



September  
2026

# The Candle

## Pastor's Message

I recently heard someone tell about growing up spending a great deal of time around her grandmother's dining room table. She knew that table well — until one day her grandmother asked her to help pull the two ends apart. Grandma disappeared into another room, returned with a couple of leaves, and suddenly a familiar table had become something more. There was room for more people.

She never knew the table could do that.

I've been thinking about that story as we enter another fall at Advent. We have inherited a sturdy table. Generations of faithful people have worshiped, served, taught, given and shared the love of Christ here. We are blessed by what they have given us.

But I also wonder what God may still be preparing Advent to become.

This fall we will welcome new members, begin another year of Christian Education, participate in God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, and explore some new possibilities for ministry within and beyond our congregation. We don't know exactly where all of those conversations will lead — and perhaps we don't need to.

Sometimes faithfulness means caring for the table we have inherited. And sometimes God says, "Grab that end. Let's see what this thing can do."

I'm excited to find out together.

*Grace and Peace,*

*Pastor Steve*



Day of Service  
September 13  
10am worship



Flu Shot Clinic  
September 27  
10am-12pm



"But those who hope  
in the Lord will renew  
their strength. They  
will soar on wings like  
eagles; they will run  
and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not  
be faint"  
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"**

## **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](mailto:LTCTKRUE@aol.com).



### **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**

**August 29-Sept 4**

Jenny Dubeansky, Sara Coleman

**September 5-11**

Becky Spudich, Fernanda Alves

**September 12-18**

Nancy Marshaus

**September 19-25**

Lee Sundblom, Kay Smith

**September 26-October 2**

Becky Young, Emma Krueger



*"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

- ♥ Flu season is upon us once again. Did the summer fly by for you? Kids are going back to school and the days are a little shorter. I just want everything to slow down, take a breath, and "smell the roses." Each day is a gift. We need to take care of our bodies as best we can to enjoy each day. One way to do that is by getting the annual Flu vaccine. As in the past years, Walgreen's will sponsor a Flu Clinic here at Advent. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 27 from 10am-12n in Fellowship Hall. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex. Persons on Medicare or with insurance that covers the cost are eligible to receive the vaccine. Walgreen's will handle the billing. Please bring your health insurance information with you.
- ♥ The quarterly Care Team meeting will be held on Saturday, September 5 at 10am. If you are interested in joining us, please feel welcome.
- ♥ This month the Caregivers Support Group will meet on the 2nd Thursday, September 10 at 1pm. It's important for the persons attending to have the opportunity to share their struggles with others who understand the challenges of caregiving. All information is kept confidential.
- ♥ Blood pressure screenings will be held on the 3rd weekend of each month at 5pm on Saturday, September 19 and Sunday at 10am on September 20. Stop by to have yours checked.
- ♥ Don't forget to sign up for the Day of Service, Sunday, September 13.
- ♥ Always remember, "When in doubt, Point to the Cross!"

Your Servant in Christ,  
*Christine Noble, Parish Nurse*



## Care Team



|                |                                                             |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aug 30-Sept 12 | Amy Moyer, Lida Mackey,<br>Becky Young                      |
| Sept 13-26     | Kathy Kling, Kathy Jennings,<br>Barb Caspell, Kim Humphreys |
| Sept 27-Oct 10 | Mary Jo Jones, Barbara Louis,<br>Laura Jastromb             |

## Upcoming Blood Drives

**Friday, October 9  
10am-4pm**

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



# C o u n c i l M i n u t e s - J u n e

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

**Excused:** Carla Colo

**Call to Order:** 6:57pm. June 8, 2026

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

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

- + Synod Assembly this past weekend. Bishop Laura Barbins was reelected as Bishop.
- + Live-Streaming: this has continued to be a problem. Worship, funerals, weddings – it is used for many purposes and is unreliable (sound issues currently). Pastor has spoken to and attended a demo with a professional live-streaming company, that specializes in church streaming. This company sets up the stream but also has a team member “attend” as the streaming is taking place, to make adjustments accordingly or can correct/fix a problem as it arises. “LiveControl” is the company. We need to share our type of equipment with them, to see if it is compatible or if new equipment will be needed. We will get a quote for initial set up and then cost is \$150/per service. This gives us options to stream our different services. We will also get additional quotes from other companies providing this service, as well as references.

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

## **Treasurer's Report:**

- + Income above plan 12.2% and expenses under budget 6.8%.
- + Little movement in the Funds or Ministry team budgets.
- + We will start getting quarterly Endowment reports.

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

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

- + **W&M:** Outdoor worship/picnic – August 23 at Veteran's Park.
- + **Property:** Thank you to those who helped last week with the weeding, done in prep for the Spring workday; AC units are in; breaker issue in furnace room. The classroom air was not working, Burrier came out and said that the breaker box needs to be upgraded a bit.
- + **H&W:** 2 AED units were ordered (from Memorial money). Chris will send thank you notes to Jeanne Ann Elkin and Bonnie Morgan, for the use of their memorial monies. Thank you also to Chris Noble, as Keith's memorial money was also used for this purchase.

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

## **Administration/Housekeeping Items:**

### **Business:**

- + **Resignation:** We were informed that Carla Colo, has stepped down from council, effective today. We will begin thinking about a replacement for the remainder of her term (18 months).
- + **Spring Cleanup:** June 27, beginning at 9am. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Narthex. Lunch will be provided by the Fellowship Ministry.
- + **Synod Assembly:** Joe & Leesa Mecozzi and Pastor Steve attended. Workshops were held throughout the assembly. “One Church Experience,” was a workshop. This is where the Synod is trying to group churches, share pastors/leadership, with strong presence and leadership of lay-people. This initiative is due to the lack of clergy available vs the number of churches needing a pastor. We need to make sure that the congregation is aware of the greater church situation (lack of clergy) and their efforts in working toward solutions. Another workshop, “Baptized Living Initiative,” – this was a 5-year grant program. What is our purpose? What is our mission? What is God calling us to do?



**+ Parsonage Workshop Results:** The final report was distributed. Joan gave an overview of the committee's work from the start and then gave an explanation of the report/graph, with the findings. Those in attendance of the workshop, took the data and project/needs suggestions and voted for what they felt was most needed first, second and so on... The distributed graph shows the collected data. The finance team would also like to see the final report, so that they can determine if funds from other sources can be used to complete any projects, instead of using Parsonage proceeds. What is the work for council: how do we communicate this information gathered; how much or how little of proceeds to be spent vs. investment for future; determined spending amount on which project(s); where do we go from here, next steps. Council retreat is being planned, and this will be the focus for the retreat – to dig into the report and make decisions. Thank you to the Parsonage team for all of the work done, from start to finish!

**Motion to Adjourn:** Motion was made, seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

### Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sue Keeley, Council Secretary*

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# God's Work ~ Our Hands!

## God's Work! Our Hands! – Day of Service is September 13

Advent is once again participating in the ELCA Day of Service on Sunday September 13th. It is the thirteenth year that the ELCA Day of Service has been held in communities around the country.

On September 13th there will be **ONE** worship **service at 10:00am**. After that there will be a **POTLUCK** lunch. Bring something to share. After lunch we will proceed with the various projects.

This will be a very fun day. It is a great opportunity for fellowship and giving a little back to our community. Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex. If you have an idea for a project, please let Dave or Doreen Mattson know.

**DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR YELLOW T-SHIRT!** If you don't have one, there are various sizes, you can buy one in the narthex (\$10 each). Mark your calendars!!

Current projects being planned are:

Stuff Pillows for Hospice – Bev McArthur and Deb Horvath

Sing in a Traveling Choir at a local assisted living facility – Doreen Mattson

Yard Work and Small Projects for people needing help

Tie blankets for people and pets

Writing and delivering encouraging notes to first responders



“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, September 21, the OK Gang will be going to Tavern Six, located at 7592 Euclid- Chardon Rd. in Kirtland, Ohio at 12:45pm. Tavern Six's mission statement is to offer their customers a superior local venue that is known for its great food made from fresh ingredients. Their soups, vegetables, sauces, and dressings are house made daily and their food is prepared fresh at the time it is ordered. They are proud to offer *gluten free and vegan plates*, catering to a wide variety of eating preferences and they handle each order with great care; every meal, every cocktail, every specialty cupcake.

If the weather cooperates, we will be eating outside on their patio so if you get chilled you might want to bring a sweater.



**Begins on Sunday, September 6**

Saturday: 4pm

Sunday: 9am  
11:30am

Sunday school begins on September 20



**Flu Shot Clinic**

Sunday, September 27  
10am-12noon  
(fellowship hall)

## 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

## 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](mailto:adventmentor.lbg@gmail.com).

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



## Quilt Raffle

It's time again for the Advent Quilt group to display our quilts for the lucky raffle winner to pick one. The quilts will be on display September 26 thru October 4.

The tickets are \$5 per ticket (5 tickets for \$10). Tickets will be sold beginning the weekend of September 5 and 6. Drawing will take place on Sunday, October 4. Please pick up the quilt before October 8. We will use the funds for buying our supplies and donate to the church funds.

Thank you!

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## In the Military

Each weekend in worship, we pray for those in the military. Those names we read are: **Brent, Justin, Thomas, Tommy, Brian, Daniel, Brad, Gordan, Brandon, Alex, Peter, Otis, Martin, and Ross.**

We are trying to update our list and keep it current. If one of these names are a family member, friend, acquaintance, etc., please call or email the church office so we know that they are still serving. (440.257.5565 / [adventmentoroffice@gmail.com](mailto:adventmentoroffice@gmail.com))

# Blessing of the Pets Event

Calling all dogs, cats, hamsters, goldfish and parrots — and any other animal who is part of your family!

On Sunday October 4th from 1pm-3pm, Pastor Steve will be blessing our pets. Join us for an afternoon which would include:

- ♥ Pet Blessing
- ♥ Staged Photo Opportunity
- ♥ Raffle baskets
- ♥ and more (stay tuned for additional info)

**\*\*Group pet blessing will take place at 1:30pm. Individual pet blessings will be available after the group blessing also.**



## Community Outreach

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

**September:  
toothpaste & 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

## Saturday Evening Potlucks are back

**Saturday, September 26 and Saturday, November 14** · following 4pm worship

Please join us for the potluck on Saturday, September 26. Plates, cups, and silverware will be provided. Bring your dish to share and come join us for an evening to get to know the people who worship with you.

Planning on a potluck in January, but need to wait for the annual meeting date first. Stay tuned

Blessings,  
Cathy Doering  
[cookmaker761@aol.com](mailto:cookmaker761@aol.com)  
home phone: 440-379-7338



## Sympathy

Our thoughts, prayers and sympathies are extended to Lida Mackey and family, as Pastor Larry went home to the Lord on July 7. A Memorial service was held at Advent on Saturday, August 1.

Our sympathies are also extended to Sandy and Cyndi Kehler and family, upon the death of Chuck Kehler on August 5. A Memorial service will be held at Advent on Saturday, August 29.



## Altar Flowers

**September**



|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| <b>5/6</b>   | <b>Helland</b>  |
| <b>12/13</b> | <b>Jennings</b> |
| <b>19/20</b> | <b>Hamilton</b> |
| <b>26/27</b> | <b>Kulma</b>    |

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

## Council Person of the Day

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| <b>September 6</b>  | <b>Leesa Mecozzi</b>   |
| <b>September 13</b> | <b>Christine Noble</b> |
| <b>September 20</b> | <b>Andy DiLiello</b>   |
| <b>September 27</b> | <b>Bob McClanahan</b>  |

## Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers

**September 5/6 · Judy Ryan**  
**September 12/13 · Terry Mach**  
**September 19/20 · Judy Ryan**  
**September 26/27 · Terry Mach**

**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 - July 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                                  | 192,715.05                | 177,049.00               | \$15,666.05               |
| Expenditures                            | 181,718.71                | 187,713.00               | 5,994.29                  |
| <b>Ending Balance<br/>July 31, 2026</b> | <b><u>\$24,285.82</u></b> | <b><u>\$2,625.48</u></b> | <b><u>\$21,660.34</u></b> |

## DESIGNATED/ RESTRICTED FUNDS

|                                         |                            |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Balance 1/1/26                          | \$419,547.02               |
| Income                                  | 5,090.23                   |
| Expenditures                            | 32,333.84                  |
| <b>Ending Balance<br/>July 31, 2026</b> | <b><u>\$392,303.41</u></b> |

**Online Giving:** If you would like to support Advent's ministry electronically, scan this QR code to visit our online giving page. Thank You!



**Have a great year ~  
students, teachers, aides &  
bus drivers!**



### 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**

**Monday, September 7**

**The church office will be closed.**



**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 - August 24, 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  
Sunday school for all ages will resume on September 20

**ON THE WEB:** [adventmentor.org](http://adventmentor.org)  
**E-mail:** [adventmentoroffice@gmail.com](mailto:adventmentoroffice@gmail.com)  
**Pr. Steve Bond:** [pastorstevebond@aol.com](mailto:pastorstevebond@aol.com)  
**Christine Noble:** [adventparishnurse@gmail.com](mailto: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"*