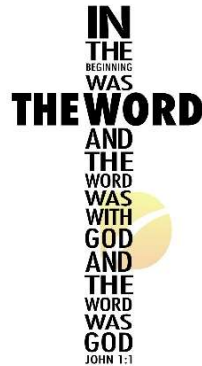


SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 5, 2025

9:30 a.m.



We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,
**we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.
Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.
Turn us from our ways to your ways.
Grant us the grace to begin again.
Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
Amen.**

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, ✚ forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.
Amen.

Gathering Song: “Dear Little Saviour”

- 1** Dear little Saviour so soundly asleep,
As angels, in wonder, their sacred watch keep;
The stars pour their brilliance from heaven on high,
To hallow the manger where Jesus doth lie.
- 2** Shepherds so humble kneel gently to pray;
The Wisemen, their treasures, before the Child lay;
The earth is so hushed with a peace from above,
And nature a-glow at this Gift of God’s Love.
- 3** Night breezes whisper a sweet lullaby;
While voices of angels drift down from the sky;
The dear little Saviour, we, too, would adore;
And bow down to worship our Lord evermore.

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

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children’s Sermon

The Reading of God’s Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, “Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.” ¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine,

and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

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

Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

¹² Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool,
scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸ The Lord sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰ The Lord has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

WOV 646

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain

Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. **Refrain**

3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. **Refrain**

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. **Refrain**

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. **Refrain**

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... God of Grace.

*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://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home>)

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray...

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

Amen.

Sacrament

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and 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.

Invitation to Communion

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Distribution

The body of Christ, given to you
The blood of Christ, shed for you

Prayer After Communion

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.
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: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

LBW 60

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **Refrain**

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. **Refrain**

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

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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



SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor:
Music Director
Worship Assistant
Fellowship Time

The Rev. Matthew E Ollikainen
Michael Dettra
Jennifer McQuiggan
Open

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Mike and Kathy Sitler in honor of their 47th Wedding Anniversary.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, December 29 **TOTAL: 28**

9:00 am: 24+4=28

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.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

Resumes January 9, 2025

Thursday Night Bible Study with Pastor Matt will resume this Thursday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. You are invited to a study of the Gospel of Matthew on Thursday nights via Zoom. Pastor will be leading the study, which utilizes the "The Jewish Annotated New Testament" as one of our resources to delve deep into Jesus' times and to better understand this Gospel written to a Jewish-Christian audience.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82089110140>

Meeting ID: 820 8911 0140



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.

DONATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME



Fellowship Time is held Sundays directly following the 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet to provide refreshments for Fellowship Time is available in the narthex on the refreshment table. Advent supplies hot beverages and paper products.

If you are looking for a way to assist with Fellowship Time but do not have the time or ability to bake or shop for snacks, please consider donating a few dollars. The hungry snackers will appreciate it!

DRIVE-IN & DROP-OFF FOOD COLLECTION – WARMINSTER FOOD PANTRY

If you have food for the Warminster Food Pantry and the church is not open, just drive into the parking lot and drop off the food inside the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

DEDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

2025 ALTAR FLOWERS 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 the flowers home following the late service. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529

2025 MISSION SUPPORT

The 2025 Mission Support Chart is available for sign up on the table in the narthex. Mission Support Dedication donations benefit our sister church, Iglesia Luterana Nueva Creacion, which does vital work in North Philadelphia. Dedication donations are \$25. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529

SUPPORT 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 \$5,700 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.



PRAISE BAND & VOCAL CHOIR SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir are looking for new members for 2025!

- Praise Band practices on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:15 pm
- Vocal Choir practices on Wednesdays from 7:15-8:00 p.m.

Please see Mike Dettra, Music Director for more details.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Advent Lutheran Church is looking for help before and during the services. Please consider sharing your gifts as an **Usher/Greeter, Altar Guild, Lay Reader, Acolyte**. We also need a few people who are willing to spend an hour or so on Saturdays or early Sunday mornings to set up communion. Please see Pastor Matt or Gail Oines for more information. We will make sure you are trained and you can shadow someone for a week or so until you are comfortable.



RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

We are collecting can tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities which help alleviate some financial burdens for families along their child's healthcare journey. Last year alone, they helped families save \$736 million in lodging and meal expenses.

Tabs can be placed in the marked containers in the narthex, on the shelf above the coat rack. No cans, please – just tabs!

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		
Total	\$23,203.27	\$19,455.00
	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	
Total	\$249,598.35	\$214,005.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ADVENT LADIES LUNCH GROUP

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 12:00 P.M.

- ❖ 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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 8:30 A.M.

The next Men's Breakfast will be held next **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.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, DURING THE 9:30 A.M. SERVICE:

INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

- ✦ We welcome new and previous church council members who will be installed to start a new term: Cime Eklund, Kristi Ward, Keith Wills, and Mike Sitler.
- ✦ We also will give recognition to George Henry, Gail Oines, Lynn Roccograndi, and Jennifer McQuiggan, whose terms on council are finished.
- ✦ A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our council members!

BAPTISM OF KAYCE WELSH

We will welcome Kayce Welsh in sacrament into the Advent Richboro congregation next Sunday as his Baptism will take place during the 9:30 a.m. service.

Congratulations to Kayce and the Welsh family!

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

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 in the Parlor with George Henry

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

- 12:00 pm Advent Ladies Lunch Meeting – BYO Lunch
6:30 pm Ping Pong until 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

- 6:30 pm Praise Team practice until 7:15 pm
7:15 pm Vocal Choir practice until 8:00 pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

- 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study-Gospel of Matthew

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

- 8:30 am Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 – Baptism of Our Lord

- 8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School for students age 4 to grade 6
Baptism of Kayce Welsh
Installation of New Council Members
10:30 am Fellowship Time: Welsh Family
10:45 am Bible Study in the Parlor with George Henry