



# THE CANDLELIGHTER

The Candlelighter Highlighting the Life, Faith, and Ministry of

**Advent Lutheran Church**

**May 2026 | Candlelighter Volume 5 Issue # 40**



## **Advent Moving Forward in Faith, Fellowship, and Community Joy**

### **Council Reflections, Growing Ministry, Generous Outreach, and a Special Invitation for Neighbors' Sunday**

#### **Grounded in Prayer and Purpose**

The recent Church Council meeting at Advent Lutheran Church reflected what church life often looks like at its best: prayerful beginnings, thoughtful planning, and renewed hope for what lies ahead. The gathering opened with devotion and reflection, reminding all present that even in the midst of meetings and decisions, the true center of the church remains faith in Christ and service to others.

#### **Faithful Service and Growing Commitment**

There was joyful gratitude for the many hands and hearts that helped make the recent Holy Week season meaningful. From worship preparation to hospitality and behind-the-scenes support, the congregation recognized that ministry is often carried forward through quiet acts of faithfulness.

Much of what blesses others happens long before the first hymn is sung.

At the same time, Advent continues to witness vibrant growth among its members as they generously offer their time, talents, and treasure to support the mission of the Lord both inside and outside the congregation. Alongside this faithful service is an encouraging spirit of spiritual growth, as members deepen in prayer, fellowship, and joyful commitment to Christ.

#### **Outreach That Makes a Difference**

The spirit of outreach was equally strong. Advent recently celebrated the success of a community puzzle contest that turned friendly competition into meaningful generosity.

**Faith is growing, generosity is flowing, and Advent is moving forward in joy.**

## **Sunday Service**

You are warmly invited to worship at Advent Lutheran Church every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Members, guests, and all from the community are welcome to join us for God's Word, fellowship, and a warm church family.

## **December 6, 2026 Neighbors' Sunday**

Mark your calendars now for a special service dedicated to welcoming friends, guests, and the community with warmth, joy, and the love of Christ.

## **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.

## **Trivia Night @ Advent Lutheran Church**

**May 2 | 3:00–4:30 PM**

Join us for a fun and friendly afternoon of trivia, laughter, and fellowship. Hosted by MC Brian Green. Bring a friend and enjoy the challenge!

A check for \$620.00 was presented to the LaGrange College chapter of Delta Tau Delta President Eli Glisman (center) and the fraternity's new member guide Trae Booker, by Advent's Church Council President Steve Hernley (right). The gift will support Breakthrough T1D, formerly known as juvenile diabetes. It was a joyful reminder that fellowship, creativity, and service can come together to bless families and communities in need.

### Looking Ahead With Joy

Advent continues to plan new opportunities for service, fellowship, and stronger communication with members and the wider community. Fresh ideas, future events, and growing outreach are all on the horizon.

And mark your calendars now: December 6 will be celebrated as Neighbors' Sunday, a special service dedicated to welcoming friends, guests, and the community with warmth, joy, and the love of Christ. At Advent, the mission continues, hearts remain open, and the future is full of promise.



## Inside Advent This Month

### Celebrations This Month

#### Birthdays and Anniversaries

##### Birthdays:

- Paul Conklin 05/13
- Emma Poole 05/17
- Ron Lashbrook 05/25

##### Wedding Anniversaries:

- Mellody Hartelius-Reaves and Payne Reaves 05/12
- Steve and Tammy Hernley 05/16
- Regeil and Hillary Staples 05/21



The Eternal Flame for May is provided by Amanda Plumlee in celebration of Jeremiah Staples' graduation



#### New Official Church Emails

We are pleased to announce Advent's new official email addresses:

- **Pastor:**  
pastor@adventlutheranlagrange.com
- **Administration:**  
admin@adventlutheranlagrange.com
- **General:**  
info@adventlutheranlagrange.com

*Please use these addresses for future church communication.*



#### Advent Book Club May 21, 2026

During the Advent Book Club this month, we will explore *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides, a bestselling psychological thriller filled with mystery, emotion, and unexpected twists. The story follows a celebrated artist who suddenly stops speaking after a shocking crime, and the therapist determined to uncover the truth behind her silence. It is a compelling read that invites reflection, suspense, and lively discussion.

## Pastor's Reflection:

*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.*

# New Pathways for the Gospel: How Advent's Digital Presence Is Opening Doors for Christ

by Pastor Dr. Jasson K Levi

## A New Front Door for Ministry

There was a time when the front door of a church was only a building entrance. People often discovered a congregation by driving past the building, receiving a personal invitation, or stepping inside for worship on a Sunday morning. Today, God has opened another kind of front door for ministry—the digital one.

In just one month, Advent's website and social media outreach have already shown visible signs of impact. Our home page welcomed more than one hundred active visitors, while worship pages, sermons, event information, devotionals, and ministry stories were viewed hundreds of times. These numbers represent more than statistics. They represent real people—neighbors, families, seekers, former members, and curious visitors—taking time to learn who Advent is and what God is doing among us.

People can now meet Advent before ever entering the sanctuary. They can explore worship opportunities, read weekly messages from the pulpit, view upcoming events, join Bible studies, or submit prayer requests. For many, this creates a gentle and non-threatening way to reconnect with faith. Someone hesitant about church can begin privately and comfortably online. A single visit to a website can become the first step toward healing, hope, and belonging.

## Hearts Engaged and Borders Crossed

The report also shows that people are not merely clicking and leaving. Several spiritual reflection pages recorded full engagement, with visitors spending meaningful time reading messages such as Love That Kneels, Passion Week reflections, and other seasonal content.

This tells us that online ministry can become sacred space where hearts pause, minds reflect, and souls encounter the Gospel message.

Fresh content about congregational life also matters. Easter stories, worship articles, Puzzle Night coverage, event pages, and devotional posts were actively viewed. When people see these stories, they do not simply see announcements—they see a living congregation marked by joy, compassion, worship, and service. They see a church where faith is practiced, not merely spoken.

**Advent's witness is also reaching beyond local** boundaries. While most visitors are from the United States, online engagement has also come from countries such as Tanzania, Ireland, Singapore, South Africa, Germany, and others. What a beautiful reminder that the message of Christ is not confined by walls, streets, or even nations. A congregation rooted in LaGrange can now share encouragement with people across the globe.

## Witness in the Digital Public Square

Social media has strengthened this outreach in practical ways. Facebook has helped people discover church events, congregational photos, and invitations to worship. X has extended sermon visibility, spiritual reflections, and public witness beyond the immediate local community. Through these platforms, Advent is entering the digital public square with hope, invitation, kindness, and Christian presence.

**This digital ministry does not replace gathered** worship, Holy Communion, personal care, or face-to-face fellowship. Rather, it extends them. It welcomes newcomers before they arrive. It keeps members informed throughout the week. It reaches seekers quietly and respectfully. It allows the church to remain present in daily life, not only on Sundays.

As we move forward, let us see every post, every article, every photo, every shared link, and every online invitation as an act of witness. God is using new tools for an ancient mission: to seek, to welcome, to encourage, and to share the love of Jesus Christ. The church doors still matter—but now they open in more ways than ever before.



Contact us:

Email: [info@adventlutheranlagrange.com](mailto:info@adventlutheranlagrange.com)  
1416 Vernon Road / Phone: 706-882-0130



[@AdventLutheranChurchLaGrange](https://www.facebook.com/AdventLutheranChurchLaGrange)



[@AdventLaGrange](https://twitter.com/AdventLaGrange)