



THE CANDLELIGHTER

The Candlelighter Highlighting the Life, Faith, and Ministry of

Advent Lutheran Church

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Colors of Celebration, Years of Love

Advent Celebrates Jeremiah Staples with Joy, Fellowship, and Love

For a few beautiful hours on Sunday, May 17, the fellowship hall at Advent Lutheran Church no longer looked ordinary. It looked like memory, gratitude, and celebration had been carefully woven together in red and black.

Every corner carried the spirit of Jeremiah Staples.

Through the partnership of Advent's Congregational Care Ministry and Youth and Education Ministry, the hall was transformed into a living tribute to a young man the congregation has loved for years. The colors of Callaway High School stretched across tables and walls with bold energy, while photographs from Jeremiah's life created something far deeper than decoration.

They became windows into a journey the congregation itself had witnessed — childhood moments, church milestones, school memories, and the quiet unfolding of a young life shaped within the embrace of a faith community.

People did not simply walk through the room. They lingered.

They pointed at pictures. They laughed softly. They remembered. Some could still see the little boy they once held, encouraged, prayed for, and watched grow Sunday after Sunday. Now that same child stood at the edge of graduation and new beginnings.

On this Sunday, the church did more than honor Jeremiah Staples. It honored the sacred beauty of watching a child of the congregation become ready to fly.

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.

Tuesday Bible Study — Summer Break

The Tuesday Bible Study is on summer break and will resume in August. Thank you to everyone who shared in fellowship and learning this year. Restart details will be announced soon. May your summer be filled with faith, rest, and reflection.

And Advent showed up for him.

Food and refreshments filled the fellowship hall with warmth and conversation. Plates were shared. Stories traveled from table to table. Joy moved naturally through the room because this was never only about a diploma. It was about belonging. It was about a congregation celebrating one of its own.

Jeremiah has always carried a quiet strength about him — humble, respectful, thoughtful, and deeply kind. A young man of few words but genuine presence. Over the years, many at Advent have come to admire not only how much he has grown, but how gracefully he carries himself among people of every age.

This celebration revealed the very heart of Advent Lutheran Church: a congregation that does not simply worship together but walks together through life.

Through Congregational Care and Youth and Education Ministries, Advent continues building a community where young people are nurtured, families are supported, and milestones are celebrated with intentional love.



Inside Advent this Month



Happiest Birthday — God's Blessings Always

Debora Scott 06/11

Gloria Sanford 06/13

Jennifer Beedy-Booker 06/21

Averie Poole 06/27

Sandy Conklin 06/30

Happiest Anniversary — Celebrating Love & Grace

Perry & Andrea Mitchum 06/12

Amanda Plumlee & Richard Stilley 06/20

Paul & Sandy Conklin 06/24

Outreach Opportunities This Summer

This summer, Advent's Outreach Committee will share Christ's love through two community outreach ministries. On June 19, volunteers will prepare and serve dinner at Branches of Hope, the local homeless shelter. Then on **July 15, Advent will host a luncheon for the staff of the West Georgia Wellstar Cancer Center** as a gesture of appreciation and encouragement.

Helpers and food donations are needed for both events. If you would like to participate, please contact the Church Office :

Phone: (706) 882-0130

Email: info@adventlutheranlagrange.com.

Thank you for helping Advent continue sharing compassion, hospitality, and hope within our community.

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.

December 6, 2026 — Opening the Doors Wider: Advent's "Sunday with Our Neighbors" Marks a Return to Our Beginning

by Pastor Dr. Jasson K Levi

Sometimes the future of a congregation is found by remembering how it first began.

On May 17, 2026, the Church Council of Advent Lutheran Church officially designated December 6, 2026, as "Sunday with Our Neighbors" — a special outreach Sunday inviting friends, neighbors, coworkers, and families into worship and fellowship. While this may appear to be a new initiative, it is deeply connected to Advent's own history and identity.

When Advent first gathered for worship in December 1981, the congregation began not through large campaigns or impressive programs, but through simple invitations. Friends invited friends. Families welcomed neighbors. People opened their hearts, homes, and lives to others. Through those ordinary acts of welcome, Advent Lutheran Church was born.

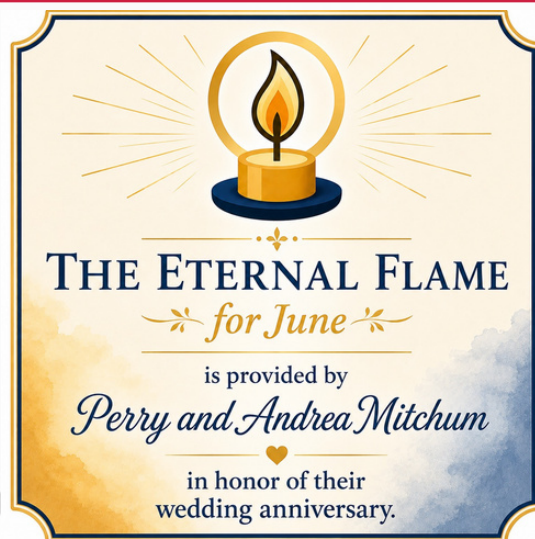
Now, more than four decades later, the congregation is being invited once again to rediscover that same spirit.

The special Sunday service on December 06, 2026 will begin at 2:00 p.m. and include music, worship, fellowship, and a guest speaker. Yet this day is about more than a schedule or attendance. It is about mission. It is about remembering that the Church exists not only for itself, but also for those who may still be searching for hope, belonging, encouragement, healing, or spiritual renewal.

In many ways, "Sunday with Our Neighbors" is an opportunity for Advent to step beyond familiarity and intentionally create space for new relationships and renewed community connections. Sometimes outreach begins with something simple yet sacred: a conversation, a welcome, or the words, "Come and see."

As the months unfold, different ministries within the congregation will help shape this special day in meaningful ways. Mission and Outreach will help extend invitations into the wider community. Congregational Care will help create an atmosphere of warmth, hospitality, and belonging. Youth and Education will encourage younger generations to participate fully in worship and fellowship. Praise and Worship will help prepare a meaningful and inspiring service, while Digital Communication will help carry Advent's invitation beyond the church walls into homes and communities across the Lagrange City.

For now, the congregation is invited to begin with prayer. Pray for those who may come searching for peace, direction, friendship, or faith. Pray for courage to invite others. Pray that Advent may continue to be a place where Christ's love is shared openly and joyfully. And this is only the beginning. More is still ahead.



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