

Annual Report to the Congregation
Advent Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro, TN
June 21, 2026

Compiled by Deb Boland, Parish Administrator



Vision Statement Together as ELCA Lutherans, we are freed by Christ's grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.

Mission Statement At Advent Lutheran Church, we:

- **develop our faith** and relationships with God,
- **discover the paths** God has chosen for us,
- **welcome all** people and communities, and
- **support** the needs of God's House.

Statement of Welcome

- + **We welcome all** who are seeking God's love and grace.
- + **We welcome all** as God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture.
- + **We welcome all** as God welcomes all, regardless of physical or mental health or ability.
- + **We welcome all** as God welcomes all, regardless of faith or religious background, agnosticism, atheism, or independence of belief.
- + **We welcome all** as God welcomes all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status.
- + **We welcome all** without regard to addictions, imprisonment, socio-economic positions, or anything that seeks to divide us. Our unity is in Christ.
- + **We thus affirm** this welcome includes all people. We pledge to ourselves and to all others that we will strive to live as a reconciling and embracing people, in our life together and in our outreach to the world.
- + **We welcome you** without demand, presumption, or anything but an invitation to be a part of our community.

Introduction

Council President, June 2026

Tim Wegmeyer,

I would like to thank every member of Advent Lutheran Church for everything they have done to make this church what it is today. As many of you know, Advent has gone through difficult times with membership loss during Covid, financial concerns, and then going without a full-time pastor for quite a while. However, these tests have made us resilient and able to handle things that we could not have in the past. I believe that we are stronger spiritually than we were 5 years ago. We have had the fortune to have Pastor Dawn Bennett leading us for a little over a year now. She took the call initially at a part-time 50% role, but this past year we were able to increase her time to 75%. My hope is that eventually we will be able to increase it to 100%. We were able to finalize the land sale late last summer, giving us enough money to handle any unforeseen financial emergencies and we continue to have a much better financial outlook than we did only a few years ago. God has been good to us and we must give thanks for what he has done. I look forward to working with all of you in the months to come to grow our church and bring God's grace and mercy to our community.

Council Reports

Pastors Annual Report

Rev. Dawn Bennett, June 2025 - June 2026

Grace and peace to you Advent Family. When I wrote this report last year I had been here less than a month. I mentioned that I began my time with you all “in a way that is most natural for me, which is to say, greeting, meeting, organizing and activating.” We have made steady forward progress since then, in lots of ways, and the church has seen significant growth. Church growth is not always measured in the numbers of people in the pews. Although we have seen an increase in those numbers, we have grown more in other ways that are evident in the many ways members are participating both inside and outside the church walls (the truest measure).

Last Summer I hosted a Council Retreat where the outcome was a commitment by the members to “strengthen the sense of belonging in the congregation by creating new traditions and opportunities for members and visitors.” As I look back over the last year, I can see the many ways in which we have grown as a church in the community, and as a group of family members in Christ. I wish to extend a huge “thank you” to the Council leaders who have been patient and helpful as I worked throughout the summer to learn the ropes here and get some ministry feet under me. Upon my arrival I was so impressed with the strong lay leadership we have here and have continued to be so grateful and impressed at the willingness of folks to work together for the greater good. Our growth has outpaced my (personal) expectations so, thank you to everyone who took on a leadership role, participated in a new group or activity, mentored a new member, and volunteered your time and talent.

- One of the easiest ways for me to keep engaged with members and share what I am working on is with a monthly Newsletter which I named the Inkblot. It reminds me of my fondness for writing and my appreciation of the role I am privileged to fill here at Advent.
- By last Fall, I noticed that we had to make a few important changes for safety. So my first task was to establish a Safety & Security Team which oversees activities on Sunday morning as well as thinks about our presence in the community, as a host site, as a good neighbor, and as members who engage in social activities on our campus. The second improvement was to oversee a minor renovation in the Administration wing to increase the security for our staff. We get a lot of visitors during the week and many ask for goods and services we are unable to provide; visits are not always pleasant and as a result, we needed to responsibly provide an additional layer of security. We also made major improvements for little cost by installing cameras, moving to water only in the carpeted areas, installing new locking mechanisms for the doors, and by instituting a volunteer Facilities Manager to keep the place in tip top shape. (Thank you to all who were helpful in these processes and improvements, I appreciate your teamwork and assistance.)
- I do believe “the family that prays together stays together” and I come from a big praying family. It was easy and fun to establish a few of the social and worship centered activities: Family Christmas, complete with ornament decorating and a full celebration meal; expanding Youth Sunday so that children of ALL ages are actively involved in the worship service (you’ll be seeing this more often all throughout the year); and, a return to Soup Supper & Service on Wednesday’s during Advent and Lent. Although last Advent was on Zoom it was a great indicator that we had grown back to the point of holding in-person dinner and worship. Lent was our first return to in-person for both and I have a feeling this will be a continued practice. (Thank you to all of you who participated, especially during Lent, as I know this was a new and unique experience. Thank you for trusting me with your heart and with your willingness to create out-of-the-box opportunities for worship.)
- One of the most enjoyable things for me as a pastor is creating space for others to celebrate their belovedness. I was excited to begin community organizing, at least on a small scale, so that Advent can begin to be a bigger, stronger, and more visible presence in our community. Advent has a reputation for being welcoming and affirming, as well as warm and friendly. I can say, as a relative newcomer, this has been my experience personally as well. Thank you for continuing to be a blessing to each other and to our surrounding community. This past year I participated in and/or organized: (first ever) Pride Spirituality Night (Thank you, Troy, for your help and participation), we gathered with a few other churches and over 50 folks in the Murfreesboro area to provide musical entertainment and prayer as a way to uplift RuCo and Boro Prides; Love Your Neighbor, Murfreesboro Indivisible, and Nourish Food Bank. We have strengthened our witness by providing space to a host of community groups who have met in our Fellowship Hall as either single events or monthly support meetings. As I continue to forge new community relationships, we will be able host more groups and offer our campus and ministries to others.

Finally, to cap off my report for this year, I want to lift up the ways we have grown as a church. The only way this happens, by the way, is when church members create a consistent, warm, safe, and inviting environment. So, thank you to each of you for being who you are, attending worship regularly, supporting our visitors, our young members, our senior members and helping to create a sense of family.

Because of you (well, and me too) we celebrated First Communion with two of our youngest members; we had a team of six who participated in Synod Revival Days (more to come as the weeks roll out); we received 18 new members since last summer! Wow!; We began a transportation ministry for our folks who are unable to drive here for worship and activities; and most recently, we celebrated RIC Sunday and have relaunched our consideration journey to publicly become an RIC (Reconciling in Christ) congregation.

All told, Advent Lutheran is who we are because we choose to live our lives transparently and by allowing the love of Jesus to flow to us, and through us, to those around us. Well done good and faithful servants. “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Dawn+

Treasurer’s Report

Patti Ferrie, Council Treasurer

Advent Lutheran Church Budget vs. Actual January - May, 2026

	Actual	Budget
Revenue		
4000 REGULAR OFFERINGS		
4010 Pledge-Reg Offering	77,531.60	57,708.35
Other Offerings	8,340.99	3,587.45
Total Revenue	\$ 85,872.59	\$ 61,295.80
Gross Profit	\$ 85,872.59	\$ 61,295.80
Expenditures		
5100 Christian Ed	227.97	402.10
5200 Evangelism	2,020.73	304.15
5300 Fellowship	0.00	802.05
5400 Pastor	39,903.10	26,828.16
5450 Staff	19,603.82	19,145.85
5500 Property	22,880.49	18,522.50
5600 Administration	2,782.84	1,316.70
5700 Worship	436.72	272.95
5750 Music	1,095.85	727.95
5900 Youth	91.21	660.40
6000 Miscellaneous	1,348.25	1,100.00
8000 Benevolence & Missions	5,730.28	3,350.05
Total Expenditures	\$ 96,121.26	\$ 73,432.86
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (10,248.67)	\$ (12,137.06)

We have done better than our budget, we planned for a negative balance YTD. The issue is we still have overspent the first 5 months of 2026, by \$10,248. We did have money in our savings account to cover those expenses. As of June 15th, we have \$8500 Checking, LYFE \$5086, Transportation Grant \$5748, Regular Savings \$7850. Endowment Fund \$218,551 (1/1/2026 \$179,208) .

The majority of the overspent expenses: Safety and Security- construction of offices, ring cameras, extra lighting outside, Gas Services. Pastor expense moving from 1/2 part time to 3/4 time.

Property Report

Patti Ferrie, Property Council Liaison

Property:

- Kristi Rainwater as our Facility Manager.
- drilling holes in pew holders for pencils
- All Lightbulbs in the sanctuary were replaced with LED lights
- Carpets professionally cleaned
- Tile floors in Fellowship Hall, stripped/waxed/sealed
- HVAC fall service completed 2x
- Power Washed the front sidewalk and both arched entryways
- Main Water Valve leak repaired, and Back Flow Preventor Test completed
- Currently changing trash services will save \$100 a month.
- Land Sale Closed
- Added 2 key lock boxes at the Fellowship entrance: #1- for Members & groups that meet regularly at the church, #2- events for folks renting space that are not members.
- Added sign on a post by the entrance, NO Dumping, you are on camera

Mutual Ministry

Leigh Ann Maxwell

I am the Vice President of our Council, this makes me the Chair Person of the Mutual Ministry Committee.

Our committee serves as a support and feedback group for both our staff and congregation. One of the highlights of my role has been informing staff members of pay raises approved by the Council.

This year we have had a few conversations with Pastor Dawn. If she has needed to share thoughts and discuss things that she wanted other opinions on. This could be her thoughts on discussions with staff or congregants.

I have reached out to members that have left the church or that we just haven't seen in a while. I have listened and tried to advise on things that may have bothered people or just listen to their personal thoughts.

Ministry Area Updates

Worship Team

Deb Boland Worship Chair

This year the worship team has ran smoothly with the direction of Pastor Dawn Bennett.

We have continued with a single worship service. Which pulls a little from the contemporary & traditional styles of worship.

As part of our ongoing worship rhythm, we continue to refresh certain elements of the service every other month by rotating styles within worship. Each service includes a blend of three traditional hymns and three contemporary songs. We are thankful for our hymn leaders, Carter on piano, and the band, whose faithful leadership helps guide and inspire the congregation in song each week.

With having Pastor Dawn this year, she has introduced using different versions of the bible and the use of inclusive language. We are constantly learning, growing and changing so that we truly live up to our Welcome Statement. We successfully included an RIC Sunday to introduce everyone to the RIC Program. (The RIC Sunday was rescheduled from January 25th to May 17th due to weather.)

As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited to continue growing together in faith, worship, and community, trusting that God will lead us into new opportunities for joy, connection, and ministry.

Stewardship

Pati Ferrie & Joanne Jobe

Joanne did attend a Stewardship Workshop in Nashville, Taste and See, with Pastor Hemphill, on July 12th

We both are read a book from ELCA – Funding Forward by Grace Pomroy

Our Fall 2025 Campaign which will take place November 9th and 16th. We will have “My Commitment for 2026” forms in the paper form to hand out and in the E-news with a button to complete the form. These will begin November 20rd and conclude December 1st. I will use these to support our Spending Plan for 2026.

Stewardship Campaign results

25 pledge cards \$107,000

LY 2024 we had 30 pledge cards \$117,000

Stewardship 2026 Plans.

- Fall Campaign will be October 11 & 18th, pledge Sunday 25th. Theme: Fall harvest- New growth
- Quarterly Temple Talks: March, June, Sept. and December
- Communication via emails/letters April, July, Nov. In July will be the first half giving statements.

Safety items

Major construction project to increase the safety of all working in the office areas. We are moving Deb's Administration office to the library. Securing the Office entrance with a door buzzer and release mechanism. The door going into the hallway from the NOW new waiting room will be locked and only accessible with a key or someone opening it from the hallway

- Added 6 ring cameras
- Repaired front red doors and maintenance locking system.

Shepherds

Terry & Linda Tewell

During July 2026–July 2027, the Advent Shepherds provided ongoing home visits and communion to our shut-in members. We began the year with three active shepherds, but one stepped away, leaving two of us to continue the ministry. We averaged one visit per shut-in each month, with additional visits when members temporarily could not attend church.

Our shut-in members consistently expressed appreciation for both our visits and visits from other congregation members. While the current ratio of shepherds to shut-ins is manageable, having only two active shepherds becomes challenging when either of us is unavailable. Please consider becoming an Advent Shepherd.

Although prayer requests are primarily managed through the church office, they still fall under the Shepherds' responsibilities. This year, updates were made to better protect the confidentiality of both requesters and those being prayed for.

Safety Team

Matt Lively, Safety Team Council Liaison

2026 Started off with a new co-leadership with Matt Lively and Robert Stuart being Co leaders as Matt being Council contact. The safety team grew with the addition of Joe Walker and Jerrod Hofferth. We reviewed what the last safety team had put down as ideas to do prior to Covid as that was the last time we had a Safety Team. We noticed that there was not a Sexual Misconduct Policy in affect for the church so we researched and created a new policy that is know in affect for all employees and volunteers.

After hearing about safety concerns with the front doors and seeing more and more people using the Blessing Box and the Clothing Drop off we started the process of looking into getting cameras for the entrances and parking lot. We have installed 2 ring cameras that are used by Pastor and the Church Secretary for safety of what is happening out side. We are currently looking into adding to the cameras for further protection of the staff and property.

There was construction done to better interaction with those looking for food from the blessing box. An entry way with a pass through window was created so the Parish Administrator can pass food out without letting people into the building.

We are working on a monthly property walkthrough with the property manager to ensure things are looked at each month.

We are also looking at creating "You are Here Maps" to put into different rooms to show best ways to exit the building for ease of everyone.

Fellowship

Brandon Stuart, Fellowship Council Liaison

The fellowship team consists of 10 extremely dedicated and passionate church members. At the beginning of the year, we started a New Annual Tradition of having a Strategy Brunch Luncheon. During this meeting, we talked about our objectives, and chose one member per month to host a Gather and Connect at Fellowship Hall. I have all events we have done so far as well as the events planned for the balance of the year listed below. All events conducted have been done without any funding and are 100% based on time and member donation.

2026 Objectives

- Create a high level roadmap for 2026
- Objectives set from our first meeting
 - MONTHLY fellowship get togethers
 - Creating more opportunities to get to know each other
 - Gather and Connect
 - Involve youth members in fellowship
 - Events for Members and Community
 - To get to know Advent
 - Increase visibility across community
 - Re-unite Advent Community
 - Traditional vs Encounter Groups

2026 Event Calendar

January 17th - Fellowship Brunch and 2026 Strategy Session

January 25th Pati/Brandon - MOVIE CLUB! "David" at 2:00pm at Premiere 6

February 8th - Super Bowl Party at Kristi Rainwater's home - 30 in attendance

February 15th - Pancake Breakfast - Mari Gras theme - Brandon hosted - 45 attendees

March 1st - Gather and Connect - Leigh Ann/Kristi

April 5th - Easter - Youth Day - Casserole pot luck - Jaqueline/Brandon hosted - 40 people in attendance

May 3rd - Youth Send off (into summer) Pool Party at Patie Ferrie's home - 15 people attended

June 7th - Vicki and Kristi hosted a baked potato bar - 30 in attendance

Up and Coming Events Planned:

July 11th - Annual Pool Party at Brandon/Robert Stuart's home

August 2nd - Charcuterie Day - Chloe and Pati

September 6th - Labor Day BBQ - Brandon/Deb

October 4th – Still Open to Ideas

November 7th - Fall festival

November 29th - Family Ornament Making/Holiday Church setup

December 13th - Christmas lunch

December TBD - Council Dinner

The Fabulous Ladies of Advent

Deb Boland – The Fabulous Ladies of Advent Chair

The Fab Ladies of Advent enjoyed several fun and meaningful events this past year.

One of our goals is to plan gatherings that are low-cost and welcoming for all ages, so that everyone who wants to participate can join in.

- In June 2025, we held a Lotion making class. Everyone was given enough materials to make 2 jars of hand lotion.
- In September we all learned how to make a door wreath, the participants were given a list of items to buy to make a wreath. They could choose to make a fall, Halloween or Christmas themed wreath to take home. This was well attending and there was lots of food and fellowship too!
- Our annual Procrastinator's Christmas Party was cancelled due to some scheduling issues but will return again this year.
- In February we held a Game Day. There were just a few of us, but we had a wonderful time.
- And in March we had a craft day making Egg Topiaries for Easter. We had all ages making "Easter" Topiaries and having laughs and fellowship.

As we plan for the coming year, I'm looking for a few volunteers to help with organizing and coordinating events. Thank you to Lori Sultzer for helping organize this ministry. If you're interested in helping, please give me a call—I'd love to have you on the team!

Faith Formation

Children's Ministry

Jackie Murray-White – Sunday School Coordinator

Sunday school this past year covered the books of Genesis and Exodus. We spent a lot of time discussing how each story builds on God's love for us .then discussing how loving others. is a way to love God. We also had the kids find ways to give back vs giving up during lent and how they did with what they committed too. we also spent time covering the events of holy week. Next year I would like to continue with where we left off in the curriculum vs starting back at the beginning since feedback from Eleanor was, we do the same stories every year.

LYFE

Jacqueline Hofferth, LYFE Coordinator

Although our LYFE group is small in number, our youth have continued to embody the phrase "small but mighty." Throughout the year, they have participated in service projects, worship leadership, Bible study, fundraising efforts, and congregational events, making a meaningful contribution to the life of our congregation.

This past year was filled with meaningful opportunities for our LYFE group to grow in faith, serve others, and strengthen relationships within our church community. The youth participated in a camping trip that provided

fellowship, outdoor recreation, and time for spiritual reflection. They also supported several important congregational events, including the Fall Festival, Christmas Program, and Easter Egg Hunt.

Our LYFE group continued their faith formation through Bible study, focusing on portions of the Old Testament that were less familiar to them. These studies encouraged a deeper understanding of Scripture and meaningful discussion about how God's Word applies to their daily lives. The youth also took active leadership roles within the congregation by leading two worship services during the year.

Fundraising efforts were another important part of our ministry. The LYFE group organized a Christmas cookie fundraiser and a Easter casserole breakfast fundraiser, which helped raise funds for upcoming activities and events.

Looking ahead, we have several exciting opportunities planned. In the coming week, our LYFE group will assist with Vacation Bible School, serving younger children and helping support this important ministry of our congregation.

This summer, our LYFE group will attend AFFIRM, a Lutheran youth leadership and discipleship program that nurtures faith, equips young leaders for service both now and in the future, and trains youth in discipleship skills. AFFIRM is built around ten age-appropriate leadership and discipleship units, each guided by dedicated small-group leaders and unit directors. During their week at AFFIRM, our youth will participate in Bible study, worship, fellowship, leadership development, and service activities designed to strengthen their faith and prepare them for Christian leadership.

During the coming year, we also plan to expand our community service efforts through volunteer opportunities with PAWS and Nourish Food Bank. These experiences will allow our youth to put their faith into action by serving others in our community.

Looking further ahead, our LYFE group hopes to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the summer of 2027. This gathering will provide opportunities for worship, service, learning, and fellowship with thousands of Lutheran youth from across the country.

We are grateful for the support, encouragement, and prayers of our congregation, which make these opportunities possible. We look forward to another year of growing in faith, serving others, and developing the next generation of Christian leaders.

Theology on Tap

Richard Bates – Theology on Tap Leader

The Theology on Tap discussion group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at Champy's in Murfreesboro. It does not meet during June, July, and August. Topics for discussion include Biblical interpretation, Lutheran Confessional interpretation, and Reformation history. Examples of topics discussed during the past year included how the Book of Concord acts as an authoritative interpretation of the Bible. The Book of Concord dates back to June 25, 1580. It is a collection of documents including the Augsburg Confession and the Apology to the Augsburg Confession. Both were written by a layperson, Philip Melancthon. To illustrate, Melancthon explains the meaning of Romans 3:21. "If forgiveness of sins depended upon our merits and reconciliation were by the law it would be useless." (AP 127.41) In other words, if my forgiveness was dependent upon my good works, all of us would be empty-handed. Forgiveness is totally dependent upon the grace of God. Participants are encouraged to suggest topics for discussion. All in all, the group's discussions are lively and informative. All are welcome to join Theology on Tap.

Community

Lavender Closet

Joe Walker Liaison to Lavender Closet

LCP offers inclusive, affirming clothes to LGBTQIA+ adults in the Murfreesboro area. Clothes are always free to those who need them. We have a monthly giveaway day that clients can sign up for. Once they've put in their request, we get a selection of clothes together for them to look through. They can take as much as they like and need. In the last year, LCP has grown by hosting public events as well. This includes our free pop-up boutiques, which we've set up at Pride events, and clothing swaps we've cosponsored.

Blessing Box

Catherine Burnette - Coordinator

The Blessing Box in the church parking lot offers free nonperishable food and hygiene items to the local community. This ministry began in 2022 as a service project for our Sunday classes. Sunday school participants cleaned and painted the box and organized the first donation drive. Support usually comes in two forms: monetary donations for purchases and donated supplies. This year we have been very blessed to have received strong support through community donations. A full list of guidelines and acceptable donations is available through a link in the Advent LC E-News.

Community Outreach

Lori, Stultzer Community Outreach Liaison

RuCo Pride- June 13, 2026

This year we have a Pride Committee headed by Deb Boland and Lori Sultzer, committee members of Lynette Porter, Katie Moran, Carol Hawkins, Kristi Rainwater, Vicki Vermillion, Jay Burnett, Caton Taylor and our own, Pastor Dawn Bennett.

Advent participated in RuCo Pride last year and it was highly successful! We had a booth again this year and many connections were made. We were able to get a Thrivent Grant from the Hawkins to pay for our Booth, which helped us sponsor the event. The Prayer Totem was a meaningful addition to the Pride festival, with many attendees sharing their prayers and hopes. Following the event, Pastor Dawn invited the congregation to lift these prayers up together during worship on Sunday morning, connecting our church community with those we met at the festival. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped staff our booth. We handed out fans, pens and key chains as well as stickers. Bill Boland used his new vehicle to get all our gear over to Oaklands Mansion.

Gods work Our hands - September 4, 2025

Pastor Dawn, Pati Ferrie, and I helped at Nourish Food Bank, for God's work Our hands. We threw out expired food and labeled can goods and other food products. We also pulled items off the shelves and got them into

shopping carts for those families who were in need. We spent about 4 hours there, and I know they really can use the help!

Boro Pride – October 4, 2025

Boro Pride was held again at the Tennessee Miller Coliseum. Advent had their booth set up next to Bill and Deb Boland so they could help. We handed out stickers, and key chains and had many people stop by our booth. Kristi Rainwater was quite the spokesperson for Advent engaging many in conversation! We had a good turnout from Advent!

Love your Neighbor – October 26, 2025

We again participated in the Love your Neighbor event which is put on by the Muslim Youth Organization. It was held at Civic Plaza on the main level near the library entrance. We shared our booth with Brass Horn Coffee, and we handed out water to folks. We had a bit of a rainy day, so it was not as hot as the previous year, yet folks still wanted water! We had many donations from members of Advent for the water and Ice to keep it all cold! Joe Walker brought the water with his little wagon that really helped us move to our cars at end of day! Volunteers were me, Joe Walker, Pastor Dawn, Kristi Rainwater, Brandon, Chloe, and Isabella Stuart and one of Chole's friends, Terry and Linda Tewell, Joanne Jobe, and her sister Mary.

Nourish Food Bank Collection – November 19, 2025

Members of Advent Lutheran collected much needed goods and food stuff for Nourish Food Bank whose supply of food was running low. Everyone participated in food donation, and we had a fill the bags with canned goods day! I brought the items over to Nourish Food Bank which they were incredibly grateful!

Thanksgiving in a Bag Outreach Partnership – November 2025

This year our Thanksgiving food bags were distributed in partnership with the Murfreesboro Muslim Youth organization. Since they have established relationships with families in need throughout Rutherford County, they were able to ensure our 20 bags reached households who would benefit most. We are grateful for their collaboration and shared commitment to serving our community.

Ice Out Protest Event – January 11, 2026

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, hundreds gathered in Murfreesboro for an "ICE OUT for GOOD" demonstration organized by Indivisible Murfreesboro. The protest was held to demand accountability regarding national immigration operations, following the fatal shooting of a woman by an ICE officer in Minnesota. Pastor Dawn spoke at this event.

Lavender Closet Anniversary – March 28, 2026

Dante Walker, Brandon Stuart, Kristi Rainwater, Joe and Jeanette Walker, Vicki Vermillion, and I participated in the anniversary of Lavender Closet with a few remarks from Eric and folks who make this a great organization! We had snacks and dessert!

Cold Patrol Update on Advent Donations for Craig's Shopping Spree – Sometime in April 2026

Last fall members of Advent made generous donations to the shopping spree for a person who Cold Patrol would get them housing. With so many activities and the holiday's coming up, folks at Advent raised enough money for "Craig" to get items for his new apartment and pay for the security deposit for the apartment. In April "Craig" was out shopping for his home essentials with members of Cold Patrol, thank you Advent for all you do!

Cold Patrol Meeting with Leigh Ann Maxwell and Lori Sultzer – April 22, 2026

Leigh Ann and I spoke with Jordan from the Cold Patrol about how Advent can help them out. We will soon be planning on a drop in to their office day to help them sort out items in the office and general duties to help the Cold Patrol staff. Stay tuned to the date!

Doors of Hope Cinco de Mayo (early) – May 4, 2026

We had volunteers make food themed to Cinco de Mayo for the ladies of Doors of Hope monthly meeting. The ladies in this program have commitments to fill and a monthly meeting is part of that. Advent volunteers made rice, beans, tacos, and enchiladas along with chips, salsa guacamole and Iced tea, lemonade, and dessert! There was a contest on the best enchiladas in which the trophy went to Kristi Rainwater. I want to thank the folks who contributed, Cathy Lively, Brandon Stuart, Kristi Rainwater, Vicki Vermillion, Pastor Dawn Bennett, Lynette Porter,

Gods work Our hands – September 13, 2026

We will again be performing community service for this event. Event type, and location TBD

Boro Pride – September 19, 2026

Boro Pride will be held this year at a different location in September. This promises to be an extremely exciting Pride event, and your Pride committee is working hard at providing fun giveaways, and lots of excitement and many volunteers! Stay tuned!

