

COUNCIL'S CORNER

August 2018

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

- **Beloved Community Arts Center (BCAC)**

- The first BCAC arts opportunity is coming together as a 10-week class scheduled on Saturday mornings beginning August 18 and ending October 20. Classes for guitar, drum, and singing will be offered.
- An Open House is scheduled for Saturday, August 4, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. During this time, parents and children can meet mentors/teachers and staff, try out instruments, and register for classes. Advent members and friends are welcome to attend of course!
- ***You can help BCAC get off to a great start by volunteering!*** Volunteer positions include greeters to check children in and out on Saturdays, snack providers, grant writers, registrar, treasurer, instrument rental & maintenance, and advertising and marketing. To participate, please contact Sherry Q. at the Advent Church office: phone 408-779-3551 or email office@advent-lutheran.org

- **Developing Women Leaders for the Church**

- ***The second introductory meeting will be held on Thursday, August 9th from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.*** All women of Advent are invited; church membership is not required to participate. If you can attend the August 9th meeting, please contact Sherry Q. at the Advent Church office: phone 408-779-3551 or email office@advent-lutheran.org. Karen P. and Lou Ann T. are leading these gatherings. Karen is a retired ELCA pastor who was on the staff of the Pacifica Synod. Lou Ann is a Lecturer at San Jose State University who previously worked as Program Director at the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences in Berkeley and as Associate Pastor at First Lutheran Church in Carlisle, Pa. The introductory meetings will include current Advent leaders: Pastor Anita and Council President Ed M.
- Future meetings led by Karen and Lou Ann are planned to start in September with the structure and content based on the participants' input at the two introductory meetings.

- **Selected highlights from recent Council and Executive committee business**

- By consensus, Exec agreed to extend an offer to the South Valley Islamic Community (SVIC) to have Advent host a Q&A meeting about proposed Cordoba Center in San Martin. The community will be invited and special invitations will be made to Advent's members who live in San Martin.
- Exec moved to decline to invite Gracie (France Arnone's granddaughter) to make a presentation and fund raise at Advent. There was a second. Discussion included the lack of a connection between Gracie and Advent and the possible diversion of contributions away from Advent's core ministries (e.g., BCAC). The motion carried.
- Council moved to accept the 2016 and 2017 audit reports. There was a second. There were no exceptions noted or recommendations in either report. The motion carried. Thanks to Robert B. for doing these audits and submitting the reports. Thanks to bookkeepers and Treasurer for providing the documentation for the audits.
- Council moved to establish a BCAC fund to support our Beloved Community Arts Center finances. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Council moved to authorize Pastor Anita and Kyle J. to hire mentors/teachers for the fall session of BCAC. The motion was seconded and carried.
- By consensus, Council agreed that the remaining funds from the Valley Mission Coalition grant given to Advent by the Sierra Pacific Synod be used for BCAC startup expenses. This grant was for community outreach.

- Council moved to add a water cooler for Room 1 to the wish list. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Council moved to designate Lutheran World Relief with a focus on the Middle East crisis as our 3rd quarter mission. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Facility Use/Fundraising requests approved: Theater Fun, Inc., (rehearsal space), BCAC Benefit Concert (August 5).

● **Selected highlights from some recent Council committee reports**

- **Community Connections (Marcia N. chair):** God’s Work Our Hands is Sunday, September 9. Participants and leaders are needed to plan and organize activities. Contact Marcia N. or Sherry Q. (408-779-3551, office@advent-lutheran.org) if you can help. The Food & Fellowship summer party will be held at the House of Lee on Sunday, August 26th, from 12 noon to 4:00 PM
- **Communications (Lynn A. chair):** A mock crisis drill was held on July 14 to practice the procedures in the newly adopted crisis communication policy. Gaps were identified and will be addressed. Mock crisis drills are planned every 6 months. After worship on Sunday, August 5, Lynn will host a workshop on branding. The following Sunday a survey (online and paper) will be launched to get your opinions about our current brand and possible future brand. A cross-section of our congregation will be interviewed as well. If you would like to be interviewed, please contact Linda L. or Valerie S.
- **Faith Development (Kris A. chair):** Kris is a lead for the Council Action Item “Reconciling in Christ (RIC)”. She reported a good discussion with Pastor Anne Carlson who has experience with the process of introducing RIC to congregations.
- **Operations (Carrie M., chair):** M&R projects completed: drawer slide hardware replaced (John H.), new light timers installed in restrooms (Jerry K.), new picnic tables assembled (Pierce – student community hours). Valerie & David Chambliss are new rose bed caretakers.
- **Stewardship (Joyce G. chair):** The committee selected people and groups to recognize in Sunday worship through the end of September. The fall stewardship program is “Live Simply” and Commitment Sunday is October 21. Joyce shared a comparison of two consultants, ELCA and TAG, who could help Advent run a capital campaign. TAG has been our consultant in developing our current strategic plan. Next steps for Council are to consider what capital projects are appropriate and then to communicate to the congregation.
- **Worship & Music (Valerie S. chair):** The single service survey results are in. There were 100 responses to the survey.
 - The vast majority, nearly 70%, is satisfied with one 9:30 AM worship service.
 - More than 80% of respondents agree that there’s opportunity to connect with others.
 - More than 2/3 felt a single service is good for our church as a whole.
 - More than 60% want to continue single service in the fall.
 - About 1/3 of respondents felt neutral about the effect of a single service on their attendance at presentations after worship. Nearly half thought they would be more likely to attend.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Working well for me	8%	11%	12%	27%	42%
Connect with others	2%	4%	13%	29%	52%
Good for our church	6%	6%	18%	33%	36%
Continue this fall	9%	12%	16%	23%	40%
More likely to participate in presentations after worship	8%	15%	30%	18%	29%

- As you may recall, there were some reasons to change to a single worship service. For example, congregants have enjoyed single services during previous summers with opportunities to connect with others who usually worship at a different service. In the recent past, it has become increasingly difficult to find enough people to fill worship assistant roles for two services (acolyte, communion assistant, lector, usher, cantor, greeter, healing prayer, Sound & Light Tech, etc.).
- A second survey about the single service will be held later. Pastor noted how energizing it would be to consider how we could develop our service less to serve us and more to evangelize in our community.

- [Click here](#) to view the full single service survey results and respondents' comments.

- **Treasurer (Norm O.):** A half-year review of finances was done. Based on year-to-date income and expenses, our monthly cash outflow is about \$9,000 per month (spending exceeds income by this amount). At the end of 2018, it is expected that our unrestricted cash balance will be about \$182,000 (down from about \$292,000 at the beginning of 2018). That will leave us with about 20 months of cash starting in January 2019. Recall that our cash reserves were built up when Voices rented space at Advent from mid-2015 to mid-2017. The 2018 budget that the congregation approved in January states that we expect to spend \$101,000 from reserves this year to balance the budget. At the half-year mark, our monthly cash outflow is a bit higher than budgeted. Council appreciates the continuing financial support of Advent's ministries and staff.

- **Updates on some Action Items of Council - will be provided in future Council's Corner editions.**

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:

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

Respectfully submitted, Ed M.