

The Anglican Way

*Biblical Preaching & Teaching*Sacramental Worship*Catholic Faith &
Order*Traditional Christian Morals*Evangelical Zeal
*New Life in the Holy Spirit*Pastoral Care for Those in Need*

The Church of the Advent, Southern Pines, NC

(A small, but growing church with a BIG witness for Jesus Christ and His holy Gospel)

NOVEMBER 2022 EDITION

Topic: *The Season of Advent: “Surely I am coming soon [says the Lord].” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*” (Revelation 22:20).

From the Holy Scriptures: *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His Glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats”* (Matthew 25:31-32).

From the Church Fathers: *“What will be that glory, and how great will be the joy of being admitted to the sight of God! To be so honored as to receive the joy of eternal life and salvation in the presence of Christ the Lord, your God. To greet Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the patriarchs, apostles, prophets and martyrs...in the delight of the immortality that will be given! To receive there ‘what eye has not seen nor ear heard, what has not entered into the heart of man.’”* –St. Cyprian of Carthage, Bishop and Martyr 250 A.D. (Grube, What the Church Fathers Say About... Volume 2, pp. 89-90).

From The Book of Common Prayer (2019): *“Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”* (BCP p. 598).

Teaching: Advent (which means, “coming”) is a season of preparation for the return of the Lord Jesus beginning – at least in the Western Church – four Sundays prior to the Season of Christmas (NOTE: the Season of Christmas – also known as *The Twelve Days of Christmas* - begins at sundown on Christmas Eve and continues until Sundown on the Eve of the Epiphany. Yuletide continues through the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple on February 2). During the Season of Advent, the Church throughout the world prepares for the coming of the Lord! Many people are somewhat mistaken however, in thinking of Advent as primarily a preparation for the coming of the Lord at Christmas (a time to buy gifts, to send cards, to reconnect with old friends, to put lights on the tree and to share cheer and joy with the world). Advent is primarily a time of preparation for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ; when the Lord will return in all His glory to judge the living and the dead. It has become increasingly difficult for the Church to stand in direct opposition to the culture which begins celebrating Christmas the day after Thanksgiving (if not earlier). However, Advent is a reminder that the Lord Jesus Christ will indeed return and that we, His Church, are called to “be prepared” and to share the Good News of Jesus with those who have not yet received Him. Advent can be understood as a sort of “mini-Lent”, a time whereby Christians prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus through a season of additional Scripture reading, prayer and fasting, self-examination, confession, and other acts of self-denial and/or special devotion. The “*Gloria in*

excelsis” is omitted from the Liturgy in Advent in order to emphasize the penitential nature of the Season. The liturgical color traditionally worn is purple reminding us of our call to keep watch, repent, and prepare. However, Advent is not only a Season of repentance, but is also a Season of expectant joy. As Christians who keep watch for their Lord, we wait with hope and anticipation for His Coming in glory—for He shall return in glory and His victory over evil, sin, and death accomplished upon the cross and revealed in the Resurrection shall come to full fruition (see Revelation 21:4). For Christians, there is always a spiritual conflict within the soul regarding Christ’s Second Coming. We approach the Day with both a sense of fear (that is, a reverence and awe) and a sense of great joy like a bride awaiting her groom on their Wedding Day. Holy fear and holy joy fill the Christian soul when contemplating Christ’s return. Christians are NOT called to speculate about the time of His return. We are however called to keep watch, prepare, and to share the Good News of Jesus. “*Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*” (Matthew 24:44).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(NEW) St. Andrew’s Day (*Bring a Friend Sunday*): St. Andrew was the first of the Twelve Apostles to be called by Jesus to follow Him (see John 1:35 ff and Matthew 4:18-20). When Jesus says to Andrew, “*Come and see...*,” Andrew immediately shares “*his testimony*” with his brother Peter. Peter not only becomes one of the Twelve, but was counted among the inner circle of the Apostolic leadership (i.e., Peter, James, and John), and was eventually regarded as the Chief of the Apostles. Thus, we are designating the first Sunday following the Feast of St. Andrew, **Sunday, December 4**, as “BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY.” Please pray regarding who the Lord wants you to invite, pray for their hearts to be opened to your/the Lord’s invitation, and then invite them to join you and to, “*Come and see.*”

(NEW) Special Advent Music Offering: A couple of high school members of our church family, led by Kat Hardin, and friends are hoping to offer some special music on a Sunday in the Season of Advent. More details to come... Please join us and encourage the younger members of our church.

(NEW) New Hymnals (the very best of traditional and contemporary music): While we have been blessed with a number of 1940 Hymnals, this classic hymnal is missing some traditional hymns such as, “*Amazing Grace*,” and “*Lift High the Cross*,” and of course, the very best of post 1940 hymnody and more recent contemporary songs of praise such as, “*In Christ Alone*” are also missing. Thus, I have ordered our church family 20 copies of “*Magnify the Lord*,” a new Anglican Hymnal recommended by our Province for use in ACNA churches. This new hymnal offers the very best of traditional Christian hymnody and the best of newer contemporary hymns and songs of praise. The cost for ordering these books came to: \$552.64. If you would like to help offset the cost of these new hymn books, or if you would like to donate toward purchasing additional copies, please send your donation to: The Church of the Advent, C/o The Treasurer, PO Box 215, Lakeview, NC 28350. Please write, “New Hymnals,” in the Memo.

(NEW) Joint Event in Advent with Our Saviour Lutheran Church: Pastor Frank and Fr. Michael will be meeting soon to discuss what our two communities can do together in the Season of Advent; e.g., Advent Lessons and Carols, a St. Nicholas Event for Children, or something else. If you have any ideas, please let Fr. Michael know asap.

(NEW) Holiday Fellowship with and Thank You to Pastor Frank and the Church Board: We are very grateful to Pastor Frank and the Church Board of Our Saviour Lutheran Church for opening their doors and hearts to us and for allowing us to rent space from them. When we were desperate to find a place to worship the Lord on Sundays, they extended the hand of fellowship. Thus, on a Saturday to be determined Fr. Michael and Christine will open their home for some (early) Holiday Fellowship as a thank you to the leadership of Our Saviour Lutheran Church. Members and friends of our church family are welcome to join in the fun and even to bring along some goodies to share. More details to come...

(NEW) Pre-Christmas Open House at The McKinnon's: There are 30 homes on Fr. Michael and Christine's Street (37 Princess Gate Drive, Whispering Pines). A few weeks ago, they visited all 30 homes and provided gift bags. They now plan to follow up with an invitation for their neighbors to join them for a pre-Christmas Open House in honor of the approaching Season. Members and friends of our church family are welcome to join in the pre-holiday fun, to bring some holiday goodies to share, and, most importantly, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. More details to come...

(NEW) A Chance to Share the Gospel: Fr. Michael is pleased to say that we will be ordering several copies of The Gospel of Jesus according to St. John in booklet form. **1)** We will place a Gospel booklet in every visitor gift bag; **2)** We will place a copy in every gift bag given out on future prayer walks (we will be focusing our future prayer walks on newcomers to Moore County; and **3)** Each member, who is willing to participate, will be given copies of Gospel booklet to share with those whom God places on your daily path. Regarding the latter, please pray for God to present you with opportunities to share this Gospel booklet. Lastly, these Gospel booklets are free, the cost covered by an anonymous donor (God be praised), and we can also place a two or three paragraph description of our church plant and an invitation for persons to join us.

(NEW) New Weekly Schedule for The Church of the Advent:

- Sunday:** **11:30 a.m.** Celebration of the Holy Eucharist (with a mixture of traditional and contemporary music and liturgical practices)
- Monday:** **Fr. Michael's Day Off**
- Tuesday:** Fr. Michael, Fire Chaplain, to visit the Southern Pines Fire Department (Stations 1 & 2).
2:00 p.m. Fr. Michael teaches Christian Apologetics at All Saints' Christian Academy, Cameron.
- Wednesday:** Fr. Michael, Fire Chaplain, to visit the Southern Pines Fire Department (Stations 1 & 2).
- Thursday:** **8:30 a.m.** Fr. Michael volunteers at the Southern Pines Food Pantry helping to pack meals for local students in need. Please consider joining Fr. Michael. It is an opportunity for our church family to be a presence in the greater community and to share the Good News of Jesus.
10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer in our new Chapel located at 1517 Luther Way, Southern Pines (meeting at Our Saviour Lutheran Church). **PLEASE NOTE: Fr. Michael is considering offering a Bible Study following Morning Prayer in our Chapel. If you are interested in participating, please let him know and please also invite a family member, friend, or neighbor to join you.**
Fr. Michael, Fire Chaplain, to visit the Southern Pines Fire Department (Stations 1 & 2).
2:00 p.m. Fr. Michael teaches Christian Apologetics at All Saints' Christian Academy, Cameron.
- Friday:** **11:45 a.m.** Fr. Michael participates in the Southern Pines Rotary Club; lunch and meeting.
- Saturday:** Fr. Michael's Day Off

(UPDATED) Traditional and Contemporary Eucharistic Worship (FYI): The Church of the Advent seeks to offer Divine Worship in the Great Tradition; i.e., to worship God as the Body of Christ has worshiped Him for the majority of Christian history. This IS NOT to say that a more contemporary form of Eucharistic Worship, i.e., with contemporary music and language, is less valid. Whether traditional or contemporary, what truly matters is that we worship God, "*in the beauty of holiness,*" (see 1 Chronicles 16:29) and understand worship as our father Jacob articulates it in Genesis 28:16b, 17, "*Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it...How awesome is this place! This is none other than the*

house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” Divine Worship is the meeting place between God and man. Please note that once we experience growth in numbers, we hope to offer two Services; both a contemporary form of Eucharistic Worship (i.e., with contemporary music, language, etc.) and a traditional form of Eucharistic worship (i.e., with traditional hymnody, language, asperges, incense, etc). In the meantime, we will offer Prayer Book worship (in contemporary language) with a blend of traditional and contemporary music and liturgical elements. **Until we are able to have two Worship Services, we are trying to be as St. Paul says, “All things to all people.” Thus, please hang in there during these early days of our Mission. Together, we can make a difference for the Kingdom!**

(UPDATED) Onetime Donation Letter: Fr. Michael and Christine have sent out an appeal to family and friends in hopes of receiving a onetime gift donation to help our new church plant. Thus far, we have received \$3,500. Our goal is to raise an initial \$20,000 to help us “get off the ground” and to reach people with the Good News of Jesus! If you would like a letter or know someone who may be willing to support our effort to reach the lost and unchurched for Jesus, please let Fr. Michael know via email: Fr.Michael.Advent@gmail.com or call me at 910-585-4305.

(UPDATED) THE LORD’S DAY AT THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

November 6 All Saints’ Sunday (celebrating the Communion of Saints; the one family of God in Paradise and earth)
November 13 All Souls’ Sunday (Remembering our loved ones in thanksgiving before the Throne of God).
November 20 Feast of Christ the King
November 27 First Sunday in Advent
December 4 Second Sunday in Advent
December 11 Third Sunday in Advent (Rose Sunday)
December 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 24 Christmas Eve (time tbd)
December 25 Christmas Morning (time tbd)
January 1 Holy Name of Jesus

(UPDATED) PRINCIPAL HOLY DAYS (AND HONORY MENTIONS) IN NOVEMBER

November 1 All Saints’ Day
November 2 All Souls’ Day (Commemoration of the Faithful Departed)
November 3 Blessed Richard Hooker, Priest and Teacher of the Faith, 1600
November 5 Sts. Elizabeth and Zechariah, Parents of John the Baptist
November 19 St. Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680
November 29 C.S. Lewis, Teacher of the Faith, 1963
November 30 St. Andrew the Apostle; First Called
**Who are these “Heroes of the Christian Faith?” Consider looking them up on line. Be inspired by those who have gone before us!*

Our Clergy:

- Fr. Michael J. McKinnon, Priest and Pastor, Fr.Michael.Advent@gmail.com, 910-585-4305
- Fr. Daniel Hardin, Assisting Priest and Pastor

THE ADVENTURE IS ONLY BEGINNING!

Jesus Christ be praised!