

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
3660 KENNY ROAD
COLUMBUS, OH 43220



PHONE: (614) 451-3639
FAX: (614) 451-0322
WWW.ADVENTELC.ORG

ANNUAL REPORT – 2022-2023

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JUNE 11, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JUNE 11, 2023

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Dear Members and Friends of Advent Lutheran Church,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is with joy and gratitude that I present to you the Pastoral Annual Report, highlighting the various ministries, activities, and milestones we have experienced as a church family from July 2022 to June 2023.

Worship and Spiritual Life:

Throughout the year we came together as a faith community, uniting in worship to seek God's presence and guidance. We found inspiration in the Word of the Lord, which was read, proclaimed, and expressed musically. Our weekly worship services continued to be a source of spiritual nourishment, renewal, and communal bonding.

As many of you are aware, the pandemic necessitated significant changes when we resumed in-person services. Over the course of this year, we have made remarkable progress, transitioning from the requirement of wearing masks to gathering as a community around the altar, sharing in communion together. The Confirmation Class even began to acolyte for many of our services.

For our annual **Reformation Celebration** we did not have a Confirmation Class to make their Affirmation of Baptism. So we were able to invite The Rev. Dr. Joy Schroeder from Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University who specializes in church history and the history of biblical interpretation.

Christmas Day fell on a Sunday this past year and so my family invited you into our home for the holiday, virtually. We were able to have a worship service on YouTube that was streamed so that we could sing together and hear the good news of our Savior's birth.

During this year we were able to do God's Work with Our Hands together with our sister churches in the area. Last summer we were able to do a pulpit exchange with **Pastor Jacqui Buschor** from **The Church at Oakland Park**. During the Lenten season, we embarked on a collaboration with Holy Trinity. We joined hands for mid-day services at **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**, followed by a delightful luncheon. Additionally, Advent hosted the evening Lenten service, preceded by a soup supper. The success of this endeavor has sparked conversations about repeating it next year and exploring potential future collaborations. All this brings me great joy as we are stronger and better together: joining Jesus in the restoration of the world, which is the Southern Ohio Synod slogan.

For the first two months of the 2023 summer will be a time of experiment and familiarity as we will be going to one service and reintroducing the elements of Passing both the peace and the offering plate.

PASTORAL CARE AND FELLOWSHIP:

Pastoral care remained an integral part of our church's ministry. We accepted 7 new members, baptized 6, married one couple, and had three funerals/memorial services. I made dozens of hospital calls and sessions of spiritual direction. I have reached out to those in need, provided spiritual support, counseling, and encouragement. I have tried to foster a sense of fellowship and community by organizing various events such as the Souper Bowl of Caring and the Chili Cook Off. Activities such as these help us grow together as a loving and caring congregation.

DISCIPLESHIP AND EDUCATION:

We continued to prioritize discipleship and spiritual growth through our educational programs. Sunday School classes for children, youth groups, and adult Bible studies provided opportunities for individuals of all ages to deepen their understanding of the Scriptures and apply biblical principles to their daily lives. We came together to deepen our understanding of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, grow in our spiritual

maturity, and come more intimate with the Bible. I am personally in charge of three Christian Educational programs, Adult Sunday School, Confirmation, and Zoom Bible Study on a weekly basis during the school year.

In June 2023 I will be taking two classes on preaching and the Bible to continue to “stay sharp” in my own education.

MISSION AND OUTREACH:

Advent Lutheran Church has always been committed to serving and blessing our local community and beyond. Throughout this year, we actively engaged in various mission and outreach initiatives. We organized food drives (Thanksgiving Ingathering, Souper Bowl of Caring), partnered with local charities (Columbus City School supply drive, LSS, The Church on Oakland Park), and volunteered our time and resources to support the marginalized and vulnerable in our area (Bed Brigade, Hunger Network in Ohio). Additionally, we continued our ongoing support for global mission projects (Lutheran World Relief with Lenten donations for earthquake victims in Hungary and Syria as well as Quilts).

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCES:

Over the course of this fiscal year, we have experienced significant improvements in our finances, thanks to the heightened generosity of our congregation and the conscientious budgetary practices implemented by our staff and Teams. This encouraging trend bolsters our confidence that we will continue to serve as responsible stewards of Advent's finances, enabling us to effectively spread the Gospel message. Each one of us has a vital role to play in ensuring Advent's financial stability for the future.

I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all who have selflessly given their time, talents, and financial resources in support of Advent Lutheran Church's ministry. Your generosity has enabled us to fulfill our mission and maintain our facilities. We have strived to maintain transparency in our financial management, regularly providing updates and reports to the congregation, fostering accountability and trust.

I cannot thank Bob Goldie, Bob Swinehart, Amy Lytle, Tom Heiby, Jane Moore, the counters, and the entire Administration Team enough for their unwavering commitment to serve as enthusiastic champions and stewards of Advent's ministries. Their dedication and contributions deserve to be celebrated by all of us.

VISION AND GOALS:

As I look ahead, I am excited about the future of Advent Lutheran Church. We will continue to focus on prayer, seeking God's guidance, and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us forward. And if we are to further enhance our ministries, strengthen our discipleship programs, and engage in deeper relationships with our community it is **absolutely vital** that we have more people step up to give of their time, talents, and treasures. There is **so much** potential here at AdventELC just waiting to be vitalized, but we cannot take the next steps without **you**.

In conclusion, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of you, our members and friends. Your dedication, support, and prayers have contributed to the growth and impact of our church. Together, let us continue to walk in faith, love one another, and serve the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

May God bless you abundantly!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Aaron". The word "Pastor" is written in a larger, more decorative script, while "Aaron" is written in a simpler, cursive style below it.

Reverend Aaron Layne

Pastor, Advent Lutheran Church

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2022-23

June 11, 2023

Dear Members and Friends of Advent,

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and your families.

First and foremost, I wish to thank and acknowledge each member of our Church Council. They have worked diligently within their respective duties, including serving on various Teams, and for providing tremendous support and inspiration to me during these last two years. I am forever grateful for their continuing service, leadership and friendship.

As in any year, this fiscal year has had its challenges at Advent, but through prayer and member support, we have endured. Our future looks brighter now than in recent years. There have been many accomplishments during the year, and I see encouraging opportunities ahead. Increases in attendance the last few months are but one reason for my optimism.

A visual accomplishment, that stands out is our new sign. Its bright colors and messaging have enhanced the Advent brand to our community, serving as a beacon to invite others to the joy of joining us in service to Christ. Thanks to all of you that had a part in making this happen, including your donations.

Noteworthy, are the gradual protocol adjustments for our Sunday morning services. The pandemic caused us to make dramatic changes when we began in-church services. During this year, we have progressed from not requiring masks, to communing as a community around the altar. And how exciting to see the acolytes again!

We had an exciting collaboration with Holy Trinity during this year's Lenten services. Lenten mid-day services at Holy Trinity with a luncheon following, Advent hosting the evening Lenten service proceeded by a soup supper, was so successful that we are already discussing a repeat for next year, as well as potentially other collaborations. This is something Pastor Aaron has prayed for many years, and was able to see his prayers answered.

As I touched on previously, we have seen an increase in attendance during our Sunday services. I pray that this is a sign of more to come. Many of those are friendly faces that we have not seen for awhile, as well as some new faces. What a blessing!

Our finances have improved this fiscal year through increased giving and budget controls by the staff and Teams. In combination, we are confident that this trend will continue, so that we can be good stewards of Advent's finances, spreading the Gospel of God. There will always be a need for each of us to have a personal responsibility to ensure this for the future.

One means to ensure our continued ability to serve the Lord, is the establishment of the Stewardship for All Seasons Task Force, headed by the capable leadership of Amy Lytle. This two-year initiative was created

by and overseen by the Southern Ohio Synod. One of its first year's priorities was to establish transparent communications to our members as a means to educate the importance of sharing our gifts, ensuring that we are able to have the financial stability necessary to meet our budget, make capital improvements and pay our loving and faithful Pastor Aaron and his exceptional, dedicated staff - all to the service of our Lord our Savior. The Task Force developed informative materials, testimonial videos - and an inspiring sermon by Amy - that apply to this coming fiscal: 2023-2024. That campaign is ongoing and I pray that we all do what we can to help the Task Force meet its goals and objectives. With your support, I am confident that it will.

Having covered only a few highlights (I encourage you to thoroughly read all of the Team reports in this Annual Report, that cover so many, many more), I now wish to concentrate on one final and I believe vital topic: volunteering to serve God.

Many of us know first-hand the challenges sometimes in identifying and securing members to help fill voids on multiple service areas, including Altar Guild, Worship Teams, Church Council, Choirs, teaching Sunday School, helping with the various youth and outreach programs, as well as the Administrative, Worship and Witness, Social Concerns and Parish Life Teams. I cannot thank everyone enough who is already sharing their time and talents, sometimes serving double duty. Your impact is felt everyday.

In the fall, we held a Ministry Fair wherein the various services displayed what they do to serve Advent. During that fair, thirteen members stepped forward to volunteer where they felt a calling, which met their interest. What a blessing!

When I ask members' to share why they volunteer, there is one overall response - because they experience fulfillment in service to God, receiving more than they give.

I echo that sentiment.

It is my prayer that more members see a calling to volunteer. In 1st Corinthians 12: 2-4 it says, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord." Please pray how you and your family might share your talents and carve out some time to experience your own fulfillment.

Simply put: "Be like Beckie!"

I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve you. It has been rewarding, a blessing and a sincere honor.

And finally, I wish to thank Pastor Aaron. He has been supportive during my tenure, along with becoming a confidant and a friend. I will always be grateful.

Tom Heiby, Congregation Council President
Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Heiby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Team Purpose:

The Administration Ministry Team's purpose is to manage church resources. It also involves stewardship. Faith produces generous hearts. We recognize that all we are and have been a gift from God to be used for God's glory. Thus, we have a commitment to grow in giving of our financial resources, time, and talents to the work of the church. This team encompasses ministries in the following key areas: (1) Tech & Communication (2) Financial accounting and budget (3) Stewardship (4) Facilities and other ministries as may be determined. The team members are Amy Lytle, Craig Dame, Delton Phillips, Mike Deeter, Bob Goldie Joe Bolzenius.

Team Lead Ed Cooper

Highlights of Past Year's Activities and Actions:

Tech & Communication

- Thanks to Tony Maggio & Pastor Layne for the improvement in our technology for social media.
- Updated our sound room computers.

Finances

- Monitored operating revenue and expenses throughout the fiscal year with monthly reports & highlights prepared for the Administration Team and Congregational Council.
- Maintained restricted & designated funds in accordance with donor/or Congregational Council direction-including Local Benevolence.
- Southern Ohio Synod & Jacob's Porch monthly benevolence as adjusted for the current year are current and remitted the first of every month. Additional benevolence benefited LSS & Lutheran World Relief.
- Installed a new outdoor Sign paid with designated contributions, Property improvement & Memorial funds. Replaced the kitchen to narthex fire door.
- Jane Moore was appointed Assistant Treasurer replacing Sylvia Wallace. Thanks to Sylvia for her decades of service and thanks to Jane for joining team.
- The ten-year capital Spending Plan was updated and sent to the Council for their review.

Property Report & Accomplishments

- The property Team had a successful FY2022-2023 through completing multiple maintenance projects and keeping up the routine building maintenance. I would like to recognize the Members of the property team for all their hard work to Advent in the past year. Mike Deeter, Delton Phillips, Jean Pontious Joe Bolzenius, Jim Klinksick.
- The Fire Door in kitchen to Narthex had to be replaced due to parts to repair was no longer Available.
- AEP installed a light for our entrance to help with turning into Advent at night.
- The Administration Team prepared a ten-year plan for the repairs and equipment needs.
- The Advent sign was replaced by The Sign Vision Company
- Del Phillips is working on replacing the ceiling lights in all classrooms with LED fixtures.
- The council requested that the Administration work on modifying the Rental Agreement for use of our building. The task was completed, and Council approved the new Rental Policy
- Updated the ten-year Capital Spending Plan.

Stewardship

This year Advent embarked upon a two-year stewardship program called Stewardship for All Seasons (SAS). Our participation in SAS was encouraged by and authorized by our Church Council and under the guidelines of similar, Successful campaigns initiated by the Ohio Synod. The campaign task force consisted of Phillip Canfield, Bev Goldie, Jennifer Parker, Brent Welch, and Chairperson Amy Lytle. Planning for the campaign began in fall of 2022, and the congregational kick-off coincided with the 2023 Lenten season, asking for financial commitments for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The task force chose as our inspiration 1Peter 4:10 "AS each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied graces". This year's theme is Walking Gratefully, Grace-Fully, generously. Our Goal of a \$423 increase per week in giving will support ministry initiatives including increasing communication programs to let Advent's light shine, expanding opportunities for service, and sustain our Ministry Excellence

Goals for Advent 2023-2024

- Finish replacing all classroom lights with LED fixtures.
- RE- pair the roof under the Steeple.

PARISH LIFE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

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: Brent Welch

Parish Life meets on the second Monday of every month at 4 p.m.

Highlights of Past Year's Activities and Actions:

Education

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT 2022-2023

- Jean Pontious, Courtney Crumb, Matt Pittman-teachers
- The PreK- 5th grade:
 - Used "Dig In" curriculum for Pre K through 5th grade. We studied the "Epic Teachings of the Bible". The lessons were well received and focused on Bible stories with a variety of activities. The themes included: Fruit of the Spirit, The Lord's Prayer, God's Commandments, The Armor of God, and Psalm 23.
 - 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 Matt Pittman and focused on different lessons from the Bible. They averaged three- five students each week.

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.
- Continue to use “Dig In” curriculum for the younger children. The next season will be the Life of Jesus.
- Encourage parents to support the spiritual education of their children by getting them to Sunday School more often.

SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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 2022, members of the congregation donated \$2,015 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 2022, Advent held the 28th annual Blessing of the Animals. Pet parents/siblings brought their dogs, cats, guinea pigs, lizards, and turtles to be blessed by Pastor Layne. 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, mouthwash, 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.
- The Team also asked for donations of school supplies, which were given to the Church on Oakland Park for distribution.

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

- Quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) 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 someone cares. Quilts represent God's presence in a world of strife and suffering.
- In conjunction with Rally Day, Isabel's Quilters participated in the Ministry Fair organized through the Ministry Teams and Council. We had a display to show various aspects in making quilts for LWR, and included envelopes for those interested to "fill a Quilt with Love" by donating \$13 to purchase fleece filler for quilts. We also had a quilt for auction with proceeds to benefit the general church fund. We had 3 people sign up to learn more about Isabel's Quilters by attending a session. We gained two new members to the group
- Team members include Laura Bunch, Mary Lynn Holman, Barb Murphy, Sylvia Wallace, Brenda Wheeler, Emily Shipman, and Norma Pitts. Dee Swinehart also machine quilted some 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 9, 2022, in which 52 quilts were displayed on the communion rails and blessed before delivery. On October 14, Brenda and Glenn, Norma, and Sylvia took 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. We provide tracking labels on our boxes and learned that our quilts from 2022 were still in a warehouse as of April, 2023.
- Norma Pitts submitted a Thrivent Cares grant form, which was accepted, and we received \$250 in mid-March of 2023 to use toward equipment and supplies for our outreach ministry for quilts for LWR. Cutting mats and rotary blades were welcomed to replace worn out equipment! Some of the funds were used to purchase fleece batting.
- 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.

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

- A Christmas tree is set up in the Narthex in early December. Members donate dozens of hats, gloves, and scarfs for children. 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 was given a question each Sunday (such as “Which is better, crunchy or creamy peanut butter?”) and could vote for their choice with money! The event culminated on Super Bowl Sunday with a Chili Cook-Off. As a result, a total of \$3,734.97 was donated to the Pantry. The congregation changed the game and succeeded in putting a tackle on hunger!

❑ **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. Advent has continued to be a regular partner in delivering beds the first Saturday of each month.
- There are two ways to serve in this ministry: one group builds beds and one group delivers beds. 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 beds and Bibles is priceless.

❑ **Ongoing Projects**

- The Social Concerns Team continues to sponsor the collection of aluminum pop can tabs to support the Ronald MacDonald House; cancelled stamps to support the LSS Food Pantries; 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.

2023-2024 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 2022-2023

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: Rita Heiby

Another busy – and exciting – year for this active Team that included Pastor Aaron Layne, Jean Pontious, Norma Pitts, Jan Kulisek, Jane Prause, Rita Heiby and Tom Heiby; Jennifer Parker and Stacy Bolzenius (representing Social Concerns); Brent Welch and Trevor Downing (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' and Matt Pittman's music leadership including all the choirs and special music throughout the year.
- Pastor Aaron and Jean Pontious continue to hold worship service weekly at The Forum, including Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Attendance averages between 20-25 per week.
- Music Appreciation Reception
- Communion advanced to kneeling at the railings
- Blessing of the Quilts
- Old Time Gospel Sunday
- First Sunday Fellowship/Refreshments returned
- 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.
- October was an exciting month with Reformation Sunday. One service, sermon provided by guest pastor Dr. Joy Schroeder on the history of Lutheranism. Special music was provided by the Damenchor Group. The service followed with a tasty German-themed potluck.
- A combined, successful Rally Day and Ministry Fair, wherein 13 members signed up to join the various service Teams. Theme for the Ministry Fair was "Church is Not a Spectator Sport. Get Involved!"
- Acolytes implemented in October
- Live Nativity

- The Christmas season sermon theme was “Home for Christmas” and concluded with a special prerecorded video of the Layne family on Christmas Day.
- A new Fellowship event to review experiences and photos of those who were on a recent trip to the Holy Land.
- 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.
- The “Is It I, Lord?” retuned and was presented during Maundy Thursday service. Our members and staff were excellent.
- Established one service at 10:00 during June and July 2023, with monitoring and adjustments as needed.

☐ Witness

- Several new individuals and families are regularly attending.
- One New Member class in the fall and one in May.
- 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 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.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

➤ **Matt Pittman, the Director of Youth and Family Ministries, supported a variety of youth and learning functions throughout the year:**

- Vacation Bible School – 38 attended, raised \$459 for LSS Food Pantries, 37% Advent, 60% visitors (31% of visitors – no church affiliation). With participants and Line Leaders: 29 Advent; 29 visitors; Very proud of the youth who took on rotation responsibilities: Katie Deeter, Greta Baran, Courtney Pittman, Sarah Deeter, Daphne Bonilla, and Kassi Knight.
- Y² for 1st-5th Graders. Adjusted the schedule to meet mostly on Thursday nights; Valentine Project; and OWL Prayer Buddy project – had the Prayer Buddy Banquet to introduce our OWL; had a Meet and Greet in the Fall to say farewell to old prayer buddy and met new ones!; participated during a Lenten Worship Service (did readings; led prayers); Hopewood Outdoors Night hosted by Sara Cogsil from Hopewood; went to Homestead Metro Park
- Fun in Faith Elementary Retreat– Advent's y2 group and parents attended this at Hopewood Pines.
- Sr. High Youth – Peer Ministry Leadership year. Learned how to listen, care, and not make decisions for friends; support, not decide.
- Sr. High Fall Retreat – Capital University – blanket project, campus tour, devotions, and movie!
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Conversation Group – due to COVID our friends from Korea didn't come to church. However, some attended private school here during the year!
- Jacob's Porch Dinners: we provided meals and ate with them on 3 occasions.
- Advent's Live Nativity – w/ the Walk Thru Christmas Story. Attended by 250-300 people!
- Youth Cookie Project – Bags of cookies and caroling delivered to 4 elder care facilities.
- Winter NY Retreat – 7 youth and 4 adults traveled to NY for fun in the snow! “Be Still and Know That I Am God” was the retreat theme.
- Pancake Supper/Auction - 75 attended, \$401 raised for youth, 20 helped with event.
- HIP Puppet Ministry – performed as part of Christmas Eve service, Live Nativity publicity, Easter Egg Hunt, and VBS.
- Compassion International – continued to support Souaibou Coulibaly from Burkina Faso from funds in the youth designated account from “Time & Change” collections.
- Christmas with the Staff – allows parents for time during Advent season.
- Salvation Army Christmas Cheer – 15 youth and adults helped distribute food and gifts to those in need.
- Sr. High Holy Week Reflection – Watched portions of the *Last Temptation of Last Temptation of Christ* and prayed about what Jesus did for us.
- Easter Egg Hunt – 136 people (70 children) attended

- Final Exam Care Packages – sent undergraduate college students and those of that age care packages and letters to let them know that we were praying for them.
- Swoop In/ Service Days – helped 8 families with work around the house.
- Praise and Worship Band – continues to be incorporated into music; schedule about once a month and is active in worship services. Added a new member
- Sr. High Mystery Tour – 7 youth and 2 adults went on an adventure to places unknown – Chicago, canoeing, mission project.
- Graduating Seniors Huddle – high school grads met and discussed the challenges of college and what to expect
- Continuing Education for Matt – ReNew Retreat; ELCA Extravaganza in LA attended virtually; Youth Minister Clusters
- Israel Trip Presentation for the Community
- Trunk or Treat at Oakland Park – assisted with this event and supported Advent folks who were involved.
- Coordinating events with other youth groups.
- Sunday School – met in person. Two classes: Youngers & Conf./ HS
- School Events – attended athletic, band, etc., to show support for youth.
- Youth Board – met periodically and accomplished many tasks. Thank you to Caden Layne, Katie Deeter, Greta Baran, Angie Soltesz, Pastor Aaron, Alysha Clous, and Lee Sanow

Youth Contact person: Matt Pittman

Goals:

- Continue to create a welcoming church environment that will encourage our youth to bring friends who are wrestling with life, gender identities, and their faith which creates opportunity for making new disciples. Make Advent a safe space.
- Continue being intentional with our yearly modules for Sr. High. Find the balance of fun and content.
- Intentional training for youth leaders
- Continue to expand our puppet ministry to include other Confirmation or Sr. High Youth
- Continue to be very intentional with reaching out to our neighbors (Apartments, Condos)
- Continue to do joint youth events with other churches
- Develop Praise and Worship Band further.
- Develop ministry relationship with Oakland Park Lutheran Church

ATTENDANCE 2022

ATTEND MONTH Both Services		2022	21 yr. AVG
JAN		63	158
FEB		91	159
MAR		95	165
APR		139	181
MAY		116	155
JUN		106	147
JUL		80	136
AUG		110	147
SEP		111	154
OCT		112	159
NOV		102	160
DEC		110	150
AVG		103	156

VITAL STATISTICS

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023

BAPTISMS

HENRICK BARAN
 EVERETT PRITCHARD
 RICHARD DICKERT
 OLIVER DOLAN
 MACKENZIE GARRETT
 REESE KAUZLARICH

NEW MEMBERS

JODI & TOM GASPER
 JANE & ROY HART
 JOHN KORTING
 ANGELA MAROLF
 CRAIG ORLADY
 JANE REED
 LAUREN SHELLY

DEATHS

BILL MURPHY
 BECKIE EVANS-ZAEBST
 GEORGE ZAEBST
 ERMA GRIESDORN

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Budget Proposal: FY 2023-2024

	(Rounded to nearest \$)	Actual 2020-2021	Actual 2021-2022	Current Budget 2022-2023	Estimated 2022-202	Proposed Budg. 2023-24	
COLLECTIONS:							
	Contribution- Giving	\$ 325,358	\$ 309,497	\$ 336,000	\$ 320,025	\$ 326,800	
	Contribution - BEARS (9 mo. Program)	\$ 12,150	\$ 13,389	\$ 13,800	\$ 15,850	\$ 16,000	
	Contribution - Kroger	\$ 799	\$ 514	\$ 400	\$ 475	\$ 500	
	Contribution - Tag Sale			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	Contribution - Thrivent Choice	\$ 2,186	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,500	
	Contribution - Building Use	\$ 2,600	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,800	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000	
	Contribution - Investment (Int/Div/G/L)	\$ 1,083	\$ 818	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,200	\$ 4,000	
	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 344,176	\$ 329,518	\$ 356,000	\$ 346,000	\$ 353,800	
EXPENDITURES :							
	Ministry of Worship & Witness	\$ 38,305	\$ 40,446	\$ 41,500	\$ 29,000	\$ 34,300	as percent of 2022 budget 9.7%
	Ministry of Social Concerns	\$ 124		\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500	0.1%
	Ministry of Parish Life	\$ 2,071	\$ 6,056	\$ 8,500	\$ 4,200	\$ 5,800	1.6%
	Ministry of Administration	\$ 69,709	\$ 95,310	\$ 89,000	\$ 66,200	\$ 90,700	25.6%
	Salaries	\$ 188,718	\$ 203,208	\$ 210,200	\$ 210,260	\$ 222,500	62.9%
	Mortgage	\$ 28,430		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%
	Designated Funding	\$ 4,357	\$ 5,019	\$ 6,300	\$ 340	\$ -	0.0%
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 331,714	\$ 350,039	\$ 356,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 353,800	100.0%
	NET PROCEEDS	\$ 12,462	\$ (20,521)	\$ -	\$ 36,000	\$ -	

Expenditure Details:

	(10 months) April 30 2023 YTD	Current 2023 budget	EST 2022-2023	Proposed 2024 budget
Operating Expenses :				
010000 Ministry of Worship & Witness				
010100 Benevolence SOS	\$ 13,333	\$ 24,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 20,000
010101 Jacob's Porch Partnership	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,600	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,600
010200 Altar & Communion	\$ 2,763	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,100	\$ 2,700
010300 Evangelism (incl Advertising & Publicity)	\$ 1,716	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,800	\$ 2,200
010401 Community Event - Live Nativity	\$ 1,124	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,125	\$ 1,000
010402 Community Event - Re-Opening		\$ 1,100		
010403 Community Event - Egg Hunt	\$ 115	\$ 300	\$ 115	
010500 Music & Supplies	\$ 931	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,055	\$ 1,000
010600 Nursery and Supplies	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
010700 Organ & Tuning Repair	\$ 79	\$ 400	\$ 160	\$ 200
010900 Supply Pastor	\$ 687	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,500
011000 Worship Matl and Supply (Pastor)	\$ 1,917	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,045	\$ 2,000
Subtotal for 010000 Ministry of Worship & Witness	\$ 24,665	\$ 41,500	\$ 29,000	\$ 34,300
010800 Social Concerns	\$ -	\$ 500		\$ 500

020000. Ministry of Parish Life					
020100 Adult Sunday Church School	\$ 83		\$ 400	\$ 200	\$ 400
020200 Catechism	\$ 289		\$ 1,000	\$ 450	\$ 600
020201 Camperships			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
020300 Children's Sunday Church School	\$ 744		\$ 800	\$ 750	\$ 600
020400 Cradle Roll	\$ -		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
020500 Fellowship Activities	\$ 775		\$ 2,000	\$ 800	\$ 2,000
020501 Care Team	\$ -		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 50
020600 My Family and Me	\$ -		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 50
020700 VBS	\$ 69		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
020800 Youth Ministry/Activities	\$ 558		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
020900 Member Seminarian Scholarships			\$ 1,000		
Subtotal for 020000. Ministry of Parish Life	\$ 2,518		\$ 8,500	\$ 4,200	\$ 5,800

	(10 months) April 30 2023 YTD		Current 2023 budget	EST 2022-2023	Proposed 2024 budget
Operating Expenses : (cont'd)					
030000 Ministry of Administration					
030100 Bank Fees & Charges			\$ 50		
030400 Cleaning/Supplies	\$ 1,665		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,700	\$ 2,000
030500 Continuing Education - Pastor	\$ 305		\$ 1,400	\$ 350	\$ 1,400
030501 Continuing Education - Staff	\$ 125		\$ 1,400	\$ 150	\$ 1,400
030600 Council Discretionary	\$ 108		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,500
030800 Fin Secretary/Treasurer Supplies	\$ 358		\$ 150	\$ 360	\$ 200
030900 Insurance Building & Liability	\$ 3,846		\$ 5,400	\$ 5,100	\$ 5,400
031000 Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 9,411		\$ 13,000	\$ 9,900	\$ 10,000
031001 Property Improvements Accrual Expense			\$ 14,000		\$ 15,000
031100 Office Machines / Rentals	\$ 4,150		\$ 4,500	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,500
031200 Pastor Discretionary	\$ 10		\$ 300	\$ 40	\$ 300
031400 Postage	\$ 376		\$ 500	\$ 400	\$ 600
031500 Professional Expense	\$ 813		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,150	\$ 1,500
031600 Stationary & Office Supplies	\$ 908		\$ 2,400	\$ 1,200	\$ 2,000
031700 Stewardship expense	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500
031800 Synod Delegates	\$ -		\$ 600	\$ 300	
031900 Telephone / Internet	\$ 2,430		\$ 2,800	\$ 2,850	\$ 2,800
032000 Payroll Fees	\$ 2,669		\$ 3,200	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,200
032100 Utilities	\$ 18,200		\$ 20,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 24,000
032200 Office Technology/Software	\$ 3,123		\$ 5,400	\$ 3,900	\$ 4,000
032300 Outside services/other fees	\$ 6,083		\$ 8,400	\$ 7,300	\$ 8,400
032301 Accounting services	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	
Subtotal for 030000 Ministry of Administration	\$ 54,580		\$ 89,000	\$ 66,200	\$ 90,700

040000 Salaries & Taxes					
040001 Employer Payroll Taxes (except Pastor)	\$ 5,881		\$ 6,441	\$ 6,501	\$ 6,832
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	\$ 32,408		\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 40,500
040307 Health Care Expense Offset					\$ 5,370
040400 Adult Choir Director	\$ 5,481		\$ 6,577	\$ 6,577	\$ 7,070
040500 Bell Choir Director	\$ 1,104		\$ 1,325	\$ 1,325	\$ 1,425
040600 Director of Music Ministries	\$ 9,563		\$ 11,475	\$ 11,475	\$ 12,336
040700 Dir of Youth and Special Projects	\$ 16,578		\$ 19,894	\$ 19,894	\$ 21,386
040800 Nursery Staff	\$ 2,152		\$ 2,730	\$ 2,730	\$ 2,938
040900 Organist	\$ 10,227		\$ 12,152	\$ 12,152	\$ 13,063
041000 Administrative Assistant	\$ 18,688		\$ 22,426	\$ 22,426	\$ 23,100
041100 Digital Content Manager	\$ 6,000		\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,500
Subtotal for 040000 Salaries	\$ 175,565		\$ 210,200	\$ 210,260	\$ 222,500
050200 Mortgage			\$ -		\$ -
Designated Funding :	\$ 278		\$ 6,300	\$ 340	
Total Expenses	\$ 257,606		\$ 356,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 353,800