

News from Advent Lutheran Church  
June & July 2026

# The Adventurer



**Staff**

**Pastors**

Jason Peterson  
Andrea Windsor-Peterson

**Organist & Music Director**

R.J. Thomas

**Financial Secretaries**

Steve & Debbie Merzlak

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**Church Council**

**President**

Heather Herrmann

**Vice President**

Kath Gamlen

**Secretary**

Diane Griswold

**Treasurer**

Debbie Merzlak

**At Large Members**

Gina Hammock  
Carole Hanes

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**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 PASTOR'S

*“But Jesus would withdraw to deserted places and pray.” Luke 5:16*

Many times throughout Jesus' ministry, Jesus would take time out of the busyness of life to withdraw and pray. As summer has arrived, we know that many of you will be taking some time to withdraw as well. We hope that in your travels you will continue to find time to pray. We truly hope you will be renewed and refreshed in the Spirit. We hope you will also remember your Advent family as you continue to be good stewards. We thank you all at Advent for your hard work and dedication throughout this past year. We have truly accomplished great things together in Jesus' name.

We will continue to the tradition at Advent where most ministries will take a break for the month of July. This has been extremely helpful to allow for our faithful servants to recharge, renew, and relax. After this time of reprieve, we are able to come back excited and ready to serve this fall and winter seasons. Because of this, we will only have one newsletter for June and July. Continue to look at your weekly emails for updates, changes, and other ministry opportunities. The July Calendar will be updated and sent out as we get closer to the end of June.

However, before we get to July, we still have wonderful ministry opportunities in June.

VBS this year is June 8-10. The theme this year is “at the Table”. It will be an evening VBS from 5:30pm-7:30pm. Dinner will be included during this event. There are activities for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Middle school and High school youth are here to help lead and guide groups from one activity to the next. There will be an Adult Bible Study led by Pastor Andrea. We hope that both children and adults will come and join us this year for this amazing time together in God's Word.

June 14<sup>th</sup> we will install Advent's newest Church Council, Heather Herrmann, President; Kath Gamlen, Vice-President; Diane Griswold, Secretary; Debbie Merzlake, Treasurer, and Gina Hammock and Carole Hanes as Council Members at Large. We thank them for their leadership and service in God's name. Their first meeting will follow worship.

June 21<sup>st</sup> is Father's Day and for worship we will have a special Father's Day blessing and acknowledge Juneteenth or “Freedom Day”, the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

July 5<sup>th</sup> we will have a special Semiquincentennial celebration and a blessing for our youth heading to camp. We have 3 youth going to Lutheridge this year and 1 will be a camp counselor. We pray that the Holy Spirit will fill them with God's love and strengthen their faith in the Lord.

July 12<sup>th</sup> the Youth that went to camp will share with the congregation their faith testimonies from their week.

Wherever your travels take you this summer, may God bless you on your journey. May you do something different and unique. May you grow in faith as you take some much needed time of rest and renewal. And while you are enjoying your time away, please remember your church family in your prayers, but also in your continued generosity. Your continued stewardship during these summer months even though you may be away, continues to allow us to fund the ministry that God has called each of us to here in this place. We truly thank our Lord for all the wonderful things God is doing here at Advent Lutheran Church.

In Christ's love, Pastor Jason and Pastor Andrea

# June Worship Schedule

## **June 7, 2026, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am  
Ministry Morning & SS 10:45am

## **June 21, 2026, 4th Sunday after Pentecost**

Father's Day & Juneteenth Recognition  
Sunday Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am  
Sunday School 10:45am

## **June 14, 2026 3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am  
Installation of New Church Council  
Sunday School 10:45am

## **June 28, 2026, 5th Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship 9:30am  
Coffee & Treats 10:45am



The Following Ministries will be on hiatus in July:

Book Club

Bible Study

Choirs

Sunday School

## LITTLE FREE PANTRY

Kath and Mike Gamlen continue to stock the pantry on a regular basis and we thank them both for their ministry. We thank everyone who brings in food items or donates money to help stock the pantry. During the summer, the pantry gets used often, any and all help is always appreciated.

The Little Free Pantry is a beautiful way for us to help our neighbors. Many other non Advent people come and help stock it. Advent's Little Free Pantry is becoming well known throughout the CSRA and goes a long way to help others. Thanks you all!



“Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.” Psalm 136:1



On **Friday, July 3rd, @ 6pm**, the Fellowship ministry is hosting a July 4th Social Gathering. There will be Hotdogs, Hamburgers and BBQ. Everyone is invited. This is a BYOBC (Bring your own beverage and chair) event. We will gather in the back courtyard for a social time of fellowship and eating and then when it gets dark, there will be fireworks! Fireworks will go off in the back grassy area of the church. We thank Joan Kruscavage and Larry Weeks for the evening's dinner and fireworks. We hope you will be able to come and celebrate with us.



***Welcome New Church Council Members!***

***Installation of Council will be***

***Sunday, June 14th:***

***President: Heather Herrmann***

***Vice President: Kath Gamlen***

***Secretary: Diane Griswold***

***Treasurer: Debbie Merzlak***

***At-Large Members: Gina Hammock & Carole Hanes***

### **BIBLE STUDY UPDATE**

***Bible Study Schedule for the month of June will change.***

***We will meet at our regular time on June 3, 9:30am Episode Viewing;  
10:30am Bible Study.***

***Then we will meet June 8-10 during VBS—Monday - Wednesday 6:15-8pm,***

***We will not meet in July. We will resume meeting in August.***





Christians  
confronting emptiness  
choosing compassion  
creating community

GAP Ministries Collection

For June, we will be collecting Tuna, Crackers & Soup.



**SAVE THE DATE**

The Southeastern Synod Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Kevin Strickland is coming to Advent,  
**August 9, 2026!**

Bishop Strickland will be preaching for worship and join us for a meet and greet after service. We hope many will be able to attend this worship opportunity. Spread the word....the Bishop is coming, the Bishop is coming...





**Outreach opportunities for May! Then in June!**

**02 May  
09 May  
30 May**

**06 June  
20 June**

**If you'd like to join us or contribute, contact:**

**R.J. Gentry, (509) 592-3091  
or  
Krista Gentry, (509) 592-3062**

**Outreach Volunteer Shout-Out  
Thank you Tom and Michelle  
Thank you Diane for your BOOKMARKS!**

**What to know before you join us:**

- 1. Bring water source and wear sunblock**
- 2. You don't have to stay the whole time**
- 3. It is fast paced, but only as much as you want it to be**
- 4. Setup starts at 6 am if you want a good spot**
- 5. We talk to sooo many people**
- 6. Presence is success, not the results**
- 7. And the most important part, you don't have to be perfect. In fact, it helps if you're a little edgy**

# VACATION Bible School

"AT THE RIVER"

For students 4K-5th Grade, Free!



**8-10 JUNE**

Dinner 5:30pm to 6:00pm | Program 6:00pm to 7:30pm

**ADVENTURES**

**GAMES**

**ARTS & CRAFTS**

For more info: [advluch@adventaugusta.org](mailto:advluch@adventaugusta.org) | 706-306-6009  
3232 Washington Rd. Augusta, GA



In June, we recognize and celebrate our members of the LGBTQIA+ community and give thanks for them as siblings in the body of Christ.

## **Augusta Pride Festival—June 26-27**

**<https://prideaugusta.org/>**

**For ELCA LGBTQIA+ resources visit:**

**<https://www.elca.org/how-we-serve/elca-in-society/lgbtqia>**

## **Advent Welcome Statement**

We believe that God loves people of every age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, economic situation, and physical or mental ability. Whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, we welcome you to join us in worship, communion, love, and service. We celebrate God's diversity in creating us, and by God's Grace, we are free to love and serve one another, the church, our community, and the world.

**Check out Advent's Website & Facebook Page for the most updated information and pictures of activities for the summer:**

**<https://www.adventaugusta.org>**

**On June 21, 2026 at the 9:30am Worship time, Advent will observe Juneteenth.**

Juneteenth is a holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It recalls how the states of Louisiana and Texas heard the news that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Slavery continued in those two states for more than two years after the proclamation was signed because the word had yet to travel there. Texas and Louisiana finally got the good news on June 19, 1865. Former slaves broke out in spontaneous celebration. These were dangerous

On Juneteenth, we pray for the end of racism, racial inequalities and hatred in our nation, for an end to all forms of slavery and human trafficking in the world.

Living in God's grace and forgiveness, may we confess and confront our own prejudices and fears, serving as catalysts for change, reconciliation and healing.

Amen.



The Book Club will meet **Monday, June 15, 2026 at 11:30am** to select books for the next season. Each person is to bring one or two selections to suggest and then we'll vote. Also, we will bring our own lunch and beverage. All who enjoy reading books and talking about them are warmly invited to come.

# Summer is here!

This is the day the  
LORD has made;  
let us rejoice  
and be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24



# June Birthday's & Anniversaries

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

6-1 Darla Summers  
6-2 Janice Richardson  
6-6 Pastor Jason Peterson  
6-7 Aaron Johnson  
6-9 Ramona Galloway  
6-10 Gina Hammock  
6-10 Elizabeth Ostendorff  
6-12 Dylan Anderson  
6-17 Frank Easton

6-18 Kim Aiello  
6-19 Emma Fischer  
6-19 Hunter Krog  
6-19 Hope Lingenfelter  
6-20 Mary Suprek  
6-22 Pastor Andrea Windsor -Peterson

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

6-7 Tony & Wendy Lever  
6-20 Sid & Kathy Roper  
6-26 Jim & Barbara Williams  
6-28 Matt & Lisa Krog

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>2</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>3</b> AA 8am-9am  9:30am Chosen Ep. Viewing 10:30am Bible Study	<b>4</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>5</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>6</b> Ev. At the River 8am
<b>7</b> <u>9:30am</u> Worship & Holy Communion <u>10:45am</u> Ministry Morning & SS VBS SETUP After Church	<b>8</b> AA 8am-9am  **Bible Study will meet during VBS Week**	<b>9</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>10</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>11</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>12</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>13</b> Property 8am
<b>VBS 8-10</b> <b>5:30pm - 7:30pm</b>						
<b>14</b> <u>9:30am</u> Installation of Council Worship & Holy Communion  <u>10:45am</u> Sunday School	<b>15</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>16</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>17</b> AA 8am-9am  Council 6:30pm	<b>18</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>19</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>20</b> Ev. At the River 8am
<b>21</b> <u>9:30am</u> Father's Day & Juneteenth Worship & Holy Communion  <u>10:45am</u> Sunday School	<b>22</b> AA 8am-9am  Pastor's away on Vacation 6/22-6/30	<b>23</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>24</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>25</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>26</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <u>9:30am</u> Worship & Holy Communion  <u>10:45am</u> Coffee & Treats	<b>29</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>30</b> AA 8am-9am				

# July Worship Schedule

**July 5, 2026, 4th Sunday after Pentecost**      **July 21, 2026, 6th Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Semiquincentennial Celebration & Camp

Coffee & Treats 10:45am

Blessing

Coffee & Treats 10:45am

**July 12, 2026, 5th Sunday after Pentecost**      **July 26, 2026, 7th Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Coffee & Treats 10:45am

Coffee & Treats 10:45am



**SUMMER PRAYER FOR  
TRAVEL**

**O God, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel: surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*Summer  
Roadtrip*

## Wanted: School Supplies!

This year we would like to provide school supplies for kids in need. We will be collecting items throughout the month July.



Requested supplies are:

- Book Bags
- 3-prong folders
- Box of 24 crayons
- 3-ring Binders (2")
- Primary tablet of printing papers
- Composition books
- Spiral notebooks (single subject)
- Colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Erasers (3-pack)

Please place donated items in container labeled School Supplies by Sign-Up Central.



# July Birthday's and Anniversaries



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7-2 Emily Jimenez  
7-2 Jeff Keller  
7-2 R.J. Thomas  
7-5 Terrie Beacham  
7-7 Steve Merzlak  
7-13 Anthony Thomas  
7-14 Charles Brautigam  
7-15 Aaron Zamecnik  
7-16 Connor Moran  
7-20 Bob Perry  
7-26 Donna Stover  
7-30 Robert Bisbee

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

7-2 Pam Tipler & Kevin Ward  
7-3 Stephen & Amber Johnson  
7-5 Tim & Jamie Sadenwasser—  
30years  
7-10 Rick & Lynn Reed



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>2</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>3</b> AA 8am-9am  4th of July Social Gathering 6pm	<b>4</b> 
<b>5</b> <u>9:30am</u> Worship & Holy Communion <u>10:45am</u> Ministry Morning	<b>6</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>7</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>8</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>9</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>10</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>11</b> Property Meeting 8:00am
<h1>Lutheridge</h1> <h2>July 5-10</h2>						
<b>12</b> Worship & Holy Communion <u>10:45am</u> Coffee & Treats	<b>13</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>14</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>15</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>16</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>17</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Worship & Holy Communion <u>10:45am</u> Coffee & Treats	<b>20</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>21</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>22</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>23</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>24</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <u>9:30am</u> Worship & Holy Communion <u>10:45am</u> Coffee & Treats	<b>27</b> AA 8am-9am  <u>NEWSLETTER</u> <u>DEADLINE</u>	<b>28</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>29</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>30</b> AA 8am-9am	<b>31</b> AA 8am-9am	

# Summer Time!



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**DATED MATERIAL  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Final Deadline** for  
August Newsletter  
Entries is **July 27th**