



# The Candle

March  
2026

## Pastor's Message

### Tell Me Something Good

Not long ago, I found myself doing what I suspect many of you do. I was scrolling through the news on my phone. Story after story appeared—conflict, division, uncertainty, suffering. After a few minutes, I realized I was feeling heavier than when I started.

Almost without thinking, I said out loud, “Tell me something good.”

Maybe you’ve felt that way too.

We live in a time when it can sometimes feel like good news is hard to find. And yet, at the very heart of our faith is a word that literally means **good news**. The word “Gospel” simply means that—good news.

This Lent, our theme is “**Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News.**” Throughout these forty days, we will gather to remember, reflect, and rediscover the good news that has the power to sustain us—even in difficult times.

And the good news is not found in pretending that everything is fine. Lent reminds us that life can be hard. It leads us through the wilderness. It brings us to the cross. It invites us to be honest about our struggles, our fears, and our need for God.

But it also reminds us that the cross is not the end of the story.

The good news is that God meets us in our brokenness.  
The good news is that we are loved more deeply than we can imagine.  
The good news is that nothing—not even death—can separate us from that love.

Sometimes the good news doesn’t shout. Sometimes it comes quietly—in a moment of peace, a kind word from a friend, a reminder that we are not alone.

*Pastor’s message continued on page 5*



**Blood Drive**  
**March 6**  
10am-4pm



**Lenten Mid-Week**  
**Worship**  
**March 4, 11, 18, 25**



**St. Patrick’s Day**  
**March 17**



“But those who hope  
in the Lord will renew  
their strength. They  
will soar on wings  
like eagles.”  
~ Isaiah 40:31

**The Candle is the newsletter of Advent Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
**Our Purpose: “Loved by God, we share Christ’s love with ALL”**

Co-Hosts: Emma Krueger and Christine Noble invite you to attend:

**Grateful Gatherings  
Conversations with Purpose**

Join our monthly Grateful Gathering for connection, meaning making,  
and the tools to live gratefully.

Explore what matters: Dive into themes like finding delight, embracing mystery,  
creating joy, navigating grief, and welcoming imperfection.

Dates: March 21, 2026 - followed by the third Saturday of each month

Place: Advent Lutheran Church

Time: 2:00pm - 3:30pm

**Sign up sheet on the bulletin board.**

Questions? Contact

Emma Krueger:

[emlotus45@gmail.com](mailto:emlotus45@gmail.com) / (440)391-0045

**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: [adventmentoroffice@gmail.com](mailto:adventmentoroffice@gmail.com) if you would like to become part of the prayer chain ministry, have a prayer request, would like to become a Pastor Prayer Intercessor, or if you have any questions.

Prayer is Powerful!!

**Pastor Prayer Intercessors**

**February 28 - March 6**

**March 7 - 13**

**March 14 - 20**

**March 21 - 27**

**March 28 - April 3**

**Nancy Marshaus, Rose Schrum**

**Lee Sundblom, Kay Smith**

**Becky Young, Fernanda Alves-Sharpe**

**Jen Egner, Sandy Kehler**

**Sue Keeley, Lida Mackey**



“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

- ♥ Welcome March! Spring is almost here! Have you noticed how people smile more when the weather improves? More smiles, kinder gestures and people seem happier. I know I am. Spring is a time of renewal. Flowers are blooming, trees are budding, and grass is turning green. All signs of God's goodness. We have so much to be grateful for. Speaking of being grateful, Advent will be hosting a new program on the benefits of gratitude. Beginning Saturday, March 21 from 2pm-3:30pm Emma Krueger and I will co-host a FREE program entitled Grateful Gatherings. It will be an educational program to learn ways to live a more grateful life. We will learn ways to reduce stress and increase joy in our life. It will be open to the community. Program will be held at Advent on the 3rd Saturday of each month for 1 year. Come when you are available. A sign up sheet is in the narthex.
- ♥ March 7 at 10am is the next Care Team meeting. Please join us to learn how you can support this ministry. Attending the quarterly meetings is not mandatory to join.
- ♥ Caregivers Support Group meet on the second Thursday of each month at 1pm. We will meet at Advent on Thursday, March 12. 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, March 21 after the 4pm service by Mary Jo Jones and Sunday, March 22 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 March and April 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.
- ♥ Always remember, "When in doubt, Point to the Cross!"

Your Servant in Christ,  
Christine Noble, Parish Nurse



Health & Wellness

## Care Team



- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| March 1-14        | Mary Jo Jones, Barbara Louis,<br>Rose Schrum                 |
| March 15-28       | Donna Conklin, Lee Sundblom,<br>Sandy Kehler, Deb Cyrus-Lutz |
| March 29-April 11 | Denise Janosko, Bev McArthur,<br>Nancy Marshaus              |

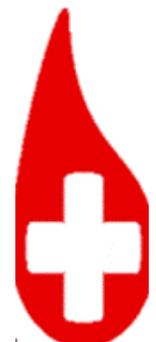
### Upcoming Blood Drive

Friday, March 6, 2026  
10am-4pm

call 1.800.RED.CROSS

~or~ Red-  
CrossBlood.org

Key word: Advent



Help Save a Life!

# Council Minutes - January

**In Attendance:** Pastor Steve, Bob McClanahan, Christine Noble, Dave Mattson, Leesa Mecozzi, Rob Hilston, Carla Colo, Andy DiLiello, Terry Mach

**Guest:** Joan Hamm

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

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

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

- January 20 – National Day of Racial Healing, per the ELCA. LBG group is setting up a viewing of the event in our Sanctuary from 7-9pm.
  - Council Retreat – please begin thinking about this and if it is something that you would be interested in attending. Pastor believes that overnight retreats are important and beneficial. Pastor will begin checking into some dates and possible locations.
  - Pastor will be at a pastoral leadership retreat/event from January 20-23 in Columbus.
- \*\*Motion was made and seconded, and pastor's report was approved.*

## **Treasurer's Report: (year-end report)**

Income below -3.2% (\$10,282.54) and expenses under budget .4% (1,412.06)

Discussion ensued about the Pastor Discretionary Fund. Guidelines for assistance will be people living in Lake/Geauga County only; 2x help within a 12-month period. There at times, may be some exceptions to this, but it's good to have guidelines in place.

*\*\* Motion was made to approve the December Treasurer's report, seconded, and the December report was approved.*

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

- **Outreach:** Food Pantry: 85 families were served in November with Thanksgiving Baskets, 55 baskets for families for Christmas. Ninety-nine items (hats/mittens) were collected and will be donated to Forbes House.

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

## **Administration/Housekeeping Items:**

- Discussion took place about our current Facility Usage Agreement and rental fees. This document was approved by council in 2013. This was tabled for now, but council will revisit this document and look to increase rental fees.

## **Old Business:**

- **Christmas Party:** Thank you Carla and Mike Colo for hosting!
- **Parsonage Fund Steering Committee Update:** no update.
- **Cameras/Security System:** system is in place and working.
- **Council 2026:** Leesa handed out documents/charts with liaison assignments. Please let Leesa know if you have questions/concerns.
- **Disaster Preparedness Plan:** this will be a work in progress. Chris Noble volunteered to work on this. Church Mutual, our insurance company, has much information available. We first need to do the Assessment – to see what we already have in place and what we need to put in place. Emergency Contact Chart – leadership names – phone numbers needed. Communication plan, Guide for severe weather – all need to be done.

## New business:

- **Annual Meeting - January 25:** Bob will present the financials/budget. Denise McClanahan would like to address the congregation at the beginning of the meeting, about favorite hymn collection for Lent. Ministry teams/leaders are encouraged to promote their ministries and answer any questions.
- **Fundraising Committee:** Christine Noble will chair and will find people for the committee. Per the 2026 budget, it was decided to raise \$2500 in fundraising. Bob mentioned that the Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner (February 17) will take place this year. Can this be a fundraiser? Yes it can. We will try and receive donations (food/paper products), so that all free will offering collected will be profit. Retired Men's group will oversee this event. It was suggested to ask the boy scouts for youth help.
- **July Sabbatical:** Yes, this will take place again this summer in July. Pastor will be meeting with Tracy and the Praise team to discuss.
- **GPOD Plan:** schedule passed around for February; Leesa will take the entire month of March; and then moving forward, we will recruit and council to fill in as needed. Leesa has an updated/ revised GPOD duties list.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Motion was made, seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

## Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Keeley, Council Secretary



---

*Pastor's message continued from page 1*

This season, I invite you to join us for worship, for midweek gatherings, and for this shared Lenten journey. Together, we will listen for the good news. Together, we will remind one another of God's promises. Together, we will ground ourselves in the hope that carries us forward.

Because in a world that so often says otherwise, God is still speaking.

And what God has to say is good.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Steve

# OK Gang

On March 16, the OK Gang will be going to Market Street Family Restaurant, located at 8450 Market Street (across the street from Ollie's) at 12:45pm. We have lunch there every March as they serve corned beef and cabbage for St. Patrick's Day. Their menu has lots of choices for those who would rather have brunch from their all-day breakfast menu or select something from their very complete luncheon menu, and a salad/soup bar. Their service is very good and their staff is friendly as well.

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 March 16th 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 **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!

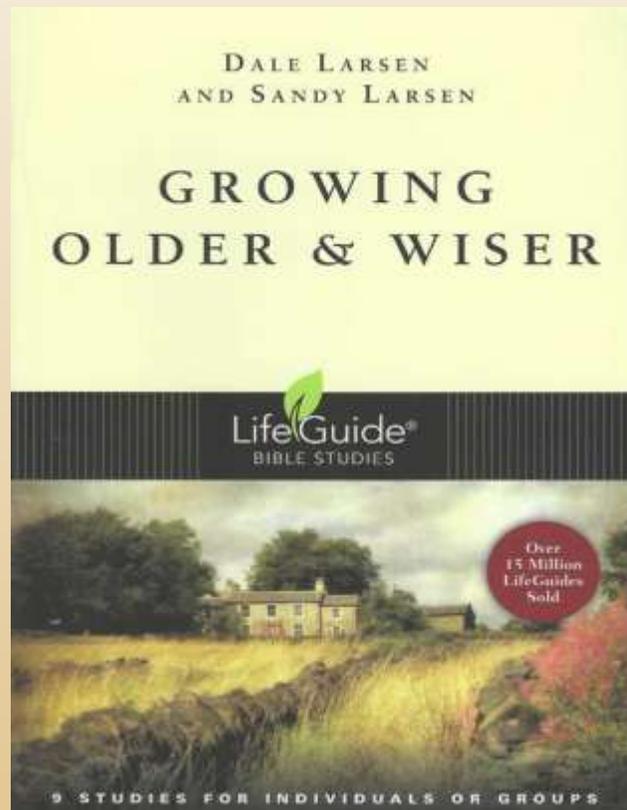


*"...but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'" Matthew 19:14*

**SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS A NEW STUDY**

You can't change the fact that you are getting older, and, indeed, you may not want to! Age brings many gifts and opportunities for continued growth. In this nine-session Bible Study, Dale and Sandy Larsen help you discover the Bible's perspective on aging. Through studying passages from books of the Bible including James, Job, Philippians, Psalms, and more, you'll discover how God can effectively and powerfully use those who have grown wiser with the passing years.

**“Growing Older & Wiser”** features easy to understand chapters which accompany study questions at the end of each section. The study guide is available through various vendors to include Amazon.com for \$7.91 in the paperback edition (ISBN 9780830830442) and \$7.51 in the Kindle edition.



**This 9-session study will begin on Sunday, April 12th, 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](mailto:LTCTKRUE@aol.com).

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

**Funeral for former Advent member**

Many of you remember Robert (Bob) Jokela, who faithfully attended worship on Saturday evenings, went home to the Lord on November 19, 2025.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Bob on March 7 at 1pm, at Penitentiary Glen. Visitation at 12pm, with the memorial service following at 1pm. There will be light refreshments served following the Memorial Service.

Our thoughts, prayers, and sympathies are extended to all of Bob's family .



**\*\* Please note: The new phone directory for 2026 is being updated. Please contact the office if you have a new phone number or email address to be added or changed. Deadline for any changes is March 8. Thank you!**



Community Outreach

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

**March:  
soap & toilet paper**

**Volunteers  
Needed**



Advent's Little Free Pantry

**Our current needs are: oatmeal,  
anything you'd like to donate**

**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

## Lent/Holy Week Worship Services

Lent Wednesdays · 12pm & 7pm (with 7pm services to be evaluated)

Palm Saturday/Sunday · March 28/29 · 4pm, 9am & 11:30am

Maundy Thursday · April 2 · Noon & 7pm

Good Friday · April 3 · Noon & 7pm

Easter Vigil · April 4 · at Messiah Lutheran Church · 7pm

Easter Sunrise · April 5 · 6:45am · Mentor Beach Park

Easter · April 5 · 9am & 11:30am



**Easter Flowers:** Order forms are available both in the narthex at church and online at our website: [adventmentor.org](http://adventmentor.org).  
  
Deadline for all orders is March 16.

**Council Person of the Day**  
**Month of March**  
**Leesa Mecozzi**

**Worship Assistants**  
*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**

<b>March</b>		
<b>31/1</b>	<b>Advent</b>	
<b>7/8</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>14/15</b>	<b>Doering</b>	
<b>21/22</b>	<b>Mach</b>	
<b>28/29</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	

Note: You will be billed directly from the florist. Our florist is JD Balantine Florist.

**Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers**

<b>February 28/March 1</b>	<b>Gayle Shroy</b>
<b>March 7-8</b>	<b>Judy Ryan</b>
<b>March 14-15</b>	<b>Judy Ryan</b>
<b>March 21-22</b>	<b>Cathy Doering</b>
<b>March 28-29</b>	<b>Cathy Doering</b>

**Thank you for your ministry!** 

# Daylight Savings

Daylight Savings  
"Spring" Ahead  
Sunday, March 8



# St. Patrick's Day



Happy  
St. Patrick's Day  
March 17

# First Day of Spring

March 20  
Hello Spring!



# Palm Sunday



March 28/29  
Hosanna!  
Blessed is He who comes  
in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna!

**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**  
 Church office ..... 257.5565  
**Webmaster**  
 Church Office ..... 257.5565  
**Liturgical Arts**  
 Fawn Patrick ..... 357.7898  
**Quilting**  
 Betty Steimle ..... 440.534.1174

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Pr. Steve Bond ..... 440.710.4757  
 Leesa Mecozzi, President ..... 440.231.1930  
 Christine Noble, Vice President ..... 440.346.3120  
 Rob Hilston ..... 207.632.5949  
 Joan Hamm ..... 440.476.1494  
 Carla Colo ..... 216.970.0219  
 Andy DiLiello ..... 440.339.1069  
 Terry Mach ..... 440.840.5744  
 Bob McClanhan ..... 440.867.3663  
 Dave Mattson ..... 440.897.5466

**Council Secretary**

Sue Keeley ..... 440.862.2790

**Treasurer**

Bob McClanahan ..... 440.867.3663

**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 - February 23, 2026

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"*