



Advent Lutheran Church

470 Landis Road

Harleysville, PA 19438

215-256-9941

office@adventharleysville.org

adventharleysville.org

SEPTEMBER 2026 MINISTRY CALENDAR

Tuesday September 1	7pm All Team Meeting
Sunday September 6	9:30am Worship (in person and livestreamed)
Tuesday September 8	7pm Council Meeting
Thursday September 10	7pm Chancel Choir
Sunday September 13	8:30am Worship (in person and livestreamed) 9:45am God's work. Our hands. Day 11am Worship 6pm 9 th Grade Confirmation Retreat
Tuesday September 15	6pm Adult Forum Planning Meeting 12pm and 7pm Faith in Action
Wednesday September 16	10am Birthday Card Ministry
Thursday September 17	7pm Chancel Choir
Sunday September 20	8:30am Worship (in person and livestreamed) 9:45am Sunday Church School, Adult forum, Fair Trade Sale 11am Worship, 12pm Book Club
Wednesday September 23	7pm Pub Theology
Thursday September 24	10am Bible Study, 7pm Chancel Choir
Sunday September 27	8:30am Worship (in person and livestreamed) 9:45am Sunday Church School, Adult Forum 11am Worship
Wednesday September 30	7pm Confirmation Class

MINISTERS: ALL THE PEOPLE OF ADVENT

Pastor

Pastor Mark Singh-Hueter
thepastor14@gmail.com

Minister of Music

Vincent M. Ryan
music@adventharleysville.org

Coordinator of Spiritual Development

Carrie Ryan
cryan@adventharleysville.org

Office Administrator

Vacant
office@adventharleysville.org

Sexton

Susan Underkoffler

Nursery Caregiver

Morgan Carosi

Streaming Producer

Maeve Dahlgren

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Jo Gilbert, Erica Heck,
 Betty Keck, Joan Kelley,
 Carrie Ryan, Bill Kesack

Church Council

Amy Coll, President
 Zach Boyer, Vice President
 Diana McClure, Treasurer
 Rich Lantz, Secretary
 Helen Nace, Judi Greene,
 Lora Drenth, Teresa Feeser
 Pastor Mark Singh-Hueter

Ministry Teams

Stewardship, Social Ministry
 Christian Education
 Worship and Music
 Fellowship, Welcome Team
 Property, Finance

ADVENT'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND WELCOME STATEMENT

Advent's Guiding Principles— With Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior:

- We believe salvation is a gift from God, available to everyone
- We strengthen our faith as we develop our discipleship
- We are good stewards of all that God provides us
- We serve the needs of each other, our community and our world
- We follow God's will, not our own



Our Welcome Statement:

Advent Lutheran Church of Goschenhoppen, a welcoming community of God, believes ALL people are made in God's image and boundless love and ALL are valued equally within our congregation. We are empowered by God through faith to nurture and celebrate the vast diversity among individuals—single, married, partnered, divorced – embrace their uniqueness in all aspects of life including race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds and age. We care for the environment and strive for racial equity and social and economic justice. We at Advent affirm and welcome you to share life with us and participate in God's ministry.



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARK

I'M BAA-ACK

How things went, and What now.

Dear siblings in Christ,

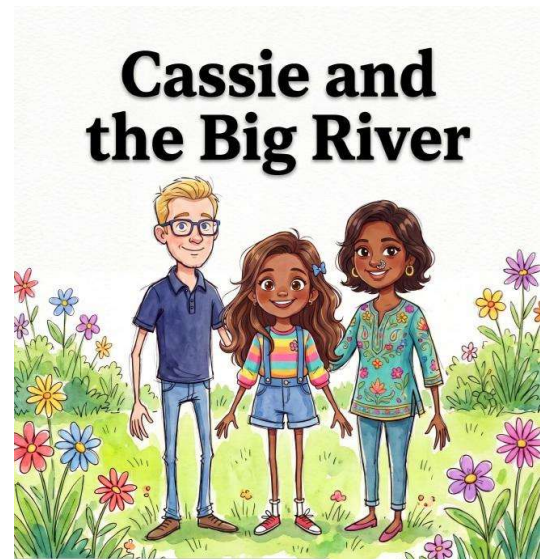
It is good to be back.

After a three-month sabbatical – time to refresh and renew – I think I'm prepared in a stronger way for our years of ministry to come. I believe it was good for me, and good for Advent. Thank you.

I can't wait to share more about my sabbatical experience at the Adult Forum on September 20. I hope you will join me for that. But ... here some highlights.

I was productive. (Going into this, I was nervous about being able to focus on my own.)

I wrote and compiled a 246-page collection of sermon dramas – monologues, dialogues, and multi-person skits on Bible characters, Bible stories, and a variety of faith topics. I had thought of trying to publish them but decided instead to share them freely with preachers and church leaders. It was a creative and nurturing exercise for me, and now hopefully a way of inspiring others.



I wrote a children's book – one of the stories I used to tell Cassie when she was little. (I was hoping to write a number of stories, but ended up focusing more on the sermon dramas. But I might do more of this in the future.)

I wrote song. That was an unexpected addition to my plans – I'll explain how that happened at the adult form on September 20. A funny (manipulative) story. *Thanks Cassie!*

I was blessed by my WoW time. ("Wandering and Wondering." WoW. I love that display at church.)

After study and writing in the morning, I would go outdoors in the afternoon, Wandering and Wondering. (Except for the week that the smoke got really bad, and I didn't see the sun – literally – for a couple days. And I got trapped inside and bored and

created a dumb video of smoke scenes to the accompaniment of “Smoke on the Water” and “Smoke from a Distant Fire.” LOL)

I did a lot of bicycling. Sometimes it was just a time of enjoying the outdoors and getting out in God’s creation. Sometimes I would be working on my song, figuring out words and harmonies while I rode. Sometimes I would be listening to a book on tape. (I listened a couple times to “Hope: A User’s Manual,” an excellent book I’d bought in preparation for an Advent sermon last year.) A few times I would be thinking about the ice cream I’d promised myself at the destination. 😊



I also did some kayaking around the lake I was on. And some paddle-boarding. And some hiking. Plenty of beautiful Upper Peninsula of Michigan outdoors. Those were times of nurture, times of unwinding, and times that gave some focus to my morning devotions.

Some nurture times were growth times.

I developed a morning routine. I started with stretches and a bit of exercise to get my blood pumping. Then some memorizing of Bible passages (which ended up flowing into

the song I wrote). Then a prayer time (including prayers for God’s creation, inspired by my WoW time). And a breath prayer time. I learned, grew, and am trying to continue at least some of that long-term.

I journaled. I hate journaling. That was another thing Cassie inspired (manipulated) me into, but it was a time of discovery for me. I noticed things, made decisions, connected my experience with my faith and God’s work, and noted things for the future. I still hate journaling. 😊

I got together with some other pastors, for breakfast or lunch. But ... it’s soooo spread out in the Upper Peninsula. I drove anywhere from 40 to 85 miles to meet up with someone. Big investment. But for an extrovert in an isolated environment, sooo needed.

And I had my “Summer Church” – a smallish congregation of 40-50 people on a Sunday – where I could just be, and worship as a regular member, and join in the extended coffee hour that was almost a little lunch. I drove over an hour to get there, but I needed that. I needed to gather, and worship, to experience and respond to God in that setting. And I believe that experience gave me some of the most important commitments and ideas I’m bringing back. I was blessed hopefully to be a blessing.

What about Advent? All the stuff I’ve just written is what I experienced and what I’m bringing back. But y’all also were part of this journey.

There were congregational experiences and opportunities as part of this sabbatical time. The WoW board is a witness to some of that. (If you haven't looked at that, or added to that, check it out.) I love the Bible verse display, featuring the verses from the children's sermons. We are continuing to have opportunities to get together to Wander and Wonder. And lay-leaders stepped up to cover a variety of roles and responsibilities, something that has long-term benefits.

Finally, I am so grateful for Advent's leaders – staff, pastor-members, lay leaders, and all of you – not only for this opportunity, but for how you handled it. People stepped up. People worked together and led and pitched in. Our administrator took another job, and everything got covered and handled. Our congregational president (Amy Coll) was awesome. Our sabbatical team (with Steve Nevin, Carl Dahlgren, Amy Hammond, and Sarah Self) rocked. Vince and Carrie Ryan as staff members were solid and great. Our member-pastors, Pastors Jo Wilhelmson and Sue Macfadden with pastoral care and Steve Godsall-Myers and David Lutchter with

worship, made sure our worship and care stayed strong. And so many other leaders stepped up to keep our ministry and worship inviting and vital. THANKS. We are so blessed to have all of you as part of this community in Christ.

Did I mention that I'll share more at the Adult Forum on September 20? See y'all there. And in worship. And let's keep on BEING the church, together.

Pr. Mark



Pastor's Day Off changing to Mondays

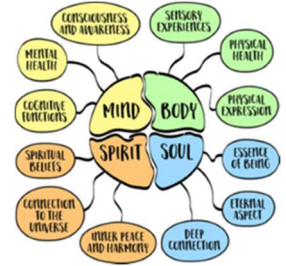
For the last number of years, Pastor Mark has taken Thursdays as his day off. Merlyn's new job has her working on-site Mon-Weds, then remotely from home on Thursdays. Merlyn trying to do video conferencing while Pastor Mark is trying to do yard work and house chores is, well, less than ideal. So ... the move to a Monday day-off, a day many pastors prefer.

Although he won't be doing email, visits or ministry work on Mondays, he is always on-call for urgent pastoral care needs. Just call the church line – it will be answered by someone who can connect you, or it will transfer (after hours) to Pastor Mark's phone.

Tuesday REST is paused

The monthly gatherings before All Team were appreciated by a number of people, and we had some powerful conversations and spiritual support. But, attendance was erratic, and it never developed into a consistent community.

In changing times, the church does experiments. And we learn. “Tuesday REST” was worth doing, and served a purpose. We may try another variation of this in the future.



Faith in Action

Tuesday Sept 15th, 12:00pm or 7:00pm

Gather monthly at Advent to discuss issues and support each other in putting our Faith in Action.



Pastor Mark (and others from Advent) attended the annual “Lutheran Day at the Capitol” this past spring, hosted by LAMPa (Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania). That organization provides information about local, state and national issues, and invites citizens to respond as a way of living out their (our) faith.

There’s a lot going on. Some we might all (most) agree on. Some not. But as Christian citizens, we ought to be thinking about how we put our Faith in Action. At the same time, it can be overwhelming or frustrating to try to do that alone. So...

So...here’s the idea. Might a group of interested people gather monthly, to look together at the LAMPa resources (and other faith-based information)? Might we discuss, as people of faith, and then help and support each other to put our Faith in Action?

Let’s try it.

On the third Tuesday of the month. (Starting September 15.)

Two options: At noon. Or at 7pm.

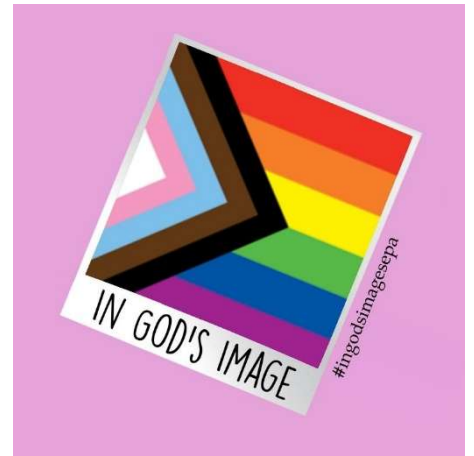
Gathering for about an hour, to review some resources, ask questions and discuss, and then each figure out how we will put our Faith in Action.

In God's Image

Saturday, October 10, 2026 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Reformation Lutheran Church

102 West Rose Tree Road Media, PA 19036



Advent is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, welcoming all people. This annual event ("In God's Image") is a way to help us more effectively do that. ***It is a learning day to help congregations explore how to fully welcome LGBTQIA+ persons.***

Pastor Mark and several others will be attending. And, scholarships are available for anyone who requests that. Cost is \$15. [Register Here](#) Or contact the church office.

If you need free childcare please email: ingodsimagesepa@gmail.com

COUNCIL NOTES

Council decided to move the financial-related job responsibilities of the open Office Administrator role into a separate bookkeeping position. We have asked the Mutual Ministry team to post for both roles and look forward to interviewing some good candidates.

Council also reviewed and discussed the results of the building inspection report recently received by the Property Team. Council thanks the Property Team for coordinating and obtaining the building inspection report.

Council is preparing for the next annual audit and is actively seeking volunteers from the congregation. If you would be willing to help with the annual audit one Saturday morning in the winter, please reach out to Zach Boyer.

***Saved by God's Grace, Renewed through Word and Sacrament,
We are Sent as Disciples to Share the Gospel of Jesus.
Thanks be to God!***

THANK YOU

Thank you to Valerie A Daley, Jean Godsall-Myers, Jon Saul, Eileen Solomon, Gary and Sharon Strayer who directed their Thrivent Choice Dollars, totaling \$1,583.00, to Advent Lutheran Church.

Thank you to Eileen Solomon, Kim Ribelin, Becky Hartman, Teresa Feeser, Kim Kesack, Eileen Filice, Cassie Singh-Hueter, Dean Shollenberger, Jean Godsall-Myers, Rich Lantz, Deane Werley, Lynn Scheckenbach and Sue Macfadden for helping in the church office while we are without an office administrator.

Thank you to everyone who serves during worship. A special thank you to Kim Sekiya for creating our worship volunteer list each month and Joe Kelley for calling our worship volunteers each week.

Thank you to our Eileen Solomon, Nancy Grunewald, the Morasco Family, the Mendel Family and Lora Drenth for taking care of our rt 113 sign.

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Welcome to CHOIR!

The Chancel Choir will resume their season on Thursday, September 10 at 7pm. Our first gathering for the season in worship will be Sunday, September 13 at 8:30am worship.

Now is the time for YOU to consider joining this amazing group of people. Not only do we work hard learning music, but we also have lots of fun and occasional social outings. But there's no smiling in choir.

(What does that mean? Come to choir to find out! It's a closely guarded choir secret.)

See Vince Ryan or any choir member if you have questions.



STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship Message

The goal of our Stewardship Ministry at Advent is to help God's people to grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talent and finances God has entrusted to them. Each one of us, as a disciple at Advent plays a major role in living out our vision statement...

Saved by God's Grace, Renewed through Word and Sacrament,

We are sent as Disciples to Share the Gospel of Jesus.

As we look ahead to the fall season, there are many exciting opportunities before us. Our stewardship theme this year is **Connect – Grow – Serve...** *Responding to God's blessings and joining in God's mission.*

How do you stay in touch, and work together? During the Covid Shutdown, we pioneered several new ways to do that. For about a year, we had a bunch of "Callers" making calls on congregation members, keeping the connections, providing information and updates, and inviting participation. We had a weekly email featuring a letter to the congregation from the pastor or from the congregation president. And we began the weekly CGS email, sharing three ministries or news items, one for Connect, one for Grow, and one for Serve.

That Connect-Grow-Serve weekly email has continued, highlighting ministry opportunities each week. The Connect-Grow-Serve theme will be our fall stewardship focus this year.

- September 27 - How has God gathered and blessed us? (CONNECT)
- October 4 - How are we nurtured in this faith? (GROW)
- October 11 - How do we love our neighbor? (SERVE)

And on October 18, how then do we RESPOND through the giving of our time, our talents and our finances in joining God's mission for the world as an active disciple.

We invite every member to consider how God may be calling you to become more involved - through worship, volunteering, inviting others, serving in ministry, engaging in educational opportunities, and continuing to grow your faithful financial support.

THE ARCHIVIST

It was all different back then, in 1751 ... Advent carried the name of Old Goschenhoppen Lutheran Congregation, and Church Council was simply a group of ten elders, all men. The oldest was 62 years old and the two youngest were 37. Within one year, the membership changed when one of the youngest, George Weigele was “cast out of office” for “dishonest conduct” – details remain for other historians to supply...

Alas, that was not the last time that church leadership would struggle with misconduct. Almost two centuries later, another situation surfaced.

The Harvey S. Cressman Story

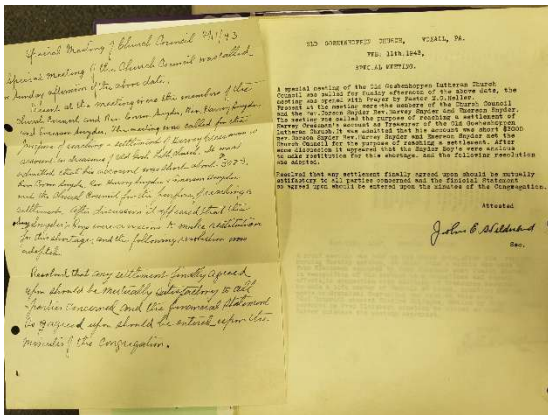
Harvey Cressman was born July 20th 1878 and baptized as an “Adult” on October 20th, 1894. He took his first communion with members of his “Catechumenal Class” the next day and thereafter communed regularly until December, 1942. He became Treasurer of the Church Council allegedly in 1926; the available Parish Record attests to terms of office lasting from 1938 through the end of 1942.

In February 1943, Church Council minutes record:

“A special meeting of the Old Goshenhoppen Lutheran Church Council was called for Sunday afternoon of the above date, the meeting was opened with Prayer by Pastor M. O. Heller.

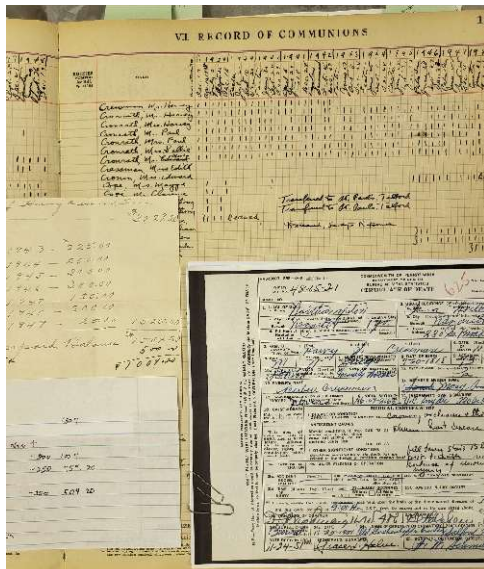
Present at the meeting were the members of the Church Council and the Rev. Corson Snyder Rev. Harvey Snyder and Emerson Snyder. The meeting was called (for) the purpose of reaching a settlement of Harvey Cressman’s account as Treasurer of the Old Goshenhoppen Lutheran Church. It was admitted that his account was short \$3000(.) Rev. Corson Snyder Rev. Harvey Snyder and Emerson Snyder met the Church Council for the purpose of reaching a settlement. After some discussion it appeared that the Snyder Boys were anxious to make restitution for this shortage, and the following resolution was adopted.

Resolved that any settlement finally agreed upon should be mutually satisfactory to all parties concerned and the financial (sic) Statement so agreed upon should be entered upon the minutes of the Congregation.”



One can consider the possibility that Mr. Cressman was present (as a member of the Council?) and records of an audit confirm the missing sum. But there is no indication that Harvey Cressman admitted his guilt or offered an intent to pay the money back. Internet resources confirm that the three Snyder men present were his nephews, the sons of Harvey's sister, Emma. Several sources confirm that both Harvey Cressman and Harvey Snyder began paying (mostly monthly, \$25) installments of the debt back to the church,

beginning in April, 1943 up until at least January 1949. Harvey Cressman died November 21, 1951. The following November, his nephew Harvey Snyder paid an installment of \$500; in November of 1953 he made a payment of \$250, and October 31, 1955 he made another payment of \$250. At that point the balance of debt was \$504.20. On April 18, 1956, the Rev. Harvey Snyder passed away. No further payments are recorded.



One can pursue establishing facts about the details of Harvey S. Cressman's life, using both hard copy documents as well as such resources as Ancestry.com. But the research leads to other significant issues. Did Harvey Cressman steal the money, and what led to the discovery of the robbery- did his other church officers discover it, or did one actually aid his effort? When the Council met to formally accuse him, what was the process- did he ever defend himself? Did he stop attending OGLC, as indicated by the communion records? When did he move away, at least once back to Nazareth? Had he already bought a cemetery plot and thus earn the right to be buried there? To what extent was he forgiven, by the Council, by the congregation, by the community?

Why did the Snyders come to his assistance? How did his "sin", "repentance", and "forgiveness" affect him, emotionally and physically?

Some answers will remain mysteries of history. This recounting is only one situation among many that surface as one reads historic documents. Shedding light on the past is most productive when we consider what we confront today, in the church and as the church. Where do we make mistakes, how do we hold ourselves and leaders accountable for mistakes? How do we confess, and atone for our sins- and aren't we grateful that we believe in a gracious God who loves us more than we can imagine! - Jean Godsall-Myers

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:45am



The Adult Forum is a Sunday morning gathering between worship services for adults to discuss topics related to faith, our community, the church, and the world. It is a gathering to encourage lively dialogue in our faith and life and a place where all are welcome.

September 13 – God’s work. Our Hands. Day

Join us in assembling infant and toddler hygiene kits for clients of Montgomery County Health and Human Services.

September 20 – Pastor Mark’s Sabbatical Presentation

Be sure to read Pastor Mark’s letter in the September Advocate and then join us during the adult forum to hear more in detail about his sabbatical experience.

September 27 – Bible Sharing

Thank you to our summer Bible Bearers who shared a little something about their personal Bible during the summer Children’s Sermons. We will continue to share our Bibles – personal stories and favorite verses. Bring your Bible and join us.

Adult Forum Planning Team

The **Adult Forum Planning Team** meets throughout the year to plan themes, topics and schedule guest speakers for the forum.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, September 15 at 6pm**. Join us for a meal and discussion. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please contact Carrie Ryan.

Team members – Carrie Ryan, Steve Godsall-Myers, Eileen Solomon, Rich Lantz, Eileen Solomon and Travis Nace.



Sunday Church School Classes resume September 20 at 9:45am

We are so excited for a new year of learning and growing in faith together! We have classes for ages 2 1/2 to 12th grade.

We need additional adult helpers in our younger classes and substitute teachers for all grades. If you are interested in learning about this opportunity to serve, please contact [Carrie Ryan](#).



Children's Church during Worship

Children's Church is for ages K-5th grade and takes place in room 5 during the middle part of worship. Children are dismissed to Children's Church after the Children's sermon with Pastor Mark. They return to worship at communion. If you are interested in helping with Children's Church, please contact Carrie Ryan.



Church Nursery

The church nursery is staffed by Morgan Carosi from 8:15am-12pm. The nursery is for infants – 1st grade only. Older children can sit with their parents in church, utilize the children's worship area in the narthex and participate in Children's Church.

We need additional volunteers (6th -12th grade or adults) to help in the nursery. Please contact Pastor Mark, Carrie Ryan or Kim Sekiya if you are interested.



Children's Worship Area

The children's worship area is located in the narthex and free for all to use. There are coloring activities, games, books and toys for all ages. If you are interested in helping to organize and maintain this area, please contact Carrie Ryan.



We had a great week at Compassion Camp VBS!

The church was full of laughter, singing, playing and learning.

Thank you to all our volunteers - adult and youth - who helped each day!

[VBS 2026 Compassion Camp Slide Show](#)

2026 VBS and VBS Extended Care Statistics

67 VBS participants - 31 extended care participants

19 adult helpers - 20 youth helpers - 11 young adult helpers

Participating extended care families were asked for monetary donations and over \$1,000 was raised for Advent's Youth Funds!

Our VBS Service Projects:

175 suncatcher hearts created for Meals on Wheels clients

60 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches made for the Bread Drop Program

Colored and filled 250 bags for the EMeal Ministry

Colored and assembled 100 thank you notes and goody bags for local first responders

Collected books as part of a book drive/swap to benefit local Little Free Libraries





THROUGH THE WOODS

TRAIL 5K/10K/WALK BEAR CREEK CAMP



REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

3601 Bear Creek Blvd
Wilkes Barre, PA 18702

Registration: 8:30 am
Race Start: 10 am

5K & Hike: \$30 online, \$35 Same Day
10K: \$40 Online, \$45 Same Day
A \$6 processing fee will be added to all registrations.

Fee includes timing, bib, and swag
Proceeds benefit Bear Creek Camps non Profit Mission

Post-Race lunch will be available for purchase

Lace up your shoes and hit the trails for Bear Creek Camp's Through the Woods 5K, 10K, and 1 Mile Fun Walk on September 26. Wind your way through peaceful forest paths, over hills, and alongside (and through!) streams as you run—or hike—through the heart of our beautiful 3,000-acre camp.

Register here: <https://bearcreekcamp.org/5k/>



Women's Retreat - October 2-4

Join us for rest, renewal, creativity, exploration, fellowship and friendship all in God's glorious creation at Bear Creek Camp.

There are daily devotions and worship on Sunday. The rest of the time is yours to do what you wish: craft, read, play games, make a puzzle, walk, hike, swim, bird watch, etc. All meals are provided - feel free to bring snacks and beverage of choice (alcohol is allowed).

[Women's Retreat Registration](#) Use code ALH50 for \$50 off your registration fee, thanks to Advent's Bear Creek General Fund.

UDLC MEN'S RETREAT -- Oct. 16-18
at Bear Creek Camp



REGISTER ABOVE

Men's Retreat - October 16-18

Join Upper Dublin Lutheran Church's (UDLC) annual Men's Retreat at Bear Creek Camp this fall.

Friday night bonfire! Saturday night poker tournament! Sunday hike and lunch at the Gorge! With time spent outdoors hiking, exploring, and unplugging, the retreat creates space for real conversation, deeper friendships, and honest engagement with faith through prayer, reflection, and Scripture.

[Men's Retreat Registration](#) Submit a copy of your registration to Carrie Ryan for a \$50 subsidy, thanks to Advent's Bear Creek General Fund. Registration deadline is September 20.

College Addresses Needed

God's blessings to our young adults heading off to college this month. We hope you have a wonderful semester!

Advent sends fall and spring care packages to our college students.

Please email or text Mrs. Ryan your college address so we can be sure that you receive your package.



Finding a College Campus Ministry

If you are a young adult, or if you know of a young adult who is looking for a community of friends and a way to express faith, consider campus ministry. Young adults experience unique spiritual, intellectual and emotional challenges. Campus Ministry seeks to strengthen and support them as they learn and grow.

You can use this referral tool to find a ministry near you. If you are looking for a school that is not listed, we will direct your referral to the nearest ELCA Lutheran church. <https://luminelca.org/refer-a-student/>



Junior High Youth Retreat November 7-8 @ Bear Creek Camp



This retreat for youth in grades 6–9 is designed to help young people explore what truly matters in living a Christ-like, faith-filled life. Through engaging activities, worship, and small group discussions, participants will grow in their understanding of God's love and how to follow Jesus in their everyday lives. Don't miss this opportunity to discover what really matters! Contact Carrie Ryan for information.

Fall Pancake Breakfast Youth Fundraiser Saturday, November 21, 8-10am

Advent children, youth and parents will be ready to serve you.
Mark your calendars now!



FELLOWSHIP

Outdoor Adventures

Join us this summer and fall as we walk, bike, hike and kayak in God's glorious creation together! We will add events throughout the summer.

New walks will be announced via weekly email, Facebook and Sunday's announcements. Gatherings are arranged by Advent members, in coordination with Carrie Ryan. Please reach out to Carrie with your ideas.



Singles Dining Out

Please join us on Wednesday, September 16 at 6pm.
We are meeting at Applebee's in Lansdale.



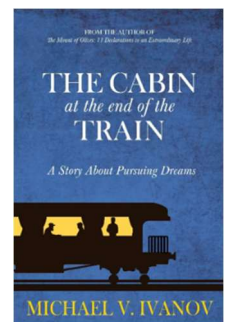
Advent Book Club

We meet after worship on the 3rd Sunday (every other month) for a meal and discussion. All are welcome!

The Measure by Nikki Erlick

Sunday, September 20 @ 12pm (after second service)

The story is set in a world where every adult over the age of 22 wakes up to find a mysterious wooden box on their doorstep. Inside each box is a string that determines the exact length of that person's life, with shorter strings indicating shorter lifespans. The book follows a diverse cast of characters as they choose whether or not to open their boxes, and grapple with how this knowledge of fate shapes their relationships, careers, and society.



The Cabin at the End of the Train by Michael V. Ivanov

Sunday, November 15 @ 12pm (after second service)

From the author of The Mount of Olives comes an enriching story about pursuing dreams. Author Michael V. Ivanov beautifully blends true events from his personal life with fiction and allegory in an entertaining and inspiring instruction manual for better living. From a chance meeting with a remarkable old man by the name of "Carl," a mysterious WWII veteran who shows up on the train at just the right time, The Cabin at the End of the Train provides 12 priceless lessons about purpose, life, and the importance of perspectives.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Blood Drive

The Red Cross Blood Drive held at Advent on August 25 was a success. We collected **40** units of blood! Thank you to everyone who took time to donate and help with the national blood shortage. You made an important difference in someone's life. Please save the date for our next drive which is scheduled for November 17, 2026.



God's Work. Our Hands

This year is the 13th anniversary of "God's Work. Our Hands" which is the annual ELCA Day of Service. 13 years of Lutheran congregations joining together to serve!

On September 13, Advent members will gather from 9:45-10:45am (between the 8:30am and 11am worship services) to assemble infant and toddler hygiene kits for clients of Montgomery County Health and Human Services. Please mark your calendar, and stay tuned for more information!

Thank you for helping Montgomery County's youngest have a healthy start.

[SIGN UP HERE to Donate Items for God's Work. Our Hands.](#)



Fair Trade

Our September Fair Trade sale is on September 20 after each worship service. We invite you to purchase coffee products from Lutheran World Relief and chocolate, nuts, cocoa, and tea from Equal Exchange. Your purchases help empower our global neighbors and encourage environmentally sustainable production. Show your loved ones and the world that you care. Thank you for supporting Fair Trade at Advent!



Blessing Box

We are excited to launch our Blessing Box at Advent! Like our Little Free Library, the Blessing Box is available to anyone in our community who may need a helping hand. Together, we can make a difference by keeping the box stocked with essential food, paper, hygiene, and baby care products throughout the year.

If you have items to donate but the box is full, please put them in the overflow bin in the vestibule. We will make sure they are added to the box as space becomes available. Please check expiration dates and ensure items are unopened and in good condition. Gluten-free items are appreciated as well.



Thank you for helping us share God's love through this ministry; every donation – no matter how small – is a blessing to someone in need.

Suggested donations include:

- Baby care items such as diapers, pull-ups, and wipes
- Canned chili, hearty soups, meats such as chicken/ham/tuna, stews, etc.
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Feminine hygiene products
- Paper products such as paper towels, napkins, tissues, and toilet paper
- Peanut butter and other shelf-stable nut or seed butters
- Personal hygiene products such as deodorant, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, and toothpaste
- Shelf-stable baby and toddler food
- Shelf-stable milk, meals, pasta, rice, snacks such as cereal/crackers/granola bars, etc.

We cannot accept:

- Expired or opened items
- Fresh or homemade foods
- Glass containers or jars
- Refrigerated or frozen items

Manna to Go

The Social Ministry Team looks at specific needs within the church, community, synod, and world and organizes help from our congregation to meet those needs. Our Manna to Go program provides meals, transportation, and/or personal care to members in need. If you or your family are experiencing an illness, hospital stay, or other situation where meals, rides, or other services would be helpful, please let Pastor Mark or the church office know. We will organize our church family to provide whatever is needed.



Sunday Church School Offerings

Sunday Church School (SCS) begins on September 20. Students will receive a presentation about three charities and then vote to determine the recipient of this year's student offerings. Please encourage your children to attend SCS and participate in the vote and then a weekly offering. The charities up for nomination are [UNICEF](#), [Global Mission Opportunities for Young Adults](#), and [ELCA Good Gifts](#). We look forward to another wonderful year of SCS and supporting our global neighbors in need!



Peaceful Living Mum Sale

Peaceful Living is a local faith-based organization serving individuals with intellectual disabilities. We will be offering 9-inch mums on Sunday, September 27 to purchase for yourself and the special people in your life. Mums will be sold after both services. All proceeds go to Peaceful Living. If you would like to purchase a chrysanthemum but will not be at Advent on September 27, please contact helenmnace@gmail.com.



Family Promise Fundraiser on October 1

What: Enjoy an evening of fellowship, a live auction, a cocktail reception, philanthropy, and more

When: October 1, 2026, 6 to 8 pm

Where: Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 230 Pennswood Road, Bryn Mawr

RSVP: [Family Promise Montco · Hope for Homes](#)



Mitzvah Circle Fundraiser on October 29

What: Join us at our Growing Good Together event to support the mission and work of Mitzvah Circle

When: October 29th from 6:30pm-8:30pm

Where: Mitzvah Circle, 435 Doylestown Road, Lansdale

RSVP: [Mitzvah Circle Foundation · Growing Good Together](#)



Bread Drop Service Project

Advent participates in the Bread Drop food program with local churches and organizations to help those experiencing food insecurity. We invite members to sign up for 1 or more weeks to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Sandwiches need to be delivered to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Souderton on Monday OR Tuesday between 9:30am and 12:30pm. Please click on the link below to volunteer. Thank you!



[SIGN UP HERE to Provide Sandwiches for the EMeal/Bread Drop program](#)

E-Meal Ministry

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Souderton needs volunteers to help with their E-Meal Ministry which supports those struggling with hunger. Volunteers are needed each week, Monday through Saturday mornings. Please click on the link below to volunteer. For more information, contact Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 215-723-7514. Thank you for supporting our neighbors!



[SIGN UP HERE to Volunteer with the E-Meal Program](#)

Shepherd's Shelf

Shepherd's Shelf is a local emergency food cupboard located at Christ Lutheran Church, 2211 Mainland Road, Harleysville. Volunteers (ages 12+) are needed on Monday and Wednesday evenings and Tuesday mornings to distribute food items to those in need. Please click on the link below to volunteer. Thank you for supporting our neighbors!



[SIGN UP HERE to Volunteer at Shepherd's Shelf](#)

Keystone Opportunity Center Immediate Needs

The list of Immediate Needs is updated weekly to include the most current items needed by families. Donations can be delivered to Keystone Opportunity Center at 104 Main Street in Souderton Monday through Thursday from 9am-4pm; money can be donated through the website; and/or pantry items can be purchased from Amazon through the website. Please click on the link below to see the Immediate Needs website. Thank you for supporting our neighbors!





September Birthdays

1	Bradley Evans
2	Carrie Ryan
	Steve Godsall- Myers
3	Harper Mendel
4	Breleigh Mendel
7	Eileen Solomon
8	Jessica Kraus
9	Nancy Bergey
13	Jennifer Brown
14	Erin Solomon
15	Maeve Dahlgren
	Henry Foley
16	Aly Hassett
	Susan Stratton
	Diana Shearer
17	Joshua Morasco
18	Kara Stover
19	Michelle Kurosz
	Will Sansoucie
20	Amy Coll
22	Dylan DaLuz
	Sophia Foglio
	Eileen Filice
23	Rachel Barth
	Connor Grunewald
24	Bev Warner
	Janet Kreiss
27	Shirl DeVoll
30	Chase Taylor
	Peg Bamford



September Baptisms

3	Vincent Ryan, Jr
	Matthew Ryba
8	Ethan Ribelin
	Calvin Ribelin
14	Julea Foley
17	Eileen Solomon
17	Rachel Hammond
24	Ezra Boyer
30	Norma Lugar
??	Hannah Bailey
??	Adam Dahlgren

Birthday Card Ministry

Each month a small group of volunteers meets to write birthday messages for Advent members.

All are welcome to join this ministry!

If you would like to volunteer or donate birthday cards, please contact Judy Patti at grandmum4367@gmail.com.

Our next gathering is
Wednesday, September 16 at 10am.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Members in our Prayers

Sandi Fisher, Aaron Ali, Sy Ali, Betty Johnson, Ruth Swingle, Natalie Allen,
Sue Chomenko, Gary Strayer, Trish Barth, Jo Wilhelmson,
Dave Brown, Brad Grunewald, Dan Bergey, The Neese Family

Families that are Grieving

Linda Alderfer, on the death of her friend, Marcia Hershey

Friends and Families in our Prayers

Gary Faulhaber, father of Carrie Ryan

Family and Friends of former Southeastern PA Bishop Rev. Dr. Patricia Ann Davenport

Prayers for those in the Military and Abroad

Corey Clark, Carlton Christie, Emily Kavanaugh, Jake Forwood, War in Iran

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone,..."

[1 Timothy 2.1]

