



# Advent Ablaze

*Celebrating 30 Years of Warm Welcomes!*

An ELCA Congregation in the Heart of the Monadnock Region ■ October 2013 Issue



Very happy cake walk winners at Advent's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival.

### Events This Month

**5**  
**Fall Fest!** (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) See article below.

**CROP Walk!** (8:00 a.m.)

**22**  
**Bible Study on the Book of Revelation** begins (runs four Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.)

**26**  
**Oktoberfest Community Dinner** (4:30 - 6:30 p.m.)

**"This is really fun – should we stay all afternoon?"**

– Teenager overheard speaking to a friend at 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival

## Celebrating 30 Years With a Free Community Festival

"Celebrating 30 Years of Warm Welcomes" was the theme of Advent's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival on 24 August. Among the pleasing turnout of people from the Rindge area and beyond were more than a dozen non-Advent families with children who stopped by to join in the free festivities – and stayed for much of the afternoon.

Fun competitions such as three-legged

races, a cake walk, and a scavenger hunt were scheduled every half hour. Ongoing activities included a popular kids' bead jewelry table, a fishing pool and ring toss for the little ones, and Face Painting by Anna.

What's a party without food? Grilled hot dogs, anniversary cupcakes, and lemonade were available free to all. See Page 3 for more photos. ■

## Fall Fest Is Here!

Celebrate the harvest season with Advent's first Fall Fest on Saturday 5 October from 9:00 to 2:00.

Among the artisans and crafters scheduled to exhibit their unique creations are The Painted Path, Fancy That Stained Glass, Buttercup Stitch, wood craftsman Terry Miller, and others. Local businesses include AVON, The Armarium Press, Princess House, 31 Bags, Scentsy, and Tupperware.

Hungry shoppers can take advantage



of the fall-themed goodies at the Advent Bake Sale table or tasty lunch items at the BBQ.

Volunteer EMTs from the Jaffrey Rindge Memorial Ambulance will give kids a tour of their new vehicle. Kids can also pick up a brush and try out the free pumpkin painting. And of course, we'll have free balloons! ■



Anyone interested in joining Advent's Ad Hoc Gardening Committee to help with occasional projects, please speak with Maryann Lindberg (MLlindberg@aol.com) or Julie Sementa (JSementa@wildblue.net) via e-mail or at church.



Who's ready for **pancakes?**

## Sunday School Kicks Off New Year With "Pancakes With Moses"

Father Bob joined the Sunday School kids and class favorite Moses the Puppet for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pancakes With Moses on 8 September. Chris Sementa and Mun Truong flipped pancakes, and the other parents served up a huge platter of bacon and sausages and fruit salad in a watermelon basket.

After eating their fill, the kids played Moses-themed games. In Parting the Red Sea (photos at left), two teams rushed to stick as many balloons to their wall as possible – a great way to work off all that maple syrup before the church service. (The kindergartners won.) ■



Parting the "waters" of the Red Sea.

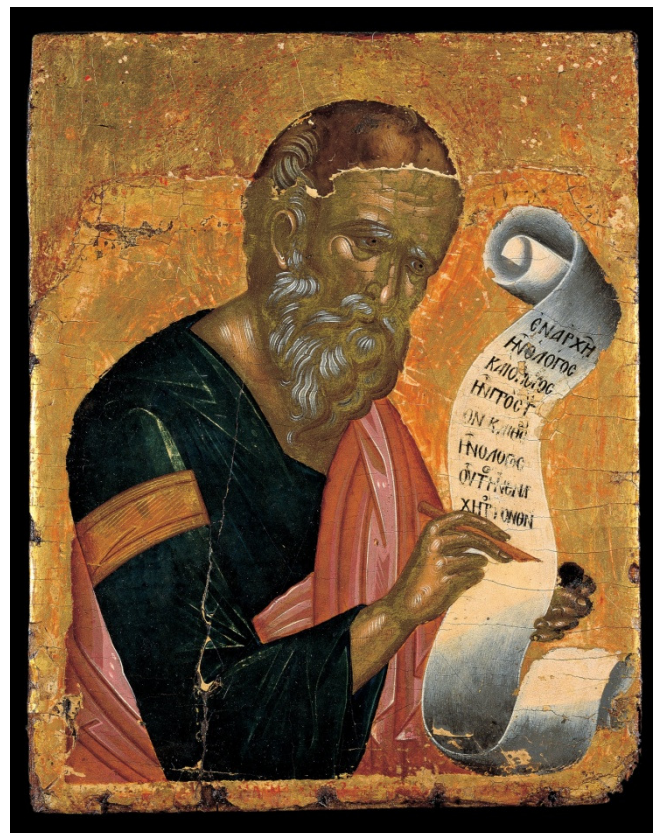
## Pastor's Corner: Everything You Know About Revelations Is (Probably) Wrong

One of the least studied and yet supposedly best known books of the Bible is the Book of Revelation. Many people have heard of the "spooky" stories this book supposedly contains. I know that when I was in seminary, we spent absolutely zero time studying the Book of Revelation. It wasn't until many years later when I was looking for a Bible study topic at my church in Pennsylvania that I became truly interested in what this book contained.

My interest had been piqued by an article about Lutherans in East Germany during the time of the Communist domination. It seems that little groups of Christians would gather together for worship and study. They had to gather together like that because the Communist government virtually shut down all churches, turning their buildings into museums of archaic times gone past.

What really intrigued me was that Revelation was the book these Christians chose to study the most. I would have expected them to study one of the Gospels, or Proverbs, or anything but the Book of Revelation. Still, the article's author claimed the Book of Revelation was the one section of the entire Bible that helped them sustain their faith, their community, and their hope for the future.

I started doing some research. And the more I read about the Book of Revelation, the more my own



interest grew. The four-session Bible study I eventually put together on the book was well received by the people in my congregation. They were amazed, as was I, at the wonderful message of hope contained in the Book of Revelation – a message visible only once you learn how to break the code.

Beginning 22 October, I am offering our parish, and anybody else you may choose to invite, the opportunity to study the Book of Revelation. We will gather together at 6:00 p.m. for a quick dinner and begin our study at 6:30. Our classes usually last about an hour, sometimes a little more. Of all the Bible studies we've had, or will have, I really encourage you to attend this one. I have several reasons for doing that.

First, I am almost certain most of you have never read or studied the Book of Revelation. I mean no offense by that, especially as I had not delved into the book myself (except for a very cursory reading) before that article chanced to catch my interest.

Second, you'll find that what you *think* you know about the Book of Revelation is totally wrong. Over

the years, eerie and often disturbing stories about what goes on in the Book of Revelation have developed, many of them ending up in B movies and as pop culture references.

Yet the Book of Revelation is actually a great message of hope, written to a people who were severely oppressed by a government trying to destroy them. By understanding their struggles with depression in their time, and how the good news of Jesus Christ could help them, we begin to see how that same wonderful message can create hope for us today.

Maybe we're not dealing with a government trying to exterminate us, but each and every one of us faces our own struggles. Whatever the source of those challenges – family, work, a culture increasingly hostile to people of faith – the solution is made quite clear in the Book of Revelation: Turn to Jesus Christ and make that faith part of our daily existence. This fall's Bible study will give us new ideas about how to accomplish that.

I do hope you will join us as we journey through the Book of Revelation into a new experience of living and loving our Lord. ■





## 2013 CROP Walk: There's Still Time to Sponsor Team Advent

Carmen Madrid and Susan Wadsworth (accompanied by several younger members of the congregation) are heading out as Team Advent on Saturday 5 October for the 2013 CROP Walk.

Team Advent's goal this year was to raise between \$150 and \$500 for the eradication of hunger at home and abroad. To date, we've raised \$185.

Can you help us get closer to that \$500 mark? Even \$5 or \$10 adds up quickly. Donations will still be collected for the next two Sundays.

CROP Hunger Walks help support the overall ministry of Church World Service, especially grassroots development efforts such as those that put seeds, tools, and training directly into the hands of people who need it.

In addition, each local CROP Hunger Walk can choose to return up to 25 percent of the funds it raises to hunger-fighting programs in its own community. That means 25 cents of every \$1 Team Advent raises goes back to programs like the Rindge Food Pantry. ■

The cooks of Advent would like to express their *sincere appreciation* to the Jewelry Ladies of Advent for raising and donating the funds to purchase our fantastic new stove!

Don't miss the Oktoberfest Dinner on the 26<sup>th</sup> if you want to see how well we're cooking now!

