

PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

February 2, 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, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we resist your call to oppose injustice;

we give in to scarcity and fear;

we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults

and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world,

that we may live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

Gathering Song: “10,000 Reasons”

Chorus

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

1 The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes **Chorus**

2 You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find **Chorus**

3 And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will
Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore
Forevermore **Chorus**

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 and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, 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: Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 84

¹ How dear to me is your dwelling,
O Lord of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

⁴ **Happy are they who dwell in your house!
They will always be praising you.**

⁵ Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

⁷ They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸ **Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.**

⁹ Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your anointed.

¹⁰ **For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the
tents of the wicked.**

¹¹ For the Lord God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory;
no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity.

¹² **O Lord of hosts,
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “More Love, More Power”

Chorus

More love, more power
More of You in my life
More love, more power
More of You in my life

1 And I will worship You, with all of my heart
I will worship You, with all of my mind
I will worship You, with all of my strength
For You are my Lord

Chorus

2 And I will seek Your face, With all of my heart
And I will seek Your face, With all of my mind
And I will seek Your face, With all of my strength
For You are my Lord

Chorus

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: **hear 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 grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

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

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Distribution

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

Prayer After Communion

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.

In the name of Christ we pray,

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: “I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”

Over the mountains and the sea
Your river runs with love for me
And I will open up my heart
And let the Healer set me free

I'm happy to be in the truth
And I will daily lift my hands
For I will always sing
Of when Your love came down

I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
I could sing of Your love forever
(Sing whole song 2x)

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

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	The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen
Music Director	Michael Dettra
Worship Assistant	Jennifer McQuiggan
Fellowship Time	George Henry

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Mike and Kathy Sitler in loving memory of Mike’s twin brother, Daniel Sitler.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

LAST SUNDAY’S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, January 26 TOTAL: 40
8:00 AM: 10+2=12 9:30 am: 22+3=25 Sunday School: 3

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

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.

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

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!

NEW CONSTITUTION PRESENTATIONS AND Q&A SESSIONS

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS – VOTING TO APPROVE NEW CONSTITUTION

Sunday, February 23, and Sunday, March 23

Two special congregational meetings will be held on February 23, 2025, and March 23, 2025, for the first and second voting, respectively, to approve the new Constitution. More information about these meetings will be provided later.

Copies of the old and new Constitutions were emailed to the congregation in December and are also available as hard copies in the narthex. Please take the time to read both documents to prepare for the next steps. Please contact the church office if you need assistance in obtaining these documents.

SPIRITUAL GIFTABILITIES INVENTORY – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 9:45 AM

For those not able to attend the Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, February 1, you have an opportunity following the 9:30 a.m. service to convene with Pastor Matt, who will guide you through the Spiritual Giftabilities Inventory. This inventory is meant to assist congregants in identifying and understanding their personal spiritual gifts and to identify the spiritual gifts of the congregation.

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.

HOW TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF THE LOS ANGELES FIRES

We continue to pray for those affected by the devastating fires in Los Angeles. We also continue to pray for the first responders and those caring for the injured.

If you want to donate to help the individuals and families affected by the fires:

1. You can donate money through Advent Richboro.
 - Place your donation in the offering plate on Sunday, noting that the donation is earmarked for the LA fire victims.
 - Or you can donate online at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home>.
2. You can donate through Lutheran World Relief at <https://lwr.org/>.

Thank you for extending God's love where it is so urgently needed.



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!

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 \$9,700 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

Please be mindful that all the doors of the church are locked and latched when you are leaving. 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.

LEIDY MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY'S MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM

Friday, March 7 and Saturday, March 8 at Advent

Daily Visitor Fees: \$5.00 for Friday, \$10.00 for Saturday

Saturday admission includes a silent auction, giveaways, & lunch

Saturday lectures:

- "Diving into Olivine," by Chris Duerr
- "The Fascinating World of Diatoms," by Bill Dailey

Vendors:

For both days: 6-foot table fee \$40.00, 1/2 table fee \$25.00

For more info: donmcalarnen@outlook.com Phone: 610- 584-1364

Make checks payable to: The Leidy Microscopical Society

Mail to: Don McAlarnen, 916 Senator Road, East Norriton, PA 19403

DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For December 2024		
	Rec'vd for Dec 2024	Budget for Dec 2024
General Fund	\$17,214.58	\$17,482.00
Mortgage	\$4,756	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$2,140	\$75
Other Benevolence	\$870	
Insurance Settlement	\$15,207.86	
Web Upgrade	\$4,000	
Total	\$44,188.44	\$19,455.00
	Rec'vd YTD 1/1-12/31/24	Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/24
General Fund	\$148,443.24	\$209,784.00
Mortgage	\$23,309.00	\$22,776.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$2,700.00	\$900.00
Other Benevolence	\$6,850.00	
Insurance Settlement	\$102,704.55	
Web Upgrade	\$9,780.00	
Total	\$293,786.79	\$233,460.00

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 8, 8:30 AM

We are excited and look forward to our Valentine's celebration at breakfast this month. Our selection of heart shaped pancakes last year was not greeted as well as expected, therefore the menu sub-committee is working on alternatives.

Breakfast will be on Saturday, February 8, at 8:30 a.m. Coffee will be available by 7:30 a.m.

ADVENT WOMENS CIRCLE

Tuesday, February 11, 1 PM

The January meeting was a productive one, with many new ideas discussed. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, at 1 p.m. For information or questions, please contact Fran Zanis, 267 847 5098.

SPIRITUAL GIFTABILITIES INVENTORY

Sunday, February 16, 9:45 am

For those not able to attend the Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, February 1, you have an opportunity following the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, February 16 to convene with Pastor Matt, who will guide you through the Spiritual Giftabilities Inventory. This inventory is meant to assist congregants in identifying and understanding their personal spiritual gifts and to identify the spiritual gifts of the congregation.

SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, February 23, 9:00 am

Advent will have a single worship service at 9:00 am in advance of the Annual Congregational Meeting and Constitution Approval Vote.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & NEW CONSTITUTION APPROVAL VOTE

Sunday, February 23, following the 9:00 AM Service

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 23. Two special congregational meetings will be held on February 23, 2025, and March 23, 2025, for the first and second voting, respectively, to approve the new Constitution.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – Presentation of Our Lord

- 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: George Henry

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 6:30 pm Ping Pong until 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- 5:30 pm Praise Team practice until 6:15 pm
- 6:15 pm Vocal Choir practice until 7:00 pm

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Matt - Gospel of Matthew

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 8:30 am Men's Breakfast, coffee available at 7:30 am

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 – FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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 Church Council Meeting
- 10:45 am Bible Study in the Parlor with George Henry