



The Candle

June
2026

Pastor's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Summer has a way of changing our rhythm. School ends, vacations begin, schedules loosen, and some of our regular routines shift. Even here at church, things begin to look a little different. Some programs pause, attendance patterns change, and the pace of life feels less structured. And if we're honest, sometimes that can make summer feel like "down time" — as if not much is happening.

But lately I've been thinking about how often God does some of God's best work in what appears to be ordinary time.

In the Church year, after the great celebrations of Easter and Pentecost, we enter what is often called "Ordinary Time." That doesn't mean unimportant time. It simply means the season of day-by-day discipleship — the ordinary work of following Jesus in everyday life. And maybe that is where most faith is actually formed: not in the big mountaintop moments or dramatic spiritual breakthroughs, but in the ordinary rhythms of prayer, worship, conversation, acts of kindness, quiet reflection, and the simple decision to keep showing up.

In the book of Acts, after Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples found themselves in an in-between moment. Jesus had left, and the Holy Spirit had not yet come. They did not yet know what was next. So what did they do? They waited, they prayed, and they stayed together. And in that waiting, God was preparing something new.

I think that speaks to us.

Summer can be a wonderful season of rest, renewal, and recreation (and yes, those things are gifts from God). But it can also be a season for noticing — noticing where God is at work, noticing what needs healing, and noticing what new thing God may be preparing in us.

As a congregation, we continue to be in a season of listening and discerning, seeking God's direction for our future together. That kind of work cannot always be rushed. Sometimes faithfulness looks less like activity and more like attentiveness.

Pastor's message continued on page 5



Flag Day
June 14



Juneteenth
June 19



Father's Day &
First Day of
Summer
June 21



"I am the vine; you
are the branches.
Those who abide in me
and I in them bear
much fruit,
because apart from
me you can do
nothing."
John 15:5

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

SAVE THE DATE!

The Worship and Music Ministry is planning an outdoor morning worship service for Sunday, August 23rd. This will be a combined service and will be held at the Veteran's Park Shelter on Hopkins Road at Veteran's Park in Mentor. Nothing else has been planned yet, but more is coming, so mark it on your calendar!



Be sure to join us on Saturday, June 20, as we enjoy treats following the 4pm worship service, in honor of Father's Day. Father's will be honored on Sunday also.

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

May 30-June 5
June 6-12
June 13-19
June 20-26
June 27-July 3

Becky Spudich, Fernanda Alves
Nancy Marshaus, Emma Krueger
Lee Sundblom, Kay Smith
Becky Young, Sue Keeley
Jen Egner, Sandy Kehler



"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

Health & Wellness

- ♥ June is National Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. Worldwide more than 55 million people are living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. It's never too late or too early to learn ways to promote brain health. Science shows that adopting healthy habits, such as getting exercise, and good quality sleep, may reduce the risk of cognitive decline. For more information check the Alzheimer's Association website at www.alz.org.
- ♥ Caregivers Support Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 1pm. We will meet at Advent on Thursday, June 11. 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, June 20 will be the 3rd session of Grateful Gatherings. Time is 2pm-3:30pm held in Classrooms 3 & 4. If you missed any 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, June 20 after the 4pm service by Mary Jo Jones and Sunday, June 21 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 June, July and August 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



May 24-June 6	Donna Conklin, Lee Sundblom, Sandy Kehler, Deb Cyrus-Lutz
June 7-20	Denise Janosko, Bev McArthur, Nancy Marshaus
June 21-July 4	Amy Moyer, Lida Mackey, Becky Young

Upcoming Blood Drive

Thursday July 2, 2026
10am-4pm

call 1.800.RED.CROSS
~or~ RedCrossBlood.org
Key word: Advent



Council Minutes - April

In Attendance: Pastor Steve, Christine Noble, Dave Mattson, Leesa Mecozzi, Carla Colo, Terry Mach, Rob Hilston

Excused: Bob McClanahan, Andy DiLiello, Joan Hamm

Call to Order: 6:55pm

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

Pastor's Report: verbal

- No info on the council retreat, may wait until the fall timeframe. We could use the retreat to work on the Disaster Safety Plan/document.
- Synod Assembly – June 5 and 6. Election of Bishop. Leesa is able to attend. We will find a male delegate and a possible 3rd delegate to attend. We received a letter from the Synod, thanking us for our 10% Benevolence donations and gifting us free Assembly registration.
- Membership status letter was sent to council to review. This letter will be sent to congregation members who have not worshipped or made financial donations within the last 2 years. Names for removal will be brought to the May council meeting.
- Attendance has been down on weekends and throughout Lent, all services had low attendance. Discussion ensued about concerns and we as a congregation need to be open and honest about our worship services, issues, number of services, and decide what is best for everyone and Advent as a whole. Pastor asked council to please be in prayer about this issue/concern.

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

Treasurer's Report:

- Income above plan 8.2% and expenses under budget 4.3%. Great news!
- Ministry teams are under budget.
- CD that came due in March, is being moved to a Money Market Account – still gaining interest, but also accessible. Thank you to Bob McClanahan for all his research work.

*** Motion was made to approve the March Treasurer report, seconded, and the report was approved.*

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

- **Fellowship:** Discussion took place about who's responsibility it is to make sure that we have coffee supplies for Sunday morning. Over time, it has been handled by different people/ministries. After discussion, council felt that it is the Fellowship Ministry that should oversee the coffee/supplies. Chris will reach out to the ministry team to discuss.
- **Outreach:** September 13 is the Day of Service. Do we wish to participate again this year? Yes!
- **Witness:** New members on April 25. Orientation and dinner. Rob is making phone calls to the potential new members interested.
- **H&W:** Chis is still waiting for another quote for the AED units. First quote received was \$1300/each.
- **Christian Education:** Leesa taught the First Communion classes this year. Eight of our youth went through the class; 7 kids made their First Communion on Maundy Thursday, 1 youth still to receive his.

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



Administration/Housekeeping Items:

Copy paper costs have sky rocketed. Please let your ministry teams know to be mindful when making copies.

Old Business:

- **Disaster Preparedness Plan:** This was discussed in Pastor's report.
- **Fundraising Committee Update:** committee met and came up with a few ideas for fundraisers; spaghetti dinner, Texas Road-House Night, quilt raffle / gift basket (around election time frame, Breakfast with Santa (need to check the calendar for December 5), coffee house idea with music.
- **Parsonage Steering Committee Update:** Congregation workshop is set for May 16 from 9-2. Donuts for breakfast; Pizza/salad for lunch – Leesa will take care of this. Sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Council members are encouraged to attend.

New Business:

- **Worship Assistant Orientation:** was scheduled for May 2 – after discussion, it was decided to postpone until September/Fall timeframe.
- **GPOD:** the signup sheet for GPOD help has been posted in the Narthex, with not much action. It was suggested that “past” council members be asked if interested in serving 1 or 2x a year.
- Bob McClanahan is on vacation – Dave Mattson is covering while he's away.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made, seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Keeley, Council Secretary



Have a Safe Summer

Pastor's message continued from page 1

So as summer begins, I encourage you to embrace the gift of ordinary time. Rest. Reconnect. Worship. Pray. Listen. And trust that even in the ordinary moments, God is still at work doing what God has always done — bringing new life.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve

*“For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment,
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Galatians 5:14*

OK Gang

On June 15, the OK Gang will be going to **Redhawk Bar and Grille** located at 7481 Auburn Road, Concord Township, at 12:45pm.

Redhawk Bar and Grille offers the area's Largest Outdoor Patio, two wood burning fireplaces. They also have evening live entertainment, outdoor games and two full service bars! Indoor dining is comfortable, and classy with INCREDIBLE food, and prompt, courteous service. Weather permitting we will be eating outside on their covered deck. You will be able to order off of the menu so you can order your favorite meal.

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 June 15th at the 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.



Happy Father's Day!



The Fellowship committee requests your presence in the Narthex on Father's Day, between both services, for homemade pies in celebration of all our Fathers both on earth and in heaven.

God's Blessings ~ Cherie Moore, Fellowship

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!

****Please Note: both of these studies will resume in September.**



“...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

CELEBRATE

March. Unite.



*Join us as we flood the streets
with color, love, and pride!*

Location: Public Square, Cleveland
Date: June 6, 2026 Time: 11:00 am



Come out and show your support for the LGBTQ+ community by marching with Advent in this year's PRIDE in the CLE Parade. The event is family and pet friendly! If interested in joining the march, please contact the Loved by God committee at: adventmentor.lbg@gmail.com.

"...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.**



Sunday, June 14

**First Day of Summer
Sunday, June 21**



Community Outreach

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

**June:
deodorant & 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

Graduation Information

It's that time of year where we would like to acknowledge those who are graduating...high school, college, grad school. Please contact the church office with info (440.257.5565 or you may email: adventmentoroffice@gmail.com).



We need their: name, where they are graduating from, college attending or future plans.

Please be sure to get your information to the church office by Friday, June 12.

May God Bless all of our graduates!



Happy Father's Day

Sunday, June 21



Council Person of the Day

June 7	Rob Hilston
June 14	Carla Colo
June 21	Christine Noble
June 28	Leesa Mecozzi

Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers

June 6/7 & 13/14	Gayle Shroy
June 20/21	Judy Ryan
June 27/28	Terry Mach
Month of July	Cathy Doering
Month of August	Michael & Carla Colo

Thank you for your ministry!



Altar Flowers

June



6/7	McClanahan
13/14	Open
20/21	Horvath
27/28	Open

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

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 - April 30, 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	117,371.65	110,196.00	\$7,175.65
Expenditures	102,175.94	106,506.00	4,330.06
Ending Balance April 30, 2026	\$28,485.19	\$16,979.48	\$11,505.71

<u>DESIGNATED/ RESTRICTED FUNDS</u>			
Balance 1/1/26	\$419,547.02		
Income	3,420.25		
Expenditures	26,509.53		
Ending Balance April 30, 2026	\$396,457.74		

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 Work Day
Saturday, June 27th
9:00am-??



- ◆ We will be spreading mulch and will spruce things up throughout the church.
- ◆ Any questions: contact Becky Spudich or Dave & Doreen Mattson
- ◆ More information to come...

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



Just a Reminder...

Over the summer there is only one newsletter, combined for July/August. Deadline is June 15 to submit items/information. 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 - May 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 @11:00am
- ◆ Youth Sunday School ▪ Sunday's ▪ 10:15am
- ◆ Adult Sunday School ▪ Sunday's ▪ 10:15am
Sunday school for all ages will resume in September

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"*