

**Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**45 Worthington Mill Rd.**  
**Richboro, PA 18954-1909**  
**215-355-2529**  
**[adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com](mailto:adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com)**  
**[www.adventrichboro.org](http://www.adventrichboro.org)**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
**DECEMBER 29, 2024**  
**9:00 am**



**WELCOME VISITORS**  
**DISCOVER GOD'S ABUNDANT GRACE AND LOVE**  
*We extend a cordial welcome to all who worship today.*  
*We give thanks that you are here.*  
*Please sign our guest book*  
*and come back and worship again.*

## ***We Gather in Jesus' Name***

Prelude (*a time for silent meditation*)

Greetings and Announcements

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*(please stand if able)*

Glory to God in the highest!

**And hope to every discouraged heart.**

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels,

**and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.**

Therefore, let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God,

**from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.**

### ***Opening Hymn: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"***

**LBW #50 Verses 1 and 4**

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
once you sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.
  
- 4 All creation, join in praising  
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising  
to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn king.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*(please be seated)*

## LESSON I

Genesis 3:8-15

*(God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.)*

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(please stand if able)*

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of all their righteous offspring:

**You made the heavens and the earth with all their vast array.**

O Lord, you are full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

**You hold back your hand; you do not punish as we deserve.**

In your great goodness, Lord, you have promised forgiveness to sinners that they may repent of their sin and be saved.

**And now, O lord, I bend the knee of my heart, and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.**

I have sinned, O Lord, and I know my wickedness only too well.

**Therefore, I make this prayer to you: Forgive me, Lord.**

Do not let me perish in my sin, nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.

**For your lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Saviour.**

We are not saved by anything we have done, but by your mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**All the powers of heaven sing your praises, and your forgiveness is good news of great joy! Amen.**

**Hymn: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

**LBW # 55**

- 1** Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!
- 2** Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!
- 3** Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave;  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

*Remarks – please be seated*

LESSON II

Genesis 22:1-3, 15-18

*(God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.)*

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>2</sup> He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

<sup>15</sup>The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, <sup>16</sup>and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, <sup>18</sup>and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***The Offering***

*(Please leave your offering in the basket at the entrance of the Sanctuary at the end of the service).*

### OFFERTORY

#### **Hymn: “As with Gladness Men of Old”**

#### **LBW #82 Verses 1 and 3**

- 1** As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led by thee.
- 3** As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

*Remarks - please be seated*

### LESSON III

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*(Isaiah foretells of the coming of the Saviour)*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.  
<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**Carol: “Emmanuel”**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel.  
His name is called Emmanuel  
God is with us, revealed in us,  
His name is called Emmanuel (**repeat**)

LESSON IV

Isaiah 11:1-2, Micah 5:2-4

*(Foretelling of Jesus from Jesse’s line and the glory of Bethlehem)*

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

*Remarks (please be seated)*

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

*(Please stand if able)*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he  
descended to the hell.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

**Hymn: “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”**

**WHM #125**

- 1** I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth goodwill to men
  
- 2** I thought how as the day had come  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth goodwill to men
  
- 3** And in despair I bowed my head  
There is no peace on earth I said  
For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth goodwill to men
  
- 4** Then pealed the bells more loud and deep  
God is not dead nor doth He sleep  
The wrong shall fail the right prevail  
With peace on earth goodwill to men

*Remarks (please be seated)*

LESSON V

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*(The birth of Jesus is foretold by the Angel Gabriel)*

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”



<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God. <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(Please stand if able)*

*(Each petition ends with . . . God of Grace. The congregation responds: **hear our prayer.**)*

**Hymn: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

**WHM #136      *Verses 1 and 2***

**1**      Lo how a rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem has sprung  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As men of old have sung  
It came a flower bright  
Amid the cold of winter  
When half spent was the night

**2**      Isaiah was foretold it  
The rose I have in mind  
With Mary we behold it  
The virgin mother kind  
To show God's love aright  
She bore to men a Savior  
When half spent was the night

*Remarks: (please be seated)*

LESSON VI

Luke 2:1-16

*(Jesus is born in Bethlehem & worshipped by shepherds)*

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.





**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*(Please stand if able)*

**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.**

***Hymn: "The First Noel"***

**LBW # 5    *Verses 1 and 2***

**1** The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

***Refrain***

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

**2** They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

***Refrain***

*Remarks (Please be seated)*

## LESSON VII

Matthew 2:1-12

*(The visit of the Magi)*

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people, Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

## BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ and Lord. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever. **Amen**

### ***Hymn: "The First Noel"***

#### **LBW # 56 Verses 3 and 4**

**3** And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

**4** This star drew near to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay  
right over the place where Jesus lay.

#### ***Refrain***

#### ***Refrain***

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

*Remarks: (please be seated)*

## LESSON VIII

John 1:1-14

*(The Word becomes Flesh)*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



## BENEDICTION

May Christ, who by His Incarnation gathered into one thing earthly and heavenly, now fill us with His joy and peace; and may God's blessing be with us and remain with us forever.

**Amen.**

**Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"**

**LBW #70**

### **Refrain**

- |  |          |   |
|--|----------|---|
| Go tell it on the mountain,<br>over the hills and ev'rywhere;<br>go tell it on the mountain<br>that Jesus Christ is born!                                  | <b>2</b> | The shepherds feared and trembled<br>when, lo, above the earth<br>rang out the angel chorus<br>that hailed our Savior's birth. <b>Refrain</b> |
| <b>1</b> While shepherds kept their watching<br>o'er silent flocks by night,<br>behold, throughout the heavens<br>there shone a holy light. <b>Refrain</b> | <b>3</b> | Down in a lonely manger<br>the humble Christ was born;<br>and God sent us salvation<br>that blessed Christmas morn. <b>Refrain</b>            |

## DISMISSAL

Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere!

**Thanks be to God.**

*Some content copyright by Augsburg Fortress and used by permission  
SundaysandSeasons.com License SB151685. CCLI License: 2665*

## GUEST REGISTER

If you are visiting with us today,  
please sign our Guest Book in the narthex.

## 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  
Music Director  
Worship Assistants  
Fellowship

Deaconess Gail Oines  
Michael Dettra  
Jeanne Gryszka, George Henry  
Gail Oines

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God.

### **MISSION SUPPORT**

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

### **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Sunday, December 22: 8:00 a.m.- 9; 9:30 a.m.- 20; SS- 2

**TOTAL- 31**



### **COMMUNION REMINDER**



The Worship and Music Committee would like to remind the congregation that those going forward to the altar for communion have a few options. There is gluten-free bread in the small clear glass bowl, and white grape juice for those who prefer. Just let the Pastor or assistant know your preference. Thank you.

### **2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The 2025 Offering envelopes are on the table in the narthex for pickup. If you did not receive envelopes and would like to have them, please contact Cindy Frey or Tony Gryszka.

### **2025 FLOWER CHART**

The 2025 Flower Chart to dedicate altar flowers each Sunday is on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$25 per bouquet, and you are welcome to take them home following the late service.

### **2025 MISSION DEDICATIONS**

The 2025 Mission Dedication sign-up sheet is now available in the narthex. The Mission Dedication donations benefit our sister church, Iglesia Luterana Nueva Creacion, which does vital work in North Philadelphia. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex on the table by the sanctuary doors. Please include your name and dedication. Dedications cost \$25. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication at 215-355-2529.

**ADVENT LADIES LUNCH GROUP**

- ❖ The next lunch meeting will be **Tuesday, January 7**, at noon in Advent's multipurpose room. BYO lunch.
  - ❖ There is an outing scheduled to the Michener Art Museum in Doylestown on **Sunday, January 12**. Timing and transportation will be discussed at the January 7 lunch.
- If you have any questions, please contact Fran Zanis, 267 847 5098, email Ftkelly30 @gmail.com, or join us at the lunch scheduled for Tuesday, January 7.

**MEN’S BREAKFAST**



The next Men’s Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, January 11** at 8:30 a.m. Coffee will be ready at 7:30 a.m. If you are looking forward to new cuisine in the new year, prepare to be disappointed.

**NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT**

Financial Report For November 2024		
	Rec'vd for Nov 2024	Budget for Nov 2024
General Fund	\$21,192.27	\$17,482.00
Mortgage	\$1,601	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$25	\$75
Other Benevolence	\$385	
Insurance Settlement		
Web Upgrade		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,203.27</b>	<b>\$19,455.00</b>
	Rec'vd YTD 1/1-11/30/24	Budget YTD 1/1-11/30/24
General Fund	\$131,228.66	\$192,302.00
Mortgage	\$18,553.00	\$20,878.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$560.00	\$825.00
Other Benevolence	\$5,980.00	
Insurance Settlement	\$87,496.69	
Web Upgrade	\$5,780.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$249,598.35</b>	<b>\$214,005.00</b>

**HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

- Monday, 12/30: 9am – 2pm
- Tuesday, 12/31: 9am – 2pm
- Wednesday, 1/1: CLOSED
- Thursday, 1/2: 9am - 2pm
- Friday, 1/3: CLOSED

## **PASTOR MATT'S END OF YEAR SCHEDULE**

Pastor Matt will be out of the office from Wednesday, December 25 until Wednesday, January 1. Pastor will return to the office on Thursday, January 2.

*While Pastor is on vacation, please reach out to Pastor Nathan Krause in the case of a pastoral emergency. Pastor Nathan's cell phone number is 267-884-1198.*

## **THIS WEEK AT ADVENT**

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

#### **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

- 9:00 am Service of the Word  
No Holy Communion  
10:00 am Fellowship Time: Gail Oines

### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 30**

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1**

**Happy New Year!**  
**May God's blessings be upon you!**

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 3**

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 5**

#### **SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

- 8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion  
9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion  
Sunday School for students age 4 to grade 6  
10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open  
10:45 am Bible Study with George Henry