



The Candle

July /
August
2026

Pastor's Message

Pausing to Reflect

This July our nation marks an important milestone. Two hundred and fifty years ago, representatives of thirteen colonies signed the Declaration of Independence and began an experiment in self-government that continues to this day.

I was in high school during the Bicentennial celebrations of 1976. I remember a sense of excitement and anticipation. Communities held special events, schools organized programs, and red, white, and blue decorations seemed to appear everywhere. There was a feeling that we were celebrating a shared story.

As we approach our nation's 250th birthday, the mood feels different. Perhaps that is because we are older and more aware of the complexities of history. Perhaps it is because we live in a time when people often disagree about what should be celebrated and what should be lamented. More likely, it is because anniversaries invite reflection as much as celebration.

Reflection is not a bad thing.

In fact, throughout Scripture, God's people are repeatedly called to remember. They remember God's faithfulness in the wilderness. They remember times of blessing and times of failure. They remember where they have been in order to discern where God is leading them next.

For many years now, our congregations in the Northeastern Ohio Synod have been encouraged to observe a kind of "summer sabbath" during July. Committee meetings are reduced, worship planning is simplified, and pastors are given an opportunity to step back from some of their regular responsibilities. The goal is not inactivity but renewal.

In a culture that often measures success by how busy we are, sabbath reminds us that our value does not come from constant productivity. Sometimes the most faithful thing we can do is slow down long enough to listen, reflect, and notice God's presence.

Perhaps there is a connection between these two July observances.

Whether we are reflecting on 250 years as a nation or taking a quieter month as a congregation, the invitation is the same: pause and consider who we are becoming.

Pastor's message continued on page 5



Blood Drive
July 2
10am-4pm



Happy
4th of July



"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9

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

Wedding

Congratulations

Vickey Young & Lindsey Hubbard
married at Advent on Saturday, June 6

May God Bless You both always!



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

June 27-July 3

July 4-10

July 11-17

July 18-24

July 25-31

Jen Egnor, Sandy Kehler

Emma Krueger

Phyllis Tucker, Sue Keeley

Robin Ironhorse, Becky Spudich

Sue Keeley, Alice Santurri

August 1-7

August 8-14

August 15-21

August 22-28

August 29-Sept 4

Lida Mackey, Deb Laukiavich

Barb Zahn, Bev McArthur

Doreen Mattson, Elizabeth Chuba

Christine Noble, Mary Jo Jones

Jenny Dubeansky, Sara Coleman



Prayer & Spirituality

“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

- ♥ At the Synod's recommendation, Advent will be taking a sabbatical during the month of July. No Ministry or Council meetings will be held and we will focus on prayer and spirituality. This can be a time of reflection, of peace, and of personal growth.
"We need silence to be alone with God, to speak to Him, to listen to Him, to ponder His words deep in our hearts. We need to be alone with God in silence to be renewed and to be transformed. Silence gives us a new outlook on life. In it we are filled with the energy of God Himself, and we are able to serve each day with joy."
Mother Theresa
- ♥ This month the Caregivers Support Group will meet on the third Thursday, July 16, at 1pm as I will be out of town on July 9th. It's important for the persons attending to have the opportunity to share their struggles with others who understand the challenges of caregiving. In August, our meeting will be Thursday, August 13 at 1pm.
- ♥ Blood pressure screenings will be held on the 3rd weekend of each month at 5pm on Saturday, July 18 and August 15 and Sunday at 10am on July 19 and August 16. Stop by to have yours checked.
- ♥ Enjoy the summer and take time to relax.
- ♥ Always remember, "When in doubt, Point to the Cross!"

Your Servant in Christ,
Christine Noble, Parish Nurse



Health & Wellness

Care Team



June 21-July 4	Amy Moyer, Lida Mackey, Becky Young
July 5-18	Kathy Kling, Kathy Jennings, Barb Caspell, Kim Humphreys
July 19-August 1	Mary Jo Jones, Barbara Louis, Laura Jastromb
August 2-15	Donna Conklin, Lee Sundblom, Sandy Kehler, Deb Cyrus-Lutz
August 16-29	Denise Janosko, Bev McArthur, Nancy Marshaus

Upcoming Blood Drives

**Thursday July 2
10am-4pm**

**Friday, August 7
10am-4pm**

call 1.800.RED.CROSS

**~or~ RedCrossBlood.org
Key word: Advent**



Council Minutes - May

In Attendance: Christine Noble, Dave Mattson, Leesa Mecozzi, Rob Hilston, Bob McClanahan, Andy DiLiello, Joan Hamm

Excused: Pastor Steve, Carla Colo, Terry Mach

Call to Order: 7:01pm

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

Pastor's Report: written and on file

A church member has asked the church to store her daughter's belongings. Pastor Steve explained in his report the circumstances surrounding this request and made some suggestions for council, if this request was approved. Discussion ensued and a vote was taken. It was a 7-0 vote no, to not honor this request.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Income above plan 6.5% and expenses under budget 4.1%.

Ministry teams are under budget.

CD that came due in March, was moved to a Money Market Account (Everly) – still gaining interest, but also accessible. Thank you to Bob McClanahan for all his research work.

AED units (2): Memorial monies from Noble, Morgan and Elkin will be used to purchase the new AED units.

Bob is still researching a church credit card option, that receives cash back.

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

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

W&M: their minutes reflected the need for more GPOD volunteers...thank you for that.

Outreach: Dave informed council that a freezer at St. Andrew stopped working within the last year and they have been down a freezer. An Advent member has donated money to replace the freezer and wishes to remain anonymous.

Parsonage Workshop: this Saturday. Food is taken care of. Approx 40 people have signed up.

Property: Andy waiting on word from a plumber to have the backflow inspection.

Witness: new member orientation/dinner went well. Currently, 2 people are interested in joining.

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



Administration/Housekeeping Items:

Old Business:

Synod Assembly: June 5/6. Pastor Steve and Joe & Lessa Mecozzi are attending. Leesa will update council at June meeting about the assembly.

New Business:

Copier Usage Letter: council was made aware at last month's meeting that copier paper costs have skyrocketed. Leesa has drafted a letter that will be sent to staff, ministry teams, and all those with copier codes – stating concerns about the rise in costs of printing and paper; and to make them aware/mindful of the number of copies being made for meetings, events and communications.

Election Day: Discussion took place about Election Day – we had a large turnout again, almost 1000 voters. Sue made council aware that about 80 percent of our voters stated that they missed the food/baked goods, not only because they enjoyed the food, but they missed being able to give/donate to their local church and more so, they like to donate to our ministries. After discussion, it was decided by council that all future elections will have food/bake sale.

Spring Workday: discussion took place about possible projects to be done (weeding, mulch, tree trimming, windows, pews, etc.). Boy Scouts will be asked if they can help. A coordinator will need to be identified. Dave will ask at the parsonage workshop to see if anyone is willing to coordinate the spring workday. Possible date is June 27. The church calendar will need to be checked for any conflicts.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made, seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Keeley, Council Secretary

Pastor's message continued from page 1

What have we learned?
What do we value?
How is God calling us to live in this moment?
These are important questions for nations, congregations, families, and individuals alike.

As you enjoy summer vacations, family gatherings, picnics, and long evenings outdoors, I encourage you to make room for a little reflection as well. Give thanks for the blessings you have received. Pray for our nation and its leaders. Pray for our congregation and its ministry. And listen for the voice of Christ, who continues to call us forward in faith, hope, and love.

May God grant you a season of rest, renewal, and peace.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve

*****PLEASE MAKE NOTE*****



**Due to July 4th falling on a Saturday,
there will be NO Saturday worship that day.
Please join us for worship on Sunday, July 5th at either 9am or 11am.**

Enjoy your holiday!

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

OK Gang

On Monday, July 20th, the OK Gang will meet at The firehouse Grill and Pub located at 2768 Stark Drive in Willoughby Hills, Ohio at 12:45pm.

The Firehouse Grill and Pub is an American pub-style restaurant whose name proudly reflects its beginnings as the official Willoughby Hills Fire Station which served the greater community from 1950's until the 1980's. In 2004, a group of Lake County locals purchased and renovated the establishment by bringing some of the original history back into the menu and décor. With one of the best patios in town, The Firehouse Grill and Pub is a family-friendly restaurant and bar whose main emphasis on great service, a standout American menu, good times for all who walk through the doors. Their menu offers a wide-variety of delicious and unique options to meet your specific cravings. Whether you want a juicy hand-pressed burger, perfectly crispy chicken wings, flatbread pizza or a fresh salad, they have all the options to satisfy your hunger.

If you haven't joined us before here is a little explanation to what the OK Gang (short for Old Kid's Gang) is all about. We meet once a month on the third Monday at a different restaurant for a good meal and fellowship with other members of our congregation who might attend different services. It is a fun filled time with lots of laughter. So now that you know a little more about the OK Gang I hope you will join us.

Graduation Congratulations!

Congratulations to Makayla Killeen, who graduated from South high school and plans to attend the University of Cincinnati for Nursing. Best of Luck to you!!



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

Against Slavery Then, Against Oppression Now.



Learn about the Underground Railroad, while visiting a piece of history. The Hubbard House was the northern end point of the Underground Railroad and is located in Ashtabula, Ohio. William and Katharine Hubbard helped to free countless slaves.

The Loved By God group is planning a tour of The Hubbard House on Sunday, July 26th. There will be two time slots available, one at 1pm and the other at 3pm. The Hubbard House is located at 1603 Walnut Blvd., Ashtabula. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex. If you are unable to sign up in person or have any questions, please email the LGB committee at adventmentor.lbg@gmail.com.

Thank you! *The Loved by God Group*

“Loved by God, we share Christ’s love with all.”



As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we love without conditions. In the spirit of this, Advent Lutheran will be a sponsor again at this year’s Lake County Pride, facilitated by the LGBTQ+ Allies of Lake County. The event will take place on Saturday, August 15th from 11am to 5pm at the Lake County History Center, located at 415 Riverside Dr, Painesville.

The Loved By God group is looking for volunteers to help staff our table at Pride. The time slots will be in 1-hour increments from 11am to 5pm. A volunteer’s main responsibility is to show a welcoming presence to those who come up to the table. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you are unable to sign-up in person or have any questions, please contact the LBG group at adventmentor.lbg@gmail.com.

A Night of LGBTQ+ Healing

Join us for an evening of fellowship, as people in the LGBTQ+ community and allies share their stories on reconciling the anti-LGBTQ+ dogma they heard in churches growing up and how they are moving toward a place of healing.

When: September 28, 2026 6:30pm-8:30pm

Where: Lake Erie Bluffs - Lane Road Shelter
(3301 Lane Rd, Perry Twp, OH 44081)

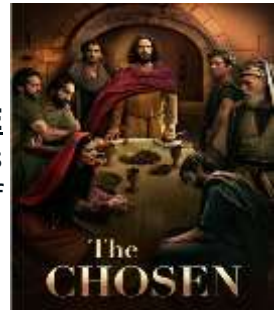
Light refreshments will be provided

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex. If you are unable to sign up in person or have any questions, please email the LGB committee at adventmentor.lbg@gmail.com.

Hosted by Advent Lutheran Church, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church,
and the LGBTQ+ Allies of Lake County

Sunday Morning Adult Sunday School Begins a New Study

Many of you are probably aware of the popular TV series called **THE CHOSEN** starring Jonathon Roumie as Jesus. The program depicts the places and events surrounding the life of Jesus and the lives of his key followers, as outlined in the Gospels.



Each week we will view an episode, to be followed by a brief discussion. The episodes are 40 to 50 minutes in length. The discussions will be 15 to 20 minutes long. **There will be no deep theology. The discussions will be light, centering around how the episode draws you closer to Christ.**

There are no books to purchase. Each week, discussion materials will be sent out via email. The material will contain a brief synopsis of the next episode-plus discussion questions. There will be no homework. Do not attempt to answer the questions ahead of time. You may have already seen the current episodes on your own. Don't let that discourage you from joining us. Watching it with your brothers and sisters in Christ will bring a dimension to it that cannot be duplicated in the isolation of your living room.

The CHOSEN will begin on Sunday, September 20 at 10:15am using in-person format only. There will be no zoom option.

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 discussion material will be sent out). You can also email Tim at LTCTKRUE@aol.com.

Community Outreach

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

**July:
soap & paper towels**

**August:
shampoo & 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

**CHURCH SERVICE AND PICNIC ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 AT 10AM
AT VETERAN'S PARK**

Due to popular demand, we are re-introducing the outdoor church service followed by a picnic. The location will be at the Veteran's Park Shelter, 5730 Hopkins Rd. in Mentor. It is next door to Shore Middle School for those unfamiliar with this park and it is very close to Advent. The service will start at 10am. It will be a blended service and this will be the only Sunday service on the 23rd. We ask that everyone bring their own place settings and silverware, a dish to share and folding chairs, especially if you find picnic tables to be uncomfortable. There are limited electrical outlets there, so try to avoid dishes that require a crockpot. The Worship and Music ministry is providing hot dogs, condiments, chips, and water to drink. If you desire something other than water, please bring that also. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex to determine how many to plan for. Please join us!!



Council Person of the Day

July 5	Christine Noble
July 12	Rob Hilston
July 19	Bob McClanahan
July 26	Dave Mattson
<hr/>	
August 2	Andy DiLiello
August 9	Dave Mattson
August 16	Christine Noble
August 23	Terry Mach
August 30	Leesa Mecozzi

Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers

Month of July	Cathy Doering
Month of August	Michael & Carla Colo



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.

Altar Flowers

July		August	
			
4/5	Open	1/2	Open
11/12	Doering	8/9	Noble
18/19	Noble	15/16	Garry
25/26	Bolton, Conklin	22/23	Jastromb
		29/30	Conklin

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

Finance Update • May 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	145,045.45	129,254.00	\$15,791.45
Expenditures	126,093.55	135,285.00	9,191.45
Ending Balance May 31, 2026	<u>\$32,241.38</u>	<u>\$7,258.48</u>	<u>\$24,982.90</u>

DESIGNATED/ RESTRICTED FUNDS

Balance 1/1/26	\$419,547.02
Income	3,545.25
Expenditures	28,059.52
Ending Balance May 31, 2026	<u>\$395,032.75</u>

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 Endowment Committee Education Scholarship Program Applications due by July 15, 2026

- \$1,000 scholarship available per recipient (maximum of 5 awarded based on eligibility)
- All active members of Advent who are in good standing as defined by Advent's bylaws
- Must submit proof of tuition or housing payment made for 2026 school year - for any college, university or technical school at an undergraduate or graduate level.
- Applications are available in the Narthex

Please contact me with any questions.

Janet Tilton
440.477.7092
Endowment Committee Chair



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
 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

Next deadline is August 15 for the September newsletter.

*****Please Make Note*****

During the month of July Sabbatical, the office hours for Pastor Steve and the office administrator will vary. If you have a need, please call and leave a message or send an email, and we will get back to you. 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 - June 19, 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"*