

pastor's Message

I recently came across a blog by an author and speaker named Mike Frost. I haven't read enough of or about the man to either recommend him or warn that you steer clear. The title of this particular blog, however, caught my attention: "The Lonely Crowd; Churches Dying due to Friendlessness." Note that his article doesn't say that churches are not **friendly**. No, the article asserts that many are leaving church because, in spite of the fact that the members are very friendly, many find it difficult to make actual **friendships** within church communities.

I remember a time when my parents seemed to have a good number of friends (many of them from their Church) with whom they bowled or played softball. There were many card parties, cocktail parties and/or visits over coffee while the kids played together, and the adults talked. We spent a week at Church Family Camp where again, kids often were off doing "their things" with friends while the adults spent time together – as friends. Even our neighborhood had yearly block parties to help ensure everyone had an opportunity to get to know their neighbors.

However, studies continue to show that – despite the relative ease at which we are able to stay in contact though texts, phone calls, email and social media – the reality is that we are finding it harder to truly connect with one another and many say that they have few, if any, friends they feel comfortable confiding in.

I know that many of you have been attending Advent for years and have developed some significant friendships in that time. I'm aware that we have many others that have been attending for much less time and I'm not confident that the opportunity to form new and lasting friendships is as readily available as it once was. So, I'd like to ask you a couple of questions just to take our "friendship temperature" if you will:

continued on page 9



Spirituality Moment

"Grant Me Your Light"

Just for today, What does it matter, O Lord, if the future is dark?

To pray now for tomorrow—I am not able.

Keep my heart only for today, Give me Your protection today, Grant me your light— Just for today."



THE BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY -The Brown Bag Bible Study group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 12 noon – unless otherwise agreed upon in order accommodate such things as conflicts with holidays etc. We are currently meeting using a hybrid format. We meet in classrooms 1/2 (in the Education Wing) and on Zoom for those who want to attend remotely. Each month we will focus on a different book of the New Testament. This Bible study will be light and informal. In other words - FUN. You DO NOT have to be a Bible scholar to participate. There will be no books to purchase. Just bring your Bible. You DO NOT have to attend every session. If you have to miss one or more sessions, that will be no problem. Just dive back in whenever you can. If you are interested in participating, please call, email or text Tim Krueger or

Becky Spudich. Their contact information is in the current Church

Directory.

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 suesworkout@gmail.com if you would like to become part of the prayer chain ministry, have a prayer request, or if you have any questions. Prayer is Powerful!!

Pastor Prayer Intercessors

Robin Ironhorse, Becky Spudich April 1-7

April 8-14 Sue Keeley, Alice Santurri

Deb laukiavich April 15-21

April 22-28 Barb Zahn, Bev McArthur

April 29-May 5 Doreen Mattson



"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

- ◆ April is the National Parkinson's Awareness Month. Over 1 million Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. As the population ages, that number will grow even larger. Chances are you know someone with PD. It's a neurological disease that robs individuals of control over their movements. Each person with Parkinson's will experience the disease differently. No two patients are the same. Although there is no cure for PD, great strides are being made each year into the cause and treatment for this disease. As you may know my husband Keith suffered from Parkinson's disease for 21 years. Scientific research continues in an effort to find a cure for this devastating disease. For more information or to make a donation, go to michaeljfox.org or nationalparkinson.org
- ▼ Care Team Ministry meets quarterly on the first Saturday of the month at 10am. If you want to join us by sending a card or making a phone call to see how a member is doing, or visiting someone, we welcome you. If you like to cook, you can prepare a meal for someone who has had surgery or been hospitalized recently. Perhaps you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister to bring communion to someone? There are many ways you can serve on this caring ministry. Please join us for our next meeting on Saturday, June 1. If you have questions please email me at: adventparishnurse@gmail.com or call 440-346-3120.
- ◆ Caregivers Support Group will meet on Thursday, April 11 at 1pm. If you are caring for a loved one and faced with the daily challenges that caregiving involves, then know that you are not alone. It is a time to share your story and learn from others' experiences. If you know anyone who is a caregiver that may benefit from this support group, please invite them to join us. All information shared remains confidential.
- ▼ The Prayer & Spirituality Ministry will offer an 8- week book study on "Emotionally Healthy Spirituality" by Peter Scazzero beginning Thursday, April 11 thru May 30 at 7pm. Each week there will be a short video followed by a discussion of the chapter. You do NOT have to attend every session. Come when you are able. The book can be purchased online at Amazon.com for less than \$13.00. If you are unable to order it, there are a few copies available that can be purchased. You will learn reality-tested ways to deeply change your life as a follower of Christ. There is a signup in the narthex. Please read Chapter 1 before April 11th. Hope you can join us.
- ▶ Blood pressure screenings will be held on the 3rd weekend of each month. Mary Jo Jones will check yours on Saturday, April 20 after the 4pm service or Sunday, April 21 at 10am in the Parish Nurse office to have yours checked.
- As always, "When in doubt, Point to the Cross!"

Your Servant in Christ, Christine Noble, Parish Nurse

Care Team

Mar 31-Apr 13

Apr 14-27

Apr 28-May 11

Mary Jo Jones, Barbara Louis Rose Schrum Donna Conklin, Lee Sundblom, Sandy Kehler, Deb Cyrus-Lutz Denise Janosko, Bev McArthur, Nancy Marshaus

Upcoming Blood Drive

Friday, May 17 11am-5pm

call 1.800.RED.CROSS

~or~ RedCrossBlood.org Key word: Advent



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

Council Minutes - February

In Attendance (via Zoom & in-person): Pastor Steve, Jo Brantweiner, Bob Adkins, Rob Hilston,

Dave Mattson, Joan Hamm, Ben DeAlexandro, Andy DiLiello, Carla Colo, Christine Noble

Call to Order: 7:00pm

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

Pastor's Report: verbal

Pastor made reference to the Invitational Christian book study taking place. He encouraged all of council to read the book – pastor has extra copies available. Book talks about churches having a level of comfort with the ways things are, but what do our visitors see/feel? Is this how we are? What might we need to improve on? Where do we see God at work in our lives? Do we share those "sightings?" Pastor will have a "Faith" question each week in the Weekly news to ponder and hopefully encourage discussion.

Things are going well, no concerns.

Welcome to Chris Noble to council. Chris thanked everyone for her monetary retirement gift she received.

**Motion was made and seconded, and Pastors report was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

In a good starting place for January.

In Funds - \$5,000 memorial gift for Joyce Hunder (received from Dick Hunder) -received \$50,000 from Isabel Tomer estate. \$12,500/year for 4 years.

**Motion was made and seconded, and the January Treasurer's report was approved.

Ministry Team Reports Received: H&W, Fellowship, Endowment, Finance, Prayer, Technology, Property (on file)

Technology/Property: it was suggested that a Ring Doorbell be installed at the front door. Andy will look into this.

Outreach: Dave gave stats from the Food Pantry for 2023 – 1796 households were served, 4400 family members. We currently have about 30 Advent members involved with helping in some capacity with the food panty.

W&M: an Easter Vigil is being planned jointly with St. Andrew's, to be held at St. Andrew's. Details will be forthcoming.

Faith Formation: a meeting will take place with Jo, Joan, Pastor, Beth, Tim – for planning purposes.

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

Administration/Housekeeping Items:

Devotion for March: Jo Brantweiner

Old/Ongoing Business:

Parsonage Committee: Committee meeting on February 21. 3 realtors have done walk-throughs and received quotes/proposals. Committee will have discussion and hopefully bring a recommendation to council (sell or keep the parsonage) at the March meeting. If a proposal is brought before council, council will need to vote on the proposal and if approved, a congregational meeting will be set.

GPOD: sign up sheets were passed around – council members encouraged to sign up for 3-4 weekends.

Liaison Expectations: council members encouraged to be in contact with ministries (teams/ chairs)

January Annual Meeting: feedback – very positive, great meeting. Start saving pictures of events/meetings/outings now and throughout the year.

New business:

Code of Ethics: Covenant and Code of Ethics were sent to council members to read and review before the meeting. The Covenant was read aloud and reviewed. Council members signed covenant. Covenant will be kept in the church office file.

Youth Ministry 2024: please be in thought and prayer about youth ministry at Advent. We are at a crossroads.

Web Page: Endowment has helped to fund the startup of a new web page design. We are meeting with Digital Church on Thursday this week to begin the initial discovery session. Council members invited to sit in on the meeting – February 15 at 10am. Social Media was brought up – how are we using it, updating it, keeping up with it? Pastor will discuss Social Media with the web designer.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made, seconded, and meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Lord's Prayer

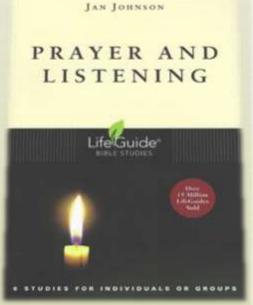
Respectfully submitted, Sue Keeley, Council Secretary



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

How do we communicate with God? The Sunday morning adult Sunday school class will begin biblically exploring the topic of praying and listening to God. The first session will be held on Sunday, April 7th at 10:15am. Classes are both in-person (classroom 1) and on zoom (hybrid format). This will involve a 6 session Bible study entitled "Prayer and Listening," by Jan Johnson. The study guide is available at Amazon.com for \$11.99 in paperback. It is also available in Kindle format for \$7.59 (ISBN9780830831234).

If you are interested in joining us, please call/text Tim Krueger at (440) 391-0369 so that you can be placed on our emailing list-which is how information about this study is sent out. You may also email him at LTCTKRUE@aol.com.



Group Studies

Men's Studies

• Retired Men's Group meets the first Tuesday 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



Stewardship is about so much more than money – stewardship is about love.

To be Stewards of God's Love challenges all Christians to reimagine the ways in which they steward God's resources — time, talents and treasures — in response to God's commandment to love God and our neighbors. One of the ways this is done here at Advent is through our ministries. This month we will highlight the **work of the Health & Wellness Ministry Team**.

The Health & Wellness Ministry promotes a holistic approach to health and well-being that is centered on God, balanced in faith, and connected to others through the love of Jesus Christ. This caring team had a productive 2023 year. Here is a list some of the work of this ministry:

- Pray for, send cards, make phone calls, visit members who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or have special hurts or needs
- deliver meals to members recovering from illness or surgery
- · Knit prayer shawls for members
- Sew quilts for donation for different relief organization, members in the hospital, and members who were baptized. A quilt was raffled off in 2023 for a very successful fundraiser for Advent.
- Eucharistic Ministers bring communion to the homebound
- Sponsors flu vaccines and a Caregiver's Support Group which meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 1pm.

The Health & Wellness Ministry Team is looking forward to a great 2024!

If you are interested in learning more or joining this ministry team, please contact Kathleen Hilston at 207-400-6700 or kennybradd@att.net

Thank you, Advent Lutheran Family, for your work as God's Stewards. As a congregation we can do together what we cannot do alone.

God Bless ~ Your Stewardship Team

A Message from Your Finance ministry Team

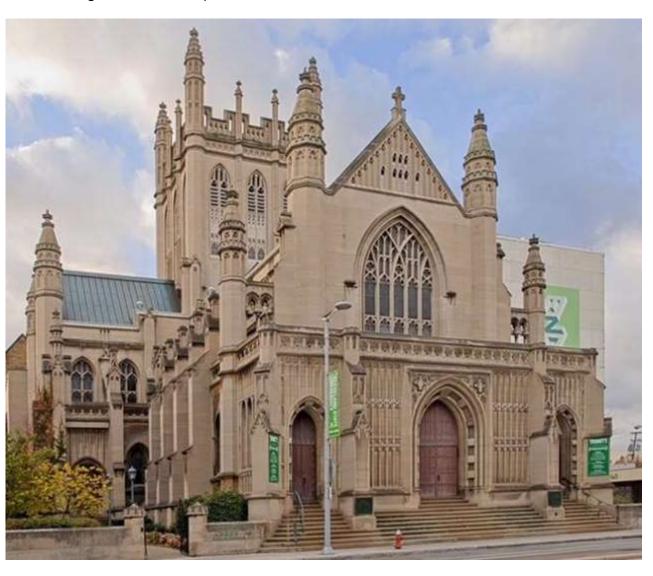
Consider This Easy Way to Give a Little More to Advent

Do you have investments with Thrivent Financial? If you do, and want to give a little more to Advent, consider "directing" your accounts Thrivent Choice Dollars to Advent. There is NO cost to you. It is a program from Thrivent to donate to charities. Simply access your Thrivent Financial account and select "Direct Thrivent Choice" from the menu. Select Advent Lutheran Church, Mentor Ohio. Advent has received hundreds/thousands of dollars through this free chartable program from Thrivent Financial every year. The deadline for this year is March 31, 2024. If you have questions, please contact me or your Thrivent representative.

Dave Mattson (member of your finance ministry team). DADOANER@gmail.com (440-897-5466)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR A TOUR OF TRINITY CATHEDRAL

Did you know that one of the many downtown treasures of Cleveland is Trinity Cathedral? This architectural wonder is the seat of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio and is on the National Register of historic places.



The Prayer and Spirituality Team of Advent Lutheran Church is planning a tour of Trinity Cathedral for **Saturday**, **May 4th from 11am until 12:30pm**. This will be followed by an optional light lunch at the Café Ah Roma or Subway Restaurants which are located in the basement of the cathedral. There is no charge for the tour but a \$5 to \$10 donation is encouraged. This can be given to Tim Krueger in cash at any time prior to the tour. If you are interested in attending, call/text Tim Krueger at (440) 391-0369 or email him at LTCTKRUE@aol.com **not later than Monday**, **April 15th**. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Tim will need: 1) your first and last name, 2) total number of people in your party, 3) your preferred phone number and email address, 4) do you need ride, 5) are you willing to drive in a car-pool? Directions, parking instructions and car-pooling information will be disseminated after April 15th. Car-pooling is not mandatory, but, highly encouraged as cathedral parking is free, but limited.

Pastor's Message - continued from page 1

Are you satisfied with the current state of your relationships?

Do you wish you had more friends?

Are you ever lonely?

Do you expect to develop friendships here?

Please think about your answers to these questions and know that I would love to hear your responses. I'm not sure where this will lead or what my next steps will be but, I'd love to hear your thoughts on the matter and then, together, we might see where God leads us next.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Steve



Mark Your Calendars.

Mark Your Calendars and Watch Your Mailboxes

The Parsonage Task Force has presented its proposal to Advent's church council. Therefore, it is now time to call a Special Congregational Meeting. So, make your calendar for **Sunday April 28th at 10:00am**.

Also, there will be an informational meeting to answer questions on the proposal on Sunday, April 14th at 10:00am

Again, watch your email and mailbox AFTER Easter for more information on the Special Congregational meeting.

Special Event

Mark your calendars for a special program entitled "Emotionally Healthy Spirituality" by Peter Scazzero. This will be an 8 week course held on Thursday evenings at 7pm beginning April 11 thru May 30.

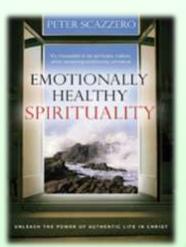
It is not necessary to attend every session.

Each week there will be a short video related to the chapter followed by discussion. Books can be purchased on Amazon.com for less than \$15.00.

If you are unable to order online, let Pastor or me know so we can order one for you.

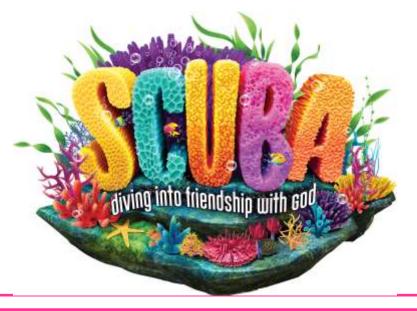
There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. The focus of the series is to show us ways to deeply change our life as a follower of Christ. If you are hungry for God to transform you as well as those around you, I invite you to join us.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Noble at: 440.346.3120 or by email: adventparishnurse@gmail.com.



Vacation Bible School

Save the Date June 17-21



Election Day Thank You!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped and supported Election Day at Advent. Thank you to the bakers, soup/chili makers, and all the volunteers. We appreciate your time and talents.

We welcomed 535 members from our neighboring community through our doors.

We raised \$1253.31 in monetary donations, to help support our Food Pantries.

Thank You All!!



"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you;

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" | Isaiah 41:10

Community Outreach

Food Pantry (St. Andrew's)
Donations:

April:

Shampoo and Paper Towels

Volunteers Needed



Advent's Little Free Pantry

Our current needs are: Ravioli

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!

Geraniums

On Pentecost, May 19, we will celebrate and decorate the Sanctuary with beautiful red Geraniums. One 6 1/2 inch pot will be \$7.50. Please consider purchasing a flower. After the 11:30 service, all the left-over geraniums will be planted on the church grounds.

The last day to order your Geraniums is May 8.

I am always looking for helpers to plant the geraniums.

Peace, Doreen Mattson

First Communion

God's Blessings to our First Communicants!

Celebration of First Communion took place on Sunday, March 17 at the 11:30am worship service

We welcomed to the table for the first time:

Charlotte Ammon, Laura McArthur Ellen McMahon Brody Pollack Lucas Pollack Audriana Walker Brooklyn Walker Vivian Walker



"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

Worship and Music Happenings

Your Worship and Music Committee continues to provide meaningful worship services at Advent.

Pastor Rod will be leading worship on April 6-7. Pastor Steve will be enjoying a break following the Holy Week and Easter services.

Pentecost Sunday will be May 18-19. An order form for geraniums is available in the Narthex.



We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation and will occasionally be using more inclusive language in our readings, Affirmation of Faith, and Lord's Prayer at our services. These will be included in the worship bulletins, and Pastor Steve will make announcements at the services.

We welcome new ideas for worship and new members for the committee.

~Your Worship & Music Ministry Team

Worship Assistants

What a joy and blessing it is to serve the Lord!

Ushers, Lectors, and Communion Assistants

Please see the sign up board in the Narthex or you may call the church office to sign up.

THANK YOU

Altar Flowers



April

7 Open 14 Tagle

14 Tagle21 Mattson

28 Mach

Please see the sign up board in the Narthex to reserve your dates for altar flowers.

Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers

April 7 and 14 Judy Ryan

April 21 and 28 Terry Mach

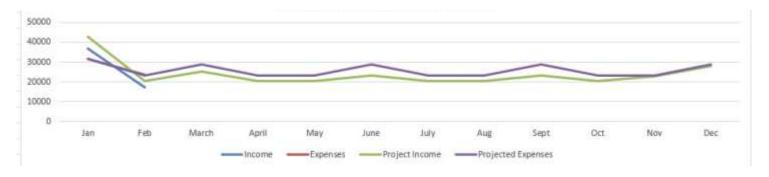
Thank you for serving!

Finance Update • February 29, 2024

GENERAL FUND	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE		
Balance 1/1/24	\$ 29,652.25	29,652.25			
Income	59,883.97	62,974.00	(3,090.03)		
Expenditures	55,331.85	355,822.00	490.15		
Ending Balance February 29, 2024	\$34,204.37	\$36,804.25	\$(2,599.88)		
DESIGNATED/ RESTRICTED FUNDS	_				
Balance 1/1/24	\$110,809.32			nces are posted at the outside the	
Income	44,343.25				
Expenditures	9,379.31				
Ending Balance February 29, 2024	\$145,773.26				

Advent 2024 Financial Performance													
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Income	36,770	17,141											
Expenses	31,707	23,624											
Project Income	42,691	20,283	25,311	20,427	20,283	23,363	20,283	20,283	23,363	20,283	22,672	28,057	287,299
Projected Expenses		23,124	28,907	23,126	23,126	28,907	23,126	23,126	28,907	23,126	23,126	28,907	309,215

Advent 2024 Financial Performance



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



946.5043

ADVENT'S STAFF Pastor: Rev. Steven C. Bond 710.4757 Office Administrator: Sue Keeley 862.2790 Organist: Elizabeth Sumiejski 255.5489 Chancel Choir Director: Doreen Mattson Praise Team Director: Tracy Ammon 749.0690

VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Lay Assistants	
Doreen Mattson	946.5043
Worship Assistants	
Church office	257.5565
Worship Tech	
Greg Preske	216.317.8148
Altar Guild Chairperson	
Becky Young	. 440.221.4531
Sunday School	000 4000
Beth Hamilton	
Service Outreach Food Pantry	
Dave Mattson	946.5043
Youth & Family Ministry	940.0040
Beth Hamilton	669.1902
Prayer Ministry	000.1002
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
Youth	
Memorial Gifts	
Barb Zahn	440.223.2852

Physics Associated	
Finely Aged Ministry Christine Noble	3/6 3120
Funeral Luncheons	
Christine Noble	346 3120
Paula DiLiello	
Blood Drives	
Cherie Moore	623.308.9514
Webmaster	
Church Office	257.5565
Liturgical Arts	
Fawn Patrick	
Quilting	
Betty Steimle	440.534.1174
CHURCH CO	DUNCIL
Pr. Steve Bond	710.4757
Dave Mattson	946.5043
Joan Hamm	440.476.1494
	216.970.0219
Ben DeAlexandro	
Andy DiLiello	
Rob Hilston	
Bob Adkins	
Jo Brantweiner	
Christine Noble	440.346.3120
Council Secretary	
Sue Keeley	862.2790
Treasurer	
Dala Adleina	832.971.6414
	002.07 1.0+1-
Financial Secretary Becky Spudich	

MUTUAL MINISTRY

Dave Mattson

Asst. Treasurer

Deb Laukiavich	725.4929
Gary Swanson	
Cathy Doering	.379.7338
Jenny Helland	

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

From the Office

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH 7985 MUNSON ROAD MENTOR, OHIO 44060-3703

Dated Material - March 21, 2024

Smile! Know that God Loves YOU!

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Worship Schedule

- Saturday's @4:00pmSunday's @9:00amSunday's @11:30am
- Youth Sunday SchoolSunday's10:15am
- 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

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.





Rev. Steven C. Bond, Pastor 7985 Munson Road, Mentor OH 44060-3703 • 440.257.5565