





## Holly Grove Lutheran Church

212 Holly Grove Lutheran Church Road, Lexington, NC 27292

[www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org](http://www.hollygrovelutheranchurch.org) 336-249-2807

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Since we cannot have our regular Advent services, I wanted to talk about Advent this month. Advent is a time of arrival, the dictionary says, "*a coming into place, view, or being.*" For Christians it refers to the coming of Christ into the world. Advent is the first "*season*" of a new church year. It is observed the four Sundays before Christmas and the liturgical color is either blue, for hope, or purple, for royalty. In our modern world it sometimes gets lost in the secular observance of Christmas which starts much earlier.

All around us we see and hear the sights and sounds of Christmas. However, our church calendar says that we should wait and watch and prepare. Advent is a time of waiting, hoping, and getting ready. Our lessons, music, and liturgy focus on Christ's three-fold coming: the coming of the baby Jesus at Christmas, Christ coming to us now in the Word and Sacrament, and Christ's ultimate return. While the secular world surrounds us with Christmas advertising, lights, decorations, and music the church is filled with reminders of the past - and of the eternal. Our Advent music is not just the sound of celebration but also of hope, remembrance, preparation, and witness.

Those visual cues and music make us appreciate that this life is fleeting and often filled with trials and even suffering. However, they help us remember that it is also filled with love, joy, and hope. It is filled with people who care about us as well as opportunities to share God's love with others. It is filled with constant reminders of God's grace and mercy. It is filled with eagerness, with youth who dream dreams of a better world, a world at peace. And it is filled with anticipation, with seniors who see visions of what might be, not only in this life but also in the next.

Terrible things can happen in this life: **pandemics certainly**, violent acts by unstable people, riots, illegal drugs, terrorism, war; but also hunger, racism, homelessness, poverty, and - yes - even newlyweds far from home with no place to stay and a baby on the way. During our life's journey, we are called to trust God, just as during that difficult journey long ago a couple trusted God in a time of confusion. They believed that God would fulfill the promise. Despite the evidence around them they had faith. Do we have that kind of faith? Are our lives guided by that faith or governed by fear? Do we have as much compassion as that innkeeper in a crowded town in hard times?

Like any expectant parents Mary and Joseph were filled with the anticipation of birth and were eager for it. But they had to wait, the time had to be completed. Mary and Joseph waited because the baby had to be born in Bethlehem to fulfill the promise and bring the blessing. We too must wait. We wait for a vaccine or results of medical tests; we wait to start radiation or chemo; we wait to get better; we wait to hear about our job; we wait for friends to come; we wait until we can get home to see our family; we may even wait for death. But within our life even the waiting may be a blessing. The blessing may be only that while waiting we have time to prepare. As we wait for test results, we have time to prepare for the news, good or bad. As we wait to heal, we have time to reflect on our lives and what is important. As we wait for our friends to come, we have time to prepare our home and a meal. As we wait to see our family, we have time to pack, to remember, and to plan. As we wait even for death, we have time to prepare our heart and to say goodbye.

What are you waiting for?

As hard as it sometimes is to wait, we need to be thankful God gives us time. Waiting, even for Christmas during a pandemic, is not a time for spiritual idleness but for working and watching. There is much to do as we wait. We need to recall the true meaning of the season. We need to witness to our faith as we share with others. We need to allow our spirits to heal from the sorrows and losses of life. We need to restore broken relationships. We need to remember that the church exists to serve Christ and others – there is no room for pettiness and self-centeredness. Our focus must be on the Great Commandment (love) and the Great Commission (evangelism). When winning and being in control become more important to us than Jesus, we stop being the church, or a family, or even a nation, and become something less.

Advent is a time to purify our hearts and nurture our faith so that we can fully welcome Christ. We need to prepare so that we are ready for the baby's birth, for Christ's presence in Word and Sacrament, for Christ's return, and for our own rebirth. We need to live out our hope and be led by the compassion that Jesus taught us. Jesus told the disciples, including me and you: <sup>35</sup>*Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,* <sup>36</sup>*or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.* <sup>37</sup>*And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.*”

In Christ's love, peace, and hope;

*Pastor Joseph*





# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

The deadline for the boxes will be January 4, 2021. They will be donated to The Pastor's Pantry. Please leave filled boxes placed in the Handicap Entrance only.

December 2020



Altar Guild- Kim Troutman  
Mother's Rose Garden- Eugene Queen-In memory of Betty Queen

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6<sup>th</sup> *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

*Basket Offering:* Staff Bonuses

**Assisting Minister:** Joe Davis **Acolyte:** Gaven Ferguson  
**Ushers:** Robin Beck, Eddie Heitman, Ty Heitman, Max Carrick  
**Altar Flowers:** Nancy Curry & Family-In memory of Frank Curry  
**Children's Chat:** Pastor

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13<sup>th</sup> *3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

*Holy Communion*

*Basket Offering:* Staff Bonuses

**Assisting Minister:** Carol Conrad **Acolyte:** Madison Lohr-Pope  
**Ushers:** Gaven Ferguson, Andy Ferguson, Herbert Frank, Michael Willson  
**Altar Flowers:** Andy & Kristal Ferguson-In honor of Jessica's Birthday  
**Children's Chat:** Pastor

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20<sup>th</sup> *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

**Assisting Minister:** Neil Clark **Acolyte:** Roselia Sommer  
**Ushers:** Bob Troutman, Johnny Fritts, Lynn Dennis, Matthew Parsons  
**Altar Flowers:** Poinsettias  
**Children's Chat:** Pastor

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24<sup>th</sup> *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Holy Communion*

**Assisting Minister:** Andy Ferguson **Acolyte:** Isabel Heitman  
**Communion Assistant:** Kristal Ferguson **Bucket Holder:** Gaven Ferguson, Gracie Ferguson  
**Ushers:** Dean Chapman, Rex Everhart, Joe Davis, Frank Hamilton  
**Altar Flowers:** Poinsettias

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27<sup>th</sup> *1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas*

**Assisting Minister:** Chip Blower **Acolyte:** Gracie Ferguson  
**Ushers:** Robin Beck, Eddie Heitman, Ty Heitman, Max Carrick  
**Altar Flowers:** Micky & Carol, Bob & Kim, Todd & Lori-In memory of John Conrad  
**Children's Chat:** Sarah Grace Davis

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December 3, 2020

Dear fellow members of Holly Grove,

We want to thank you for your continued support for the congregation financially and in our ministries despite the limitations in our worship and fellowship. It has been extremely difficult not to be able to gather and no one had any idea it would last this long. We are looking at options to try to increase the number of people who can participate in our worship, but it seems likely to be some time before things really return to normal. It is imperative that we call a new pastor as we plan for that.

We are excited with the progress we have made in the call process. The Call Committee unanimously recommended a candidate to the Council and we had good meeting with them. We look forward to arranging for the congregation to meet them as soon as we can work out the details. They are looking forward to meeting you. It has taken longer to get to this point than we had expected before the pandemic. And there are additional steps to complete of course but we are very hopeful.

This does mean however that we must be very aware of the need to support the congregation financially. There will be additional costs as we return to a full-time pastor and we need to meet our budget. As you know this has been a challenging year with several unexpected repairs. In addition, some of our members experienced financial difficulties with job loss or forced decreases in their businesses. Despite that we have managed to cover our expenses.

It is now urgent that we increase our giving in the coming weeks. To move forward we must be able to meet our budget. As your Council we are excited about the opportunities before us. To take advantage of those opportunities requires that we all support the congregation with our tithes and offerings as generously as possible. We know that may be challenging for you as it is for us. But we believe that together we can succeed in moving forward in the months ahead. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Council.

In Christ's service,

Your Congregation Council



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

2020	2021	2022
Lindsay Black	Lynn Dennis –Vice President	Chip Blower
Max Carrick	Eddie Heitman	Johnny Fritts
Tim Everhart	Judy Thomason	Marie Palmer-Secretary
Andy Ferguson-President	Michael Wilson	Sherry Proctor

## **Holly Grove welcomes the new Council Members!**

### **In-coming Council Members**

David Brown  
 Norris Feeney  
 Robert Napolitano  
 Neil Clark

### **Out-going Council Members**

Lindsay Black  
 Max Carrick  
 Tim Everhart  
 Andy Ferguson

Thank you for your service and guidance to Holly Grove these past three years!

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

**December 6th:** Second Sunday of Advent.

**December 6th:** Lighting of Advent Candle; the Eddie Heitman Family

**Reverse Advent Calendars** are in the narthex. Contact the church office with any questions or concerns.

**December 6th:** Last day to order Christmas Poinsettias. \$16.05 -Plants will be 6 1/2" wrapped and include a bow. To order, contact or drop by the church office. Payments can be made via **BREEZE, USPS & at the church office.**

**December 13th:** Lighting of Advent Candle; the John Lohr Family.

**December 13th:** Wrapped Angel Tree Gifts are due by 3:00 pm.

**December 14th:** **Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm. *Incoming Council Members please plan to attend.***

**December 20th:** Lighting of Advent Candle; the Matthew Parsons Family.

**December 20th:** Drawing for Gas Card

**February 7th:** Annual Audit

**Gas Card Fundraiser!** Tickets can be purchased at the church office Tues, Wed, & Thurs between the hours of 8am-1pm or Sunday mornings at 10:30am.

The ticket prices are as follows:

\$1 each--\$5 for 6--\$10 for 12


Office Complex hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 am to  
1:00 pm

Contact council president **Andy Ferguson** for pastoral care & emergencies. [aferguson4054@yahoo.com](mailto:aferguson4054@yahoo.com)  
336-442-7702 – cell  
336-237-1527 – home





# Birthday & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Donnie Parsons	2 Randall Lomax	3 Skylar Kidder	4	5 Susan Lohr
6 Brandon/Brandy Conrad  2ND SUNDAY OF Advent	7	8 Nichole Mize Glenna Garner	9 Madison Lohr- Pope	10 Jennifer Blower	11	12
13  3RD SUNDAY OF Advent	14	15	16 Brandon Hedrick	17 Greg Kepley	18 Johnny Fritts	19 Colton Rose
20 Carolyn Black  4th SUNDAY OF Advent	21	22	23 Calvin Carrick	24 <i>For unto us a Child is born</i> 	25 	26
27 Gene Queen Calvin Blower 	28 Elisa Sommer	29 John Lohr	30	31 Frank/Jeanine Hamilton		

The logo features a gold cross on the left. A white dove is depicted in profile, facing right, with its wings spread. A green olive branch with several leaves is positioned behind the dove, extending towards the right. The word "Baptism" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive script to the right of the dove and branch.

# Baptism

The changes required by the pandemic have been many, especially for our regular ways of ministry. One of the changes required by our limits on regular worship is the way we handle the Sacraments. Recently, after a wait of several months in hopes things would return to normal, we received several members into "The Body of Christ that is the Church" by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism carried out in homes. When we are able to return to regular worship we will welcome them in a Public Recognition of a Private Baptism. *Please keep these new members of Holly Grove Lutheran Church in your prayers.*

*Kyle Daniel Murphy—Baptized October 31, 2020*

*Lincoln Miles Murphy—Baptized October 31, 2020*

*Carson Samuel Rose—Baptized November 22, 2020*

*Corbin Glenn Rose—Baptized November 22, 2020*

*Waylon Robert Hileman—Baptized November 22, 2020*

*Weston Randy Hileman—Baptized November 22, 2020*





# SUPPORT OUR VETERANS



## CHRISTMAS 2020



Davidson County Veteran Services  
is sponsoring a gift drive for veterans at the  
NC State Veterans Home in Salisbury.

Donations of new, unwrapped items will be collected  
until December 16, 2020 at the  
Davidson County Veteran Service Office  
913 Greensboro Street, Suite 101, Lexington, NC

Please consider donating some of the following items to  
help our veterans this Christmas season:

### Personal Hygiene Items

Hand Sanitizer (bulk & personal sized)  
Name Brand Disposable Razors  
Electric Razors  
Kleenex  
Shampoo  
Body Wash

### Other Items Needed

Paint By Number  
Velvet Art Poster Boards (coloring)  
Adult Coloring Books  
Crossword Puzzle Books (large print)  
Wallets (men)

\*\*All personal hygiene items, with the exception of hand sanitizer, should be alcohol free\*\*

To learn more about the NC State Veteran's Home in Salisbury  
<http://www.pruithhealth.com/microsite?facilityId=367>

Please call Rick Johnson or Petra Leonard  
at 336-242-2037 for more information.



The Blessing Box is up, operational and Pastor Tallent has dedicated and blessed it. There's no better way to change a community than *one small act of kindness* at a time. Blessing Boxes can help make that difference. No forms to fill out and completely unconditional. And It is a low-cost way to help those in our community. Our aim is to fill it with non-perishable goods but will include some small toiletry items as room permits. This is a new exciting ministry for our church and we hope everyone will support it. Please share on your social media accounts and tell all your friends to help spread the word! Donations are welcome but we also need your help to stock and maintain the box. Sign up for today with Time and Talent for a turn to help make a difference and above all  
....Be Blessed!



# HGLC OCTOBER 2020 Council Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2020

Call to Order: President, Andy Ferguson with the following present: Lynn Dennis, Johnny Fritts, Marie Palmer, Chip Blower, Max Carrick, Eddie Heitman, Pastor Tallent, Tim Everhart and Sherry Proctor.

Michael Willson, Lindsay Black and Judy Thomason were unable to attend.

Devotions: Johnny Fritts led us in devotions.

## **Business Meeting**

### **Approval of Reports**

Minutes of the September, 2020 meeting were read. Lynn moved to accept, Max seconded and motion passed. The Financial Report and Treasurers Report was presented. Marie moved to accept, Sherry seconded and motion passed.

A Building Fund Report will be presented at the November meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

Chip reported that the Recreation Committee had met. The committee agreed that there would be no ball until the Spring season starts. Joe will take care of the scheduling. They discussed fundraisers to get money back into the account. Gas cards will be raffled off before the end of the year to raise money. Funds will be needed to get the season started in the Spring.

## **Old Business**

Andy reported the organ repairs have been completed. The AED, First Aid Kit and Fire Extinguisher have been moved. Marie asked permission to paint the back entrance to the Fellowship Hall. Approved.

Action on the AT&T stock is tabled until our next meeting in order to locate the last statement.

## **New Business:**

The Budget Committee consisting of Andy, Chip, Lateffa, Johnny and Pastor Tallent will be meeting Oct. 19 at 7 pm to draft the budget. Chip will be sending out a request via google for any requests or suggestions for Council persons for the upcoming year. Request any submissions be sent to Chip by October 25. Unless we are back in church for services, voting on the budget and council persons will take place as a drive-thru on Sunday, November 15 from 11:30 to 1:30. A copy of the budget and ballots will be mailed out 10 days before the vote.

Council members will meet on Wednesday, October 28 at 7 pm to approve the budget draft and review the nominees for church Council.

The Call Committee met October 7 with a Synod representative to receive packages to review for possible candidates for Pastor.

There being no further business the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Max made the motion and Eddie seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Ferguson, President  
Marie Palmer, Secretary

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**Sundays**

915AM Sunday School  
1030AM Worship



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.