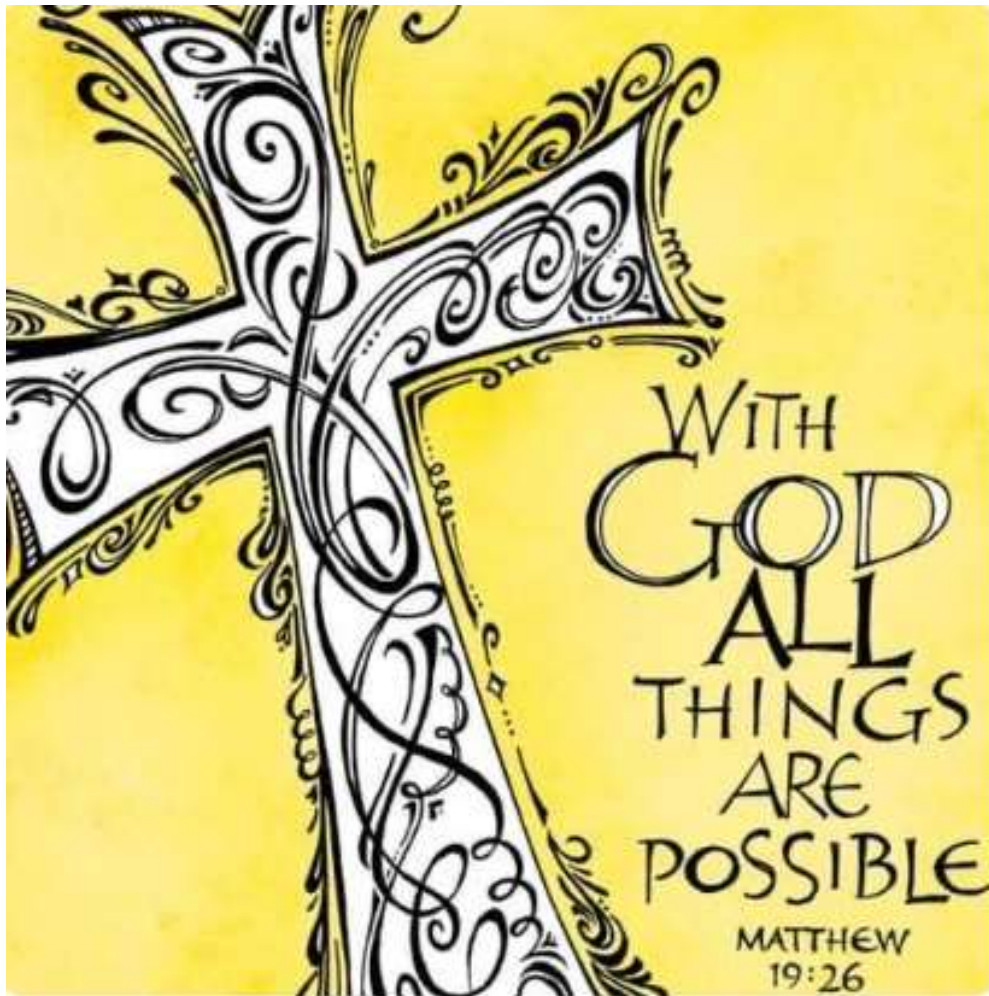


**ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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**ANNUAL REPORT – 2023-2024**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**JUNE 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2024**

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# Annual Report of the Pastor      FY 2023-2024

Dear Members of Advent Lutheran Church,

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 fiscal year, I am grateful for the opportunity to share how we have fulfilled our mission together. Here is an overview of our activities and achievements, organized according to the responsibilities outlined in my letter of call.

## **Preach and Teach the Word of God**

Throughout the year, I have been committed to preaching and teaching the Word of God in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Weekly sermons and Bible studies have provided our congregation with spiritual nourishment and a deeper understanding of our faith. Additionally, our midweek Lenten series, conducted in collaboration with Pastor Steve Wachtman, Vicar Jaren Summers, and the congregation at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, offered a unique opportunity for shared learning and fellowship.

## **Administer Holy Baptism and Holy Communion**

Administering the sacraments is a central part of our worship life. I have presided over numerous baptisms and communion services, ensuring that these sacraments remain a cornerstone of our faith practice. Teaching and presiding over the Confirmation program and service is something I enjoy very much. When our Confirmation Students are in 8th grade, they will have had three years of instruction with me and stand ready to affirm their baptisms and make a public declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ.

## **Lead Us in Worship**

Leading worship has been a joy and privilege. Our regular Sunday services, along with special services such as our annual Drive-Up Ashes, Blessing of the Animals, Old Time Gospel Sunday, midweek Lenten, and Holy Week services, have provided diverse opportunities for worship and reflection. The Drive-Up Ashes ministry, with participation from 75-100 cars, continues to be a powerful outreach to our community. Our weekly Wednesday services at the Forum have been particularly meaningful, with an average attendance of 20-30 people, supported by the musical talents and selfless giving of our Director of Music, Jean Pontious.

## **Proclaim the Forgiveness of Sins**

Proclaiming the forgiveness of sins is fundamental to our ministry. Through Word and Sacrament, we have emphasized God's grace and the assurance of forgiveness made possible by God's grace through faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus (Ephesians 2). This year brought a difficult situation that called us to look deeply into what it means to forgive and to be forgiven. Despite the gravity of the situation involving a long-time valued staff member, forgiveness was extended, affirming that God's grace and love remain steadfast. This approach not only upheld our commitment to accountability but also reinforced our dedication to the principles of mercy and reconciliation. I want to personally thank Brent Welch, Bob Goldie, and Trevor Downing for their support and leadership during this time.



Experience (CPE) 10-week rotation at Nationwide Children's Hospital, where he serves as a Chaplain and Chaplain On-Call, a requirement for Master of Divinity students and those seeking ordination into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament (Pastor) in the ELCA.

**Amy Lytle**, longtime member and current Church Council Secretary, has been attending the Southern Ohio Leadership Academy, which is a ministry of the Synod that seeks to form and prepare lay leaders for service in the congregations of the Southern Ohio Synod. These lay leaders may be either a Lay Worship Leader (LWL) or a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM). I am pleased to report that Amy is now an LWL and well on her way to becoming a SAM. What's the difference between these two?

The Lay Worship Leader Program of the Southern Ohio Synod forms, evaluates, and prepares candidates to be certified and sent into ministry to provide occasional worship leadership and preaching to congregations and worshipping communities across the Synod.

The Synod Authorized Minister (SAM) Program of the Southern Ohio Synod forms, evaluates, and prepares candidates to be certified and sent into ministry to meet congregational needs for sacramental worship and pastoral leadership in ongoing service to congregations and worshipping communities where the placement of ministers of word and sacrament is impractical or where pastors are not readily available.

Please pray for the Christian church universal and specifically the ELCA as we strive to raise up called and gifted people to serve the church in a vocational setting.

### **Impart Knowledge of the ELCA and its Wider Ministry**

Through my service on the Synod Stewardship and Outside the Box teams, a member of the HopeWood Outdoors Board, and ELCA's Youth Ministry Network E-Team that specializes in electronic communication, graphic design, video, and photography, as well as participation in other ELCA-related activities - locally, regionally, and nationally - I have imparted knowledge about our wider church and its ministries in emails, teaching, worship, and personal interactions. This has helped increase our congregation's awareness and support of God's Work being done through our hands and the broader work of the ELCA.

### **Equip Us for Witness and Service**

Equipping our congregation for witness and service has been a priority, as you can see by my reporting thus far. Our VBS program, Live Nativity, and collaborative Lenten series and other fellowship events have strengthened our community bonds and commitment to service.

Through worship, education, and outreach programs, I have sought to empower each member to live out their faith in tangible ways. If you would like to talk to me more about this subject, please contact me as I would very much like to meet with you!

### **Guide Us in Proclaiming God's Love**

Guiding our congregation in proclaiming God's love through word and deed has been at the heart of all our activities. Whether through worship, pastoral care, team, staff, and council meetings, or community outreach (i.e. Drive-Up Ashes, Live Nativity, Thanksgiving Ingathering, Bed Brigade, Souper Bowl of Caring, etc.), we have strived to be a beacon of God's love in our community.

## Looking Ahead

The fiscal year ahead is filled with promise. We are discerning, discussing, and praying over our staffing needs. Our worship life remains robust, and our adult education and fellowship programs are thriving. While our youth ministry faces challenges, we are blessed with dedicated parents and supporters who are committed to nurturing our young members. I want to thank Marcy Layne, Angie Soltesz, Jean Pontious, Courtney Crum, and Stacy Bolzenius for their help and leadership with our educational ministries. I thank every single church council member, team leader, team member, parent, individual, youth, visitor, and staff member for the gift of their presence among us. I am blessed by every one of you in some way, as I hope, pray, and strive to be a blessing to you.

## Call to Action

As we move forward, I urge you to continue praying for Advent Lutheran Church. Your consistent involvement in worship and other ministries is crucial. The giving of your time, talents, and treasures serves as nourishment for our common life. Remember, when worship ends, the service begins. I look forward to our walk together as we continue to worship God, follow Jesus, serve others, and make disciples at the corner of God, Government, and Golf.

Thank you for your continued faith, support, and dedication to God's mission here at Advent Lutheran Church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink. The word "Pastor" is written in a large, cursive script. Below it, the name "Aaron" is written in a smaller, more fluid cursive script.

Reverend Aaron Layne

Pastor, Advent Lutheran Church

Columbus, Ohio

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2023-24

May 30, 2024

Hello Advent Members and Friends!

Let me start by saying a huge THANK YOU! To the many wonderful men and women who make Advent an outstanding place to worship, sing, study, and gather amongst a community of believers.

It is important to acknowledge Pastor Layne for his continued spiritual leadership and guidance! His love for Christ and passion for teaching the Word are inspiring. I feel fortunate to have him as our Pastor and for his continued friendship.

We all need to thank the staff for their numerous important roles. Many of these are unseen and often unappreciated efforts to provide our parishioners with a wonderful experience. That is not limited to Sunday mornings but continues throughout the week. They also extend their services to our many other building users such as the Bears Preschool and the Singing Buckeyes.

I want to thank the Council. I have a hard time explaining how important their work, dedication, and willingness to face challenges head-on are. They give me the confidence that we can persevere in any challenge and put Advent in a position to excel in the future.

I want to thank everyone in Administration, Worship & Witness, Parish Life, Social Concerns, Altar Guild, Mutual Ministry, the Personnel Committee, the Youth Advisory Board, Sunday School Teachers, the Finance Team and Counters, Wedding Coordinator, Funeral Coordinator, Event Coordinator, Stewardship for All Seasons Committee, our communion bread baker, Bed Brigade, VBS Committee, Assisting Ministers, Worship Teams, Jacob's Porch teams, and all the talented men and women who provide us with their gift of Music!

We at Advent have had an eventful past 12 months. We have celebrated baptisms, weddings, confirmations, and first communions. We've met and welcomed many wonderful guests. We welcomed new staff members as others stepped away. We found new volunteers and filled all of our ministry teams. We were graced with a beautiful new cross in our fellowship hall. We cried together as we lost family members, and said goodbye to friends who moved on to new places. We made many property investments and put on a beautiful new roof. We maintained a balanced budget, aided our seminarian student, and restored our benevolence to Jacob's Porch and the Synod. We had a wonderful Live Nativity filled with countless smiling faces. We had beautiful Christmas Eve services to praise and honor the birth of our Lord and Savior. We broke bread with our friends from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church during our wonderful Lenten Soup Suppers. After those meals, we worshiped with our friends Pastor Watchman and Vicar Jaren Summers. We raised money for the pool at Hopewood. We raised money for the foodbank and took down our friends at Clinton Heights during the Souper Bowl of Caring challenge! We had wonderful Easter services and a fun Easter Egg hunt for our young Advent members. We had visitors grace us with their musical gifts along with several performances from our own Advent family, of all ages! We were lucky to have Pastor Monte Stevens leading our worship allowing Pastor Layne to rest and recharge.

And this list isn't even close to all-encompassing! We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful family of faith and I am looking forward to a great rest of 2024!

But most importantly of all, we have to remember the reason for our real hope, the love of God, and forgiveness through our Savior Jesus Christ. As we learn in 1st Peter, we should Praise God for a Living Hope, through all of life's ups and downs.

Praise to God for a Living Hope, 1st Peter, 3-9.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Blessings,

*Brent Welch*

Brent Welch

Advent Lutheran Church Council President



**Team Purpose:**

The Administration team’s purpose is to manage the church resources. Faith produces generous hearts, that we recognize we all are a gift from God to be used in his glory. Thus, we have a commitment to grow in giving of our financial resources, time, and talents to be used in the glory of the church. This team encompasses ministries in the following key areas.

- Financial accounting
- Property maintenance and improvements.
- Technology and Communication.
- Other ministries may be determined in the future.

Administration team members: Amy Lytle, Craig Dame, Mike Deeter, Bob Goldie, Larry Carpenter.

**Team Leader: Delton Phillips**

**Highlights of Past Year’s Activities and Actions:**

**Tech & Communication**

Technology & Communications: Thanks to Courtney Pittman and Pastor Layne for the improvements in our technology department. Our sound room has been updated with new equipment and cameras as well as equipment for the fellowship hall.

**Finances**

- Maintained restricted & designated funds in accordance with donor/or Congregational Council direction-including Local Benevolence.
- Synod benevolence and Jacob’s porch monthly benevolence are current and remitted the first of each month.

**Property Report & Accomplishments**

- A new roof was installed for the whole church.
- Fellowship hall was painted.
- Advent received a gift of a cross for the fellowship hall.
- New pumps were installed in the basement of the church.
- Multiple plumbing and electrical repairs were completed this past year on the church’s property.

**Goals for Advent 2024-2025**

- Continue to replace lights with LEDS lights.
- New HVAC for the narthex and Sanctuary.

**Team Purpose:**

The Parish Life Ministry Team’s purpose is to serve the needs of Advent’s members and to integrate new members into our faith family. The ministries that are nested under Parish Life primarily engage with Advent’s core values of fellowship, growing in faith, and welcoming.

- Fellowship: We are a family of faith in which all are welcome. We foster vibrant relationships deepened through spending time together in worship, ministry, social engagement, and walking with one another in times of personal sorrow and joy.
- Growing in Faith: We are intentional in our life-long and active pursuit of spiritual maturity through prayer, worship, studying the Scriptures, hearing God’s Word, receiving the Sacraments, and serving others to grow more and more into the image and likeness of Christ.
- Welcoming: Responding to our Lord’s call to “love one another,” we invite and embrace all into the family of God so that they may encounter the risen and living Christ.

**Parish Life Ministry Team Leader: Erin Welch**

Parish Life meets on the second Monday of every month at 6 p.m.

***Highlights of Past Year’s Activities and Actions:***

**Education**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT 2023-2024**

- Jean Pontious, Courtney Crumb, Matt Pittman, Stacy Bolzenius and Marcy Layne - teachers
- The PreK- 5th grade:
  - Used “Dig In” curriculum for Pre-K through 5th grade. We studied the “Life of Jesus”. The lessons were well received and focused on Bible stories with a variety of activities.
  - There were between four to nine children each week all in the same class. This grouping seemed to work well.
- The Confirmation Class
  - The Youth met with Stacy Bolzenius and focused on different lessons from the Bible. They averaged three - five students each week.
- High School Class
  - Led by Matt Pittman and Marcy Layne. The class discussed a variety of topics.

## **Fellowship**

- Ran several 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Fellowships with a theme, which seemed to have increased both attendance and the amount of food that was provided.
- Two different Euchre groups continued to meet monthly throughout the year. Reach out to Bob Swinehart if you're interested in joining either group.
- The Lenten Soup suppers (followed by worship in the Fellowship Hall) were a big success. The general consensus from those who attended was it was a great "change of pace" service and really enjoyed the thought-provoking discussions held around the tables.
- The Annual Easter Egg Hunt, was well organized and led by Marcy Layne, Sarah Eiselstein and Alysha Clous. This event was well attended.

## **Y2 Youth**

- Y2 continued to meet monthly with a variety of activities including Bible lessons, crafts and games.
- The Focus of the year is to establish relationships between Youth and their Prayer Buddies.
- One new activity we did this year was share lunch with each other after church in April.
- The final event was the Buddy Banquet in May, where we celebrated and honored our Prayer Buddies.

## **Goals for next year:**

- Rebuild the Parish Life team to fully support the mission of fellowship, growing in faith, and welcoming. We intend to add new teammates to help us support that mission.
- Encourage parents to support the spiritual education of their children by getting them to Sunday School more often.

## SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

### **Team Purpose:**

The Social Concerns Ministry Team's purpose is to encourage and support the ministries of social outreach, Christian Care, overall witness, and other ministries as determined.

### **Social Concerns Ministry Team Leader: Jennifer Parker**

#### **Highlights of Past Year's Activities and Actions:**

- **Thanksgiving Ingathering (Chair: Jennifer Parker)**
  - This project provides Thanksgiving dinners to needy families in Central Ohio through the LSS Food Pantry. The congregation has generously supported this ministry for a number of years. Members are asked to donate bags of food or, because LSS has far more buying power than we do (\$1 = \$5.25), to make cash donations. In November of 2023, members of the congregation donated \$2,404.05 to LSS. The cash donation assisted with the purchase of the needed turkeys and other food items.
- **Blessing of the Animals (Chair: Jennifer Parker)**
  - On the first Sunday in October of 2023, Advent held the 29th annual Blessing of the Animals. Pet parents/siblings brought their dogs, cats, and guinea pigs to be blessed by Pastor Layne. We had several new attendees who saw the post on Facebook! Those attending the service as well as other members of the congregation donated numerous cans and bags of dog and cat food for the LSS Food Pantry.
- **God's Work, Our Hands (Chairs: Jennifer Parker and Jean Pontious)**
  - In conjunction with the ELCA's *God's Work, Our Hands* weekend (the second weekend in September), the Social Concerns Team asked the congregation to donate items to be included in "blessing bags" for the less fortunate - - items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, combs, socks, chap stick, shampoo, hand sanitizer, soap, razors, and shaving cream. The items were packaged in gallon-sized zip-lock bags, along with an insert expressing God's love for the recipient and listing telephone numbers and addresses for the many forms of assistance that are available in the community. The bags were made available for members to distribute. This year we were able to assemble 150 blessing bags as a result of members' donations and two \$250 grants from Thrivent.
  - The Team also asked for donations of school supplies, including stuffed backpacks for specific children, which were given to the Church on Oakland Park for distribution.

## □ **LWR Quilts: Isabel's Quilters (Chair: Norma Pitts)**

- Isabel's Quilters make quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). A quilt is a tangible way to express love and offer support to our neighbors in need, as LWR serves in over 100 countries. Quilts provide shelter from the elements, warmth as bedding or covering, privacy as a door or divider, and comfort and reassurance that others care. LWR reports that these quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of the quality and consistency of size (60" x 80").
- Team members include Laura Bunch, Jane Hart, Barb Murphy, Norma Pitts, Sylvia Wallace, Brenda Wheeler, and Emily Shipman. Dee Swinehart also machine quilted some of the quilts. The team meets in the home of Brenda and Glenn Sharp where supplies can be stored and elevated tables can remain in place for our work.
- The group met regularly most months, the first and third Tuesdays, to assemble and tie quilts for completion. In between sessions, homework was done to cut fabric squares, design and assemble kits for quilt tops, sew quilt tops and/or sew the bindings to finish quilts. Some vacation times still had some quilt projects being completed.
- Blessing of the Quilts was held on October 8, 2023, in which 52 quilts were displayed on the communion rails and blessed before delivery. On October 13, Brenda Wheeler and Emily Shipman took boxed quilts to an in-gathering at Ohio Gro for shipment to the LWR warehouse for later distribution in other parts of the world where needs are greatest.
- Jane Hart submitted a Thrivent Cares grant form, which was accepted, and we received \$250 to use toward equipment and supplies for our outreach ministry for quilts for LWR. Most of the funds were used to purchase fleece fill.
- Brenda Wheeler and Emily Shipman selected and donated fabric for two quilts—Browns and Bengals—which the group completed for a silent auction to raise funds to support the Youth Gathering 2024. This was held from September to October 8, 2023. In late spring 2024, they put together fabrics to assemble two smaller lap quilts in Christmas theme fabrics for a silent auction in June to benefit the youth. Thanks to Dee Swinehart for quilting and binding the lap quilts. Thanks to the successful and generous bidders!
- Members of the Advent family and friends may participate in this ministry through financial support, providing fabrics for quilt tops, cutting fabric squares, or donating gently used, cleaned unstained queen or king size sheets or other sheets that measure at least 64" x 84". Thanks to all who made contributions this year. Special thanks for many fabrics and threads from the collection of Glenn Sharp's daughter-in-law who passed away and whose family donated to the quilt project. The family of Jane Vollrath also donated some fabrics and quilt tops.

□ **Mitten Tree (Chair: Jennifer Parker)**

- A Christmas tree is set up in the Narthex in early December. Members donated dozens of hats, gloves, and scarfs for children. We also received donations from residents of The Forum. This year the items were provided to the Church on Oakland Park for distribution.

□ **SOUP-ER Bowl of Caring (Chair: Pastor Aaron Layne)**

- To raise money for the LSS Food Pantry, the congregation “competed” against Clinton Heights Lutheran Church. Advent raised more funds than Clinton Heights, so Pastor Ralph Wolf had to give a sermon at Advent. Certain key terms in the sermon were chosen by Advent members and kept secret until the sermon was being delivered, much to the enjoyment of all! A total of \$3,783.92 was donated to the Pantry by Advent.

□ **Bed Brigade (Chair: Trevor Downing)**

- The Bed Brigade - - a shared ministry with St. John Lutheran Church in Grove City - - provides beds to families in need while at the same time sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Since its inception, the Bed Brigade has provided over 4000 beds to families in need. This also means 4000 Bibles/Bible storybooks to bed recipients. Today the Bed Brigade builds and delivers roughly 500 beds every year, with Advent delivering roughly 60 of these. Advent has continued to be a regular partner in delivering beds, now on the second Saturday of each month.

□ **Ongoing Projects**

- The Social Concerns Team continues to sponsor the collection of aluminum pop can tabs to support the Ronald MacDonald House and used eyeglasses for donation.
- Throughout the year, members of the congregation donate items for the LSS Food Pantry and place them in the designated bin in the Narthex. The items are then delivered to the Pantry by volunteers.
- We periodically ask the congregation for items to include in Blessing Bags for the less fortunate, with the hope we will have some bags available throughout the year.

**2024-2025 Vision Goals:**

- Continue to join with the Worship & Witness Team to more effectively fulfill our mission, as both teams share the common goal of “witnessing.”
- Recruit volunteers to assist the Church on Oakland Park with their weekly food distribution.
- Continue to look for opportunities to serve others beyond our local congregation.
- Recruit more people to be leaders of, or involved in, each of the ministries and to serve on the Team.

## WORSHIP AND WITNESS TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

### Team Purpose

The Worship and Witness Team's purpose is to glorify God through worship and witness and to serve others through a variety of programs to help those in need in our congregation, our communities, and our world. It encompasses ministries in three key areas: (1) Worship, (2) Witness, and (3) Prayer Chain.

### **Worship and Witness Team Leader: Stacy Bolzenius**

Another busy – and exciting – year for this active Team that included Pastor Aaron Layne, Jean Pontious, Norma Pitts, Jan Kulisek, Jane Prause, Tom Heiby; Jennifer Parker and Stacy Bolzenius (representing Social Concerns); Brent and Erin Welch, Trevor Downing, Dustin Bunch (representing Parish Life). Social Concerns and Parish Life annual reports under separate cover.

### **Highlights of Past Year's Activities and Successes:**

#### **☐ Worship**

- Blessed with Jean Pontious, Matt Pittman, and Marcy Layne's music leadership including all the choirs and special music throughout the year.
- Jean continued to recruit individuals and groups to provide the Special Music each Sunday.
- Pastor Aaron and Jean Pontious continue to hold worship service weekly at The Forum, including Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Attendance averages between 25-35 per week.
- Music Appreciation Reception
- Blessing of the Quilts
- Old Time Gospel Sunday
- First Sunday Fellowship/Refreshments
- As had the Social Concerns Team previously, the Parish Life Team became part of the Worship and Witness Team's monthly meetings. This created more effectiveness and efficiency.
- The Live Nativity was the highest attended, which included a group from The Forum.
- A milestone Lenten season wherein Advent coordinated with Holy Trinity, through leadership from Pastor Layne, Pastor Wachtman and Jaren Summers. Noon services at Holy Trinity were followed by a light lunch, the evening service proceeded by soup supper at Advent.
- Two students from Columbus Alternative School provided Trombone and Trumpet music as part of the Easter service, which was well received.
- Several new families who attended the Easter Egg Hunt also attended the Easter Breakfast and Service.

- We were blessed to have Pastor Monte Stevens fill in for Pastor Layne who was on sabbatical during the month of April.
- Established one service at 10:10 am. beginning June 2 and continuing through Labor Day, September 1, 2024.
- There was a new social event “Moms and Manicures” on May 11.
- New equipment was secured to aid in live streaming and enhance worship graphics: also added a new candle/rack to support special services.
- Special thanks to all who serve on the Worship Teams, Altar Guild Teams, and those who provide communion elements and floral contributions, including special flowers/arrangements/adornments to the worship space. We encourage others to join the teams.

### **Witness**

- Several new individuals and families are regularly attending.
- Visitors are always encouraged to sign the Welcome Response Cards and share their contact information, thus allowing a Team member to follow up.

### **Prayer Chain**

- The Prayer Chain continues to be an invaluable witness tool with many members participating and sharing the needs of their family, friends and neighbors.

### **Worship Vision Goals**

- Continue the live-stream outreach
- Grow members’ faith through worship
- Continue to alter church service protocols as new dynamics develop

### **Witness Vision Goals**

- Always strive to improve communications with members, visitors and our community.
- Develop outreach activities such as inviting a friend to Sunday services or special event.
- Encourage new member classes

### **Prayer Chain Vision Goals**

- Continue to encourage the sharing of community and member needs to enhance the prayer ministry that is a vital link as an avenue to request prayers, as well as to pray for and support others.



## ATTENDANCE 2022-2024

COMPARATIVE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH (2001-2024)				
2001-2024				
23 yr. AVG		2024	2023	2022
153	JAN	99	96	63
155	FEB	117	119	91
162	MAR	146	114	95
176	APR	102	164	139
151	MAY	104	112	116
139	JUN	0	101	106
129	JUL	0	100	80
139	AUG	0	106	110
144	SEP	0	115	111
151	OCT	0	121	112
151	NOV	0	111	102
142	DEC	0	115	110
152	AVG	114	114	103

COMPARATIVE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH (1st SER)				
23 yr. AVG		2024	2023	2022
58	JAN	9	44	30
62	FEB	38	40	28
68	MAR	59	42	30
78	APR	41	63	55
63	MAY	42	44	35
61	JUN	0	0	50
53	JUL	0	0	39
57	AUG	0	43	35
60	SEP	0	45	43
62	OCT	0	37	41
65	NOV	0	46	40
60	DEC	0	59	41
64	AVG	43	46	39

COMPARATIVE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH (2nd SER)				
23 yr. AVG		2024	2023	2022
92	JAN	74	75	37
91	FEB	51	69	63
94	MAR	87	72	65
99	APR	61	102	82
88	MAY	63	79	81
78	JUN	0	101	56
78	JUL	0	100	56
93	AUG	0	53	76
85	SEP	0	71	79
92	OCT	0	72	81
86	NOV	0	65	63
85	DEC	0	75	69
90	AVG	67	78	67

# VITAL STATISTICS

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

## BAPTISMS

ELIZABETH FINCH

MEIRA McWESTWOOD

CHLOE CAHILL

## CONFIRMED MEMBERS

ZELLA BUNCH

TYLER WITTEN

## MEMBER DEATHS

TOM GASPER – 06/26/23

NORMA FOELL – 07/31/23

MAXINE COLE – 12/28/23

PAUL KRIVAK – 12/29/23

MARILYN ELLIOTT – 03/03/24

JANE VOLLRATH – 03/16/24

# BUDGET PROPOSAL 2024-2025

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH						
Budget Proposal: FY 2024-2025						
	Actual 2021-2022	Actual 2022-2023	Current Budget 2023-2024	Estimated 2023-2024	Proposed Budg. 2024-25	
(Rounded to nearest \$)						
<b>COLLECTIONS:</b>						
Contribution- Giving	\$ 309,497	\$ 333,324	\$ 326,800	\$ 324,800	\$ 336,300	
Contribution - BEARS (9 mo. Program)	\$ 13,389	\$ 15,856	\$ 16,000	\$ 13,800	\$ 14,000	
Contribution - Kroger	\$ 514	\$ 615	\$ 500	\$ 575	\$ 600	
Contribution - Thrivent Choice	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,475	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,200	
Contribution - Building Use	\$ 3,750	\$ 6,025	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,025	\$ 5,000	
Contribution - Investment (Int/Div/G/L)	\$ 818	\$ 2,372	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,400	
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 329,518</b>	<b>\$ 359,667</b>	<b>\$ 353,800</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>	<b>\$ 361,500</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES :</b>						
Ministry of Worship & Witness	\$ 40,446	\$ 38,231	\$ 34,300	\$ 35,100	\$ 36,000	as percent of 2022 budget 10.0%
Ministry of Social Concerns			\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	0.1%
Ministry of Parish Life	\$ 6,056	\$ 3,901	\$ 5,800	\$ 6,900	\$ 7,100	2.0%
Ministry of Administration	\$ 95,310	\$ 69,692	\$ 90,700	\$ 81,250	\$ 76,200	21.1%
Salaries	\$ 203,208	\$ 212,309	\$ 222,500	\$ 212,800	\$ 226,700	62.7%
Mortgage			\$ -	\$ 6,600	\$ 12,900	3.6%
Designated Funding - Mortgage Interest	\$ 5,019	\$ 113		\$ 1,350	\$ 2,100	0.6%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 350,039</b>	<b>\$ 324,246</b>	<b>\$ 353,800</b>	<b>\$ 344,000</b>	<b>\$ 361,500</b>	100.0%
<b>NET PROCEEDS</b>	<b>\$ (20,521)</b>	<b>\$ 35,421</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	

Expenditure Details:					
	(10 months) Apr 30 2024 YTD		Current 2024 budget	EST 2023-2024	Proposed 2025 budget
<b>Operating Expenses :</b>					
<b>010000 Ministry of Worship &amp; Witness</b>					
010100 Benevolence SOS	\$ 16,667		\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 21,000
010101 Jacob's Porch Partnership	\$ 3,000		\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
010200 Altar & Communion	\$ 3,029		\$ 2,700	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,000
010300 Evangelism (incl Advertising & Publicity)	\$ 2,290		\$ 2,200	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,400
010401 Community Event - Live Nativity	\$ 810		\$ 1,000	\$ 810	\$ 1,000
010402 Community Event - Re-Opening					
010403 Community Event - Egg Hunt	\$ 376			\$ 376	\$ 200
010500 Music & Supplies	\$ 809		\$ 1,000	\$ 809	\$ 1,000
010600 Nursery and Supplies	\$ -		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
010700 Organ & Tuning Repair	\$ 89		\$ 200	\$ 90	\$ 200
010900 Supply Pastor	\$ 1,461		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
011000 Worship Matl and Supply (Pastor)	\$ 1,687		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,815	\$ 2,000
<b>Subtotal for 010000 Ministry of Worship &amp; Witness</b>	<b>\$ 30,218</b>		<b>\$ 34,300</b>	<b>\$ 35,100</b>	<b>\$ 36,000</b>
<b>010800 Social Concerns</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		<b>\$ 500</b>		<b>\$ 500</b>

<b>020000. Ministry of Parish Life</b>					
020100 Adult Sunday Church School	\$ 483		\$ 400	\$ 530	\$ 500
020200 Catechism	\$ 937		\$ 600	\$ 950	\$ 900
020201 Camperships			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
020300 Children's Sunday Church School	\$ 1,120		\$ 600	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,200
020400 Cradle Roll	\$ -		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ -
020500 Fellowship Activities	\$ 869		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500
020501 Care Team	\$ -		\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -
020600 My Family and Me	\$ -		\$ 50	\$ -	\$ -
020700 VBS	\$ 542		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,120	\$ 1,000
020800 Youth Ministry/Activities	\$ 827		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
020900 Member Seminarian Scholarships	\$ 1,000		\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
<b>Subtotal for 020000. Ministry of Parish Life</b>	<b>\$ 5,778</b>		<b>\$ 5,800</b>	<b>\$ 6,900</b>	<b>\$ 7,100</b>

	(10 months) Apr 30 2024 YTD		Current 2024 budget	EST 2023-2024	Proposed 2025 budget
<b>Operating Expenses : (cont'd)</b>					
<b>030000 Ministry of Administration</b>					
030100 Bank Fees & Charges	\$ 54		\$ -	\$ 54	
030400 Cleaning/Supplies	\$ 1,129		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,800
030500 Continuing Education - Pastor	\$ 110		\$ 1,400	\$ 200	\$ 1,400
030501 Continuing Education - Staff	\$ 798		\$ 1,400	\$ 800	\$ 1,000
030600 Council Discretionary	\$ 100		\$ 1,500	\$ 100	\$ 1,500
030800 Fin Secretary/Treasurer Supplies	\$ 261		\$ 200	\$ 261	\$ 200
030900 Insurance Building & Liability	\$ 4,359		\$ 5,400	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,400
031000 Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 6,937		\$ 10,000	\$ 8,500	\$ 10,000
031001 Property Improvements Accrual Expense	\$ 8,750		\$ 15,000	\$ 8,750	\$ -
031100 Office Machines / Rentals	\$ 4,295		\$ 4,500	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,400
031200 Pastor Discretionary	\$ 450		\$ 300	\$ 450	\$ 300
031400 Postage	\$ 348		\$ 600	\$ 400	\$ 600
031500 Professional Expense	\$ 3,824		\$ 1,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,800
031600 Stationary & Office Supplies	\$ 1,285		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
031700 Stewardship expense	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 500
031800 Synod Delegates	\$ -				
031900 Telephone / Internet	\$ 2,503		\$ 2,800	\$ 2,935	\$ 3,000
032000 Payroll Fees	\$ 2,870		\$ 3,200	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,400
032100 Utilities	\$ 17,542		\$ 24,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 24,000
032200 Office Technology/Software	\$ 4,180		\$ 4,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,000
031800 Synod Delegates	\$ -				
031900 Telephone / Internet	\$ 2,503		\$ 2,800	\$ 2,935	\$ 3,000
032000 Payroll Fees	\$ 2,870		\$ 3,200	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,400
032100 Utilities	\$ 17,542		\$ 24,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 24,000
032200 Office Technology/Software	\$ 4,180		\$ 4,000	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,000
032300 Outside services/other fees	\$ 7,576		\$ 8,400	\$ 8,700	\$ 8,400
032301 Accounting services	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Subtotal for 030000 Ministry of Administration</b>	<b>\$ 69,371</b>		<b>\$ 90,700</b>	<b>\$ 81,250</b>	<b>\$ 76,200</b>

040000 Salaries & Taxes				
040001 Employer Payroll Taxes (except Pastor)	\$ 5,529	\$ 6,832	\$ 6,900	\$ 7,065
040100 Pastor	\$ 39,167	\$ 47,000	\$ 47,000	\$ 47,000
040200 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$ 21,666	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000
040300 Pastor FICA	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200
040303 Car Allowance (Pastor)	\$ -		\$ -	
040304 Phone Allowance/Expense (Pastor)	\$ 650	\$ 780	\$ 780	\$ 780
040305 Pastor Pension & Health Insurance	\$ 33,338	\$ 40,500	\$ 40,080	\$ 41,200
040307 Health Care Expense Offset	\$ 4,475	\$ 5,370	\$ 5,370	\$ 7,900
040400 Adult Choir Director	\$ 6,261	\$ 7,070	\$ 7,440	\$ 7,070
040500 Bell Choir Director	\$ 1,247	\$ 1,425	\$ 1,485	\$ 1,425
040600 Director of Music Ministries	\$ 10,280	\$ 12,336	\$ 12,336	\$ 12,336
040700 Dir of Youth and Special Projects	\$ 11,584	\$ 21,386	\$ 11,585	\$ 21,386
040800 Nursery Staff	\$ 2,466	\$ 2,938	\$ 2,961	\$ 2,938
040900 Organist	\$ 10,986	\$ 13,063	\$ 13,063	\$ 13,800
041000 Administrative Assistant	\$ 19,250	\$ 23,100	\$ 23,100	\$ 23,100
041100 Digital Content Manager	\$ 6,270	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
<b>Subtotal for 040000 Salaries</b>	<b>\$ 179,169</b>	<b>\$ 222,500</b>	<b>\$ 212,800</b>	<b>\$ 226,700</b>
050200 Mortgage	\$ 4,360	\$ -	\$ 6,600	\$ 12,900
<b>Designated Funding :</b>	<b>\$ 988</b>		<b>\$ 1,350</b>	<b>\$ 2,100</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 289,884</b>	<b>\$ 353,800</b>	<b>\$ 344,000</b>	<b>\$ 361,500</b>

# ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

**High Level Overview** – Budget to increase from FY24's \$ 353,800 to \$ 361,500 an increase of \$ 7,700 or slightly more than 2 percent. General Offering to meet the budget will need to increase approximately 2.9 percent principally due to a decline in BEARS lease payments.

**Payroll** is 62.7% of the proposed budget. **Building Costs** are 20.4% of the proposed budget. **Synod & Jacob's Porch Benevolences** are 6.8% of the proposed budget. Total for these three main budget components is 89.9% of the proposed budget. Everything else is approximately 10.1 percent.

### Comments on Most Significant Changes:

- **Synod Benevolence** – increased by \$ 1,000 annually from \$ 20,000 to \$ 21,000 – had been \$ 24,000 pre-pandemic. Maintained and paid in full all years.
- **Children's SS School** – doubled budget from \$ 600 to \$ 1,200 in line with current year expenditures.
- **Reinstated \$ 1,000 Line Item for Seminarian Support in Parish Life**
- **Maintenance & Repairs** – Maintained at a low rate of \$ 10,000 annually thanks to Del Phillips, Michael Deeter, Larry Carpenter, Craig Dame & others for their donated time & labor – especially Del for his knowledge & leadership.
- **Property Improvements Accrual** – has been adjusted from \$ 15,000 to zero due to the 2023 opening of a \$ 175,000 line of credit with Union Savings Bank. The \$ 15,000 remains in the Operating Budget but now appears as Mortgage Principal & Interest totaling the same \$ 15,000. The May, 2024 balance of our LOC is \$ 21,457.04.
- **Stewardship Expense** – reduced from \$ 2,500 to \$ 500 reflecting the conclusion of the Stewardship for All Seasons Synod Program.
- **Salaries & Taxes** – overall increase of \$ 4,200 allocated as follows:
  - **PAL** – an \$ 2,530 increase to the Healthcare Offset component of his Annual Compensation – roughly a 2.9 percent increase. Cumulatively 60.25 percent of the Healthcare Offset will have been restored since Advent assumed responsibility for ELCA/Portico family health insurance – approximately \$30,160 per annum currently.
  - **Jean (Organist)** – a \$ 737 increase to the Organist annual compensation or roughly 5.6%
  - **PAL Healthcare Benefit** – a \$ 700 increase to reflect an anticipated increase in premiums to be effective January 1, 2025.
  - **Employee Payroll Taxes** – a \$ 233 increase to reflect additional employee taxes and rounding.

**Safety Valve** – our Union Savings Bank LOC requires only interest payments on a monthly basis so we could save roughly \$ 1,000 to \$ 1,100 per month if necessary.

## COUNCIL CANDIDATE BIO 2024-2025

### **ROY E. HART**

I have been a Lutheran for over 50 years. Two years ago, Jane and I returned to Columbus after residing in Lancaster, Ohio, for 41 years. While in Lancaster, I was active in the administration of the congregations where we held our memberships. I have been active on the synod level of the ELCA for the past 20 years, serving on the Candidacy Committee, as a Synod Council member, and as Secretary of the Synod Council. It would be an honor to serve Advent ELC as a council member.