

The Adventurer



Lent Begins February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm



STAFF

Pastors

Jason Peterson
Andrea Windsor-Peterson

Organist/Director of Music
R.J. Thomas

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
Jamie Sadenwasser

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Chairpersons**

Christian Education
Heather Herrmann

Evangelism
Robert Gentry

Fellowship
Joan Kruscavage

Property
Mike Gamlen

Service
Gina Hammock

Stewardship

Worship
Pastors

Youth
Carolyn Weeks

A Word from the Pastors

“Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.”

Joel 2:13

Lent begins February 18th! Many times we forget why things change so much in worship during the season of Lent. Therefore, we wanted to share this reminder of why we do what we do in worship during Lent.

Key worship changes during Lent:

The color Purple. (Because of Lent's penitential nature, worship tends to be more solemn, and this is the reason purple is the liturgical color of the season. Purple also represents the royalty of Jesus which is demonstrated most clearly as Jesus hangs on the throne of the cross.)

There are no live altar flowers, we use dead wheaten chaff. (We began lent with Ash Wednesday's "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return", which is why we do not use real flowers in worship.)

The communion set is not the shiny gold chalice that we have become accustomed to, but we switch to pottery vessels. (Jesus was thought to have used simple pottery for the plate and chalice at the Last Supper.)

The music is more reflective. (Return to the Lord your God and the cross are central Lenten themes that are heard and sung in Lenten hymns and liturgy.)

The Baptismal Font is at the entrance of the sanctuary instead of at the head of the aisle. (In Lent, we constantly remember who and whose we are as we enter/exit the worship space.)

We change to the alternate version of the Lord's Prayer called the Modern Version. (The Lord's Prayer is Biblical. The modern Lord's Prayer comes from Matthew 6:7-13. It is with this passage that Jesus is teaching his disciples to pray. And in the same way even 2000 plus years later, Jesus continues to teach us to pray. "Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.")

Wooden Cross (This is used to remind us of the instrument of our Salvation down on our level. This cross is used throughout Lent through Good Friday. On Easter it becomes the Easter cross with fresh flowers reminding us that from death comes life because of Jesus.)

Carpenter Nail (We carry these nails with us for the 40 day journey of Lent. We use these nails for the Good Friday service as we nail them to the cross remembering Jesus taking on our sin.)

Changes in liturgy (There is no Hymn of Praise, Return to the Lord is sung for the Gospel Acclamation, Create in Me is used for post offering canticle, Now Lord you let your servant go in peace is used post communion and of course the modern Lord's prayer is used. All these changes are made to reflect the season and our journey with Jesus to the cross.)

We hope these changes will help you on your Lenten journey. During Lent we find ourselves changed guided to the cross leading to Holy Week. May you keep a Holy Lent.

In Christ's love, Pastor Jason and Pastor Andrea

February Worship

Sunday, February 1st
Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany
Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am
Sunday School Classes 10:45am

Sunday, February 8th
Fifth Sunday After The Epiphany
Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am
Sunday School Classes 10:45am

Sunday, February 15th
Transfiguration Sunday
Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am
Sunday School Classes 10:45am & Confirmation 11am

Wednesday, February 18th
Ash Wednesday
Worship & Holy Communion with the Imposition of
Ashes 7pm




Sunday, February 22nd
1st Sunday in Lent
Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am
Sunday School Classes 10:45am






Our Allen Organ Got a Glow-Up!

Big news, Advent family! Our beloved 1984 Allen organ has just received some major TLC, and let me tell you...

she is *singing* again!   

This past week, the amazing **Jim Ingram of AO Services, Inc.** visited Advent to put the finishing touches on our organ's rejuvenation. He replaced the completely worn-down felt on the Great manual *and* took the entire pedalboard on a little road trip to Lexington, SC for a full rebuild. (We like to think it enjoyed its spa retreat.)

On Thursday, Jim came back to reunite everything, met with Pastor Jason, and made sure the whole instrument was in tip-top shape. The result? Our organ now plays like it's 1984 again—in the *best* way. 

Back in December, Jim also gave the organ a full voicing session. Some stops had been adjusted over the years and weren't sounding as balanced or bright as they should. During the process, we even discovered a couple of unplugged speakers—oops! But once everything was reconnected and all the stops and speakers were balanced, the transformation was incredible.

To top it off, when Jim refelted the Great manual, he removed *every single key*. And R.J. added a brand-new rug under the organ to keep the bench steady and make the loft extra cozy for our musicians. (Comfort + stability = the dream.)

Now, let's be real: every instrument of this age needs a little maintenance here and there. It's totally normal. And thanks to the work done this year, our Allen organ is ready to keep going strong for *another 40 years*. That's right—don't let her age fool you! This thing is built like a tank and sounds like a dream.

We owe so much gratitude to the wonderful folks who sacrificed and invested in this instrument back in 1984. Their vision was spot-on—it was an excellent decision then, and it continues to bless our church today in powerful and beautiful ways.

And a special shout-out to **Ryan Booth**, who helped Jim back in December by climbing into all those speaker chambers and making adjustments. (Every superhero doesn't wear a cape—some carry Allen Organ screwdrivers.)



To everyone who supported and funded these repairs: THANK YOU. You didn't just fix an instrument—you breathed new life into Advent's worship. And we cannot wait for you to hear how incredible it sounds.

R.J. Thomas, Organist & Music Director



CHOIR PRACTICE

The Sanctuary and Bell Choirs will continue to meet Tuesday nights during the Lenten season. Bells will be at 6pm and Sanctuary Choir at 7pm. If you are interested in joining either choir or both, R.J. Thomas would love to talk with you more. We are truly blessed at Advent with such gifted musicians.



We are preparing for the first Craft Fair at Advent. Those interested in helping with the event need to meet to plan for our Autumn / Christmas fair this fall. If you are interested in helping with this event, we will be meeting on **Mon., Feb 9 at 5:30pm** in the conference room. I hope you are as excited as me about this possibility! If you are unable to attend but are interested in this event (which should be very lucrative) please contact me at ginahammock@yahoo.com or 678 -777-7000.

GAP
MINISTRIES

Christians
confronting emptiness
choosing compassion
creating community

The item requested for the month of February is
Soup.



Let's Tackle Hunger Together



Advent is participating in the 2026 Souper Bowl of Caring!

Souper Bowl of Caring uses the energy around our nation's largest sporting event, the Super Bowl, to mobilize and inspire us to fight hunger and poverty. We will collect food and raise money for charities that provide food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

For the month of February, we will take donations of canned goods. On **Souper Bowl Sunday, February 8th**, you will have a chance to donate money and cheer on your favorite Super Bowl team. All canned good donations will benefit **GAP Ministries and the Little Free Pantry**, to help with hunger within our community. The monetary donations will be used for the service ministry which supports GAP and the Little Free Pantry.

We will report our total to Souper Bowl of Caring so our congregation becomes part of the national efforts. And remember, the team that raises the most money will win the Super Bowl!! (At least this is the tradition from previous years)

Please give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 8th as we do our part to tackle hunger together.



ADVENT BOOK CLUB 2026

Meetings are on the 4th Monday of the month at 11am unless otherwise noted.



Join us on Monday, February 23rd at 11am
in the Adult Sunday School Room as we meet to
discuss the book, “The Keeper of Stories” by Sally Page
The Discussion Leaders for February will be
Susan Still & Mary Jean. All are welcome!

Property Ministry Meeting Saturday, February 7th at 8am.

The Property Ministry will be working on the following:

- Beginning Prep Work for Outdoor Beds & Community Garden
- Repair Sunday School Boys Bathroom Toilet & Ceiling
- If Outside Shed is completed, we will organize new storage area.



Finished tasks so far include: Renewed Adult Sunday school room with new paint, lights, outlets and switches making it ready for outside usage and continued to clear out storage area.

Your Property Ministry has been hard at work this past year and continues to work hard making sure the Advent grounds inside and out are welcoming and inviting.

A decorative border of pink hearts with a hand-drawn, sketchy texture surrounds the entire text of the flyer.

Youth Group Sponsored

Valentine's Dinner

***Advent Lutheran Church's Youth invite
you to a Valentine's Dinner!***

FEB 7	Advent Lutheran Church 3232 Washington Rd, Augusta, GA	6:00 PM
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***Please RSVP by Feb 1st by texting
Carolyn Weeks, (706) 564-0334, to
ensure your spot at this enchanting
affair. We look forward to celebrating
the season of love with you!***

Valentine's Dinner

***Advent Lutheran Church's Youth invite
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FEB
7

**Advent
Lutheran
Church
3232
Washington
Rd, Augusta,
GA**

6:00 PM

Please RSVP by Feb 1st by texting Carolyn Weeks, (706) 564-0334, to ensure your spot at this enchanting affair. We look forward to celebrating the season of love with you!

Advent Youth will be attending Lutheridge Soak & Soar Mountaineers, Summer Camp July 5-11th. All funds raised through this dinner will go to help support one of Advent's youth go to camp. Come and support our youth while enjoying a wonderful evening!



LENTEN SCHEDULE

February 17

6:30pm Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday
Dinner and Entertainment

Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", reflecting the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season.

February 18

7pm Ash Wednesday Service

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

6:30pm Wednesday Nights in Lent Dinner Worship



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 29

9:30am Palm Sunday

April 2

7pm Maundy Thursday

April 3

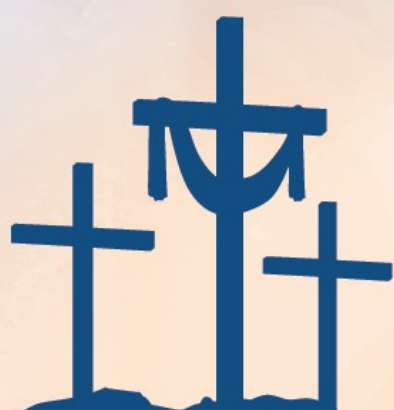
7pm Good Friday Tenebrae Worship

April 5

9:30am Easter Worship followed by "Easter Feaster" breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt for all children.

DYING HIS DEATH LIVING HIS LIFE

SERVICES FOR LENT



2026 Lenten Theme for Sunday Worship: Dying His Death, Living His Life

In Lent, we are reminded of our Baptism and how we are buried with Christ in his death so that we might live with him in his resurrection. The old is gone. The new has come. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for Jesus. In word and song in these worship services for the holy season, contemplate those things that were put to death on the cross so that we might receive the blessings of new life in Christ.

Feb. 18—Ash Wednesday • Dying to Sin, Living in Forgiveness

We lay our sins on Jesus and receive his forgiveness in return.

Sun., Feb. 22—Week 1 • Dying to Pride, Living for Others

We turn away from self to turn to others in love.

Sun., Mar. 1—Week 2 • Dying to Greed, Living for the Treasures of Heaven

We release our grip on earthly things that we might grasp those things above.

Sun, Mar. 8—Week 3 • Dying to Doubt, Living by Faith

We rid ourselves of uncertainty in exchange for total trust in Christ.

Sun., Mar. 15—Week 4 • Dying to Turmoil, Living in Peace

We trade our troubles for the comfort of Christ.

Sun., Mar. 22—Week 5 • Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace

We are released from punishment to dwell in Christ's mercy.

**Wednesdays in Lent will explore deeper, the themes from Sunday worship beginning
Feb. 25 at 6:30pm.**



**SHROVE TUESDAY/MARDI GRAS
PANCAKE DINNER**

**February 13
6:30pm**

Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", reflecting the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season which begins on Ash Wednesday. Shrove Tuesday is another name for this event. Shrove derives from the word shrive which means absolve. Eating of richer foods like pancakes empties

our cupboards of temptations while reminding us of the fasting to come in Lent. We will have a time to eat and fellowship with activities followed by the burying of the Alleluia to end the evening as we look to Lent.

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN DINNER
WORSHIP**

This year for Lent, we will gather for **Dinner Worship at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Our first Lenten Dinner Worship will be **February 25th**. We will continue this tradition for the 5 Wednesdays in Lent.

During these midweek dinner worship times, we will reflect on the Lenten theme, Dying His Death, Living His Life. Each day affords us a chance to die to self and live for Christ.

Lenten Dinner Worship days will be: February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25. We will eat and worship together in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a signup at Sign-Up Central for those that would like to help by bringing soup or sandwiches for these events. We pray you will join us for these midweek services in Lent.



January Advent Hurricane Relief Update:

Since the September 2024 Hurricane Helene in our immediate area our Congregation has joined forces with Pastor Scott Parrish with our Methodist friends at UMCOR.

Davin Henrik is the new Director for Disaster Ministry for the ELCA. He is excited about his new position. His wife is a Lutheran Pastor, and they have two young children.

We immediately began housing and feeding volunteer relief workers that are so badly needed in our area. To date we have housed **40** volunteer groups at Advent. They have completed **14078** hours of work in our community.

There are currently approximately 150 houses that are on the list for repairs and many more applications. There are currently 70 long-term (until April) volunteers from the Mennonite and Amish communities in town working at 7 different locations each day.

Our schedule at Advent for January and February is as follows:

January –

January 15-17	D.A.R.E.	Team of 23
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February –

Feb. 12-14	D.A.R.E	Team of 20
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Feb. 19-21	D.A.R.E	Team of 20
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In February, we would like to invite anyone who might be interested in joining Advent Lutheran Church to a new member class. In the class we will learn more about Advent Lutheran Church and the ministry it does in God’s name and answer any and all questions you may have about joining this Church family. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jason 901-487-1884 or Pastor Andrea 706-373-3232.

Sunday, February 22
New Member Class following worship in the Church Library



- 2/1 Pam Tipler
- 2/2 Danny Moran
- 2/3 Samantha Jimenez
- 2/4 Alice Glisson
- 2/5 Sutton Teffeteller
- 2/13 Joy Jiminez
- 2/14 Dalton McCarty
- 2/18 Fritz Mertins
- 2/19 Paul Filpus-Luyckx
- 2/20 Mackenzie Yerger
- 2/22 Ron Zimmerman
- 2/24 Kevin Jiminez
- 2/24 Gayle Ricklefs
- 2/25 Elizabeth Aiello
- 2/27 Miranda Grim

2/18 Derek & Heather Herrmann





Woven Together...Forward in Faith



REVIVAL DAY

Synod

“Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?” (Psalm 85:6)

REFRESH & REVIVE YOURSELF & CONGREGATION!

Join us for Synod Revival Days to jump start a revival through the church, for the life of the world! God is breathing life into us for global renewal, community transformation, for the flourishing of all!

Learning Labs will offer fresh ideas and tool kits to revive congregational ministries and community collaboration.

SCHEDULE

9:00-9:30 AM - *Registration & Coffee*
9:30-10:00 AM - *Welcome & Keynote*
10:00-11:00 AM - *Learning Lab 1*
11:15-12:15 PM - *Learning Lab 2*
12:15-1:00 PM - *Lunch*
1:00-2:00 PM - *Learning Lab 3*
2:15-3:00 PM - *Closing Worship*

[Register Now!](#)

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GOAL:

3+

people from
each church

WHO IS INVITED?

Congregation Members
Lay Leaders
Rostered Ministers
Young Adults
Confirmed Youth

DATES & LOCATIONS

JANUARY 24

Bethel Lutheran
Biloxi, MS

FEBRUARY 21

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran
Birmingham, AL

MARCH 14

Messiah Lutheran
Knoxville, TN

APRIL 25

St. John's Lutheran
Nashville, TN

LEARNING LABS

Reviving Worship

Reviving Discipleship: Surviving to Thriving

Reviving Hospitality: New Ways of Welcome

\$15

*per person,
includes lunch

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div><div></div><div>February</div><div></div></div>						
1 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Ministry Morning 10:45am	2 AA 8am -9am	3 AA 8am -9am Bell Choir 6pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm	4 AA 8am -9am Chosen Viewing 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am	5 AA 8am -9am	6 AA 8am -9am	7 Property Meeting 8:00am 6pm Valentine's Dinner
8 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Sunday School & Confirmation 10:45am 	9 AA 8am -9am Craft Fair Meeting 5:30pm	10 AA 8am -9am Bell Choir 6pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm	11 AA 8am -9am Chosen Viewing 9:30am Bible Study 10:30am	12 AA 8am -9am	13 AA 8am -9am	14 Valentine's Day 
15 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am	16 AA 8am -9am	17 AA 8am -9am Shrove Tuesday Dinner 6:30pm	18 AA 8am -9am Ash Wednesday Service 7pm 	19 AA 8am -9am Bell Choir 6pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm	20 AA 8am -9am	21
22 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am Sunday School & New Member Class 10:45am	23 AA 8am -9am Book Group 11am	24 AA 8am -9am Council 4:30pm Bell Choir 6pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm	25 AA 8am -9am 6:30pm Lenten Dinner Worship	26 AA 8am -9am	27 AA 8am -9am	28



3232 Washington Road
Augusta, GA 30907

Phone: 706-860-0439

Web: www.adventaugusta.org

Email: advluch@adventaugusta.org

**DATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Deadline for March Newsletter
Articles: Monday, February 24