

From the Pastor, November 2009



Rev. J. Elise Brown, Pastor

From the Pastor

Leaves on the trees slowly turn from green to gold and auburn, then to brown. Soon they will drop to the ground. We will walk on those leaves, perhaps never thinking that a few months ago they were way up there, attached to that tree. They were taking nourishment from moisture moving from the roots, up the trunk, to the branches, to these very leaves. These very leaves are now on the ground, the very place from which their nourishment once came.

The church year slowly turns from green to white to blue. Soon a new church year will begin. We move from the green of Pentecost, to the white of All Saints' and Christ the King, to the blue of Advent. This is called the liturgical calendar, a cycle made up of unique seasons all inextricably connected to each other. Little did we think the long green season of

Pentecost was creating fertile ground and nourishment to start the whole liturgical cycle again. But this is how it works.

It is all connected.

A new baby is born into the congregation the same month an older member enters the company of saints. A baptism is held on Sunday; a funeral was held the day before. At first glance, this might seem sad. But it is the cycle of life where each season of our lives is connected to that which has come before and that which will come next.

The liturgical calendar helps us walk through the changing seasons of nature, the Christian story and our lives. November is a month where we pass through three colors-white on All Saints' Day (November 1), green on two final Pentecost Sundays (November 8 and 15), white again on Christ the King (November 22) and blue for the beginning of Advent (November 29). The new church year begins on November 29, the first Sunday of Advent.

It is all connected.

The green Pentecost season brought the powerful watering by the Holy Spirit that created the fertile, nourished ground for us to face All Saints and memories of loved ones who have gone before us. The white of All Saints' and Christ the King gives us enough hope, confidence and strength to enter the season of waiting, the season of Advent. We couldn't have one without the other. They are all connected. November is a unique month when we walk through so much in the liturgical calendar and our lives together.

We are all connected.

Let's journey together through the nourishment, hope, confidence and waiting.

See you in church,

Pb

Sundays @ Ten, Wednesdays @ Noon from Pastor James Sudbrock

Sundays at Ten

November 1: "John Wesley: The Labels and the Libels" Professor Christopher Morse, Union Theological Seminary, NYC

In August, the ELCA voted to be in "full communion" with the United Methodist Church. This agreement means not only sharing the Eucharist but many other parts of ministry. John Wesley brought the Methodist church to this country. Come learn about our new mission partners.

November 8, 15, 22, 29: Getting Ready for Luke - anticipating the Gospel of Luke, which will form the basis of next Church Year's Sunday Gospels

Wednesdays at Noon – led by Pastor Brown and Pastor Sudbrock

Join us for our new format - 12:02 to 12:22 - Brief Order of Holy Communion followed by refreshments for all to share.

12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Getting started on next Sunday's Bible readings



Advent Midweek Services - A Welcome Respite from Our Busy Lives

Plan now to attend our midweek Advent services, to be shared with our partner congregation, Broadway United Church of Christ:

Wednesdays, December 2, 9 and 16.

Dinner served at 6:00 p.m. Service-7:00-7:40 p.m.

(Advent Chorale rehearsals will follow the services each week.)

The Adventurous Adventonians Out and About from Kathy Matson

On September 27th, the Adventurous Adventonians took their second trip of the month. We gathered for a lovely lunch at our home-away-from home the Key West Diner after the congregational meeting following the 11:00 service. From there half of us ventured off to Lincoln Square and the American Folk Art Museum where we were treated to the textural rhythms of contemporary African American quilts. Jazz formed the context for the quilts, many of which had amazing vibrant colors and three-dimensional pieces that popped off the fabric. In some instances, photos of jazz musicians were transferred to material and added to the quilts. We stopped at the restaurant next door for dessert and coffee before heading home. (Food is a very important part of the Adventonian experience!) The Adventonians are planning trips in December to the Merchant's House Museum, decorated for the Christmas holidays, and the Revels at Symphony Space. If you are interested in these activities or in joining up with the Adventonians, contact Kathy Matson at kdmatson1@yahoo.com or Kathy Carpenter, kathc89@gmail.com or call (212)362-2338.

A Common Ground Experience from Jordan Clawson

A funny thing happened on the way to the food pantry. I was about two blocks from Advent trying to deliver the Common Ground offering to the West Side Campaign Against Hunger when the bag I was carrying broke and the bags rolling on the dolly fell off. I was picking up cans when someone stopped to offer me her extra shopping bags. She searched for them, and when she couldn't find them she told me she was going to her deli to get some for me and that she'd be back. Before she could leave, her friend found an extra bag and gave it to me. I finished picking up the food with the man that had been waiting for the bus and off we all went our separate ways. It was nice to connect to strangers like that, and I certainly appreciated their kindness.

I hope we are all able to offer and return nice gestures, even small ones. Common Ground will continue to accept food offerings, as well as phone cards for American soldiers and gift offerings around the holidays. By the time you've read this Becky and I will have taken the food to WSCAH, and the offerings you've donated at CG and on Sunday will be out in the world. Helping others.

Opportunities for Ministry

The council nominating committee will be meeting throughout the autumn to prepare for the congregational meeting in January. We anticipate three openings on the council. If you are interested in learning more about this important ministry, please contact members of the nominating committee: Norma Martin nmartinnyc@gmail.com, Craig Schwalbe css2109@columbia.edu, Kathy Carpenter kathc89@gmail.com, Dan Donovan DSD8@columbia.edu, Suzanne Campise ambiguousview@yahoo.com, or Pastor Brown pastor@adventnyc.org

In addition to the Church Council, there are openings on the newly forming Mission Committee, the Worship Task Force, the Hospitality Task Force and Tiffany Restoration Task Force. Property, Personnel, Investment and Stewardship Task Forces are currently filled. If you have an interest in an open slot in any of the groups mentioned above, please speak to Carlos Lopez cl517@columbia.edu, Norma Martin nmartinnyc@gmail.com or Pastor Brown, pastor@adventnyc.org.

Voices of Praise, from Emily Ballentine

On Christ the King Sunday, Christians rejoice in the knowledge that Jesus Christ reigns on high as Lord of all. Voices of Praise will celebrate this knowledge by singing Twila Paris' beloved contemporary hymn "He is Exalted," combined with the well-known hymn "Coronation."

"We'll join in everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!"

"He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign. Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name. He is exalted, forever exalted on high!"

Voices of Praise choir combines our collective love of singing and worship music with fellowship, prayer, and community. We sing contemporary Christian repertoire in 2-, 3- and 4-part harmony, and are always welcoming new singers. Please contact director Emily Ballentine at emilyballentine@mail.com for further information!

Children, Youth, and Family News from Julie Hagen

Open your Bible and read Luke 17:11-19, the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers. After they are healed by Jesus, nine lepers run off going on with their lives while only one leper runs back to Jesus to say, "Thanks!" Does it surprise you that only one leper comes back? How do you think Jesus may have felt? Who in the story are you most like? Too often our busy schedules and to do lists take precedence and we, like the nine lepers, run off and forget who and what is all around us. When is the last time you stopped and said "Thanks?" How do you show your thankfulness to God? As a family, think about all the people and things you are thankful for. Draw pictures, write notes, or say them aloud. We are so thankful you are a part of the Advent community!

Sunday School and Lighthouse meet at 10am each week. All children ages 3-12 are welcome to join us for an hour of songs, Bible stories, activities, fun, and fellowship. This fall children are collecting offerings to purchase large print hymnals for Advent.

Bible Explorers meets every Wednesday from 3:15-4:45pm with a new Family worship from 4:30-4:50. All children ages 3-12 are invited...it's never too late to join. Brochures are available at church and on our website. The children will be visiting Kateri Nursing Home again this month to sing songs and spend some time with the residents. There will be no class on Wednesday, November 25th because of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Acolytes: We are looking for a few adults who are willing to help coordinate the acolyte ministry. We have many youth who are eager to assist as acolytes during worship but we need to find coordinators first. Please talk to Julie if you are interested or have questions.

Confirmation: This ministry is open to youth ages 12-18 who are ready to affirm their baptism through study of the Scriptures, Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Lutheran tradition. We meet Fridays from 4:30-5:45 p.m. November. 6 and 20, December 4 and 18. Confirmation youth are reminded to turn in their worship notes to Julie.

Middle School Ministry! Movie Night- Friday November 6th, 6-8:30 p.m. Bring your favorite movie candy to share and we'll provide the pizza and drinks. Friends are always welcome!

Youth Group News

November 8- Meet after the 11am service. Lunch and Bible Study

November 15- MoMA Museum

November 20- Movie Night Fundraiser and LOCK IN. (7pm-7:30am)

Remember to check out our MySpace page for more updates as well as pictures!

www.myspace.com/adventnyc



Mark your calendars! Sunday December 6th is our Advent Festival. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate the beginning of our Advent season. Please bring one dozen sandwiches (you pick the topping...be creative!) There will be stations for crafts and Advent activities including making your own Advent wreath and a special story from St. Nicholas himself. Please talk to Julie if you would like to help out.

EVERYONE is welcome to Advent's First Annual Night at the Movies- Friday, November 20th 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 which includes desserts and beverages! Come and enjoy a new release movie on the big screen with your Advent friends and help raise money for the youth group. Stay tuned to the Announcements Page for what movie we will be showing!

The Annual Tree Sale is Saturday December 12th and We Need Help! Christmas is just around the corner which means its time to get your tree! Come pick up your tree and/or help sell. Gary Heard and Julie Hagen are looking for help selling trees throughout the whole day. Bundle up and come spread the Christmas cheer along 93rd and Broadway!

If you have questions or would like to help with any of our programs, please contact our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, Julie Hagen, julie@adventnyc.org or 212-665-2504.

From the Farm to the City – Some Thoughts on Consecration Sunday from Ellie Sudbrock

My mother, one of ten children, grew up on a simple farm in Oklahoma. As a child, I loved “vacationing” on the farm where we joined everyone working together in the kitchen, garden, barn, chicken coop, etc. My brothers and I were sent down the road to share eggs and freshly baked bread with a neighbor. Neighbors showed up to help each other throughout the year. My mother grew up living thankfully in God’s grace, forgiveness and hope; in simple gifts of the earth, family, neighbors and church. She brought these gifts of God’s grace and a spirit of generosity to my three brothers and me as we grew up in Kansas City. Our family treasures were living in God’s blessings, trusting God’s care and putting God’s compassion into action.



God’s work in us is just as up-to-date in NYC as it was in K.C. Home families and church families shape our lives. Our church family at Advent helps us grow as we live together in God’s grace and compassion.

Consecration Sunday is a highlight of our life together. Consecration Sunday, November 22, is our special day to celebrate God’s blessings and respond in faith. Consecration Sunday is a special day to celebrate living together in the joyous, generous, faithful family of God. Make Consecration Sunday a priority day on your calendar.

- **Consecration Sunday is November 22, 2009**

Festival Worship at 9 AM and 11 AM with guest preacher,

Pastor Jack Horner, Assistant to the Bishop for Mission Support, Metropolitan New York Synod.

- **Our response to God’s grace, blessings and compassion with our pledges of gifts and tithes.**
- **Celebration lunch after the 11 AM Worship – approximately 12:30 PM. Our theme is International Flavors. Bring a favorite dish to share!**

A day to share the joy of being part of the Advent Lutheran Church Family as we get to know each other better.

Passages

Dear Members of Advent,

We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of the love, support, and prayers over the past three years as we watched ALS destroy the body of Josh's father, Jerry. Thank you for all of the kind words after Jerry's death and the beautiful plant that was sent for his memorial service. We most certainly felt like we were being held in the palm of God's hand during such a difficult time. We are very grateful and thankful for such a wonderful faith community

Love,

Vicar Stephanie Kershner and Josh Quillen

Dear Advent,

Thank you so much for your flexibility in having Pastor Brown come to preach at my Installation Service on October 4! It is just one example of how you as a congregation have supported and nurtured me through the years. You have had a great influence on who I am today and on how I serve the Church.

With great thanks,

Jeff Goodrich

Mark Your Calendars.....

Advent Christmas Tree Sale

Saturday, December 12 from 8-4 p.m. All proceeds from the sale will go to Transfiguration Lutheran Church in the South Bronx. Transfiguration will be sending some members from their congregation to work alongside Advent volunteers. Don't miss it!



November Sundays

November 1 – All Saints' Day. This will be a special day as we dedicate 30 new choir chairs in memory of J. Nathan Gilbert, an Advent member for over 50 years who joined the company of saints in March, 2005. Nathan left a memorial gift to Advent which the Council decided to use on new choir chairs. Nathan sat in the old choir chairs for 30 years! Council thought he would approve of this purchase!

November 8 – New Members to be received at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Welcome Rhonda Lowe and Karrin, Kerry Butler, Joey Mazzarino and Segi, Brook Elliott-Buettner, Elisama Colon, Janet Hansen, Nora Gustuson, Dean Trozduk and Evan, Alison Garnjost, Dolores Jones and Avante Davis.

November 22 – Consecration Sunday. Please come prepared to make your financial commitment for 2010. Plan to stay for the International Flavors luncheon after the 11:00 a.m. service! Bring an international dish to share.

November 29 – First Sunday of Advent. We will use the Holden Liturgy during this season. A pie social will follow each service. Bring samples of your favorite Thanksgiving pies! Leftovers, welcome!

Choirnotes from Aaron Wunsch.....



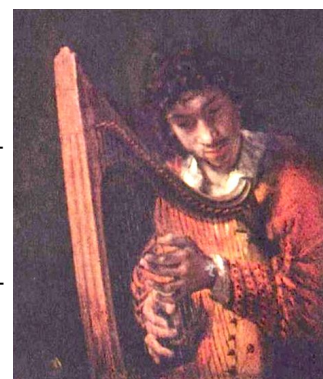
Choirs the world over are familiar with American composer Randall Thompson's (1899-1984) *Alleluia*, a beautiful extended anthem consisting only of the words "Alleluia, Amen" (full disclosure: it was performed by the Advent Chorale at our wedding). Serge Koussevitsky, the famed conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, commissioned that work from Thompson for the Tanglewood Music Center, where it is sung every summer to this day; when it came time to return the favor upon the occasion of Koussevitsky's 25th anniversary as conductor, Thompson chose to set the *Last Words of David*.

The final sentences uttered by King David may not be "famous last words," but they are recorded for us nonetheless in 2 Samuel 23: "One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, ⁴is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land." David's words of wisdom emphasize the importance of justice on earth using beautiful image from nature.

The beginning and end of Thompson's musical setting could not be more different. The organ launches into a series of rapid arpeggios, and the choir declares David's words on justice as if their voices were trumpets. Yet gradually the music quiets into an expression of the peaceful image of the sun rising after rain, which mirrors David's own passing on. Thompson couldn't resist adding the words "Alleluia, Amen" at the end, an allusion to his earlier work

Before the Bible records David's last words, it calls him "Israel's beloved singer." Even in his regal final days it was remembered that David was one of our greatest Biblical musicians. The Advent Chorale will sing Thompson's *Last Words of David* at the end of the church year as a reminder that it is both a time of moving on and of renewing our dedication to justice, peace and service as the new church year begins.

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From the Sudbrocks



Traveling is a gift - a gift of seeing, listening, learning, appreciating and becoming part of a place, people and culture. During our brief stay in Costa Rica, we were surrounded by the rainforest - bouncing across hanging walkways, zip lining through the canopy, boating and rafting the rivers and horseback riding to restorative thermal pools. We visited two families in their homes and listened to their stories, participated in Sunday worship, and visited two schools near the active Arenal Volcano. Mountain hikes, beach walks, elegant birds, howler monkeys, goofy reptiles, rainbows of flowers and beautiful people - Costa Rica touched our lives and we are thankful.

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

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We are a diverse, Christian community committed to building relationships and transforming lives through faith and action.

Music Mondays



On November 16 Music Mondays will present SONYC, New York's own dynamic conductor-less ensemble (String Orchestra of New York City). The New York Times reports that this "feisty" ensemble plays "with an appealing deftness," and you won't want to miss their concert at Advent. Their program consists of two Concerto Grossi by Corelli and Gemiani, Five Pieces by Paul Hindemith, and a gripping version of Giuseppe Verdi's String Quartet arranged for string orchestra.

See www.sonyc.org and www.musicmondays.org for more information

If you'd prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, please let Jane Huerta know by emailing her at finance@adventnyc.org.