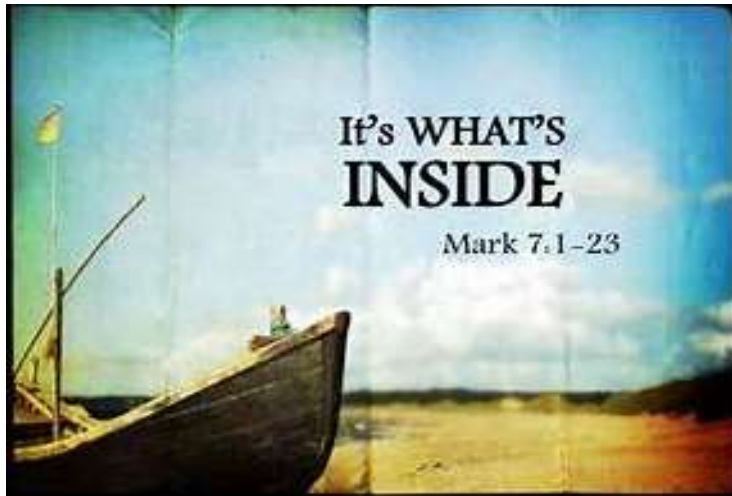


FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 1, 2024
9:00 A.M.



We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Gathering Song: The Heart of Worship

1: When the music fades all is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

Pre-Ch: I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus: I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You all about You Jesus

2: King of endless worth no one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor all I have is Yours
Ev'ry single breath **Pre-Ch/Chorus again**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing of Students and Teachers for new school year

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

²**Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading: James 1:17-27

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 7th chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹"For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

WOV #783

1: Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things Shall be added unto you
Allelu alleluia

2: Man shall not live by bread alone
But by ev'ry word

That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu alleluia

3: Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Allelu alleluia

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe In the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

(Each petition ends with... Merciful God,; the congregation responds: **receive our prayer.**)

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The Offering Please leave your offering on our website: https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=Dc8dzPGn4-LCajFevTkh9MYPCImH2sG-jdxWYJMFGWlQfxkD4hBw8WoQ6UZLveQvLkSxosar20939JWiAad87o7zqy-JU_UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKkoPpduXvnt8gXUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y_VCHQ6_VCoE=&ver=3

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him or offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Mighty to Save"

1: Ev'ryone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

2: So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Ev'rything I believe in
Now I surrender **Chorus**

Chorus: Saviour He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

Bridge: Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing For the glory of the risen King
Jesus
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing For the glory of the risen King


Chorus

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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OUR MISSION		
+	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	

SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leader:	Deacon Gail Oines
Music Director:	Michael Dettra
Lay Reader:	George Henry
Fellowship Time:	OPEN

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are presented by the Spahn's in honor of their son Warren's birthday and to the Glory of God.

NUEVA CREACIÓN MISSION SUPPORT

Support of Nueva Creación Lutheran Church in Philadelphia for this week is presented to the Glory of God.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 25 = 38 + 1 online = 39

BACK TO SCHOOL BLESSING OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

This morning during the service we will invite students to bring their backpack, lunchboxes, or whatever they will be carrying to school forward for a special blessing for the upcoming school year. We will also invite teachers to come forward for a blessing (feel free to bring your teacher's bag if you would like).

SEE THE CHURCH WEBSITE PROGRESS - FEEDBACK NEEDED!

On Sunday September 8th we will show the progress made on the website before each Worship Service. Please come and take a look. And then most especially, please provide feedback to either Katie Dettra (kathryndettra@comcast.net), Mike Sitler (sitler@temple.edu) or Pastor Matt (pastormattolikainen@gmail.com) by September 15th.

RETURN TO FALL SCHEDULE

Next Sunday, September 8th Advent will return to their Fall schedule of two worship services at 8:00 and 9:30 am. The 8:00 am worship is a traditional Holy Communion service with traditional hymns. At 9:30 there is a more relaxed, contemporary liturgy with a more contemporary music and Holy Communion. **Sunday School** classes will not resume until the following **Sunday, 9/15**.

CONTACTING PASTOR MATT

If you need to speak with Pastor Matt when he is not in the office, particularly in the case of a pastoral emergency, please feel free to call his cell at 215-859-3778 or email him at pastor@adventrichboro.org. If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.

GOD SIGHTINGS

Have you seen God at work in your life, or in nature, a neighbor, etc.? Please add to our God Sightings chain by writing down the ways that you see God in your life. Use the strips of paper found in the narthex. Take them home to write your sightings down daily, or do it right at church. They will be stapled onto the chain (or you can staple them yourself). We will continue to add to it until Reformation Sunday, October 27. Let's see how many times we can circle the sanctuary!



FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For July 2024		
	Rec'vd for July 2024	Budget for July 2024
General Fund	\$13,816.93	\$17,482.00
Mortgage	\$1,426	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$75	\$75
Other Benevolence	\$240	
Web Upgrade	\$2,180	
Total	\$17,737.93	\$19,455.00
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-7/31/24	Budget YTD 1/1-7/31/24
General Fund	\$79,642.50	\$122,374.00
Mortgage	\$11,969.00	\$13,286.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$355.00	\$525.00
Other Benevolence	\$3,775.00	
Web Upgrade	\$5,180.00	
Total	\$100,921.50	\$136,185.00



Our Flea Market is just weeks away...

If you are still looking to “declutter/downsize items in your living space”, please consider joining us and participating in this event.

On **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024**, Advent Lutheran Church is holding a **FLEA MARKET** in the church parking lot from 9 am to 1 pm. This is a rain or shine event (held indoors in the event of rain) for church members, friends, neighbors and members of the community to sell/buy items, or just browse. Water and soft pretzels will be available at the flea market at a cost of \$1.00 each.

Flea Market Registration Forms (with detailed information) can be found on the round table in the church Narthex or on the church’s website at adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.org. A \$10.00 non-refundable registration fee must accompany your registration. Registrations will be accepted until the **deadline of September 8, 2024**, or until spaces are no longer available (participants must supply their own table to display their sale items).



We look forward to seeing you at the Flea Market and helping you “declutter/downsize” items you no longer can use but that others may. Contact Flea Market coordinators (Kathy Sitler (215-589-5423) or Cime Eklund (503-502-7691) with any questions that you may have regarding the Flea Market.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this church-sponsored event.

MITCH MCVICKER IN CONCERT AT ADVENT - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 7 P.M.

Advent is again pleased to have Mitchell McVicker, Christian recording artist, with us in concert on Wednesday, October 2, at 7 p.m. McVicker's concerts are little like Mark Twain meets MacGyver. His quirky and inventive approach includes insightful song lyrics, unconventional instruments, and profound storytelling. His concert connects the everyday with the otherworldly. McVicker's theology is daringly simple - God's love washes over and through us regardless of our circumstances and situations. Come out for an evening of enjoyable and inspirational music. A free will offering will be taken.

PLEASE GIVE TO THE REBUILDING OF OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE

Please help support the website rebuild through a financial gift, which will defray the costs totaling \$14,535 (for the rebuild and web hosting for one year). To date, over \$5,200 has been donated. Thanks to all who have made and will be making a financial gift in support of the appeal. Checks can be made out to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church (memo line: Electronic Service Appeal).

CHURCH SECURITY

The church is regularly left unsecure as the external doors are left unlocked and/or unlatched when closed. The external doors do not always automatically latch when they swing shut. When leaving the church building, please tug the door behind you to check that it has latched. If you possess a church key and are the last key bearer to leave the church (i.e. Non-key bearing people may still be in the building), please check and lock the external doors upon leaving. Thank you for your attentiveness.



ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

There are numerous dates available in the remainder of 2024 to dedicate flowers to beautify the altar each Sunday. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex with your name and dedication. Two bouquets are available each week. The cost is \$25 per bouquet. In addition to making the altar more beautiful, you take the flowers home after the late service to enjoy during the week. If you have any questions call Cindy Frey at 267-205-0713.

PRAYER CHAIN

On Sundays we add names to the prayer list to pray out loud for those in need. This differs from the prayer chain. On Sundays, we only ask for names without specifics, though God always knows what is in our hearts. For the prayer chain, more specifics can be prayed for (as much as you want to share). These prayers are confidential, known only to the prayer chain members. Each person added is kept on the list for 4 weeks, with the exception of those who need ongoing prayer, which we keep on until circumstances change. If you wish to add a name to the prayer chain, please fill out a yellow prayer card found in the pews or you can call or email Gail Oines at the church office with your request. If you would like to become a prayer chain member, please also let Gail Oines know.



DONATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME

Were you aware that not everyone can bake? Or that time is often at a premium? Or that some of us can't always be in church in person? If these questions have plagued you and perhaps you wish you could help at fellowship time more often than you do, you aren't alone. For that reason, and so we don't lose fellowship time altogether, consider donating a few dollars now and then and let someone else do the shopping/baking. All those hungry snackers will appreciate it!

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 9:00 am Summer Worship with Holy Communion
Guest Worship Leader, Deacon Gail Oines
- 10:00 am Fellowship Time: OPEN

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8– SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Return to Fall Schedule – No Sunday School

8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion
10:30 am Fellowship Time: OPEN
10:45 am Church Council

