



## **Little Gestures Matter**

Bryan Sullivan remembers hearing how Pastor Jerry Anderson personally invited his family to join Advent Lutheran Church. That small gesture brought their family to church and kept them coming to Advent throughout Bryan's youth. Time and time again, there were small gestures made - by the pastors, by adults at the church, by his friends in confirmation and on the church softball team, and by his youth director. All of these small things mattered to Bryan, and kept him coming to church and growing in his faith.

Bryan and his wife, Christine, were living in Bloomington without a church home and a child on the way, when Bryan remembered the way the people of Advent made him feel in his youth. He remembered how Advent made a difference in his life, and he wanted his family to be surrounded by that same community of faith and love. When the Sullivans moved back to the northern suburbs, Bryan felt the nudge to return to Advent.

For Bryan and his family, Advent is two things: a place to work on spiritual health and a community that encourages that work. Bryan appreciates Advent's messages of grace balanced with the challenge to take care of one another and our earth. He feels like Advent gives him those constant little reminders of what it means to be a Christian and what he can do to be a better human being.

Bryan and his family have seen first-hand that Advent's leaders are truly invested in our community and making a difference for our members. His daughter Hunter and son Ty loved just "hanging out" with Shannon Greely and the youth group. His daughter Hayden feels seen and heard by Pastor Peter and her confirmation friends. This past year, Bryan's family experienced a huge loss and tragedy when Christine's mom passed away unexpectedly. Pastor Elizabeth did so many amazing things during this very difficult time to make his mother-in-law's funeral very meaningful.

As people of faith, we are tasked to live out our faith in the world, and Bryan does this. He is a chiropractor, and in his daily work life, he delivers the message to his patients that little things they do will help with their overall health. He helps them by making small adjustments and is there for them when they need support on a regular basis. Again, in so many settings - little gestures matter.

Thank you, Advent, for all the little gestures you make on a daily basis to those in our community and in the greater community. Small acts of kindness, faith, and love really do matter.