

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
3660 KENNY ROAD
COLUMBUS, OH 43220



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

ANNUAL REPORT – 2019-2020
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON JUNE 14, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

**Meeting via Zoom (Computer call in) due to Covid 19 Pandemic and
Worship Services being done live stream beginning March 15, 2020**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JUNE 14, 2020 – VIA ZOOM**

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR

FY 2019-2020

by Reverend Aaron M. Layne



Dear members and friends of AdventELC,

As 2019 transitioned into 2020 our Worship & Witness Team discussed having a theme to play off of the year 2020 in order to help us focus on the lives and the future that God and the church is calling us to. After several ideas we prayerfully discerned that our theme for this year would be to *See Christ Clearly and Make Christ Clearly Seen*.

Personally, I love this. It's simple. Clean. Missional. And challenging. Especially in a pandemic, with the church building closed. Especially in an election cycle, where truth and direction is both unclear and needed. Especially in a time of impassioned protests for racial justice, where we are called to see that all are made in the image of God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We live in a difficult time in history. And yet, it is precisely in a time like this that we need to See Christ Clearly and Make Christ Clearly Seen. And God has been showing us how to do just that.

This past year we have seen so many make the time and effort to share from their talents and resources to invest in our ministries. From Vacation Bible School line leaders and Go-Getters organizers to Altar Guild members, worship leaders, youth night dinner providers, people who cut the lawn, help balanced the budget, count worship attendance and count offerings, to those who pray for our ministries and the world we are called to witness to, this congregation has done so well and is positioned to thrive.

Steady, faithful giving as well as large gifts - given as either love or final estate offerings - have helped us financially. Thanks to estate gifts in particular we were able to purchase the equipment needed to get this congregation's live streaming capabilities up and going by Ash Wednesday, having no idea that in just a matter of weeks that effort would quickly provide the lifeline we needed for worship to continue and the church to be open despite the building

being closed. God's timing was perfect on that! (as it always is) And thanks to your continued, faithful, and generous giving we have been able to keep our staff at full pay and we have collected thousands of dollars to be able to give direct aid to those in need in this difficult time.

American businessman Henry Kaiser once said, "Problems are opportunities in work clothes." This is a meaningful moment in time where we in the church have a vital voice that the world needs to hear. It's time to speak of love and justice. Hope and resurrection. Forgiveness and reconciliation. A time to ask ourselves as well as our neighbors, "What is really important to us?" Obviously society thought it was toilet paper and paper towels that were most important back in mid-March. But we Christians know there is more than that and we must be quick to refer to the teachings of Jesus who teaches what is truly most important: love of God and love of neighbor.

I am impressed by how this family of faith has adapted over this week of weeks plus. This moment in time has given us a time to imagine and innovate. To use our Spirit-given and Spirit-led gifts and ingenuity to continue to help us *See Christ Clearly and Make Christ Clearly Seen*. You have continued to call and check in on each other. You have attended Bible Study via ZOOM. You have chatted with each other on YouTube during our worship services. We have begun an exciting NEW midweek spiritual pick-me-up, Hangout 4 Hope, on YouTube that features members of this congregation and beyond giving the devotionals and providing special music.

The time is coming and coming soon when the building will reopen. What will physical church attendance look like moving forward? In a word: Different. Faithful, yet different. Faithful because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and every tomorrow. Different because we cannot behave like shopping malls in the age of Amazon. Indeed many of us are anxious to gather in person again. And yes, actual in-person gatherings and human connection are critical to human flourishing and the mission of the church. But as we have seen in these past weeks they're not the only way we can be the church. The method is important but it is not the mission. It's not that the church has a mission, but rather that the mission has a church. We join Jesus on His mission. God is on a mission, and Jesus is the embodiment of that mission. And that mission is to *See Christ Clearly and Make Christ Clearly Seen* as we worship God, follow Jesus, serve others, and make disciples.

To let you know, I am currently serving on two of the Bishop's teams: Stewardship and her Outside-The-Box think tank. I am also going to begin serving a three-year term on the LOMO Board of Directors in January, 2021 to try and help boost the impact of Lutheran Camping and Outdoor ministries here in Ohio.

I am thankful for our Congregational Council, led by our faithful President, Craig Dame as well as our staff: Mary Garland, Jean Pontious, and Matt Pittman, who continue to be faithful to their callings, diligent in their duties, flexible and creative in challenging times, and a delight to work alongside. I am also grateful for all of our team members and leaders as they continue to serve as the backbone and propulsion of ministry here at Advent.

It is my pleasure and passion to serve as your Pastor. May God continue to bless you and the ministry we share at AdventELC.

Reverend Aaron M. Layne, Pastor, Advent Lutheran Church

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Aaron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Pastor" on the top line and "Aaron" on the bottom line.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2019

Dear friends in Christ,

The past few months have reminded me of the saying "God does not give us more than we can handle". The Corona Virus Pandemic has impacted us all with a deadly, horrific and scary new world. Obviously, this has changed our church life since mid-March. But with the guidance of Pastor Layne and many helpers, (especially Caden Layne) Pastor has taught us that Advent is but a building, and that we, the congregation of Advent ELC, are the "Church." Under Aaron's leadership, he has led us on "the straight path." Proverbs 3: 5-6 tells us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your path.'

In John 16:33, Jesus tells us, "If I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulations. But take heart, I have overcome the world." As we stare "tribulation" square in the face of Covid 19, we resume the process of conducting Sunday in-church services. We will do so with extreme care and implement every known precaution. The Worship and Witness Team has compiled an extensive set of safety measures to ensure that we all can feel safe and remain healthy when visiting Advent. Please read the details in the Worship and Witness report.

In the January meeting of the Administration Team, Pastor Layne asked that we take a motion to Church Council to approve \$5,000.00 for the purchase of a new camera and computer. The motion was passed unanimously by Church Council. In hindsight, this action turned out to be a vitally important one, because that purchase was for our new live video streaming equipment. This has allowed Pastor Layne to continue the Sunday sermons, via live streaming video, while Advent has been closed.

The Administration Team has completed multiple tasks, repairs and projects, resulting in significant savings for Advent. Special thanks to Ed Cooper and Bob Goldie for their leadership on financial matters and for their work on the proposed 2020-2021 Budget.

In August 2019, at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the El-CA voted to become a Sanctuary Church. At the request of Church Council, a letter cosigned by Pastor Layne and me, was sent to the Congregation explaining the position of the El-CA, the Southern Ohio Synod and Advent regarding Sanctuary. Additionally, Pastor devoted multiple weeks of his Sunday School classes to the Sanctuary subject. I asked Bob Swinehart and Christy Habermehl to compose instructions on how to address those who may seek sanctuary at Advent. Those instructions are posted at all entries to Advent.

Sadly, Jim and Christy Habermehl announced in December that Jim had accepted a new job in Florida and that they would be moving there. Also, in December, Sylvia Wallace, our long-term Treasurer, gave me her resignation letter, effective December 31, 2019. We thank Sylvia for her many years of dedicated service to Advent.

When the Habermehl's move was announced, Christy's seat on Church Council was vacated at year's end. In our January Council meeting, we voted to approve Deb Rheyne to complete the final months of Christy's term. Deb's new perspective has been an excellent addition to Church Council.

Speaking of Church Council, I need to acknowledge each of our members. Thank you to Kat Väänänen, Stacy Bolzenius, Jenn Deeter, Nancy Neiner, Tom Heiby, Del Phillips, Bob Swinehart, Deb Rheyne, Sarah Deeter, our youth representative, Bob Goldie, acting Treasurer and Pastor Layne. It has been my distinct honor to serve as President, each of you have made my job so much easier. Thank you for your unwavering support and service to our Congregation and to the Church we all love. I think few of this Congregation understand the commitment that Bob Goldie gives to Advent. His ceaseless efforts towards maintaining monthly financial reports and his advice and work on the Proposed Annual Budget has been invaluable. From everyone at Advent, thank you Bob!

Council approved a motion, resulting from the suggestion by Bob Goldie to the Administration Team, to approve additional payments toward the principal of our mortgage. The motion was approved by Council. The monies to be used to lower the principal have come from Memorial and Designated Funds. By doing so, we have reduced the payments on our mortgage by several years.

During the times when we were unable to worship at Advent, a letter was circulated to our Congregation asking them to continue their tithes and offerings by mail or online at Advent's website. The response of our members has been nothing short of miraculous. Collections for the General Fund and for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund have been above normal. The Discretionary Fund has been used by Pastor Layne to help several of our member families negatively affected by the Corona Virus outbreak. Many prayers have been answered because of the generosity of this Congregation.

Thank you to our Administrative Staff of Mary Garland, Jean Pontious, Matt Pittman and Beckie Evans-Zaebst. Even though Beckie has stepped down as "Chief Recruiter for Everything", she has been a great asset to Advent for a long time. We miss Beckie and thank her for her loving service to Advent. Although the Church has been "closed", our staff has continued to fulfill their job duties remotely, for the most part. Jean being the main exception, as we all have seen her performing her musical talents on every live video streaming Sunday worship. Again, thank you all for being there for us during these unusual times.

Finally, I have had the incredible opportunity to work closely this past year with Pastor Aaron Layne. We have had some friendly but intense conversations on both Church related and personal topics. I have found Pastor to be a great listener, counselor, debater, and a spiritual inspiration to me. I feel I can turn to Pastor Aaron for anything, anytime and he will always be there for me and for his Congregation, freely adding his wisdom to any concern I may have regarding Church matters. We are fortunate to have such a talented, energetic and giving Pastor, a gifted orator, and a Servant of God who loves us all. We are truly blessed.

In Christ's name, I wish you all Peace!

Craig Dame
Church Council President

ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

Team Purpose:

The Administration Ministry Team's purpose is to manage our resources. It also involves stewardship. Faith produces generous hearts. We recognize that all we are and have is 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.

Team Leader: Ed Cooper

Highlights of Past Year's Activities and Actions:

Tech & Communications

The technology team had a successful year though supporting staff technology needs and completing small projects. We have a deeply knowledgeable team that is always willing to help out. A big Thanks goes to Allan MacDonald, Ben Pforsich, and Phil Toon.

- Replaced Projector/Camera in Sanctuary for Live Streaming of our services.
- Installation of Sanctuary speaker and drop microphones.
- Assisted Pastor Layne with the installation of Livestreaming equipment and Camera for live streaming.
- Sound room network switched to improve speed; Narthex wireless access point installed to extend wireless network.

Finances

- Implemented an on-line giving program to give members & visitors the option of contributing on-line. Maintained the Simply Giving Program which allows regular ACH deductions from Bank Accounts.
- 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 and /or Congregations Council
- Disbursed funds from these accounts as directed by the Congregation Council. And/or Staff contact our treasurer Bob Goldie.

Property Report

- The property Team had a successful FY20 through completing multiple maintenance projects and keeping up the routine building maintenance .The Administration Team gained two new members this year Del Phillips and Bob Swinehart. Del has played a critical part in replacing Ed Cooper in routine maintenance and special projects throughout the Church helping to update Church. Bob has taken the lead on multiple projects including the facilitating internet provider research. Bob's research to upgrade internet speed while reducing are overall cost of internet and phone service.
- I would like to recognize the members that have assisted the Administration team on a variety of projects throughout year: Dale Bicker, Joe and Stacy Bolzenius, Jean Pontious, Jim Klinksick, Phil Canfield, Allan MacDonald and Ben Pforsich.

Fy2019-2020 Accomplishments

- Painted Three Classrooms for Bears
- Upgrade the Narthex Lights to LED lights.
- Seal and paint the Basement walls.
- Installed Sanitizing dispensers at all entrances.

Stewardship

A special “Thanks” goes out to Pastor Layne for his many stewardship messages on Social Media that helped Advent maintain the giving that allowed us to come thru the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Goals for Advent 2020-2021

- Maintain the Faculties of Advent
- Replace the balance of Exit Lights to LED light fixtures.
- Seal and Paint the basement walls
- Research the development of a Columbarium on Advents property.

PARISH LIFE TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

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: Susan M. K. Phillips

Parish Life meets on the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m.

Highlights of Past Year's Activities and Actions:

Education

- Sunday School Co-Superintendents-Anne Pforsich and Jean Pontious

This year we:

- Used "Dig In" curriculum for Pre K through 4th grade. We studied the stories of the Old and New Testament. All available on-line. The lessons were well received and focused on good old Bible stories with a variety of activities.
- The confirmation class continued to use the on-line curriculum from the previous year. With many of the lessons self-contained in 4-6 weeks, a number of adults took turns leading each segment.
- Senior High class met with Matt Pittman and two young adults facilitating each week-many times off site.
- There were 4 classes of students.
- Sunday School students chose to give the weekly offering to Lutheran World's Relief program- local programs.
- Average weekly attendance of 35 including adults

Goals for next year:

- Continue to use “Dig In” curriculum for the younger children.
- Continue to find topics for the confirmation class that apply to their lives.
- Continue to use same format for high school.
- Encourage parents to support the spiritual education of their children by getting them to Sunday School more often.

Fellowship activities and events

- An all-congregation picnic and ice cream social was held on July 28, 2019 after the one “Gospel Service” that was held that morning.
- First Sunday Fellowship continues, with the ministry teams rotating the monthly hosting duties. This continues to work well, and we’d like to thank all of the ministry teams for participating and making this run so smoothly. Donuts continue to be ordered from Honey Dip Donuts on Kenny Rd.; they always have our order boxed and ready to go when anyone goes to pick up!
- This year’s Reformation Potluck included a celebration for the confirmands (and their families) who were confirmed that day. A cake for the confirmands, was purchased above and beyond the normal supplies. The event was a great success (good attendance, lots of good fellowship).
- The Lenten Soup Suppers took place for only two weeks this year due to COVID-19. We intended to return to the procedure of having each team take a week to make sure everything was set-up. It was agreed that we will continue this procedure next year.

Coming up: Unsure as of now due to safety concerns.

SOCIAL CONCERNs TEAM

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:

COVID-19 Response: Another Way to Help (Chair: Jennifer Parker)

- Pastor Aaron was contacted by the Director of Nursing for the company that helps manage the Mill Run Care Center, a rehabilitation center, skilled nursing, and assisted living facility in Hilliard. She explained that the facility experienced COVID-positive cases and, because of that, the vending machine company no longer serviced the facility. Snacks and sodas were a favorite of both residents and staff and a treat they could no longer get routinely. She asked if our congregation would be willing to support the residents and staff by sending pre-packaged snacks and drinks to the facility to brighten their day.
- The Team organized a donation drive as another tangible way we could help our local community. Items were to be dropped off in Jennifer Parker's garage – no personal contact was necessary! As one member of our congregation was dropping off her donation, she mentioned her aunt was in a nursing home in Wisconsin and the very first thing she always asks her niece to send is snacks! Another member brought her daughter, as it was "Kindness Day" at school. The below picture shows Camy with her kind donation.
- The drive was a great success (it took a pick-up truck to transport everything!).
- The facility is to contact Advent when they start to run low on snacks and sodas, and then we plan to do another collection drive.

Loaves & Fish

(Chair: Stacy Bolzenius)

- The Loaves and Fish teams work with the Salvation Army (using their canteen truck and kitchen) to provide hot meals for the homeless and disadvantaged in the Columbus area.
- Advent has 3 teams. Each team volunteers twice a year. Advent is currently scheduled to work the second Sunday of every other month.
- Food preparation begins at 2:00 pm and loading the canteen truck begins at 4:00 pm. The canteen truck makes 3 designated stops where food and items donated by the congregation, such as socks, are distributed.



Thanksgiving Ingathering (Chair: Larry Seifert)

- 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 (each one containing a gravy packet, cans of vegetables and fruit, a box of instant potatoes, a box of stuffing, cranberry sauce, cans of pumpkin, and a yellow cake mix, enough to feed a family of four) or to make cash donations. In 2019 members of the congregation provided 165 bags of food. Because LSS has far greater buying power than we do, Advent also donated \$1,000 to LSS. The cash donation assisted with the purchase of the needed turkeys and other food items.
- We were told that the LSS Food Pantry provided Thanksgiving meals for 3,000 families, thereby serving approximately 12,000 people.

Blessing of the Animals (Chair: Jennifer Parker)

- On the first Sunday in October of 2019, Advent held the 25th annual Blessing of the Animals. Quite a milestone. 30 pet parents/siblings brought their 14 dogs, 3 cats, and 1 guinea pig 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 first weekend in September), the Social Concerns Team asked the congregation to donate items to be included in "blessing bags" for the homeless -- 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. We filled 150 bags -- enough for each Advent family to distribute.
- On that Sunday evening, we had some new volunteers assist the Loaves and Fish team preparing and serving food to the homeless.
- Earlier in the summer, the Team had asked for donations of school supplies, which were distributed to a number of Columbus city schools by teachers in our congregation.

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

- Quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) connect hands and hearts around the world, serving over 100 countries, reaching families in need. 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 are a tangible symbol of God's love, presence, and hope.

- We at Advent delivered 52 quilts to the LWR collection point at Ohio Grove near Waldo, Ohio in October 2019. These quilts reflect the work of team members Barbara Murphy, Sylvia Wallace, Brenda Wheeler, Norma Pitts, Norma Foell and Jan Borkowski. Other contributors were Larry Carpenter, Carl Lahman, and Jeni Lahman.
- In June of 2019, Brenda Wheeler and Norma Pitts represented Advent at a day session of Lutheran Memorial Camp: Service for Global Sharing, Quilts for LWR. It was a learn-by-doing and demonstration session with all youth participating. The kids were pleased with their work and it was a meaningful day for “teachers” to share their skills at the service camp so youth could develop knowledge and skills to serve others.
- Isabel’s quilters met twice monthly (except holiday and vacation times) until the COVID 19 pandemic brought stay at home restrictions. Since early March 2020, the group members worked on their own - - cutting squares, designing, and/or sewing quilt tops. In addition to team members, Vicki Gilbreth did some cutting of squares and Dee Swinehart and Susan Hall sewed tops. With early work begun again in October, we have 25 completed quilts and 28 tops ready to put together to form quilts. On completion, we will reach our goal of 52 quilts for fall ingathering 2020!
- Thanks to all who donate fabric, supplies, and backing sheets, with special thanks to Sharon and Dean Haworth for donation of various fabrics, totaling 35 bolts with varying amounts of yardage, and to Greg Leonard for fabric, supplies, and support for this ministry.
- LWR encourages us to continue this important ministry during these times, stating: “We’ll need quilts more than ever.” We invite members of the Advent family and others to this ministry through financial and supplies support, fabric cutting, sewing tops, assembling and tying and finishing. It is another ministry to reflect God’s work through our hands.

Mitten Tree (Chair: Jennifer Parker)

- Jennifer coordinates with Jean Pontious on this annual project. A Christmas tree is set up in the Narthex in early December. Members donate dozens of hats, gloves, and scarfs for elementary and middle school students. The items are distributed to several Columbus city schools prior to the students' Christmas break.

Red Kettle/Salvation Army (Chair: Pastor Will Saunders)

- Once again, Advent volunteers rang the bell for the Salvation Army at the Kroger store on Chambers Road in early December. It was a full and enjoyable day!

Operation Christmas Child – Samaritan’s Purse Shoe Box Ministry (Chair: Allan MacDonald)

- Allan and daughter Lexi organize this endeavor in which shoe boxes are filled with small gifts. In November 2019, Advent members donated 13 filled shoe boxes. The boxes were shipped to Peru and Columbia. Since Advent began contributing to this program in 2014, we have donated 178 shoe boxes for children around the world.

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

- The congregation was divided into two teams in a fun-spirited competition to raise money and donate food or household/personal items for the LSS Food Pantry. The competition ended on Super Bowl Sunday with a “Family Feud” like contest hosted by Pastor Layne. Benjamin Powers, the Congregational Relations Manager for LSS, joined in the fun. The winners (once again!) this year were the Lightening Lutherans! More importantly, a total of 579 items and \$2,347.83 were donated to the Pantry. The congregation changed the game and succeeded in putting a tackle on hunger!

Bed Brigade (Chair: Bob Swinehart)

- 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 1500 beds to families in need. This also means 1500 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; General Mills Box Tops for Education to support Oesterlen Services for Youth in Springfield, Ohio; cancelled stamps to support the LSS Food Pantries; and eyeglasses for the Lions Recycle for Sight Program (this year we contributed 122 pairs).
- 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 homeless, with the hope we will have some bags available throughout the year.

2020-2021 Vision Goals:

- Join with the Worship & Witness Team to more effectively fulfill our mission, as we share the common goal of “witnessing.”
- 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 & WITNESS TEAM REPORT

Team Purpose:

The Worship and Witness Team's purpose is to glorify God through worship 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 & Witness Team Leader: Holly Cronau

Highlights of Past Year's Activities and Successes:

Worship

- Our team adopted the theme: "See Christ Clearly in 2020" to focus our work for the coming year on ministry to our congregation and the community. We also encouraged our other Advent teams to incorporate the theme in their work.
- Seasonal Special Worship Services were very well received and included our Gospel Sunday Service and Reformation Sunday Service with Confirmation.
- We began live-streaming services early in 2020. This became critical during the pandemic and was very well received. Pastor Layne and Jean Pontious led worship in a very meaningful way. Caden Lane lent his expertise to smoothly incorporate graphics and other special effects to enhance the worship delivery. Pastor Aaron effectively used technology to deliver innovative Children's messages and other special communications. We will continue to live stream services as an outreach to our members and the greater community.
- Worship and Witness had extensive discussions with Pastor Layne regarding the reopening of our church building for corporate worship. A document outlining the procedures for worship was forwarded to council in May 2020.

Witness

- New welcome cards were designed and are in use in the sanctuary. The team does follow up on information shared on the cards to improve outreach and connections
- Visitors are encouraged to sign the registry and share an e-mail address as they are comfortable. Follow up with visitors is done by members of the team
- We continue to follow up with Advent members who have not been in attendance to encourage their participation and to be aware of members who may need assistance.
- The team and staff are partnering together regarding advertising key services and events to enhance the outreach of Advent

Prayer Chain

- The prayer chain has been active with many members participating and sharing needs. Mary Garland continues to support this effort

Worship

Vision Goals:

- Enhance and grow our live-stream service
- Align our special services with our mission statement and continue to improve the quality and participation in these services
- Grow member's faith through worship

Witness

Vision Goals:

- Improve communication to members and visitors
- Enhance our advertising of events through social medial and traditional methods to improve outreach
- Engage with the larger community using current and new events

Prayer Chain

Vision Goals:

- Expand membership
- Encourage continued sharing of community and member needs to enhance the prayer ministry

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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

- 4 youth & 2 adults attended the Sr. High Mission Trip to Charleston, WV
- 1 youth attended Pathfinders Camp at LMC
- DreamTeam participated in services and VBS; 5 youth; led by Greta Baran and Louisa Bolzenius.
- Vacation Bible School – 67 children attended; \$432 was raised and 25 backpacks and 122 school supplies were collected
- Y² for 1st-5th Graders. They did a variety of things including a campfire/ cookout; Valentine Project; and OWL Prayer Buddy project; attended Fun in Faith Retreat – 6 y2 and 3 adult; participated during a Lenten Worship Service (did readings; led prayers); hosted Jenny Frantz from LOMO.
- Sr. High Youth – spent half the year finishing Peer Ministry Leadership and then did a Philippians Bible Study. Through February met in person and then virtually through June
- Sr. High Fall Retreat – went to Capital University and helped with the SOAP ministry. 6 youth, 2 adults
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Conversation Group – expanded our affiliation with our Korean neighbors even further. Pastor William Saunders and Jean Pontious led an ESL Conversation Group to help their communication skills in the summer and then also in the winter. In addition the group joined us on the Winter Ski Retreat to NY.
- Jacob's Porch Dinners: 2 dinners provided
- Confirmation Chimes – played 2 times
- Advent's Live Nativity was attended by approximately 300-325 people and was held outside.
- Youth Cookie Project – Bags of cookies and caroling delivered to 5 elder care facilities and Advent shut-ins. Sang carols. 11 youth and adults
- Salvation Army Christmas Cheer – 15 youth and adults.
- Winter Ski Retreat – 22 youth and adults. Courtney Pittman and Sarah Deeter led the retreat.
- High School Connect – converted to a virtual event: we met 4 times via Zoom.
- Pancake Supper/Talent Show – 70 attended; 6 acts participated
- HIP Puppet Ministry – performed as part of VBS, Pancake Supper
- Time and Change Sundays – Raised enough money to support our Compassion International child: Souaibou Coulibaly from Burkina Faso.
- Christmas with the Staff – 25 youth of all ages attended

- Loaves and Fish – Salvation Army – Sr. High Youth – helped 2 times
- Easter Egg Hunt – cancelled due to COVID.
- Easter Breakfast – cancelled due to COVID
- Swoop In/ Service Days – cancelled due to COVID. Planning for this fall
- Instrumental Ensemble – our youth play in band/ orchestra at school so utilized those talents during the Christmas Eve service.
- VBS 2020 – 2 offerings: VBS TOUR or a virtual experience.
- Contemporary Group - created a plan with Jean and PAL to participate 3 times.
- Sr. High Mission Trip – Cancelled due to COVID
- Continuing Education for Matt – ReNew Retreat sponsored by LOMO; Activate Youth Ministry webinar.
- Sunday School – Hendry Ratnam taught the Sr. High class this year, I provided transportation and some projects throughout the year.
- Youth Board – met periodically and accomplished many tasks. Thank you to Sarah Deeter, Katie Rheyne, Caden Layne, Greta Baran, Angie Soltesz, Christy Habermehl, Pastor Aaron, Alysha Clous and Karin Forsyth!

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 and their faith which creates opportunity for making new disciples.
- Continue to implement the goals from the Youth Board's visioning process and be intentional with our yearly modules for Sr. High. Find the balance of fun and content.
- Follow God's leadership to a new ministry with children in difficult situations
- Continue Confirmation Chimes
- 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 develop a contemporary music band.

2020 – 2021 BUDGET PROPOSAL

ADVENT EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Budget Proposal: FY 2020-2021

(Rounded to nearest \$)	Actual 2017-2018	Actual 2018-2019	Current Budget 2019-2020	Estimated 2019-2020	Proposed Budg. 2020-21	
COLLECTIONS:						
Contribution- Giving	\$ 335,291	\$ 333,762	\$ 345,184	\$ 342,180	\$ 348,800	
Contribution - BEARS (9 mo. Program)	\$ 21,834	\$ 19,134	\$ 19,116	\$ 13,788	\$ 5,000	
Contribution - Kroger	\$ 394	\$ 225	\$ 400	\$ 594	\$ 400	
Contribution - Tag Sale	\$ 8,502			\$ -	\$ -	
Contribution - Thrivent Choice	\$ 2,348	\$ 2,904	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,139	\$ 1,200	
Contribution - Building Use	\$ 4,745	\$ 4,685	\$ 4,400	\$ 3,170	\$ 3,000	
Contribution - Investment (Int/Div/G/L)	\$ 3,153	\$ 2,337		\$ 2,150	\$ 1,600	
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 376,267	\$ 363,047	\$ 371,500	\$ 363,021	\$ 360,000	
EXPENDITURES :						as percent of 2019 budget
Ministry of Worship & Witness	\$ 33,751	\$ 37,300	\$ 37,000	\$ 36,740	\$ 39,400	10.9%
Ministry of Social Concerns	\$ 123	\$ 200	\$ 1,000	\$ 275	\$ 1,000	0.3%
Ministry of Parish Life	\$ 6,255	\$ 5,990	\$ 8,050	\$ 5,866	\$ 7,800	2.2%
Ministry of Administration	\$ 74,561	\$ 73,770	\$ 93,100	\$ 68,327	\$ 77,370	21.5%
Salaries	\$ 184,853	\$ 188,366	\$ 190,450	\$ 188,967	\$ 190,322	52.9%
Mortgage	\$ 52,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 37,708	\$ 37,708	\$ 37,708	10.5%
Designated Funding	\$ 37,969	\$ 10,931	\$ 4,192	\$ 6,138	\$ 6,400	1.8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 389,512	\$ 376,557	\$ 371,500	\$ 344,021	\$ 360,000	100.0%
NET PROCEEDS	\$ (13,245)	\$ (13,510)	\$ -	\$ 19,000	\$ -	

Expenditure Details:	(10 months) Apr 2020 YTD	Current 2020 budget	EST 2019-2020	Proposed 2021 budget
Operating Expenses :				
010000 Ministry of Worship & Witness				
010100 Benevolence SOS	\$ 18,333	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000
010101 Jacob's Porch Partnership	\$ 3,125	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750	\$ 3,750
010200 Altar & Communion	\$ 1,912	\$ 3,500	\$ 2,300	\$ 3,200
010300 Evangelism (incl Advertising & Publicity)	\$ 4,111	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,200	\$ 3,600
010401 Community Event - Live Nativity	\$ 576	\$ 1,000	\$ 576	\$ 1,000
010402 Community Event - Tag Sale	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
010403 Community Event - Egg Hunt	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 350
010500 Music & Supplies	\$ 1,436	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,700	\$ 2,000
010600 Nursery and Supplies		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
010700 Organ & Tuning Repair	\$ 379	\$ 400	\$ 379	\$ 400
010900 Supply Pastor	\$ 500	\$ 1,500	\$ 500	\$ 1,500
011000 Worship Matl and Supply (Pastor)	\$ 1,224	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,335	\$ 1,500
Subtotal for 010000 Ministry of Worship & Witness	\$ 31,596	\$ 37,000	\$ 36,740	\$ 39,400
010800 Social Concerns	\$ 267	\$ 1,000	\$ 275	\$ 1,000
020000. Ministry of Parish Life				
020100 Adult Sunday Church School	\$ 237	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 400
020200 Catechism	\$ 543	\$ 1,200	\$ 600	\$ 1,000
020201 Camperships	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
020300 Children's Sunday Church School	\$ 1,018	\$ 600	\$ 1,185	\$ 800
020400 Cradle Roll	\$ -	\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
020500 Fellowship Activities	\$ 848	\$ 2,400	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
020501 Care Team		\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 400
020600 My Family and Me		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
020700 VBS	\$ 981	\$ 1,000	\$ 981	\$ 1,000
020800 Youth Ministry/Activities	\$ 696	\$ 1,000	\$ 800	\$ 1,000
020900 Member Seminarian Scholarships	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Subtotal for 020000. Ministry of Parish Life	\$ 5,323	\$ 8,050	\$ 5,866	\$ 7,800

Operating Expenses : (cont'd)	(10 months) Apr 2020 YTD	Current 2020 budget	EST 2019-2020	Proposed 2021 budget
030000 Ministry of Administration				
030100 Bank Fees & Charges		\$ 100	\$ -	\$ 100
030400 Cleaning/Supplies	\$ 1,036	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,500
030500 Continuing Education - Pastor		\$ 1,400	\$ 500	\$ 1,400
030501 Continuing Education - Staff		\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
030600 Council Discretionary		\$ 3,000	\$ 1,250	\$ 2,500
030800 Fin Secretary/Treasurer Supplies	\$ 360	\$ 300	\$ 360	\$ 20
030900 Insurance Building & Liability	\$ 3,665	\$ 4,900	\$ 4,887	\$ 5,100
031000 Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 10,433	\$ 12,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,000
031001 Property Improvements Accrual Expense	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800
031100 Office Machines / Rentals	\$ 3,452	\$ 3,900	\$ 4,700	\$ 4,800
031200 Pastor Discretionary		\$ 450	\$ -	\$ 450
031400 Postage	\$ 395	\$ 150	\$ 395	\$ 300
031500 Professional Expense	\$ 2,447	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,750	\$ 2,000
031600 Stationary & Office Supplies	\$ 2,146	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,950	\$ 3,000
031700 Stewardship expense	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 100
031800 Synod Delegates	\$ 225	\$ 600	\$ 535	\$ 600
031900 Telephone / Internet	\$ 2,116	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,500
032000 Payroll Fees	\$ 2,344	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,800
032100 Utilities	\$ 14,522	\$ 23,000	\$ 18,600	\$ 21,000
032200 Office Technology/Software	\$ 2,434	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,400
032300 Outside services/other fees	\$ 5,713	\$ 9,000	\$ 6,400	\$ 8,400
032301 Accounting services	\$ -	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 100
Subtotal for 030000 Ministry of Administration	\$ 55,288	\$ 93,100	\$ 68,327	\$ 77,370
040000 Salaries & Taxes				
040001 Employer Payroll Taxes (except Pastor)	\$ 4,860	\$ 6,423	\$ 5,800	\$ 6,295
040100 Pastor	\$ 39,167	\$ 47,000	\$ 47,000	\$ 47,000
040200 Pastor Housing Allowance	\$ 21,667	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000
040300 Pastor FICA	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200
040303 Car Allowance (Pastor)	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ 750
040304 Phone Allowance/Expense (Pastor)	\$ 650	\$ 780	\$ 780	\$ 780
040305 Pastor Pension & Health Insurance	\$ 10,350	\$ 12,608	\$ 12,372	\$ 12,608
040307 Health Care Expense Offset	\$ 10,925	\$ 13,110	\$ 13,110	\$ 13,110
040400 Adult Choir Director	\$ 5,606	\$ 6,577	\$ 6,701	\$ 6,577
040500 Bell Choir Director	\$ 1,104	\$ 1,325	\$ 1,325	\$ 1,325
040600 Director of Music Ministries	\$ 9,563	\$ 11,475	\$ 11,475	\$ 11,475
040700 Dir of Youth and Special Projects	\$ 16,578	\$ 19,894	\$ 19,894	\$ 19,894
040800 Nursery Staff	\$ 2,257	\$ 2,730	\$ 2,732	\$ 2,730
040900 Organist	\$ 10,227	\$ 12,152	\$ 12,152	\$ 12,152
041000 Administrative Assistant	\$ 18,688	\$ 22,426	\$ 22,426	\$ 22,426
Subtotal for 040000 Salaries	\$ 157,642	\$ 190,450	\$ 188,967	\$ 190,322
050200 Mortgage	\$ 31,423	\$ 37,708	\$ 37,708	\$ 37,708
Designated Funding :	\$ 4,704	\$ 4,192	\$ 6,138	\$ 6,400
Total Expenses	\$ 286,243	\$ 371,500	\$ 344,021	\$ 360,000

COUNCIL CANDIDATE BIOS

JANE PRAUSE

I have been a member of Advent Lutheran Church since 2015. Prior to joining Advent I was a member of Clinton Heights Lutheran Church for more than 40 years. While at Clinton Heights I sang in the choir, served on Church Council several times, was a member of the altar guild, and served a term as Sunday School Superintendent.

At Advent I sing in the choir, am a member of the Parish Life Committee, participate in Altar Guild and the Women's Bible study. I grew up in Lancaster, Ohio (a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church) and am a graduate of Capital University.

CRAIG DAME

Hello fellow Adventers. My wife Teresa and I joined Advent 5 years ago. We have one son, Scott Dame, his wife is Lisa, and our two beautiful granddaughters are Kayla and Lauren. For the past 2 years I have been a member of Church Council and a member of the Administration Team. This past year I have had the honor of serving as President of Church Council, I thank you that opportunity.

JANE KULISEK

I am a retired medical surgical nurse and worked in the hospital setting for 46 years. I started my career in nursing as a Captain in the US Army Nurse Corp during the Vietnam War. I ended my career as a Clinical Nurse Specialists at the Ohio State Medical Center.

The daughter of a Lutheran minister, I have been a Lutheran since birth. I have served on Council in our previous church, taught Sunday School, participated in the music program, women's groups and in church related outreach programs. I am currently on the board of a large women's philanthropic organization and for fun, I play bridge and the banjo. Well actually, I play at the banjo.

My husband and I joined Advent two years ago. I am interested in the Social Concerns, Parish Life and Worship and Witness teams.