



The Candle

April 2025

pastor's Message

Allow me to share one of my favorite sermon illustrations once again: Imagine two children – both about the age of 6, both in an unfamiliar place. The place is downtown Manhattan in the middle of the day. Crowds of people are rushing pass the children in all directions. Many are shouting loudly, some of them in languages they can't understand. Looking up, the buildings are so tall it makes the children dizzy. They have never been here before. One of the children is terrified. He cries because of the fear and is paralyzed by that fear. The other child looks around in wide eyed wonder. The sights and sounds, though unfamiliar are a new adventure. The child is excited and expectant – the world itself is a place to be explored and discovered. What makes each child react so differently. The first is lost and alone. The second is holding hands with his loving parent who promises to be his guide on this new adventure.

This month we observe the most holy of weeks – the weeks of Christ's passion. His betrayal and his death. And we also celebrate His resurrection—God's miracle of new life. Knowing that Christ has died, as we all must and that we will one day rise as he has allows us to know we have a loving guide who can walk us through unfamiliar places. We need but just take God's hand.

But, how do we hold the hand of a God whom we cannot see. How do we walk though a life where so much we thought was certain is being called into question. A world where civil rights are being ignored, ally's are being treated as enemies, structures and programs we have grown to depend on are being dismantled. How do we hold onto our God? First, we remember that even if we don't feel we can hold onto God, God has promised to hold on to us.

But, I've also come to experience that the God who became incarnate in Christ Jesus – continues to put flesh on in order to speak to us and hold our hands. It happens when we draw close to our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ – reach out to your Church family. It happens when God speaks to us through scripture and the proclaimed word – read your Bible and attend worship to hear God in preaching. It happens when we lift our voices in song—or listening to music that soothes our soul and gives us courage. It happens when we take our cares to God in prayer – talk to God—God is listening – reaching out a strong and loving hand. I promise.

With Love, *Pastor Steve*

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Palm Sunday
April 12/13

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Maundy Thursday
April 17
12noon & 7pm

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Good Friday
April 18
12noon & 7pm

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"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16

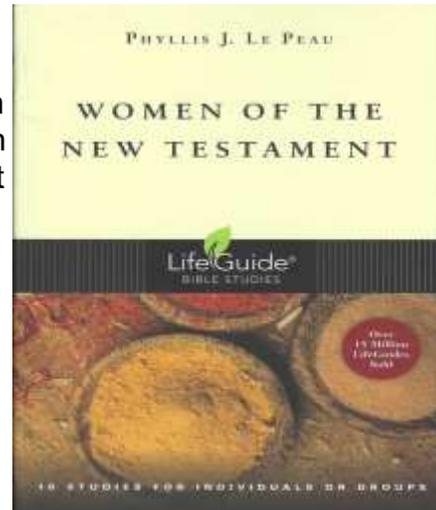
The Candle is the newsletter of Advent Lutheran Church, ELCA
Our Purpose: "Loved by God, we share Christ's love with all"

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS A NEW STUDY

Lydia shows us how to influence the people around us. Elizabeth's life challenges us to care for others. Women like Herodias and Sapphira warn us against turning away from God toward bitterness and dishonesty. As Phyllis J. Le Peau introduces twelve significant women of the New Testament, she invites you to enter their lives and learn from them what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. This revised ten-session LifeGuide Bible Study features additional questions for starting group discussions and for meeting God in personal reflection. The study guide is available through Amazon.com for \$8.99 in the paperback edition (ISBN 9780830830770). A Kindle edition is also available for \$8.44. **(NOTE: ThriftBooks has a slightly different version)**

This 10-session study will begin on Sunday, April 27, 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 email list-which is how the zoom information is sent out. You may also email him at: LTCTKRUE@aol.com.



Prayer Chain

Do you wish to feel strengthened and fulfilled by offering your time to help others? 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

March 29-April 4	Phyllis Tucker, Sue Keeley
April 5-11	Robin Ironhorse, Becky Spudich
April 12-18	Sue Keeley, Alice Santurri
April 19-25	Deb Laukiavich, Lida Mackey
April 26-May 2	Barb Zahn, Bev McArthur



“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

- ♥ April is here along with spring. It means warmer temperatures, blooming flowers, and longer days. Easter often occurs during the month of April. This year Easter falls on April 20th. This means we are still in the season of Lent. How is your Lent going? Feeling any closer to our Lord? Joined a Bible study? Attended Lenten services? There's still time to prepare your heart for the holiest week of the year. And the greatest gift of all...the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Have a blessed Easter, Advent Family!
- ♥ April 10 is the next Caregivers Support Group at 1pm. If you are a caregiver or know someone who is, please tell them to feel welcome to join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1pm. All information shared is kept confidential.
- ♥ April 12/13 is Blood Pressure weekend. Stop by after the 4pm service on Saturday to have your BP checked by Mary Jo Jones, RN or on Sunday at 10am-11am in my office. Since Easter is on the 3rd weekend this year, BP screenings will be done a week earlier.
- ♥ Care Team Ministry meets quarterly on the first Saturday of the month. Our next meeting is June 7 at 10am. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please join us or call/text me at 440-346-3120.
- ♥ Always remember, "When in doubt, Point to the Cross!"

Your Servant in Christ,

Christine Noble, Parish Nurse



Health & Wellness

Care Team



- March 30-April 12** Donna Conklin, Lee Sundblom,
Sandy Kehler, Deb Cyrus-Lutz
- April 13-26** Denise Janosko, Bev McArthur,
Nancy Marshaus
- April 27-May 10** Lida Mackey, Becky Young,
Amy Moyer

Upcoming Blood Drive

Saturday, May 10
8am - 1pm

call 1.800.RED.CROSS

~or~ RedCrossBlood.org
Key word: Advent



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

Council Minutes - February

In Attendance: Pastor Steve, Bob McClanahan, Bob Adkins, Rob Hilston, Dave Mattson, Joan Hamm, Andy DiLiello, Christine Noble, Leesa Mecozzi

Excused: Carla Colo

Call to Order: 6:55pm

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

Pastor's Report: verbal

- Following a survey of Lenten mid-week services (noon vs. 7pm), it has been decided that mid-week Lenten services will only be held at noon with a luncheon following. No evening mid-week services. Ash Wednesday worship will be held at both noon and 7pm. We will be using Sanctified Art.

**Motion was made and seconded, and the Pastor's report was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- January good month – good start to the year.
- Income: \$40,302; Expenses: \$28,482 (property insurance increased \$2600/year).
- Funds page now lists “where our money is” - Checking and Money Market totals, CD amounts and maturity dates. The Parsonage CD is coming due in March, but it will be reinvested at this time.

**Motion was made and seconded, and January Treasurer's report was approved.

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

- **LBG:** Pizza & Movie Event in March; Finnish Museum Event in April. In light of world news, we need to be aware of possible protestors (being an RIC congregation) – be observant! Fernanda has been helping with social media (FB). If you have an event you would like posted on our FB page, please let Fernanda know.
- **W&M:** attendance trends for 2023 and 2024 were done by the W&M team. Our attendance has increased by 10%. Discussion about the trends ensued. We will have a joint Easter Vigil again this year, hosted by Celebration Lutheran Church.
- **Fellowship:** “Valentine Event” was held on Sunday, good attendance and a good time of fellowship!

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

Administration/Housekeeping Items:

- Devotion for March – Carla Colo
- Council sharing of blessings and/or concerns

Old Business:

- **Parsonage Steering Committee:** First meeting went well. Next meeting is on February 13. The group is discussing best practices for collecting ideas/suggestions from members. Focus groups, electronically (survey), hard copy (mail). This group is collecting ideas, not decision makers. All ideas need to be submitted and not told to a committee member.

- **Changes in 2025:** no suggestions for any changes. It was noted that listing the upcoming GPOD's on the agenda is a good idea.
- **Code of Ethics:** Code of Ethics and Council Covenant were emailed to all council members for reading/review. The council all signed the covenant (to be kept on file in the office).
- **Offering Plate Issues: discussion** ensued about some concerns of late. There will now be 2 offering plates in the Sanctuary. Members will be asked to place their donations in the plate at the beginning of the service. That plate will be taken to the altar for the offering blessing prior to communion. The second plate will be left at the back of the Sanctuary for post worship collection of any offering. Andy is working on camera/security measures – will keep council posted. Discussion about who should be taking the offering to the counter box. We are going to try and have 2 people do this – usher and GPOD. This will work for 9am but will need to figure out the best practices for 4pm and 11:30am worship.
- **GPOD:** 2.16- Rob; 2.23 -Joan; 3.2-Bob M; 3.9-Rob; 3.16-Joan; 3.23-Leesa; 3.30-Leesa

New business:

- **Endowment Position Appointments:** Melissa Sommers has agreed to serve another term and Jerry Frye has agreed to serve on Endowment.
**Motion was made to approve Melissa Sommers and Jerry Frye to serve on Endowment, motion was seconded and approved.
- **Allegations against Lutheran Church:** world news. The Lutheran Church has been accused of laundering money (Lutheran Social Services). Both Bishop Eaton and Bishop Barbins have done video message/responses to these allegations. The work of the church (social services) has been ongoing for over 80+ years – helping those in need, worldwide.
- **Time Capsule:** when will it be opened this year? We need to set a date and get the word out to the congregation. This was put together 25 years ago.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made, seconded, and meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Keeley, Council Secretary



Happy Spring



OK GANG

On April 21st, the OK Gang will be going to Stani's Family Restaurant located at 8900 Mentor Avenue (just down from Manhattan Deli) at 12:45pm. Stani's is a new restaurant to Mentor but the family owns another successful restaurant in Madison, Ohio.

Their menu has lots of choices to "wet" the appetite of all attending and includes an all-day breakfast menu and a very complete luncheon menu with daily specials from which to make your selections. Several of us ate there a week ago and thoroughly enjoyed the food, the friendly staff who provided us with excellent service.

If you have not joined us before please come and give us a try....we are a fun group! Please sign up on the signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Hoping to see you at the April 21st OK Gang lunch. If you have any questions you can talk to Cherie Moore, Kathie Hayden or Jenny Helland or any member of the witness committee.

The Advent Piecemakers are asking for donations for our quilt projects.

Our yearly stipend we recently received has expired and we are requesting donations for our materials. We have created 60-80 quilts yearly that are donated to Lutheran World Relief, Appalachian Disaster Relief, comfort quilts for our sick members and baby quilts for christenings. Additionally, we make pot holders for our new members. We require fabric and batting for the projects. We welcome donations of cotton or cotton polyester material, but we cannot use microfiber or polyester-only fabric. We welcome top sheets of any size if you are cleaning out closets. The rolls of batting that we purchase cost \$180 per roll and we have required 3 rolls yearly. Our 10-12 quilters welcome your donations to continue our mission.



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

Announcement About Finnish Heritage Museum Tour Update - (added tour)



Due to demand, we are adding a second tour at the Finnish Heritage Museum located at 301 High Street Fairport Harbor Ohio.

The two tour times are 12noon and 2pm on Sunday, April 27th, and will run for a little over an hour.

If you have already signed up for the 2 pm tour and would like to attend the 12-noon tour, there is no need to sign up again or to let anyone know which time you pick.

Just show up at either 12 noon or 2 pm.

The museum is approximately a 15-20-minute drive from Advent.

There is limited parking on both sides of the museum and plenty of free on-street parking on High Street in front of the museum.

For people interested in food, the Fairport Family restaurant is located 1 block from the museum and is open until 3pm on Sunday. There is also the popular Fairport Creamy (Ice Cream and Sweets) and the Lyric Bistro (Sit-down sandwiches) located less than a block from the Museum and are open late.

This is a completely Free event, and we can't wait for you to join us at either 12noon or 2pm on Sunday, April 27th.

If you have any questions, direct them to Tim Krueger at (440) 391-0369 or LTCTKRUE@aol.com.

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

EASTER BRUNCH AND SOCK HOP

Christ Has Risen and Advent will celebrate this Easter miracle with a brunch served in Fellowship Hall from 8am until 11:30am, please plan on joining us. What a wonderful way to start the day with fellowship and our brothers and sisters in Christ, remembering Jesus' last commandment to love one another. We will also be collecting socks for the homeless as we did last year. We know it is the most requested item. We were very successful last year and hope to do the same this year. Thank you in advance for supporting our second annual Sock Hop with your contribution!!



Peter 1:3: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

John 21:12: Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

Community Outreach

**Food Pantry (St. Andrew's)
Donations:**

April: Shampoo & Paper Towels

**Volunteers
Needed**



Advent's Little Free Pantry

**Our current needs are:
oatmeal, pasta sauce**

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!

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul." 3 John 2

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday (April 12/13)
Saturday 4pm, Sunday 9am & 11:30am

Maundy Thursday (April 17)
12noon & 7pm

Good Friday (April 18)
12noon & 7pm

Easter Vigil (April 19 - at Celebration Lutheran Church - Chardon)
TBD

Easter Sunrise (April 20 - at Mentor Beach Park)
6:15am

Easter Breakfast
8am-11:30am in Fellowship Hall

Easter Worship
9am & 11:30am



HOLY WEEK

Worship & Music

Altar Flowers

April

5/6	Kulma
12/13	Palm Sunday
19/20	Easter Sunday
26/27	Tagle



May

3/4	Garry
10/11	Elegante
17/18	Mach
24/25	Horvath

Note: you will be billed directly from the florist

Council Person of the Day

April 6 · **Joan Hamm**
April 13 · **Bob Adkins**
April 20 · **Andy DiLiello**
April 27 · **Chris Noble**

Worship Assistants

We need your help!

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

We need ushers, lectors, and communion assistants

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

Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers

Month of April

Cathy Doering



Do You Use Your Offering Envelopes?

Two questions?

Are you one of our faithful givers who routinely sends your offerings through Vanco or through your bank?

Do you receive a packet of envelopes from the church every 3 months that you don't use?

If you answered Yes to these questions and would like to help our church save money, please contact Becky Spudich (440-487-7897 or bspudich@sbcglobal.net), and I can remove your name from the mailing list for envelopes.

Thank you!
Becky Spudich
Financial Secretary

Vanco - Online Giving

It's easy to support the church with eGiving! In just seconds, you can make a weekly offering or respond to an appeal (food pantry/quilting).

- Give anytime, anywhere
- Donate to your favorite fund
- Make your gifts recurring

If you would like to give electronically, you can :

visit our website: adventmentor.org

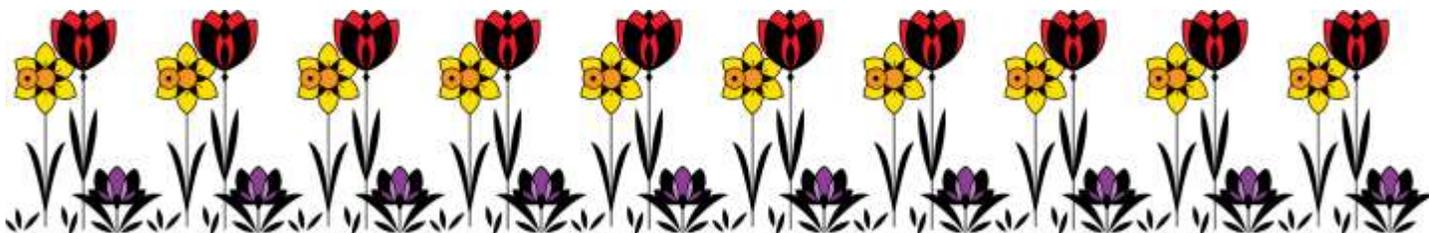
scan the QR code



or visit: vanco.co



****Please note - monthly financials/performance chart will be posted in the May newsletter****



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 216.389.7611
 Praise Team Director: Tracy Ammon 749.0690

VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Lay Assistants
 Doreen Mattson 216.389.7611
Worship Assistants
 Church office 257.5565
Worship Tech
 Greg Preske 216.317.8148
Altar Guild Chairperson
 Becky Young 440.221.4531
Sunday School
 Beth Hamilton 669.1902
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 Noble 346.3120

Funeral Luncheons

Christine Noble 346.3120
 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 Bond 710.4757
 Rob Hilston, President 207.632.5949
 Joan Hamm, Vice President 440.476.1494
 Carla Colo 216.970.0219
 Leesa Mecozzi 440.231.1930
 Andy DiLiello 440.290.7506
 Bob Adkins 832.971.6414
 Bob McClanhan 440.867.3663
 Christine Noble 440.346.3120
 Dave Mattson 440.897.5466

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
 Cathy Doering 379.7338
 Jenny Helland 974.1776



Deadline Reminder:

Newsletter information:

due by the 15th of the month

**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 - March 20, 2025

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"*