



# ADVENTures *a weekly newsletter*

Advent Episcopal Church ◊ 3760 Dover Center Road ◊ Westlake ◊ OH ◊ 44145

January 27, 2019 ◊ The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

## Advent's Rescheduled Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be held **today**, Sunday, January 27, following the **ONE service at 9:00 a.m.** After the service, the meeting will commence in the Sanctuary, followed by a potluck lunch in the Parish Hall. We will present positive financial results for 2018, vote on an in-the-black 2019 budget, elect new vestry members, respond to questions and issues of concern to the congregation, and enjoy some fellowship time. Hope to see everyone attend!

## ADVENT'S Ad in the WBV Observer

### Advent Episcopal Church Explores Our Turbulent Culture from a Biblical Perspective

"The Church in Babylon" Bible Study Starts Sunday February 3, at 11:30 AM. America is polarized politically, racially, morally, and religiously. Dr. Erwin Lutzer, Pastor of Moody Church in Chicago, authored "The Church in Babylon" book, DVD, and study guide. We'll use them and Old Testament passages to discuss and understand how we are to be "in this culture" but not be "consumed by it". No homework is required to participate and missing a session won't nullify attending future ones. Some topics include: "When the State Becomes God", "The Church, Technology and Purity", and "Islam, Immigration, and the Church". Don't be intimidated by the prospects of a Bible study! Please join us for this lively study of God's Word as we learn how to apply it in our culture today. Free, all are welcome. Advent Episcopal Church, 3760 Dover Center Road Westlake, Ohio 44145, 440-871-6685 • [www.adventwestlake.org](http://www.adventwestlake.org)

## Preaching this Morning at Advent

John Crothall will deliver the sermon at Morning Prayer this morning. Next Sunday, February 3, Advent will once again welcome Pastor Paul Laursen to celebrate the Holy Eucharist here thru February and beyond.

## Financial Statements

2018 Financial Statements are available on the small table in the back of the church near the Ushers' stand. Please contact JoAnn in the Church office if you have any questions concerning your statements.

## A Letter to Bishop Love

Bishop Love,

I write to offer you the prayers and whole-hearted support of Advent Episcopal Church, Westlake, Ohio in your appeal of the disturbing but not surprising action taken by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, The Most Rev. Michael Curry, to partially restrict your ministry in the Diocese of Albany in any matter that pertains to same-sex marriage. Advent believes theologically, as you believe, that "Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God." (BCP 422). You artfully and eloquently expressed your opposition to General Convention Resolution B012 in your November 10, 2018 Pastoral Letter and Pastoral Directive to your Diocese. Your office provided Advent a copy.

We ask that God the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you in your courageous spiritual battle as you stand firm on Biblical truths. Do not waver. Do not grow weary. Your Advent flock holds you up in prayer and asks for the Spirit's sustaining power and strength to empower you and overwhelm your adversaries. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

In Jesus Name we pray.

Richard McCormick

Senior Warden

## GIFT...GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER ...AT ADVENT

Please note that due to the snow we received the weekend of January 18, Advent needed to reschedule some events. Our next GIFT session will be held on **February 17, following the 10:00 a.m. church service and the topic will be "Rejection Must Fall"**. This is the topic that would have been presented in January. We will adjust the topics for each month so that all of the "Goliath Must Fall" series will be seen. Thank you.

## This Week at Advent

### Today, January 27

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer  
10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting

### Monday, January 28

2:00 p.m. Eliza Jennings Ministry

### Tuesday, January 29

### Wednesday, January 30

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Advent  
9:00 a.m. Wednesday Morning Prayer Group

### Thursday, January 31

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

### Sunday, February 3

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
11:00 a.m. Birthdays and Anniversaries  
11:30 a.m. "The Church in Babylon" Bible Study

## Prayer Request

### *Health and Recovery*

Lillian Kwasny	Irv Frank	Joan Joye
Mary Lou Dixon	Marilyn Decker	Velta Sanborn
Bob Allen	Karen Zolar	Rose Walker
Barb Frank	Lois Zolar	Arthur Beel
Julie Cratcha	Michael Uhrich	
George Belinsky	Bill & Judy Arkley	

### *Friends of Advent*

Toni Kulma, wife of Pastor Kulma  
Eliza Jennings residents  
Sylvia Little, Bishop Little's wife  
Kaylene Say Niece of Max and Barbara Gage  
Jack Morgan

*Please contact the church office if you would like your name added or removed from our list.*

## Directory Update

The Boyce Family  
36286 Capri Lane  
North Ridgeville, OH 44039  
440-406-9202

The Dzurec Family  
440-567-8122

## Server Schedule Today, January 20

8:00 a.m. NO SERVICE

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Officiant Dick McCormick

Lector Denise Geyer-Keller

Suffrages Denise Geyer-Keller

Acolytes None

Ushers Jan & Jerry Nagy

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Altar Guild Cynthia Sabolich & Karen Edwards

Coffee Hour Annual Meeting

Close Advent Denise Geyer-Keller

Counter / Date Anne Crothall (1/28)

## Next Sunday, February 3

8:00 a.m.

Chalice Bearer/Lector Scott Duennes

10:00 a.m.

Chalice Bearer Marcia Duennes & Bunny Meriam

Lector Marcia Duennes

Prayer of the People Marcia Duennes

Acolytes Denise Geyer-Keller

Ushers Max Gage

Intercessory Prayer Ray Busony

Altar Guild Jennifer Meckes & Karen Edwards

Coffee Hour Teddi Augustine & Sharon Rice

Close Advent Max Gage

Counter / Date Marcia Duennes (2/4)

Note: It is your responsibility to contact another volunteer directly to take your place. Please call the office with all changes. Thank you.

## **“The Church in Babylon” Bible Study Starts February 3, 11:30 a.m.**

What does today’s culture have to do with Babylon 600 years before Christ’s birth? What is relevant today from these musty Old Testament writings from Daniel, Lamentations and Chronicles? What can we learn from those Jewish exiles about “how to be witnesses for Christ” in our 2019 darkness? Why should I come to this Bible study anyhow?

Dr. Erwin Lutzer is Pastor Emeritus of historic Moody Church in Chicago and served as its senior pastor from 1980 – 2016 (36 years!). We will read and discuss pertinent Old Testament passages and use his book, DVD, and study guide entitled “The Church in Babylon” to understand how we are to be salt & light in this world. No homework is required to participate and missing a session won’t nullify the following ones.

Lutzer writes “America is polarized politically, racially, morally, and religiously. Common ground among Americans seems to have vanished. We are angry, hostile, even violent. Someone has said that we are a nation addicted to rage. Yet it is into this atmosphere of shrill voices that we have been called to represent Christ. The message we have and the lives we lead ought to permeate society and be a beacon of light in the approaching darkness.” That’s enough to get my attention!

But, there’s more. Here are the 10 Sessions we’ll study:

- Session 1: Welcome to Babylon  
*Finding God in Enemy Territory*
- Session 2: Conflicts of Conscience  
*Keeping the Faith in a Hostile Work Environment*
- Session 3: When the State Becomes God  
*Standing Strong While Others Bow*
- Session 4: The Church, Technology, and Purity  
*The Courage to Confront a Deadly Enemy*
- Session 5: Transgenderism, Sexuality, and the Church  
*Calling out the Lies of the Culture*
- Session 6: Islam, Immigration, and the Church  
*Balancing Compassion and Security*
- Session 7: Five False Gospels within the Evangelical Church  
*Defending the Faith Once Delivered to the Saints*
- Session 8: Taking the Cross into the World  
*Shamelessly Sharing the One Message That Can Save Us*
- Session 9: Jesus at the Church Door  
*Prayerless Pulpits. Satisfied Saints, and Spiritual Blindness*
- Session 10: The Church That Will Survive Babylon  
*Prevailing in a Hostile Culture*

Please decide to join us for this lively study of God’s Word as we learn how to apply it in our culture today.

“The Church in Babylon” – **11:30 a.m. Bible Study:** Here is what some respected Christian leaders today have to say about the series we will be starting on **February 3.**

“Erwin Lutzer has his finger on the pulse of the culture and the church, providing sage insight in a balanced, biblical manner. Every page of this book will engage your mind and stir your heart. It will enlighten you, warn you, and equip you to discern and withstand the siren song of Babylon that surrounds us.”

“This book is a call for Christians to engage the increasing darkness in our world with the penetrating and victorious light of Christ. And more importantly, he tells how this engagement is put into practice. I’m impressed with how he takes us from despair to a solid hope in the power of the light and the ultimate victory we have in Christ.”

“Christians are “called out” to represent Jesus in this sinful world . . . for every one who seeks to navigate the turbulent, secular times in which we live while seeking to maintain a biblical worldview and witness for Christ. Dr. Lutzer forthrightly and biblically addresses current controversial, societal topics without pulling punches, yet does so in a warm and kind manner.”