

May  
2025

# The Candle

## pastor's Message

As I write this, I'm still "basking in the glow" of our Easter celebrations. We experienced some beautiful worship services all through Holy Week, a glorious Easter Vigil with three other congregations, a Sun-rise service without snow or rain (at times like these I appreciate the fact that our weather people often get it wrong). Then, the nearly full pews on Easter led to such joyful singing! I give God and you all thanks for showing up and creating such a blessing!

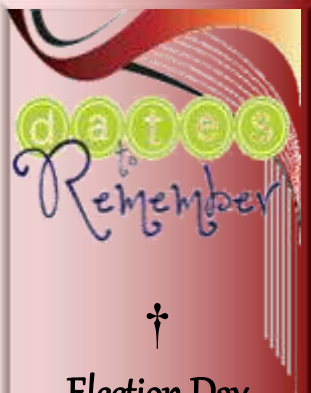
We continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord throughout the month of May and into June. Easter is a season – a "week of weeks"—7 Sundays to reflect on the meaning and impact of the resurrection on our lives.

Yet, as important as the resurrection is, I am also aware of the reality that, for many, it sometimes just doesn't feel like all things are made new. Because of events in your life or in the world around you, you might be experiencing emotions more suitable to Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The fact is, until God's reign is here in all its fullness, we live in that in between time. Jesus' rising from the dead leads to faith that we, too, will one day rise. Jesus has defeated the power of death – but death is no less real and, the good news of the resurrection might just seem too good to be true. In fact, scripture is filled with stories that remind us that even the first followers of Jesus didn't come to belief easily.

So, come to worship regularly to celebrate the resurrection – or, come because you are having a hard time believing and need to be told the story again. But come – see the place where they laid him. Listen, He is calling out your name.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Steve*



**Election Day**  
Tuesday, May 6



**Blood Drive**  
Saturday, May 10  
8am-1pm



**Mother's Day**  
Sunday, May 11



**Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 26

*"Every good thing given  
and every perfect gift is  
from above, coming down  
from the Father of lights,  
with whom there is no  
variation or shifting  
shadow."  
– James 1:17*

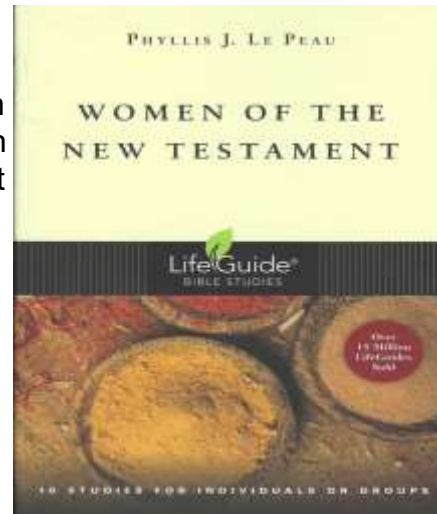
**The Candle is the newsletter of Advent Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
**Our Purpose: "Loved by God, we share Christ's love with all"**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

April 26-May 2	Barb Zahn, Bev McArthur
May 3-9	Doreen Mattson
May 10-16	Christine Noble, Mary Jo Jones
May 17-23	Jenny Dubeansky, Sara Coleman
May 24-30	Becky Spudich



*“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

- ♥ May is a time after Easter when we are still celebrating the joy of our Risen Lord! We are shouting Alleluia once again! The grass is greener, the flowers are blooming and the weather is warmer. It's a glorious time of year. He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!
- ♥ May 8 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.
- ♥ May 17/18 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.
- ♥ Advent has been providing meals for Project Hope's Families Moving Forward on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. There are typically 8-12 persons including children in need. The calendar for May thru August is up on the bulletin board waiting for volunteers. The dates needed for this month are May 7 and May 21. Meals are to be dropped off at 5pm at Door #4 in the back of the building. Address is 25 Freedom Rd., Painesville, OH 44077. Call or email me with any questions.
- ♥ The next Care Team meeting will be Saturday, June 7 at 10am. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please feel welcome to join us.
- ♥ Always remember, "When in doubt, Point to the Cross!"

Your Servant in Christ,

*Christine Noble, Parish Nurse*



### Care Team

**April 27-May 10**

Lida Mackey, Becky Young,  
Amy Moyer

**May 11-24**

Kathy Kling, Kathy Jennings,  
Barb Caspell

**May 25-June 7**

Mary Jo Jones, Barbara Louis,  
Rose Schrum



### Upcoming Blood Drive

**Saturday, May 10**  
**8am - 1pm**

**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 - March

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

**Excused:** Carla Colo, Dave Mattson

**Call to Order:** 7:00pm

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

## **Pastor's Report: verbal**

LBG Event – Pizza and Movie went very well. Good attendance and well received.

Debrief “event” from Saturday night. Discussion ensued about a visitor that attended the pizza dinner following the movie and then stayed for worship; caused some disturbance in the Narthex.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

No report for council (Dave out of town). The report will be done after Dave returns from vacation. No report for the April newsletter.

## **Ministry Team Reports Received:** H&W, Fellowship, LBG, (on file)

**LBG:** Pizza & Movie Event was well received and had good attendance.

**H&W:** March 21 at 1:30pm will be a training for Eucharistic Ministers. Please let Chris Noble know if you are interested in this ministry.

**Minutes from Ministries:** just as a follow up from last month's meeting – ministry “minutes” that have not been approved by the individual ministry teams (prior to council) can be presented to council, but they will not be “approved” by council.

**Faith Formation:** A meeting is being planned with Beth Hamilton, Leesa Mecozzi, Pastor Steve and Joan Hamm. Discussion about VBS – whether it will take place this year or not.

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

## **Administration/Housekeeping Items:**

Devotion for April – Andy DiLiello

Council sharing of blessings and/or concerns

## **Old Business:**

**Parsonage Steering Committee:** next meeting March 20. Survey being worked on to be sent via email. A survey will also be mailed to those who do not have email. Team discussing small group meetings for gathering ideas.

**Allegations against the Lutheran Church:** Global Refuge/Lutheran Social Services of America have been targeted and accused of money laundering – per the current administration. Groups of churches have filed lawsuits against this and the ELCA has chosen not to join in the lawsuit.

**Offering Plate Issues:** the filled offering plate is now being taken to the altar during the service for a blessing (before the communion liturgy). Two people are then taking the collection to the counters box post worship – this is a good security practice, as well as a good reminder to the congregation that we are still taking donations (even know we are not passing the plate).



A congregation member asked if a hymn could be sung after the collection plate is taken to the altar (as done in the past). This will be taken to W&M for discussion.

**Cameras:** no new information. Waiting for a quote.

**GPOD:** 3/16: Joan Hamm; 3/23: Leesa Mecozzi; 3/30: Leesa Mecozzi; 4/6: Joan Hamm; 4/13: Bob Adkins; 4/20: Andy DiLiello; 4/27: Chris Noble

**New business:**

**Time Capsule:** we will discuss this next month in further detail. What/when do we want to do this? Possible fall timeframe with picnic/potluck event. Do we also plan for the next time capsule and for how long do we leave it?

**May 17 Synod Assembly:** 1/2 day via zoom this year. We need 2 delegates – 1 male and 1 female. Chris Noble volunteered.

**April Exec/Council Meeting:** Joan is running next month's meetings.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Motion was made, seconded, and meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

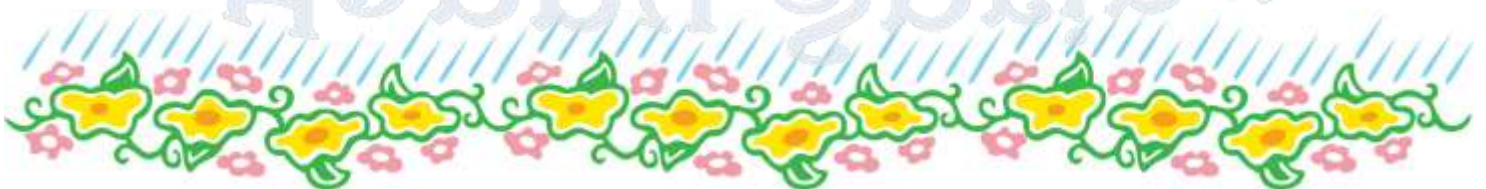
**Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sue Keeley, Council Secretary*



Happy Spring

Happy Spring



## First Quarter Giving Statements

We want to inform you that there will not be a first quarter giving statement mailed to families this year. However, if you would like to receive a first quarter giving statement, please do not hesitate to contact Becky Spudich. She will be more than happy to assist you.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued financial support to our church. Your generosity plays a crucial role in sustaining our important ministries and making a positive impact in our community.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and commitment.

Sincerely,  
*Your finance team*

### OK GANG

On May 19th the OK Gang will be going to TJ'S ON THE AVENUE located at 7485 Mentor Avenue (on the north side of the street) at 12:45pm.

T J's is a Pulling family owned Italian restaurant that has been in business since 1992. Their specialties include homemade pastas, sauces, and bread. We will be having a set menu as we are a large group but we will try to give you a variety of choices.

As a family owned business they use believe that great food doesn't need to break the bank and their reasonable prices and large portions attest to that.

If you have not joined us before please come and give us a try....we are a fun group! It is a great way to meet other members of the Advent family that go to different weekly services. Please sign up on the Signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Hoping to see you at the May 19th 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.

## 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.



**\*\*Note: May's meeting is on Thursday, May 8.**

### 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

## Lake County Pride



Ministry

*"Loved by God, we share Christ's love with all"*

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we love without conditions. In the spirit of this, Advent Lutheran will be a sponsor at this year's Lake County Pride, facilitated by the LGBTQ+ Allies of Lake County. The event will take place on Saturday, June 14th from 11am to 5pm at the Lake County History Center, located at 415 Riverside Dr, Painesville, OH 44077. Last year's event was an incredible opportunity to meet and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and their allies.

The Loved by God group is looking for volunteers to help staff our table at Pride. The time slots will be in 1-hour increments from 11am to 5pm. A volunteer's main responsibility is to show a welcoming presence to those who come up to the table. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, and we kindly ask that you write your first and last name and phone number in the time slot you would like to volunteer. If you are unable to sign-up in person, please contact Alexis Sharpe at: [asharpe3@kent.edu](mailto:asharpe3@kent.edu).

Thank you!  
The Loved by God Group



# Happy Mother's Day

Sunday, May 11



Monday, May 26

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

## Mother's Day

On Mother's Day, Sunday May 11th, we would like to honor all of the mother's of Advent with a sweet treat for everyone in the Narthex. Please come and join us between services, it is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and to enjoy a fresh baked treat.

*The Fellowship Committee*



## Community Outreach

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

**May: toothpaste & detergent**

**Volunteers  
Needed**



## Advent's Little Free Pantry

**Our current needs are:  
canned fruit, 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



## Summer Worship Schedule

Please make note: beginning **May 25**  
 Saturday Worship · 4pm  
 Sunday Worship · 9am and 11am

## Sympathy

Our thoughts, prayers, and sympathies are with the family and friends of Josie Smith. A Memorial service will be held at Advent on Friday, May 2 at 11am.

May God comfort all who grieve.



### Council Person of the Day

<b>May 4</b>	<b>Rob Hilston</b>
<b>May 11</b>	<b>Joan Hamm</b>
<b>May 18</b>	<b>Dave Mattson</b>
<b>May 25</b>	<b>Bob Adkins</b>

### Altar Flowers

#### May

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

#### June

<b>31/1</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>7/8</b>	<b>McClanahan</b>
<b>14/15</b>	<b>Mentch</b>
<b>21/22</b>	<b>Horvath</b>
<b>28/29</b>	<b>Open</b>

**Note: you will be billed directly from the florist**



### 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

<b>May 3/4</b>	<b>Cathy Doering</b>
<b>May 10/11</b>	<b>Judy Ryan</b>
<b>May 17/18</b>	<b>Judy Ryan</b>
<b>May 24/25</b>	<b>Judy Ryan</b>
<b>May 31/June 1</b>	<b>Cathy Doering</b>



# Finance Update • March 31, 2025

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Balance 1/1/25	\$ 26,472.96	26,472.96	
Income	86,570.68	88,002.00	\$(1,431.32)
Expenditures	80,812.80	81,875.00	1,062.20
<b>Ending Balance March 31, 2025</b>	<b>\$32,230.84</b>	<b>\$32,599.96</b>	<b>\$(369.12)</b>

Year-to-Date...

**We've received  
\$5,757.88  
more than we've  
spent**

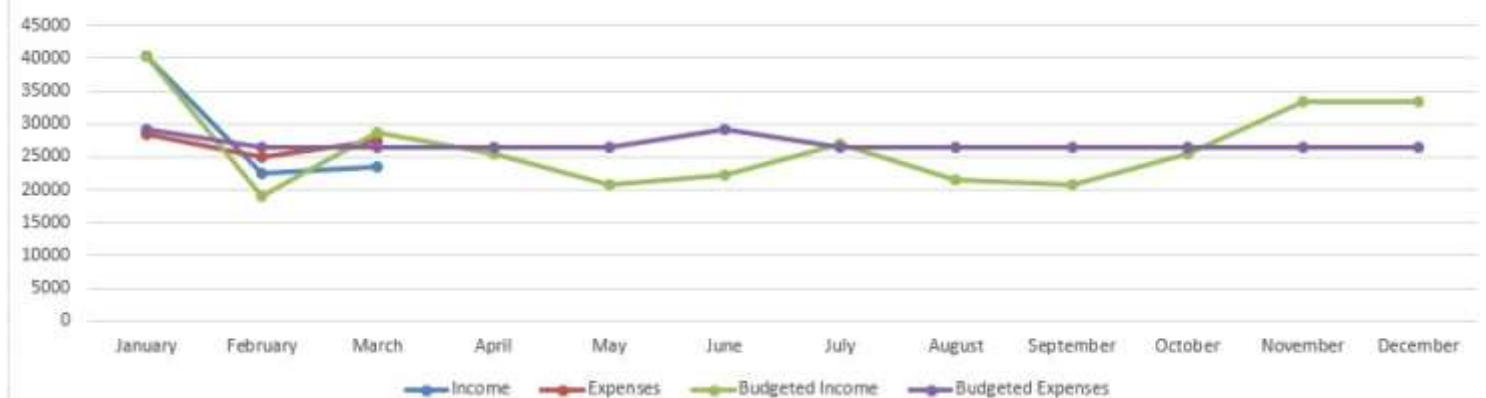
## DESIGNATED/ RESTRICTED FUNDS

Balance 1/1/25	\$424,128.65
Income	5,129.25
Expenditures	23,481.21
<b>Ending Balance March 31, 2025</b>	<b>\$405,776.69</b>

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

## Advent 2025 Financial Performance

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Income	40,302	22,554	23,445										
Expenses	28,482	24,862	27,458										
Project Income	40,302	19,080	28,620	25,440	20,670	22,260	27,030	21,624	20,670	25,440	33,390	33,474	318,000
Projected Expenses	29,125	26,464	26,464	26,464	26,464	29,125	26,464	26,460	26,464	26,464	26,464	26,464	322,886



**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 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 - April 22, 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  
(11am begins May 25)
- ♦ 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"*