



The Candle

April
2026

Pastor's Message

Resurrection in Ordinary Places

Easter is the center of the Christian story. Each year we gather to proclaim the same astonishing words: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

But once the lilies fade, the brass is put away, and the crowds of Easter Sunday return to their usual routines, we are left with an important question: What does resurrection look like in ordinary life?

Most of us do not experience resurrection as a dramatic moment. Instead, it often appears quietly and gradually—in ways we might miss if we are not paying attention.

Resurrection can look like forgiveness offered after a long-standing hurt.

It can look like hope returning after a season of grief.

It can look like a new friendship forming, a struggling person finding strength, or a community coming together to care for someone in need.

The Gospel stories themselves remind us that resurrection was not immediately obvious even to the first disciples. Mary Magdalene did not recognize Jesus at the tomb. The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked with him for miles before realizing who he was. Resurrection often reveals itself slowly, sometimes only after we pause long enough to see it.

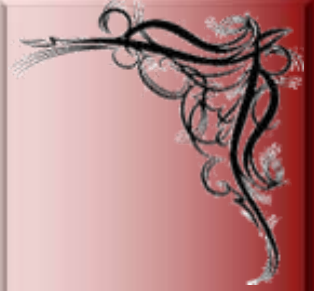
As people of faith, we are invited to live as Easter people—people who trust that God is always bringing new life out of places that once seemed empty or hopeless. We believe that the power of resurrection did not end on that first Easter morning. It continues in the quiet work of grace unfolding around us every day.

So during this Easter season, I encourage you to look for signs of resurrection in your own life and in the life of our community. Notice where kindness is shared, where healing begins, where hope appears again after a difficult time.

Those moments may seem small, but they are reminders of the same promise we celebrate at Easter: God is still bringing life into the world.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Steve



April Fool's Day
April 1



Easter Sunday
April 5



**"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"**



Grateful Living

Grateful Gatherings

We empower people to live meaningful lives through the transformative practice of grateful living. Practicing gratefulness is hard in times of adversity and uncertainty; we exist to provide the transformational programs, tools for daily living, and supportive community needed for a more grateful world.

We meet at Advent Lutheran Church on the third Saturday of each month. Please join us on Saturday, April 18, from 2:00pm - 3:30pm.

Co-hosts: Emma Krueger and Christine Noble



I would like to thank everyone immensely for praying for me these past 2-years after my brain surgery to remove a tumor from my brain stem. If you find it in your hearts, your continued prayers are welcome until I get a clean bill of health. Thank you and God Bless you all.

Sandra Tilton-Aiken

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 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

March 28 - April 3
April 4-10
April 11-17
April 18-24
April 25-May 1

Sue Keeley, Lida Mackey
Phyllis Tucker, Emma Krueger
Robin Ironhorse, Becky Spudich
Sue Keeley, Alice Santurri
Lida Mackey, Deb Laukiavich



“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

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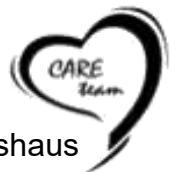
- ♥ April is nationally recognized Stress Awareness Month to bring attention to the negative impact of stress. Knowing how to manage stress can improve mental and physical well-being as well as minimize exacerbation of health related issues. When you are placed in a stressful situation, specific stress hormones rush into your bloodstream leading to an increase in heart rate , blood pressure and glucose levels. This is helpful in emergency situations, but having this “rush” for extended periods of time could be dangerous and make you susceptible to headaches, stomach and GI issues or depression to name a few. Some basic ideas to cope with stress are:
 1. Take care of yourself–eat healthy, exercise regularly and get plenty of sleep.
 2. Share your problems and how you're feeling and coping with a family member, friend, pastor, doctor or counselor.
 3. Avoid drugs and alcohol. These can create additional problems and increase your stress.
 4. For more information check out the American Institute of Stress website: www.stress.org
- ♥ Caregivers Support Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1pm. We will meet at Advent on Thursday, April 9th. 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.
- ♥ Saturday April 18 will be the 2nd session of Grateful Gatherings. Time is 2-3:30pm held in Classrooms 3 & 4. If you missed March's program don't worry. Each month's topic can be attended independently. You can benefit from whatever session you attend. There is no cost to attend. So come when you're available on the 3rd Saturday of each month to learn how gratitude can bring joy to your life.
- ♥ Blood Pressure screenings will be held on Saturday, April 18 after the 4pm service by Mary Jo Jones and Sunday, April 19 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 May and June 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

Care Team

March 29-April 11
April 12-25
April 26-May 9

Denise Janosko, Bev McArthur, Nancy Marshaus
Amy Moyer, Lida Mackey, Becky Young
Kathy Kling, Kathy Jennings, Barb Caspell,
Kim Humphreys



Council Minutes - February

In attendance: Pastor Steve, Bob McClanahan, Leesa Mecozzi, Chris Noble, Joan Hamm, Rob Hilston, Dave Mattson, Carla Colo, Andy DiLiello, Terry Mach

Guest: Emma Krueger

Call to Order: 7:02pm.

We welcomed Emma Krueger to the meeting to explain a new program that she will be hosting for the congregation and anyone else interested. It is called Grateful Gatherings. Started by a Benedictine monk named Br. David Steindl-Rast, Grateful Gatherings teaches us that being filled with gratitude daily is the true source of lasting happiness and a meaningful life. She has taken training classes and will lead a class starting on March 21, (third Saturday of the month) from 2 to 3:30pm. The class will be held once a month. This is not a religious-based program. People of any faith or no faith are welcome. Those participating experience 89% more joy in their lives!!

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

Pastor's Report: Verbal and Written

- The NE Ohio Synod Convention will be held during the first week of June and we will be hoping to send three delegates to the convention. Delegates are lay voting members. This year we will be electing a bishop. Bishop Barbins is willing to continue in this role if her name is put forth. A Conference Meeting on March 8, 2026 at 3pm. will be held with the purpose of suggesting potential nominees for the Office of the Bishop. The location of this meeting for our delegates from Advent Lutheran Church will be Messiah Lutheran in Lyndhurst and will be led by The Rev. Don King.
- In addition, Pastor has been approached by the synod to be part of the "One Church Experiment." It is a ministry model aimed at reversing congregational isolation by encouraging churches to collaborate as a single, unified body in mission. This approach will enable us to meet the challenges posed due the decline in the number of rostered leaders in the future. The synod has named Trinity Lutheran, Christ Lutheran, Celebration Lutheran and Advent Lutheran as partners in the One Church Experiment. We will start by holding a meeting/workshop with the other churches to explore how to proceed. Our goal is to hold this meeting before June.

Motion to approve the Pastor's Report was made, seconded and approved by vote.

Treasurer's Report:

- The January and February Reports will be done together next month due to some needed changes and to avoid confusion. Dave Mattson assured the council that as a church, we are on target with the budget for this new year.

Ministry Teams and Committees:

- H&W, Fellowship and W&M (on file) were received

Motion was made, seconded and ministry reports were approved.



Administration/Housekeeping Items: None

Old Business:

- **Disaster Preparedness Plan Update:** An Emergency Contact Chart was passed out to all the council members. Pastor Steve is at the top of the chart. Chris and Joan will meet February 13, to work on a plan. Chris has found information online.
- **Fundraising Committee Update:** One suggestion was to hold something similar to Breakfast with Santa, possibly adding a bake sale and advertising the event to the community. The fund-raising amount set in the budget was \$2500 for this year.

- **Council Retreat:** There is no new information. Pastor has had a good response from everyone and will move forward with this.
- **GPOD:** Leesa Mecozzi will handle all of March with help from others. GPOD needs to be added to the Duties List so that others who have been on council in the past and who know how to make the coffee can volunteer. This needs to be publicized in the bulletins and the newsletter.

New Business:

- **W&M:** Worship and Music made a motion to try to sell the handbells which have not been used for 15 years and were purchased in 2005.

The motion was seconded and approved by the council.

- **Endowment:** Bob McClanahan was last year's Endowment President and he motioned for approval to accept a total of 7 members for this year's Endowment Committee. This is one more than the Endowment charter calls for, but we are in the fortunate position of having an extra volunteer. Janet Tilton has agreed to lead the group with Joe Mecozzi taking on the Treasurer position.

The motion was seconded and approved by the council.

- **Operations Price Increases:** Several items in our budget had significant price increases this year. They include Boxcast and Ahola (a payroll company).

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made, seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise McClanahan, Substitute Secretary

GPOD (Go To Person of the Day)

If you have wondered how you can help around the church, consider signing up to be a GPOD for a day. You don't have to make a commitment for more than a day. Maybe you would like to do it twice during the year. That works too. You can sign up on the sheet in the narthex or you can email or call Leesa Mecozzi at: mecozzileesa@gmail.com, (440-231-1930) and she will show you what to do.

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

OK Gang

On April 20, the OK Gang will be going to TJ's on the Avenue located at 7485 Mentor Ave. at 12:45pm. TJ's on the Avenue is a family-owned Italian Restaurant owned and operated by the Pulling Family since 1992. Their specialties include homemade pastas, sauces and bread. The menu provides a variety of options, ranging from pasta, chicken, veal, seafood, gluten free dishes and many assorted vegetarian dishes. They also offer homemade pizzas and calzones which are made daily. They pride themselves on only using the highest quality of ingredients, to insure their guests have the best dining experience.

Because we will be a large group, I have picked out, at their request, five different selections from which we will order. However, if you have an allergy or are vegetarian, they will see that you are able to order your meal.

So mark your calendar for April 20th and join us at the TJ'S on the Avenue for a great time and very good food. This is a great way to meet other members of the Advent family who attend different weekly services. Please sign up on the signup sheet located on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

If you have any questions you can talk to Cherie Moore, Kathie Hayden or Jenny Helland or any member of the witness committee.

EASTER BRUNCH

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 with our brothers and sisters in Christ, remembering Jesus' last commandment to love one another.

We will also be collecting diapers for the Greater Cleveland diaper bank, changing lives one diaper at a time!

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.*



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!

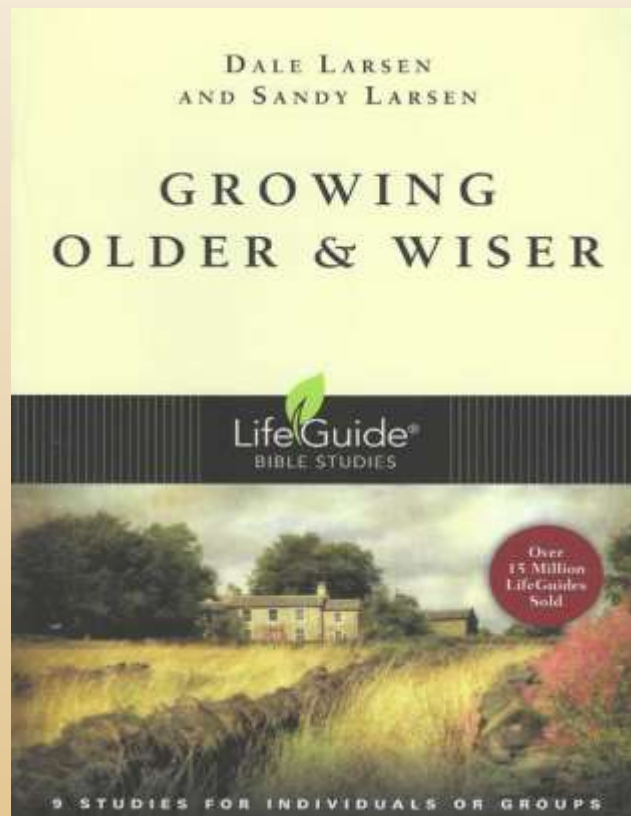


"...but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'" Matthew 19:14

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.

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

Mark Your Calendar

**For a Presentation by the Lake County Historical Society:
"Suffragettes; Fight for Women's Rights"**



American women did not get the right to vote until 1920-with the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Did you know that Lake County played an integral role in support of women's rights?

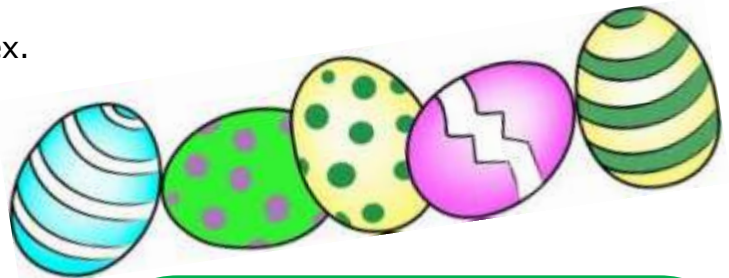
The **Loved by God Team** of Advent Lutheran Church, in conjunction with the **Lake County History Center**, is sponsoring a presentation called "Suffragettes: Fight for Women's Rights." This will be conducted at the Lake County History Center (415 Riverside Drive, Painesville), on **Saturday, May 9th from 11am to 1pm.**

This event is free; however, a \$5 or \$10 donation to the **Loved by God Team** would be greatly appreciated.

Following the presentation, we will have lunch at Pub 1812 at Rider's Inn and Tavern, 792 Mentor Ave., Painesville. Attending lunch is optional. Everyone will pay for their own meals.

If you have any questions, call/text Tim Krueger at: (440) 391-0369 or email him at: LTCTKRUE@aol.com.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.



Community Outreach

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

**April:
shampoo & paper towels**

**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

Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Saturday & Sunday · March 28/29

Maundy Thursday · April 2 · Noon & 7pm (First Communion at 7pm)

Good Friday · April 3 · Noon & 7pm

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

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

Easter · April 5 · 9am & 11:30am



Baptisms

Oliver Thomas Miller & Penelope Fay Miller
children of Betty Jacobs
were baptized on Saturday, March 21

Betty Jacobs

affirmed her faith made in her own baptism, as she joined the life and ministry of Advent, on Saturday, March 21

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Emilia C. Gellner

child of Michael & Susan Gellner
was baptized on Wednesday, March 25

Welcome and May God Bless You!

Council Person of the Day

April 5	Easter
April 12	Bob McClanahan/ Terry Mach
April 19	Christine Noble
April 26	Leesa Mecozzi

Altar Flowers

April

4/5	Easter
11/12	Garry
18/19	Open
25/26	Kulma



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

Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers

Month of April Cathy Doering

Thank you for your ministry!



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.

Finance Update • February 28, 2026

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Balance 1/1/26	\$ 13,289.48	13,289.48	
Income	65,289.70	62,400.00	\$2,889.70
Expenditures	52,744.01	55,278.00	2,533.99
Ending Balance February 28, 2026	<u>\$25,835.17</u>	<u>\$20,411.48</u>	<u>\$5,423.69</u>

DESIGNATED/ RESTRICTED FUNDS

Balance 1/1/26	\$419,547.02
Income	1,573.00
Expenditures	23,648.80
Ending Balance February 28, 2026	<u>\$397,471.22</u>



We're Asking You to "Spring Into Action!"

The Parsonage Fund Steering Committee is pleased to invite the congregation to a **church-wide workshop** to discuss and help prioritize the use of the proceeds from the sale of the parsonage. This guided work session will give members of our congregation the opportunity to review previously presented ideas and participate in shaping a thoughtful plan for our church's future.

The workshop will be held at **Advent Lutheran Church** on **Saturday, May 16, from 9:00am to 2:00pm**. Light meals and refreshments will be provided.

To help create a productive and well-organized environment, **pre-registration is required. Deadline is May 2.** Because of the planning involved, we will not be able to accommodate walk-ins on the day of the event.

We encourage you to mark your calendar and plan to attend! A **sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex** in the coming weeks for registration.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Joan Hamm, Committee Facilitator**, at joanhamm@outlook.com.

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
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

2026 Directory

The 2026 phone/address directories are available for pick-up in the Narthex. Thank You.



**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 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"*