

THE MESSENGER

JULY 2025



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY
INDEPENDENCE DAY

A Letter From The Pastor

BY PASTOR LARRY GRUNDEN

Martin Luther wrote, “Faith and love should be distinguished in this way; faith is concerned with the person and love with the works... Faith justifies but it does not fulfil the law; love does not justify but it fulfills the law; the law demands love and works but does not mention the person; the person feels the law, but love does not feel it at all. Faith, then, although it cannot fulfill the law, yet possesses that by which the law can be fulfilled, for it gains the Spirit and the love by which it can be fulfilled... To sum up, as St. Paul himself here says, “Love is the fulfilling of the law,” as if

he said that it is one thing to fulfill the law and another to make possible the fulfilling of the law. Love fulfills the law in the sense that it is itself the fulfilling of the law, but faith fulfills it in the sense that it provides the doer and love remains the deed.”^[1]

His words channel those of St. Paul in his letter to the Romans, “Love is the fulfilling of the law” Romans 13: 10, as well as those of James, “You see that faith was active along with his works and faith was brought to completion by the works” James, 2:22.

Here we see Luther grapple with our Christian essence through Law and Gospel. “Faith, love and works” are the words that he

uses to understand what it is that we do in response to God, and what we should be doing in faith. The law is fulfilled by love, this we know; for Jesus is the essence of God’s love for the world, and fulfilled the law for us, because of our inability to do so on our own.

Faith holds the potential for fulfillment of the law, but fails to do so alone and without love (and the Spirit). Faith is a catalyst, of sorts, for love to enter and then for the law to be fulfilled, but it is love (Jesus) that fulfills, not faith (trust). If we trust, we will know love and love will lead us to works.

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 & 10:30 AM

IN PERSON & ONLINE

Facebook Live:

www.facebook.com/pg/adventlutheranop

2nd Community Care @ 1pm (Parlor)

4th - Church Office Closed

6th - Christian Education Board @ 11:30am (Fellowship Hall)

7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th Tellers @ 9am

7th Fellowship Ministry @ 1pm (Parlor)

7th Property Board @ 6pm (Parlor)

7th Youth Board @ 6pm (Fellowship Hall)

7th Stewardship Board @ 6:30pm (Office)

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st Yoga @ 5:30pm (Fellowship Hall)

9th & 23rd Stephen Ministry @ 1pm (Parlor)

10th - MESSENGER Deadline @ 3:30pm

12th Property Workday @ 7:30am

14th - Executive Committee @ 6:30pm (Parlor)

21st Church Council @ 6:30pm (Fellowship Hall)

25th Family Game Night (Bunco)

Quilters Wednesdays @ 9:30am (Fellowship Hall)

Adult Bible Study Thursdays @ 10:00 am (Fellowship Hall)

ministry weekly scheduled
meetings

July 6, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-9; Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16;

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

We all are on in mission

July 13, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14;

Luke 10:25-37

Lord, thee I love with all my heart

July 20, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-10a; Psalm 15; Colossians 1:15-28;

Luke 10:38-42

Give me Jesus

July 27, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19];

Luke 11:1-13

Forgive our sins as we forgive



A Letter From The Pastor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Works,” that word that we shy from as Lutherans; “works” are love that is in action, which is not possible without faith. Together then, “Faith, Love and Works” work together to fulfill that which God desires, the Law.

Our lives of faith and trust in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, fill us with love. Love then flows from us into the world and God’s Will is seen and done, and God is glorified.

May my faith become active in love, O Lord. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Larry

[1] Sermon on the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, 1525 WA 17/2:97f.

A prayer from the President

Lord help us to earnestly look for your Kingdom today. Open our eyes to see what you see. Open our ears to hear what you hear. Open our hearts to care about what you care about. Do not let us miss what you are doing in the world around us. Amen.

A Letter From The President

BY HELEN HOWARD

Summer is here and for many that means vacations to see areas they have never been before whether in country or out of country. For some it is a new sport season like baseball, swimming, or fishing.

Jesus calls each of us to be “fishers of men”. We cannot always “hook ‘em.” That is up to God. But we sure can plant seeds and grow a garden. I know we have many gardeners in our church and their labors produce an abundance for their tables. So, we should plant seeds to those we meet to grow our garden of members here at Advent. It is so good to see new members and new faces that can add some new energy and ideas to help our different missions and groups.

Did you notice how many children participated in the youth Takeover Service and the number who were at the altar for the children’s message on June 8th? That is our new “crop” to grow our youth garden. This is a group of children that can grow up together and form new bonds with others raised in a church and meet this world with a good foundation.

We have also had several former members return, and I love seeing their faces once again. Who do you know who maybe left but aren’t happy where they landed? Things are different now and we can encourage them to come and give us another try. Who knows we may be rescuing them and they may like it! We must always be ready, even though we may not feel worthy. We should be like Isaiah when God said to him, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” and Isaiah responded, “Here I am Lord, send me!”. (Isaiah 6:8b).

Where is God calling you to serve? What gifts and experiences do you have that can help grow our missions and our garden here at Advent?

In His service, Helen Howard



Advent Lutheran Preschool

Preschool Hours
Mon.-Fri. 9:00am - 12:00pm

It is amazing how God and His church took care of our little preschool this school year and we are so appreciative. The responses from our parents this year were heartwarming and a testament to the school family we share. Check out our Facebook page to see cute pictures from our graduation to kindergarten program!

We are not in session and our families are enjoying quality time together this summer BUT, we are actively preparing for next year. We still have spots available in our three-year-old class so if you or someone you know is interested in our program, send them our way! The best way to reach us right now is through our email as this is monitored daily.

We said goodbye to Ms. Mildred as a three-year-old teacher as she is retiring this year to be Nana to her grandson. She will be here as a substitute and morning care helper so it's not a complete goodbye. We are planning to add two more to our crew this summer and we are looking for an awesome sub who loves children as much as we do! We are always ready to welcome new friends.

Happy Summer and watch our halls transform into Back to School in August!

Martha Morrow
preschool@adventop.org



Church office
Closed



July 11, 6-9pm
Yahtzee
hotdogs/bring side or
dessert



July 12, 7:30am
Join us for breakfast and help with items needed
to keep the facilities looking great.



July 25, 6-9pm
Bunco Tournament
BBQ meatballs/bring
side or dessert



Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About Stephen Ministry – Part 4

Stephen Ministry is a worldwide ministry with roots in St. Louis. It was started in 1975 by Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a pastor and clinical psychologist, who at the time was pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church. Fresh out of seminary, Dr. Haugk quickly discovered there were many more needs for care than he alone could meet. He drew on his background in theology and psychology and trained nine parishioners to assist in pastoral care. It was so successful that other churches became interested, and the Stephen Ministries organization was founded. Today, more than 11,000 congregations from 160 denominations are involved. Most are in the United States and Canada, but there are also Stephen Ministry churches in 24 other countries.

The people cared for by Stephen Ministers benefit greatly. They are receiving support and encouragement in their time of need. Stephen Ministers benefit tremendously too. "I've really grown spiritually and deepened my prayer life since I became a Stephen Minister," said a Stephen Minister in Illinois. "This has helped me to be a better mentor to the men I minister to. I became a Stephen Minister to help someone else, but I found that I have grown a lot too," said another Stephen Minister. "It's an amazing experience to see God work through you to change the life of another person." Pastors recognize the positive effect Stephen Ministry has on the church's ability to reach out into the community. As one Pastor stated: "Stephen Ministry is a very concrete way that we share the love and hope of Jesus Christ as we fulfill our vision."

Soon there will be the recruitment of additional Stephen Ministers at Advent. This is an opportunity for you to join the team and experience exceptional training covering topics such as; caring ministry, assertive relating, spiritual gifts discovery, grief support, and spiritual growth. Use what you learn to improve your ability to relate to and care for others, grow in faith, and journey through life crises.

You are invited to join our Stephen Ministry Team. Do you have the desire to help another person struggling with a life crisis and unsure how to help? The Stephen Ministry training equips you. Stephen Ministers know that God is the cure giver; we are the care givers, bringing God's love to those suffering and fostering hope. Contact the church office or Stephen Leader, Ruth Johansen (904-214-5120), she will welcome your call. Please feel free to speak with Ruth after church service.

COMMUNITY CARE

WIJ IT???

Translation: Where is Jesus in this?

Answer: Right here at Advent.

YOU'VE
DONE IT
AGAIN

You were asked to **BE THE CHURCH** and you responded. We are called to **BE THE CHURCH AND TO DO** as Jesus asked in **MATTHEW 25**, feed the hungry and clothe the naked. You got the call and responded. The joint service project with the Synod is benefiting from what you provided: 240 adult “undies”, 100 maxi pads, one dozen socks, one dozen deodorants, and 4 dozen ladies undies. This means over 200 people will receive care and know the truth of what we taught the kids in Vacation Bible School, Jesus Loves You. They say talk is cheap, **action speaks louder than words**. Thank you for this very loud mission ministry.

STEWARDSHIP

There are approximately one hundred verses about Stewardship in the Bible. Stewardship is about more than money. Tithing is important because it allows us to support all the Ministries at Advent Lutheran Church that do so much for us and our community. Some examples are weekly tutoring of students, Vacation Bible School (VBS), our preschool, quilters that not only provide quilts for worldwide distribution but locally for our members with extended hospitals, our staff that does so much to keep us informed and ensuring we have service handouts and our Pastor that oversees his flock with God's words from the Bible. In addition to our Ministries,' we support a local food bank with can good donations and Orange Park High School with donations of goods and toiletries. When we see these wonderful ministries that we have at Advent making a difference in our community, and in the world, and we want to see them thrive, we use our Time, Talents, and Treasures to help pave the way for success in these ministries...

Principals of Stewardship

- **The Stewardship of Time** - "One important resource that God has given equally to all mankind is time." If we are to be successful in our support of all we, do we must be a good manager of our time. Romans 13:11 And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.
- **The Stewardship of Talents** - "God created each person with special aptitudes; these aptitudes are referred to as talents." Talents in the early centuries were used as a means of weights and measures but can also be used as money' for example, in Matthew 25:14-30, The Parable of the Talents. Once we genuinely believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit gifts us with the Spirit. 1 Peter 4:10 "As every man hath received a gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." We all are stewards of the gifts and talents that God and the Holy Spirit has given to us. We will be accountable on how we utilized these gifts and talents on Judgement Day.
- **The Stewardship of Treasure** - All we possess belongs to God. "It is the blessings of God that enables us to acquire material wealth. As God's people, it is important for us to remember that we are only stewards of the treasures that God has entrusted into our care." Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

We are all stewards of God's Time, Talents, and Treasures. He has entrusted us to diligently do this and if we succeed, we have accomplished what God has asked us to do for him: use our time, talents, and treasure to spread the Gospel for his Glory.

*Happy
birthday!*

JULY

*Happy
birthday!*

Name	Date
Mark Devery	1
Warren Comiskey	2
Terry Torrence	2
Cheryl Cone	3
Carolina Hollis	3
Fred Long	4
Mary Bola	5
Sadoka Long	5
Sara Turcotte	5
Terrie Carlson	6
Amanda Haupt	6
Donna Combass	7
Betty Carr	8
Carol Cochuyt	8
Brenda Rau	8
Linda Chilson	10

Name	Date
Marsha Feezor	11
Joshua Seeram	12
Kiefer Smith	12
Julia Painter	13
Marylou Palmer	13
Elizabeth Taylor	13
James Brown	14
Jane Woolard	14
Helga Carlson	17
Layla Smith	17
Kathy White	17
James Naylor	18
Kaitlin Walsh	18
James Woolard	18
Liam Woolard	18
Keith Lentz	19

Name	Date
Christina Vaughn	21
Louise Lord	24
Aaron Redlitz	24
Ashley Dechman	25
Jacquelyn Mizeur	25
Tami Cox	26
George Vaughn	26
Max Whiting	26
Shizuko Sprouse	28
Stacy Scott	29
Susanne Kresol	31



Happy *Anniversary*

	Date	No. of Years
Warren & Lynn Comiskey	1	58
John & Penny Klein	2	59
James & Martha Smith	11	55
John & Mary Shelley	30	14

JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
			9:30 a.m. Quilters (FH) 1:00 p.m. Community Care		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. "In Person Facebook Live Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School – On Line & "In Person"	9:00 a.m. Tellers 1:00 p.m. Fellowship Ministry 6:00 p.m. Youth Board 6:00 p.m. Property Board 6:30 p.m. Stewardship Board		9:30 a.m. Quilters (FH) 1:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (P)	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (FH) 5:45-6:45 p.m. Gentle Yoga (FH)		7:30 a.m. Property Workday
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. "In Person Facebook Live Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School – On Line & "In Person"	9:00 a.m. Tellers 6:30 p.m. Executive Committee		9:30 a.m. Quilters (FH)	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (FH) 5:45-6:45 p.m. Gentle Yoga (FH)		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. "In Person Facebook Live Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School – On Line & "In Person"	9:00 a.m. Tellers 6:30 p.m. Church Council		9:30 a.m. Quilters (FH) 1:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry (P)	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study (FH) 5:45-6:45 p.m. Gentle Yoga (FH)		
27	28	29	30	31		
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. "In Person Facebook Live Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School – On Line & "In Person"	9:00 a.m. Tellers					

Worship Volunteers July 2025

DATE	6-July	13-July	20-July	27-July
Liturgical Day	14 Lectionary	15 Lectionary	16 Lectionary	17 Lectionary
	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am
Opener	DeWayne Brown	Wes Ordonez	Bill Kelley	Tim Willadsen
Assist. Minister	Mary Bolla	Mary Ann Ball	Mary Bolla	Mary Ann Ball
Comm. Assist.	Helen Howard	Brenda Rau	Helen Howard	Judie Himes
Ushers	Jack Klees	Wes Ordonez	Cindy Kelley	Tim Willadsen
	Judie Himes	Kathy Ordonez	Bill Kelley	Sophie Willadsen
Welcoming Team	Scott Young	Janine Frisbee	Keifer Smith	Janine Frisbee
Streaming/cameras	George Howard	George Howard	George Howard	George Howard
Power Point	Mary Ann Ball	Tim Willadsen	Tim Willadsen	Wes Ordonez
Lector	Cindy Kelley	Brenda Rau	Bruce Lawson	Sophie Willadsen
Acolyte	Kiefer Smith	Usher	Bex Lawson	Usher
Coffee Hour	Layla & Kiefer Smith	Cecelia Moore	Kathy Ordonez	Mary Ann Ball

TimDATE	6-July	13-July	20-July	27-July
Volunteers	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am	10:30am
Assist. Minister	Kathy White	June Lumpkin	Jim Brown	Jim Brown
Comm. Assist.	John Klein	Carol Williams	Janet Dechmann	Holly Lucas
Ushers	Dale Eichhorn	David Heggood	Geri Mendat	Chuck Mendat
	Susan Eichhorn	Jim Brown	Chuck Mendat	Donald Cordes
Welcoming Team	Penny Klein	Susan Eichhorn	Susan Lee	Jim & Wilma Naylor
Streaming/Cameras	Todd & Kerry	Todd & Kerry	Todd & Diana	Todd & Diana
Sound Technician	Peter Reidler	Peter Reidler	Peter Reidler	Peter Reidler
Power Point	Diana Gilpin	Diana Gilpin	Kerry Underwood	Kerry Underwood
Lector	Layla Smith	Mark Nelson	Eilene Brown	Lindsey Kriekel
Acolyte	Kiefer Smith	Titus Williams	Kiefer Smith	Isaac Kriekel
Coffee Hour	David Heggood	Wilma Naylor	Sadako Long	Hank & Sigrid Herpich
Closer	DeWayne Brown	DeWayne Brown	Jim Smith	Jim Smith

Tellers

Date	Monday, July 7	Monday, July 14	Monday, July 21	Monday, July 28
Tellers	Sadako Long	Wilma Naylor	Terry Torrence	Jim Meekins
	Lynne Balma	Alan Casey	Amanda Shockley	Larry Johnson
	David Keller	Karl Rau	Karen Shockley	Rich Patrick



Advent Lutheran Church
A Stephen Ministry Congregation
2156 Loch Rane Blvd.
Orange Park, FL 32073

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
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