



Chaplain's Corner

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Welcome to the Chaplain's Corner. This newsletter was created to share campus concerns and updates, spiritual life events and activities, and words for the journey written by the Spiritual Life Center (SLC) staff. If you have a joy or concern you'd like to share with the University of Lynchburg community, please send an [e-mail](#) to the SLC office or call 434.544.8348. We only share concerns or joys, via newsletter or e-mail, with permission. Current and previous issues of the Chaplain's Corner (in PDF format) are on the SLC page of the University of Lynchburg website—[webpage](#).

Concerns

Our sympathies are extended to:

- **Ken Shively** (ITR) on the death of his grandfather.

Our concerns are extended to:

- **Joan Ochs** (Business Office) who had surgery last week.

Advent Meditations



The Spiritual Life Center is offering Advent meditations via e-mail.

Dates of Advent:
Sunday, December 2—
Monday, December 24

If you would like to subscribe, simply send an e-mail that reads "send prayers" to

rapp@lynchburg.edu

Campus Worship Opportunities

- **Quaker Meeting** - 10:30 a.m. Sundays at the Spiritual Life Center.
- **Roman Catholic Mass** - weekly at 4:30 p.m., Sundays in Snidow Chapel. Next Mass will be on January 27, 2019.

A Time for Hope

This week's snow has complicated the end of the semester. Students, faculty and staff scramble to make adjustments, finding new ways to do the work that needs doing. Hopes of a smooth end to the semester are replaced by dogged determination just to do what needs to be done.

Instead of meeting with my students for Monday's final exam, I am sitting in front of my fireplace watching video presentations they have shared with me on my Google drive. I'll read their uploaded documents rather than hand-written entries in blue books.

Endings are often messy. We find ourselves in unexpected circumstances or filled with laments of "I should've" and "I meant to."

Living as we do in a calendar year marked by semesters, we get an ending and the hope of a new beginning in just a few weeks. We can put the old semester behind us and start anew—new classes, more books, a kaleidoscope of different people to interact with, a fresh perspective. It's a clean slate. What is done is done. Expectation and hope mark what is to come.

The liturgical calendar inspires this same sense of hope and renewal. Many religious traditions have similar beginnings that involve newness, renewal and expectation. From my Christian perspective, this season of Advent, which marks the beginning of the church year, is much like the start of a new semester. It is a time full of hope and excited anticipation.

Before I shift my gaze to the new semester, I need to keep my eyes on what is in front of me—papers, exams, grades. I resolve to do these end-of-term tasks to the best of my ability—even if things are not as I expected.

If you, too, find yourself muddling through to the semester's end, remember the circle of time that brings into being all things new. The semester will end and a new one awaits. Advent anticipates the coming of the Christ child. With his birth, the promise of redemption is the hope we receive.

By Dr. Nina Salmon
 Associate Professor of English and Minister-on-Call
 Faculty Advisor for Canterbury Episcopal Fellowship



Dates to Remember

Date/Time/Location	Event	Description
Monday, January 21 6 p.m. Snidow Chapel	Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Rev. Dr. Owen Cardwell	Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies and local civil rights activist
Monday, February 4 4-6 p.m. / Hall Campus Center Ballroom	Spring Organization Fair	Come and learn about student organizations

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

For a list of our regularly scheduled meetings during the academic year, go to the [Spiritual Life webpage](#) and click on "Spiritual Organizations on Campus."

Spiritual Life Center

500 Brevard Street 434.544.8348
 Send e-mail messages to spirituallife@lynchburg.edu