

# THE ADVENTURE - 2022



## ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

### 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



Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen, Pastor  
45 Worthington Mill Road  
P. O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954  
215-355-2529

web: [www.adventrichboro.org](http://www.adventrichboro.org)  
e-mail: [office@adventrichboro.org](mailto:office@adventrichboro.org)



Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church continues to worship indoors and online. In response to the increased COVID infection rate due to the Omnicron variant we have increased our COVID precautions for at least the month of January:

- Adopt an abbreviated worship format for both Sunday services
- No communion in worship
- No singing in worship
- No in-person activities or ministries beyond worship including Fellowship, Men's Breakfast, Stitch Club, Ping Pong Club, in person Bible study, etc.
- Limit in person church office interactions

These precautions are in addition to our current precautions of:

- Strongly encouraged mask wearing regardless of vaccination status
- Social distancing
- Sanitizing hands and objects handled
- Staying home if you have any symptoms of illness or have been in close contact anyone with COVID.
- The availability of online worship and the use of zoom for meetings.

Our leadership will gauge the situation week by week to determine exactly when we ease the increased precautions and will keep the congregation informed.

### SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

#### JANUARY 2

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

### BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

#### JANUARY 9

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 6:30 p.m. Sunday School Zoom Class

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 16**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
10:45 a.m. Church Council Meeting via Zoom

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 23**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
6:30 p.m. Sunday School Zoom Class

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 30**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service

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

**YouTube:** Click on the church website link after **12:00PM** Sunday

morning: <https://www.adventrichboro.org/>

**Facebook:** Go to the church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/adventrichboropa/>

**Zoom:**

Smart device/Computer instructions- Click on this link for Traditional Worship at 8:00 a.m.

Click on this link for Contemporary Worship at 9:30 a.m.

**The full zoom invitations are pasted below:**

Phone instructions: Call 1-646-558-8656

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

Scheduled Zoom meetings: Topic: **Advent Lutheran Church Traditional Holy Communion**

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

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

**8:00 A.M. Meeting ID: 891 9503 9877      Passcode: 443533**

Scheduled Zoom meetings: Topic: **Advent Lutheran Church Traditional Holy Communion**

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85405629972?pwd=aGErSFNlbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktlQQT09>

**9:30 A.M. Meeting ID: 854 0562 9972      Passcode: 506714**

Scheduled Zoom meetings: Topic: **Advent Lutheran Church Contemporary Holy Communion**



## **PASTOR MATT'S THOUGHTS FOR JANUARY, 2022**

Have you made a New Year's resolution yet? Making New Year's resolutions is an old tradition found in many cultures. This is what Wikipedia says about the history of New Year's resolutions:

"Babylonians made promises to their gods at the start of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay their debts. The Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named. In the Medieval era, the knights took the "peacock vow" at the end of the Christmas season each year to re-affirm their commitment to chivalry. At watch night services, many Christians prepare for the year ahead by praying and making these resolutions."

Making a resolution this time of year is a noble act. It is a great thing to make a positive change in your life. Changing one's diet, amount of exercise or how you conduct your relationships can be life altering. Even small changes like remembering to turn off the lights when you leave a room or turning off the water when the toothbrush is actually scrubbing your teeth can have real world impact.

When I look at my New Year's resolution keeping down through the years, I have to say I've had mixed results. It is not easy to keep one's resolve when you feel a little too tired or too busy for a workout and when that yummy, not so good for you treat seems to be calling your name. Old habits can be hard to die. Some people simply avoid making resolutions because they do not want to disappoint themselves. Yet change is good. After all, no one is perfect.

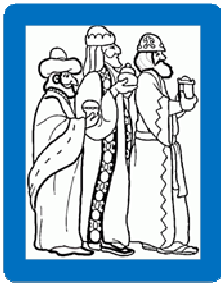
What are we to do then to help us with our resolutions? We can turn to our Christian faith. We are in the season of Epiphany. This season is about the light of God's love entering our lives where we need it. It is about how God's love reveals and then brings new life to our hardships, sins, sufferings and shortcomings. Having such things revealed can be uncomfortable, but it is in the revealing of such things that we can most encounter the power of God's love. In a way, the activity of God's love that we celebrate in Epiphany is similar to New Year's resolution making. Instead of identifying a shortcoming or area of improvement and then resolving to change it, it is God who does the identifying and the changing. The change God works in us is according to God's will and not our own. The change can be some dramatic transformation to simply finding healing and peace.

Maybe instead of asking, "What are we to do then to help us with our resolutions?", what we should really ask is, "What does God's love resolve to do with us and how can we be open to God's will?" My experience with God's resolutions is that they are kept no matter what. So, whatever New Year's resolution we make this year, let us also seek God's resolutions for our lives as well.

**God's Peace be with you,**

**Pastor Matt**

**Bible Study for Kids**  
**The Wise Men Followed the Star**



From far, far away, the Wise Men traveled to see the baby Jesus. They saw a shining, bright star in the distance, which they followed as their guide. They brought special gifts to present to the baby, as this baby was God's son, whom God sent as he had promised. This was the Christ Child, born in Bethlehem.

The Wise Men, called the Magi, were intelligent and used their knowledge to find God's son. They left their homes, which were in the Far East, when they first saw the star. We imagine them riding on camels, determined to find Jesus. They trusted God's message from the prophets, who long ago had told of a savior who would be sent from heaven to free all believers from sin, before joining God in heaven.

In Matthew 2:1-14, we learn that the Wise Men reached the city of Jerusalem and asked King Herod, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." King Herod learned that this child had been born in the town of Bethlehem, just as the prophets had foretold, but Herod was concerned that this baby would become more powerful than he.

The Wise Men continued to follow the star toward Bethlehem. It led them to the place where Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus were. The visitors bowed down before Jesus and worshiped him. "Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)

God warned them about Herod's anger in a dream, so they took a different route on their way home. Soon, an angel appeared to Joseph and told him to take Mary and Jesus away from the area, as Herod would harm the baby Jesus if he found him. Joseph obeyed and took his family to safety in Egypt.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES on ZOOM!**



Sunday School meets on **zoom** on the **2nd and 4th Sundays** each month. New students are welcome! Pastor Matt and the Sunday School teachers guide us through the Bible lessons. Let us know if you'd like to join us and we'll order student books and crafts for you!

Our fun curriculum is called ***Holy Moly***. The lessons are written in rhyme, the illustrations are graphic novel style and the short videos bring the Bible stories to life!

Please contact the church office to register or with any questions: [office@adventrichboro.org](mailto:office@adventrichboro.org) or 215-355-2529. We'll see you soon on zoom! - Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director

	SUNDAY	SCHOOL
January	9	6:30 p.m.
	23	"



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM we will resume our weekly Wednesday Night Bible study on Zoom. Our topic will be Jesus' Parables. If there is a parable that you would be interested in studying, please let me know at [pastor@adventrichboro.org](mailto:pastor@adventrichboro.org). Here is the Zoom invitation: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632518358?pwd=Smg5dm1Ba0VZamZjNG1YMk02MlVvdz09>



### EVANGELISM

As we enter this new year, let's focus on what we can do to bring fellowship to others. In 1 John 1:3-4 we see John was eager to share the news of Jesus with his friends and associates, telling them what he has seen and heard. John could hardly wait to share with his friends because he knew it would promote true fellowship.

We all want true fellowship, not just casual communication. We want people to listen to us and understand us. We want the same joy that John felt, and he knew Jesus personally!

So, now in 2022, what can we actually DO?

If you see someone that you haven't seen in a while, talk to them. Let the love of Jesus flow through you. It is not always possible to be a person to convert a non-believer on the street, but you can let joy show on your face, in your voice, and especially in your words.

We come to church to share in that fellowship with others. Can we also share with people outside of Advent? That can be done through the Holy Spirit, through you.

Karen Matlack  
[kmatl22349@verizon.net](mailto:kmatl22349@verizon.net)



### SOCIAL MINISTRY

December was a giving month at Advent thanks to our wonderful congregation who went above and beyond with their generosity!! We were able to provide \$1,810.00 in gift cards to the Warminster Food Bank! \$300.00 of that amount went to the Salvation Army for toys for children. In addition to the monetary donations, we also collected 355 pounds of food. Many thanks for your continued support for those in need. We do make a difference in the lives of those we serve. May we continue to share our blessings in the new year!!

Nancy Sclight- Social Ministry.



### CHURCH COUNCIL OPEN POSITIONS

Church Council has three positions that are now open. The **Christian Education** chairperson works with the pastor and leaders of Sunday School and Vacation Bible School to coordinate activities and to report the findings for discussion with the council.

The **Youth Coordinator** works with the church council in identifying and coordinating group activities for our youth. The **Congregation Life** chairperson works with the church council in planning and implementing fellowship activities. We ask that you prayerfully consider volunteering to fill one of these positions. Please contact church council president George Henry or Pastor Matt if you have any questions.

### ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Annual Reports are submitted by each church committee and group to summarize their accomplishments in the past year. They are due by **Sunday, January 23** For each report, please prepare a "word document" (if possible or check with Fran) and email it to: [office@adventrichboro.org](mailto:office@adventrichboro.org). Thank you.

**THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES WILL BE PAUSED  
UNTIL THE RISE IN COVID INFECTIONS HAVE GONE DOWN**



**MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP SATURDAY, JANUARY 8 - CANCELLED**

**PING PONG - TUESDAYS AT 6:30 STARTING JANUARY 18 - CANCELLED**



All are welcome to join us for an evening of Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday nights at 6:30 PM. starting January 18. Contact Ray Heiss or Pastor Matt for additional information.

Pictured is Ray Heiss frustrating Tony Gryzska by continuously returning his very best shots over and over again.



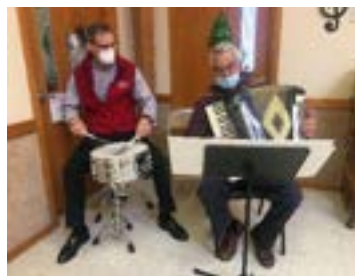
**STITCH CLUB SATURDAYS, 10:00 A.M. - CANCELLED**

Stitch club continues to meet on **Saturdays at 10:00 A.M.** Stitch club is open to all who would like to join. If you like to knit, crochet, or do needlepoint, this is for you!

Stitch club items are **available throughout the year**. If you need any of the items made by the Stitch Clubs, i.e., blankets, hats, baby items, please contact Hanna McCollum 215-962-9032 or Jeff Jobes 215-355-4149.

**CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2021**

Advent's annual Christmas Brunch was held on December 5, 2021 after the 9:30 worship service. About 25 attendees shared fabulous food and fellowship. Live festive Christmas music was provided by Advent's talented musicians, Mike Dettra, Mike Sitler, and Ray Heiss. We thank all who were involved in making this annual event a huge success!





### **MEN'S BREAKFAST DECEMBER 11, 2021**



### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ADVENT - DECEMBER 17, 2021**

Thank you to Mike Dettra and the Dettra Mentals (Bill Monaghan & Michael McGarry) for a festive and delightful Christmas Concert. There was a lot of toe-tapping, hand clapping and enthusiastic singing as the musicians regaled us with a variety of holiday songs. Advent's own Ray Heiss and Mike Sitler joined the musicians for a few songs toward the end of the concert. Everyone gathered afterwards to enjoy cookies and fellowship.

Rhona Slawter,  
Congregational Life



### **FILL A TRAY AT MEALTIME**

Look for aluminum trays on the tables in our narthex . . . Take some home to await any meal that has one serving left – or perhaps you've made extra food on purpose! Fill the 3 sections, add the foil cover, plus the label and bag that come with the tray. Voila! A meal for a shut-in or a person in need! Advent has a dedicated freezer for meals and we drop them off at Caring For Friends when our freezer fills up. The impact of your food or monetary donation can be viewed on [caringforfriends.org](https://caringforfriends.org). In December 2021, together we produced approximately 100 meals. Thank you to everyone who made and/or assembled meals!

### **STITCH CLUB BAZAAR**

Money received from the Bazaar this year will be evenly distributed to the cost for undedicated altar flowers and a donation will be made to Caring for Friends. The remaining money will be used to buy yarn; and also food that is needed for be used in meal preparation for Caring for Friends.

Hanna McCollum, Coordinator

## **FLOWER CHART & MISSION SUPPORT FOR 2022**

The sign-up sheets for Altar Flower and Mission Support dedications for 2022 are in the narthex. The cost to dedicate one bouquet is \$25.00. One week of Mission support is \$25.00. There are many openings available on the Mission Support chart.

## **DRIVE in AND DROP off FOOD COLLECTION**

If you have food for the Warminster Food Pantry 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. A list the pantry's most needed items is in the narthex. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



## **NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Please keep Pastor Lyzette Rios Sanchez and our mission congregation Nueva Creación Lutheran Church in your prayers. Your mission support gifts help them to minister in an impoverished area of Philadelphia.



## **THE ARMED FORCES**

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

Lt. Col. Andrew M Frey, Jr is serving as Senior Weather Officer, NORAD/NORTHCOM stationed at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs,

US Air Force Major Fred Gouse is a pilot and instructor stationed at Holloman AFB, New Mexico.

US Army Colonel (Ret.) Jeff Williams is serving in Dubai, UAE as a military advisor.

US Army Ranger Liam McKendry, grandson of Pastor Jo stationed in Fort Benning, GA

If there are any errors or omissions, please notify the church office. Thank you.

## **FINANCE/TIME AND TALENT REPORT**

Thank you for your generosity in supporting Advent's ministries throughout the year! We successfully supported a full-time pastor in 2021 and continued with all of our ministries. Benevolence offerings through November totaled \$8,300, which represents an increase of \$3,600 compared to this time last year. Your support is making a difference in the lives of many people locally and throughout the world. Thank you. Offerings may be brought to worship services, dropped off in person at the church office (normally Tues-Thurs between 9:00-1:00 please call first), or mailed to P.O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954-0840. All offerings are confidential.

Your support of Advent with your time and talents is also much appreciated. Many have been able to donate their time and talents in numerous ways throughout the year. Advent is grateful for your loyalty.

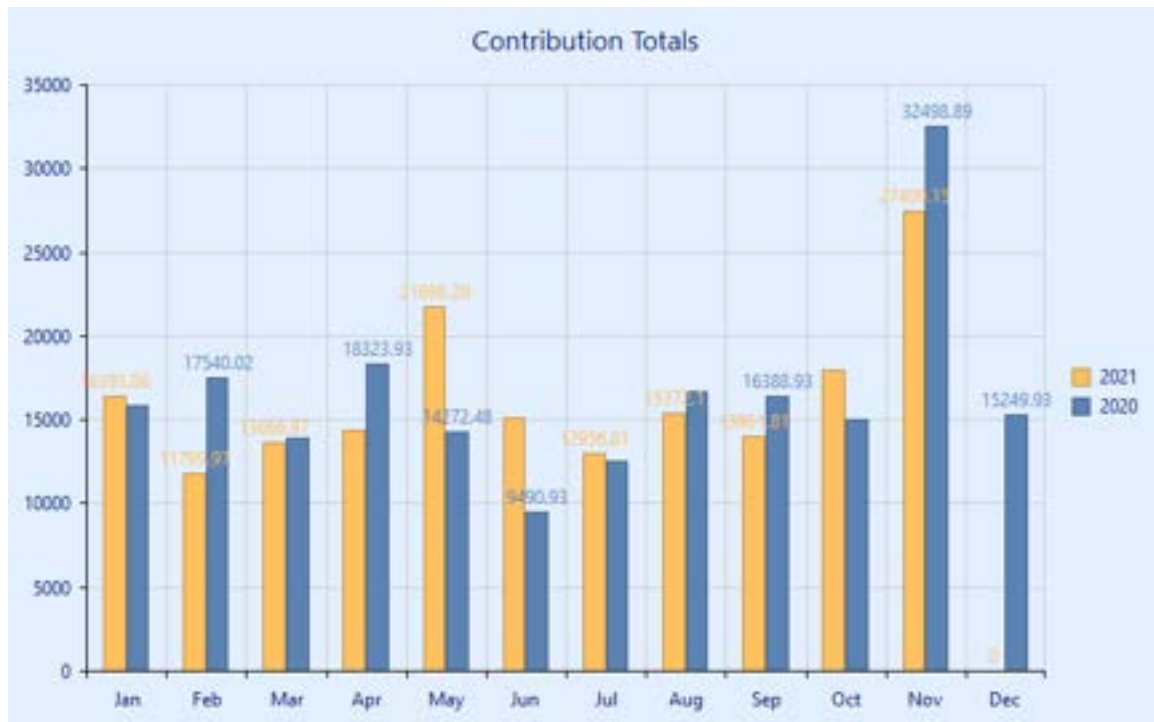


Thanks to all who have been able to make a financial commitment for 2022. Financial commitment cards may be returned throughout the year. Whether you've been able to make a financial commitment or not, all offerings are much appreciated.

Tony Gryszka

Finance & Stewardship Chairperson

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**



### **Income for November 2021**

Benevolence (LWR, Mission Support, etc.)	\$ 744.00
General Fund	\$18,973.65
Mortgage Fund	\$ 7,691.50

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, PO Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954"
- Contribute online at [www.adventrichboro.org](http://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

## SERVING IN WORSHIP - JANUARY'S SCHEDULE

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – 8:00 AM

1/2 Dave Shearer  
1/9 Rose Herbert  
1/16 Rose Herbert  
1/23 Nancy Hill  
1/30 Dave Shearer

### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – 9:30 A.M.

1/2 Karen Matlack  
1/9 Gail Oines  
1/16 Jennifer McQuiggan  
1/23 Jeanne Gryzka  
1/30 John Flint

### ALTAR GUILD

8:00 A.M. Hanna McCollum  
9:30 A.M. Karen Matlack, Gail Oines,  
Nancy Sclight, Rhona Slawter

### OUR TECH CREW

Joel Denis, Mike Dettra, Karen Matlack, Tony  
Gryzka, Gary Zimmerman

### FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey Savchuck, Nancy  
Sclight, Rhona Slawter



## ADVENT'S BIRTHDAY CORNER JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



8	Linda Gordon	14	Nancy Sclight		
10	Katie Dettra	18	Benicia Meyers	26	Kathy Sitler
11	Joseph Manco	22	Colleen Morrison		Keith Wills
12	Jim Hollingsworth	24	Jeremy Rayher	29	Erich Rayher, Sr.

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

Thank you.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	3 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	4	5	6	7 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	8 Due to Covid outbreaks Men's Breakfast will be postponed to February.  Due to Covid outbreaks, Stitch Club will not meet until further notice.
9 <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 6:30 PM Sunday School Class via Zoom	10 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	11	12	13	14 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	15 Due to Covid outbreaks, Stitch Club will not meet until further notice.
16 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Traditional Worship 10:45 Church Council Meeting via Zoom	17 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	18	19 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	20	21 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	22 Due to Covid outbreaks, Stitch Club will not meet until further notice
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30 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:30 AM Traditional Worship	31 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting					