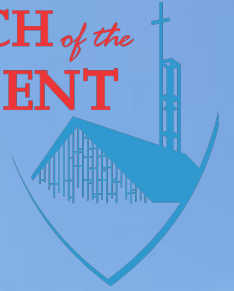


EPISCOPAL
CHURCH *of the*
ADVENT



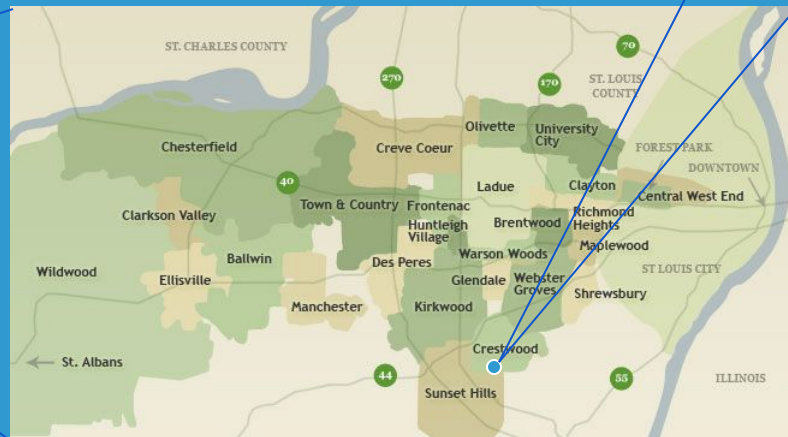
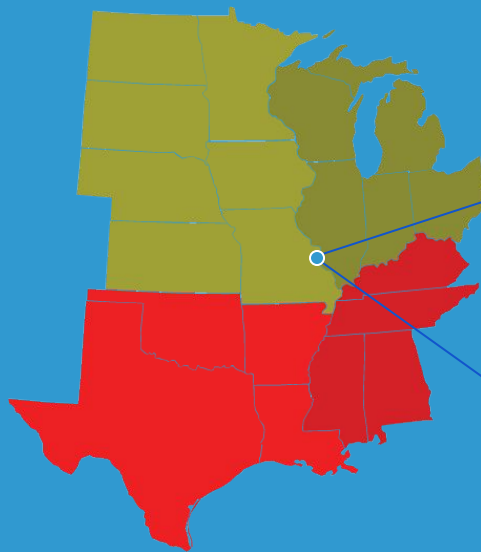
Are You Our New Rector?

Advent's Home in Crestwood, MO



9373 Garber Road
Crestwood, MO 63126
Phone 314-843-0123

www.advent-episcopal.org



Advent

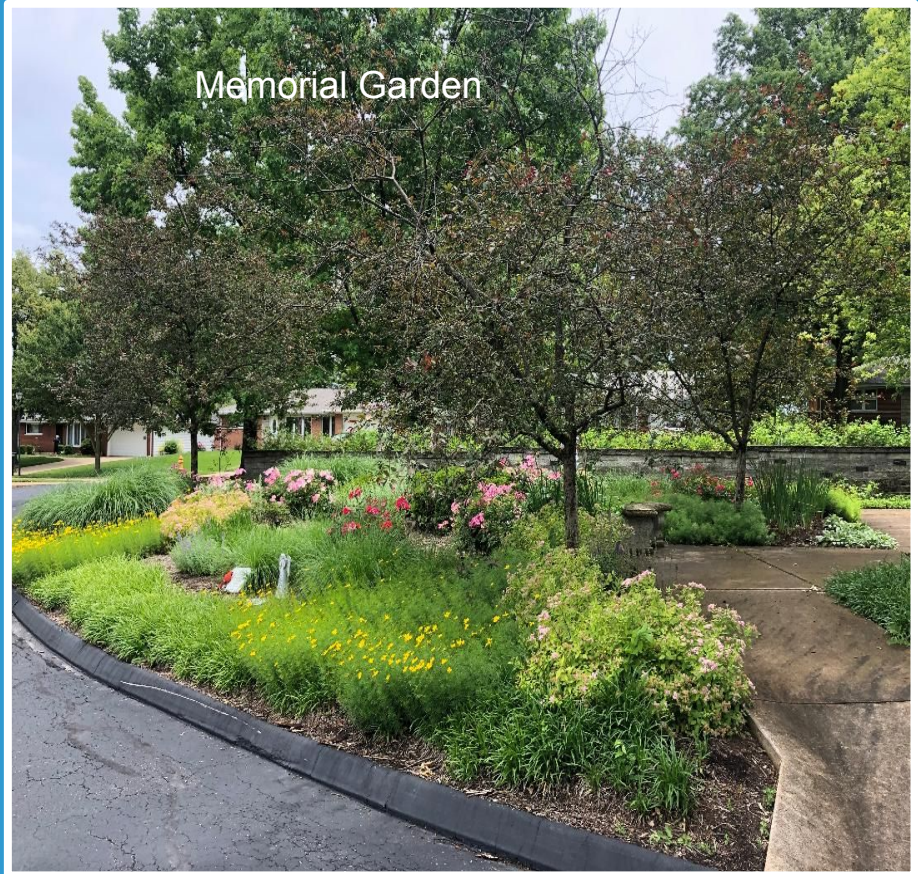
Fully alive to God and each other.

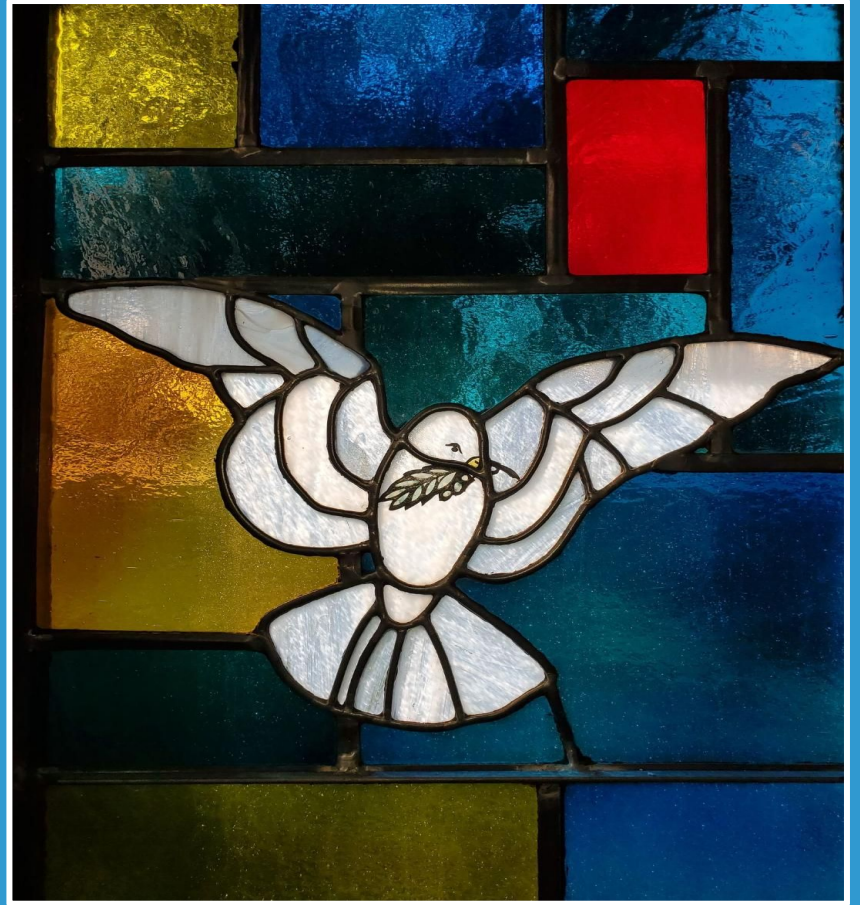
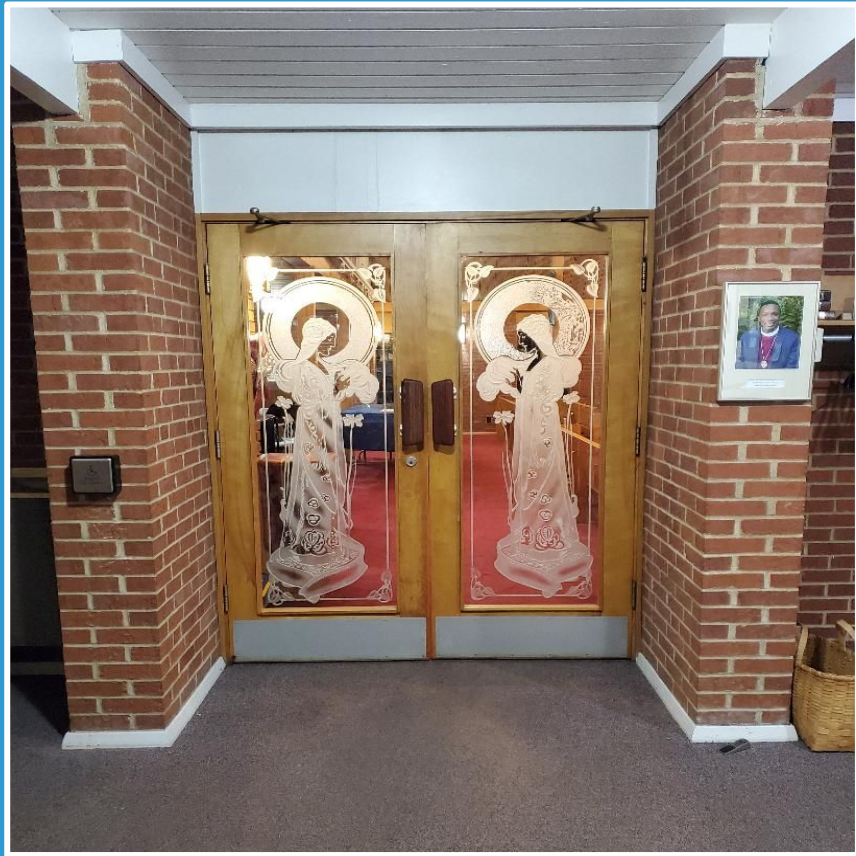
Mission Prayer:

We thank you, God, for giving us joy and energizing us by opening our lives to You, to Your Word, and to each other; Shape us to live full, gracious and unpretentious lives through our worship, our humor and our support of others; Help us to extend what we receive here into the communities where we live and work and to invite all into the joy of this mission; through Christ, whose Body we are. Amen.

Rule of Life

1. The eucharist is at the heart of our life together. In the eucharist, we receive the gift of God's life to us; in gratitude, we offer our common life, under the signs of bread and wine; in the eucharist, we participate in the joy of the divine life. Through our eucharistic life together, we join in the divinization of the world.
2. God desires to draw all creation to the divine self, and has graciously called us to be a part of this work. In our eucharistically-centered life together, we learn to discern, desire, and participate in this "new creation." As Christ became one of us, so we are becoming one with him. Living into this transforming work, we are ourselves transformed into his likeness.
3. The eucharist binds us together in the Body of Christ. Because our relationships with one another and with the whole created world constitute our offering to God, we treat those relationships with the utmost care.
4. For this reason, we commit to being honest with one another, and accepting that gift of honesty from others with attention. We walk with one another, and all who join us, through the joys and sorrows of life, bringing all into relationship with God in the eucharist.
5. We trust our whole common life, past, present and future into God's gracious care.







Worship, Outreach, and Fellowship



Liturgical Style

Pre-Covid:

8:00 AM Service uses **Rite II** without music and uses the traditional “Lord’s Prayer”.

10:15 AM Service uses **Enriching Our Worship** with music and the contemporary “Lord’s Prayer”.

Our pew racks contain the **1982 Hymnal** and **Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS)**, and we use supplementary styles such as **Taizé**.

March 2020-present:

9:00 AM Service uses **Rite II** offered virtually with **Spiritual Communion** and limited in-person attendance.

Ministries

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

SAJE Senior Ministry

SAJE Lunch and Learn

SAJE Yard clean up

St. John’s Peace Meal

ECM Detention Center Birthday Parties

Christmas Adopt a Family Program

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Pet Blessing

Garden of Weedin’ (produce for a local food pantry)

Advent Community Outreach Meals

Partner (Diocese of Lui; changing to Puerto Rico)

Memorial Garden

SAJE Faith Community Nurse

Camp Phoenix

Wednesday Bible Study and Eucharist

Fellowship

Men’s Group

Women’s Group

Adult Bible Study

Children’s Sunday School

Daughters of the King

Choir

Easter Egg Hunt

Church Picnic

Band Concert on the Lawn

Christmas Party

Coffee Hour

Quilters

Ukrainian Easter Eggs

Ecumenical Services with:

St. Thomas Holy Spirit Lutheran,

St. Justin Martyr, Catholic,

St. Stanislaus Kostka Church

(independent Polish Catholic)



Who were we? Advent's History

Most Adventers acknowledge that our congregation is primarily suburban, white, and middle- to upper-middle class. We recall having well-attended and meaningful services, with chairs in the aisles to seat everyone on holidays. We used to run a preschool in our building when the neighborhood needed it, and then housed Red Cross Adult Day Care as our neighborhood grew older. After Red Cross left, we still needed to serve our older neighborhood and entered into a partnership with Catholic and Lutheran churches to create an organization (**Seniors of Advent, St. Justin's and St. Elizabeth's-SAJE**-named for the original partners, who have changed over the years) which provides services for the senior citizens in the area.

We used to participate in fundraising events like beverage booths at Fair St. Louis and Gateway Race Track, and sometimes worked a concession stand at the Cardinals' Stadium.

We recall speakers such as Sen. John Danforth, Eldin Susa, the imam of the nearby Bosnian mosque, and The Rev. Dr. Richard Valantasis, Episcopal priest, theologian, and educator visiting Advent.

We went through difficult times, like the involuntary departure of a priest (1992), which led to mixed feelings among parishioners. We conducted multiple, lively, and sometimes difficult discussions around becoming an Oasis Congregation (2004), a parish openly welcoming to the LGBTQ community. Some folks left the church because of our choice, but many parishioners acknowledge that we needed to go through the process and officially confirm our welcome for all. A few other conflicts, such as removing some pews, and discord over the confirmation process left some members feeling these disagreements were not handled well.



Advent's History





Advent at Work and Play





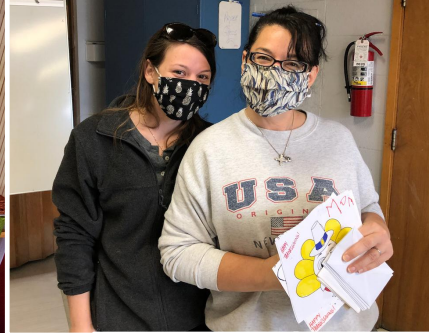
Who We Are Now

We believe ourselves to be: flexible, thinking, accepting, capable, and unpretentious. Our doors are open to all who wish to enter and join our church family.

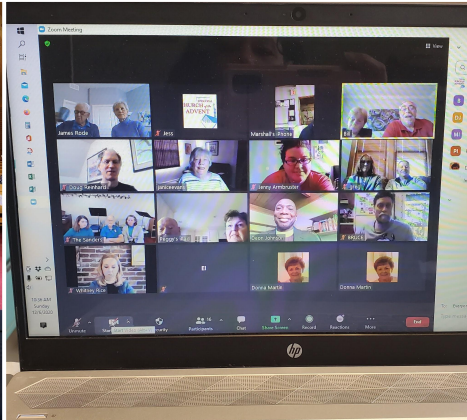
Parishioners said they come to church for a variety of reasons, widely ranging between “the social aspect” and “eucharistic spirituality”. A few voiced attraction to the theological teaching at Advent.

Advent has a deacon, The Rev. Deb Goldfeder. We are currently without a music director/organist, due to a recent retirement, but our music program is in the capable hands of volunteer musicians and music coordinators. Advent has a small but talented technology staff that has kept us connected during Covid via communications, virtual services, and especially providing hands-on technical assistance to parishioners.

Our parishioners believe our [three identity statements](#) capture and express who we are. We believe they have held up well over time and many parishioners still hold our Mission Prayer fondly in their hearts.



Advent Now



Who do we see ourselves becoming? Who is God calling us to be?



Many Adventers are open to growth and change in the future, hoping to attract young people and families. To accomplish this, almost all want to remain accepting AND welcoming to all people no matter their race, prior religion, or sexual orientation. Some acknowledge that growth and change will be demanding and realize some might not want to change. Many wish to keep the two styles of worship in place so that those who prefer traditional prayers may attend one service and those wishing more contemporary prayers and music may attend the later service.

Most parishioners want a full-time priest who comes with some experience, who will encourage, facilitate, be a point person for our active and gifted members, be comfortable with the challenges of directing a capable parish, and will practice collegiality. There is a major consensus in wanting/needing a priest who can counsel our members in time of need and fulfill the pastoral challenges of our congregation by keeping lines of communication always open. Although we have some financial constraints, we are stepping out in faith and believe our future is bright.

A few have voiced a will to question and challenge our profile demographic to be more active in social justice issues and hope new ideas will not fall on deaf ears. We are proudly an Oasis parish.

Advent is located in Crestwood, MO, a suburb of St. Louis.



St. Louisans have free use of 582 miles of trails in St. Louis County parks. We have a wonderful zoo, science center, art museum, botanical garden, symphony orchestra, and a new aquarium.

We have historic places like the Gateway Arch, Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, and the 1,326 acre Forest Park, site of the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Sports fans here love St. Louis Cardinals Baseball, Blues Hockey and, starting in 2023, St Louis CITY SC MLS Soccer!

St. Louis has an amazing variety of wonderful restaurants and a new food truck garden, the first in Missouri.

We are located 16 miles (23 minutes) from Christ Church Cathedral.

The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

We invite you to be part of our faith journey

We believe that God is calling the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri to transform our churches, our communities, and our world to reflect more and more God's dream found in Jesus Christ. A dream that calls us to be a people who seek to be followers of Jesus who are forgiven, healed, strengthened and renewed. We seek a deeper connection with God and with each other as we journey together.



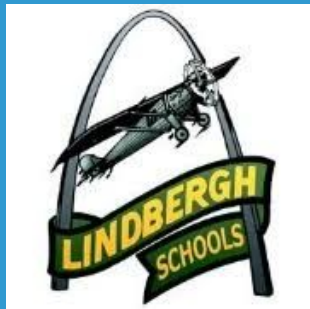
The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri is the diocese of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America with jurisdiction over 54 counties in eastern Missouri. It has 41 congregations and is in [Province 5](#). Its cathedral, Christ Church Cathedral, is in St. Louis, as are the diocesan offices.



[Christ Church Cathedral](#)

Proud to be led by the
[Right Reverend Bishop Deon K. Johnson](#)
11th Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri

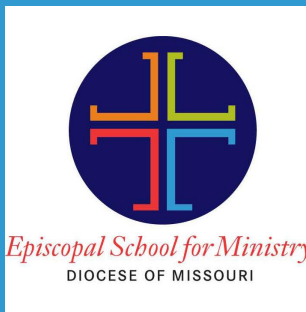
Crestwood Area and St. Louis Offer Many Educational Opportunities At All Levels



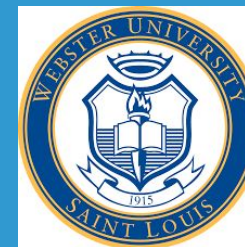
Mehlville School District



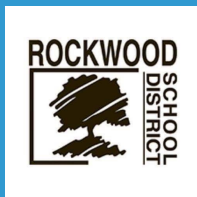
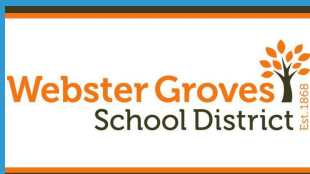
AFFTON
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Episcopal School for Ministry
DIOCESE OF MISSOURI



KIRKWOOD
SCHOOL DISTRICT



St. Louis Community College



St. Louis County Parks

Sightseeing Adventures



Our Financials



In 2020 Advent budgeted for expenses of \$144,983 and income of \$150,928.

Actual 2020 expenses were \$154,674. (This includes the purchase of a new furnace, electronic door openers, and new outdoor lighting for the entry path.) Actual 2020 income was \$163,504 (This includes the \$35,000 gain in the investment portfolio, \$20,000 of which was transferred to checking to cover expenses.)

For 2021 we have budgeted \$163,374 for expenses and \$117,088 for income.

We have an investment portfolio worth \$486,552 (as of 4/23/2021).

Pledged income for 2021 is \$90,280 with 27 pledging units.

We have pledged \$20,976 to the diocese for 2021.

Our building currently has no mortgage.