills, and our hymn accompaniment. In 2011, we hope to continue this process of development. We will also be working with the relatively new worship planning committee to focus our creativity towards a unified vision for worship, in conjunction with the pastors and other lay leaders.

**Acknowledgements**

There is never room on this one-page report to thank everyone individually, so when I offer this general "Thank YOU!" please take it to heart. Special thanks to Emily and Jordan for your spiritually-centered music-making, to Pastor Brown for helping us to think creatively and strengthen worship, to Jane Huerta for bulletin coordination, to Peter Santogade for your leadership in the Chorale, to Hans Kriefall for processional pointers, and to all the

new choir members for a tremendous 2010. We are all thankful to God for the priceless gift of music, and for the way it opens our hearts. On with 2011!

Respectfully submitted by:

Aaron Wunsch  
Minister of Music  
Music Ministry Coordinator

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Co-Minister of Music, Contemporary Tradition  
Voices of Praise**

**Description of Ministry**

Advent's Voices of Praise Choir (VOP) brings modern and contemporary Christian repertoire to Advent's worship services. We are a diverse group of enthusiastic singers of all ages who are united by our love for sharing the gospel message with inspired and uplifting song. Fellowship and community are essential aspects of this group.

**Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities**

Voices of Praise has maintained a strong membership, while understanding that our members are actively involved in many different ministries which sometimes conflict with rehearsals and worship services. Several new singers joined the group in 2010.

Voices of Praise continues to focus on devotion time during rehearsals, which give us all a chance to get to know each other better and to reflect on our lives together. Enjoying each other's company is such an important part of this ministry.

The three ministers of music have continued to practice good communication and have been creative with music during worship. Collaborations between Voices of Praise and the Advent Chorale were highlights of 2010.

The staff retreat in November and the work of the worship planning committee have helped to clarify goals for the worship experience and have encouraged the continued enthusiasm of the choir in worship.

I took private organ lessons over the summer, which was not only enjoyable, but also increased my confidence, skill, and knowledge with playing the organ.

**Plans for 2011**

Voices of Praise will continue to strive for musical excellence while focusing on fellowship in our community. As a group, we will make an effort to be more accountable with attendance at rehearsals and Sunday services, in order to ensure our effective enhancement of the worship experience.

Voices of Praise and the Advent Chorale will continue our successful choral collaborations, building relationships between the two groups. Voices of Praise and the Common Ground band will explore collaboration opportunities as well.

**Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to every member of the staff of Advent Lutheran Church for being supportive and helpful, and for being such a pleasure with whom to work. I also thank each singer in Voices of Praise for the generous giving of time, talent and friendship.

Respectfully submitted by :  
Emily Ballentine Erb  
Co-Minister of Music,  
Contemporary Tradition

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Common Ground**

**Description of Committee/TaskForce/Ministry Goals**

Common Ground is a biweekly Thursday evening contemporary worship service. Each service focuses on a selected theme and incorporates scripture readings, contemporary readings, a message or sermon, discussion, music, prayer, and activities to explore the evening's theme. Those who have given messages at Common Ground include members of the Advent community and invited guests. Our goal is to examine issues we face today through the lens of Jesus' life and message to better understand and grow from our challenges.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

Common Ground finished its fourth season in June and began its fifth season in August of 2010. We had many memorable services and message givers, including a message from Pastor Mike Lembke stationed in Iraq shared over the internet video program Skype. In 2010 we had our first Christian open mic called Coffee House during which participants were invited to express themselves and their spirituality through readings, music, rap and however else they felt inspired. Common Ground increased its outreach online through the websites facebook.com and meetup.com where service information, photos, comments and more are shared with Advent members and those looking for a spiritual home in the city. Common Ground collected offerings to benefit the West Side Campaign Against Hunger and Christmas at Sea, a program of the Seafarers and International House bringing warm clothing and necessities to seafarers.

**Plans for 2011**

- Increase outreach online, at Advent and in our community
- Participate in events at Advent and in the community
- Host 2 to 3 open mics
- Invite Advent-ers and guests for messages and participation
- Collect offerings to support Advent and programs outside our doors
- Work to constantly extend Advent's welcoming spirit to all who come through our doors

**Acknowledgements**

I want to thank everyone who has supported Common Ground this year in their contributions and participation, especially Pastor Brown, Julie Hagen, Jane Huerta, Becky Eavey, Terry Lynn LaCompte, Pastor and Ellie Sudbrock, Levi Coltrane, Mel Lehman, Kim Schultz, Tom Taylor and Anne Tiemeyer, Rose Ann Vita, Suzanne Campise, Brian Peck, Dan Muhlenberg, Kate Sheeran, Sara Gioe, Tracy Keats, Pastor Marsh Drege, Chaplain Mike Lembke, Heidi Lembke, Emily Erb, Jenny Neumann, Erin Anderson, Avis Alexander, Christine Mortlock, Chrissy Bennethum, Nora Gustuson and Steve and Danae Hudson. (Apologies if I missed anyone!)

Respectfully submitted by:

Jordan Clawson

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Property/Building Administrator**

**Description of Ministry**

The Building Administrator is in charge of insuring that the building is in working order and a comfortable place to work and worship for Advent Lutheran and Broadway United Church of Christ Churches. It also involves coordinating the use of the space in the building by the congregations and space sharers. The position is 25 hours a week and involves the supervision of 4 part time employees.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

2010, as always, was a busy year for the building. We had string quartets, operas, poetry, dramas, youth orchestras, and a number of other performances in the sanctuary. The basement is used on an ongoing basis by AA. It was also used for musicians, meetings, fund raisers and many other things. Space sharers are always very pleased with the beautiful building, how clean it is kept, and with the friendly staff.

The Lutheran Counseling Center continues to be a permanent user of the Loft office. We are very pleased to be in ministry with this organization.

We worked on two major building projects in 2010:

The most notable is the return of the 10 Tiffany windows at the south side of the sanctuary. Masonry repairs were completed around each window before they were put back in. There was scaffolding in the sanctuary and work being done for about 4 weeks. We are waiting for a block of two or three days of temperatures above 40 degrees F to return the middle panels to the 5 lower widows, at which time all the work will be complete and the outer scaffolding will be removed.

The second major project we worked on was moving towards having the east wall fixed so that water no longer seeps in from the basement all the way up to the wall above the altar. The building administrator worked for months with Building Integrity (a consulting firm we hired) to have plans drawn up to stop the leakage, to coordinate with the city building to the east of the church to obtain the proper permits to work adjacent to their property, and to hire a contracting firm to do the work. At this time, 50% of the work is completed. The remainder will be completed in the spring as weather permits.

Smaller projects include the purchase of new refrigerator and freezer units for the kitchen, repairs to glass work upstairs and downstairs and the grand piano in the sanctuary was renovated.

**Plans for 2010**

- We will continue to repair the east wall.
- The hole in the basement floor will be repaired.
- We will begin looking at renovations to the sanctuary floor.

## **Acknowledgements**

Thank you so much to Laura Jara, who continues to work as the Building Custodian.  
Thank you to Dan Muhlenberg who worked as our Sunday Sexton and is doing excellent work.

Thank you to the Event Coordinators: Dan Muhlenberg, Terry Lynn LeCompte, Josh Weidmann, and Brian Peck. I hear on a regular basis from space renters how kind and helpful the staff is at Advent Lutheran Church.

Thank you to those who have helped shovel snow this year: Julie Hagen, Dan Muhlenberg, Brian Peck and Mark Baldassare.

Thank you also to the women who come into the office on a regular basis to help with administrative work: Dorothy Metzger, Alice Warwick , Blanche Eickemeyer and Sandra Kirby.

Thank you to Pastor Brown for her continued help and support of the ministry and for everything she does to make Advent the wonderful, thriving community that it is.

Respectfully submitted by

Jane M. Huerta  
Building Administrator

Advent Lutheran Church  
**Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Council President's Report**

Year 2010 was another blessed, great and successful year for Advent. We were able to manage any unanticipated expenses not included in the budget and therefore no major budget problem was encountered. Truly, God provided us anything we needed.

One more time we were very blessed during this past year. We had the privilege of celebrating three anniversaries of three wonderful pastors at Advent. We celebrated Pastor Tom Taylor 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Pastor Barbara Lundblad 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Pastor Jim Sudbrock 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These were moments of joy and celebration. Thanks to all who contributed to these great celebrations of faith and ministries.

The month of February started with the election of the new executives of the boards, and discussion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Advent and BUCC among other important things such as exploring the repairing and warranty of our piano.

During the month of February, March and ending in April we celebrated a great Lenten Season which culminated with Easter Sunday. The whole season was a beautiful and inspiring time for meditation, spiritual growth and worship. On Palm Sunday we had another Spanish service at 1PM which was a great success with an overwhelming attendance by the Hispanic community.

During the month of April The Mission Fund started to receive applications for their grant. Since this was the first year that the Mission Fund was taking applications there was much debate on Council's role.

During the months of July, September, October, November and December, there were many discussions during our church council meetings such as: Mission/ Social Action task force, financial report, Pastor report, Children, Youth and Family report, fund raising for Music Mondays, Stewardship, Community Lunch, budget and Programs and Leadership. We are constantly working to have a strong community of faith. There are many opportunities at Advent to help others and to grow as individuals as well as a community. Please feel free to contact any of the leaders if you would like to participate in any of the ministries.

During 2010 we had 6 successful Spanish Services with a great attendance.

During September the Moller Bequest was voted on the special congregational meeting as follows: The Council discussed these allocations in dollar amounts but because of the value of the fund varies with market conditions, the Council agreed to express the distributions as percentages.

It was approved by the congregation that the Moeller Bequest be distributed as follows: 72.99% (approximately \$1 million) to a new Mission Endowment Fund; 14.59% (approximately \$200,000) to the Tiffany windows restoration campaign; about \$100,000 for the 93<sup>rd</sup> St. windows, and the balance of the total \$200,000 to be set aside for the future care of the two large Tiffany windows; 8.75% (approximately) \$120,000 for building needs, the use of which would be recommended to the Council by the Property Task Force; and 3.64% (approximately \$50,000) for the Pastoral Housing Fund.

During 2010 also the council decided to do a strategic plan for the church led by Pastor Miller. The congregation heard about the strategic plan during our annual meeting.

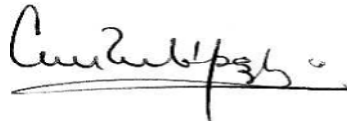
My report would not be complete without a note of tremendous gratitude to our Pastor, J. Elise Brown. She has led us through an important period with enlightened spiritual direction, incredible devotion and consistent energy.

A special thanks too, to each and every one of you who share God's love and Christ's welcome in this place and in the world each day.

Also I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for being re-elected President of the Church Council at Advent Lutheran Church for three consecutive years. These past years has brought a lot of spiritual growth to my life.

Finally, as I step down as President this coming February I would like to say that it was indeed a great honor served as your president. I would like to thank all of the council members for their unanimous vote of confidence in every meeting. My experience as your President has added not only to my spiritual life, but also to my professional and personal life. I had many rewards and for that I will be always grateful. I can never express my gratitude to each and every member of the church for the help received and for the vote of confidence from the congregation when needed. Thanks to all from the bottom of my heart.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos R. Lopez', with a horizontal line underneath.

Carlos R. López. MD, MS  
Council President

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Abiding Memorial**

In times of sorrow, times of joy, baptisms, funerals, confirmations, anniversaries, etc., remember Advent's Abiding Memorial Fund. This fund is used to purchase items for every worship service at Advent, including the colorful, seasonal paraments, the beautiful altar linens and communion ware. It occasionally provides money to help a member or neighbor with funeral expenses.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fund in 2010.

To contribute, simply place any amount of money in an envelope marked "Abiding Memorial Fund" (also write this on your check). Include your name and the name and address for whom the gift is given. Your gift will be reported in the weekly announcements page and you and the recipient or family will be acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dorothy Metzger  
Lorenza Darley  
Abiding Memorial

**Advent Lutheran Church  
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**The Adventurous Adventonians**

**Description of Group**

The Adventurous Adventonians are a group of mature congregants who enjoy getting together about once a month to share a meal, visit a place of interest, or take in some theater. We go out in large groups and small and are always up for an adventure – or even just sharing a cup of coffee and conversation after church.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

The Adventonians were out and about again this past year. Among the activities enjoyed by the group were:

- Several luncheons at the church followed by games, conversation or a movie.
- The Cloisters on a beautiful spring day when the flowers were in full bloom.
- Teddy Roosevelt's Birthplace Museum followed by lunch at a local restaurant.
- The Intrepid Museum on the Hudson River.
- The HighLine, a raised promenade following the old meat market railroad tracks, after lunch in the Chelsea Market.

**Plans for 2011**

- More luncheons and game days at the church
- A visit to the Frick Museum
- The [Lower East Side Tenement Museum](#)
- Viewing of the movie **Babette's Feast**
- A visit to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden or the Brooklyn Museum of Art
- An outing to see the play Wittenberg (Martin Luther debating Dr. Faustus for the soul of [Hamlet!](#))
- A visit to the Jumel Mansion.

People of any age are invited to join us and we are always open to suggestions for things to do and places to go.

Respectfully submitted by

Kathy Matson  
Kathleen Carpenter

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Advent Maternal Health Initiative (AMHI)**

**Description of Committee/TaskForce/Ministry Goals**

AMHI is helping to educate faith-based and local communities about global maternal health issues, specifically the devastating prevalence of obstetric fistula in the developing world.

**Objective 1:** Promote education and awareness on maternal deaths and fistula.

**Objective 2:** Support the campaign to end maternal deaths and fistula by building a network among religious groups working to promote awareness and prevention in partnership with Religions for Peace.

Fundraising Objective: Raise \$20,000 to send to The Fistula Foundation's Love a Sister Program and Mercy Ships for outreach and surgical/medical programs.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

AMHI EDUCATIONAL EVENTS have included:

- 1) *A Walk to Beautiful* documentary film with commentary and Q&A session by Susan Lee, Director of Special Projects at Engel Entertainment (*April 18, 2010*).
- 2) An Interdisciplinary Panel Discussion on "Maternal Health: the Issues, the Challenges, the Opportunities." Panelists: Dr. Grace Kodindo, Carrie Ngongo, Chelsea Ricker, Seth Cochran, and Meagan Manas. Moderated by the Rev. Barbara Lundblad at Advent Lutheran Church (*April 25, 2010*).
- 3) Adult Education Forums at Advent Lutheran Church.
  - "What is obstetric fistula and what can we, as a congregation do?" presented by Suzanne Campise and Blessing Tawengwa, Co-Chairs of AMHI (*April 18, 2010*).
  - "Issues in Maternal Health" presented by Kathy Carpenter, AMHI member (*April 25, 2010*).
- 4) Interdenominational Adult Education Forum at St. Michael's Episcopal Church.
  - "Obstetric Fistula: Congregations take action" presented by Suzanne and Blessing (*May 9, 2010*).
- 5) Assembling over 185 Healthy Birth Kits for Healing Hands of Joy (HHOJ), a nonprofit organization in Mekelle, Ethiopia. Allison Shigo, Founder and Executive Director of HHOJ, made an educational presentation about how safe birth kits can help women suffering from obstetric fistula. Youth and families were among the 30 + volunteers. (*May 16, 2010*).

- 6) United Nations-Religions for Peace Conference. Maternal Deaths and Fistulas. AMHI attended conference with members of other religious communities to discuss successes and challenges in working with women who suffer from obstetric fistulas. Brelyn Johnson made a short presentation on the work of AMHI. *(December 6, 2010)*

AMHI FUNDRAISING EVENTS have included:

- 1) Fundraiser – 5K Run in Central Park. Over 30 AMHI members and supporters participated wearing lime green t-shirts that advertised the phrase “Uplifting women with obstetric fistula into the lime light.” This event raised \$1,500. *(June 12, 2010)*.
- 2) Fundraiser Rummage Sale – Called for donations of clothing, household goods and toys. Had six to eight volunteers selling items throughout the day. This event raised \$1,300. *(October 9,2010)*
- 3) Fundraiser- 5K Run in Central Park. Over 30 AMHI members and supporters participated wearing the AMHI banner. Outreach to enlist runners included flyers to congregation, and community during the Oct. 9 Rummage Sale, social network outreach and word of mouth. This event raised \$1,600. *(October 30, 2010)*
- 4) Fundraiser- Christmas Re-Gifting Sale. Call for higher end gift donations from Advent Lutheran Church congregation. Had six to eight volunteers throughout the day. This event raised \$2,300.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS to AMHI have included:

- 1) The Advent Mission Fund, an endowment fund of Advent Lutheran Church, distributed a grant of \$10,000 to the Advent Maternal Health Initiative.
- 2) The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (WELCA) donated \$500 to the Advent Maternal Health Initiative.
- 3) The United Nations Religions for Peace distributed a grant of \$1,000 to supplement earnings from the Fall Fun Run.
- 4) Thrivent Lutheran distributed a grant of \$1,300 for the Fall Fun Run and Fall Rummage Sale activities.

In total, AMHI has raised \$20,701.75. 100% of this money will go to pay for necessary surgeries or help to fund the much needed outreach campaigns to get these women the help they deserve.

### **Plans for 2011**

AMHI will re-assess its fundraising commitment in the coming year but commits to educating the community and promoting change in the lives of women suffering from and at risk of obstetric fistulas.

We will commit to reaching out to more members of the congregation and local community members to seek participation in events such as rummage sales, health birth kit assemblies, fun runs, letter campaigns and other fundraising activities.

## **Acknowledgements**

I want to thank all the volunteers who have donated their time and efforts to the Advent Maternal Health Initiative this year, especially Betsy Armstrong, Kathy Carpenter, Becky Eavey, Suzanne Campise, Kris Schafer, Rev. Barbara Lundblad, Rev. James Sudbrock, Ellie Sudbrock, Rev. Elise Brown, Blessing Tawanga, and Julie Hagen.

Respectfully submitted by

Brelyn Johnson  
Advent Maternal Health Initiative

**Advent Lutheran Church  
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**Advent LIFE Ministry**

**Description of Committee/TaskForce/Ministry Goals**

Advent LIFE is a fellowship group primarily for twenty- and thirty-somethings who gather monthly for various social, educational, and community activities.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

Advent LIFE continued to grow in 2010 for a total of 90+ on the member list! Highlights in 2010 included participation in Hands-On-New-York Day where 6 of us planted trees along the banks of the Bronx River, a Wii Dance-Off Fiesta, the annual favorite Easter Brunch at Toast, a canoe trip down the Bronx River, apple picking at Masker's Orchard, and our annual Secret Santa holiday party for 20. And the big addition, which is sure to be a new favorite tradition, was our first Advent LIFE Retreat at Koinonia.

**Plans for 2011**

Easter brunch, Christmas party and a weekend in Koinonia are sure to be on the list of activities for 2011 with other events TBD. Please submit your ideas for fellowship, education or service to Kelly Kandler if you have them!

**Acknowledgements**

Thanks to everyone in Advent LIFE who continues to participate so enthusiastically in our fellowship!

Respectfully submitted by

Kelly Kandler  
Advent LIFE

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for year 2010**

**Adult Education**

**Description of Ministry Goals**

The goal of the Adult Education Ministry is to encourage lifelong growth in faith and knowledge of Christ and the Scriptures. The purpose is that members and friends of Advent be supported in their daily vocation, living as disciples of Jesus in New York City and beyond, as well as supporting the work of Christ throughout the world.

**Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities**

Once again, our home bible study program was a big hit. 46 people participated in the Fall study which offered a choice between the Book of Romans and Prayer. The studies were led by pastors and lay persons and hosted at four different homes of Advent members. A three-week long study of Women on the Way to Christmas written by Ellie Sudbrock was hosted in 4 homes during the month of December.

Our Sunday morning 10 a.m. hour continues with a steady and faithful group of people. The topics include Bible Study, a 14 week study of the 7 Marks of a Disciple in the Fall as well as other topics that emerge from the passions and commitments of our members.

**Plans for 2011**

We look forward to a Lenten home study series to begin the second week of March. In addition, we will continue to strengthen the Sunday morning Adult Education class to encourage more participation and engaging topics of study.

Our two interns will each take a turn leading two Sunday morning adult classes on lesser known books of the New Testament.

**Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to the pastors of Advent who so willingly lead studies in our Sunday morning class. The gracious hosts and leaders of our home study program are to be both thanked and commended for their creativity and commitment to sharing God's word. We thank Dan Muhlenberg who faithfully sets up our Sunday morning education area each week.

Respectfully submitted by

Pastor J. Elise Brown

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Altar Guild Report for Year 2010**

**Description of Committee/TaskForce/Ministry Goals**

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the altar and sanctuary for all services according to liturgical season as well as ordering and maintaining all the furnishings used in the service: communion elements, metalware, linens, candles, paraments, vestments and other items as specified by the pastor. The Guild reports to the pastor and coordinates with the Flower Committee, and also works with Broadway Church on any joint services with Advent.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

The Altar Guild continued to prepare the sanctuary for all of Advent's services, especially for our biggest services during Christmas and Holy Week, celebrating joint services on Holy Thursday and Good Friday again with BUCC. We also prepared the altar for our Spanish services on Epiphany, Palm Sunday and All Saints. We invested in new linens, especially a new fair linen.

**Plans for 2011**

We have been trying to recruit more members for the Guild, and welcome anyone interested in helping out! Currently, duty is one Sunday a month for all services on that day, but we would like to have enough members so that everyone covers only one service on that day, following the pattern of the Assisting Ministers, who may do both duties on the same day if they wish. Current Guild members are always available to help, and there is a "cheat sheet" in the sacristy.

**Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Lauren Johnson and Lauri Gugulski. Also, thank you again to the Flower Committee for all their hard work, and of course to all of Advent's pastors for their leadership and guidance.

Respectfully submitted by

Lauren Johnson and Lynne Henderson  
Altar Guild

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Assisting Ministers**

**Description of Ministry**

The assisting ministers are lay members of the congregation who help to lead the regular 9AM & 11AM Sunday services, as well as special services throughout the year. They chant parts of the liturgy, lead psalms and prayers, prepare the altar during the service and distribute wine at communion.

They help both the presiding minister and the congregation during the service in carefully planned ways or as need and the Spirit inspire. They embody the lay community as an integral part of our worship service and help to welcome new members and visitors into our congregational family.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

Rotating off the AM roster in 2009 was Josh Campbell. We give him our thanks and hope to put his many talents to work in plenty of other ways.

Adding their talents to the AM roster in 2010 were Peter Santogade & Brian Peck, plus our two new vicars: Alisa Joyce and Marc Stutzel. Welcome!

Other AMs continuing to serve include: Lynne Henderson, Nicole Johnson, Carlos Lopez, Damaris Maclean. Hans Kriefall and Ricki Ravitts are currently acting as 'swing' AM's, substituting when needed.

**Plans for 2011**

We look forward to expanding our knowledge of liturgies from the cranberry hymnal and any special liturgies that come our way, and will continue to seek ways to upgrade our leadership, liturgical & performance skills, with help from Pastor Brown and the rest of our talented leadership.

**Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to all our Assisting Ministers, who donate their time and talents and faithful service to this important service ministry.

Respectfully submitted by  
Ricki G. Ravitts  
AM Coordinator

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Audit Committee**

**Description of Committee/TaskForce/Ministry Goals**

**According to ELCA guidelines, the purpose of an audit is to**

- obtain independent assurance that all financial records fairly represent the financial condition of the church;
- insure that the year's financial activity has been properly recorded in accordance with generally accepted accounting principals;
- insure adherence with the policies and procedures established by the congregation; and
- maintain confidence in the integrity of the congregation's financial system and the persons responsible for handling the finances.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

The Audit Committee met in September and reviewed the following:

- Statement of Financial Position, December 2009.
- Payroll
- Distributions
- Contributions
- Sunday Deposits
- other investments

Randomly selected invoices and statements were compared with their matching records. Overall, the committee decided that Advent's income and expenses have been properly accounted. A couple of minor discrepancies were identified, pursued, and fixed.

**Plans for 2011**

The committee still needs to review the Wells Fargo accounts and will audit the records again in the fall of 2011. Anyone who is interested in participating in this process is welcome to contact Karen Cantrell

**Acknowledgements**

Thanks to the Audit Committee members: Madelyn Soussoudis and Rose Tresgallo, and to the other participants: Jane Huerta, Building Administrator; Nicole Johnson, Assistant Treasurer; Linda Kelly, Treasurer in 2009; and Hans Kriefall, Treasurer in 2010.

Respectfully submitted by

Karen J. Cantrell  
Audit Committee Chair

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Chalice Bearers**

**Description of Committee/TaskForce/Ministry Goals**

Chalice bearers participate in one of the most important rituals in the Lutheran service, Holy Communion. At Advent, we celebrate Communion every Sunday at both the 9am and 11am services as well as during holidays like Christmas and Maundy Thursday.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

There are currently about 20 active chalice bearers with additional people who help out by covering when people are out of town. These reliable souls show up once a month, with one person serving during the 9am service and three people serving during the 11am service, to hold the chalice for either intinction or sipping.

**Plans for 2011**

The roster is currently filled between now and June; however, as people's lives shift, vacancies appear. Therefore, anyone who is interested in participating should contact Karen J. Cantrell.

**Acknowledgements**

My thanks to Sonia Viciniza, Kathy Carpenter, and Alsun Sawdey for their participation during 2010.

Thanks also go to Robin West, Erin Anderson, Franklin Mateo, Ashley Ross, Marc Stetzle, Olga Matos, Quincy Lehr, Amy Ripley, Dean Trozduk, Wendi Bevins, Linda Nortey, Barbara Sadowsky, *Nancy D'Antonio*, *Ariella Farnham*, Chris Dundon, Gail Wagner, Miro Bullo, Mark Baldassare, and Heidi Lembke for their continuing participation.

And for helping out in a pinch, I thank Nathan Urquhart, Carlos Lopez, Dan Donavan, Hans Kriefall, Norma Martin, and everyone else whose shoulder I tap when desperate.

We couldn't have Communion without all of you!

Respectfully submitted by

Karen J. Cantrell  
Chalice Bearer Coordinator

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Counting Ministry**

**Description of Committee/Task Force/Ministry**

The Advent Counting Ministry is a group of congregational members who count, record, and deposit money received from weekly envelopes, plate cash donations, designated offerings, space rentals, and special fundraising events, all of which support Advent's ministries and operations. While counting is not a highly visible position at Advent, it is nonetheless vital to our overall ministry.

**Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank all the counters who have faithfully donated their time and efforts to the Counting Ministry for all or part of the year: Sheldon Erb, Alison Garnjost, Steve Hudson, Karl Lehrke, Linda Nortey, Carolyn Riehl, and Carlos Velazquez. Your dedication and thoroughness are very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by

Nicole Johnson  
Counting Ministry

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Committee for the ELCA Malaria Campaign**

**Committee Goals**

The committee understands its purpose and goals within the broader context of the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Generally, the campaign's purpose is to join with African companion churches in the global effort to prevent, treat, and contain malaria by 2015. The committee's goals are three-fold: a) education among our members related to the disease of malaria, its treatment, and prevention; b) financial support of the ELCA \$15 million campaign which in turn will work in partnership with companion Lutheran churches in ten African countries to address the disease; c) join with others of goodwill to challenge governments and global organizations to take steps to significantly contain the disease.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

In June 2010 Pastor Sarah Brown convened a new Social Justice Working Group at Advent. At this meeting, three justice-related initiatives were embraced by those present. They were transitional housing, Habitat for Humanity, and the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. Each of these social justice initiatives proceeded separately to organize its work and seek others to join its cause. Currently 18 members of Advent have joined the committee for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. The committee held its first meeting on August 1, 2010. The committee meets on the first Sunday of each month after the 11:00 a.m. service.

The committee had the good fortune of hosting Pastor Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, coordinator of the ELCA Malaria Campaign and the ELCA's HIV & AIDS Strategy, when she was in the city for other meetings in December 2010. Lutheran church leaders across the Metropolitan New York Synod were invited to join our committee in meeting with Pastor DeGroot-Nesdahl to hear updates on the scourge of malaria in Africa, the development of ELCA campaign strategies, and the status of strategies by Lutheran churches in Africa to address the disease.

Another highlight was the committee's Skype conversation with Pastor Kathryn Warn, ELCA pastor in residence in Sierra Leone and sister of committee member Debra Warn, about her experience with prevention and treatment of malaria in this West Africa country.

**Plans for 2011**

The ELCA campaign formally is scheduled to begin in September 2011 following final authorization by the ELCA's 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

In anticipation of this authorization, our committee plans to work closely with the coordinator of the ELCA Malaria Campaign and the Metropolitan New York Synod office in formulating specific plans for 2011. Provisionally we have discussed a fall 2011 region-wide event to kick off the campaign among the ELCA synods in northeast states. Advent's committee is interested in playing a key role in organizing this rally.

Meanwhile, the committee will concentrate on its own education as well as that of Advent's members.

## **Acknowledgements**

We are grateful to Pastor Sarah Brown for her initiative in gathering interested members to develop responses to a number of critical social justice concerns, including the disease of malaria.

Respectfully submitted by

Ms. Gail Wagner and Pastor Charles Miller  
Committee co-chairs

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**Equipo El Salvador**

**Description of Committee/TaskForce/Ministry Goals**

The purpose of the Equipo El Salvador is to help Advent members learn more about El Salvador and the Lutheran church there (Iglesia Luterana Salvadoreña – ILS), to share information with our congregation about the ILS and its ministries, and to encourage people to participate in delegations in coming years. There will be a delegation led in July by Julie Roy, and one from August 1 to August 10 led by Pastors Anna Kari and Kristian Johnson.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

Four Advent members participated in delegations to El Salvador in 2010: Hannah Wolfe in July, and Pastor Jim Sudbrock, Ellie Sudbrock, and Lukas Martin in August.

The Equipo held its first formal meeting in October. Jim and Ellie Sudbrock, with participation from the Equipo El Salvador, presented pictures of and information from their trip at a coffee hour in November.

The group plans to refresh the bulletin board in the sanctuary every two months. Thanks to Sarah Gioe for the first edition featuring Maria Trinidad Olmedo, who takes care of delegates at the Casa Concordia Huespedes (guest house), and serves people who are homeless at the Casa Esperanza (Hope House). Advent members are now sponsoring five children enrolled at the Colegio Luterano Salvadoreño.

**Plans for 2011**

Articles will be submitted for the newsletter. January 2011: overview of El Salvador by Mark Gunderman, March 2011: history of the ILS by Pastor Sudbrock.

We will offer an El Salvador themed worship service at both 9 and 11 AM on March 20. During Lent we hope to have a bulletin insert with eight short stories as prayer themes for the Lenten season. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 16 after the 11 AM worship service. Todos Bienvenidos!

**Acknowledgements**

Thanks to all members of the Equipo El Salvador: Pastor Brown, Pastor Sudbrock, Ellie Sudbrock, Sarah Gioe, Rob Neel, Stacey and Mark Gunderman, Chris Dundon, Dolores Rivera, Fred Grumm, Rose Tresgallo, Karen Cantrell, Kelly Kandler, Rosie Carmona, Dan Applegate, Will Bevins, Blessing Tawengwa, Olga Matos, Hannah Wolfe, and Lukas Martin

Respectfully submitted by  
Norma H. Martin  
Equipo El Salvador

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Flower Ministry**

**Flower Ministry Goals**

The Flower Ministry team complements the Altar Guild in dressing the Advent altar area for worship and celebration. Our goal is to enhance the worship experience by sensitive and subtle decoration.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

The goal and challenge for Flower Team is to provide an intriguing sanctuary. We created static, perpetual arrangements for summer and the sedate liturgical seasons and use fresh, seasonal blossoms for other weeks. We also offer special arrangements to honor, commemorate or memorialize for a fee. This program allows us to stretch our creativity as well as our funds. With our artistic and independent team, we offer diverse treatments of the altar arrangements.

With the move to re-channel funds to more urgent needs has enforced the need to keep our budget within the suggested limit.

Arrangements follow the liturgical year for color and form with an attempt to correspond to the seasonal blooms available. The team evaluates the available stock, shops for new flowers to add, produces the arrangement, waters and tends the static potted plants then cleans up.

The experience of being in the sanctuary, often alone, at whatever time is available, and focusing on its decoration is a welcome chore. We are offered an opportunity for solitary service and meditation knowing that our work will be silently appreciated in worship.

**Plans for 2010**

The plan for the coming year is to continue the economy of our arrangements, reinstate Altar Flower Dedications, and seek out sources for local, seasonal flowers.

**Acknowledgements**

The current flower team is Avis Alexander, Betsy Armstrong, Fred Grumm, Danae Hudson, Julia Bruskin and prospect Olga Matos.

Respectfully submitted by:

Betsy Armstrong  
Flower Ministry chair

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Greeters/ Ushers Ministry – 9AM Sunday Service**

**Description of the Ministry Goals**

The Ushers/Greeters are available for Sunday Service all year long. They welcome the members as well as visitors with a warm and friendly smile. They are dedicated and volunteer their time consistently. We also have a list of alternates in the event that a regular usher is not available.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

We provided ushers/greeters for the 9AM Sunday Services and in addition on special holidays we were able to volunteer our time. Our roster of volunteers are to be commended.

**Plans for 2011**

We are looking forward to expanding the volunteer list for the coming year.

**Acknowledgments**

I particularly want to thank all my volunteers who have volunteered their time and continue to do so. I especially want to thank Anne Ofstedal, Mark Baldassare, Karl Lehrke and Kees Kooper.

Respectfully submitted by

Elba Cabrera  
Ushers/Greeters for the 9AM Sunday Service

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for the Year 2010**

**Greeters/Ushers 11 am**

**Description:**

The greeters/ushers of Advent keep the flow of the Sunday morning church activities moving smoothly. They are an integral part of the Sunday service. A greeter is one who welcomes members and visitors coming into the church on Sunday morning. This is done by distributing the bulletins, asking visitors to sign the guest book, introducing them to other church members at the end of the service and answering any questions or concerns they may have about the church. The same person, as usher, collects the offering and brings it to the altar. During communion, the usher helps people know when to go up for the distribution of the elements.

**Plans for 2011:**

In 2010, for the 11:00 service we had a pair of greeter/ushers for each Sunday of the month. This worked out well and we will continue this for the coming year. If anyone would like to volunteer to be a greeter/usher for 2011 please let me know at [kdmatson1@yahoo.com](mailto:kdmatson1@yahoo.com).

**Acknowledgments:**

A big **THANK YOU** to those who participated this year. They were the following:

Elba Cabrera, Carina Mondesire, Rosie Carmona-Mondesire,  
Olga Matos, Sarah Uribe, Gina Conenello, Roger Hudson, Kelly Kandler,  
Andy Miller, Spelman Beaubrun, Alson Sawdey, and Ellie Sudbrock

Respectfully submitted by  
Kathy Matson  
11:00 Greeter/usher coordinator

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Investment Committee**

**Description of Committee Goals**

The Investment Committee manages the strategic and long-term financial investments, including the assets of the Mission Fund of Advent Lutheran Church. The duties include recommending an investment advisor, determining investment strategies for each of the Congregation's funds, and reporting semi-annually (at least) to the Council and annually to the Congregation.

**Summary / Comments on all Accounts at Wells Fargo:**

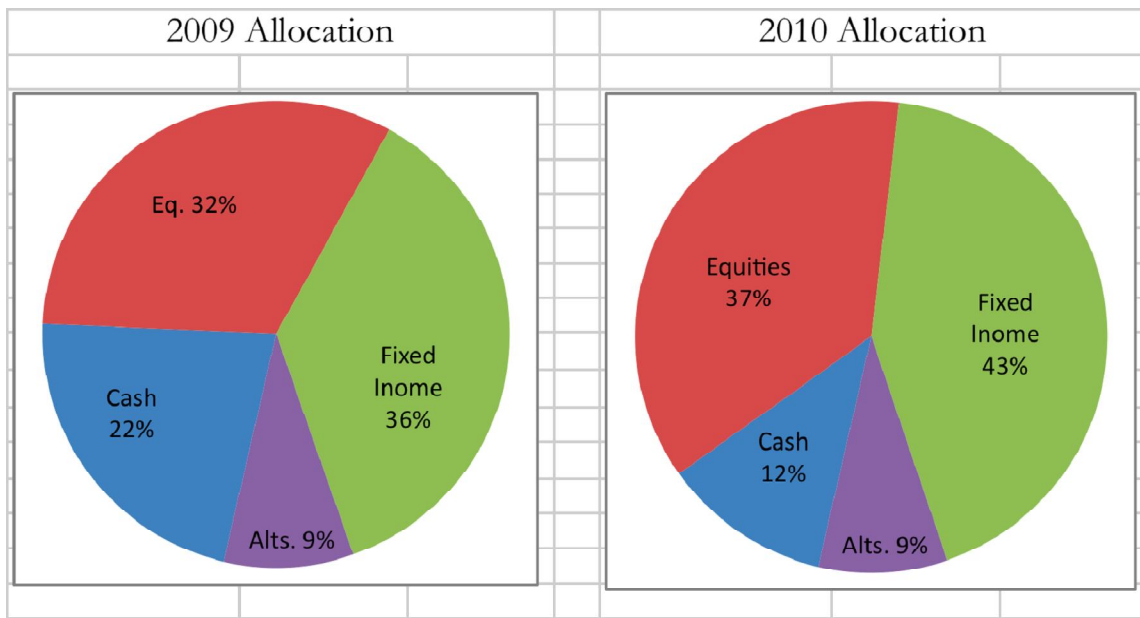
Investment performance as of:	December 31, 2010
Date of Committee presentation:	January 13, 2011
Prepared by:	J. Kelly
Starting balance (12/31/09):	\$1,303,254
Total deposits/rebalances in:	\$464,190
Total disbursements/rebalances out:	
Fund ending balance (12/31/10):	\$105,274
	\$1,800,443

- The manager remains Wells Fargo, who holds four designated funds – the Mission Fund, the Tiffany Windows Fund, the Parsonage Fund, and the Property Fund. These balances and performance statistics are shown in the attached exhibits.
- The fund received the final disbursement from the Moeller bequest (totaling \$417,056 across four payments). These payments were invested according to the congregation's Continuing Resolution of September 2009. This compares favorably to our January 2010 estimate of approximately \$400,000. The Committee is extremely grateful to the diligence and patience that outgoing committee member Bill Ellis exhibited as steward of this process.
- The Mission Fund made its first distribution in 2010. As determined by the Continuing Resolution, the distribution for 2011 will be five percent of the Mission Fund balance of \$1,314,191.46 on 12/31/2010, or \$65,709.57.
- The final disbursements from the Moeller bequest make comparisons difficult (new funds representing 28% of assets on 12/31/09), but adjusted returns show that the funds at Wells Fargo gained 8%. In 2010, the S&P 500 gained 12.8% and the Barclays Aggregate Bond Index gained 2.5%. We are pleased with our returns, given our generally conservative positioning, as we have a relatively high fixed income exposure (43% of assets at year end) and cash balance in the Property Account (held for potential near-term repairs). The Committee will be meeting with the advisor in February to discuss our allocations going forward.
- Asset allocation continues to be conservative, with 12% of funds in cash and 43% in fixed income. The determination of the timeline for use of the Property Fund should decrease the cash % in 2011, either as disbursement or moving to longer-term assets.

## Performance, Balances, and Asset Allocation at Wells Fargo

	<u>Dec-09</u>	<u>Net contributions/ distributions</u>	<u>Net performance</u>	<u>Dec-10</u>	<u>Performance</u>
<b>Mission Fund</b>	1,011,559	199,136	103,497	1,314,191	8%
<b>Property Fund</b>	112,667	36,492	(266)	148,894	0%
<b>Parsonage Fund</b>	47,636	62,440	13,955	124,031	11%
<b>Tiffany Windows Fund</b>	131,391	60,848	21,087	213,327	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,303,254</b>	<b>358,916</b>	<b>138,273</b>	<b>1,800,443</b>	<b>8%</b>

Wells Fargo Account Balances		12/31/10			
	Total	Cash	Equities	Bonds	Alternatives
<b>Mission Fund</b>					
Alt Investments Account	223,886.66	22,133.58	-	50,078.50	151,674.58
Equity Investment Corp Account	166,538.46	3,861.80	162,676.66	-	-
Oakridge Invest Account	172,845.47	4,178.93	168,666.54	-	-
NFJ Account	162,944.85	5,252.41	157,692.44	-	-
PIMCO Account	587,976.02	18,515.27	-	569,460.75	-
<b>Total Mission Fund Accounts</b>	<b>1,314,191.46</b>	<b>53,941.99</b>	<b>489,035.64</b>	<b>619,539.25</b>	<b>151,674.58</b>
<b>Property Funds</b>	<b>148,893.65</b>	148,893.65	-	-	-
<b>Parsonage Funds</b>	<b>124,030.89</b>	1,199.30	63,644.95	56,629.66	2,556.98
<b>Tiffany Windows</b>	<b>213,327.12</b>	3,781.79	108,588.23	96,595.29	4,361.81
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,800,443.12</b>	<b>207,816.73</b>	<b>661,268.82</b>	<b>772,764.20</b>	<b>158,593.37</b>



### Summary / Comments on all Accounts at Vanguard:

- The Helen Marks bequest: Early in 2010, the Investment Committee was asked to determine the investment strategy for the Helen Marks bequest. In accordance with Congregation policy that the monies are not used for two years (expiring in late 2011), we invested them in the Vanguard STAR fund, a blended portfolio. The original investment of \$73,467.98 grew to 82,437.98, a 12.2% return.
- The Congregation holds three money market accounts at Vanguard to meet near-term needs of designated accounts (shown 12/31/10):

- Scholarship Fund (account number ending in 5262) -- \$4,152.65
- Tiffany Windows project for near-term spending (account number ending in 3113) -- \$120,213.27. When this phase of the Tiffany Windows project concludes, the Committee will recommend moving any remaining funds to long-term asset management.
- Various (account number ending in 0293) -- \$9,268.63, which acts as a money market for the Congregation.

***Acknowledgements:** I want to thank all the volunteers who have donated their time and efforts to the Investment Committee, helping shepherd our investments through this difficult market environment.*

Respectfully submitted by

James Kelly  
Investment Committee Chair

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Lutheran Counseling Center at Advent Lutheran Church**

**What is the Lutheran Counseling Center?**

The Lutheran Counseling Center (LCC) at Advent Lutheran Church, one of seven LCC Sites (just added a new site in Patchogue) throughout the Metropolitan New York area, offers professional pastoral psychotherapy at reasonable fees for individuals, couples and families. The Center promotes health, hope and wholeness by offering additional resources for congregations and the community such as workshops on wellness, anger management, depression screenings and couple's/marriage enrichment. In 2011, for example, the LCC will offer a Grief and Loss workshop supported, in part, by Advent's Mission Fund. Beyond traditional counseling, the Center also serves children by providing school counselors through Lutheran Schools Association.

***Congratulations – Advent is LCC's Association Congregation of the Year!***

Advent was selected as Association Congregation of the Year at the LCC's annual Gala October 13<sup>th</sup>. In introducing Advent as the Award recipient, Bishop Robert Rimbo praised Advent's commitment to providing a counseling home to its community. Pr Brown, who accepted the award from LCC's Executive Director Molly Blancke on behalf of the people of Advent, cited Advent's history of partnership and support with the Center that was jumpstarted following the dark days of September 11<sup>th</sup> and has continued to expand into the Center's full time presence today.

**Celebration of Dr Taylor's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination**

I am especially grateful to Advent for throwing me a delightful celebration – in worship and in the reception that followed – for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of my Ordination last March. Special thanks to the great job done by the task force – Nichole Johnson, Djamella Samad, Carlos and Francis Velasquez, Pr Brown for her encouragement and Jordon Clawson for orchestrating the day's music with the help of the Common Ground musicians.

**Subsidized sessions available in 2011 for counseling for grief and loss ...**

Thanks to a grant from Advent's *Mission Fund* individual grant-subsidized sessions are available to help decrease anxiety and depression for those who have experienced grief and loss from external experiences (such as the Haitian earthquake last January) or from personal experiences (such as long-term joblessness and / or loss of family through divorce or death). Also in 2011, LCC will again offer *Self-Respect, Getting There Together*, a 12 week program for preteen and teen girls at the Center's main site in Mineola funded by an ELCA Foundation Grant.

**We can help...**

**Four Sessions for only \$25 each**

As one of 44 Association Congregations and Schools, Advent is part of the Membership Assistance Program (MAP), enabling worshippers at Advent to be eligible for 4 sessions at \$25 each. Contact Dr. Taylor, Dr. Green or any one of Advent's pastoral staff to find out more about MAP.

**Planning on getting married or committed? Or just want a couple's tune-up?**

If so, consider taking the *Prepare and Enrich* inventory with feedback sessions. The most popular couples' enrichment consultation program in the nation, *Prepare and Enrich* helps couples learn more about each other, be more assertive, improve listening skills and enhance problem solving.

**Want to make an Appointment?**

Contact Dr. Taylor directly (917.886.6399), Dr. Green (212.662.8986) or through the Center's main office (800.317.1173).

**You can help...****Would you like to support someone to get help who is unable to fully pay?**

Advent, as a congregation and through individual gifts, has generously contributed to the support of the LCC. Thank You! Gifts help hundreds of individuals and families receive appropriate mental health counseling and services when they would otherwise be unable to fully pay. Your individual contribution can be mailed directly to LCC at 132 Jefferson Avenue, Mineola, NY, 11510 or online at LCC's web site ([lccny.org](http://lccny.org)). *If you need* financial assistance beyond the MAP program speak directly to Dr. Taylor, Dr. Green or contact the Center for assistance (800.317.1173).

**To Learn More about the LCC**

- Pick up the LCC's regular *Updates* and *On Center* newsletter, available at Advent's information table in the entryway.
- Also, check out our web site ([lccny.org](http://lccny.org)) for news from the Center's Executive Director, Molly Blancke. The web site also publishes timely articles by our staff on a number of topics related to your wellness such as dealing with the winter blues, anxious times in America, coping with grief, improving your marriage and partnership and many more.

**Partnership with Advent**

The LCC is pleased and grateful for its shared ministry with the people of Advent as a visible sign of health, hope and wholeness in Jesus' name.

In gratitude for our shared ministry,

The Rev. Thomas S. Taylor, LCSWR, Ph.D.

The Rev. Marta Green, LMHC, D.Min.

Pastoral Psychotherapists

The Lutheran Counseling Center at Advent Lutheran Church

917.886.6399 (Dr. Taylor), 212.662.8986 (Dr. Green)

800.317.1173 (LCC's main office)

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Advent Mission Fund Committee**

**Description of Committee/Ministry Goals**

Advent established the Advent Mission Fund to provide long-term support of church and community ministries. Mission funds are to be distributed annually under at least three of the five distribution categories:

- Poverty
- Education and Mission Trips
- Lutheran Partners
- Crisis Recovery
- New Advent Ministry Initiatives (start up funds)

Mission Fund Committee responsibilities include:

- Establishing and maintaining a process for soliciting, receiving and reviewing funding applications;
- Recommending Recipients and award amounts to the Church Council for approval
- Encouraging gifts to the Mission Fund through education and promotion of the Mission Fund
- Reporting annually to the Congregation

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

In 2010, the Mission Fund Committee had \$47,699.25 for distribution or 5% of the total value of the Mission Fund as of December 31, 2009.

Nineteen organizations submitted applications within the regular cycle submission period. The committee reviewed all applications using a uniform review process. The decision-making process was difficult, given the many worthwhile projects and the limited grant dollars.

The committee recommended 8 applicants for council approval. The recipients and the awarded amounts were:

Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM)	\$11,699.25
Advent Maternal Health Initiative	\$10,000.00
Trinity's Services and Food for the Homeless, Inc.	\$10,000.00
Lutheran Counseling Center	\$5,000.00
Martin Luther Camp Corporation/Koinonia	\$5,000.00
Our Savior's Lutheran Church	\$2,000.00
Huntington Lutheran Respite Center	\$2,000.00
Mission Trip to El Salvador	\$2,000.00

In total, all five distribution categories received funding. Of the \$47,699.25 awarded funds:

- 30% or \$14,000 went towards poverty,
- 4% or \$2,000 to education & mission trips,

- 10% or \$5,000 to crisis recovery,
- 21% or \$10,000 to new Advent initiatives and
- 35% or \$16,699.25 to Lutheran partners.

All funds were distributed during the regular cycle and there was no 2010 backup cycle distribution.

### **Plans for 2011**

#### Regular Cycle Timeline

- February thru April – MF Application Submission Period
- May – MF Committee reviews submitted Applications and proposes Funds Allocation by Category
- June – Council approves MF grant proposals
- July 15 – Funds distributed to Grant Recipients

A backup cycle may take place between July and December if annual funds are not fully distributed during the regular cycle.

### **Acknowledgements**

We thank the generosity of the Advent congregation for establishing the Mission Fund. We thank the Investment Committee for wisely managing the funds during devastating economic times.

To the organizations who received funding, we pray the grants helped achieve some of the ministry objectives.

To the many worthwhile organizations not selected for funding in 2010, we hope they are able to continue with their ministries and are open to submitting new applications in future years.

We thank all those who support the Mission Fund. Please check the Mission Fund web page (<http://www.adventnyc.org/mission.html>) for information about the 2011 calendar.

Respectfully submitted

#### Mission Fund Committee

Madelyn Soussoudis (Chairperson)  
Sarah Gioe  
Danae Hudson  
Joseph Jones  
Chandra Travis  
Sonia Vicinanza  
Pastor J. Elise Brown

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Music Mondays**

**Description of Ministry Goals**

Music Mondays reaches out into the community with evenings of free, inspirational music by professional musicians. It is a joint outreach ministry between Advent and BUCC that raises positive awareness in the community about both congregations. The audience is invited to stay after each concert for a reception, which allows those present to meet the musicians and to meet each other.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

Music Mondays continued to expand in 2010. The word is starting to get around that great music can be heard for free at Advent, and the program has benefited from some great publicity from *Time Out New York*, *The New York Times*, and *The New Yorker*. Our expanded web presence (professional emails, Facebook, expanded web site [www.musicmondays.org](http://www.musicmondays.org)) played a role in helping our audience to grow, and we now average about 150-200 people at each concert. This means that several hundred new people per year are walking through Advent's doors, and our church's name and location is appearing in print and online. Also, we are finally getting close to our dream of a full sanctuary for every performance!

One thing leads to another, and our fundraising efforts have continued to grow as well, albeit at a slower pace. Our grant from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council was renewed for 2010, which has been a great help in sustaining the series.

Music Mondays heard some absolutely unforgettable performances in 2010, including those by the Daedalus, Brentano, and Borromeo Quartets—three of the finest and most in-demand quartets in the world. There continues to be a special atmosphere and enthusiasm of the audience, which is one of the friendliest one will find in Manhattan. Our post-concert receptions continue to be a great way for audience members to meet each other and the performers.

**Plans for 2011**

Our main challenge for the 2011 will be fundraising, as we are still not able to substantially compensate our young, economically-challenged performers. We are currently averaging only \$2-3 dollars in donations per audience member, and we have not been able to obtain any new grants in 2010. We hope to put on a benefit concert in 2011 and with some serendipity, attract a few new individual donors and a new grant or two.

**Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to the members of both congregations who supported Music Mondays in 2010—financially, as volunteers, and in the audience. Particular thanks go to Co-Artistic Director Douglas Drake, to Lynne Henderson for expert program preparation; Norma Martin for so many things, I can't list them; Nicole Johnson for your invaluable help, generosity, and pumpkin bread; Pastor Brown, Jim and Ellie Sudbrock, Hans Kriefall, Franklin Mateo, and all those who attended the concerts and welcomed visitors into our sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted by

Aaron Wunsch  
Artistic Director, Music Mondays

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Newsletter**

**Description of Group**

The Advent newsletter, **Advent News & Notes**, is published every two months and serves as a way for members to share their thoughts and adventures as they make their spiritual journey through this life.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

The newsletter made its final transition during 2010 to a bimonthly publication that can now include color photographs and graphics. As an adjunct, the Advent e-letter also made its debut during 2010 to inform congregants of up and coming events and important dates.

**Plans for 2011**

Plans for 2011 include a greater emphasis on stories and narratives and less on dates and calendars.

Respectfully submitted by

Kathleen Carpenter  
Editor

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Personnel Report**

**Description of Committee/TaskForce/Ministry Goals**

The Personnel Task Force is responsible for recruitment and hiring of staff as directed and approved by the Church Council, creation and revision of job descriptions for approval by Council, working to insure consistent church policy and practice as regards relationship and leadership of staff, working with staff to set individual annual goals, insuring all staff receive an annual review, and periodic participation in monthly staff meetings. Through the annual budget process, Personnel annually advises the Council on recommended salary increases.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

- 2010 was a stable year for personnel, with only one addition to the staff; we welcomed Dan Muhlenberg to the Advent team. No positions are currently open.
- The Personnel committee completed two ministry reviews this year: Children, Youth and Family Director and Minister of Music, Contemporary Tradition. Personnel reviewed the current position versus the job description and make recommendations to Church Council. These ministry reviews were done in cooperation with the staff members, and we believe our observations and recommendations will result in improvements in 2011.
- Moved annual reviews to the first quarter of 2011 so that staff members could focus on Christmas services and celebrations during the holiday season.

Each and every one of our staff members richly bless our ministry at Advent every day. They are focused on outreach, growth, welcome, and most of all, service in the love of our Lord, Jesus the Christ. We are blessed to have such a talented staff at Advent, and we express our sincere thanks for their hard work in 2010.

**Plans for 2011**

Goals of the Personnel Task Force for 2010 include the following:

- Streamline review process
- Continued support in recruiting employees, as mandated by the Church Council.
- Continued support of Advent staff.

**Acknowledgements**

Many thanks to the members of the Personnel Task Force and all who supported and/or worked with the Personnel Task Force in 2010. A very special thank you to our Pastor, J. Elise Brown and the Council.

Respectfully submitted by

Nathan Urquhart  
Personnel Committee

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Prayer Ministry**

**Description of Committee Goals**

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him" (1 John 5:14-15). The purpose of the Prayer Ministry team is to actively encourage and promote prayer within the life of the church. By being open and responsive to the working of the Holy Spirit, we pray that God's love, guidance and healing power would be released for the benefit of His people and to his glory.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

Lorenza Darley and Grace Cobbinah attended a prayer breakfast at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 27, 2010. Rev. Percy Butiku, Pastor and Assistant to the Bishop on African Affairs led the group. The prayer breakfast was attended by other Lutheran churches from the 5 boroughs of the City. A care package was sent to Jason Nunez in Afghanistan. Jason is safely back from his tour of duty. This Ministry continues to be a source of strength and inspiration for Advent community. Last year was a trying year for some of our members. Some members lost their jobs and others continue to be unemployed. Some members also lost family members and others continue to battle health issues. We sadly remember the passing of Bob Sadler and Wilma Gilbert. The prayer partners were there to support them. Confidentiality continues to be extremely important to us and we will honor your wishes. Remember, you can always remain anonymous.

**Plans for 2010**

Our goal is to continue to be a vital and a growing ministry and to provide support to the congregation and visitors. Our doors are always open to welcome new members. We meet periodically. We would like the congregation to know that there is always a prayer partner who is always available to pray for anyone at the end of the 11 am service.

**Acknowledgements**

A warm gratitude to Karen Cantrell, Kathy Carpenter, Rebecca Cobbinah, Lorenza Darley, Elizabeth Garcia, Sandra Kirby, Norma Martin, Linda Nortey, Dolores Rivera-Ferrer, Maura Rosado, Kirsten Sadler, Djamillah Samad, Madelyn Sousoudis, Ellie Sudbrock and Chandra Travis for their devotion to this Ministry. Although Mark Huisman moved away he continues to be part of this Ministry and we thank him for his many contributions. Last year, ushered in with natural disasters – earthquakes in Haiti, China, Chile, Turkey, Mexico, Indonesia and a volcanic eruption in Iceland and ended with floods in Pakistan and Australia. We hope and pray that this year will be a year of peace and tranquility.

Respectfully submitted by

Grace Cobbinah

Prayer Ministry

**Advent Lutheran Church  
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**Scholarship Committee**

**Description of Committee/TaskForce/Ministry Goals**

The Scholarship Committee is responsible for administering Advent's Scholarship Fund which was started with a challenge grant from Dorothy Metzger some years ago. Dorothy is a greater supporter of both Advent's scholars and education. Each year, we solicit donations from the congregation and its friends. Sixty percent (60%) of the available funds are disbursed in equal amounts to the successful awardees and forty percent (40%) is kept as seed money for the next year.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

In 2010 we awarded scholarships of \$725 to each of the following applicants: Alessandra Grumm, Andrea Nortey, Ben Nortey, Calvin Wine, Grace Cobbinah, Josh Weidmann and Sarah Cobbinah.

**Plans for 2011**

From 2004 through 2008 we were able to augment our congregational giving by a gift from an anonymous donor. This additional money ran out in 2009 so we are looking for Advent's members and friends to be as generous as possible in these tough economic times to keep the fund up and running. This is becoming more and more challenging for many reasons: the tough economic times which have been felt by many members of our Advent family, the increasing number of ministries supported by Advent and for which donations are solicited, and the increasing number of applicants. These scholarships, whatever the amount, however, are very much appreciated by our scholars and we hope that the congregation can continue to support this ministry at whatever level they can afford. The Advent scholarship is a way of letting our young adults know we continue to value and support them as they make the transition into full participation in our congregation.

**Acknowledgements**

We want to thank all those who have faithfully contributed to the Scholarship Fund this past year and for many years.

Respectfully submitted by

Dorothy Metzger  
Kathleen Carpenter

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Spanish Ministry**

In 2010, Advent's Spanish ministry reached out to our West Side neighborhood and beyond welcome and invitation through word-of-mouth, letters and postcards, fliers, key tags and a vibrant new banner displayed on Broadway.

Our guests express repeated thanks for the opportunity to worship together in a familiar tongue, enjoying well-loved hymns and traditions. We've joined in worship and fellowship in five services throughout the year, for:

Los Tres Reyes Magos (Epiphany)  
Miércoles de Ceniza (Ash Wednesday)  
Domingo de Ramos (Palm Sunday)  
Pentecostés (Pentecost)  
Día de Todos Los Santos (All Saints Day).

We had an average of 60 people attending each service and almost all of them came to the potluck lunch we have organized after each service. For the year 2011, initial plans are to increase the number of services to six, to be held on a every-other-month timeframe throughout the year.

We appreciate the contributions of Pastor Fabian Arias and Zión Lutheran Church in Harlem and offer many thanks to the members of a planning group who have generously shared their time and talents in this unfolding ministry:

Pastor J.Elise Brown, Elba Cabrera, Rosie Carmona, Jordan Clawson, Daniel Donovan, Alison Garnjost, Amanda Garcia, Liz Garcia, Fred Grumm, Julie Hagen, Jane Huerta, Danielline Martinez, Franklin Mateo, Dorothy Metzger, Olga Matos, Dolores Rivera, Djamillah Samad, Vicar Marc Stutzel, Pastor James Sudbrock, Rose Tregallo, Sarah Uribe and all those who had helped in one way or another to make this ministry a reality.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Rose Tregallo  
Carlos Lopez*

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2011**

**Stewardship Committee**

**Description of Committee Goals**

The overall goal of the Stewardship Committee is to create and nurture a culture of generosity among the members of Advent. We are not intending to simply raise awareness or funds for the autumn Stewardship Drive, but rather to create a culture of giving all year long. The Stewardship Committee will be a year- round effort to help our members grow in their giving as a way of growing in their spiritual development.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

For 2010 the Stewardship Committee utilized the Herb Miller New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Guide as a model for our campaign, but modified the program to suite our needs. This was the third and final year we utilized the Herb Miller model, as recommended by this particular program. The highlights of the Stewardship Drive include:

- **105 pledges for 2011, vs. 111 for 2010.** This represents a decrease of 5.4% over the 2010 pledges.
- **46 families increased their pledges from 2010 to 2011.**
- **The predicted total pledge amount for 2011 is \$ 311,258 vs. \$291,290 for 2010.** This represents an increase of 6.4%.

The autumn Ministry Fair continued to be very successful this past year, and allowed the opportunity for members to learn more about the various ministries at Advent, and also allowed the various ministry leaders to recruit new volunteers for the various ministries. The Stewardship team also organized the Mission Moments portion of our Sunday services.

**Plans for 2011**

The Stewardship Committee recruited new members for 2011, Pastor Eric Shafer and Chris Dundon. We will research a new stewardship program for 2010 in place of the Herb Miller program. We will continue to conduct the Ministry Fair, and to organize the Mission Moments. We will keep the congregation updated on the progress of the Stewardship Team throughout the year.

**Acknowledgements**

I want to thank all the volunteers who have donated their time and efforts to the Stewardship Committee this year, especially Co-Chair Pastor James Sudbrock, Pastor Brown, Ellie Sudbrock, Erin Anderson, Danae Hudson, Naomi Frost Eric Shafer and Chris Dundon.

Respectfully submitted  
Mark Baldassare, Co- Chair Stewardship Committee

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Tiffany Project**

**Description of Tiffany Project**

The Tiffany Project began in September 2007 as a campaign to restore the church's stained glass windows. In 2010, Phase 1 of the Restoration – the restoration of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Street windows – was substantially completed.

***Overview of progress this year***

- 93<sup>rd</sup> Street windows were removed in November 2009 and transported to Cohoes Studios in Schenectady, NY for restoration. In November 2010, Cohoes returned almost all of them to Advent's sanctuary.
- The reinstallation of the windows was slightly delayed so that cleaning and repair could be done on the window masonry. The need for masonry repair was not revealed until the windows were removed.
- The re-installation of the central panels in the lower level windows was further delayed to accommodate changes to the protective glazing on the exterior. The central panels and the protective glazing will be re-installed in Spring of 2011, as soon as temperature permit.
- The restoration and reinstallation was projected to last 12-18 months, so we are still on schedule!

**Looking ahead: 2011 and beyond**

- Exterior scaffolding will remain on 93<sup>rd</sup> Street until the reinstallation of the windows and glazing on 93<sup>rd</sup> Street is complete.
- A re-dedication celebration for the windows is scheduled for February 6.
- Any funds remaining in the Tiffany account following the completion of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Street window restoration will be held as seed money for the future restoration of the church's larger stained glass windows, the Christ and St. Paul windows. Our consultant, Julie Sloan, recommends their condition be reviewed in 5-10 years.

**Acknowledgements**

Thanks go to Suzanne Chadwick who is organizing the window dedication celebration on February 6.

A special thank you to Jane Huerta, Building Administrator, who boldly (perhaps recklessly?) scheduled the window reinstallation for the month of November, and successfully raced the clock to have the contractors complete their work and remove the interior scaffolding before a slew of special celebrations commenced at Advent in early December. Well done Jane!

Respectfully submitted by

Hans Kriefall  
Tiffany Project

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Worship Task Force**

**Description of Committee/TaskForce/Ministry Goals**

This task force was created to help refresh the worship life of our congregation, to provide a vehicle for two-way communication between members and worship leaders regarding worship, and to assist the worship staff in planning meaningful, lively, and engaging worship services.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

The Worship Task Force has hosted several open forums to invite members and friends to offer their input on worship. These generated many excellent suggestions and ideas. In the fall, we used bulletin inserts to request suggestions of hymns to sing during worship, and from the responses we compiled a list of several hundred hymns. This was great, but please be patient as it will take us years to get through them all!

We have also begun to experiment with a new process for worship planning. At least one month prior to every major season of the church year, we are holding a working group session to look over the weekly readings and themes and to plan worship services. The group includes the pastors, music leaders, task force members, and others with special interests or gifts for worship. If you are interested in participating, please let us know! Thus far, the planning group has tried to focus especially on making our worship more child- and family-friendly, as well as using multimedia, global and ethnic worship resources, spoken litanies, liturgical dance, and other elements in worship.

It's a big job to plan even one worship service. In the end, the responsibility for this lies with our pastoral staff, but the more input we have about innovative ideas, and the more opportunities there are for everyone involved in worship to think and plan together, with plenty of time to work out the details, the more interesting and meaningful our worship life will be, and the more successful we will be in using worship as a way to experience the presence of God in our lives.

**Plans for 2011**

We will continue with the seasonal planning sessions, and we are always interested in hearing any feedback on worship from any member or visitor. Please feel free to contact Carolyn Riehl at [riehl@tc.edu](mailto:riehl@tc.edu) or 212-663-5909 if you have any ideas or suggestions or want to participate.

**Acknowledgements**

The worship leaders have all been tremendously flexible and open to input from congregation members and we thank all of them. I am also grateful to everyone who has attended the open forums, met with the task force, or offered their suggestions. This is truly an open group effort!

Respectfully submitted by  
Carolyn Riehl

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010**

**Treasurer's Report**

**2010 Summary**

	<b>2010 Budget</b>	<b>2010 Actual</b>	<b>Difference</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 470,282	\$488,344	\$18,062 more income than budgeted
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 470,964	\$464,301	\$ 6,663 less in expenses than budgeted
	(\$682)	<u>\$ 24,042.92</u>	<u>Budget surplus for 2010</u>

Advent was once again richly blessed in 2010. Advent's income exceeded projections by \$18,062, while our staff was able to reduce expenses below their budget lines, coming in \$6,663 under budget. Instead of concluding the year with the expected budget deficit, Advent finished 2010 with a budget surplus of \$24,042.

We continued to build Advent's General Reserve Fund (non-restricted money for a "rainy day") with a budgeted contribution of \$5,000 in 2010, bringing the General Reserve (3000) to \$13,835. Clearly, with a yearly operating budget of almost \$500,000, Advent should continue to fortify the reserve in the coming years.

The Treasurer and Investment Committee spent much of 2010 learning how to reconcile the nine (!) separate investment accounts the church maintains. As seen on the Investment Committee report, investment returns on the larger funds were substantive; however, we will be working to simplify our investment structure by consolidating the smaller accounts that bear no meaningful interest into the church's general money market fund, to save on management fees and administrative burdens.

**Acknowledgements**

Jane Huerta, Financial Secretary, is a reliable and conscientious partner in managing our cash inflows and clearly labeling invoices for payment. We are lucky to have her working for us.

One of the 16,000 responsibilities Nicole Johnson helms at Advent is leading our counting team and managing our payroll process. I don't know how she does it, but I'm so grateful she does. Thank you, Nicole!

Linda Kelly thought she had concluded her year as Treasurer, but actually spent 80% of this year supervising me and bringing me up to speed. You'll note she's also presenting the 2011 budget. My deepest thanks – and apologies! – to her.

Respectfully submitted,

Hans Kriefall  
Treasurer

**Advent Lutheran Church  
Annual Report for Year 2010  
Nominating Committee**

**Description of Committee/Task Force/Ministry Goals**

It is the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to secure candidates for the ballot for election to the Church Council and to present a slate of qualified, acceptable candidates to the council for approval and to the membership for a vote.

***Summary and Highlights of the Year's Activities***

The Nominating Committee was appointed by the Church Council in the fall of 2010. Last year's nominating committee had identified the qualities and skill sets needed for Council membership, and this year's committee used those. Through bulletin announcements and newsletter articles, congregation members were informed about the work of the committee, and were encouraged to submit names for nomination.

Church Council members, as stated in the Constitution, should have the following skills:

- Ability to work to pursue long term goals
- Lead in stating mission of congregation
- Evaluate the church's activities
- Work to involve all members to be active in witness, service, learning, and support
- Provide general oversight of all activities, particularly worship
- Support pastors and staff
- Be examples of peace and goodwill
- Use resources from synod and ELCA
- Be responsible for financial and property matters

Due to term completions and inability to complete terms, we have four openings available on the Church Council.

The Nominating Committee offered potential nominees a chance to meet with the Committee, the Council President, and the Pastor at an event hosted at Nicole Johnson's home in December.

The Nominating Committee was blessed with the opportunity to consider several well qualified candidates. After a careful process, the Committee is pleased to nominate for election to three year terms on the Church Council:

Becky Eavey  
Naomi Frost  
Damaris McLean  
Brian Peck

Congregation members may make nominations from the floor. Persons nominated from the floor will also be expected to respond to the four questions that the nominees have answered.

1. How did you come to Advent?
2. What has church membership meant to you?
3. Which Advent ministries have you been active in?
4. What interests you about participating in the church council?

The current Nominating Committee will assist the Council in managing the election of its officers which will occur at the February meeting of the Council. Written, secret ballots will be used in that process.

**Plans for 2011**

The Nominating Committee recommends that a new Nominating Committee be appointed by the Council in the fall of 2011.

**Acknowledgements**

I want to thank Committee members Norma Martin, Kathy Carpenter, and Dan Donovan for all their work on the Committee. We are all grateful to Pastor Brown for her support and guidance.

Respectfully submitted by

Nicole Johnson  
Nominating Committee