

ADVENT



HERALD

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

16 Telford Avenue
West Lawn, PA 19609
610-678-2411
www.adventonline.net
Email:
office@adventonline.net

Designated Pastor

The Rev. Thomas F. Irwin,
Jr.

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. William B. Fryer

Office Administrator

Rebecca Brewster

Director of Music & Worship

John C. Brewster

Church Council

President

Bonnie Arner

Vice President

Rebecca East

Secretary

Cindy Hinsey

Treasurer

Stephanie Warmkessel

Financial Secretary

Linda Young

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday,
9:00am-2:00pm



Advent Lutheran Church Breakfast Before Worship Session "My Trip to Ghana" by John Brewster 28 April 2024 8 AM



Our Director of Music, John Brewster, as part of his seminary program took a trip to Ghana - and will discuss that and have some "show and tell" items too!

All members of Advent, and friends of the congregation, are welcome to attend a Breakfast Before Worship (BBW) session at Advent, sponsored by the Men's group on April 28th, 2024 at 8 AM - prior to worship.



Breakfast will be provided, and a free will offering will be taken to defray the cost. To ensure the proper amount of food, we are requesting your RSVP - either via [this online Google Form](#), George Freestone's mobile (484) 529-0234, or via filling out the paper RSVP form on a pub table in the Narthex. **Your feedback is requested by April 21st, 2024.** The session will be held in Memorial Hall.

Please direct any questions to George at his mobile above, or at frestga@gmail.com.

IT'S TIME FOR THE SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHING DRIVE!

Are you switching your clothes around for the spring and summer? Do you have extra clothing you do not need anymore? Do you have too many shoes? You're in luck! Our annual spring and summer clothing drive is back!

We are looking for donations of lighter weight clothing, as well as shoes for our drive. Bring your items to the church and place them on the tables below the signs in Memorial Hall. The drive will be held through the end of April.

Donations will be split between Common Ground Recovery Ministries and Hope Rescue Mission.

We appreciate your support!



MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Our first Family Promise Support Week was held the week of March 25.
- Snacks were collected to make goodie bags for our homebound members.
- Soup and Bread suppers and Midweek Lenten worship were held each Wednesday leading up to Holy Week.
- Holy Week and Easter worship was celebrated at the end of the month.

UPCOMING

- There will be a church office closure the week of April 8. Please see the article on page 3 For further information and instructions.
- The spring and summer clothing drive will be held throughout the month of April.
- The next Breakfast Before Worship session will be held on April 28 at 8:00am.
- First Holy Communion classes will be held for five sessions starting in April.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONALS

The **April-June** issue of Christ In Our Home is available! The small, pocket edition booklets are available on top of the black mailbox outside of the glass office doors and at the resources table in the Narthex. If supplies are low, contact the office to see if more copies are available. A limited number of large print editions are available upon request.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please email your articles to **office@adventonline.net**. The deadline for all articles is **Wednesday, April 17**. The next collating & mailing date is **Tuesday, April 23 at 9:00 am**.



OUR WORSHIP & EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Services are held every Sunday morning at 10:00am in-person and livestreamed on our YouTube channel, Advent Lutheran Online. The video is also posted on the home page of the church website.

Sunday School is offered **at 9:00am** for our children ages 3 through grade 6 from September through May.



WORSHIP WITH US

Our Mission Statement: As children of God, we share the good news and great joy of Jesus for all.

FROM PASTOR IRWIN

Satan: The Old Fool

This year April Fools day falls on the day after Easter, which is perfect for what early theologians called “Risus paschalis” (“The Easter laugh”). The laughter is at the expense of Satan, who thought he defeated Jesus, until God raised him from the dead!

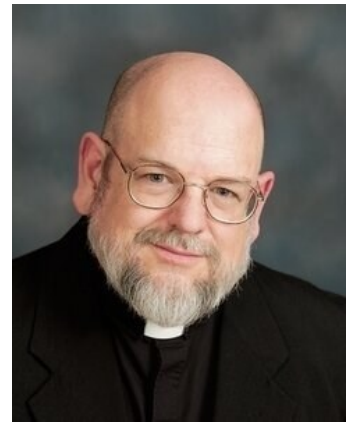
“In the Greek Orthodox tradition, the day after Easter was devoted to telling jokes. ... They felt they were imitating the cosmic joke that God pulled on Satan in the Resurrection. Satan thought he had won, and was smug in his victory, smiling to himself, having the last word—so he thought. Then God raised Jesus from the dead, and life and salvation became the last words.” (from *Storytelling: Imagination and Faith*, by William J. Bausch).

For centuries, in Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant countries, Easter Monday and “Bright Sunday” (the Sunday after Easter) were observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Parishioners and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, sang, and danced. It was a time for clergy and people to tell jokes and to have fun.

The custom of Easter Monday and Bright Sunday celebrations were rooted in the musings of early church theologians like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom, that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. Easter was “God’s supreme joke played on death.”

This is the feast of victory for our God! Alleluia!

Have a joyous Easter,
Pastor Irwin



UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURE

The Church Office will be closed beginning on Thursday, April 4 through Monday, April 15. Becca will be available remotely for regular office hours from Monday, April 8 until Monday, April 15.

The best communication method during this time is email; however, if you need to call the church office you must leave a voicemail so Becca can pick it up remotely and call you back.

Mail will be checked regularly, so if you need to drop something off you can do so as you normally would.

The office will reopen on Tuesday, April 16 at 9:00am.

Thank you for your patience!



LET'S WISH A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS 70 AND OLDER!



4/2—Suzanne Ehrnfeldt
4/2—Janet Higgins
4/14—George Freestone
4/14—Grace Snedeker
4/21—Alyce Ford

4/25—Larry Weller
4/26—Dolores Bergey
4/26—Ketty Schelicher
4/29—Gloria Moyer

NOTE: If you have a birthday this month and your name is not listed, that means we do not have your birthday in our database. Please call or email the church office so we can update our records.

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Many children, especially those who attend worship regularly, are eager to have the opportunity to commune with their family and the congregation. A class of instruction for those who would like to receive their **first Holy Communion** will be offered this Spring. Learning about the Lord's Supper will help them become more involved in the worship life of the congregation. Generally, children in third grade and above are encouraged to attend this class, but it is ultimately a family decision at what age a child receives their first communion.

Students will attend five 45-minute classes before receiving their first Holy Communion at worship on Sunday, May 12. Classes will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:15pm. The first class is **Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30pm**. A parent or guardian is requested to attend class with their child.

Please call or email the church office to register your child(ren) for the course. Feel free to call or speak to Pastor Irwin if you have any questions.



First Communion

EASTER SNACK BAGS WERE A HIT!

Once again, the Easter snack bag project for our homebound members was a huge success! Thanks to all the members of Advent who donated snacks. Thanks also to the volunteers who delivered the bags and visited with our homebound members. Our volunteers were Bonnie Arner, Candy Bickel, June Boyer, Judy Holmes, Mary Long, Sheryl Roland, Les and Pat Sattazahn, and Larry and Cecie Weller. This is such an important outreach ministry for our congregation, and brings so much joy to our homebound members.

The Social Ministry Committee



Easter Snacks for the Homebound

MEMBERS WHO HAVE ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Edith Plymyer died on February 10.

Linda Schaadt died on March 15.

For all the saints, who from their labors rest.

CELEBRATE EVERYONE'S BIRTHDAY WITH A PARTY

Save the date! We're going to have a party to celebrate everyone's birthday! The Fellowship Committee will be hosting this fun event after worship on **Sunday, April 21**. More details will be announced in News in the Pews, in verbal announcements, and through a Constant Contact email.



Mark your calendars now to reserve the date!

CARD & GAME CLUB

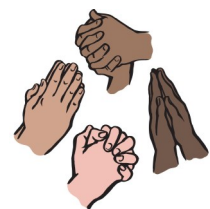
The Card and Game Club meets on the **first Tuesday of each month at 1:00pm in Memorial Hall** to play Dominoes, various card games, and more. If you are interested, contact Katie Smith for more information. **Our next game day is on Tuesday, April 2.**



MAY WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If there is ever a time when you don't know what to pray, or perhaps you feel like your prayers have grown stale, we invite you to join our team. We meet in the Rose Room on the second Sunday of each month after worship.

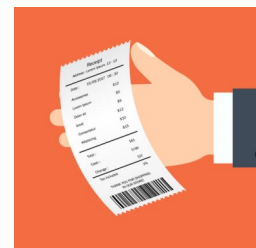
We also invite you to use the prayer request cards found in the small basket in the Narthex. Any time you or someone you know needs prayers, fill out the card and place it back in the basket. The Prayer Team checks the basket weekly so we can keep up with our members' requests. If you have an immediate need for prayer, please contact Kathy Powers at 610-334-8118 and she will add your request to the Prayer Team's list.



REDNER'S RECEIPTS PROGRAM

We are still collecting Redner's Receipts! You can sign up for the Save-A-Tape program at any Redner's store; ask for assistance at the Customer Service desk. Please remember to turn in the entire receipt, because we need the whole receipt for redemption.

Your donations of receipts help us earn money for the Social Ministry Discretionary Fund, which then goes to support various outreach ministries. One example of an outreach ministry funded by your receipts is providing a Thanksgiving meal with all of the trimmings and fixings for some families in need.



If you have any questions, please speak to June Boyer.



HERSHEYPARK[®]

Discount Tickets

Regular Admission

\$86.95 each

Our group price

ages 3 and up

\$43.95 each

We need

a minimum of 20 tickets

for the group rate.

Tickets are good through January 1, 2025.

Group tickets are now sold as All-age admission.

Please include payment with your order.

(checks payable to Advent Lutheran Church)

Give orders to Becky East or drop them off at the church office.

Orders due by April 21.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

No. of All-age admission (ages 3+) at \$43.95 _____

Order total \$ _____

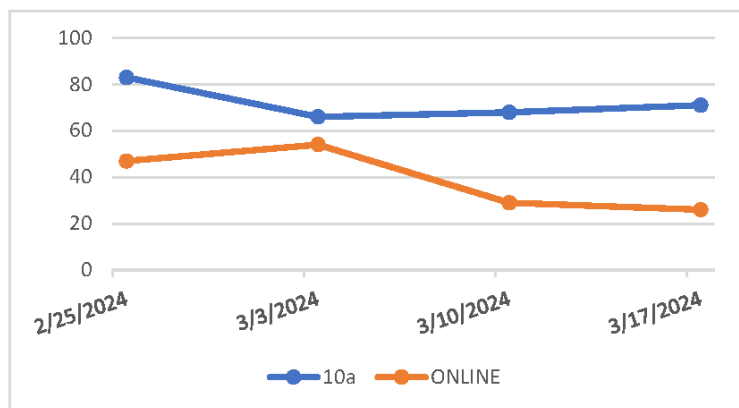
Give orders to Becky East or drop them off at the church office.

2024 OPERATING BUDGET

	Through February 2024 BUDGET Operating Receipts	February 2024 ACTUAL Operating Receipts	Actual - Budget Variance
Operating Receipts Only	\$44,089	\$41,686	(\$2,403)
Rental Receipts	\$8,657	\$5,990	(\$2,667)
Total Receipts	\$52,746	\$47,676	(\$5,070)
Total Expenditures	\$56,855	\$49,176	(\$7,679)
Net Receipts vs Expenditures	(\$4,109)	(\$1,500)	\$2,609

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

DATE	10a	ONLINE
2/25/2024	83	47
3/3/2024	66	54
3/10/2024	68	29
3/17/2024	71	26
AVG	72	39



Note: Online worship service views are approximate and may be higher than reported at the time of publication.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Advent Lutheran Church and Social Ministry Committee,

We appreciated all that was generously given to us for Thanksgiving. Without all you did our holiday probably would not have been a blessed one or a good one. It's been a year of so much struggle. You touched all of us and even made mom cry with your generous hearts. God bless you all.

HELP HOPE RESCUE MISSION YEAR-ROUND

Advent has embarked on a new opportunity for us and the community to help those in need. We are hosting a donation bin for Hope Rescue Mission! Donate your gently used clothing and shoes any time throughout the year. The bin is located at the edge of the building in the alley off of Telford Avenue.

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Advent Lutheran Church

February 11, 2024

UNAPPROVED

The regular monthly meeting of the Congregational Council was held on February 11, 2024 at 12:00pm. The following members were present: Becky East, Bonnie Arner, Stephanie Warmkessel, Pastor Irwin, Wendy Rowlands, Ray Smith, Cindy Hinsey, Joanne Frantz, Joy Frantz, Cindy Mattern, and Mark Blatt. Excused: Larry Grybosky Absent: none.

Council President Bonnie Arner called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Pastor Irwin led the council in a devotional.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed.

Motion: A motion to accept the Secretary's Report was made by Mark. It was properly seconded and approved without dissent.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed.

A revision will be made to Social Ministry Discretionary Fund as \$250 in gift cards were purchased for Free Little Pantry. \$250 should be deducted from Social Ministry Discretionary Fund, not Social Ministry Events. Under January 2024 Actual Operating Expenditures on the Operating Budget, line item 113 will be changed to \$0 and line item 144 will be adjusted to \$1,224.

Mission Investment Fund Checking Contingency Fund has been broken down into its components of Contingency Funds, Memorial Fund, and Capital Improvement Fund (includes monies from Ferrell Estate and Employee Retention Credit). Memorial fund has a total of \$30,000 between savings and a CD; these funds are used to replace paraments and similar items of a permanent nature that are not a specific donation request.

Lines 1-11 on the operating budget are separated by gray lines not visible on copies, Steph will work with Becca to make these lines visible on printed copies.

Motion: A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Ray. It was properly seconded and approved without dissent.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Irwin submitted a written report with the usual outline of his activities during the month. Council members were reminded to review Pastor Irwin's Church Meeting Principles.

Committee Reports

The following committees submitted reports, either verbally or in written form:

Christian Education

Sunday school students will sing on 2/25.

Communication

None

Endowment

None

Evangelism

- Planning for Spring festival.
- Waiting for delivery information on Bomba socks
- Ushers name tags are in drawers in Narthex; ushers should be wearing name tags on Sunday mornings. There has been no response for request for greeters.

Fellowship

- Valentine Dinner on 2/18 will be held in fellowship hall. 50 people have signed up. Vo-tech students, under the direction of Mark Blatt, will be making the ziti. Becky is making gluten free ziti.
- The sign up for the Reading Royals game on 3/2 is in narthex.

Finance

None

Memorial

None

Mutual Ministry

None

Office administration

Refer to guidelines for communicating with office.

Personnel

None

Property

Repairs have begun to 2215 Penn Ave. There was a bill from UGI that was higher than usual, Becky will ask Rick to speak with the workers regarding closing of doors and windows to prevent heat loss.

Safety & Emergency

None

Social Ministry

- A good response was received for the Valentine's Day canned food which ended February 11.
- The committee sent Valentines and a small gift to all of the homebound members.
- Received thank you from family that received donation of Thanksgiving meal.

Stewardship

None

Worship & Music

- An abbreviated service will be held on Easter morning at 8am in addition to the full service at 10am.
- Incarnation Church has offered Advent its tower bells. Since our 100th anniversary is in the near future, this may be a nice acquisition. Incarnation Church has offered to pay half the cost to have the tower bells moved and installed. There was discussion regarding the use of Memorial funds to cover our cost. Cindy M made a motion for provisional approval for Memorial Committee to consider these funds to purchase tower bells. The motion was properly seconded and approved without dissent. We will need to check with Spring Township for any ordinances or permits needed.

Motion: A motion to accept the committee reports was made by Joy. It was properly seconded and approved without dissent.

Old Business

None

New Business

- Council will establish a committee for Advent's 100th anniversary celebration within the next few months.
- Steph reviewed a proposal for use of ADP Payroll for payroll completion instead of Steph completing payroll, resulting in an annual savings of \$1411.24. Finance committee has reviewed the proposal and makes a motion to hire ADP Payroll. The motion was approved without dissent.

Thrivent Action Teams

Spring festival

Third Sunday Highlights – Mark will announce

1. 100th anniversary celebration in 2025 – keep aware of opportunities to help
2. Council has decided to save approximately \$1500 annually by hiring a payroll service
3. Family promise in March – watch for ways to help support this ministry

Motion: Mark made the motion to adjourn the meeting. It was properly seconded and approved without dissent.

The meeting closed by praying The Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.

Minutes Prepared and Submitted by Cindy Hinsey, Recording Secretary