

THE ADVENTURER

ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER



Sunday, August 2nd @ 9:30 AM

STAFF

Pastors

Jason Peterson
Andrea Windsor-Peterson

Organist & Music Director

R.J Thomas

Financial Secretaries

Steve & Debbie Merzlak

Church Council

President

Heather Herrmann

Vice President

Kath Gamlen

Secretary

Diane Griswold

Treasurer

Debbie Merzlak

At Large Members

Gina Hammock
Carole Hanes

Ministry

Chairpersons

Christian Education

Heather Herrmann

Evangelism

R. J. Gentry

Fellowship

Joan Kruscavage

Property

Mike Gamlen (PM)

Service

Gina Hammock

Stewardship

Worship

Pastors

Youth

Carolyn Weeks





Worship

WITH US

Sunday, August 2nd

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Blessing of Backpacks

Holy Baptism of Lyra Jade Chastain

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Ministry Morning 10:45 am

Sunday, August 9th

11th Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev. Dr. Kevin Strickland, SE Synod Bishop - Preaching & Presiding

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

10:45am Bishop's Luncheon

Sunday, August 16th

12th Sunday after Pentecost

New Members Sunday

Worship 9:30am

10:45am New Member Fellowship

Sunday, August 23rd

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am

Sunday August 30th

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship & Holy Communion 9:30am



School Supply Drive



With school back starting soon for much of the CSRA and school supplies at discounted prices, it is the perfect time to pick up supplies to help students and teachers in our area. This drive will go a long way in helping students and teachers have a great school year.

Requested supplies are:

Pencils

Pens

Dry erase markers

Loose leaf paper

Spiral notebooks

3 prong folders

Crayons

Hand sanitizer

Markers

Please place donated items in the orange container by Sign-Up Central. We will collect items through God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 13th.

CHOIR BEGINS SOON

The Choir and Bell Choir resume
practices again on
August 5th.



Wednesdays- 6pm Bells; 7pm Choir

If you are interested in joining either
choir or both, please contact
R.J. Thomas, Advent's Organist &
Music Director.

This is a beautiful ministry to be with
others sharing our musical gifts to the
Lord!





New Members Sunday August 16!

If you are interested in becoming a member at Advent, talk with Pastor Jason or Pastor Andrea one of the Sundays coming up or email/text them, they would be happy to talk with you.



Property Ministry

The Property Ministry will meet **Sat., August 1, 8am**. They will be doing various projects around the church getting everything ready for Fall. All are welcome to come and join this small group ministry.

Congregational Workday

The Congregation is invited to help get all things ready for Bishop Kevin Strickland's arrival at Advent. **Sat., Aug. 8th at 8am** we will be cleaning, organizing and preparing everything to make Advent shine. We hope you will join us!



Blessing
of the Backpacks

Sunday August 2nd

August is here!

For many families that means school is here!

Here at Advent, on Sunday, August 2nd, we want to celebrate and bless the beginning of another school and ministry year. Students, teachers, school employees, retirees and professionals, bring your backpacks, bags, lunch boxes, briefcases, purses etc. to worship at 9:30 a.m.

There will be a special blessing over the tools we carry and use in our vocations and a blessing for the work we are called to do in Jesus' name.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, for the ways you speak to us and through us. Increase in us a desire for wisdom and insight that we may use what we have learned for the sake of the common good. We pray in the name of the one who taught disciples and told stories, Jesus our Savior.

The Bishop is coming to Advent, August 9th! He will preach and preside at worship and there is a special luncheon in his honor following worship. We hope you will join us!



The Reverend Doctor Kevin L. Strickland,
Bishop of the Southeastern Synod, ELCA

The Rev. Dr. Kevin L. Strickland was elected Bishop of the Southeastern Synod on June 2, 2019 and re-elected on May 29, 2025 to serve another six-year term. Prior to being elected Bishop, he served in the ELCA Churchwide office since August of 2014 as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, Executive for Worship of the ELCA.

Born and raised in Lexington, SC, Bishop Strickland is an honors graduate of Newberry College (Newberry, SC) with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Philosophy and a minor in History. He also obtained a Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Columbia, SC). In December of 2019, Newberry College awarded him a Doctorate of Divinity. In May of 2024, he earned a Doctorate of Ministry degree in Church Leadership and Community Witness from Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Bp. Strickland also holds a certificate in Executive religious fundraising.

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Bishop Strickland served as pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran (Nashville, TN) and St. Paul Lutheran (Maryville, TN) prior and has served at Incarnation Lutheran (Columbia, SC), St. Philip's Lutheran (Newberry, SC), Lutheran Church of Redeemer (Newberry, SC), and Mt. Tabor Lutheran (West Columbia, SC) in the area of youth and family ministry.

With a heart for justice and advocacy ministry, Bishop Strickland has served on various local and national non-profit boards. He currently serves a member of the ELCA Conference of Bishops and on the boards of Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Council, Inspiritus, Middle East Ready Bench of the ELCA, Ecumenical and Interreligious Committee of the ELCA, Quality of Call Initiative, First Call Process, Immigration Ready Bench of the ELCA, ELCA Church Council, 1517 Media, Newberry College, NovusWay, Region Nine Council, James R. Crumley Region Nine Archives, Day 1 Advisory Council, and many others.

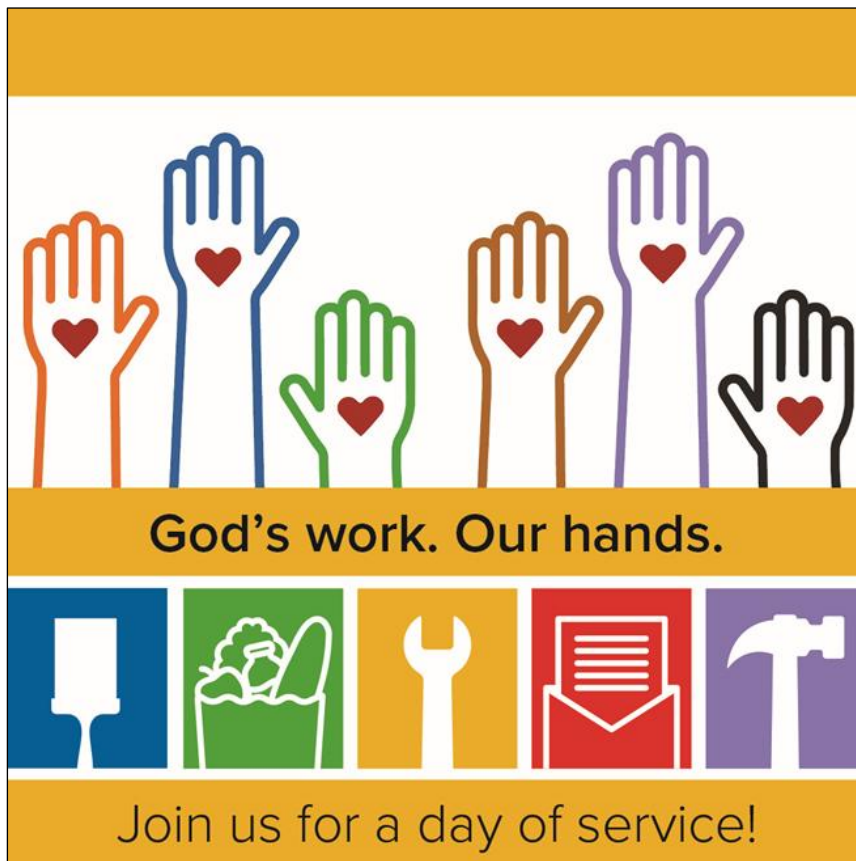
Bishop Strickland has been published in several worship and preaching journals and books. In April of 2021, he was inducted into Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. College of Ministers. He and his spouse, Robby, are excited about what God has in store for the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA and look forward to walking this journey together.



Christians
confronting emptiness
choosing compassion
creating community

Collection for August is Toilet Paper





On Sunday, September 13th, we are one of over 8,700 congregations participating in "God's work, Our hands." Across the country, thousands of members will engage in service work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us for God's work with our hands Sunday!



Little Free Pantry

It's that time of year when we ask our congregation to bring food and health care products to stock our cupboards for the next quarter of the year.

It has been a busy Spring and Summer at the pantry. Our supply cupboards are almost empty and we are on our last case of water. I am happy to report that we are finding food in the pantry that was left by pantry visitors. I know this because I have witnessed it and found items in the pantry with labels I don't recognize. Our little pantry is becoming more and more popular!

Ways to give:

Bring food and health care items to church and leave them on the table in the fellowship hall.

Bring one item to church on Sunday and place it in the pantry or on the table. (1 bottle of water given by each of us on Sunday equals 3+ cases)
Include a donation with your weekly offering.
Indicate the amount you are designating for Pantry use.

Place cash or check in the little black lock box on the table in the narthex.



I feel blessed to be a part of this generous congregation and thank the Lord that he keeps us mindful of those who face food insecurity.

Thank you,
Kath Gamlen

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:35-40:

Ready for an ADVENTure?

Love God. Love people. Serve the world.

These words spoken at the end of our worship services are a clear call from God. Maybe you, like me, want to say, “Yes, I will. I need You to help and guide me, God.”

One of the ways of saying, “Yes, God!” is serving in Advent’s prayer ministries.

Those who sign up for the Prayer Adventure promise to pray for around ten other members or visitors by name at least once a week for one year. We ask God, who knows and loves each, to help and guide us in knowing what to pray. We can ask the individual. (A sheet with helpful hints is also available.) An amazing thing happens along the way: our love for God and the people for whom we pray grows deeper and stronger.

Another meaningful way to serve and grow in love is being part of Advent’s email prayer chain. People who sign up agree to check their email daily, immediately pray for needs or thanksgivings, and keep requests confidential. When someone wants others to pray for a need or to join them in giving thanks, they can notify Gayle Ricklefs.

If you would like to serve in one or both of these ministries, please contact the church office or Gayle Ricklefs (ricklefs3@comcast.net) or complete the form and drop it in the offering plate September 6th or 13th.

Advent Prayer ADVENTure 2026 - 2027

_____ I agree to pray for other members and visitors of Advent for one year.

_____ I want to know more about praying for members and visitors of Advent for one year.

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Advent Email Prayer Chain

_____ I want to serve on Advent’s email prayer chain.

Name: _____ Phone number: _____

Email: _____

ADVENT BOOK GROUP SCHEDULE 2026-2027

Meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of the month at 11:00 AM in the Adult Sunday School classroom. Each member is asked to bring her own desired beverage and snack.



Join us on Monday, August 24th at 11am in the Adult Sunday School Room as we meet to discuss the book, ***The Book Club for Troublesome Woman*** All are welcome.

Date	Title	Author	Reviewer
8/24	The Book Club for Troublesome Woman	Marie Bostwick	Mary Jean Pollard
9/28	James	Percival Everett	Debra Roberts
10/26	Weekend Warriors	Fern Michaels	Susal Still
11/23	The Correspondent	Virginia Evans	Gayle Ricklefs
1/25	The Weight of Ink	Rachel Kadesh	Pat Grim
2/22	The Midnight Train	Matt Haig	Janice Richardson
3/22	Remarkably Bright Creatures	Shelby Van Pelt	Ingrid Zamecnik
4/26	Whistler	Ann Patchett	Michelle Pollard
5/24	Where the Rivers Merge	Mary Alice Monroe	Betsy Walker

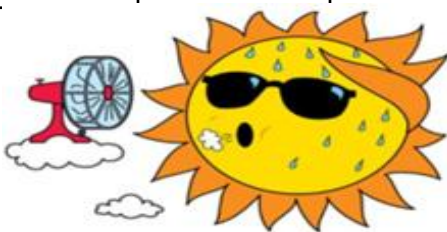


On Friday, July 10, Advent Lutheran Church was among a community of faith at the SRP Park Family and Faith Night. It was a great time with lots of action on and off field, cheering on the Jackets. Special thanks to Lisa Krog for securing the tickets to this fun event!



We have been busy this summer at Advent. The Evangelism Ministry has been down at the river, the Education Ministry led VBS, Advent celebrated a special 4th of July event, Advent Youth went to Lutheridge and shared their camp testimonies, and more. Here are some pics from various events. You can see more on Advent's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/adventaugusta



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Property Meeting 8am
2 Worship, Communion, Backpack Blessing 9:30, Ministry Morning 10:45am	3 AA 9am	4 AA 9am	5 AA 8am Bells 6pm Choir 7pm	6 AA 9am	7 AA 9am	8 Cong. Workday 8am
9 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30 Bishop is Here!	10 AA 9am	11 AA 9am	12 AA 8am Bells 6pm Choir 7pm	13 AA 9am	14 AA 9am	15
16 Worship New Members 9:30 Fellowship 10:45am	17 AA 9am	18 AA 9am	19 AA 9am Bells 6pm Choir 7pm	20 AA 9am Church Council 6:30pm	21 AA 9am	22
23 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30 Fellowship 10:45	24 AA 9am Book Group 11am Newsletter DEADLINE	25 AA 9am	26 AA 8am Bells 6pm Choir 7pm	27 AA 9am	28 AA 9am	29
30 Worship & Holy Communion 9:30	31 AA 9am					

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

8/2 Brooke Ashton Fillgrove
8/2 Matthew Krog
8/2 Sid Roper
8/3 Michael Piccolo
8/8 Tyson Tonsing
8/9 Wyatt Tokarska
8/10 Andrew Phillip Keller
8/10 Wendy Lever
8/11 Nancy Tokarska
8/15 Ingrid Zamecnik
8/16 Lyla Fischer
8/16 Shannon Pitts
8/18 Kathie Roper
8/18 David Tupper
8/19 Kristy Zubizarreta-Eden
8/22 Sam Eden
8/22 Maggie Heaney
8/30 Sam Jimenez

8/3 Danny & Laura Moran
8/15 Dean & Darla Summers
8/30 Jack & Ingrid Zamecnik



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Check us out on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/adventaugusta>

**Final Deadline For September
Newsletter Entries is August 21st!**