



The Candle

May
2026

Pastor's Message

Listening for God Together

**Congregational Discernment Gathering –
Saturday, May 16 • 9:00am – 2:00pm**

Dear Friends in Christ,
In the life of every congregation, there are moments when the decisions before us are about more than budgets or buildings—they are about who we are and who God is calling us to become.

This is one of those moments.

Following the sale of the parsonage, our congregation received approximately \$290,000. In the months since, many of you have shared thoughtful ideas about how these funds might be used—investing for the future, addressing building needs such as the parking lot, roof, or boiler, refreshing our space, or supporting ongoing ministry.

Each of these reflects a deep love for this congregation. At the same time, one thing has become clear:

We cannot do everything.

Which means what lies before us is not simply a decision, but a process of **discernment**.

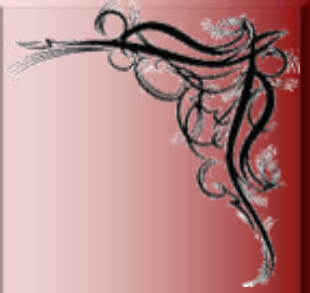
A Time Set Apart

On **Saturday, May 16, from 9:00am to 2:00pm**, we invite the entire congregation to gather for a time of prayerful conversation and discernment.

We will begin with a **continental breakfast**, pause at noon for a **light lunch (pizza and salad)**, and continue our time together afterward.
The day will include:

- A brief presentation on where we are and how we arrived here
- Small group conversations for discussion and discernment
- Sharing insights with the larger group
- A simple “dot voting” process to help identify shared priorities

Pastor's message continued on page 7



**Election Day
May 5**



**Mother's Day
May 10**



**Memorial Day
May 25**



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”
Romans 15:13

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

Art in Season



You're invited to an exclusive workshop:
Come join us on Saturday, May 30

From 10am until 12:30pm as we paint
on beautiful Santorini Stone.

For further information, contact:
Emma Krueger:
(440)391-0045 text
Email: Emlotus45@gmail.com

Many thanks to my Advent family for your cards, gifts, and presence at my 85th birthday celebration.

Warmly,
Amy Moyer



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

April 25-May 1
May 2-8
May 9-15
May 16-22
May 23-29
May 30-June 5

Lida Mackey, Deb Laukiavich
Barb Zahn, Bev McArthur
Doreen Mattson, Elizabeth Chuba
Christine Noble, Mary Jo Jones
Jenny Dubeansky, Sara Coleman
Becky Spudich, Fernanda Alves



“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 nationally recognized Asthma and Allergy Awareness month to educate on respiratory health. The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) educates the public about asthma management, triggers and treatment, especially as symptoms often flare during spring. It is a critical time for raising awareness, supporting research, and promoting better care for the 25 million Americans living with the chronic disease.
- ♥ Caregivers Support Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1pm. We will meet at Advent on Thursday, May 14. 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 May 16 will be the 3rd session of Grateful Gatherings. Time is 2pm-3:30pm held in Classrooms 3 & 4. If you missed March or April'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, May 16 after the 4pm service by Mary Jo Jones and Sunday, May 17 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, June and July 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.
- ♥ Since there are 5 weekends in May, Healing Touch Ministry will offer healing prayer at all 3 services on May 30/31. What this entails is someone will be available near the altar at communion time to pray with you for any reason or concern. You will be anointed with oil at the end of a brief prayer. We understand that not everyone is comfortable coming up in public, so if you would prefer a private prayer, please let Pastor or me know.
- ♥ Always remember, "When in doubt, Point to the Cross!"

Your Servant in Christ,
Christine Noble, Parish Nurse



Care Team

April 26-May 9

May 10-23

May 24-June 6

Kathy Kling, Kathy Jennings, Barb Caspell,
Kim Humphreys

Mary Jo Jones, Barbara Louis, Laura Jastromb
Donna Conklin, Lee Sundblom, Sandy Kehler,
Deb Cyrus-Lutz



Council Minutes - March

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

Excused: Rob Hilston

Call to Order: 6:56pm

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

Pastor's Report: verbal

- Easter is approaching. Pastor plans to take some time off after Easter and possible vacation toward the end of April.
 - Synod Assembly – June 5 and 6. Election of Bishop. Pastor may have a conflict with attending the Assembly this year, he will speak with the Bishop. Leesa is able to attend. We will find another delegate and a possible 3rd delegate to attend.
 - Lent mid-week services continue, although attendance has not been great.
- **Motion was made and seconded, and pastor's report was approved.*

Treasurer's Report:

- Income above plan 4.6% and expenses under budget 4.6%
 - January's report was not approved last month, as some changes needed to be made.
 - Ministry teams are under budget at this point. Some monies from restricted funds have been moved to the General Fund (per the 2026 budget plan). Pancake Dinner raised \$621. Minus the expenses, the remaining monies will be moved to the Fundraiser Fund.
 - CD is coming due this month, finance working on decisions on what to do – new CD, Mission Investment, Parsonage Steering committee needs.
- ** Motion was made to approve both the January and February Treasurer's reports, seconded, and both reports were approved.*

Ministry Team Reports Received: H&W and Fellowship (on file)

- **Fellowship:** Easter Breakfast, Mother's Day and Father's Day events; possible Election Day food.
- **Outreach:** Food Pantry – lots of food at the pantry is free right now, so our money funds are not an issue for purchasing food. Currently serving about 40-45 families per month.
- **Witness:** New members on April 25. Orientation and dinner. Please RSVP to Rob if you are able to attend the dinner.
- **Property:** light fixtures in the Narthex are being worked on.

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

Administration/Housekeeping Items:

None



Old Business:

- **Disaster Preparedness Plan:** Documents distributed for council review. Discussion ensued about items within the document. A training will need to take place after Safety and Disaster Plan approved. Chris noted that we are in need to 2 new AED units. Our current AED is out of date (battery) and needs replaced. We will also order a unit for the Fellowship Hall. Discussion about cost of the units – suggestion of using Memorial monies to pay for this. Finance team will discuss.
- **Fundraising Committee Update:** committee needs to meet to discuss ideas for upcoming/future fundraisers.

- **GPOD-Campaign:** article for the newsletter and Weekly News will be done. Article will encourage people to sign up to be a GPOD (single time or multiple times). This can be anyone and does not need to be a council member. Leesa will train whoever is interested. Discussion ensued about worship assistants in general. Leesa would like to schedule a training for all worship assistant positions (GPOD, usher, acolyte, lector, communion assistant, altar guild). May 2 is the possible training day.
- **Parsonage Steering Committee Update:** team is meeting on Thursday this week.

New Business:

- **Sabbatical:** Sabbatical for the month of July is confirmed. Groups can meet if they wish.
- **Mailboxes:** Council members are reminded to check their mailboxes for bills that need to be paid.
- Bob McClanahan and Joan Hamm are not able to attend the April council meeting.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made, seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Keeley, Council Secretary

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.

OK Gang

The OK Gang will be going to Smokey Bones Restaurant located at 7725 Reynolds Rd. on Monday, May 18th at 12:45pm.

At Smokey Bones, they say that they specialize in three things: good food, good drinks, and good times. Masters of authentic fire-grilled and house-smoked meats they respect the power of the open flame. They like simple, yet flavorful recipes and believe marinating should not be taken lightly; that pork should be slow smoked (slow as in 11 hours over hickory logs every night and often as in every day in every restaurant). They are dedicated to serving their patrons with a passion and expertise that will create intense feelings of blissful satisfaction.

Their menu is full of options giving the diner many choices from appetizers to sandwiches, salads, soups, BBQ platters, wings to desserts within their price range. One of my favorite desserts are their "Hot bag O' Donuts (5 small fluffy, round donuts with chocolate and raspberry dipping sauces) YUMMY!

Come join us on May 18th and enjoy a good meal with friends, and if it will be your first time you will find us a fun-loving group who enjoy good food and spending time with friends.

Welcome New Members

Joining our Advent family on April 25

Joan Mihelich

Paula Nicholson

Robert Smola

Pastor David & Ruth Thielo

May God Bless You!



On Mother's Day, Sunday May 10th, we would like to honor all of the mother's of Advent with a sweet treat.



Please join us in the narthex between services to celebrate.

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!



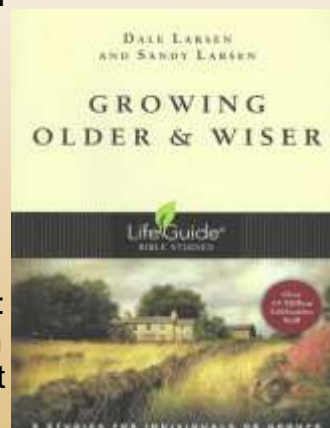
“...but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ Matthew 19:14

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

“*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 began 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.



Pastor's message continued from page 1

This process is designed to help us listen carefully—to one another and to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Why Your Presence Matters

This is not a decision for a committee alone—it belongs to the whole congregation. Your voice matters. Your perspective matters. Your presence matters.

Listening for the Spirit

In Acts 15, the early church faced a difficult decision. They gathered, listened, and prayed, and were ultimately able to say, “*It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...*”

That is our hope as well—that we might move forward together in a way that is faithful and Spirit-led.

An Invitation

I encourage you to set aside this time and be part of this important moment in our life together.

Come with your thoughts and questions. Come ready to listen. Come open to where God is leading us.

I truly believe that if we enter this time with prayerful hearts, something good—something faithful—will emerge.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Steve

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

Hannah's Home Baby Bottle Campaign

Advent is once again participating in Hannah's Home Baby Bottle campaign.

The Baby Bottle Campaign runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day and raises much needed funds to support young mothers in need.

If you'd like to help this great organization, fill a baby bottle with coins, paper money or a check (made out to Hanna's Home) and put it in one of the baby bottles.

Filled bottles are due at the end of this event on Father's Day, June 21st.



Happy Mother's Day
Sunday, May 10



Monday, May 25

Community Outreach

Food Pantry (St. Andrew's)
Donations:

May:
toothpaste & detergent

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

Summer Worship Schedule

Please make note: beginning **May 24**
 Saturday Worship · 4pm
 Sunday Worship · 9am and 11am

First Communion

**God's Blessings to our
 First Communicants!**

Celebration of First Communion took place on Thursday, April 2 at the 7pm Maundy Thursday worship service.


We welcomed to the table for the first time:

Theodore Ammon
 Emilia Gellner
 Tara Hellier
 Owen McArthur
 Oliver Miller
 Penelope Miller
 Braxton Tagle
 Everly Walker

Council Person of the Day

May 3	
May 10	Carla Colo
May 17	Christine Noble
May 24	Dave Mattson
May 31	Carla Colo

Altar Flowers

May	
2/3	Open
9/10	Elegante
16/17	Hamilton
23/24	Mach
30/31	Pesosky

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

Sympathy

Our thoughts, prayers, and sympathies are with Kim Humphreys and family, upon the death of her husband, Steve Gaines. Steve went home to the Lord on March 22. A Memorial service will be held at Advent on Saturday, June 20 at 11am.

May God comfort all who grieve.



Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers

Month of May 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 • March 31, 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	94,711.92	87,508.00	\$7,203.92
Expenditures	77,452.26	80,892.00	3,439.74
Ending Balance March 31, 2026	<u>\$30,549.14</u>	<u>\$19,905.48</u>	<u>\$10,643.66</u>

DESIGNATED/ RESTRICTED FUNDS

Balance 1/1/26	\$419,547.02
Income	1,983.00
Expenditures	24,197.67
Ending Balance March 31, 2026	<u>\$397,322.35</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



**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 20, 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
(Sunday's @11am—begins May 24)
- ◆ 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"*