



The Candle

March 2023



Once again, the season of Lent is here for us to journey through together. As in the past, mid-week worship services, opportunities for fellowship around a meal, devotional materials, and challenges to

observe the disciplines of lent (prayer, fasting, acts of service) will be provided. To introduce the theme of this year's Lenten offerings: **"Seeking: honest questions for deeper faith"** – I am providing the introduction to the devotional booklet that will be available starting on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

"This Lenten season, we will read many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. In these interactions, an unveiling often occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows. And so, we've crafted a Lenten series founded on questions.

Many of our weekly questions feel restorative ("Can these bones live?"). Some feel like a charge or challenge ("Who will you listen to?"). Some questions are hopeful and curious ("How do we begin again?"). Our questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but they can help us find clarity and a new perspective. Ultimately, we pray they lead to a new beginning, a restoration, a wider grace.

Like the characters in our Lenten scriptures, we are also seeking many things: clarity, connection, wonder, justice, balance. We are seeking our calling, the sacred, and how to live as a disciple. We hope this devotional will help you unpack some of your big questions in ways that are honest and faithful. We encourage you to journey through these weekly readings and reflections at your own pace, asking yourself often: what am I seeking? What is God seeking?

This Lent, may you engage in the spiritual practice of seeking— by asking questions, and by staying curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God."

I look forward to joining together once again as we journey together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve

dates
Remember

✠

Blood Drive
March 11
9am-2pm

✠

Daylight Savings
March 12

✠

Movie & Fellowship
March 25
1-3:30pm
"Freedom Writers"

✠

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."
Psalm 51:10

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

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN THE NEW TESTAMENT –The Brown Bag Bible Study group has been meeting on the fourth Thursday of every month for the past 2 ½ years. We meet at 12 pm via zoom. We have recently completed our journey through the Old Testament and will begin studying the New Testament on February 23rd.

If you haven't already been participating with us during our walk through the Old Testament, now would be the ideal time to join us as we begin exploring the Gospels of Christ, the Book of Acts and the letters of Paul.

If you are interested in participating, please call, text or email Tim Krueger at (440) 391-0369 or 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 suesworkout@gmail.com if you would like to become part of the prayer chain ministry, or if you have any questions. Prayer is Powerful!!

Pastor Prayer Intercessors

February 26-March 4	Lee Sundblom, Kay Smith
March 5-11	Becky Young, Sue Keeley
March 12-18	Jen Egner, Sandy Kehler
March 19-25	Sue Keeley
March 26-April 1	Phyllis Tucker, Becky Spudich



SPIRITUALITY MOMENT

Praised Be You, My Lord

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister
Mother Earth, who sustains us, governs us, and
Who produces varied fruits with colored flowers.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind
And through the air, cloudy and serene, and
Every kind of weather.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and
The stars in heaven; You formed them clear and
Precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
Through whom You light the night.

Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
Especially Sir Brother Sun, who is the day and
Through whom You give us light. And He is
Beautiful and radiant with great splendors and bears

Likeness to You, Most High One.”



Points from your Parish Nurse

- ♥ Care Team Ministry will meet on Saturday, March 4 at 10am for our quarterly meeting. We have 3 new members who have signed up at our Ministry of the Month display in February. We welcome Bev McArthur, Deb Cyrus-Lutz and Kathie Hayden. We are still in need of volunteers, so please join us to learn how you can serve on this wonderful ministry.
- ♥ The Caregivers Support Group will meet on the second Thursday of the month, March 9 at 1pm. Seven of us met on February 9 with another new member joining us. All information shared remains confidential. If you are a caregiver, or know someone who is, please feel welcome to join us.
- ♥ Blood Pressure screenings are held on the third weekend of each month. Saturday, March 18 at 5pm, Mary Jo Jones will be available to check your BP and Sunday, March 19 at 10am stop by the Parish Nurse office after worship to get yours checked.
- ♥ Health & Wellness Ministry was the Ministry of the Month for February. We offered a CPR Class on February 8 from 9am-11am. Matt & Hilary Killeen instructed 5 members on CPR, how to use the AED and how to help when an adult or infant is choking. We will schedule another class in April on a Saturday for those who are working during the week. There is no test or certification for this class. It is important for as many persons as possible to know what to do in an emergency. You may just save someone's life!
- ♥ Sixteenth Annual March for Meals will be held on Saturday, March 18 at the Great Lakes Mall beginning at 8am. This event raises awareness and funds for the Council on Aging's Nutrition programs for Lake County seniors and is part of a national campaign for Meals on Wheels. Individuals will have the chance to purchase tickets and win valuable raffle baskets posted online beginning Monday, February 27th. Then on the Saturday after St. Patrick's Day, March 18th, we will gather for the Mall Walk-this year with a St. Patrick's theme. The indoor event will begin with registration at 8am, followed by the walk kick-off at 8:45am. The route is a one mile indoor loop, but walkers can walk as far as they are able. Participants will enjoy coffee, a goodie bag, an opportunity to try for additional raffle baskets and fun musical entertainment by DJ Jesse Webb. Sign up today at www.march4meals.org
- ♥ As always, When in doubt, Point to the Cross!

Your servant in Christ,
Christine Noble, Parish Nurse

Care Team



February 19-March 4 Donna Conklin, Lee Sundblom,
Sandy Kehler
March 5-18 Denise Janosko, Cheryl Manos
March 19-April 1 Lida Mackey, Becky Young,
Barb Caspell

Upcoming Blood Drive

Saturday, March 11

9am-2pm

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 - January

In Attendance (via Zoom & in-person): Jo Brantweiner, Pastor Steve, Bob Adkins, Rob Hilston, Yvonne Kulma, Tim Krueger, Denise McClanahan, Dave Mattson, Cathy Doering, Dave Enzerra, Lida Mackey

Excused:

Guest: Pastor Mike Martin

Call to Order: 7:00pm

Meeting opened with moment of silence.

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

Youth Ministry Report – Pastor Mike Martin: Pastor Mike stated that things are going well, continuing to make connections with the youth. Pastor Mike explained about a previous experience in growing the church/gaining more members. He spoke about placing an ad or info about the church in the Mimi paper (Lake County). The Mimi is a news insert, delivered to homes, with information about local businesses, restaurants, etc. Advent can be added to this, with church info, to try and gain new members. Cost for the ad is \$800. He encourages us to think differently, not just focused on fundraising, to increase giving.

Pastor's Report: no report

Pastor asked if anyone had questions or concerns for him. None noted.

Treasurer's Report:

Income is above plan.

Expenses are under budget, but overall, we are still spending more than we receive.

Year-end: income: \$272,000 expenses: \$300,000

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

Bob shared a powerpoint presentation for the 2023 budget. This will be presented at the annual meeting. Presentation is on file. A few changes/suggestions/additions were discussed. Bob will tweek the presentation and resend to council for final views before the annual meeting.

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

Christian Education: The Christmas program went well and was well received.

LBG: an outing is planned; April 30 at 2pm. Willoughby Fine Arts will present "Anne Frank." Please contact Tim if you are interested in attending. MLK Service will be held at Peace Lutheran Church, January 15 at 3pm. Contact Pastor Steve if you are interested in attending and would like to carpool.

Fellowship: Rob made mention of the upcoming Lenten Soup Suppers. Again this year, ministry teams are asked to "host" a mid-week supper. March 1: W&M, March 8: Fellowship, March 15, 22, and 29 are open and Rob asked for volunteers to fill those weeks. March 15: Stewardship/Finance, March 22: Christian Education/Youth, March 29: Prayer & Spirituality. All weeks are covered. Rob will ask the Fellowship Ministry to create a poster for soup/food donations.

Property: frozen pipe in Sacristy led to a burst pipe. Cleanup has taken place. Yvonne addressed the council to gain thoughts about having a threshold of costs, before a claim is turned in. We have already filed 2 insurance claims this year. Cost for damage/repairs is: WET \$3,000-3,500, Plumber approx. \$500. Parament repair or replacement will be taken care of by the Kulma Memorial Fund if need be.

**Motion was made of a threshold of \$5000 max for repairs before a claim is filed; seconded and motion was approved.

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

Administration/Housekeeping Items:

Devotion for February: Bob Adkins

GPOD – Denise created a rotating schedule and sent to council. Please switch with someone if there is a conflict in your weekend assigned, but please let the office know in advance.

Old/Ongoing Business:

Fundraising: a suggestion was discussed with Pastor Mike's report; further discussion is tabled until February.

Council Liaisons for Ministries: Denise created an assignment list and opened it for discussion. Most of the list is the same as last year, with only a few changes. List will be sent to the office. Technology was the only team without a Liaison and Yvonne volunteered to take that with Property.

Devotion List: was sent via email to all of council

Annual Congregation Meeting: January 29 at 11am. All of council encouraged to attend. Denise has asked if anyone has any pictures from events held this past year, to please send them to her for her "council report" within the annual meeting.

New business:

Ministry of the Month: February: Health & Wellness

Leadership and Onboarding: discussion concerning onboarding will be held until the February council meeting, when Erik Hellier (joining council) will be present. (Discussion about vouchers, GPOD duties, Code of Ethics/Covenant, etc). The Code of Ethics will be updated by Dave Enzerra. Council will receive the Code of Ethics and Covenant via email before the next council meeting. It is to be read and signed off on.

Leadership: Dave Enzerra briefly went over the Council Norms doc (on file) and discussed a topic for the council retreat/workshop. Focus will be on ministry teams (organizing, combining, restructuring, being more effective and efficient). He would like to see the retreat/workshop held late February/early March. A few dates will be looked at and sent to council to try and get the best attendance.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made, seconded, and meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Keeley, Council Secretary

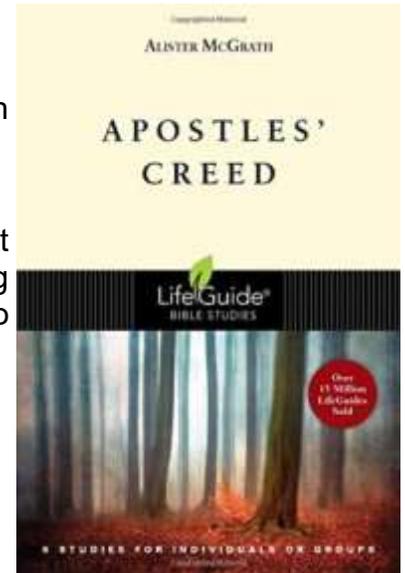


SUNDAY MORNING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS A NEW STUDY

We say the Apostles' Creed most Sundays. The Sunday morning adult Sunday school class will begin exploring the Apostle's Creed on Sunday, April 16th at 10:30AM via zoom. This will involve a 6 session study entitled "**Apostles' Creed**," by Alister McGrath. The study guide is available through Amazon.com in prices ranging from \$5.00 to \$11.52 in the paperback edition (ISBN 9780830810956).

If you attend the 11:30am service, you can bring your own E-device to church and sign in from Advent at around 10:25am.

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 the zoom information is sent out. You may also email him at LTCTKRUE@aol.com.



Save the Date:

VBS is June 26-29

Group Studies

Men's Studies



Retired
Men's
Group

♦ **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

SAVE THE DATE – MARK YOUR CALENDARS 'SATURDAY AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES' - MARCH 25

The Prayer & Spirituality Ministry Team is pleased to offer the opportunity to view a great movie on Saturday, March 25.

'**Freedom Writers**' is a gripping story of inner-city youth in Long Beach, California who know plenty about pain and loss in their own neighborhoods with drive-by shootings and hard-core attitudes in a school torn by violence and racial tension. First-year teacher Erin Gruwell (Hilary Swank) is given the "unteachables," the class of kids that no other teacher in the system wanted to deal with. When she realizes they had never heard of the Holocaust, she is shocked and introduces them to books about tolerance through first person accounts by the likes of Anne Frank and Zlatha Filipovic who chronicled her life in Sarajevo. Erin has them read "**The Diary of Anne Frank.**" As the students discuss what was happening in that time, they are inspired to start keeping diaries of their own lives that show the violence, homelessness, racism, illness and abuse that surrounds them daily. The "outsider teacher" who isn't expected to last a month, comes in and rebuilds a class through love and hard work. Together the students and teacher decide to publish some of their diaries and select the name "**Freedom Writers**" after reading about the freedom riders of the civil rights movement. Based on a true story, the movie also shows that the success of her class does not come without cost. (*minimal strong language*)

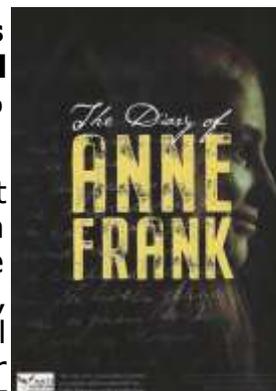
We hope you will join us for this great movie. Movie begins at 1pm, followed by refreshments and fellowship as we discuss what it teaches all of us. Sign up sheets will be available a bit closer to the March date so that we may plan for refreshments.

(Our ministry team selected this movie as it partners well with the April opportunity to see the play "**The Diary of Anne Frank**" at Willoughby Fine Arts Theater).

THE Willoughby Fine Arts Association, in conjunction with the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, is sponsoring this production in April. The Loved by God Committee is organizing a group from Advent to attend the **Sunday, April 30th at 2pm** showing. This will be followed by an optional dinner at a local restaurant (restaurant to be determined and everyone will pay for their own meals).

The cost of tickets is **\$22/person for adults, \$20 for seniors (60+), \$20 for students (11+), and \$12 for children (10 and under)**. If we get 10 or more people attending, there will be a 25% reduction in ticket prices.

If you are interested in attending, call/text Tim Krueger at (440) 391-0369 or email him at LTCTKRUE@aol.com **not later than Wednesday, March 1st**. He will need to know: 1) number of people in your party, 2) their first and last names and if they are a senior, adult, student or child (see above), 3) the number of people who will be attending the optional dinner after the performance, 4) your preferred phone number and email address. **DO NOT SEND MONEY AT THIS TIME.** You will be advised later how to pay.



"...But with God, all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

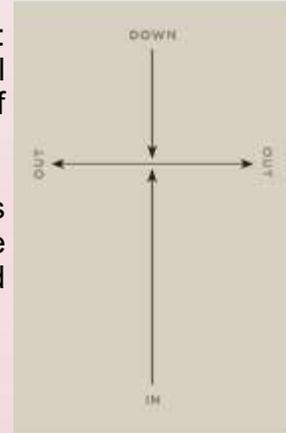
God's Stewards Impacting Others

The primary concern of Stewardship is ownership. Stewardship is a way of life. What we have is not ours but God's. It calls us to integrate our faith and the way we live our lives. God has entrusted each one of us with time, talents, and treasures. Using these resources, we can love God and our neighbors.

In practicing Stewardship, we look at three directions: DOWN, IN, and OUT. In the coming months we will highlight these directions to help us be good Stewards of God's love.

Thank you Advent Lutheran Family for your work as God's Stewards and we should always be looking for the next opportunities to share our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

God Bless ~



Meals for Project Hope
Meals for months ahead

Advent provides meals for Families Moving Forward on the First and Third Wednesdays of each month. There are currently open dates in March, April and May. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway outside the church office.

Project Hope for the Homeless is in need of meals for their newest guests, "Families Moving Forward." Advent provides a meal to feed approximately 10 persons including children. Meals are to be dropped off at Project Hope, 25 Freedom Road, Painesville—by 5pm at Door #4 in the back. There are no restrictions on the meals. Any questions, please call Christine Noble at 440.346.3120. THANK YOU!

Outreach

Food Pantry (St. Andrew's)
Donations for the month of March:

Soap & Toilet Paper

Volunteers Needed



Advent's Little Free Pantry

Our current needs are: toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, pasta, pasta sauce, instant potatoes, rice, ramen. There is a collection box outside the church office.

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

It's hard to believe that we are about to enter the lent season. As our tradition continues, we will be having Wednesday Soup Suppers in the month of March. Soup suppers will be in the fellowship hall at noon and in the evenings from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.



There will be a sign up sheet in the hall across from the office for anyone who would like to participate by providing soup or something else for the suppers.

Our ministry committees have signed up for each of the evening soup suppers, but we want to provide opportunities for anyone who would like to contribute.

God's Blessings
Cherie Moore/fellowship

EASTER BRUNCH AND SOCK HOP

Christ Has Risen and Advent will celebrate this Easter miracle with a brunch served in Fellowship Hall from 8am until 11:30am, please plan on joining us.

What a wonderful way to start the day with fellowship and our brothers and sisters in Christ, remembering Jesus' last commandment to love one another.

We will also be collecting socks for the homeless as we did last year. We know it is the most requested item. We were very successful last year and hope to do the same this year. Thank you in advance for supporting our second annual Sock Hop with your contribution!!



God's Blessings,
Cherie Moore, fellowship



Mid-Week Lent Worship

All Wednesdays in March
Noon & 7pm

*"Seeking: honest questions
for deeper faith"*

Easter Flowers

Order forms for Easter flowers are available in the Narthex and also online on our website.

All orders/payment are due by
Sunday, March 19

Altar Flowers

March
5 Open
12 Open
19 Open
26 Open



March Altar Guild
Doreen Mattson, Becky Young

Upcoming Communion Bread Bakers

Month of March
Month of April

Leesa Mecozzi
Cathy Doering



Finance Update • January 31, 2023

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
Balance 1/1/23	\$ 46,107.40	46,107.40	
Income	33,611.35	35,698.02	\$(2,086.67)
Expenditures	31,074.79	32,753.17	1,678.38
Ending Balance January 31, 2023	\$48,643.96	\$49,052.25	\$ (408.29)

DESIGNATED/ RESTRICTED FUNDS

Balance 1/1/23	\$120,374.04
Income	1,616.00
Expenditures	21,756.29
Ending Balance January 31, 2023	\$100,233.75

Treasurer's Report with Fund Balances are posted at the end of each month on the council bulletin board outside the church office.

Dear Advent Friends,
Thank you so much for all the prayers, get-well wishes and cards for Jim. It is much appreciated! They have all helped, because Jim has improved greatly in a month and a half since the stroke. He has a way to go, but does a little better each day. Please keep the prayers coming!
Thanks again,
Blessings, Roxana and Jim Williams

Deadline Reminder:

Newsletter information: by the 15th of the month

2023 Directories

The new directories will be available in the Narthex the weekend of March 4 and 5.



Spring Ahead

**Daylight Savings
March 12**

Don't forget to change your clocks.

**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'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 946.5043
 Praise Team Director: Tracy Ammon 749.0690
 Parish Nurse: Christine Noble 346.3120
 Youth Director: Pr. Michael Martin 330.414.4446

OFFICE HOURS

Administrative Hours:
 Monday - Thursday: 9am-5pm
 Friday: 9am-12pm

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 9am - 1pm / Friday: Day off
"It is always best to call in advance for an appointment as his schedule may take him out of the office even during these times"
 Cell phone: 440.710.4757 / Email: pastorstevebond@aol.com

Parish Nurse
 Monday, 10am - 2pm

VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Greeters

Jo Brantweiner 944.4465

Lay Assistants and Bread Givers

Doreen Mattson946.5043

Worship Assistants

Becky Young 440.221.4531

Worship Tech

Greg Preske 216.317.8148

Altar Guild Chairperson

Becky Young440.221.4531

Children's Choir Director

Jennifer Dubeansky.....255.1468

Sunday School

Beth Hamilton669.1902

Service Outreach

Food Pantry

Youth & Family Ministry

Beth Hamilton 669.1902

Prayer Ministry

• Prayer Vigil

Sue Keeley862.2790

• Prayer Chain

Sue Keeley862.2790

• Healing Touch

Christine Noble..... 346.3120

Meals for Members

Barb Caspell 440.840.5393

Barb Louis 352.7055

Youth Group

Pastor Mike Martin 330.414.4446

SuperLittles

Memorial Gifts

Barb Zahn..... 440.223.2852

Finely Aged Ministry

Christine Noble346.3120

Funeral Luncheons

Christine Noble346.3120

Blood Drives

Cherie Moore 623.308.9514

Webmaster

Church Office.....257.5565

Liturgical Arts

Fawn Patrick 357.7898

Quilting

Betty Steimle 440.534.1174

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pr. Steve Bond710.4757

Dave Mattson 946.5043

Denise McClanahan 352.8025

Rob Hilston207.632.5949

Bob Adkins832.971.6414

Jo Brantweiner 944.4465

Lida Mackey 354.3700

David Enzerra 357.1977

Yvonne Kulma 552.6963

Cathy Doering 379.7338

Tim Krueger 391.0369

Erik Hellier 440.488.5394

Council Secretary

Sue Keeley 862.2790

Treasurer

Bob Adkins 832.971.6414

Financial Secretary

Becky Spudich 440.487.7897

Asst. Treasurer

Dave Mattson 946.5043

MUTUAL MINISTRY

Deb Laukiavich 725.4929

Gary Swanson257.8480

Cathy Doering.....379.7338

Jenny Helland..... 974.1776



Saint Patrick's Day
 March 17

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

Dated Material - February 21, 2023

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 ▪ 10:30am

ON THE WEB: www.adventmentor.org
E-mail: adventmentoroffice@gmail.com
Pr. Steve Bond: pastorstevebond@aol.com
Christine Noble: 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"*