



November 2026

Pastor's Message

November has arrived, and once again we find ourselves approaching Thanksgiving, that time of year when we are encouraged to pause, count our blessings, and give thanks for all that we have received. If you've been reading my November newsletter articles over the years, you probably know that I have written about gratitude more than a few times. In fact, I'm beginning to wonder if I've said just about everything I can say on the subject!

But this year, as we've been reflecting on stewardship and the many gifts God has entrusted to us, I've been thinking about gratitude from a slightly different perspective.

We often think of gratitude as something that looks backward. We reflect on the blessings we've received, the people who have touched our lives, the opportunities we've been given, and the ways God has been present with us through both good times and difficult ones. And that's a wonderful thing to do! I believe that cultivating an attitude of gratitude can transform the way we experience life.

But what if gratitude is only the beginning?

What if the question isn't simply, "What am I thankful for?" but also, "What am I going to do with what I've been given?"

Gratitude recognizes the gift. Stewardship puts the gift to work.

Over the past several weeks, we've been talking about stewardship here at Advent. Unfortunately, when many people hear that word, they immediately think about money. And, to be fair, the church hasn't always done a very good job of helping people understand that stewardship is about much more than financial contributions.

Certainly, our financial resources are among the gifts God has entrusted to us, and faithfully using those resources is an important part of our discipleship. But stewardship is really about how we live our entire lives in response to God's grace.

Think about it. God has entrusted us with time, talents, relationships, opportunities, and a world filled with beauty and wonder. We've been given the capacity to love, to forgive, to encourage, to serve, and to make a difference in the lives of others. None of these gifts were intended simply to be admired or kept to ourselves.

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**All Saints'
November 1**



**Election Day
November 3**



**Happy
Thanksgiving
November 26**



**Blood Drive
December 23
10am-4pm**



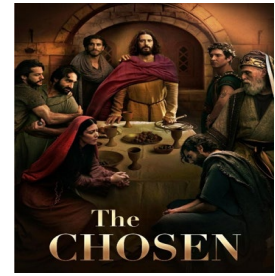
*"O give thanks to the
LORD; for he is good;
for his mercy
endures forever."
1 Chronicles 16:34*



**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 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 began 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.

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

October 31-November 6	Sue Keeley, Alice Santurri
November 7-13	Lida Mackey, Deb Laukiavich
November 14-20	Barb Zahn, Bev McArthur
November 21-27	Doreen Mattson, Elizabeth Chuba
November 28-December 4	Christine Noble Rea, Mary Jo Jones



"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

- ❖ November is a time of giving thanks. The National Health Observance for November is for Family Caregivers. It is a time to recognize and honor family caregivers across the country. This month is also a time to raise awareness of caregiving issues, educate communities and increase support for caregivers. Everyone's experience with caregiving is unique, whether you're the one caring for a loved one, or on the receiving end. Studies show that coordinated support services can reduce caregiver depression, anxiety and stress and enable them to provide care longer, which avoids or delays the need for costly institutional care. If you want more information, please check out the website for National Family Caregivers Association.
- ❖ The Caregivers Support Group will meet on the second Thursday of the month, November 12 at 1pm. All information shared remains confidential. If you are a caregiver, or know someone who is, please feel welcome to join us.
- ❖ Our Annual Care Team Breakfast will be Saturday, November 14 at 10am in Fellowship Hall. If you have sent a card, made a phone call, visited or said a prayer for someone, you are part of the Care Team Ministry! Please join us for a continental breakfast, fellowship and fun.
- ❖ Blood Pressure screenings are held on the third weekend of each month. Sunday, November 15 at 10am, stop by the Parish Nurse office or Saturday, November 21 at 5pm Mary Jo Jones will be available to check yours.
- ❖ Since there are 5 Sundays this month, Healing Touch will be offered at all the services. Saturday, November 28 at 4pm, and Sunday, November 29 at 9am and 11:30am. If you have any personal prayer requests, please come up to a kneeler to have someone pray over you during communion time. If you prefer a private prayer, just let Pastor or myself know.
- ❖ I want to take this opportunity to give thanks for my Advent Family. I am so blessed to be your Parish Nurse! I pray your Thanksgiving holiday is a most blessed one!
- ❖ As always, "When in doubt, Point to the Cross!"

Your Servant in Christ,
Christine Noble Rea, Parish Nurse

Health & Wellness



Care Team



October 25-November 7	Denise Janosko, Bev McArthur, Nancy Marshaus
November 8-21	Amy Moyer, Lida Mackey, Becky Young
November 22-December 5	Kathy Kling, Kathy Jennings, Barb Caspell, Kim Humphreys

Upcoming Blood Drive

Wednesday, December 23
10am-4pm

call 1.800.RED.CROSS

~or~ RedCrossBlood.org
Key word: Advent



Help Save a Life!

Council Minutes - September

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

Excused: Terry Mach

Call to Order: 7:00pm

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

Pastor's Report:

Many of the topics that Pastor was going to discuss are included in the meeting agenda. They will be discussed then. Pastor was very pleased with the turnout for yesterday's Day of Service. Special thanks to Dave and Doreen for coordinating the day. The combined service was well attended. Unfortunately, we were unable to live-stream the service due to technical problems.

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

Treasurer's Report:

Income above plan 14.0% and expenses under budget 5.0%.

YTD interest from the Parsonage proceeds is approximately \$10,150 through August.

All ministry teams are under budget except Witness (\$45 over due to new member items)

AED's were purchased from memorial funds as planned.

We've taken in \$21,000 more than we've spent!

Special thanks to Bob Adkins for his work on moving our property insurance to Brotherhood Mutual. Better coverage (including roof) for less cost.

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

Ministry Team Reports Received: H&W, Finance, Fellowship, W&M, Outreach, Witness (on file)

Property: Andy reported that a quote of \$2,000 was received from our landscaper to remove several shrubs from the front flower beds and Memory Garden, level and plant grass. This will significantly decrease area needed to be maintained. Work will begin tomorrow and Property will cover the cost. A new refrigerator was ordered for the kitchen and will be delivered on 9/22. Andy rented a lift and Dave and Joe Mecozzi were able to change the light bulbs in the Sanctuary. Several members commented that the lighting for the altar is definitely improved. Andy and Pastor both found issues in the room that houses the phone system and internet access. They were going to look at it after the meeting.

Outreach: Dave reported that we received a thank you letter from Hannah's Home for our donation of \$2091.62 for the Baby Bottle campaign.

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

Administration/Housekeeping Items:

None noted

Business:

Retreat: It will be held on October 3, from 8:30-2:30 at Joan Hamm's complex- 3330 Warrensville Center Rd. Pastor has planned the schedule of activities and is looking for 3 volunteers to coordinate logistics-

Continental breakfast- Christine

Lunch- City Barbeque- Joan

Supplies- Leesa



List of Inactive Members- Pastor and Sue reviewed our membership list and sent a letter to those members who haven't worshiped, taken communion or donated within the last two years. The letter asked if they would please respond if they wished to maintain their membership. We didn't hear from several families so we are making a total of 107 members "Inactive", which means they are no longer allowed to vote. As always- they would be welcomed with open arms if they wish to return.

One Church Experiment- Rob, Dave, Bob, Leesa, Joan and Pastor will attend the meeting tomorrow and will report back.

Fundraising- Christine reported that there will be 2 pet themed raffle baskets being prepared by Kathy Jennings and Denise Janosko. Carla Colo and Christine are starting to work on a Breakfast with Santa fundraiser.

Photo Church Directory- Leesa contacted United Church Directories to gather information regarding scheduling them at Advent. Our last photo directory was many years ago. This will be a potential project for 2027.

Preparation for Annual Meetings- Pastor will ask Sue for specific Council members terms that will expire so we can begin reaching out to members.

2027 Budget- Dave asked that Ministry Teams turn in their 2027 budget requests by October 15th.

Stewardship- Pastor has planned a campaign similar to last year with a 3-week sermon series. Stewardship weekend will be on October 17-18. He will be asking for volunteers to prepare the mailing.

GPOD schedule- Rob took 11/29, Bob took 12/13 and Christine took 12/20. 12/27 is still open.

No further business

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made, seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Spudich, Substitute Council Secretary

Pastor's Message continued from page 1

In his first letter, Peter writes, "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10)

I love that image: *stewards of the manifold grace of God*. We have been entrusted not simply with possessions, but with God's grace, grace that is meant to be shared!

And that brings me back to Thanksgiving.

This year, as you reflect upon the many things for which you are grateful, I'd like to invite you to take your reflection one step further. Think about one blessing you've received and consider how you might use that blessing to bless someone else. Perhaps it's the gift of time that could be spent with someone who is lonely. Perhaps it's a talent you could share, an encouraging word you could offer, or an act of kindness that might make someone's day a little brighter.

Our mission statement at Advent reminds us: **"Loved by God, we share Christ's love with all."** That's not simply something we do when we gather for worship or participate in a church activity. It's a way of life.

My hope is that we will continue talking about stewardship throughout the year, not because the church always needs something from us, but because God is continually inviting us to discover what it means to live generously.

So, this Thanksgiving, by all means, count your blessings! But don't stop there. Ask yourself how those blessings might become a blessing to others.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve

OK Gang

Mark your calendars for the OK Gangs next outing!! Because the New China Buffet on Andrews is no longer open on Mondays, we will be going to the Imperial Dragon Restaurant located at 8310 Tyler Blvd in Mentor, on Monday, November 16th at 12:45pm. The Imperial Dragon is an authentic Chinese restaurant, and their food offers authentic Chinese flavors with a variety of dishes including dim sum, BBQ ribs, fried rice, stir-fried vegetables and the garlic eggplant. The dining area is also very spacious and comfortable, making it great for groups. Prices are very reasonable for the quality and portion sizes. I can attest to the generous portion sizes, and the lunch prices are more than reasonable. Please join us in trying another new restaurant and enjoy meeting and sharing a meal with new and old friends!

Saturday Potluck

November 14 • following 4pm worship

Please join us for the potluck on Saturday, November 14. 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.

Blessings,
Cathy Doering

cookmaker761@aol.com

home phone: 440-379-7338

Potluck Dinner



HOLIDAY OUTREACH PROJECT



Once again this year we are asking for donations to the Advent/St. Andrews Food Pantry. We will be providing Thanksgiving bags filled with a turkey and all of the fixings, including a pie for dessert, on November 18th. We are also planning to provide a Christmas bag in December filled with either a ham or turkey, all the sides and a dessert to go with it. During the holidays we usually serve over 60 families. In order to make all of the bags alike and to be able to buy in bulk, we are asking for financial help. Our neighbors that shop at our food pantry really depend on us to make their holiday meal special. If you would like to contribute, please write a check with "holiday food pantry" written in the memo section of your check. Thank you for your generosity!!

Deuteronomy 15:11 – Since there will never cease to be some in need on earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land'.

Any questions, please see Dave Mattson, Denise Janosko or Bev McArthur

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.

****November's meeting is November 12**

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

Election Day

Ministry

We need your help! Advent is famous for their election day food. People are always asking if we will be providing soup and bakery for sale. With that being said, Election day is November 3 and we need volunteers to make crockpots of soup and individually wrapped bakery items to sell. We also need volunteers to work the sale. Sign up sheets will be posted in the narthex. Proceeds will go to the food pantries. Bakery items can be dropped off at the church on Sunday (during church hours) or Tuesday morning. Soup can be dropped off by 10am Tuesday morning. Thank you in advance for your help.

The Fellowship Committee



Christmas Cookies Event

Please join us on December 13th in the Narthex for Christmas cookies, coffee and fellowship.

If you would like to make cookies to share with everyone, please bring them on December 13th. We will be serving a portion of these cookies on December 16th with the neighbors who shop at the food pantry for their Christmas dinner. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Poinsettias

If you would like to place an order for a Poinsettias to adorn our worship space this Christmas, please fill out the order form, found in the Narthex and enclose with your payment.

Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 13.



Messiah Chorus of Lake County

76th Presentation: Sunday, December 6 at 4pm.
St. Gabriel Church • Concord Township

Please see the flyer on the bulletin board across from the church office for additional information.

Ministry

All Saints'

October 31/November 1

Robert Jokela	11.19.2025
Rosella Schrum	2.21.2026
Steve Gaines	3.22.2026
Rev. Larry Mackey	7.7.2026
Chuck Kehler	8.5.2026
Mac Preske	9.27.2026
Thomas Marshaus	10.1.2026



We remember the saints' who
entered rest this past year.

Sympathy

Our thoughts, prayers, and sympathies are extended to Jan Preske and Greg & Terry Mach Preske, upon the death of Mac Preske. Mac went home to the Lord on September 27. A Memorial service will be held at a later date.

Our prayers and sympathies are also extended to John, Nancy and Kristina Marshaus, upon the death of Thomas Marshaus. Thomas went home to the Lord on October 1. A Funeral service was held on October 8.

Wedding Congratulations

Christine Noble & Jim Rea



married on Saturday, October 10
God's Blessings to you both!!

Outreach

Community Outreach

Food Pantry (St. Andrew's)
Donations:

November:
soap & 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

Thanksgiving Eve Service Announcement

The Worship and Music Ministry has decided that there will be no Thanksgiving Eve service this year. Unfortunately, the logistics of trying to put a service together this year did not work out. Stay tuned and hopefully, we will be able to have one next year!

Worship and Music Ministry News regarding Christmas Eve

The Worship and Music Ministry has decided to make a change in the times and number of services on Christmas Eve. For this year, there will be TWO services on Christmas Eve and they will be at 3:00pm and 8:00pm. This is a change from the previous years when we had a 7:00pm and a 9:00pm service. Now there will just be one evening service at 8:00pm, in addition to the usual 3:00pm. We are trying this out. If you desire, we would welcome feedback in the new year as to how this worked out for you!



We are so blessed and overwhelmed for the love and support of our church family. Your prayers and thoughts mean the world to us. We know we have the Love of Christ and our church family to help us through the days ahead. Thank you for the prayers, cards, gifts and flowers. God Bless,
The Marshaus family ~ John, Nancy, and Kristina and grandma ~ Ilona Hudak



GOPD (Go To Person of the Day)

November 1	Leesa Mecozzi
November 8	Terry Mach
November 15	Bob McClanahan
November 22	Dave Mattson
November 29	Rob Hilston

Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers

Month of November	Cathy Doering
Month of December	Cathy Doering



Please contact Cathy if you are interested in being a bread baker:
cookmaker761@aol.com / 440.379.7338

Altar Flowers



November

31/1	Mackey
7/8	Ironhorse
14/15	Lenz
21/22	Open
28/29	Garry

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 · September 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	\$ 237,670.30	\$215,164.00	\$ 22,506.30
<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>\$ 229,531.54</u>	<u>\$238,941.00</u>	<u>\$ 9,409.46</u>
Ending Balance <u>September 30, 2026</u>	\$ 21,428.24	\$ (10,487.52)	\$ 31,915.76

DESIGNATED/ RESTRICTED FUNDS

Balance 1/1/26	\$419,547.02
Income	7,873.23
<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>36,019.14</u>
Ending Balance <u>September 30, 2026</u>	\$391,401.11

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



First Half Annual Meeting



Sunday, December 13 @10am

- Election of new council members for 2027
- Important -Parsonage Fund Plan Presentation

The Parsonage Fund Steering Committee has been working diligently with your Council members to develop a plan for the funds received from the sale of the parsonage. This plan reflects both the desires of the congregation, gathered through data and feedback, and the pressing needs of our church's infrastructure.

The plan will be presented for congregational consideration during the first half of the Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 13.

Your participation is essential. This is an important opportunity for our congregation to come together, review the proposed plan, and help determine how these funds will be used to support the future of our church.

Please mark your calendars and make every effort to attend this important meeting. Your presence and participation are strongly encouraged as we make this significant decision together.

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 440. 257.5565

Worship Tech

Greg Preske 216.317.8148

Altar Guild Chairperson

Becky Young 440.221.4531

Sunday School/Youth & Family Ministry

Beth Hamilton 440. 669.1902

Service Outreach

Food Pantry

Dave Mattson 440.897.5466

Prayer Ministry

· Prayer Vigil & Prayer Chain

Sue Keeley 440. 862.2790

· Healing Touch

Christine Noble Rea 440. 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 Rea 440.346.3120

Paula DiLiello 440.290.7506

Blood Drives

Church office 440. 257.5565

Webmaster

Church Office 440.257.5565

Liturgical Arts

Fawn Patrick 440.357.7898

Quilting

Betty Steimle 440.534.1174

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pr. Steve Bond 440.710.4757

Leesa Mecozzi, President ... 440.231.1930

Christine Noble Rea, 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 McClanahan 440.867.366

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 440.725.4929

Cathy Doering 440.379.7338

Jenny Helland 440.974.1776

Deadline Reminder:

Newsletter information:

due by the 15th of the month

Thank you!

Happy
Thanksgiving

Fall Back

Don't forget to turn your clocks
back on Sunday, November 1.



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 – October 21, 2026

Smile! Know that God Loves **You!**



ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Worship Schedule

- ❖ Saturday ▪ 4:00pm
Sunday ▪ 9:00am ▪ Sunday ▪ 11:30am
- ❖ Youth Sunday School ▪ Sunday ▪ 10:15am
- ❖ Adult Sunday School ▪ Sunday ▪ 10:15am

ON THE WEB: adventmentor.org

E-mail: adventmentoroffice@gmail.com

Pr. Steve Bond: pastorstevebond@aol.com

Christine Noble Rea: 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"