

Activities & Ministries Directory

2024 - 2025

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3660 Kenny Road
Columbus, Ohio 43220
Phone: 614.451.3639

Email: secy@adventelc.org

Web: www.adventelc.org





Dear Members and Friends of Advent,

The ministry teams welcome you to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church! We are delighted that there is so much interest in our ministries. We invite you to become an active member of the Advent family.

Possibilities for getting to know one another and participating in ministry

are available for all ages and interests. This directory highlights our ministries, in the name of Christ at Advent Lutheran Church. Here at Advent, you do not have to be a member of Advent to join with us in doing God's work. If you have any questions about our worship services or ministries, please contact us at secy@adventelc.org.

At the end of the directory, page 22, there will be a section entitled "Spiritual Gifts Assessment Tool". This tool provides a survey online that anyone can take to identify one's spiritual gifts. To help match one's spiritual gifts to ministries at Advent you will find a chart on page 24.

Thanks to all who assisted in the planning, preparation, and implementation of this directory. We look forward with joy to a future filled with grace and blessing.

In peace, faith, fellowship, friendship, and fun.

Advent's Ministry Teams

		MATCHING SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO ADVENT MINISTRIES CHART																	
Spiritual Gifts	Advent Ministries	Administration	Artistry	Discernment	Evangelism	Exhortation	Faith	Giving	Hospitality	Intercession	Knowledge	Leadership	Music-vocal & Instrumental	Pastoral	Service	Skilled Craft	Teaching	Wisdom	Writing
		Council	X		X									X					
Mutual Ministry			X		X	X				X									X
Personnel	X								X										X
Finances	X							X				X							
Facilities															X	X			
Techology											X				X	X			
Communication		X														X	X		X
Education		X		X	X						X						X		X
VBS		X		X	X				X								X		
Fellowship					X				X										
Small Groups				X		X	X		X								X		
Social Concerns				X		X	X							X	X				
Tag Sale								X	X						X				
Music		X											X			X			
Altar Guild								X							X				
Worship Servant						X	X		X			X		X	X				
Evangelism				X	X	X	X				X		X	X					
Live Nativity		X		X					X			X							
Care Team						X	X		X					X	X				



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Spiritual Gifts Assessment Tool

To find your spiritual gifts, please go to the ELCA website at <https://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Spiritual-Renewal/Assessment-Tools>

The Spiritual Gifts Assessment tool is a quick survey you can take to identify your spiritual gifts. After you have completed the survey, you will receive a document highlighting your spiritual gifts.

Once you have identified your spiritual gifts, please take time to match your spiritual gifts to the many ministries at Advent listed in the following Matching Spiritual Gifts to Advent Ministries Chart. Keep in mind that this chart is simply a guide.

When you find a ministry that matches your spiritual gift, please refer back to your Activities & Ministries Directory and find the contact person under that ministry. The ministry leader will be able to answer questions you may have and help you on how to get involved with a particular ministry.

Note: When browsing through the Activities & Ministry Directory, you will often find several opportunities for many of the ministries of Advent. For example, if you are interested in the ministry of "Social Concerns", there are 12 sub-ministries that one can join and serve.

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Our Mission is to:

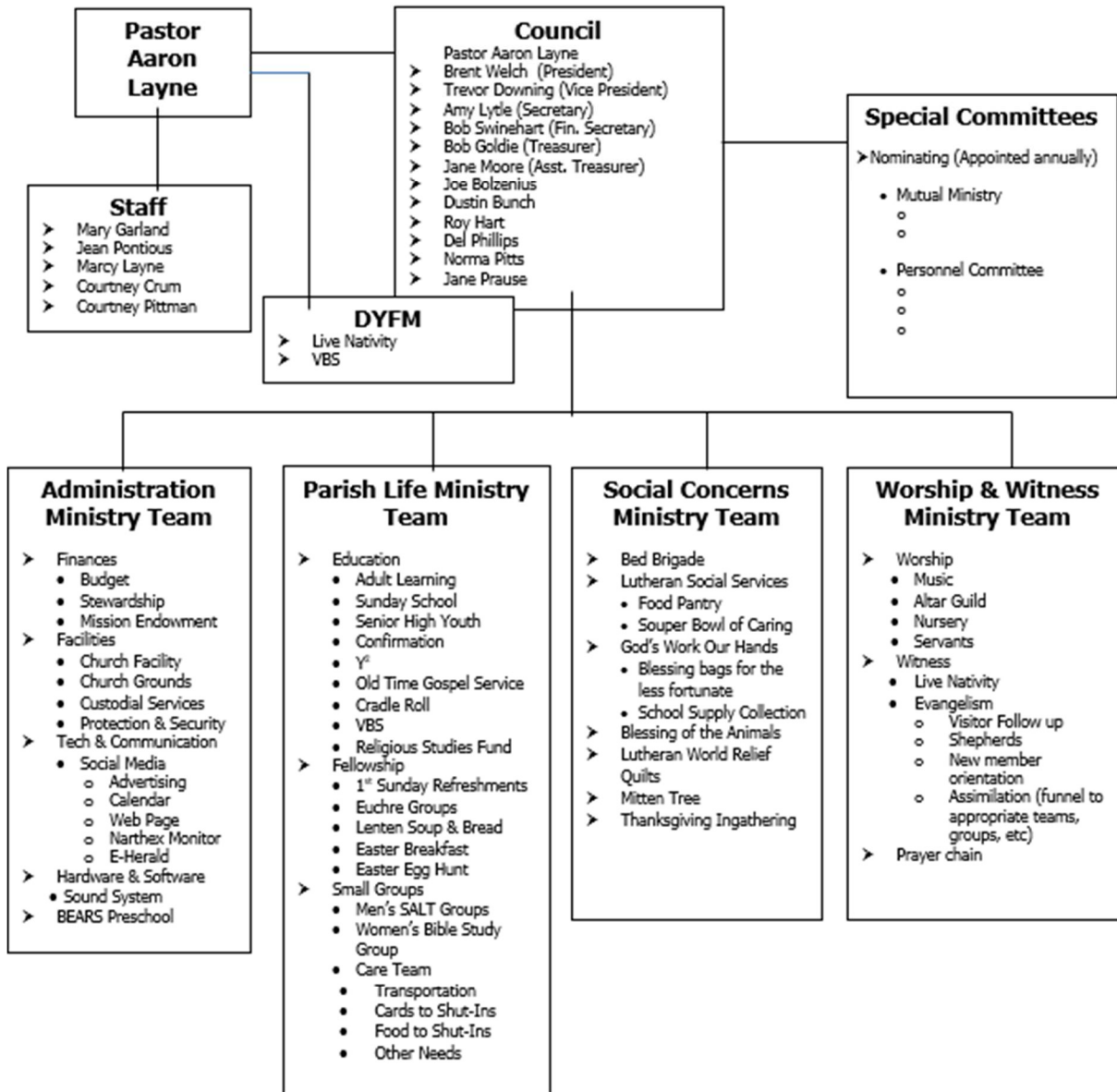
Worship God. . .

Follow Jesus. . .

Serve others. . .

Make disciples.

Advent Lutheran Church Organization 2024-2025



WITNESS

Evangelism

Evangelism occurs at many different levels, from showing hospitality to guests to coordinating visitation to first time worship guests. It also provides programs for inviting new members into the congregation. Evangelism also includes visitation ministries and community outreach. Ministry Leader: Norma Pitts, npitts@columbus.rr.com

Live Nativity

The annual Live Nativity is a popular December event at Advent for the community. This ministry involves live animals, “actors” dressing as Biblical characters, live music, luminaries, readings of the Christmas story, singing of hymns and carols, refreshments, and fellowship; as we provide a live nativity scene, on our front lawn, for all to see.

Leader: Director of Youth & Family Ministries: Marcy Layne, youth@adventelc.org

PRAYER CHAIN

The Advent Prayer Chain enables communication regarding needs among members and friends of Advent through e-mail. All prayer requests are welcomed.

Administrative Assistant: Mary Garland, secy@adventelc.org or prayers@adventelc.org

Servants

Worship Teams coordinate the Lord's Servants, sets of volunteers who perform a variety of important tasks during Sunday morning worship services. Here are some of the positions coordinated by these teams:

Worship Team Leader: Responsible for assigning duties for his/her team.

Acolyte: Lights candle

Greeters: Welcome everyone as they come to worship.

Ushers: Assist during Communion and anytime assistance is needed during service.

Assisting Minister: Reads the lessons and assists with the service.

Nursery

For children ages 5 years and under, Nursery service is available during both Sunday Worship Services, as well as during Sunday school and special occasions.

Nursery Attendant: Courtney Crum, Courtney.d.crum@gmail.com

Altar Guild

The overall purpose of the Altar Guild is to see that the worship space is kept beautiful and in good order, both to glorify God and to provide a setting which enables the congregation to worship in a meaningful way. There are many responsibilities of Altar Guild in preparing the setting for corporate worship.

Ministry Leader: Jennifer Parker, akajp@rocketmail.com

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Congregation Council oversees the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Council meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Each council member serves as a liaison to one of the four ministry teams and attends that team's meetings. Each council member serves a two-year term. Council members may run for another term, but no more than three full terms consecutively. Their term begins at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. Please refer to our church constitution for more information about the duties of council (see church Administrative Assistant for a copy).

CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Aaron M. Layne	Pastor	pastor@adventelc.org
Jean Pontious	Dir. of Music Ministries	jean.pontious@gmail.com
Marcy Layne	Dir. of Youth & Family Ministries	youth@adventelc.org
Mary Garland	Administrative Assistant	secy@adventelc.org
Courtney Crum	Nursery Attendant	Courtney.d.crum@gmail.com
Courtney Pittman	Digital Coordinator	buckleyecoco@gmail.com

See website, www.adventelc.org, for descriptions of each position and a short biography of staff.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Nominating

The nominating committee is typically comprised of three members, at least two members from council and one may come from the congregation at large. Their task is to present names to council be considered for election by the congregation. Annually this committee is appointed. The term of service on this committee shall expire after completion of its assigned duties.

Mutual Ministry

The mutual ministry committee is comprised of three voting members of the congregation and the Pastor. Their task is to serve as support to the Pastor and as sounding board to the congregation and staff. The Council President and the Pastor shall appoint the membership of this committee jointly. Members of this newly established team will serve two years.

Personnel

The personnel committee is comprised of three voting members of the congregation and the pastor. Their task is to manage personnel matters. The Council President and the Pastor shall appoint the membership of this committee jointly. Members shall serve for three years, with a new member appointed each successive year.

See church organization chart on page 4 for a list of who currently serves on council and committees.

WORSHIP AND WITNESS MINISTRY TEAM

The Worship and Witness Team shall be responsible for the ministries of: worship and music, member and visitor outreach and evangelism, and other ministries as may be determined. This team meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Team Leader: Stacy Bolzenius, stacyb2006@gmail.com

WORSHIP

Music

Music Ministries encompasses many different groups at Advent, including worship music, Advent Angels (young children's choir), confirmation chimes, adult choir, Praise and Worship Band, and hand bells. The Dream Team is a song and dance troupe for children 1st – middle school, which helps lead openings and closings during Vacation Bible School.

Director of Music Ministries	Jean Pontious	jean.pontious@gmail.com
Organist	Jean Pontious	jean.pontious@gmail.com
Adult Choir and Bell Director	Marcy Layne	youth@adventelc.org
Advent Angels/ Confirmation Chimes	Jean Pontious	jean.pontious@gmail.com
Vacation Bible School Dream Team	Marcy Layne	youth@adventelc.org
Praise and Worship Band	Matt Pittman	matpitt@yahoo.com

LSS Food Pantry – Champion Ave.

Lutheran Social Services has been providing food to families in need since 1927, and today is one of the largest single direct providers in Central Ohio. LSS strives to provide nutritious food in an atmosphere of kindness, dignity, and respect. We, at Advent, help by collecting non-perishable goods and delivering them to the Champion Avenue Food Pantry.

Ministry Leader:

Mitten Tree

Each December a small-undecorated Christmas tree is placed in the Narthex. Children’s hats, scarfs, and mittens are brought in by Advent members, hung on the tree, and subsequently donated by teachers in our congregation to local school students who are in need of warm accessories during the winter months.

Ministry Leader: Jennifer Parker, akajp@rocketmail.com

SOUP-ER Bowl of Caring

Each year the congregation is challenged to raise money for the LSS Food Pantry. Sometimes we “compete” with other Lutheran congregations. Other times we are given a question each week we can answer by making a donation – one dollar equals one vote. The “game” ends on Super Bowl Sunday, with the goal of putting a tackle on hunger!

Ministry Leader: Pastor Aaron, pastor@adventelc.org

ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY TEAM

The Administration Team shall be responsible for the ministries of communications, support of lay staff, financial accounting and budget, stewardship, maintenance of property, office management and other ministries as may be determined. Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Team Leader: Del Phillips, dands269@gmail.com

FINANCES

Budget

The Budget Team is comprised of council members and the Administration Team Leader. The primary purpose of this team is to prepare the operating budget each year and present their proposed budget to council for their approval, which is voted upon at the annual congregational meeting.

Treasurer: Bob Goldie, treasurer@adventelc.org

Chairperson: Del Phillips, dands269@gmail.com

Stewardship

This team is responsible for promoting the scriptural principles of stewardship in the congregation, working to procure and use the gifts of the members according to the will of our Lord. The committee plans and implements the annual stewardship campaign to encourage pledging.

Team Leaders: Amy Lytle, amyblytle@gmail.com

Brent Welch, welchbrenta@gmail.com

Mission Endowment

The purpose of this fund is to enhance the mission of Advent apart from the general operation of the congregation. The fund distributions are special mission mini projects. Example would be projects within Advent, mission outreach within the community, missions of the ELCA, capital improvements, and debt reduction created as a vehicle to encourage and facilitate planned giving and to the stability and future of the church.

Treasurer: Bob Goldie, treasurer@adventelc.org, Asst. Treasurer: Jane Moore, treasurer@adventelc.org; Chairperson: Del Phillips, dands269@gmail.com

FACILITIES

Property Team

The property team oversees the care and maintenance of the church property and duties include upkeep of the church grounds, maintenance of the heating and cooling systems, organizing clean-up days, landscaping, mowing, general maintenance, and overseeing the janitorial duties.

Ministry Leaders: Del Phillips, dands269@gmail.com; Mike Deeter, m_deeter@hotmail.com

TECHNOLOGY

Computer Hardware and Software

Mike Deeter, m_deeter@hotmail.com

Sound System

Mike Deeter, m_deeter@hotmail.com

Blessing of the Animals

Annually, Advent holds a “Blessing of the Animals” service on the first Sunday of October. It is a special outdoor service of thanksgiving and prayer for the living treasures of God’s good creation. All animals and their human companions are invited. In the past, other Lutheran congregations have joined us. As there continues to be a real need for cat and dog food assistance at the local LSS food pantries, we ask those attending the service, as well as members of the congregations, to bring a small bag or can of cat or dog food. Our donations are greatly appreciated.

Ministry Leader: Jennifer Parker, akajp@rocketmail.com

God’s Work, Our Hands

This is an ELCA worldwide 2-day event. ELCA members are called to put their faith into action by engaging in service activities in their neighborhood and surrounding community. Here at Advent, the Social Concerns Team helps organize a number of projects each year, such as collecting school supplies for local children in need, delivering beds as part of the Bed Brigade, and preparing and distributing Blessing Bags for the less fortunate (gallon-sized zip lock bags filled with toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, combs, socks, shampoo, soap, etc., as well as an insert expressing God's love for the recipient and listing telephone numbers and addresses of the many forms of assistance that are available in the community). Please prayerfully consider being part of this opportunity to “serve others.”

Ministry Leader: Jennifer Parker, akajp@rocketmail.com

Isabel’s Quilters

Each year dedicated quilters across the US donate an average of 400,000 quilts to LWR (Lutheran World Relief). These quilts provide warmth in the form of bedding, shelter in the form of a roof, privacy in the form of a door. They also serve as a tangible reminder of God’s presence, love, and hope. Do not be intimidated! These quilts are not the same as the hand-stitched heirloom quilts your grandmother made. All men, women, and children can easily get involved.

Ministry Leader: Norma Pitts, npitts59@gmail.com

SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY TEAM

The Social Concerns Team shall be responsible for the ministries of: social outreach, Christian care, overall witness, and other ministries as may be determined. This team meets with the Worship and Witness Team on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Team Leader: Jennifer Parker, akaip@rocketmail.com

Bed Brigade

This is a shared ministry with St. John Lutheran Church in Grove City. We provide beds to families in need while at the same time, sharing the love of Jesus Christ. There are two ways to serve in this ministry: one group builds beds and one group delivers beds (along with Bibles and Bible storybooks and stuffed animals for the recipients who are children). We deliver beds once a month. If you can spare 2-3 hours on a Saturday morning, please consider joining this ministry. The joy of walking into a house and seeing kids excited to get their own bed is priceless.

Ministry leader: Trevor Downing, tj95downing@hotmail.com

Thanksgiving Ingathering

This project provides Thanksgiving dinners to needy families in Central Ohio through the LSS Food Pantry. The congregation has generously supported this ministry for many years. Each November, members are asked to donate funds so that LSS can purchase what is needed for Thanksgiving Day at the rate of \$1 = \$5.25. The cash donations assist LSS with the purchase of the needed turkeys and other food items. This enables the less fortunate to truly be thankful on Thanksgiving Day.

Ministry Leader: Jennifer Parker, akaip@rocketmail.com.

COMMUNICATION

There are a variety of ways Advent uses to communicate our mission and ministry, to our members and to the community (including: church website, email, YouTube, Google Calendar, Twitter, Instagram blogs, E-Herald, narthex monitor and press releases). Advent also has online software that allows members to view their giving patterns.

Administrative Assistant: Mary Garland, secy@adventelc.org

Pastor: Pastor Aaron Layne, pastor@adventelc.org

BEARS Preschool

B.E.A.R.S. [Beginning Education and Readiness School] is a preschool that Advent has partnered with to provide a ministry for the community. Their mission is to provide an early childhood education and development to children between 2 ½ and 5 years of age in a professional and loving Christian setting.

For more information, please visit www.bearspreeschool.org, or call (614) 326-BEAR (2327)

PARISH LIFE MINISTRY TEAM

The Parish Life Team shall be responsible for the ministries of: assimilation, youth, learning, fellowship, small groups and other ministries as may be determined. This team meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Team Leader: Erin Welch, welcherinc@yahoo.com

EDUCATION

Christian Education is at the very heart of the church. In the educational process, the Spirit of God encounters people of all ages so that they are nurtured in faith, grow in knowledge and experience, and are inspired and empowered to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Adult Sunday School

Adult learning meets during the Sunday School hour at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. A variety of topics will be explored during the year. Please refer to Advent's website, <http://www.adventelc.org>.

Leader: Pastor Aaron Layne, pastor@adventelc.org

Sunday School

Sunday School is available for preschool through high school at 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. on Sundays during the school year. During the summer, we do not have Sunday School, but will always begin again in the fall on Rally Day. Join us every Sunday morning for great fun, fellowship and faith! We learn about God and God's Word in the Bible in many different ways. We follow the liturgical year so that the lessons connect with each Sunday's worship.

Leader: Director of Youth and Family Ministries: Marcy Layne, youth@adventelc.org

Easter Breakfast

Easter Breakfast is served each year in between the services on Easter Sunday morning. The church provides the beverages, and people are encouraged to bring their favorite breakfast/brunch dishes to share. All are invited and welcome at this festive affair!

Ministry Leader: Parish Life

Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt takes place on the Saturday morning before Easter, and all children between the ages of 1 year through 10 years old are invited to participate. The event includes various activities such as a puppet show, craft and story time, ending with the Egg Hunt.

Ministry Leader: Director of Youth and Family Ministries: Marcy Layne, youth@adventelc.org

FELLOWSHIP

Care Team

Members of the Care Team are available to assist Pastor with hospital, nursing home and home visitation. They also may help to meet the acute and ongoing needs of those in crisis through such activities as preparing meals, providing transportation and making phone calls of care. Meal baby program assists families with new infants.

Ministry Leaders: Betty Appell, bappe4374@gmail.com Marti Schorr, masch4374@aol.com
Jane Prause, jane.prause3@gmail.com

Euchre Groups

There are currently two euchre groups. The existing groups meet once a month to eat, socialize, and play cards. Three tables of four players play with rotating partners, according to this schedule:

Group Beck meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Friday (not during the summer). Meals are shared.

Ministry Leader for Group Beck: Becky Beck, tweetybb14@yahoo.com

Group Swinehart meets at 6:30 p.m. on the 1st Monday of each month.

Ministry Leader for Group Swinehart – Bob & Dee Swinehart, bob.swinehart1@gmail.com

Lenten Soup Suppers

All are invited to the Lenten Soup Suppers. Every Wednesday during Lent, Advent hosts a simple supper of soup and bread before a mid-week Lenten evening prayer service. The suppers start the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday and continue through the Wednesday before Holy Week, and they begin at 6:30 p.m., with the service following at 7:15 p.m. Sign-up sheets are made available in the Narthex for those who would like to sign up to bring soup or bread to share.

Contact: Parish Life Team

Senior High (9th – 12th grades)

Sr. High youth participates in many activities in three categories: service, devotion, and fun. The youth group meets at 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. on selected Sunday afternoons; plus various other times for additional activities. Activities include: Swoop-In Service Days, ELCA National Youth Gatherings, Winter Ski Retreats, dinners for Jacob's Porch Campus Ministry, Loaves and Fish (provide meals for the needy in the Columbus area), and mission trips to various parts of the country.

Leader: Director of Youth and Family Ministries: Marcy Layne, youth@adventelc.org

Confirmation

The Confirmation Class includes those 6th - 8th graders who are involved in a process of Bible Study, Discipleship, and Service. At the end of these three years, the students decide for themselves if they want to make public AFFIRMATION of the BAPTISM. In other words, they decide to take on their faith as their own and publicly state that they believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

They have a lot of fun as they learn about the Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, and discipleship. All students are expected to be at worship on a regular basis. They meet every Sunday afternoon from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.; from 12:30 – 1:00 p.m., parents of the group provide a meal. From 1-2 p.m. is the learning time.

Leader: Pastor Aaron Layne, pastor@adventelc.org

y2 – Young Youth (1st-5th grades)

Young Youth, better known as y2, meets on a Wednesday night, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., once a month. During this time, the youth gets to know each other, play games, and have a lot of fun! They learn about God and how He exists in their everyday lives. The y2 group is also involved in projects of service. Another optional aspect of this group is the Prayer Buddy Program which pairs a y2 with a more mature member of the congregation throughout the school year.

Leader: Director of Youth and Family Ministries: Marcy Layne, youth@adventelc.org

Vacation Bible School

Each summer, Advent offers a week of Vacation Bible School, from 9-11:30 a.m., for ages 3 – Grade 5. This is a whole church event and provides a wonderful outreach to our community.

Leader: Director of Youth and Family Ministries: Marcy Layne, youth@adventelc.org

Cradle Roll

This ministry keeps the church connected with families that have infants and young children, up to age 2, through periodic mailings and “surprises”. What a wonderful way to help our congregation’s children grow in faith from the very start!

Ministry Leader: Carol Spidell, carolspidell@gmail.com

Brenda Wheeler, bawandges@gmail.com

Religious Studies Fund

The Religious Studies Fund was created to ensure continual resources for seminarians to serve as the future leadership of the ELCA. This fund is a line item in Advent’s Budget and the yearly amount can vary, based upon recommendations from the Parish Life Team. Currently, Advent supports one seminarian. However, in the future, this could change and based upon the number of seminarians, the available funds could be split equally. The ELCA also has a program called Young Adults in Global Mission, which invites ELCA young adults into a transformative, yearlong journey in international service. This may be a future opportunity for someone in our congregation, to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

Contact person: Pastor Aaron Layne, pastor@adventelc.org

SMALL GROUPS

Men’s SALT

S.A.L.T. is an acronym for Sharing and Living/Learning Together. The purpose of this ministry is to bring men together in fellowship so they can grow in their understanding of Christ, get to know each other better and develop deeper relationships. Currently this group meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Monday at 2:30 p.m. (except during the summer).

Ministry Leader: Lee Sanow, drdaddy_5@yahoo.com

Women’s Bible Study

This group meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. at Advent.

Ministry Leader: Jane Moore, jmoore5121@hotmail.com

Thursday Night Online Bible Study

All are welcome to come and study the Bible with Pastor Aaron and friends! Gain insight with a deep and meaningful perspective as we read and study God’s Word in this one-hour online video chat. Through prayer and guided conversation Pastor Aaron guides the group through either the Gospel or Epistle lesson for the upcoming Sunday, which enriches your worship experience that Sunday.

To join in on the Zoom Bible Study, see the link on the front page of AdventELC.org. The Passcode is the church phone number: 6144513639

Leader: Pastor Aaron Layne, pastor@adventelc.org