

**Growing *The Beloved Community* in South County
through service and the creative arts.**

A one-day Anti-Racism training workshop will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Mark your calendars and save the date. Rev. Adisa Armand, an experienced Lutheran pastor and anti-racism trainer, will lead the workshop. You can get more information and sign up online at <http://advent-lutheran.org/anti-racism-workshop/>

Council hosted a Council Conversation on Sunday, January 21st. There were three primary topics and some of the comments on each topic are below:

• **Worship Services – one or two?**

- This decision will affect everyone.
- What is the impetus for this? We are pressured to find cantors, greeters, ushers, etc. for two services. Response: Need to search the “Let Your Faith Show” responses regularly and ask people.
- Appears to be a consensus from the regular 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM worship attendees present that they would have few issues with one service at 9:30 AM, but do not want to lose “super-seniors” who prefer to worship later.
- Risk that we might lose some members if we consolidate to one service.
- Families have said loud and clear they do not want a Sunday school hour but are interested in a 20-minute or so pulling out during a service. We could think about volunteer staffing for that but only if we decided to have one service.
- Summer worship experience with one service has been positive in terms of being with the entire church family.
- We have more energy and unity when we have one service, but if we only have one service, we might limit whom we attract.
- If we have one service on Sunday, we might also be able to start a different kind on service on another day (non-Sunday). Some have heard that young folks or others have said they could attend a service if it was not on Sunday mornings.
- When would Council Conversations or other things start if we only had one service? Response: After worship starting at 10:30 – 11:00 AM.
- Maybe instead of thinking about what is good for “me”, we should think about what we need to do for the health of the church community in order to build us back up to a larger church.
- Try one service for a month? Good process question, stay tuned...

Please direct further comments and questions to Valerie S., Worship & Music chair

• **Anti-Racism Workshop**

- This is part of our Beloved Community strategic plan; plus the ELCA has been encouraging this as a high priority for congregations. The workshop is being presented from a Lutheran and a Christian perspective.
- Normally a 3-day course, this workshop is an introductory one-day course; lunch will be served free of charge (a free will offering will be asked to cover a stipend for the instructor and the food).
- People can register online (see above).

The annual Council Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 24, at Mt. Hermon. Some SCORE leaders and staff members will join Council at the Retreat. We will take this time to become better acquainted, improve our working relationships, and set our direction for 2018.

In early 2018, Council will review the Action Items that remain to be completed from 2017, consider adding new Action Items, and plan how to accomplish them.

Guests are always welcome at Council and Executive committee meetings held in the Berkland Fellowship Hall. Executive committee meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. Council meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All meetings start at 7:00 PM. (Meetings are on the Advent's website calendar, <http://advent-lutheran.org/advent-master-calendar/>).

Your 2018 Council roster:

- Ed M., President
- Brad B., 1st Vice President
- Jacqui K., 2nd Vice President
- David C., Financial Secretary
- Peter McE., Secretary
- Norm O., Treasurer
- Kris A., Faith Development
- Lynn A., Communications
- Marcia N., Community Connections
- Carrie M., Operations
- Joyce G., Stewardship
- Valerie S., Worship & Music

Respectfully submitted, Ed M.