

Advent

LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the heart of Madison's west side is Madison Christian Community, which houses Advent Lutheran Church and Community of Hope UCC. Sharing its grounds and its building with Community of Hope UCC parish is just one of the ways Advent sets itself apart from other area churches. This partnership was the product of a larger discussion between Madison Protestant and Catholic churches in 1967, as area churches wanted to see how they could facilitate greater cooperation amongst themselves.

Madison Christian Community sits on eight acres of land given as a gift from a local farming family. Advent Lutheran places emphasis on good stewardship of the land they were given, and from this an active Garden Ministry was born. The MCC Garden Ministry's mission is to connect their community with God's creation. This ministry has varied operations including planting, maintaining and harvesting a garden whose produce is donated to the local food pantry, and even raising chickens. Many of the garden volunteers are older women, though the ministry unites people of all ages through the common love of the land and helping others. MCC also has garden plots that are available to people in the surrounding community.

Another facet of the Garden Ministry is the Kids in the Garden program. This program brings children from the Lussier Community Center to the MCC grounds, where ministry members teach them about gardening. The program sends each child home with a bag of

fresh produce each week, enriching their lives with experience and knowledge they may not have access to in their home lives.

The strong idea of stewardship of the land does not stop with its gardens. Advent Lutheran also has installed solar panels and a large rain collection system which allows rainwater to be used to water the gardens. The solar panels have served as outreach efforts in themselves. They're visible as cars drive past and have invited curious passersby to inquire about them in the churches and even join as members, according to church historians.

The strong love and respect for the land they've been given, along with passionate faith, makes Advent Lutheran an exciting and unique presence among Madison's Lutheran churches. 🌱

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▲ Advent's Garden Ministry is a reflection of the value the congregation places on good stewardship of the land and connecting with future generations. Pictured are Oakwood Village University Woods residents and Advent Lutheran members Mary (far left, in gray) and Ken Maxwell (upper right, in navy blue).

AT A GLANCE...

Year Established: 1960

Pastor: Rev. Nick Utphall

Phone: (608) 836-1455

Address: 7118 Old Sauk Rd | Madison, WI 53717

Website: www.madisonchristiancommunity.org

Services: Sundays at 10:15am (September – May)
Sundays at 9:30am (June – August)

Number of Members: 331

