

N o v e m b e r
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The Candle

pastor's Message

Each November, as the days grow shorter and the air turns cool, I find myself thinking again about gratitude. Most years, this column ends up being about Thanksgiving — and perhaps that's as it should be. Gratitude centers us. It draws us back to what matters most.

Yet lately I've noticed how early "the holidays" seem to begin. Halloween decorations appear in September, Christmas lights soon follow, and before long we're caught in the rush of it all. I heard someone say recently that Halloween now marks the start of the "holiday season," and I had to smile — mostly because I knew I was about to sound like a curmudgeon lamenting Christmas sales in August and "Black Friday" deals that stretch for weeks. It's so easy to lose sight of the holy in the midst of the hustle.

The truth is, this season can bring both joy and weariness, blessing and burden. There are forces — commercial and emotional alike — that can drain the wonder right out of these days. But perhaps before it all begins, we might pause and remember that *God enters into all of it*: the laughter and the tears, the gatherings and the solitude, the joy and even the ache.

Maybe this year we can choose to take the days one at a time — to notice the grace that meets us in ordinary moments, to forgive a little more quickly, to rest a little more deeply, and to give thanks even when life feels imperfect. Gratitude, after all, isn't about everything being right; it's about recognizing God's presence in everything.

So before the busyness begins, I invite you to take a holy pause — to breathe, to pray, and to give thanks. Join us for our **Thanksgiving Eve Worship service on Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00pm**. Together, we'll lift our hearts in gratitude for God's goodness that sustains us through every season.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve



All Saints'
November 1 and 2



Election Day
November 4



Congregational
Work Session
(PFSC)
November 15
9am-2pm

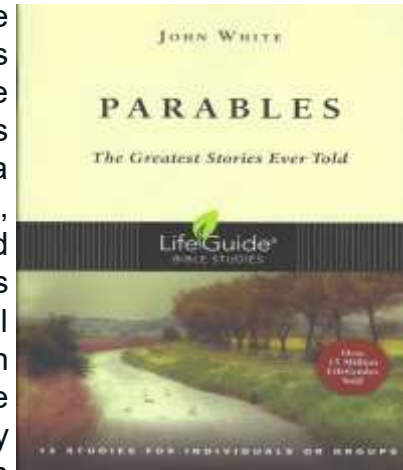


Thanksgiving Eve
Worship
November 26
7pm

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

The Parables were the greatest stories ever told. The parables of Jesus make up a crucial part of the Bible. Jesus had the wisdom to simplify the profound spiritual truths he needed to share with humanity in the form of relatable stories that are easy to understand. A parable is a tale about a simple, common subject to illustrate a more profound, valuable moral lesson. The source definition of the word "parable" means a placement side by side for comparison. As you explore with John White the Parables of Jesus, you will come to understand the far-reaching impact they have had on the world we live in. *Parables* by John White features twelve easy to understand chapters with accompanying study questions. The study guide is available through Amazon.com for \$8.49 in the paperback edition (ISBN 9780830830374) and \$8.07 in the Kindle edition. This study guide is also available from Thriftbooks.com in a slightly different format.



This 12-session study began on Sunday, September 14, 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 can email Tim at: LTCTKRUE@aol.com.

Prayer Chain

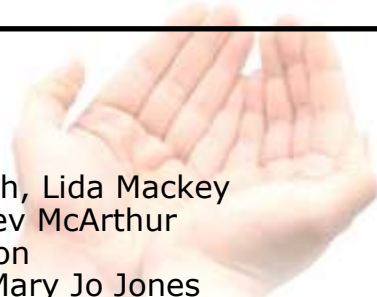
Do you wish to feel strengthened and fulfilled by offering your time to help others? Nothing could be more gratifying than lifting someone up in prayer in their time of need.

Please contact Sue Keeley @ 440.862.2790/440.257.5565 or by e-mail at suesworkout@gmail.com/adventmentoroffice@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 1-7
November 8-14
November 15-21
November 22-28
November 29-December 5

Deb Laukiavich, Lida Mackey
Barb Zahn, Bev McArthur
Doreen Mattson
Chris Noble, Mary Jo Jones
Jenny Dubeansky, Sara Coleman



"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

- ♥ November is National Caregivers Month. It's a time to focus on those individuals who care for loved ones who have chronic health issues or disabilities. The purpose is to honor those individuals who often provide vital unpaid support. It also aims to highlight the physical, emotional and financial toll caregiving can take on families. The hope is to raise awareness of the need for more resources and better support systems.
- ♥ The next quarterly Care Team meeting will be our annual Christmas breakfast on Saturday, December 6th at 10am in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.
- ♥ Caregivers Support Group will meet on Thursday, November 13 at 1pm. If you are a caregiver or know someone who is, please invite them to join us. The meetings are informal and all information shared is kept confidential.
- ♥ Blood Pressure screenings will be held on Saturday, November 15 after the 4pm service by Mary Jo Jones and Sunday, November 16 at 10am in the Parish Nurse office. Hope to see you there.
- ♥ 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 November and December is up on the bulletin board waiting for volunteers. 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.
- ♥ November is also a time to give thanks. I am very grateful for all the blessings in my life, especially my family, as well as my Advent Family. I am blessed to be your Parish Nurse and I thank you for putting your trust in me to care for you. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!
- ♥ Always remember, "When in doubt, Point to the Cross!"

Your Servant in Christ,

Christine Noble, Parish Nurse

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Care Team



Oct 26-Nov 8

Donna Conklin, Lee Sundblom,
Sandy Kehler, Deb Cyrus-Lutz
Denise Janosko, Bev McArthur,
Nancy Marshaus

Nov 9-22

Nov 23-Dec 6

Lida Mackey, Becky Young,
Amy Moyer

Upcoming Blood Drive

**Friday, November 14
10am - 4pm**

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

C o u n c i l M i n u t e s - S e p t e m b e r

In Attendance: Pastor Steve, Bob McClanahan, Rob Hilston, Andy DiLiello, Carla Colo, Christine Noble, Joan Hamm, Bob Adkins

Excused: Dave Mattson, Leesa Mecozzi

Call to Order: 6:59pm

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

Pastor's Report: verbal

Great Day of Service yesterday. Well attended, good projects, potluck was wonderful.

Time Capsule – still observing the contents. Pastor read the prayer from the capsule, Reformation Sunday, 1999, which was also the dedication of the new church wing. Lots of ministry has taken place in the last 25 years. We will take some time to decide on what and when to bury a new time capsule

Sunday school is beginning. Confirmation classes will be joint again this year, with other churches.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Income below -5.7% (\$11,746.40) and Expenses under budget 1.5% (\$3,168.70).

Ministry teams doing well

We will have the advantage year-end, of receiving 2 additional interest monies from the parsonage sale proceeds, as the Parsonage Steering team is still working on data and reports.

The first installment for the security system has been taken out.

*** Motion was made to approve the August treasurer's report, seconded, and the August report was approved.*

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

H&W: Flu Shot Clinic – September 28. Covid vaccines will be available.

LBG: "Unclobbered" book study is going well. October 25 is the event, "Underground Railroad in Lake County.

Property: outdoor beam (in front of church overhang) needs to be repaired. Andy looking for someone to repair.

***It was noted: ministry teams to be sure to call the church office when planning an event.*

First to check the church calendar for conflicts and room assignments; and secondly, to make sure that info is collected for such event to be communicated with the congregation.

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

Administration/Housekeeping Items:

Ministry teams begin thinking about year-end reports. Reports will be due December 1.

Old Business:

Parsonage Fund Steering Committee Update: team is working on finalizing a mid-term report, and will be available to the congregation. A workshop/discussion event is planned for Saturday, November 1 – details forthcoming. Team has collected 42 ideas from surveys. Bids, for different ideas, are being collected at present.

Cameras/Security System and Key Policy: Security System has been ordered and we are waiting for install information. Key Policy has been worked on and passed out to council to review. Discussion ensued about who will receive keys, and the policy may need to be tweaked once the system is in place – working document.

*** Motion was made to approve the Key Policy as printed, but noted it is a working document to be reviewed for modification as needed, motion was seconded, and approved by all.*

Finance Audit: documents on file. Bob Adkins has been working on Financial Best Practices for Advent, along with putting together work instructions for a congregation audit guide. It is procedures and guidelines for Advent's Financial Practices. We have had good procedures in place, but they were all verbal and now they are written down and documented. Bob Adkins and Dave Mattson, performed an internal audit (report on file and shared with council). This report and the Procedure Guidelines are in the office electronically and also hard-copy binder. External audits are costly. It was noted that future internal audits will be performed by someone outside the finance team.

**** Motion was made to accept the audit report as actual audit, as printed, motion was seconded, and approved by all.**

Per suggestions within the audit document, a Disaster Relief Plan to be written and adopted by council; to have 2 people trained in finance as backup for Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer positions; and to investigate the cost of an external audit. Discussion ensued.

**** Motion was made that a Disaster Relief Plan will be completed and in place by the end of 2026; motion was seconded, and approved by all.**

Carla Colo has volunteered to work on this Disaster Relief Plan.

Discussion ensued about the timeline for future audits of both the finance and endowment committees.

**** Motion was made to accept a timeline of once every 3 years for future formal audits of finance committee; was seconded, and approved by all.**

**** Motion was made to accept a timeline of once every 3 years for future formal audits of the endowment committee, with the first audit being completed by year end 2026; motion was seconded, and approved by all.**

Council 2026: brief discussion about open positions for next year. Two, possibly 3 open council positions to be filled.

Stewardship Campaign: October 18/19 is Stewardship Weekend. Temple talks and a sermon series will be done leading up to Stewardship Weekend.

New business:

Quilt Raffle: October 12. Tickets on sale now through October 11.

2026 Budgets: Budget are due by October 15.

Rob Vacation: September 22-October 27. Joan covering October Exec and Council.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made, seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Keeley, Council Secretary



New Door Entry System

In the next 3 to 4 weeks, Horner Securities will be installing a new entry access system for Advent. Our old keys will no longer function. They are being replaced with new door bars that have a fob/key card system. Per the council approved policy for access, all church staff, council members and a few others will have access cards to unlock and open the doors. All other members can still gain entry via an electronic system that will allow you to be buzzed in at any time, even if the building is empty. We would like to thank the Endowment committee and the Finance committee for funding this project, especially Endowment, for covering 75% of the costs. This will be a new adventure as we expand our use of technology.

OK Gang

November 18 is the date for the November OK Gang lunch, which will be at the Perkin's Restaurant and Bakery - located at 700 Mentor Avenue in Painesville.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex at church. Please plan on attending. It is always fun for all!

God Bless!

Cherie Moore, Witness Committee



Mark your calendars for a four-week Advent Retreat

Join us on: November 29, December 6, 13, and 20

Time: 9:30am - 12:00pm

Cost: \$24.00 total to cover materials, continental breakfast & snacks

Sign up available on bulletin board: October 5 - November 16

We will join the people of Israel waiting for the coming Messiah, entering into the confusion, longing, frustration, and sense of dreams deferred that the people of Israel felt year after year, generation after generation.

We will prepare for the joy of Christmas by waiting on the dark streets of Bethlehem, our eyes straining to glimpse the dawning of that everlasting light.

Questions: please contact Emma Krueger

Group Studies

Men's Studies

- ♦ **Retired Men's Group** meets the first **Thursday** 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

Parsonage Fund Steering Committee: What's Next?

You're Invited!

All members of Advent Lutheran Church are warmly invited to join us for a special congregational work session. This is a meaningful opportunity to share your thoughts and help shape the future work of the Parsonage Fund Steering Committee.

When: Saturday, November 15

Time: 9:00am – 2:00pm

Where: Advent Lutheran Church

Lunch: A light lunch will be provided

Hosted By: The Parsonage Fund Steering Committee

Joan Hamm, Kim Humphreys, John Marshaus, Dave Mattson, Bob McClanahan, Alexis Sharpe, and Pastor Steve Bond

Please RSVP by November 10

To help us prepare food and materials, please let us know if you plan to attend. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex.

Have Questions?

Feel free to reach out to any committee member for more information. We hope you'll join us as we continue this important work together!

Fellowship Committee



We need your help! Advent is famous for their election day food. People are always asking if we will be providing soup and

bakery for sale. With that being said, Election day is November 4 and we need volunteers to make crockpots of soup and individually wrapped bakery items to sell. We also need volunteers to work the sale. Sign up sheets will be posted in the narthex. Proceeds will go to the food pantries. Bakery items can be dropped off at the church on Sunday (during church hours) or Tuesday morning. Soup can be dropped off by 10am Tuesday morning. Thank you in advance for your help.



**Happy
Thanksgiving**



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

HOLIDAY OUTREACH PROJECT

Once again this year we are asking for donations to the Advent/St. Andrews Food Pantry. We will be providing Thanksgiving bags filled with a turkey and all of the fixings, including a pie for dessert, on November 19th. We are also planning to provide a Christmas bag in December filled with either a ham or turkey, 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

Community Outreach

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

**November:
soap & detergent**

**Volunteers
Needed**



Advent's Little Free Pantry

Our current needs are:

baby food, bar soap

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

Saturday Evening Potlucks are back

Saturday, November 8

The next potluck date after the Saturday 4pm worship service is November 8.

Place settings will be provided. Bring something to share.

Any questions, please see or call Cathy Doering at:
(home phone) 440.379.7338

Come and join us for fellowship and fun!

Potluck Dinner



All Saints' Sunday ■ November 1/2

Rosemary Dohm	11.2.2024
Thomas Morgan	2.1.2025
Josephine Smith	4.4.2025
Connie Sanden	6.23.2025
Alice Krech	6.27.2025
Anna Schultz	7.8.2025



We remember the saints who have
entered rest this past year.

Council Person of the Day

November 2	Rob Hilston
November 9	Andy DiLiello
November 16	Carla Colo
November 23	Carla Colo
November 30	Christine 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.**

Altar Flowers

November

1/2	Mackey
8/9	Ironhorse
15/16	Lenz
22/23	Open
29/30	Open



2026 Flower Chart is now posted

Note: You will be billed
directly from the florist

Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers

Month of November

Leesa Mecozzi

Thank you for your ministry!



Finance Update • September 30, 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	214,398.10	225,696.00	\$(11,297.90)
Expenditures	237,976.04	243,190.00	5,213.96
Ending Balance September 30, 2025	<u>\$2,895.02</u>	<u>\$8,978.96</u>	<u>\$(6,083.94)</u>

Year-to-Date...

**We've spent
\$23,577.94
more than we've
received**

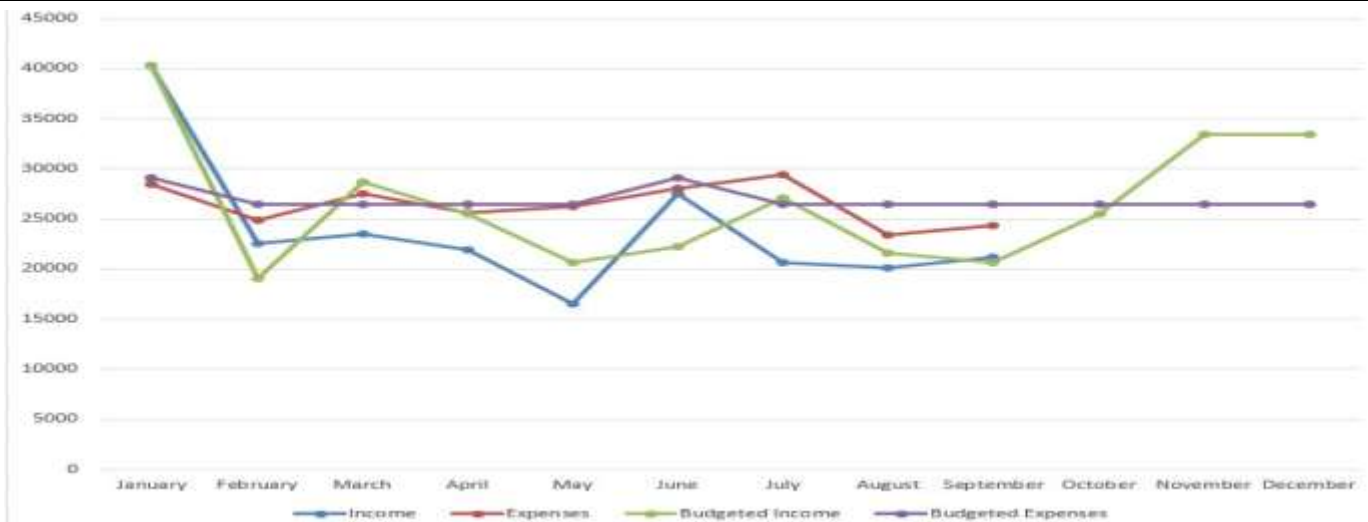
DESIGNATED/ RESTRICTED FUNDS

Balance 1/1/25	\$401,883.28
Income	11,652.74
Expenditures	52,250.07
Ending Balance September 30, 2025	<u>\$361,285.95</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 2025 Financial Performance

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Income	40,302	22,554	23,445	21,930	16,522	27,541	20,612	20,143	21,119				
Expenses	28,482	24,862	27,458	25,644	26,177	27,995	29,443	23,406	24,330				
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 440.710.4757
 Office Administrator: Sue Keeley 440.862.2790
 Organist: Elizabeth Sumiejski 440.255.5489
 Chancel Choir Director: Doreen Mattson 216.389.7611
 Praise Team Director: Tracy Ammon 440.749.0690

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

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

Fall Back



Don't forget to turn
 your clocks back on
 Sunday, November 2.



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 - October 21, 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

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



Rev. Steven C. Bond, Pastor
7985 Munson Road, Mentor OH 44060-3703
• 440.257.5565



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