



THE ADVENTURE



Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church
February 2025 Issue

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER:

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- Annual Congregational Meeting, *page 8*
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Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen, pastor
 45 Worthington Mill Road
 Richboro, PA 18954
 215-355-2529
www.adventrichboro.org
adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com



COVID-19 RECOMMENDATIONS

Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church continues to have these precautions:

- Respect for those who choose to mask.
- Respect for those who choose social distance.
- Please stay home if you have any symptoms of illness or have been in close contact with anyone with COVID.
- Worship will continue to be available online.
- Those distributing communion will continue to mask but will no longer wear gloves. Personal communion kits are available to those who prefer to commune in the pew or at home.
- We will continue to share the peace with hand waves, peace signs and air hugs.
- Our leadership will continue to gauge the situation week by week and will keep the congregation informed of any adjustment to our precautions.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MATT

In May of 2022, I wrote a newsletter article on the Holy Spirit. That article was written in preparation for introducing the practice of doing “God Sightings” to the congregation. By doing God Sightings, I knew we would be opening the door for the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives in ways we have not noticed before. Now, two years after introducing God Sightings, the Strategic Mission Plan is challenging us to go a step further than seeing *what God is doing in our lives*. We are going to start asking *what God wants to do with our lives*. What is God calling us to do though our baptism, empowered by the Holy Spirit?

Please re-read the article from the May 2022 newsletter (https://www.adventrichboro.org/hp_wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022-May-Newsletter.pdf). As you do so, reflect on how doing God Sightings has impacted your sense of the Holy Spirit. Then imagine how that enhances sense of the Holy Spirit can guide you in your life.

What is the Holy Spirit? Let’s start with the word “spirit”. Spirit can be defined as an essential animating energy. A person’s spirit or soul is an immaterial energy that embodies their essential being or characteristics. To have high spirits is to be full of energy or vigor. One can do things with a type of spirit such as cooperation, happiness, discontent, etc. A person’s spirit can convey their essential presence. It is possible to sense someone in the room with you without hearing or seeing them while reading a book or being busy with a task. Team spirit reflects the bond and energy of the team. The energy of a winning team and a losing team can be very different. A good pep talk can change the energy of a team. A team with strong team spirit can overcome a team of superstars with weak team spirit. Players sense the spirit of a team and will change teams, going to one with a better spirit. Players will even forego opportunities for higher pay to stay somewhere with strong team spirit. Another example of spirit can be the relationship between two people such as in a marriage. I was told once that marriage should be treated like a third person in the relationship, where, just as you do things to care for your spouse, you need to also do things to care for the marriage. The marriage itself takes on an essential nature that can be sensed like the presence of an individual or the spirit of a team.



In scripture, the Holy Spirit is often associated with the animating power of wind, fire and water. The Holy Spirit is essential God energy. The primary characteristic of that God energy is love. Thomas Aquinas defines the Holy Spirit as the spirit of love between God the Father and God the Son. This Spirit of love is so strong it embodies the essence of God and becomes its own person.



We experience God the Father as the Creator, God the Son as the Redeemer and God the Holy Spirit as the Sustainer actively sustaining us through the ways we are created and redeemed. Every time we experience God’s love, we are experiencing the Holy Spirit.

So, do you sense that the Holy Spirit is active in your life? This is not a question of whether the Holy Spirit is active in your life or not. The Holy Spirit is active in your life at all times and at every moment, whether you sense it or not. This is promised to you through your baptism. So, do you sense the Holy Spirit? It can be difficult for us as human beings to sense the Holy Spirit at every single moment of our lives. We get distracted. Our sins get in the way. But there are ways to get better at sensing the Holy Spirit. There are patterns to how God loves us.

Sometimes, in order to see a pattern, we need someone to point out the pattern to us. The pattern of God's love can be seen in reading the Bible. Christian community, which in itself embodies the Holy Spirit, can point out the patterns of God's love to us through worship, prayer, bible study, service and fellowship. Taking time to identify "God's sightings" of God's activity in our lives and giving God thanks in prayer can dramatically strengthen our sense of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. We can sense God's love any time we witness any and every expression of love between people. We can sense God's love in everything God has created. Stopping and taking time to savor nature can reveal a strong sense of the Holy Spirit.

As our sense of the Holy Spirit's activity is deepened, our sense of being loved by God is deepened, and our sense of participating in God's love in the lives those around us is heightened. As our sense of the Holy Spirit activity in our lives in the past and the present is honed, we gain a sense of how the Holy Spirit will be active in our lives into the future. We start to recognize how God wants us to participate in the pattern of God's love all around us. We begin to recognize how our gifts and abilities fit into that pattern. The Holy Spirit starts to show us new gifts and abilities. As the pattern of God's love is revealed in greater parts of our lives, we get a sense of the Holy Spirit leading us or calling us to love those around us in different ways. All of this makes us feel inspired, excited, reassured, empowered, nourished and sustained. It is like being in a wonderful relationship or on a really awesome team, only better, because it is the essence of God's love of which we are a part.



Yours in God's Spirit,

Pastor Matt



MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MARCH 2 – TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: George Henry
10:35 a.m. Caring for Friends meal assembly



MARCH 16 – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4- grade 6
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
10:45 a.m. Bible Study: George Henry

MARCH 5 – ASH WEDNESDAY

12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Services
No Communion
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Services
No Communion



MARCH 23 – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
10:15 a.m. Congregational Meeting and
Second Constitutional Vote

MARCH 9 – FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
10:45 a.m. Church Council Meeting



MARCH 30 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4- grade 6
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
10:45 a.m. Spiritual Giftabilities Inventory
10:45 a.m. Bible Study: George Henry

SERVING IN WORSHIP – MARCH 2025 SCHEDULE

	LAY READERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	LAY READERS	COMMUNION ASSISTANTS
	8:00 AM		9:30 AM	
3/2	Rose Herbert		Open	
3/9	David Elkin	Janice Hoffmann	Gail Oines	Megan Ward
3/16	George Henry		John Flint	Kristi Ward
3/23	OPEN		Bruce Eklund	Joyce Heiss
3/30	OPEN		Gail Oines	Megan Ward
	Ash Wednesday - 12:00 PM		Ash Wednesday - 7:00 PM	
3/5	Gail Oines	N/A	George Henry	N/A

ALTAR GUILD: Gail Oines, Joyce Heiss, Jeanne Gryszka

OUR TECH CREW: Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra, Tony Gryszka, Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION: Linda Brownlee, Audrey Savchuck, Nancy Sclight, Rhona Slawter

WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services may be attended by **Zoom** and they will also be live streamed on **Facebook**. A recording of services will be uploaded to **YouTube** and **linked to our website** immediately after the services conclude.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 8:00 AM SERVICE (Sundays in March except March 23)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89195039877?pwd=dnVRTIRGamJQVXNZbENIVDJTT0pnUT09>

Meeting ID: 891 9503 9877

Passcode: 443533

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9:30 AM SERVICE (Sundays in March except March 23)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85405629972?pwd=aGERSFNlbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktlQT09>

Meeting ID: 854 0562 9972

Passcode: 506714

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Ash Wednesday Service, March 5 at 12:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83099035236>

Meeting ID: 830 9903 5236

Ash Wednesday Service, March 5 at 7:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88270207893>

Meeting ID: 882 7020 7893

SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE on Sunday, March 23 at 9:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87585726675>

Meeting ID: 875 8572 6675

While using Zoom, please mute yourself when you are not speaking.

Phone instructions: Call 1-646-558-8656

WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES *(continued)*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

AT SUNDAY SCHOOL
WE WILL FOLLOW . . .



As a boy, Jesus gained wisdom from the leaders at the temple. When he became an adult, he was baptized and drew followers as he shared the Word of God. He selected twelve disciples from everyday people. At Sunday School, we'll follow these events and learn how Jesus taught the faithful - now us – the importance of prayer and **how** to pray. These Bible lessons will lead us through the season of Lent, the sequence of events leading up to Easter.

New students and visitors from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to attend Sunday School. We begin our hour in the 9:30 a.m. worship service and proceed to the classroom following the children's sermon. Students will enjoy music, interactive lessons with videos, and crafts.

**PLEASE NOTE: Sunday School will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 23, as there will be a single worship service that day.*

RESPONDING TO YOUR BAPTISMAL CALL AT WORSHIP SERVICES

You have many opportunities to respond to your Baptismal Call at worship services. Claim God's grace and share your gifts as part of the Praise Band or Vocal Choir, as a Lay Reader, Communion Assistant, Acolyte, or Greeter, or by assisting with set up for services.

CALL FOR PRAISE BAND & VOCAL CHOIR MEMBERS

Weekly Wednesday Practices

Please note the new rehearsal times

Praise Band - 5:30 to 6:15 pm

Vocal Choir - 6:15 to 7:00 p.m

Please see Mike Dettra, Music Director for more details.



CALL FOR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

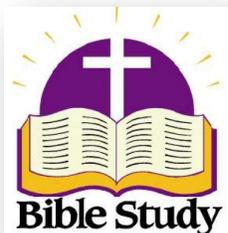
Training is provided for those interested in serving as Lay Reader, Communion Assistant, Acolyte or Greeter. Volunteers can also assist behind the scenes with set up prior to services.

Please see Gail Oines for more information.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

Sunday in-person Bible Study with George Henry is held on specified Sundays at 10:45 a.m. in the parlor, following Fellowship. (See calendar)



THURSDAY NIGHT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Night Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew will resume after Easter Sunday, on **Thursday, April 24**. In the place of the Bible Study, Advent will be hosting Soup Suppers followed by a Lenten service on Baptismal Call.

WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES *(continued)*

THURSDAY EVENING LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AND SERVICES

Thursdays, March 13 through April 10

6:00 PM: Soup Supper

7:00 PM: Lenten Service: “Baptismal Call”

During the season of Lent, gather at Advent on Thursday evenings. Soup supper and fellowship will be followed by a Lenten worship service focused on Baptismal Call.



- For the Soup Supper, please sign up in the narthex to bring soup, bread or drinks.
- The Lenten service will also be available via Zoom and Facebook. The link for the service will be sent via email the week prior to the first Soup Supper.

DEDICATIONS FOR SERVICES

MISSION DEDICATIONS

The 2025 Mission Dedication sign-up sheet is 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.



ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

The 2025 sign-up sheet for Altar Dedications is available in the narthex. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex with your name and dedication.

Two bouquets are available for dedication each week. The cost is \$25 per bouquet. Bouquets are available to take home after the 9:30 a.m. service to enjoy during the week. If you have any questions, please call Cindy Frey at 267-205-0713. Thank you for helping to beautify the altar!

FELLOWSHIP TIME



We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through June is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.

If you would like to support Fellowship Time but do not have the time or ability to bake or shop for snacks, please consider donating a few dollars. All the hungry snackers will appreciate it!

2025 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND PROPOSED CONSTITUTION VOTE

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 23, 2025, after a single service of worship. At the meeting, the business of the Church was conducted, including the review of the 2024 Annual Report. Copies of the report were provided in advance of and at the meeting.

The annual meeting also included the first of two required congregational votes to approve the proposed constitution. With almost 30 people attending this meeting, the outcome of the 1st vote resulted in approval of the new constitution. The process leading up to the 1st vote included two Q and A sessions about the proposed constitution, which were held on January 19 and 26, 2025. During these meetings, members of the congregation asked questions and sought clarification about the changes from the current to the proposed constitution. Time was also given at the annual meeting to answer questions.

This sets the stage for the 2nd congregational vote to approve the proposed constitution, which is an ELCA requirement. Accordingly, a congregational meeting will take place on March 23, 2025 at 10:00 a.m., after the single worship service at 9:00 a.m. If you are unable to attend this meeting in person, please plan to participate via Zoom.



Congregational Meeting – Second Constitutional Vote: March 23, 2025 10:00 AM

Zoom Meeting ID: 858 5726 3471 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85857263471>

While using Zoom, please mute yourself when you are not speaking.

We are making history for our congregation through this process. Your involvement is important to creating a living and vibrant constitution that will be used to guide our policies, procedures, and organizational structure for years to come.

Please see Pastor Matt or Council President Mike Sitler if you have questions or would like additional information. Thank you in advance for participating in this important part of church governance.

SPAGHETTI DINNER: A JOYFUL GATHERING OF FELLOWSHIP AND DISCOVERY

On Saturday, February 1st, our church family came together for a spaghetti dinner. The atmosphere was filled with warmth, laughter, and a true sense of community as we enjoyed delicious food and wonderful company.



But this gathering was more than just a social event. It provided us with a unique opportunity to explore our individual spiritual gifts through a carefully designed inventory. The process of uncovering our own gifts, as well as learning about the diverse talents within our congregation, was both enlightening and inspiring.

Many participants found the results of their surveys to be eye-opening. Some were pleasantly surprised by the gifts revealed, while others found confirmation of abilities

they had long suspected. Regardless of the outcome, the exercise fostered a deeper understanding of how each of us can contribute to our church community in meaningful ways.

The Strategic Mission Team extends their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated in this important step of our strategic mission. Your willingness to engage in this process is invaluable as we work together to strengthen our church and its impact.

For those who were unable to attend, don't worry! You haven't missed out on this experience. On Sunday, March 30, Pastor will be available to complete the spiritual gifts inventory directly following the 9:30 a.m. service. You also have the ability to complete the inventory at home. Please ask Pastor Matt for more details.



As we reflect on this event, we are reminded of how truly blessed we are to be part of such a caring church community. The bonds of fellowship we share and the diverse gifts we bring to our congregation are a testament to God's love working through us all.

Thank you to everyone who made this event possible and to all who attended. Your presence and participation made it a truly special day in the life of our church.

ADVENT COMMUNITY EVENTS



NEW EVENT: EASTER EGG HUNT – SEEKING ASSISTANTS!



Advent is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt this Spring! Christine Welsh has agreed to lead the event and is looking for some energetic and enthusiastic help for the planning and execution.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact Christine at 267-566-6299 or welsh0914@gmail.com.

To help jump start the event preparations, if you are able, please complete a short planning questionnaire: <https://tinyurl.com/adventegghunt>. You can also use the QR code to access the survey:



PING PONG – TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 PM

All are welcome to come and enjoy an evening of Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. Please call the church 215-355-2529 if you want to give it a try.



ADVENT COMMUNITY EVENTS *(continued)*



MEN'S BREAKFAST - SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 8:30 AM

This will be our annual St. Patrick's breakfast. There were complaints from the neighbors about the noise from last year's breakfast so we will try to be more considerate this year.

The Board of Directors for Men's Breakfast has not decided on the cuisine. Several options appropriate to St. Patrick's Day would include something green. Early morning breakfast just doesn't seem to work for green pancakes, green eggs, green coffee etc. Guess it will just have to be a surprise that morning. Breakfast will be Saturday March 8, serving at 8:30 or close to it. Coffee is ready from 7:30.



ADVENT WOMENS CIRCLE – NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 12:00 PM

The Advent Womens Circle held its monthly lunch on Tuesday, February 11, at 12:00 p.m. The meeting was very productive and progress was made on some new initiatives.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, at 12:00 p.m. For more information or questions, please contact Fran Zanis, 267-847-5098.

THE LEIDY MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY – 49TH ANNUAL MICROMOUNT SYMPOSIUM FRIDAY, MARCH 7 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Advent Members interested in Microscopy, rocks and minerals are welcome to stop into the narthex and see what the Leidy Society is about! Talk to Christel Hoffmann if you have any questions.



Celebrating 100 years of Microscopical Magnificence, the Leidy Microscopical Society will host its 49th Annual Micromount Symposium in Advent's Narthex.

Friday, March 7, 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Visitor Fees: \$5.00 for Friday and \$10.00 for Saturday

Silent Auctions Give-Away Tables Lunch included Saturday with paid admission

There are two great lectures on Saturday:

- "DIVING INTO OLIVINE" by Chris Duerr, Geologist & Philadelphia Mineralogical Society member
- "THE FASCINATING WORLD OF DIATOMS" by Bill Dailey, worldwide collector of Diatoms

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

At Advent, we actively pray for those in need by name through the *Prayers of Intercession* during worship and through the *Prayer Chain* during the week.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION DURING SERVICES

To add names of those in need of prayer:

- ❖ *If you are attending worship in-person*, please provide the person's first name to Pastor when he takes names at the beginning of the service.
- ❖ *If you are worshipping online*, please message or chat the name on Zoom or Facebook live stream and we will add the name to the list.

Because services are available worldwide through the internet, we use only baptismal or first names and omit surnames. The list of names gathered for the *Prayers of Intercession* in worship are maintained for just that day.



PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is a group of volunteers at Advent who pray every day, confidentially, for people added to the Prayer Chain. Names are maintained for one month unless asked to be removed earlier.

To add names to the Prayer Chain:

- ❖ Complete a Prayer Request Card found in the pews of the sanctuary. Please place completed cards in the offering plate, or
- ❖ Submit names by email directly to Gail Oines at alcdeacon@yahoo.com

More information may be provided to allow the Prayer Chain volunteers to pray more specifically for the person added to the list

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY



Please keep in your prayers all our service men and women, especially those related to our congregation:

- ❖ **Colonel Andrew M Frey, Jr.**, son of Cindy Frey, serving as Commander of the 2^d Weather Group at Offutt Airforce Base, Nebraska
- ❖ **Private 1st Class Aidan Hahn**, nephew of Marie McCool, serving in Kaiserslautern, Germany
- ❖ **Sargeant Joseph Vanderstine**, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, deployed to Syria

Please contact the church office at 215-355-2529 if you or someone you know has been omitted from the list.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



DRIVE IN AND DROP OFF FOOD COLLECTION

If you have food for the Warminster Food Bank that you or your friends would like to donate and the church is not open, just drive in and drop off the food under the seat of the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. Most needed items currently include:

Food Items

Cereal (critically low!),
Saltines, Spaghetti,
Ketchup, Pasta Sauce,
Baked Beans, Taco Shells, Jelly, Pancake Mix,
Ramen Noodles, Can Pasta



Non-Food Items

Store Gift Cards, Laundry Detergent Pods / or
Liquid, Household Cleaning Supplies,
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/ Oral Care, Toilet
Paper, Paper Towels, and Gently Used
Grocery Size Paper Bags

SPAGHETTI DINNER DONATIONS

At the Spaghetti dinner on February 1, the congregation put together 24 dinners to support Caring for Friends. In addition, the congregation donated \$381 to the Warminster Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity!

RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

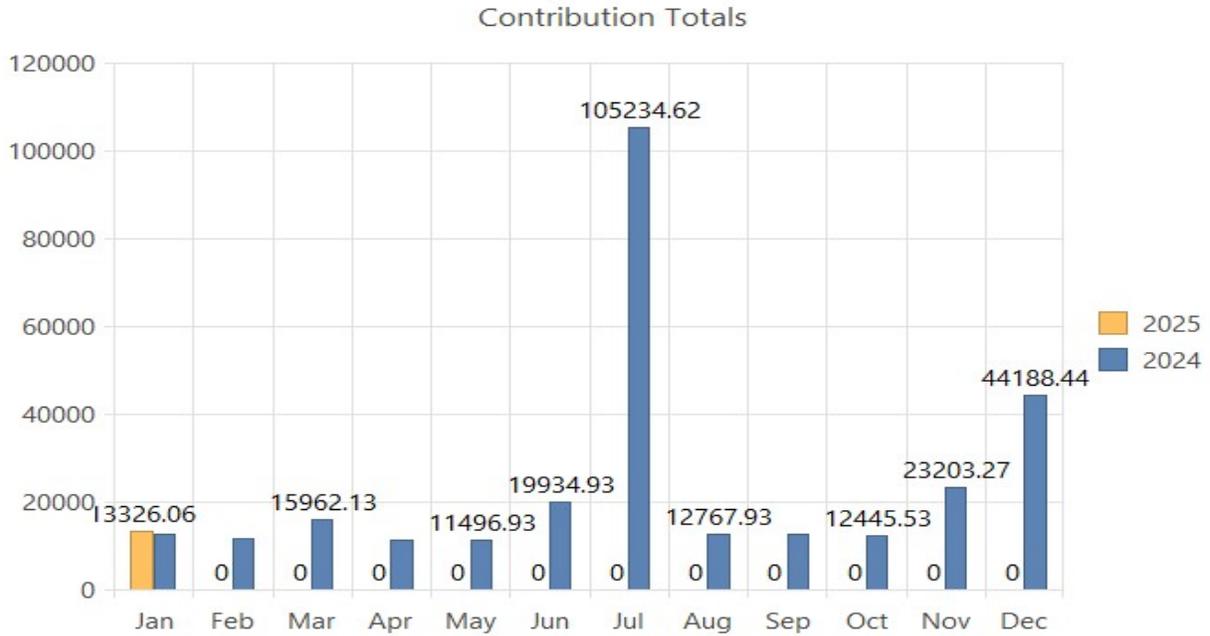
We are collecting can tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities which help alleviate some financial burdens for families along their child’s healthcare journey. Last year alone, they helped families save \$736 million in lodging and meal expenses.

Tabs can be placed in the marked containers in the narthex, on the shelf above the coat rack.

No cans, please – just tabs!



FINANCIAL REPORT



Financial Report for January 2025

	Rec'vd for Jan 2025	Budget for Jan 2025
General Fund	\$11,190.06	\$18,609.00
Mortgage	\$1,451	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$30	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$655	
Web Upgrade	\$0	
Total	\$13,326.06	\$20,640.00

Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support of the church this year. We greatly appreciate it.

There are numerous ways to continue your offerings.

- Drop off your offering at the church office. The office is usually open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10 AM and 1 PM. Call to confirm hours.
- Mail a check to the church. The mailing address is “Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954”
- Contribute online at www.adventrichboro.org. At the top of the page, click the “Give Now” link to see frequently asked questions. At the bottom of the page click the “Give Now” link for our Giving platform. You may also choose to set up recurring donations or a one-time donation.

Again, thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions concerning your offering please call Cindy Frey, Financial Secretary 267-205-0713

FROM THE OFFICE



8 James McCool
10 David Breig

18 Andrew Stirzel
18 Arielle Segal

28 Tom Herbert
30 Rachael McQuiggan

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

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE

Please let the church office know if you have any changes to your contact information, including address, phone, and email. Please email or call with your updated information. If you are unsure if your information is correct, please reach out. Marie is happy to hear from you and check your information!

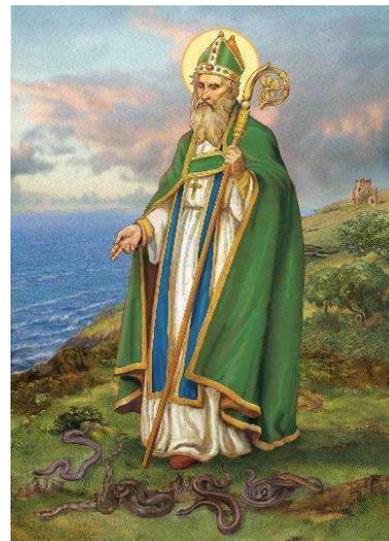
Phone: 215-355-2529 Email: AdventLutheranRichboro@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW? – SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day is a holiday that celebrates the life of Ireland's patron saint, Saint Patrick, and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. St. Patrick's original name was Maewyn Succat, and he was born to Christian parents in Roman Britain. His father was a deacon and his grandfather, a priest. But St. Patrick (according to his own account) was not religious as a child. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, the day legend says he died.

The meal that has become a St. Patrick's Day staple—corned beef and cabbage—was an American innovation. While ham and cabbage were eaten in Ireland, corned beef offered a cheaper substitute for impoverished immigrants. Irish Americans living in the slums of lower Manhattan in the late 19th century and early 20th purchased leftover corned beef from ships returning from the tea trade in China. The Irish would boil the beef three times—the last time with cabbage—to remove some of the brine.

The first recorded parade on the Feast Day of St. Patrick was held on March 17, 1601, in a Spanish colony in modern-day St. Augustine, Florida. More than a century later, Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched in Boston in 1737 and in New York City in 1762. Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated in more countries than any other national festival.



Content credit: Time Magazine, The History Channel, and People Magazine; Photo Credit: Britannica

March 2025

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion	8:00AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion	7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6:30 PM Ping Pong	Ash Wednesday Services at 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM No Praise Band or Vocal Choir Practices	7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	12:00 PM-6:00 PM Leidy Micromount Symposium 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM-6:00 PM Leidy Micromount Symposium
9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion and Sunday School	9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion and Sunday School	7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	12:00 PM Advent Womens Meeting 6:30 PM Ping Pong	5:30-6:15 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15-8:00 PM Vocal Choir Practice	6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Service "Baptismal Call"	7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	
10:30 AM Fellowship Time in narthex	10:30 AM Fellowship Time in narthex	7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6:30 PM Ping Pong	6:15-8:00 PM Vocal Choir Practice	7:00 PM Lenten Service "Baptismal Call"		
10:35 AM Caring for Friends meal assembly	10:45 AM Council Meeting						
8:00AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion	8:00AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion	7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6:30 PM Ping Pong	5:30-6:15 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15-8:00 PM Vocal Choir Practice	6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Service "Baptismal Call"	7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	
9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion and Sunday School	9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion and Sunday School	7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6:30 PM Ping Pong	6:15-8:00 PM Vocal Choir Practice	7:00 PM Lenten Service "Baptismal Call"		
10:30 AM Fellowship Time in narthex	10:30 AM Fellowship Time in narthex	7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6:30 PM Ping Pong	6:15-8:00 PM Vocal Choir Practice	7:00 PM Lenten Service "Baptismal Call"		
10:45 AM Bible Study in Parlor	10:45 AM Bible Study in Parlor						
9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion and Sunday School	9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion and Sunday School	7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6:30 PM Ping Pong	5:30-6:15 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15-8:00 PM Vocal Choir Practice	6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Service "Baptismal Call"	7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	
10:00 AM Fellowship Time in narthex	10:00 AM Fellowship Time in narthex	7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6:30 PM Ping Pong	6:15-8:00 PM Vocal Choir Practice	7:00 PM Lenten Service "Baptismal Call"		
10:15 AM Congregational Mtg & Second Constitutional Vote	10:15 AM Congregational Mtg & Second Constitutional Vote						
8:00AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion	8:00AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion	7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6:30 PM Ping Pong	5:30-6:15 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15-8:00 PM Vocal Choir Practice	6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Service "Baptismal Call"	7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	
9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion and Sunday School	9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion and Sunday School	7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6:30 PM Ping Pong	6:15-8:00 PM Vocal Choir Practice	7:00 PM Lenten Service "Baptismal Call"		
10:30 AM Fellowship Time in narthex	10:30 AM Fellowship Time in narthex	7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6:30 PM Ping Pong	6:15-8:00 PM Vocal Choir Practice	7:00 PM Lenten Service "Baptismal Call"		
10:30 AM Spiritual Giftabilities Inventory	10:30 AM Spiritual Giftabilities Inventory						
10:45 AM Bible Study in Parlor	10:45 AM Bible Study in Parlor						