



Discover Your Gifts

What might God be asking of you?

What concerns stir your heart?

Where do you see a need for action?



9475 Jefferson Highway
Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-425-4243

KarenCoddington@adventlutheran.com

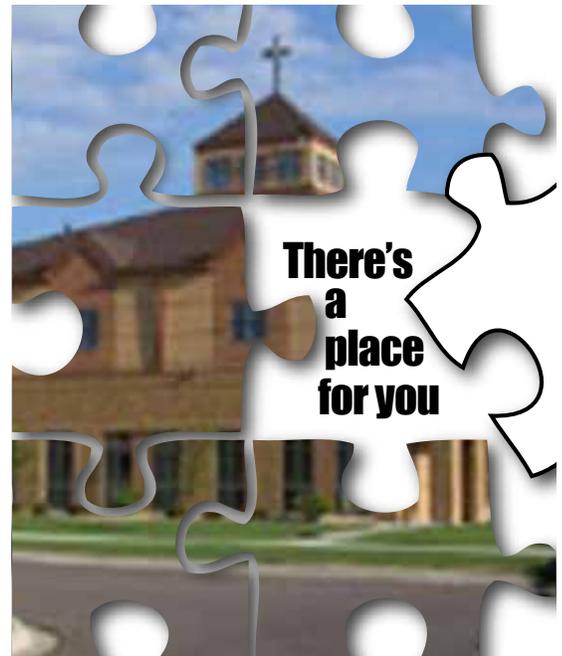
Discover Your Gifts

What is a GIFT? Something bestowed or acquired without any particular effort by the recipient—a special ability or capacity, natural endowment, talent, aptitude, inclination or quality.

“Though we be many people, diverse with various GIFTS, we are given to each other for the unity of faith.” (Ephesians 4:4)

Using our God-given interests, skills, talents, and knowledge-our gifts bring personal joy and satisfaction, but we were not given gifts only for self-fulfillment-we were given gifts for the sake of others.

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” (Peter 4:10)



Thank you for taking the time to identify your Spiritual Gifts. By completing this important tool, we can be in partnership in God’s mission for our own lives. Participation does not constitute a commitment to serve. Rather, it will give us the opportunity to invite you to participate based on your gifts and interests!

By working through the Discovery of Gifts, you may see more clearly the gifts you have been given to use in your life—at home, at church, and in the world.

Advent Lutheran Church has many places and opportunities in which your gifts can make a difference.

Each person’s unique set of gifts equips them to serve in some area of ministry. Learn to use your gifts everyday wherever you might go!

In the following pages, you will find: the Discovery of Gifts on pages 2–3; specific areas to utilize your gifts at Advent on pages 4–7; and future ministry development on page 7.

Be sure to fill in your name and contact information on page 7. When

completed, please return it as soon as possible. You may place pages 4–7 in the *Discover Your Gifts* basket located on the signup table in the atrium. This pdf can be filled out electronically. At the bottom of the last page is a red submit button.

The information will be entered into a database. Names of volunteers will be given to Advent In Mission team leaders. The leaders will be contacting their “team” as needed.

For further information, please contact any member from the *Shared Ministry Committee*: Mary Moyle, Nick Rice, Ruth Yanko.

–Karen Coddington, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*

Part A



1. It is important for me to share my financial blessings with others
2. I consider myself a good listener
3. I enjoy helping and supporting others
4. I find reward in doing practical things for others
5. I believe in the importance of taking care of my health
6. I value participating in activities that help others

Enter the total number of checks for Part A.

Part B



1. It's rewarding to interact with children
2. I believe that serving others serves the Lord
3. I prefer routine tasks or "behind the scenes" work
4. I like service activities when others are involved
5. I like working in the kitchen
6. I am eager to share my areas of expertise to help Advent grow

Enter the total number of checks for Part B.

Part C



1. I have good organizational skills
2. I enjoy crafting a plan of action to achieve a specific goal
3. I am a good time manager
4. I find pleasure in serving on committees
5. I have good community relationships
6. I would like to share my accounting abilities

Enter the total number of checks for Part C.

Part D



1. I enjoy working with wood, cloth, paints, metal or glass
2. I am interested in designing, fixing and constructing things
3. I see the importance of keeping areas clean and well organized
4. Landscaping, gardening and lawn care appeals to me
5. I consider it important to help people rebuild their home and property
6. I would like to share my building maintenance abilities

Enter the total number of checks for Part D.

Part E



1. It's a pleasure to meet and welcome new people
2. I see each person as a unique individual
3. I often invite people to church activities
4. I see the importance of making everyone feel comfortable at church
5. I enjoy talking to visitors and getting to know them better
6. Thinking about my church brings a smile to my face

Enter the total number of checks for Part E.

Part F



1. I find pleasure in interior decorating
2. I enjoy sharing my love of art
3. I take pleasure in completing a craft project
4. I'm grateful I can express myself through creative arts
5. I appreciate music and enjoy the opportunity to perform (instrument or voice)
6. I am comfortable sharing my talents with others

Enter the total number of checks for Part F.

Part G



1. I can present information to adults in an easy to understand format
2. It's meaningful to work with children and help them learn
3. I'm grateful I can teach others new things about the Christian faith
4. I love to listen to others sharing their faith stories
5. I believe that Christians should always be learning more about God
6. I enjoy leading small group discussions about faith

Enter the total number of checks for Part G.

Part H



1. I learn and grow through social relationships and activities
2. Large group events energize me
3. I enjoy group activities rather than solitary ones
4. I love being involved in organized church/ community activities
5. I'm excited when I'm involved with youth and their activities
6. I enjoy learning new things about the Christian faith

Enter the total number of checks for Part H.

REFLECTING ON YOUR RESULTS

Transfer your total score for each part below. Once completed, circle your top three with the highest number.

Gift Area

Part A: Compassion	<input type="text"/>
Part B: Serving	<input type="text"/>
Part C: Planning	<input type="text"/>
Part D: Craftsmanship/Maintenance	<input type="text"/>
Part E: Welcoming	<input type="text"/>
Part F: Creativity/Artistry/Music	<input type="text"/>
Part G: Teaching	<input type="text"/>
Part H: Fellowship	<input type="text"/>

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINED

A Compassion

The God-given ability to be kind, caring, and loving to all.

B Serving

The God-given ability to accomplish practical and necessary tasks which support others and also the work of others.

C Planning

The God-given ability to create, organize and carry out actions to accomplish goals.

D Craftsmanship/Maintenance

The God-given ability to design, maintain, and keep property in good repair.

E Welcoming/Hospitality

The God-given ability to put people at ease and make everyone feel special.

F Creativity/Artistry/Music

The God-given ability to create something of beauty and/or practicality.

G Teaching

The God-given ability to communicate clearly to others so they can understand and learn.

H Fellowship/Community Life

The God-given ability to offer hospitality, friendliness, and a sense of belonging to everyone.

You will find many ways to use your spiritual gifts in your personal life, family, community, work and beyond. If you desire, you could consider using your gifts at Advent.

The following pages have specific ideas for you to consider using your gifts at Advent Lutheran. They are listed by gift category. *Checking that you have a possible interest in an area only means that you are interested to learn more about it.* (We will contact you with more information).

Serving does not have to be a big commitment: *we know life is busy.* A small commitment and a small amount of time is just as important as serving on a major committee! We also realize some people may not want to serve at the moment. That's okay!

If you find something that is interesting, and you would like to volunteer at a later time, please indicate that you are “**waiting**” in the interested column.

It will be helpful for you to read through the entire list of ministry opportunities and all gift categories.

And, thank you for sharing your gifts with others in the mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Make sure your name, phone number, and email are on the last page.

This form can be filled out electronically. When finished click the submit button on the last page. You may also return pages 4-7 to the Discover Your Gifts basket on the sign-up table in the atrium.

A Compassion

HEALTH

- Knit/Crochet Prayer Shawls** (At church, or home. Shawls are given to the sick or hurting)
- Prayer Station Ministry** (Set up stations and assist during service)
- First Aid Trainer** (Periodically assist training ushers, staff and others)
- Blood Pressure Checks** (Must be certified. Facilitate blood pressure checks once a month.)
- Health Awareness Programs** (Suggest speakers & subjects to broaden members health awareness.)

ADVENT

- Pray for Advent's Staff and Leaders**
- Pray For Those In Need** (Daytime or evening prayer chains. Pray in your home. Confidentiality required.)
- Congregational Care** (Be available to assist Advent's elderly, special needs, disabled, etc. in times of need)
- Stephen Ministry** (Be a caring, trained parishioner who will visit one-on-one during a time of need)
- Homebound Visitor** (Visit Advent's homebound members)
- Offer transportation** (Drive members to and from church. Some from Steeple Pointe or nearby)
- Help Others with Household Maintenance** (Offer to assist/repair homes for Advents elderly, widowed, single.)

COMMUNITY

- Families Moving Forward** (Help host homeless families at Advent for one week, twice a year)
- Families Moving Forward Communications Link** (Be a liason between Avent and Families Moving Forward)
- Volunteer at CROSS Foodshelf** (Located between Maple Grove and Rogers. Assist CROSS staff or volunteer to deliver donated groceries to CROSS)
- Serve a Meal at Loaves & Fishes** (Bi-monthly at a church in North Mpls. Prepare, serve and cleanup.)
- Metro Paint-A-Thon** (Working as a group, help a family with outside painting)
- Adopt-A-Family at Christmas** (Help fill a families wish list)
- Habitat for Humanity** (Help build affordable housing)
- Join a Support Group** (Cancer survivors, others, as needed)
- Meals On Wheels** (Pick up meals at Sci Med and deliver to homebound)
- Donate Blood** (Be a donor. Blood drives held twice annually.)

WORLD

- Disaster Relief Mission Trips** (Be a team member. Assist with restoration. Usually for one week.)
- Mexico Partnership** (Support by working with St. Paul Lutheran in North Minneapolis)
- Assist/Donate to Operation Christmas Child** (Assist at the distribution center. Or donate a filled shoe box.)

- Feed My Starving Children** (Work on location in Coon Rapids packaging meals)
- Support Good Gifts at Christmas** (Donations purchase goats/pigs/water pumps/necessities to benefit people around the world)
- Purchase Fair Trade Products** (Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, etc.)
- Offering of Letters** (Exercise citizenship by writing letters to state and federal legislators to ask for help when needs arise.)

B Serving

WORSHIP & MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES Assist with worship. A manual is available with job descriptions for the following ministries.

- Prepare/Setup Communion** (Needed every Saturday, and 1st and 3rd Sundays)
- Serving Communion** (Needed every Saturday, and 1st and 3rd Sundays)
- Read Scripture** (Readings are sent to you ahead of time)
- Usher** (Assist members entering, during offering/communion, and when leaving. Watch for times when help may be needed. Count attendance. Cleanup after service.)
- Sound Board Technician** (Needed for every service. Training is provided.)
- PowerPoint Technician** (Needed for every service. Training is provided.)
- Future Coordinator for **Communion Preparation**
- Future Coordinator for **Communion Assistant**
- Future Coordinator for **Scripture Readers**
- Future Coordinator for **Ushers**

HOSPITALITY

- Sunday Grace Hall Fellowship Hour** (Work in kitchen preparing treats, coffee and clean up)
- Prepare Food for Funeral Luncheons** (Bring salad/bars to serve 10)
- Serve at Funeral Luncheons** (Must be available to serve during the day)
- Organize Special Luncheons** (Be available from time-to-time to assist in planning and organizing)
- Rally Day Volunteer** (Help with food, games and fun as we gather together following summer season)

OFFICE HELP

- Count Weekly Contributions** (Be a team member. Counting is done on Monday. Training is provided.)
- Assemble Church Newsletter, Other Mailings, etc.** (Available during the day)
- Assemble Weekly Bulletins** (Join a team. Fridays)
- General Office Help** (Assist as needed)
- Data Entry** (Assist as needed)
- Answering Phones** (Assist as needed. Training is provided.)
- Assist with Yearly Internal Audits** (Audit financials at year-end)

COMPUTER/NETWORKING

- Microsoft Office** (Assist with *Microsoft Office* applications)
- Microsoft Access** (Assist with *Microsoft Access*)
- Web Design** (Assist with Website—*Dreamweaver, Cold Fusion, Contribute*)
- PowerPoint** (Prepare and/or project worship presentations)
- Network Administration** (Help maintain network)
- Publisher Applications** (Newsletters, and other applications as needed.)

CHURCH SCHOOL, VBS, YOUTH Background Screening and Risk Management Orientation necessary when teaching children

- VBS Group Leader** (Take charge of a small group of VBS students)
- Story Teller** (Be a friend to the children and tell stories—Church School and VBS)
- Drama Leader** (Plan musicals, skits, fundraisers, etc.)
- Craft Leader** (Plan/organize crafts for children)
- Refreshment Coordinator** (Plan/organize refreshments—VBS and special events)
- Games Leader** (Plan/organize games—VBS and special events)
- Field Trip Chaperone** (Driver for field trips)
- Prayer Partner** (Pray for Children's Ministry and/or pray for an individual child)
- Christmas Program Helper** (Assist staff with preparations)
- Children's Worship Bags** (Restock, clean out and tidy up)
- Supply Replenishers** (Inventory/Restock school supplies)
- Bulletin Boards** (Create attractive bulletin boards)
- Hall Monitor** (Assist during busy church school hours)
- Nursery Coordinator** (Coordinate nursery activities/volunteer schedule)
- Nursery Assistant** (Parents share responsibility of the nursery by volunteering from time to time. Confirmation students help.)

MISCELLANEOUS

- Can Recycler** (Take cans to recycling center)
- Eye Glass Recycler** (Take eyeglasses to recycling center)
- Environmental Recycler** (Take collected ink cartridges, etc to recycling center)
- Fair Trade Booth** (Help inventory/stock fair trade products)
- Tend Seasonal Plants** (Tend/Water during Easter/Christmas)
- Publicity and Press Releases** (Occasional help needed)
- Taste Testing for Advent** (Periodic product sampling.)
- Special Event Setup** (Occasionally help set up tables & chairs)

C Planning

- Lead/Participate in Fundraising and/or Capital Fund Drives** (Experienced or able to assist in fund drives)
- Organize Special Events** (Help plan events. Ministry Fairs, Volunteer Appreciation, Rally Day, etc.)
- Strategic Planning** (Short-term planning)
- Vision & Mission Planning** (Long-term planning)
- Investment & Endowment Planning** (Help plan ways to encourage donation of wills, trusts, special endowments)
- Children's Curriculum Planning** (Review and suggest lesson material)
- Children's Activity Planning** (Help staff as needed)
- Vacation Bible School Planning** (Two summer sessions—Preschool and 1st–5th grades)
- Adult Education Planning** (Lay-led and pastor-led. Mid-week and Sundays at 10:00)
- Worship Planning** (Assist staff with service planning/seasons and celebrations)
- Property Improvement Planning** (Assist staff with building and grounds planning)
- Evangelism, Marketing and Communication** (Help develop evangelism, communication and marketing tools)
- Stewardship Planning** (Develop ways to encourage tithing and congregational financial support)

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER

- Financial Development** (Stewardship, financial, endowment, special gifts)
- Human Resources** (Assist with employment of pastors/staff)
- Worship & Music** (The WORD, worship assistants, music)
- Grow in Faith Together** (Children, Youth, Confirmation, Small Group & Adult Education Ministries)
- Property** (Building/Grounds improvement and maintenance. Kitchen, Garden, Grace Hall.)
- Evangelism and Outreach** (Invite!, SOFIA, publicity, parades in community & beyond)
- Community Life** (Welcome team, men's adult, social, young adult and women's ministries)
- Caring and Outreach Committee** (Faith & Society, Creation Care, Loaves & Fishes, Families Moving Forward, Disaster Relief, Health & Wellness, Quilting, Stephen Ministry, Bloodmobile, AA & Prayer Chains)
- Special Event Committee** (Periodically organize events)
- Garage Sale Committee** (Work as necessary to prepare for annual sale)

- Interested in **Church Council**
- Interested in **Mutual Ministry**
- Interested in **Human Resources**
- Interested in **Synod Representative** (Serve as a delegate at annual Synod assembly)

D Craftsmanship/Maintenance

BUILDING & GROUNDS

- Annual Garage Sale** (Pick up donations, sort, arrange, price, cashier, carry-out, cleanup)
- Lawn Mowing** (Use a John Deere. Trimming)
- Snow Cleanup** (Weekdays and weekends)
- Lawn Mower/Snowblower Maintenance**
- Pruning, Planting & Landscaping** (Help plan new landscape & maintain grounds)
- Electrical** (Assist when needed. *Licensed?* **Yes** **No**)
- Plumbing** (Assist when needed. *Licensed?* **Yes** **No**)
- Heating/AC** (Assist when needed. *Licensed?* **Yes** **No**)
- Carpentry/General Repair** (Assist when needed)
- Spring & Fall Cleanup** (Yard work and inside cleaning)
- Window Washing** (Assistance would be most appreciated)
- Sanctuary Clean Team** (Clean once a month. Training provided.)
- Painting** (Throughout building as needed)
- Vegetable/Advent Giving Garden** (Help tend the garden. Produce is donated to CROSS—the local food shelf)
- Flower Garden Team** (Help maintain one of Advent's beautiful gardens)

E Welcoming/Hospitality

- Atrium Ministry Team** (Help welcome visitors and members)
- Curbside Ministry Team** (Serve by assisting people in/out of cars, walking them into church, help mothers/fathers with children, help elderly, hold umbrellas when necessary)
- Worship Service Greeter** (Beginning 15 minutes prior to service, offer a smile, handshake and welcome)
- New Member Sponsor** (Attend new member orientations to meet families. Assist on reception Sunday.)
- Bake Bread for New Member Gift Bags** (Done at home)
- Welcome Bag Assembly** (Prepare our welcome gifts for new members)

F Creativity/Arts/Music

MUSIC/PERFORMANCE

- Drama Ministry** (Acting, directing, scenery)
- Senior Choir** (Wednesday evening rehearsals)
- Advent Chorale** (Men & women sing for special services)
- Instrumentalist** (Special music ministry. *Check all that apply*
 Woodwind **Brass** **String** **Percussion**)
- Vocalist** (Special music ministry)
- Praise Team** (Leads contemporary service. Thursday evening rehearsals.)
- Handbell Choir** (Ability to read music required. Monday evening rehearsals)
- Narrator/Speaker** (Special worship reader/narrator as needed)
- Pianist** (Accompany congregation & choir)
- Future **Children's Choir Director**
- Future **Youth Choir Director**
- Children's Choir Pianist**

VISUAL ARTS

- Design/Maintain Sanctuary Parameters & Wall Hangings**

INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT

- Design/Plan Education and Classroom Wing**
- Design/Plan Building Interior**
- Seasonal Decorating** (Interior/Exterior Christmas/Easter)

HAND CRAFTS

- Quilting** (Lutheran World Relief. Tied quilts. Thursday a.m.)
- Sewing** (Usually costumes and props)
- Baptism Napkin Embroidery** (Embroider a small red cross and hem pre-cut 13 x 9 piece of fabric)

ARTISTRY

- Photography** (Take photos of church functions)
- Video Photography** (When special video is needed)
- Design Graphics** (Special events, ministries)
- Calligraphy** (Signs and documents, as necessary)
- Painting & Drawing** (Artistry as needed)

G Teaching (Risk Management Orientations and Background Checks are required to teach children)

- Small Group Leader** (Facilitate a small group—home/church)
- Adult Bible Study Leader**
- Church School Teacher** (Wednesday evening and/or Sunday mornings)
- Confirmation Guide** (Be a confirmation guide for a small group of students)
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) teacher** (2 sessions. Preschool/Kindergarten and Grades 1–5)
- Substitute Church School Teacher**

Fellowship/Community Life

ADULT FELLOWSHIP/EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

- Organize Adult Social Ministries** (Dinner groups, game nights, plays & adult activities)
- Evening Bible Study—Naomi Circle** (Meets second Monday of the month. 7:00 p.m. Meets in homes.)
- Evening Bible Study—Esther Circle** (Meets second Tuesday of the month. 7:30 p.m. Meets in homes.)
- Evening Bible Study—Lydia Circle** (Meets fourth Tuesday of the month. 7:00 p.m. Meets in homes.)
- Thursday Morning Bible Study** (Every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. fall/winter/spring. Meets @ Church)
- God Chicks Bible/Book Study** (Every Friday at 9:00 a.m. fall/winter/spring. Meets @ Church)
- Women's Hiking Retreat (LOONS)** (A fall 4-Day weekend Get-Away)
- Women's Spiritual Retreats** (A Winter Weekend Get-Away)
- Men's Retreats**
- Men's Mission Trips**
- Men's Softball**
- Co-ed Broomball**
- Parent's & Pie Fellowship** (Wednesday evenings—Spend time together while children are in class)
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study** (Pastor led study. 10:00 a.m. Wednesdays @ Church)
- Thursday Evening Bible Study—The Great Adventure** (7:00 p.m. Thursdays @ Church fall/winter/spring.)
- Sunday Morning/Connect Groups** (10:00 a.m. Sundays @ Church)

YOUTH MINISTRY

- Coach/Umpire Basketball, Softball, Tennis**
- Help with Drama Team, Youth Musical, Dinner Theater, Costumes and Props**

- Help with Fundraising**
- Help with Pizza Feast**
- Chaperone Boundary Waters Canoe Trips** (Risk Management Orientation & Background Screening necessary)
- Chaperone Overnights** (Risk Management Orientation & Background Screening necessary)

Future Ministry Development

Advent is open to new ministry suggestions. Below are prior suggestions that have not been implemented yet. Please check those that interest you and/or you may write in your own ideas. CHECKING DOES NOT OBLIGATE YOU, it helps with planning and development. Thank you.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Parent Parenting | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Enrichment | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/Baking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singles Group | <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise Classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Gaming | <input type="checkbox"/> Investment Groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring—English, Science, Math | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith Chest Quilting/Woodworking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ballroom Dance Lessons | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Language Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Caregivers for Elderly Parents |

Please staple and return pages 4-7 to the Discover Your Gifts basket on the sign-up table in the Atrium. You may click submit to send this via email.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Primary Phone _____ Home Work
 Cell Other

Alternate Phone _____ Home Work
 Cell Other

Email _____

“I am willing to try new things, even though I’m unsure of my ability. I may find I enjoy the new experience and I do have the capability! Please feel free to call me!”

- Yes**
 No, not at this time

The contact list we maintain is for Advent’s use only and will not be sold or distributed to outside parties. You have my permission to share and/or publish my contact information for church use.

- Yes**
 No