

# 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



## YOU'RE INVITED!



May 19, 2024

11am-2pm

**FREE FOOD, GAMES, AND CRAFTS**

**ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH  
16 TELFORD AVE.  
WEST LAWN, PA 19609**

## APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

- The Evangelism Committee sponsored the annual spring/summer clothing drive to benefit Common Ground Recovery Community and Hope Rescue Mission.
- The Fellowship Committee hosted an Everybody's Birthday Party on April 21.
- John Brewster gave two presentations during the month: one about the Common Ground Recovery Community, who he continues to work with through mid-May, and one about his seminary mission trip to Ghana in May 2023.
- First Holy Communion classes began in mid-April and run through the beginning of May.

## UPCOMING

- First Holy Communion classes wrap up on May 8.
- The Spring Festival will be held on Sunday, May 19.
- The last day for Sunday School before the summer break is May 19.
- The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

## 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 **Friday, May 17**. The next collating & mailing date is **Tuesday, May 28 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

### *Romping with God*

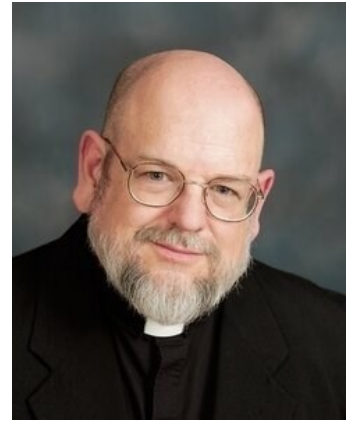
On Sunday, May 19, the Church celebrates the festival of Pentecost—the promised coming of the Holy Spirit. We will wear red to worship to reflect the flames of the Advocate alighting on each believer.

James Somerville presents a unique illustration of the Holy Spirit in his article written for *The Christian Century* entitled, "Who Will Take Care of Us?"...

When my wife puts her hand on the doorknob, her coat over her arm, my children look up from what they are doing to ask, "Who will take care of us?" and she gives them the name of one of their regular babysitters. All of them are capable, and my children enjoy the attention, but if my wife gives them one name—"Brittani"—my children leap up from what they are doing and rejoice. Brittani reads to them, romps with them, acts out plays and makes chocolate chip cookies; she nurtures their young lives like a loving parent, and as long as she is with them they are not afraid.

I don't know that the Holy Spirit has ever been compared to a babysitter. But if you can imagine Jesus as a mother, then it may not be so hard to imagine the Spirit in this other role, as one who cares for the church in the interim between Jesus' departure and return, as one who comforts, teaches, reminds, and yes, sometimes even romps with the sons and daughters of God.

Come Holy Spirit, Come!  
Pastor Irwin



## OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY

In observance of Memorial Day, the church office will be closed Monday, May 27. We will re-open on Tuesday, May 28 at 9:00 am.

# PENTECOST GERANIUM ORDERS

**Cost of geraniums:** \$6.00 each (5" pots)

Mail your payment and order form to the Church Office, place it in the offering plate, or in the Office drop box. Please mark any envelopes with "Pentecost Geranium Order." Order early to ensure you get your flowers!

**DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2023**

**Total Plants Ordered:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Make checks payable to Advent Lutheran Church)**

**\* DO NOT STAPLE PAYMENT TO ORDER FORMS \***

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Notation:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *I will pick up my plant(s) after the service on Pentecost Sunday.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I will pick up my plant(s) Monday-Thursday between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm.*



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



5/1: Donald Deem  
5/2: Betty Berger  
5/2: LeRoy Cunnius  
5/4: Larry Schleicher  
5/10: Linda Triviets  
5/10: Joyce Wagner  
5/12: Jeffrey Hettinger  
5/23: Sheryl Roland

**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.**

## MANY THANKS TO YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY PROMISE WEEK IN MARCH

During our Family Promise week of service (March 24-30), we helped two families. Three adults, one who is legally blind, three teenagers, and a seven-year-old child are working their way toward a better life because of your generous support.

Thanks to our generous members who:

- Donated over \$675 in store and pizza gift cards
- Donated dish soap, cleaning detergent, hand towels, paper towels, laundry detergent, and disinfectant cleaner.

You are making a difference in the lives of our needy neighbors. You are a wonderful, generous congregation!

Many thanks to all who donated to help the families in need. We are following Christ's command to "love our neighbor as yourself."

The Stewardship Committee



## MEMBERS WHO HAVE ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Donald Sanner died on April 5.

*For all the saints, who from their labors rest.*

## “MILK MONEY” COLLECTION FOR MARY’S SHELTER

It's time for our annual baby bottle “milk money” donation drive for Mary’s Shelter! This organization provides residential and non-residential services for pregnant women and women with newborns who are in need of a supportive environment. They prepare new mothers for independent living and a vision of hope for the future.

Our children and youth will be handing out the baby bottles on Sunday, May 12. Take your bottle home and fill it up! **The bottles are due back at the church by Sunday, June 2.**

**Please make checks payable to Mary’s Shelter.**

Bottles can be returned to the church office during the week, or to the church on Sunday mornings. If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Frantz.



## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Embracing the spirit of spring and new growth, continued giving at church becomes a symbol of renewal and vitality. Your contributions serve as the seeds that blossom into opportunities for spiritual growth, community outreach, and the flourishing of meaningful programs. Much like the blooming flowers in spring, your generosity helps nurture a thriving church community, enabling it to branch out and positively impact the lives of its members. Together, through ongoing support, we cultivate an environment where faith, compassion, and fellowship can flourish like the blossoms of a new season.



## 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, May 7.**

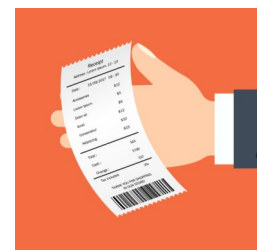


## REDNER’S RECEIPTS PROGRAM

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.



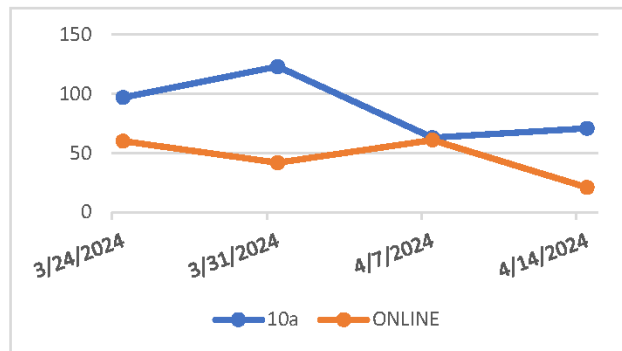
## 2024 OPERATING BUDGET

	Through March 2024 BUDGET Operating Receipts	March 2024 ACTUAL Operating Receipts	Actual - Budget Variance
<b>Operating Receipts Only</b>	\$73,392	\$69,916	(\$3,476)
<b>Rental Receipts</b>	\$12,985	\$8,985	(\$4,000)
<b>Total Receipts</b>	\$86,377	\$78,901	(\$7,476)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$85,291	\$85,786	\$495
<b>Net Receipts vs Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,086</b>	<b>(\$6,885)</b>	<b>(\$7,971)</b>

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

DATE	10a	ONLINE
3/24/2024	97	60
3/31/2024	123	42
4/7/2024	63	61
4/14/2024	71	21
<b>AVG</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>41</b>

Maundy Thursday: 19 (7p), 33 (online)  
 Good Friday: 25 (7p), 28 (online)  
 Easter 8a: 30



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

## A NOTE OF THANKS

To the Social Ministry Committee and Members of Advent,  
 Easter "joy" was much appreciated on such a special day. Bless you all for the "goodies!"

Shirley Jackson

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To the Members of Advent,  
 Thank you for the Christ in Our Home booklet. I really enjoy reading it. I miss being at Advent with everyone.

Betty Berger

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Dear Advent Friends,  
 Thank you for the Easter gift bag. I enjoyed all the different varieties of snacks. It was quite generous. Thank you for thinking of me.

Sincerely,  
 Ann Bossler

## A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Advent Friends,

Special thanks for the assorted bag of goodies! Your thoughtfulness and kindness is much appreciated. Thanks again!

Nancy Fox

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Dear Advent Members,

Thanks for the bag of goodies. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

My Love to All,  
Joan Beaver

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Dear Advent Members,

Thank you so much for my Easter goodie bag. I enjoyed everything. Also thanks for the "Christ in Our Home" magazine. The large print makes reading so much easier.

Sincerely,  
Lore Griswold

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Dear Church Family,

Jerry and I want to thank you for your Easter gift bag. We are deeply appreciative of your kindness. We hope you all had a blessed Easter. We are both blessed to be part of your loving family.

Wish you all God's Blessings,  
Zane & Gerry Schoellkopf

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Dear Advent Lutheran Church,

Thanks for the bag of great eating food and sweets, and also for the three month Christ in our Home large print. So glad I gave many years when I was able to do things because at 94 those days are gone.

Christian Love,  
Clara S. Koch

## MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

We meet monthly on the third Thursday at 7:30 AM. Conversation will focus on how we can make a difference and how we are making a difference in the world. Our next meeting is on **May 16 at 7:30AM at the Deluxe Diner.**





# CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Advent Lutheran Church

March 10, 2024

\*\*\*UNAPPROVED\*\*\*

The regular monthly meeting of the Congregational Council was held on March 10, 2024 at 6:30pm. The following members were present: Bonnie Arner, Stephanie Warmkessel, Pastor Irwin, Wendy Rowlands, Cindy Hinsey, Joanne Frantz, Joy Frantz, Cindy Mattern, Larry Grybosky, and Mark Blatt. Excused: Becky East. Ray Smith. Absent: none.

Council President Bonnie Arner called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Pastor Irwin led the council in prayer.

## **Secretary's Report**

The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed.

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

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed.

Payments for the 2215 Penn Avenue repairs were deducted from the Mission Investment Fund Checking Contingency Funds, Capital Improvement Fund. Cindy M. asked what funds would be used if repairs go over the balance in the Capital Improvement Fund. Payments would probably come from the Contingency Funds per Bonnie and Steph.

\$250 adjustment was made to the Social Ministry Discretionary Fund, as was discussed at last month's meeting.

**Motion:** A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Cindy M and seconded by Joy. It was approved without dissent.

## **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Irwin submitted a written report with the usual outline of his activities during the month.

Male and female voting members are needed for both the Western Berks Mission District Spring Assembly on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Northeastern PA Synod Assembly on June 8th.

## **Committee Reports**

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

### **Christian Education**

There was poor attendance in Sunday school today. Children will be singing on Palm Sunday, in April on Good Shepherd Sunday and in May on Mother's Day. There are 4 confirmands for the fall, maybe more.

### **Communication**

None

### **Endowment**

No meeting yet. Still determining who will be chair.

### **Evangelism**

- Planning for Spring festival.
- Waiting for delivery of Bomba socks.
- Possible clothing drive in spring.

### **Fellowship**

- Easter breakfast on March 31<sup>st</sup> from 7am – 9:15am

### **Finance**

None

### **Memorial**

None

### **Mutual Ministry**

None

### **Office administration**

Becca will be out of the office after Easter for a few weeks due to carpal tunnel surgery. Cindy M asked if anyone ever looked at her work station for ergonomics.

### **Personnel**

None

### **Property**

Repairs to 2215 Penn Ave are almost done. Rick is getting quotes for repairs to the stone retaining walls at front of properties.

### **Safety & Emergency**

None

### **Social Ministry.**

Easter snack bags for shut-ins will be prepared this coming Sunday

### **Stewardship**

Report in packet.

### **Worship & Music**

Report in packet. Attendance is holding steady.

**Motion:** A motion to accept the committee reports was made by Joanne and seconded by Wendy. It was approved without dissent.

### **Old Business**

The cost to move the tower bells at Incarnation Church to Advent will cost approximately \$30,000, but Incarnation will pay half of cost. Bonnie will take request for funding to Memorial Committee. We could also do sponsorships to raise funds. Larry said Spring Township will require a zoning permit and building permit (with foundation drawings), but permission is not needed for the bells themselves. We may need a zoning variance, which could take 2 months for approval, because the bells may be less than 50 feet away from the center line of the road. If it's determined a variance is needed, it should be sought 3 months before construction is scheduled.

### **New Business**

Joint meeting with other church interested in sharing a pastor should soon be scheduled with Pastor Drew Neidig.

### **Thrivent Action Teams**

April men's group breakfast.

Free little pantry – sometimes is emptied in one day. Pastor spoke to someone who is distributing this food to members of his family that need help.

Wilson Food Pantry or other food pantries, Mary's Shelter, Safe Berks. Paper goods are needed as well as food.

### **Third Sunday Highlights – Bonnie will announce**

Children's Choir will be singing 3 more times before June, and will be joining with the Adult Choir for one Sunday.

Conversations are positive with other congregation that is looking at a shared pastor.

Suggestions for Thrivent Action Teams.

**Motion:** Joy made the motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Joanne and approved without dissent.

The meeting closed by praying The Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

Minutes Prepared and Submitted by Cindy Hinsey, Recording Secretary