

The Adventurer



October 25, 4pm

Candy, & Prizes with the Teal Pumpkin,
Large Slide, Games, and more...

STAFF

Pastors

Jason Peterson
Andrea Windsor-Peterson
Jim Kinsler

Director of Music/Organist

Joel Haywood

Financial Secretaries

Steve & Debbie Merzlak

Church Council President

Joan Kruscavage

Vice President

Kath Gamlen

Secretary

Phil Hanes

Treasurer

Debbie Merzlak

At Large Members

Gina Hammock

Ministry Chairpersons

Christian Education

Heather Herrmann

Evangelism

RJ Gentry

Fellowship

Joan Kruscavage

Property

Mike Gamlen (PM)

Service

Gina Hammock

Stewardship

Worship

Pastors

Youth

Carolyn Weeks

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDING BISHOP

Ending at the beginning



I started my ministry as presiding bishop with these four emphases: We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world. I will end as I began.

We are church. There is no other institution on earth whose reason for being is the proclamation of the gospel. “It is also taught that at all times there must be and remain one holy, Christian church. It is the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel” (Augsburg Confession, Article VII). That’s it. The works we do in service to the world are important, but they are not the essence of the church. The [ELCA](#) does not exist in order to work for justice. Rather, because we are nourished by word and sacraments, the ELCA is free and empowered to do so.

The church is also marvelously intricate and interconnected. “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5). There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. God’s love for us through Christ and poured into our hearts by the Spirit is for each of us. But each of us is just one member of the body of Christ. We understand the church in the same way. “This church shall seek to function as people of God through congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, all of which shall be interdependent. Each part, while fully the church, recognizes that it is not the whole church and therefore lives in an interdependent relationship with the others” (ELCA “Constitutions, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions” 8.11.).

We are Lutheran. The average Lutheran in the [Lutheran World Federation](#) (LWF) is a woman in Tanzania. There are more Lutherans in Ethiopia, Indonesia and Madagascar than there are in the ELCA. The LWF has 150 member churches in 99 countries. What binds us together? Certainly not one culture or cuisine. Rather, it is the clear witness of the gospel that sets us free. “It is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ’s sake through faith ...” (Augsburg Confession, Article IV).

This is revolutionary. The standards of the world by which we are measured, or we measure others, are a figment. We don’t claim perfection for the church. We’re not there. But as Martin Luther said, “This life therefore is not righteousness but growth in righteousness, not health but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it, the process is not yet finished, but it is going on, this is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified” (“Defense and Explanation of All the Articles”). We know there is law and gospel, that we are saint and sinner, that we are bound and free, and we entrust that all to God.

We are church together. Paul wrote that we do not live to ourselves. We live in a time when fear is used to separate us. This is the tool of every authoritarian regime. The church is different. The Spirit calls, gathers and keeps the whole church on earth. We belong to God, we belong to each other, and we belong to the world.

We are church for the sake of the world. We are not only freed from sin, we are freed for service to the neighbor. Here is where the essence of the church—the proclamation of the gospel—gives power and shape to the work we do in Jesus' name. We are church for the sake of the world not out of obligation or for reward but out of love.

So there it is, dear church, my farewell address. We each have this ministry for a season. My season as presiding bishop has ended. Bishop-elect Yehiel Curry's season is about to begin. Pray for him, his family and the churchwide staff.

But be assured that the season for the ELCA is not over. God hasn't finished with this church yet.



Yehiel Curry presented the report of the Conference of Bishops in his capacity as the group's chair at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Photo: Cetera Jacobs/ELCA

Yehiel Curry begins his term as presiding bishop of the ELCA today, Oct. 1. Watch this video to learn more about him.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/10/bishop-currys-term-begins/>



October 2025 Worship Schedule

Sunday, October 5th

17th Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am Worship & Holy Communion

10:45am Ministry Morning

Sunday, October 19th

19th Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am Worship & Holy Communion

10:45am Sunday School Classes

Sunday, October 12th

18th Sunday After Pentecost

9:30am Worship & Holy Communion

10:45am Sunday School Classes

Sunday, October 26th

Reformation Sunday—Wear Red

9:30am Worship & Holy Communion

Congregational Potluck Breakfast

11am Sunday School &
Confirmation





Choir Night is every Wednesday, All are Welcome!
6pm Bell Choir;
7pm Sanctuary Choir

SAVE THE DATE:

November 14th at 7pm—Concert Event with Strings, Organ and piano. Invite your friends, co-workers, anyone you know. There will be desserts and wine/beer after the concert. More information will follow soon.



**Collection for October is:
Canned Meat (Tuna, Spam, Chicken, Vienna
Sausage)**





October 25, 4pm

In October, Advent hosts one of our favorite events – Trunk or Treat! It is a fun way to welcome the community and provide a safe environment to trick or treat!

Every ‘trunk’ will have candy, but we are also participating in the Teal Pumpkin Project. The Teal Pumpkin Project is a national project to hand out non-candy items from a Teal Pumpkin for kids with food allergies, diabetes and other special needs. The kids have a choice of a ‘candy or a prize’. Advent will supply the Teal Pumpkins and non-candy items for each trunk.

In addition to Trunk or Treating, Advent will have a large slide, games, activities and more.

Trunk or Treat is Saturday, October 25 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm.

Set up will begin at 3:00pm. If you have never participated, please consider coming – we can even help decorate your car trunk and provide candy! You can also volunteer for other activities. If you can’t make it but would like to donate bags of candy or prizes that would be greatly appreciated.

This is such a fun community event, we hope you will join us!

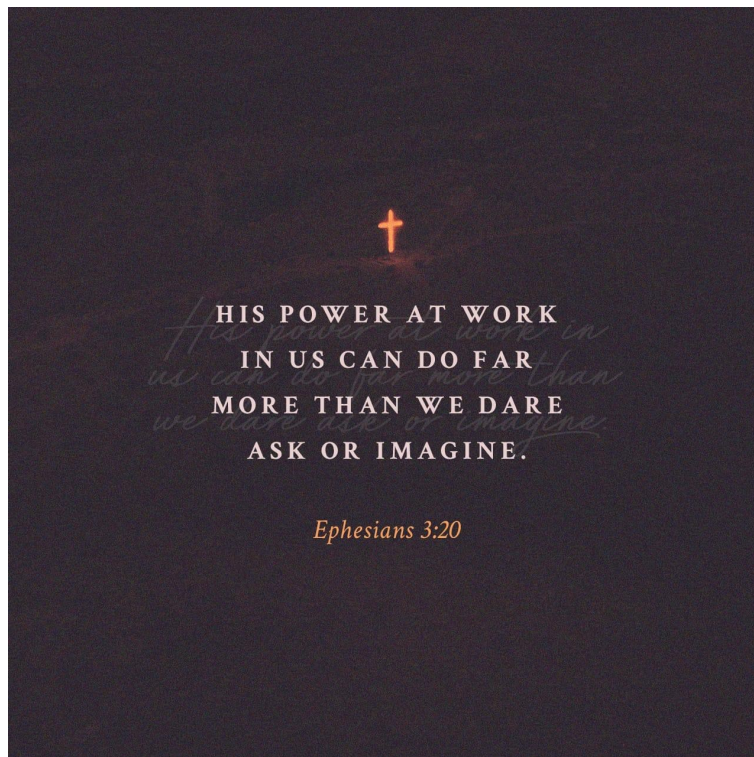
Advent's Stewardship theme for 2026: KNOW GOD'S POWER & LOVE

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the blessings and challenges that have brought us closer as a faith community. Your generous contributions have been the cornerstone of our achievements, allowing us to live out our mission to Love God, Love People, Serve the World. Your contributions have allowed us to assist in disaster recovery efforts in the CSRA, spread God's love through our 8 ministries in broad ways, provide support for GAP, the Little Free Pantry, Community Garden and Family Promise, and make a significant impact both within our congregation and in the wider community.

This year, we embark on our annual giving campaign titled "Know God's boundless power and love". This theme is based on Ephesians 3:19-21, "Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to God who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." It is our prayer that this year's stewardship campaign will powerfully bless not only this generation of faithful followers of Christ at Advent, for generations to come.

Your continued support will enable us to reach new heights in our mission endeavors, community outreach programs, small groups and spiritual development.

In 2026, may we grow in our stewardship knowing and trusting God's Power & Love.



LITTLE FREE PANTRY



The two most frequent questions that are: What is needed most and Is possible to give cash? In response to what is needed most my reply would be the congregation does a wonderful job bringing a variety of food & other items to help people with food insecurities so please just keep doing what you are doing.

You can also make a donation. We have a small black lock box on the table in the narthex where you can place your cash or check donations enabling someone to shop on your behalf. You can also put your donation in the offering plates during worship and our financial secretaries will let us know a gift has been made.



The Table Talk Group is collecting ceramic Christmas themed mugs for the Pantry the entire month of November. Mugs do not need to be new, but please no chips or discolorations. They can be placed on the Pantry Table.

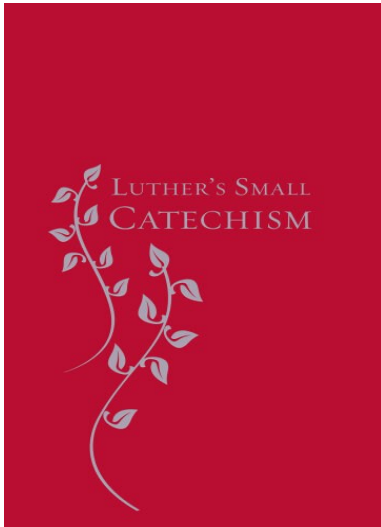
Thank you for always being such a generous congregation when it comes to this ministry. Please continue to pray for those who struggle with meeting their daily basic needs. This food is available to all—no questions asked. I can imagine that is a comfort for many.

Little Free Pantry Coordinator
Kath Gamlen

Social Gathering



On October 25th, 6pm following Trunk or Treat, we will have a time of Social Gathering. We had such a great time last month and we hope you will join us again. We will gather in the Courtyard. Bring your own beverage of choice and a chair. We will have snacks, firepit and music. We look forward to this social time together.



Adult Sunday School—Confirmation Schedule

October 5—Ministry Morning; Shortened Confirmation Class on Baptismal Scripture References

October 12- Holy Communion

October 19- Martin Luther & Reformation

October 26 - Martin Luther & Reformation; Church Paradoxes

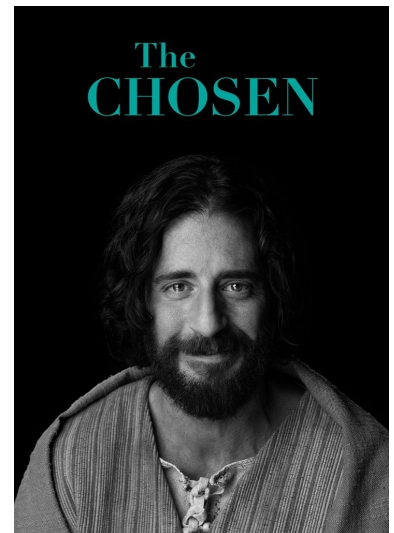
November 1—Ministry Morning/No class

Adult Bible Study on “The Chosen”

The Adult Bible Study, led by Pastor Andrea, continues to meet on Wednesday's at 10:30-11:30am.

The episode for the class will be shown at the church at 9:30am for any who would like to watch the episode before class.

We hope you will join us for this holy time in the Word.



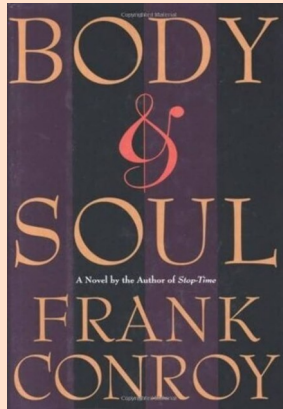
OCTOBER EVENTS

October Meeting with Time to be Determined

Putting together bags for displaced children.

October 25, 4pm

Help With Trunk or Treat & Youth Lock-in



Join us on Monday, October 27th at 11am
in the Adult Sunday School Room as we meet to
discuss the book, “Body & Soul” by Frank Conroy. The Discussion Leader
for the morning will be Mary Suprek & Ingrid Zamecnik.
All are welcome!

Date	Title	Author	Reviewer
11/24	<i>Theo of Golden</i>	Allan Levi	Gayle Ricklefs
1/26	<i>Fire Keeper's Daughter</i>	Angeline Boulley	Lillian Essaf & Ingrid Zamecnik
2/23	<i>The Keeper of Stories</i>	Sally Page	Susan Still & Mary Jean Pollard
3/23	<i>The Queen of Sugar Hill</i>	ReShonda Tate	Betsy Walker
4/27	<i>The First Gentleman: A Thriller</i>	Bill Clinton & James Patterson	Janice Richardson
*5/18	<i>The Grey Wolf: A Novel</i>	Louise Penny	Pat Grim

God's Work. Our Hands. Projects - September 13th and 14th

2025 God's Work. Our Hands Update

The project coordinators came up with wonderful ideas to do God's Work and as a congregation we gave Our Hands to carry out the projects.
A great combination!

The Service Ministry thanks the following coordinators:

- *Gina Hammock, GWOH Coordinator
- *Gina and MJ Hammock—Hygiene bags & Spices
- *Mike Gamlen, Kevin Ward & Phil Hanes, Property Projects
- *Kath Gamlen, Bagging Rice & Grits
- *Jim Smith, gardening in Community Garden
- *R.J. Gentry, GAP Cleanup
- *Krista Gentry—EMS bags

Thank you to the volunteers who supported these projects and together gave hours of work.

In gratitude,
Advent's Service Ministry



For more pictures, check out Advent's
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/adventaugusta>

Or

Website: www.adventaugusta.org
For more pictures of the weekend events.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 AA 8am-9am Bible Study 10:30am Bell Practice 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	2 AA 8am-9am Toastmasters 6:30pm	3 AA 8am-9am	4 AA Celebration 8-9am
5 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Confirmation 11am	6 AA 8am-9am HOA—6pm	7 AA 8am-9am	8 AA 8am-9am Bible Study 10:30am Bell Practice 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	9 AA 8am-9am Toastmasters 6:30pm	10 AA 8am-9am	11 Property Ministry 8am
12 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am	13 AA 8am-9am	14 AA 8am-9am Church Council 6pm	15 AA 8am-9am Bible Study 10:30am Bell Practice 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	16 AA 8am-9am Toastmasters 6:30pm	17 AA 8am-9am	18
19 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am	20 AA 8am-9am League of Women Voters 6pm	21 AA 8am-9am	22 AA 8am-9am Bible Study 10:30am Bell Practice 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	23 AA 8am-9am Toastmasters 6:30pm	24 AA 8am-9am	25 AA Celebration—8am Trunk or Treat 4pm Social Gathering 6pm Youth Lockin following Trunk or Treat
26 Reformation Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Cong. Potluck Brunch Sunday School 11am	27 AA 8am-9am Book Group 11am	28 AA 8am-9am	29 AA 8am-9am Bible Study 10:30am Bell Practice 6pm Choir Practice 7pm	30 AA 8am-9am	31 AA 8am-9am Halloween	



10/13	Tom Alderson
10/14	David Kadlewicz
10/21	Jared Aiello
10/21	Helen Burns
10/22	Nicole Whitaker
10/23	Joel Hayward
10/25	Pat Grim
10/26	Olivia Grim
10/27	Dale Reedstrom



10/1	John & Kateri Engelin
10/4	Ron & Billie Zimmerman
10/9	Steve & Debbie Merzlak
10/17	Tom & Pat Grim
10/27	Will & Shannon Pitts



We pray everyone has a safe and happy Fall!



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**Deadline For November
Newsletter Entries
October 21st**