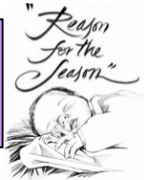





THE ADVENTURE, December 2009



Advent Lutheran Church

OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- + To *gather* as God’s people and nurture one another
- + To *know* the Word of God
- + To *grow* in faith, love, and service
- + To *go* into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ



Rev. Dr. Paul M. Sorcek
 2nd Street Pike & Worthington Mill Rd.
 P. O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954
 215-355-2529
 web: www.adventrichboro.org
 e-mail: office@adventrichboro.org
 Pre-School: www.adventpreschool.org



SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 5, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT Dedication of Financial Commitments

Sola Gratia Gift Bazaar
 Youth Group Cookie Fundraiser
 Sunday, December 6

8:00 a.m. Traditional Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. “Faith Alive” Holy Communion
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
 10:30 a.m. Traditional Holy Communion
 2:00 p.m. Advent Craft Day

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sunday, December 20

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:15 a.m. “Faith Alive” Holy Communion
 Sunday School Christmas Program
 Adult Bible Class
 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship



PARENT/CHILD CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 12
 9:00 a.m. - Santa will visit!
 Please bring mittens for the mitten tree.



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Thursday, December 24
 4:00 p.m. Manger Service for children and families
 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Lessons & Carols
 9:00 p.m. Candlelight Holy Communion

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Youth Group Cookie Fundraiser
 Sunday, December 13

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
 9:15 a.m. “Faith Alive” Holy Communion
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
 7:00 p.m. Church Council



PRE-SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Thursday, December 17
 9:30 a.m. Pageant and last day of pre-school until 2010



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 27
 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
 Muriel Glass Baptism
 Peyton Grouse Baptism

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

*"For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government be upon his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9: 6*

My family is expectantly awaiting the birth of our second grandchild in early January. It is a time of great hope and promise, but is also a time of great preparation. Already this week Jamie, Erick and little Ethan were out shopping for additional baby furniture. There is so much to be done to get the baby's room ready. It comes at a very busy time, and yet when the baby finally arrives it will all be worth it.

In a similar way we in the Church await the celebration of the coming of a child with great anticipation and also preparation. The season of Advent provides an opportunity for us to "prepare" for the coming of this special child even as we are filled with expectation at the promise of his arrival.

Appropriately enough, we will have a special event to help us spiritually prepare for the birth of our Lord. The first Sunday of Advent comes early this year, November 29. The following Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Josephine Morley Wright of our congregation will provide a special workshop involving scripture, music and reflection to help us to draw nearer to the celebration of Jesus' birth. As many are aware, Jo is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and has been appointed by the Synod to serve part time as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Springtown, Bucks County up near the border of Northampton County. We wish Jo well in her new position and are thankful that she will be us on December 5 for this special time of preparation for Advent. We anticipate having many visitors that day from some of the other churches where Jo has served or is well known. Among them may be people from her new church, from her intern church at Redeemer, Jamison and friends from St. Vincent de Paul R.C. in Richboro. We hope many of you will come out as well to learn about and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

On the further Sundays of Advent we will draw nearer to the miracle of the child born for us. Please remember the Angel Tree in the Narthex where you can provide for a child in need in our community in honor of the child Jesus. We thank Kathryn Urbaniak for coordinating this meaningful outreach to needy children.

In addition to the spiritual preparations we also have a number of activities of the more general holiday nature. On Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m. Circle of Joy will be coordinating a congregational Advent workshop to make seasonal crafts. During the Sundays of Advent Sola Gratia Circle will have several tables of Christmas Bazaar items for sale. Congregational Life Committee is sponsoring a trip to see "A Christmas Carol" at Byers Choice on Friday evening, December 11. Then on Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 a.m. Santa is scheduled to stop by and visit all who are gathered at the parent/child Christmas Breakfast.

On Advent IV, December 20 our worship will have a near-Christmas character to it as we expectantly await the Lord's coming. The children of the Sunday School will present a small program on the meaning of Christmas at the 9:15 a.m. Contemporary Service.

Our Advent preparations and anticipation reach their climax on Christmas Eve, December 24 where we will have our manger service at 4:00 p.m., Candlelight Lessons and Carols at 7:00 p.m. and Candlelight Holy Communion at 9:00 p.m. Come and worship the child born for us!

On the following Sunday, December 27 we will have a single service of worship celebrating the joy of Christmas at 9:30 a.m. How appropriate that on the celebration of the birth of the child Jesus we will also have two children baptized, celebrating the new life that is ours in the Spirit. The children's families are coming a long distance to be with us that day, just as the Wise Men traversed long distances

to visit the child. We look forward to welcoming Muriel Glass and Peyton Gouse into God's family that day.

Then on Sunday, January 3, 2010 we will celebrate the Festival of the Epiphany, remembering the twelfth day on which the Magi came with their gifts to honor the baby.

It is an exciting time, preparing for the birth of a child. Whether it is one's own child or grandchild or the child born for us at Christmas, we look forward with joy to the one who will come. We invite you to celebrate with us in this Advent/Christmas season the one of whom Isaiah prophesied: "To us a child is born, to us a son is given."

With Joy in the Birth of the Child Jesus,
Pastor Sorcek

† † † † † † † † † † † † †

Dear Members and Friends of Advent,

My family and I wish you God's greatest blessings in this Christmas season. We pray that your heart may be touched anew by the child Jesus and that you may be filled with all joy and peace. May the Baby born at Bethlehem fill your life with all meaning and purpose.

Have a Blessed Christmas!
Paul Sorcek

† † † † † † † † † † † † †

WALK WITH JESUS

The poet Robert Frost once wrote, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." The choices we make in life do make all the difference. When we choose to **Walk with Jesus and take the correct road, our journey will be very different--much fuller--life abundant!**

When it comes to financial stewardship, some people ask the question, "How much of my money does the church need?" And that question sends us down the wrong road. It is a question that is based on several wrong assumptions. Other people ask, "How generously does God call on me to respond considering all the blessings God has given?" This question will send us down the correct road.

When you think about your use of the financial resources God has entrusted to you, it is important to remember that the resources you have still belong to God and are placed in your care and management. It is also important to remember that when Jesus talks about giving, he never talks about the need of the church to receive, he always talks about the need of the giver to give as an expression of a sincere faith. Think about all God has entrusted to you. Think about your need to give as a part of your faith in Jesus.

Our ingathering and dedication of commitments for 2010 will be Sunday, December 6th. Return your commitment in the offering plate on 12/6, or the next Sunday you are in church in the month of December. May God continue to bless us all, and our church Advent and its mission, as we continue our Walk with Jesus on the right road.

Walk with *Jesus*

Give
Generously

GIFT BAZAAR

The Sola Gratia Circle is having a gift bazaar on the first 2 Sundays in Advent. Handmade items and treasures will be for sale after each service.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE MISSIONS TRIP FUNDRAISER

Support Advent's July 2010 trip to the Dominican Republic with New Missions (newmissions.org) by ordering great tasting, homemade cookies for the holidays! This trip will be a life changing experience not just for those going but for the whole church who will be participating in prayer, support, and planning. Place your order for a dozen homemade chocolate chip or sugar cookies for your holiday enjoyment or as a gift for a neighbor, teacher, or friend. Each dozen cookies costs \$10 and you may place your order via one of the following methods by December 13th:

- + **In person** – cookie table in narthex
- + **By e-mail** – office@adventrichboro.org
- + **By phone** – 215-355-2529, church office –
Leave your name and contact info!

You may taste-test sample cookies on Sunday, November 29th between services. Pick-up or delivery of your gift-packaged cookies is Sunday December 20th. Please make checks for cookies or donations made out to "Advent Lutheran Church" with "Missions Trip" in the Note. If you have questions, contact fundraiser organizer Jeanne Gryszka at 215-355-2529.



brief devotional period we will enjoy light refreshments & fellowship. Then together we will examine the prophecies surrounding the birth of Jesus as found in the Old Testament & the fulfillment of those prophecies as found in the New Testament. Finally as we come to realization of this fulfillment we lift our voices in song as we enjoy carols together. Nursery provided. Questions?? Phone/email Jo Wright; 215-364-2298/ mamajo_rev@verizon.net

ADVENT CRAFT DAY - Save the date...

Please join us for Advent Craft Day, Sunday December 6th at 2pm. Get in the holiday spirit while making a holiday craft & enjoying our favorite Christmas music. Sample crafts are on display in the narthex along with sign-up sheets and cost of materials for each craft. Snacks will be served along with hot chocolate and coffee.



PARENT/CHILD BREAKFAST W/SANTA



Bring your child(ren) to Men's Breakfast on Saturday, December 12th at 9:00 a.m. to meet Santa! Sign up in the narthex. Please bring mittens for the mitten tree.

POINSETTIA LIST

A sign-up sheet for dedicating poinsettias for Christmas Eve is on the table in the narthex. Please speak with Cindy Frey if you have any questions.



THANKS FOR SEASONAL DECORATING

Advent expresses its thanks to Cindy Frey who decorated our altar with a beautiful cornucopia for Harvest Home and Thanksgiving.

THANK YOU FOR FALL FOOD DRIVE

We give special thanks to all those who contributed to the Fall Food Drive, including Advent's Pre-School. The Social Ministry Committee and the Coordinating Council of Health and Welfare in Warminster appreciate your generosity and participation in this outreach.

CONGRATULATIONS ON BIRTH

Advent expresses its congratulations to Steve and Michele (Oines) Sanderlin on the birth of Christopher James on November 3, 2009 at Doylestown Hospital. May God's Blessings be with the Sanderlin and Oines families on the joyous birth of a child.



ANGEL TREE

ANGEL TREE PROJECT

Advent is again participating in the Angel Tree project. Pick an angel tag from the tree, buy a gift (gifts) and wrap it, attach the angel tag, and bring the gift back to church and put it under the tree. These gifts are going to children in the area (approximately 90) who might not otherwise receive a gift. Please return your gift by Sunday, December 13th. Thank you for participating in this worthwhile project. If you have questions, please see Kathryn Urbaniak.

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Saturday Dec. 5th at Advent Lutheran Church Richboro Pa 10 Am -12 Noon. Session includes: devotional period, Bible study, fellowship & carols. Following a



CONGRATULATIONS ON BAPTISM

Advent expresses its congratulations to Todd and Gwendalynn Ritchie on the baptism of Gavin Nicholas on November 8th. Gavin was born on August 10, 2009 at Doylestown Hospital. Sponsors are Allen Vargas and Barbara Ellen Ritchie. May God's blessings be with the Ritchie family on this joyous occasion.

CONGRATULATIONS ON WEDDING

Advent expresses its congratulations to Jennifer Duld and Todd Betz on their wedding on Sunday, November 15, 2009. Pastor Sorcek officiated at the service at the Lake House Inn on Lake Nockamixon in Advent expresses its congratulations to Andy Perkasio. May God's Blessings be with Jennifer and Todd on their life together.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please remember in your prayers the following Advent member and friends who are ill, hurting or homebound.

Jim Caldwell at Statesman Nursing Home

Jennie Davis at home

Katie Denis recovering after arm surgery

Jerry Diefenbach at home

Gretta Lattal recovering from broken arm

Janet Manco recovering from broken ankle

Dennis Moore recovering from broken leg

Edie Noll recovering at home

Judy Rilling recovering after surgery

Cindy Segal recovering after knee surgery

Janet Smith recovering after hospitalization

Cathy Wills recovering after injuries

Please remember in your prayers all the men and women in our armed forces who are serving to protect us and our nation. We pray God's protection for them.

WITH SYMPATHY

Advent expresses its sympathy to the following on their loss of loved ones:

To Dave and Karen Breig and family on the death

of Dave's mother LaVerne J. Breig. Pastor Sorcek officiated at the services at Advent on November 14th. Interment was at Forest Hill Cemetery in Huntingdon Valley.

To Jean Gundrum on the death of her husband David. Dave was a long-time organist/choir director here at Advent. A memorial service will be held at Good Shepherd, Southampton on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 11:00 a.m. Calling hours will start at 10:15 a.m.

May God's comfort be with the Breig and Gundrum families in their time of loss.

<u>INCOME – 10/09</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
General Fund	\$15,183	\$19,249
Mortgage Fund	4,536	5,338
Benevolence (<i>LWR, etc.</i>)	1,642	
Gift of Warmth	975	(<i>inc. above</i>)

OFFERINGS FOR 2009 & 2010

If you are planning to make a special offering (to help reduce the second mortgage, for example) or if you are planning to "catch up" on a commitment in this calendar year, please do so earlier in December rather than the last minute. This will insure that your contribution will be recorded in 2009. Offerings mailed in late December may not arrive until the New Year and will be recorded in 2010. Additionally, offerings placed in 2009 envelopes and given in 2010 will be recorded in 2010.

Please help us to accurately record your offerings by using 2009 envelopes in 2009 only and 2010 envelopes in 2010 only. Envelope numbers may change from year to year.

Through any calendar year, it is also very helpful if you use your boxed envelopes regularly (rather than loose checks or pew envelopes). Envelopes for flower and missions offerings are available at the sign up charts and in the tract rack. Memorial Fund and other special envelopes are also available in the tract rack in the narthex.

Envelopes for the New Year 2010 will be available on Sunday, 13 December 2009. If you do not have envelopes and would like them, please contact the financial secretary (215-357-7494).

With grateful thanks, Finance Committee

DECEMBER SCHEDULES

ACOLYTES

1st	10:30 am	Brooke Creighton
2nd	10:30 am	Jerry Gugger
3rd	10:30 am	
4th	10:30 am	Shannon McQuiggan

LAY READERS

12/06	8:00 am	Mike Hall
	10:30 am	Ken Meyers
12/13	8:00 am	Julie Anderson
	10:30 am	Andy Frey
12/20	8:00 am	Dave Shearer
	10:30 am	Kathy Sitler
12/27	9:30 am	Paul Henke

ALTAR GUILD

12/06	8:00 am	Julia Anderson, Liz Gracey, Hanna McCollum
	10:30 am	Karen Breig, Donna Duffy, Kathy Sitler
12/24 (Christmas Eve)		Anyone Available

ALTAR FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

12/06	Dot Aldorasi
12/13	Sue Jafar
12/20	Kathy Sitler
12/27	Marian Siek

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

12/06	8:00	Mike Hall, Carolyn Morrison
	10:30	Jen McQuiggan, Andy Frey
12/24	9:00	TBA

COMMUNION BREAD

12/06	Don Hoffmann
12/24 (Christmas Eve)	Advent (wafers)

USHERS

1 st	8:00 am	Ron Brown, Dave Shearer
	10:30 am	Bob Matlack, Ted Siek
2 nd	8:00 am	Lance Muscara, Bill Pearson
	10:30 am	Andy Frey, Bob Holford
3 rd	8:00 am	Ray Heiss, Tom Herbert George Henry, Mike Sitler
4 th	8:00 am	Steve Anderson, Dave Frost
	10:30 am	Joe Calla, Tony Gryszka, Kris Henke

MONEY COUNTERS

1 st	Dave Breig, Earl Gilbert, Paul Henke
2 nd	Andy & Cindy Frey, Bob Holford
3 rd	Joyce Heiss, Bill Pearson
4 th	Tony Gryszka, Tom Herbert






ADVENT'S BIRTHDAY CORNER - DECEMBER

1	George Morris III Victoria Vassello	14	Robert Matlack Dawn Lenox Merk	22	Drew Frey
2	Dan Brehm	15	Jerry Diefenbach	23	Karen Matlack Marilyn Messina
4	Justin Messina	18	Dot Greiner		Faith Sanderlin
5	Michael Hall	19	Greg Heiss	24	Jerry Gugger
6	Tom McQuiggan		Kayla McGee	26	Judy Buttil
10	David Shearer	20	Tommy Herbert	29	Brian Kropp
12	Logan Frey		Zachary Meyers	30	Shirley Morris
13	Dorothea Mathis	21	Ken Earle	31	Hatden Frank



Please contact the church office if you or someone you know has been omitted from the list. Thanks.

DECEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sola Gratia Craft Bazaar Youth Group Cookie Fundraiser for Missions 8:00 AM Worship (Traditional) 9:15 AM "Faith Alive" Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 4-adult 10:00 AM Congregational Budget Meeting 10:30 AM Worship (Traditional) 6:00 PM Youth Group Movie Night	30 6:30 PM Confirmation I & II 8:00 PM A.A. Open Meeting	1 9:00 AM Advent PreSchool	2 9:00 AM Advent PreSchool 10:30 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM Women's Bowling 4:30 PM Children's Choir 6:15 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:15 PM Vocal Choir 8:15 PM Bell Choir	3 9:00 AM Advent PreSchool 12:30 PM Ministerium @ St. John's Methodist 3:30 PM Synod Council @ Peace, Bensalem 8:00 PM A.A. Topic Group	4 8:00 PM A.A. Step Meeting	5 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Spiritual Preparation for Christmas
6 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sola Gratia Craft Bazaar Youth Group Cookie Fundraiser for Missions 8:00 AM Holy Communion (Traditional) 9:15 AM "Faith Alive" Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 4-adult 10:30 AM Holy Communion (Traditional) 10:30 AM Worship (Traditional) 2:00 PM Advent Craft Day	7 6:30 PM Confirmation I & II 8:00 PM A.A. Open Meeting	8 9:00 AM Advent PreSchool 11:00 AM Traditionalist Pastors @ Advent	9 9:00 AM Advent PreSchool 10:30 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM Women's Bowling 4:30 PM Children's Choir 6:15 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:15 PM Vocal Choir 8:15 PM Bell Choir	10 9:00 AM Advent PreSchool 8:00 PM A.A. Topic Group	11 8:00 PM A.A. Step Meeting	12  9:00 AM Parent/Child Breakfast with Santa
13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Angel Tree Gifts Due Youth Group Cookie Fundraiser for Missions 8:00 AM Worship (Traditional) 9:15 AM "Faith Alive" Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 4-adult 10:30 AM Worship (Traditional) 7:00 PM Church Council	14 1:30 PM Sola Gratia Circle 6:30 PM Confirmation I & II 8:00 PM A.A. Open Meeting	15 9:00 AM Advent PreSchool	16 9:00 AM Advent PreSchool 10:30 AM Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM Women's Bowling 4:30 PM Children's Choir 6:15 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:15 PM Vocal Choir 8:15 PM Bell Choir	17 9:00 AM Advent PreSchool 9:30 AM Dean's Meeting @ Philadelphia 9:30 AM Pre-School Christmas Pageant 7:30 PM Circle of Joy 8:00 PM A.A. Topic Group	18 8:00 PM A.A. Step Meeting	19
20 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:00 AM Worship (Traditional) 9:15 AM "Faith Alive" Holy Communion Sunday School Christmas Program 9:15 AM Sunday School 4-adult 10:30 AM Worship (Traditional)	21 St. Thomas, Apostle Winter Begins 6:30 PM Confirmation I & II 8:00 PM A.A. Open Meeting	22	23 10:30 AM Women's Bible Study 4:30 PM Children's Choir 6:15 PM Praise Team Rehearsal 7:15 PM Vocal Choir 8:15 PM Bell Choir	24  CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 PM Manger Service 7:00 PM Candlelight Lessons and Carols 8:00 PM A.A. Topic Group 9:00 PM Candlelight Holy Communion	25  CHRISTMAS NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 8:00 PM A.A. Step Meeting	26 St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr
27 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 9:30 AM Worship (Traditional) 9:30 AM Muriel Glass Baptism 9:30 AM Peyton Gouse Baptism	28 Holy Innocents, Martyrs 8:00 PM A.A. Open Meeting	29	30	31 8:00 PM A.A. Topic Group 9:00 PM Pearson/McMahon Wedding	1 8:00 PM A.A. Step Meeting	2