



The Candle

December 2024

Pastor's Message

ADVENT -- **noun**

a coming into place, view, or being; arrival:
the advent of the holiday season.

Synonyms: start, commencement, beginning, onset

Usually **Advent**. the coming of Christ into the world.

Advent, the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas, observed in commemoration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Usually **Advent**. Second Coming.

The first time I asked folk here at Advent Lutheran Church in Mentor, OH why the name "Advent" was chosen as the name for this congregation—I was told that it was so that we would appear first in the Yellow Pages listing for "Churches." That may, in fact, be the only reason for picking the name at the time. However, the choice of the term is a good one for other reasons. Though the word may rarely be used in contemporary conversation, it still brings to mind new beginnings, the arrival of something or someone significant and the opportunity to prepare for this arrival.

The season of Advent is pregnant with possibilities and in the weeks leading up to the celebration of Christmas, we will look into this more deeply. For the first time in a while, however, we will not have mid-week worship during the Advent season. Instead, we offer the following to assist you in your preparation to encounter Christ in our daily life:

1. A small book from Augsburg Fortress Press entitled "good news, great joy: devotions for Advent and Christmas: will be available in the Narthex to be used at home in your personal and family devotions; and,
2. I will be offering a weekly devotion on Facebook and on our YouTube page for those who do not have FB. The content of this digital devotion may vary in content and format—sometimes it may be a period of guided prayer and relaxation, sometimes it may be a short homily or story – depending on how the Spirit leads my preparation. These offerings will be available on Wednesdays beginning December 4 and will continue through Christmas Day and New Years Day.

continued on page 6

✝

Annual Meeting
December 8 ▪ 10am

✝

Christmas Cookie
Gathering
December 15
▪ 10am

✝

Christmas Eve
Worship
December 24
▪ 3pm, 7pm, and
9pm

✝

Christ our Savior
is Born



The Candle is the newsletter of Advent Lutheran Church, ELCA
Our Purpose: "Loved by God, we share Christ's love with all"

Spirituality Moment

“You Give Me Strength”

**Lord God, thank You for loving me
Even when I turn away from You.
I am grateful for Your constant care and concern.
Though I feel unworthy of Your great love,
I thank You that through my weakness
You give me strength,
And in my wanderings, You show me the way.**

Prayer Chain

Nothing could be more gratifying than lifting someone up in prayer in their time of need. Please contact Sue Keeley @ 440.862.2790 / 440.257.5565 or by e-mail at suesworkout@gmail.com if you would like to become part of the prayer chain ministry, have a prayer request, or if you have any questions. Prayer is Powerful!!

Pastor Prayer Intercessors

November 25-December 1
December 2-8
December 9-15
December 16-22
December 23-31

Jenny Dubeansky, Sara Coleman
Becky Spudich
Nancy Marshaus, Rose Schrum
Lee Sundblom, Kay Smith
Becky Young

*We are always looking for more pray-ers to become Pastor Prayer Intercessors. If you would like to be a part of this prayer team, please contact Sue Keeley at the church office (440.257.5565), During your assigned week, we ask you to pray for Pastor Steve's ministry, personal life, health, etc.

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5: 17



Points from your Parish Nurse

- ♥ Here it is again- December and the end of another year. Incredible how fast the days and weeks and months go by. So take a deep breath and remember that each day is a gift from God. Let us focus on the true meaning of Christmas-the birth of Jesus!
- ♥ The next Care Team Ministry quarterly meeting will be on Saturday, December 7 at 10am at Advent. This will be our annual Christmas breakfast. This year we will provide gifts for 10 members who are in facilities or homebound.
- ♥ The Caregivers Support Group will meet on the second Thursday, December 12 at 1pm at TJ'S on the Avenue for our Christmas lunch.
- ♥ Blood pressure screenings will be held on Saturday, December 14 at 5pm and Sunday, December 15 at 10am in the Parish Nurse office.
- ♥ May your Christmas be filled with peace and joy, and the New Year be a happy and healthy one!
- ♥ Always remember, "When in doubt, Point to the Cross!"

Your servant in Christ,
Christine Noble
Parish Nurse



Care Team



Nov 24-Dec 7	Denise Janosko, Bev McArthur, Nancy Marshaus
Dec 8-21	Lida Mackey, Becky Young, Laura Jastromb
Dec 22-Jan 4	Kathy Kling, Kathy Jennings, Barb Caspell, Kay Smith

Upcoming Blood Drive

Friday, January 10
9am - 2pm

call 1.800.RED.CROSS

~or~ RedCrossBlood.org
Key word: Advent



Help Save a Life!

"For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment,
You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14

Council Minutes - October

In Attendance: Pastor Steve, Jo Brantweiner, Bob Adkins, Rob Hilston, Dave Mattson, Joan Hamm, Andy DiLiello, Ben DeAlexandro, Christine Noble

Excused: Carla Colo

Call to Order: 6:55pm

Approval of September Council Minutes: Motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Pastor's Report: verbal

- Our Synod has been seeking input from churches/lay people – Isaiah 43 Project. Soon, more and more churches are going to be without pastors. Synod has begun “One Church Experiment” – congregations join together, share pastors, share resources. Not every church is in need currently. Please see complete info on the synod website: neos-elca.org
 - The Dean of our conference, Pastor Jessica Shields, has been working on implementing “pulpit exchanges” within our conference (rotating pastors to different churches to preach). The first exchange will take place the weekend of November 16/17. We will host Pastor Jay Plummer, from Parma Lutheran Church; pastor Steve will preach at New Covenant, East Cleveland.
- **Motion was made and seconded, and Pastor's report was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- We are doing well and are tracking close to plan.
 - Income 1.7% above plan and expenses -0.6% above plan
 - Funds holding the same
 - Treasurer's report graph was updated and sent separately
- **Motion was made and seconded, and the September Treasurer's report was approved.

Ministry Team Reports Received: H&W, Fellowship, LBG, Finance, Property (on file)

Witness: we will be receiving new members in January; date TBD

Health & Wellness: vaccine clinic went well – 49 injections were given by Walgreen's staff.

Outreach: article written for collection of dollars for Thanksgiving and Christmas for the Food Pantry; “Giving Tree”- we will be collecting mittens, hats, scarfs for Forbes House.

Fellowship: Fall Festival this past Sunday; Election Day coming up – help is needed. Sign up sheets posted in the Narthex. Could use male presence in the building for safety.

LBG: Indian Museum trip next weekend. 19 people signed up to attend. Safe Space Training was well attended and well received. Very informative.

**Motion was made and seconded, and the Ministry reports were approved.

Administration/Housekeeping Items:

Devotion for November – Dave Mattson

Annual Reports are due to the office on or before December 9.

Old Business:

Parsonage Steering Committee: Joan Hamm passed out draft of team document – (overview of the team's job/responsibilities). Team will consist of 6 members, plus Pastor Steve. Besides Joan, we have 3 volunteers (Dave Mattson, Bob McClanahan, Alexis Sharpe). Joan asked for suggestions for the other 2 members to make up the team. Beth Hamilton's name was suggested to ask. Joan is also thinking of someone with an “investment” background. This Steering Committee is a “work group” not a decision group. This team will help the congregation go through the process, listening – gathering all thoughts and suggestions. What is God's Will for this financial gift that we received? We need to be in prayer, seeking God's guidance, as we work through the process.

The goal is to have the committee formed by the end of the year, with a first meeting scheduled sometime in January. It was suggested that a commissioning service of the Steering team be done at the Annual Meeting at the end of January.

Website: Sue gave an overview of where the website stands. Sue's daughter, Meggyn, has been the one editing, writing, and updating information on the site. The website is still facing some initial startup challenges, but overall, it is coming together.

Quilt Raffle: approx. \$1400 has been collected (ticket sales) for the raffle.

Ministry Budgets: the finance team is still waiting on a few ministry team budgets to come in. They are in good shape for beginning the planning for the 2025 budget.

2025 Council: Jo will not seek another term; Ben is stepping down from council for next year. Other council members whose terms are up – please let Rob know ASAP if you plan to seek another term or not, so that we can begin planning for next year.

Stewardship update: Pledge Weekend – October 19/20. Some cards have already been returned. Last weekend's temple talk and Pastor Steve's sermon tied together very well and was well received.

GPOD: 10/20- Chris; 10/27- Ben; 11/3- Bob; 11/10- Rob; 11/17- Chris; 11/24- Rob; 12/1- Dave

New business:

Budget Planning Meeting: Wednesday, November 6 at 6pm. The council is invited to attend – as all thoughts and suggestions are welcome. Approx. 2-hour meeting.

Holiday Party: Do we still wish to hold this, this year? Carla had volunteered to host but has since stated she is unable at this time. Chris suggested we still get together, even if we all just gather for dinner – early December. The council was asked to think on this, and a date/further info will be decided at the November council meeting.

Copier Cost/tracking: We have received a refund check from the copier company (past issues and tracking). We will continue to log copier use, for tracking ministry team usage and for confirming our copy numbers with the copier company.

Handbells: Dave mentioned, through W&M, that an outside group is interested in purchasing our Handbells (complete set, tables, pads). More information on this will be presented at the November council meeting.

Please keep Michele & Eric Williamson and family in healing prayer, upon the loss of Michele's father this past week.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made, seconded, and meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Keeley, Council Secretary



“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord...”
Psalm 33:12

Pastor's message continued from page 1

If you have any questions about how to access these devotional offerings, please reach out to me with any questions. In the meantime, please know that I continue to pray for Advent (us) during Advent.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve



Devotions for Advent

Please be sure to pick up an Advent Devotional booklet, found in the Narthex.

Dear Advent Family,

I want to thank the angels of Advent Lutheran Church - for all the prayers and support that you've shown me!

God Bless You!
Jo Brantweiner



Group Studies

Men's Studies

- ♦ **Retired Men's Group** meets the first Tuesday of every month at 9:30am. If you are a retired man and would like to share your thoughts and discuss a wide variety of subjects, please join us. We would welcome your participation.



Women's Studies

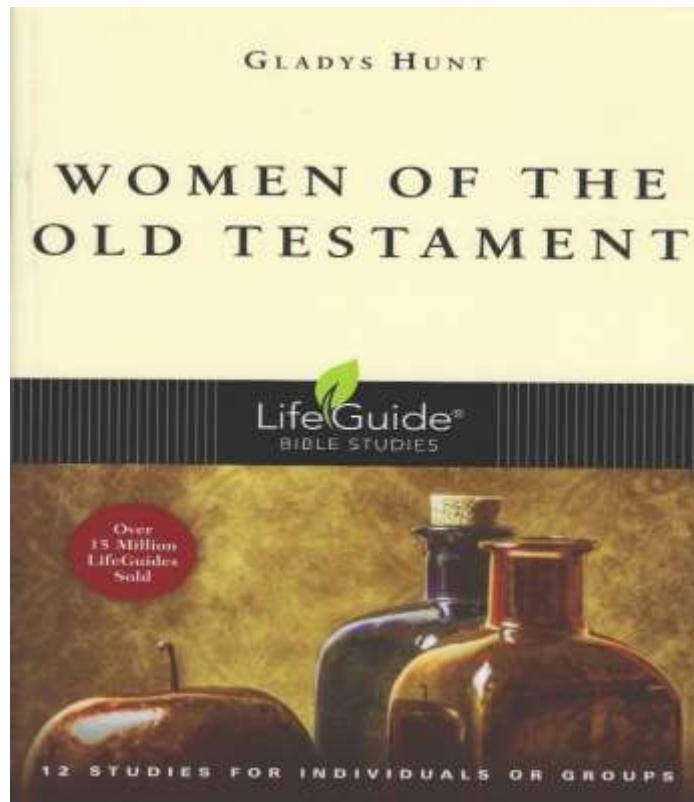
- ♦ **Sophia Project:** Meets on the second and fourth Saturday of each month from 10am-11am in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us.
- ♦ **Hope Circle:** Meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30am. All are welcome!



"...but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'" Matthew 19:14

Sunday Morning Adult Sunday School begins a New Study

The women of the Old Testament were ordinary people. Most would not make headlines in any other history book but God's. Yet the women of the Old Testament made critical choices that led to extraordinary outcomes. Through faith and strong character, they rescued their families, led people out of bondage, gave birth to kings and even saved a nation. As you explore with Gladys Hunt the stories of twelve Old Testament women, you will come to understand the far-reaching consequences of your own everyday choices and actions. *Women of the Old Testament* by Gladys Hunt features twelve sessions. The study guide is available through Amazon.com for \$6.00 in the paperback edition (ISBN 9780830830640). Kindle editions are also available.



This 12-session study will begin on Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 10:15am in hybrid format. This means it will be conducted in-person and on zoom for people requiring remote access.

If you are interested in joining us, please call/text Tim Krueger at (440) 391-0369 so that you can be placed on our emailing list-which is how the zoom information is sent out. You may also email him at LTCTKRUE@aol.com.

“...But with God, all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26

Christmas Cookie and Coffee Gathering

Please join us on December 15th in the narthex for Christmas cookies, coffee and fellowship. If you would like to make cookies to share with everyone, please bring them on December 15th.

We will be serving a portion of these cookies on December 18th with the neighbors that shop at the food pantry for their Christmas dinner. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Poinsettias for Christmas

If you would like to place an order for a Poinsettia to adorn our worship space this Christmas, please **fill out an order form (available in the Narthex or online on our website) and enclose it with your check.** Please make your checks payable to **Advent Lutheran Church** and mark your check memo with: **"Poinsettias"**

**Orders and payments must be received
by Sunday, December 8**

Red:	6.5" pot (1 plant)	_____	\$6.50ea.
Red:	7.5" pot (2 plants)	_____	\$12.50ea.



Meals for Project Hope Meals for months ahead

Advent provides meals for Families Moving Forward on the First and Third Wednesdays of each month. There are currently open dates throughout the remainder of the year and into early next year. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Project Hope for the Homeless is in need of meals for their newest guests, "Families Moving Forward." Advent provides a meal to feed approximately 10-12 persons including children. Meals are to be dropped off at Project Hope, 25 Freedom Road, Painesville—by 5pm at Door #4 in the back. There are no restrictions on the meals. Any questions, please call Christine Noble at 440.346.3120.

Thank You!



Project Hope
for the Homeless
Restoring Hope. Renewing Lives.



First-Half Annual Meeting Sunday, December 8 @10am

- *Election of new council members for 2025*
- *Update from our Parsonage Steering Committee*

Annual Reports

Year-End Annual Reports are due to the office by Monday, December 9.

Thank you!





HOLIDAY OUTREACH PROJECT

We are going to provide a Christmas bag on December 18th filled with a ham, all the sides and a dessert to go with it.

During the holidays we usually serve over 60 families. In order to make all of the bags alike and to be able to buy in bulk, we are asking for financial help. Our neighbors that shop at our food pantry really depend on us to make their holiday meal special. If you would like to contribute, please write a check with “*holiday food pantry*” written in the memo section of your check. Thank you for your generosity!!

Deuteronomy 15:11 – “Since there will never cease to be some in need on earth, I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land’.”

Any questions, please see Dave Mattson, Denise Janosko or Bev McArthur



Christmas Outreach

This December the Outreach Ministry Team will have two Christmas trees in the narthex.

We will collect hats, gloves, and mittens for Forbes House of Lake County. Please bring homemade or purchased items in sizes Infants through Adult and place them under the tree. We will collect these items until Christmas.



Our second tree will be a Fund Raiser for our Food Pantry Ministry. We are raising money to buy food to continue the great work of feeding families in the Lake and Geauga area. Please take a tag from the tree and put the money in the offering plate, or mail it to the church, or pay thru GivePlus/Vanco AND on the Memo line please indicate **Food Pantry**.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministry team.

David Mattson
Council Liaison for Outreach Ministry Team

Community Outreach

Food Pantry (St. Andrew's)
Donations:

**December: Shampoo
 & Toilet Paper**

**Volunteers
 Needed**



Advent's Little Free Pantry

Our current needs are:

soups and tuna,

There is a collection box outside the church office. Thank You!

Please see the Weekly News sheets each weekend for our most current pantry needs. Thank you for your support and for making a difference in the lives of those we are helping!

Worship and Music Happenings

Your Worship and Music Committee continues to provide meaningful worship services at Advent.

We will have a Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday November 27 at 7pm.

There will be no mid-week Advent services this year. We are looking for families to volunteer to light the Advent candles for our Sunday Advent services. Please let Pastor Steve know if you would like to volunteer.

Advent devotional booklets have been ordered and are available in the Narthex. Please pick one up to help us prepare for the celebration of Jesus's birth!

Christmas Eve services will be at 3, 7, and 9pm. There will be no services on Christmas Day.

You will again have the opportunity to purchase poinsettias for Christmas. Order forms are available in the Narthex. The deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 8.

We welcome new ideas for worship and new members for the committee.

Holiday Worship Schedule

- ◆ **Christmas Eve Services** • 3pm (family service)
7pm (Candlelight)
9pm (Candlelight)
- ◆ Saturday, December 28 • 4pm
- ◆ Sunday, December 29 • 9am & 11:30am



Holy Communion is celebrated at all worship services

*** Youth Sunday school will not meet on December 22nd or 29th ***

Adult Sunday school will not meet between December 15 and January 4

Sympathy

Our thoughts, prayers, and sympathies are with the family and friends of Rosemary Dohm. Rosemary went home to the Lord on Saturday, November 2. May our Lord comfort all who grieve.



Saturday Evening Potluck

Saturday, January 18

There will be a January potluck after the 4pm service on Saturday, January 18.

Paper products will be provided, so bring your potluck contribution and enjoy fellowship with your church friends.

Questions, please contact Cathy Doering at: 440-379-7338,



Baptism

Congratulations and
God's Blessings

Alice Catherine Clark
baptized November 3



Council Person of the Day

- December 1** · Dave Mattson
- December 8** · Carla Colo
- December 15** · Christine Noble
- December 22** · Rob Hilston
- December 29** · Jo Brantweiner

Altar Flowers



December

30/1	Hamilton
7/8	Open
14/15	Kulma
21/22	Open
28/29	Open

Please see the sign up board in the Narthex to reserve your dates for altar flowers.

Note: you will be billed directly from the florist.

The flower chart for 2025 is available in the Narthex. Stop by and sign up for your special dates for next year

Worship Assistants

What a joy and blessing it is to serve the Lord!

Ushers, Lectors, and Communion Assistants

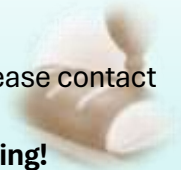
Please see the sign up board in the Narthex or you may call the church office to sign up.
THANK YOU

Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers

Month of December: Cathy Doering

*If you are interested in baking communion bread, please contact Cathy Doering.

Thank you for serving!



Finance Update • October 31, 2024

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Balance 1/1/24	\$ 29,652.25	29,652.25	
Income	246,370.85	236,570.00	9,800.85
Expenditures	264,619.67	259,848.00	(4,771.67)
Ending Balance October 31, 2024	<u>\$11,403.43</u>	<u>\$6,374.25</u>	<u>\$5,029.18</u>

Year-to-Date...

**We've spent
\$18,248.82 more
than we've received**

DESIGNATED/ RESTRICTED FUNDS

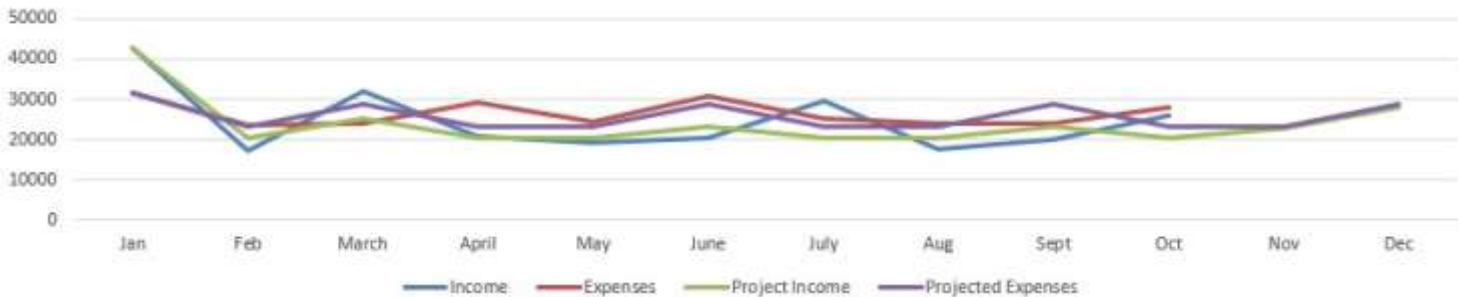
Balance 1/1/24	\$111,014.33
Income	345,753.53
Expenditures	27,884.81
Ending Balance October 31, 2024	<u>\$428,883.05</u>

Treasurer's Report with Fund Balances are posted at the end of each month on the council bulletin board outside the church office.

Advent 2024 Financial Performance

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Income	36,770	17,141	32,076	20,813	19,080	20,568	29,417	17,797	19,926	26,151			
Expenses	31,707	23,624	23,825	29,004	24,511	30,863	25,121	23,806	24,093	28,064			
Project Income	42,691	20,283	25,311	20,427	20,283	23,363	20,283	20,283	23,363	20,283	22,672	28,057	287,299
Projected Expenses	31,707	23,124	28,907	23,126	23,126	28,907	23,126	23,126	28,907	23,126	23,126	28,907	309,215

Advent 2024 Financial Performance



Online Giving: If you would like to support Advent's ministry electronically, scan this QR code to visit our online giving page. Thank You!



ADVENT'S STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Steven C. Bond 710.4757
 Office Administrator: Sue Keeley 862.2790
 Organist: Elizabeth Sumiejski 255.5489
 Chancel Choir Director: Doreen Mattson 946.5043
 Praise Team Director: Tracy Ammon 749.0690

VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Lay Assistants
 Doreen Mattson946.5043
Worship Assistants
 Church office 257.5565
Worship Tech
 Greg Preske 216.317.8148
Altar Guild Chairperson
 Becky Young..... 440.221.4531
Sunday School
 Beth Hamilton669.1902
Service Outreach
Food Pantry
 Dave Mattson 440.897.5466
Youth & Family Ministry
 Beth Hamilton 669.1902
Prayer Ministry
 • **Prayer Vigil**
 Sue Keeley.....862.2790
 • **Prayer Chain**
 Sue Keeley..... 862.2790
 • **Healing Touch**
 Christine Noble 346.3120
Meals for Members
 Barb Caspell 440.840.5393
 Barb Louis..... 352.7055
Youth
Memorial Gifts
 Barb Zahn..... 440.223.2852

Finely Aged Ministry

Christine Noble346.3120

Funeral Luncheons

Christine Noble346.3120
 Paula DiLiello 290.7506

Blood Drives

Cherie Moore 623.308.9514

Webmaster

Church Office.....257.5565

Liturgical Arts

Fawn Patrick 357.7898

Quilting

Betty Steimle 440.534.1174

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pr. Steve Bond710.4757
 Dave Mattson 440.897.5466
 Joan Hamm440.476.1494
 Carla Colo 216.970.0219
 Ben DeAlexandro 330.416.4858
 Andy DiLiello 440.290.7506
 Rob Hilston207.632.5949
 Bob Adkins832.971.6414
 Jo Brantweiner 944.4465
 Christine Noble 440.346.3120

Council Secretary

Sue Keeley 862.2790

Treasurer

Bob Adkins 832.971.6414

Financial Secretary

Becky Spudich 440.487.7897

Asst. Treasurer

Dave Mattson 440.897.5466

MUTUAL MINISTRY

Deb Laukiavich 725.4929
 Gary Swanson257.8480
 Cathy Doering.....379.7338
 Jenny Helland..... 974.1776

Deadline Reminder:

Newsletter information:

due by the 15th of the month

**Christmas Blessings
 to you and yours!**

**May you find joy and
 peace in the New
 Year!**



**To submit items to *The Candle*,
 contact: Sue Keeley, Office Administrator at: 440.257.5565
 You may also e-mail your information to:
 adventmentoroffice@gmail.com**

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
7985 MUNSON ROAD
MENTOR, OHIO 44060-3703

Dated Material - November 22, 2024

Smile! Know that God Loves **YOU!**

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Worship Schedule

- ◆ Saturday's @4:00pm
Sunday's @9:00am ▪ Sunday's @11:30am
- ◆ Youth Sunday School ▪ Sunday's ▪ 10:15am
- ◆ Adult Sunday School: ▪ Sunday's ▪ 10:15am

ON THE WEB: adventmentor.org
E-mail: adventmentoroffice@gmail.com
Pr. Steve Bond: pastorstevebond@aol.com
Christine Noble: adventparishnurse@gmail.com



Rev. Steven C. Bond, Pastor
7985 Munson Road, Mentor OH 44060-3703
▪ 440.257. 5565

Advent Welcomes You!

Welcome! With delight, we greet all who come to worship. You are sincerely welcomed and invited to be a regular worshipper here in God's house. If you are looking for a church home, you will find a ready welcome here at Advent Lutheran Church.

Welcome Friends



Advent's Purpose Statement: *"Loved by God, we share Christ's love with ALL"*