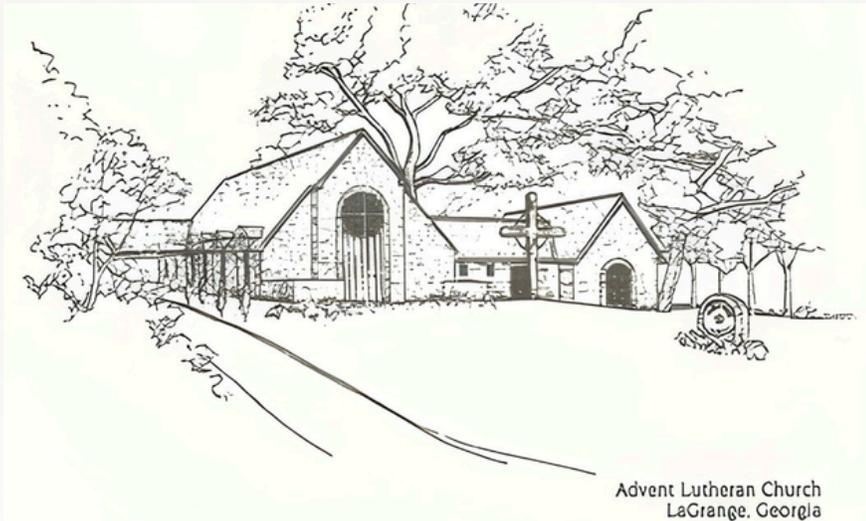




# THE CANDLELIGHTER

The Candlelighter Highlighting the Life, Faith, and Ministry of  
Advent Lutheran Church

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## Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Lives Stabilized Through Phillips House Ministry

**Quarterly Report (Jan–Mar 2026):** Preventing evictions, supporting families, and sharing hope through compassionate outreach in Troup County.

New hands have been serving our neighbors this quarter! We have two parishioners, Mike McCollum and Tom Cheatham, who have joined the volunteer team that reaches out into this community to help others who face sudden and unexpected disruptions in income and need assistance with essential household expenses.

Three of our clients had received eviction notices from their landlords or rental agencies and needed immediate help in order to keep their homes/ apartments. One woman had lived in her rental home since 2019 and had consistently made timely payments.

However, during the last quarter of 2025, she underwent surgery and was diagnosed with an autoimmune deficiency disease that caused her to miss work for an extended period. During this time, the company where she was employed was acquired by another firm, and she subsequently lost her position. Although she has recently secured a new job that allows her to work virtually from home, the gap in employment created significant financial hardship and left her unable to keep up with her rent. As a result, she accumulated more than \$3,000 in rental arrears and received notice of court proceedings related to the eviction.

## Sunday Service

### Holy Week at Advent

Join us for these sacred services:

- Apr 2 (7 PM) – Maundy Thursday
- Apr 3 (7 PM) – Good Friday
- Apr 5 (10:30 AM) – Easter Day

## The Eternal Flame

The Eternal Flame for April is provided by Amanda Plumlee in memory of her mother Betty Plumlee Frazier.

## Life Together In Christ

We gather throughout the week to study Scripture, pray, and share life together. Each gathering provides a steady space for reflection, conversation, and encouragement.

**You may learn more about these opportunities on this page** and find a time that fits your rhythm.

## Good Sam Ministry Packing Calendar

Packing takes place at 1:00 p.m. at Shoal Creek Baptist Church (1032 Youngs Mill Road) on the following dates: April 4, 2026, and May 2, 2026.

Phillips House Ministry provided \$500 in emergency rental assistance to help stabilise the situation and demonstrate good-faith progress toward repayment.

Additionally, St. Vincent de Paul contributed \$300 toward the rent payment due. The rental agency is now working with the client through a recovery program that will allow her to address the remaining balance while maintaining her housing.

During this cold winter quarter, eleven of our fourteen clients needed help to pay extraordinarily high utility bills. Many of these persons are seniors who live on fixed incomes – solely based on Social Security and/ or disability checks.

**At a Glance (Jan–Mar 2026): 14 households served; 3 evictions prevented; 11 families assisted with urgent utility bills; New volunteers strengthening outreach; Lives stabilized. Hope restored.**

Others sought assistance having missed work due to surgeries, car accidents, or lay-offs. Ballooning expenses caused some of our clients to receive “disconnect” notices and needed immediate funds.

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Thank you for supporting the Phillips House Outreach Ministry. Your continued support with “ear-marked” alms is making a difference in the lives of our Troup County community.

Truly, when we shelter and care for one another, we are loving God and loving neighbor.

## This Month Events

### Congregational Care Initiative: Reusable Cups



Congregational Care is requesting that members bring a cup or two from home to drink from during fellowship.

These cups can be rinsed and reused for fellowship each Sunday. We have a pushcart in the Fellowship Hall that is designated solely for weekly cup storage.

## Puzzle Night at Advent It's Not a Conundrum... It's a Puzzle!

Join us for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship!

Puzzle Competition. Be the first to complete a 300-piece puzzle and win a prize!

- **Where:** Advent Lutheran Church, 1416 Vernon St, LaGrange
- **When:** Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 5:00 PM
- **Entry Fee:** \$10 (Includes puzzle, seat, and refreshments (Additional snacks/drinks: \$1 each)

All proceeds support Breakthrough T1D (Juvenile Diabetes)

Register: Sign up in the narthex or contact the church office: +1-706 - 882 - 0130

## Seen and Unseen: God at Work in the Life of Advent

Each month, the Pastor reflects on the shared life at Advent, highlighting both what is visible in worship and ministry and what is quietly unfolding within each life.

by Pastor Dr. Jasson K Levi

### Visible Signs of Grace

There are seasons in the life of faith when much seems quiet—when prayers are spoken, ministries continue, and yet the visible results do not always tell the full story. March has been such a season. And yet, as we pause and reflect, we begin to see more clearly: God is still working—often in ways we do not immediately see. This month, we give thanks.

We have seen more members gathering in worship—a visible sign of longing, commitment, and renewed connection. This is a gift of grace and a reminder that the Spirit continues to draw people together around Word and Sacrament. Kudos to you, dear community, for showing up and strengthening one another simply by being present.

We have also witnessed the strengthening of mission and outreach. Plans have taken shape, and commitments have grown. These efforts reflect a congregation looking outward in love and service. Thank you for your willingness to give, to serve, and to share Christ's love beyond our walls.

Within our shared space, we see care in how the sanctuary and its environment are maintained. The beauty, order, and preparation are not just tasks—they are acts of devotion. Through them, we glimpse a holy space where the Spirit is actively at work among us.

### The Unseen Work of God

Yet even as we name these visible signs, we also recognize something deeper. There is unseen work of God—quiet, patient, and often hidden. It is present in the prayers we carry for ourselves, our families, and our friends. Each prayer—spoken or silent—reflects our trust in God's care.

We seek direction, protection, comfort, and assurance. We also give thanks for life, for blessings in our homes, our work, and our community.

These prayers may not always bring immediate answers, yet they are not empty. They are part of God's hidden work—sustaining faith, nurturing hope, and drawing us closer to Him and to one another.

The unseen work of God is also found in quiet faithfulness—in those who continue to trust, to care, and to hope even when nothing seems to change. Beneath the surface, God is shaping hearts, strengthening lives, and preparing what is yet to come.

### One Story, One Hope

What we see and what we do not see belong together.

The gathering in worship, the outreach we plan, the care of this sacred space—these are visible signs. The prayers we carry, the trust we hold, and the grace we receive—these are unseen movements of the same Spirit. Together, they tell one story: God is present—both in what is seen and in what is still unfolding.

As March gives way to spring, we are reminded that new life often begins unseen. Beneath the soil, growth is already taking place.

So it is with faith.  
So it is with the Church.  
So it is with God's work among us.

And so we move forward with gratitude and hope—trusting that in all things, seen and unseen, God is still at work.



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