

# 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 Rd.  
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215-355-2529  
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Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church continues to worship indoors and online. Mask wearing at Advent is optional for the fully vaccinated and recommended for the unvaccinated and immunocompromised. Based on Center for Disease Control, local governmental and church authorities' recommendations, Advent continues to have these precautions:

- Respect for those who choose to mask or not mask
- Social distancing
- Sanitizing hands and objects handled
- Staying home if you have any symptoms of illness or have been in close contact with anyone with COVID.
- The availability of online worship and the use of zoom for meetings.

Our leadership will continue to gauge the situation week by week and will keep the congregation informed of any adjustment to our precautions.



## NOVEMBER SUNDAYS OF WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### 22<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

#### NOVEMBER 6

#### All Saints Sunday - Recognition of Veterans

- 8:00 AM** Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:00 AM** Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 AM** Contemporary Holy Communion  
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
- 10:30 AM** Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:45 AM** Adult Bible Study



### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

#### ELECTION DAY 7:00 am - 8:00 pm

Pray for our country and vote your choice

### 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

#### NOVEMBER 13

- 8:00 AM** Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:00 AM** Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 AM** Contemporary Holy Communion  
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
- 10:30 AM** Fellowship Time: Jeanne & Tony Gryska
- 10:45 AM** Church Council Meeting

## **CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**

**NOVEMBER 20**

### **Congregational Meeting**

**8:00 AM** Traditional Holy Communion  
**9:00 AM** Adult Bible Study  
**9:30 AM** Contemporary Holy Communion  
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6  
**10:30 AM** Fellowship Time: Open  
**10:45 AM** Congregational Meeting

## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**NOVEMBER 27**

**8:00 AM** Traditional Holy Communion  
**9:00 AM** Adult Bible Study  
**9:30 AM** Contemporary Holy Communion  
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6  
**10:30 AM** Fellowship Time: Open  
**10:45 AM** Adult Bible Study

## **ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION**

Sunday service may also be attended by Zoom and it will be live streamed on Facebook.

A recording of the service will be uploaded to YouTube and linked to our website immediately after the service concludes.

### **Regular Scheduled Zoom Services:**

**8:00 a.m. Topic: Advent Lutheran Church Traditional Holy Communion**

**Meeting ID: 891 9503 9877      Passcode: 443533**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89195039877?pwd=dnVRTlRGamJQVXNZbENlVDJTT0pnUT09>**

**9:30 a.m. Topic: Advent Lutheran Church Contemporary Holy Communion**

**Meeting ID: 854 0562 9972      Passcode: 506714**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85405629972?pwd=aGErSFNlbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktlQT09>**

## **Pastor Matt's November Newsletter 2022**

Why are we taking communion weekly? The short answer for Advent Lutheran Church, at least as I understand it, is that when interim Pastor McKillip was here, he simply changed our practice from monthly communion to weekly communion. As far as I know, no real explanation was given to the congregation as to why, or, at least, not an explanation folks remember. Since our denomination encourages weekly communion and it is my preference as well, I have continued the practice at Advent. I do feel the congregation deserves a good explanation as to why. This is especially true because communion is on one level deeply personal and one's sense of spirituality around communion often is passed on from one generation to the next.

Why weekly communion? To be clear, the Bible does not specify how often we should take communion. Different expressions of Christianity have developed different traditions around communion. As Lutherans, and as stated in Advent's church constitution, we draw upon Martin Luther and confessional writing of the early Lutheran church at the time of the reformation. In Martin Luther's Large Catechism, he describes communion as "food of the soul" that "forgives, nourishes and strengthens us" against our "sins, death and all evils". Luther describes how our sins and the evils of this world regularly assail us and therefore we regularly need this "food of the soul." This is why a document called the "Apology of the Augsburg Confession" states clearly that our Lutheran practice is to celebrate communion on all Sundays and festivals (such as Christmas, that does not always fall on a Sunday).

Why are there many Lutheran churches that have celebrated communion less frequently than weekly for generations? The often-forgotten answer to this question is the Pietist grassroots movement in Lutheranism during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Lutheranism at that time had grown more institutional and less passionate and personal. Teaching faith and theology became more academic and was less nourishing to the soul. The Pietist saw the irony of this given that Luther's theology was so informed by the personal, passionate, faithful, yearning of his soul. The Pietist brought much needed reform to Lutheranism. They introduced to church life lay Bible study and lay prayer groups which influences Lutheranism and Christian denominations around world to this day. The Pietist felt that communion had become a practice where folks went through the motions of the ritual without it having much spiritual meaning. The Pietist felt making communion less frequent made the ritual more of a special occasion and provided ample time for spiritual preparation to take communion. Because of the grassroots nature of the movement, different churches started adopting different communing practices: some monthly, some at Christmas and Easter, and a very few at just confirmation and the death bed. The Pietist movement for most Lutherans is long forgotten. Yet, churches and individuals that prefer communion less frequently usually quote quite concisely the Pietist justification as to why. In our area there is a relatively high number of churches with a history of less frequent communion. A big reason for this is that Henry Muhlenberg who planted the first Lutheran churches in our area during colonial times came from a Pietist seminary.

Weekly communion has deep meaning to me. There have been times of difficulty in my life where the promise of communion on Sunday helped sustained me through the week, week after week. I would go forward to take communion with tears in my eyes needing at the depths of my soul to hear words God's love is "for you." Yet, I can also understand how monthly communion can be equally meaningful to someone else. I have heard the wait to take communion each month described as being like the wait of the season of Advent for Christmas to come.

As the Pastor of this congregation with the responsibility to the spiritual nourishment of everyone in this community, I think it is important to remember that communion is not compulsory. You do not have to take communion if it is offered. With that said, church doctrine, tradition and personal preferences aside, I believe it is better to offer weekly communion at all our services. I understand and believe that it is less than ideal for someone to refrain from communion while others are communing that they may take communion once a month. Communion is a ritual of community. None the less, I believe it is even less ideal for someone to come to worship desperately needing "food for the soul" and go away hungry.

I hope this article at least explains why I, as the pastor of this church, have chosen to continue weekly communion at both services. It was not my goal to sway anyone in their piety or how they spiritually express themselves. Instead, I hope we can have deeper understanding and respect of the traditions we have inherited. This article briefly summarizes the history and theology of our communion practices. Let me know if you would like to have a deeper discussion.

God's Peace be with you,

Pastor Matt



### **ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY –NOVEMBER 6**

All Saints' Sunday will be celebrated on November 6 at Advent Lutheran Church. Both services will have Holy Communion and will remember family and friends who have died in the last year.

There are forms available in the narthex if you are attending one of the services or you can leave a message on the church phone 215-355-2529 or email: [office@adventrichboro.org](mailto:office@adventrichboro.org). Please include the name of the deceased, relationship of deceased to you (i.e., father, daughter, cousin, friend, etc.) and your name.



### **ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

Elections will be held on **Tuesday, November 8, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Advent serves as a polling place for its neighboring community. Please vote for the candidates of your choice.



### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 20 AT 10:45 AM**

The congregational meeting to approve a budget for year 2023 and to nominate and elect members to Church Council will be held on Sunday, November 20 at 10:45 a.m., following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. Your attendance is important, as it is necessary that we have the required quorum of member voters. Thank you for attending!



### **MEN'S BREAKFAST SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

Men's breakfast will take place Saturday, November 12th at 8:30 am. We know it is the season for pumpkin flavored pancakes but you won't find them on our menu. Coffee is ready by 7:30 am. Dave



### **THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study has moved to Thursday nights at 7:00 PM. We will continue to study Jesus' Parables for the Fall. We will also continue to meet by Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632518358?pwd=Smg5dm1Ba0VZamZjNG1YMk02MlVvdz09>  
Fall Bible Study will end November 17.



### **ANNUAL INTER-FAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 3:00 PM**

Church Council has decided that this year we will not be having a Thanksgiving Eve Service due to low attendance over the past several years. Instead, we would like to encourage Advent's congregation to participate in the Annual Inter-Faith Thanksgiving Service on **Sunday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m. at Old School Baptist Meetinghouse, Maple Avenue and Second Street Pike, Southampton, PA.**

In years past this service has been primarily for Southampton Township congregations. This year, congregations from the surrounding townships have been invited. Pastor Matt will be participating in the service to represent Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church. **Please bring an item of non perishable food.**



## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

As we have done the last two years we will be collecting gift cards from local stores that will be distributed to clients at the Warminster Food Bank during the month of December. The response from the congregation the last 2 years has been generous! We hope for the same result again this year. Look for the red tin of envelopes on the offering table beginning in November. If you are donating more than one gift card please take an envelope for each card.

When you have food that you or your friends would like to donate and the church is not open, just drive up to the main entrance and leave your donation inside the bench outside the door. You may still bring food into the building during church and office hours. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to: [www.warminsterfoodbank.org](http://www.warminsterfoodbank.org).

Thank-you for your continued support for our neighbors in need! Nancy Sclicht/Social Ministry



## **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4**

Advent's annual Christmas brunch will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022, in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the 9:30 worship service. For those who are able, please bring hot or cold breakfast and/or lunch items to share with everyone into the church kitchen prior to the 9:30 a.m. service. Suggestions include breakfast meats, pancakes, waffles, casseroles, vegetables, salads, pastry, breads, fruit, desserts, your favorite dish, or whatever you wish. The oven in the kitchen will be available to warm up items and Advent will supply paper products, as well as cold and hot beverages. This event lasts about an hour and festive live Christmas music will be provided by Advent's own talented musicians. Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex so that we can plan accordingly. All family members and friends are welcome to attend. Thank you!



## **CARING FOR FRIENDS MEALS - MADE WITH LOVE**

What an efficient group of scoopers were gathered to assemble our turkey dinners for Caring for Friends on October 23! Thank you to everyone who participated in the entire process, whether by donating dollars toward the purchase of turkeys, providing and/or preparing food, scooping the food in cooperation with others or saying a prayer for the recipients of these meals. We froze a total of 86 meals and 10 turkey noodle soups, made with a touch of love, all to be dropped off in the first week of November.

It's true: "Many hands make light work." (and quick work!). By assembling meals after the 9:30 a.m. worship service, we were able to complete the task with ease – and camaraderie - to reach our goal! Let's make plans to do it again!



Gearing up for the task with 13 on the team.



A few of the 86 turkey dinners.



### **HURRICANE IAN RELIEF**

Please give generously to “Lutheran Disaster Response” for Hurricane Ian relief. Your donation can be placed in the offering plate make checks payable to “Advent Lutheran Church”, write “Lutheran Disaster Response” in the memo line or send directly and payable to; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 or give by phone; 800-638-3522 Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm central time.



### **GIVE US YOUR SMILE!**

Do you find that you have gotten used to ordering online and prefer that over endless shopping around for sales? If so, consider using Smile.Amazon.com for your shopping and shipping needs. This acts the same as an Amazon account, but Amazon Smile Foundation will donate .5% of your purchases to the charity of your choice. Simply indicate Advent Lutheran Church, Richboro as your charity and the church will benefit. No cost is added to you. Advent has received donations of \$516.24 as of June, 2022 from the Amazon Smile Foundation since 2016, when we signed up. If you need help setting up your account, call or text me (Gail Oines) at 215-534-8218.



### **ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION**

There are numerous dates available for 2022 to dedicate flowers to beautify the altar each Sunday. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex with your name and dedication. Two bouquets are available each week. The cost is \$25 per bouquet. In addition to making the altar more beautiful, you take the flowers home after the late service to enjoy during the week. If you have any questions call Cindy Frey 267-205-0713.



### **FELLOWSHIP TIME**

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:00 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through August is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e. coffee & tea) and all paper products.



### **STITCH CLUB ITEMS AVAILABLE**

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



### **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.

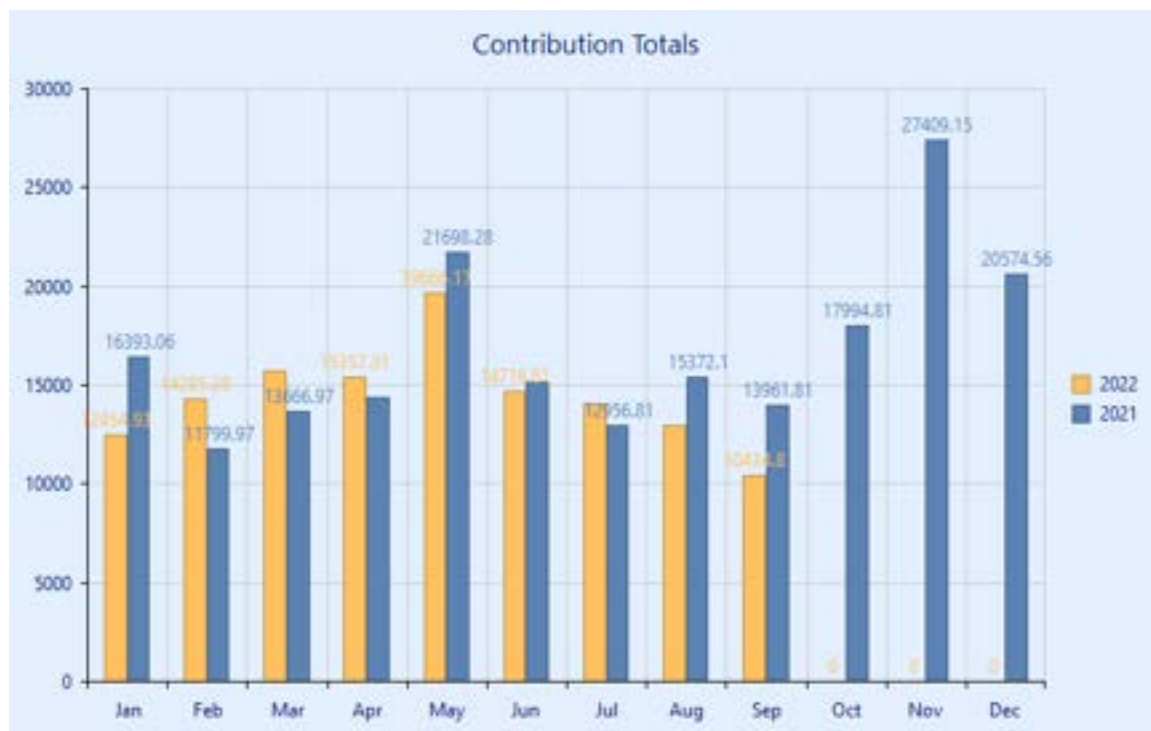
The sign-up sheets for Mission Support dedications for 2022 are in the narthex. The cost to dedicate one weekly bouquet is \$25.00. There are many openings available on the Mission Support chart for 2022.



## **FINANCE UPDATE**

The Finance Committee and Church Council thank you for your financial support throughout the year. For the year-to-date period through September 2022 expenses have exceeded revenue by \$45,540. For the corresponding period last year, expenses exceeded revenue by \$30,105. The increase in the current year deficit compared to last year is a combination of reduced donations and increased expenses. The Finance Committee meets regularly and shares financial information with the Church Council, and we continue to brainstorm ideas to reduce this deficit. We have been using our savings to make ends meet throughout this year. This topic will be discussed more during the annual congregational meeting on **November 20, 2022**, after the 9:30 a.m. worship service . Your attendance at this meeting would be much appreciated. For those who can help address our current deficit, donations specifically to Advent's "**Current**" offering category would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee Chairperson



### **Income for September 2022**

Benevolence (LWR, Mission Support, etc.)	\$ 340.00
General Fund	\$ 8,088.80
Mortgage Fund	\$ 2,006.00

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, 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.



### **THE ARMED FORCES**

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

Colonel Andrew M Frey, Jr is serving as Command Center Director, NORAD/NORTHCOM, stationed at Peterson SFB, Colorado Springs, CO

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

PFC Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Alan and Rhona Slawter serving in the Middle East.

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



### **ADVENT'S BIRTHDAY CORNER** **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY**



1	Linda Brownlee	7	Victoria Gardener	27	Mark Rilling
	Bonnie Morrison Sykes	18	Audrey Savchuck	29	Ciaran Stiles
3	Rick Buttil	22	Nicole Wills		
6	Robert Messina	24	Becky Rilling		
	Michael Savchuck	26	Matt Sitler		
	Jeanne Wagner	27	Tyler Creighton		

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

Thank you.



### **PRAISE TEAM AND VOCAL CHOIR SCHEDULE**

#### Rehearsal/Performance Schedule (Until Advent season)

November 2nd, 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm rehearsal.

November 20<sup>th</sup> Vocal Choir scheduled to perform.

### **SERVING IN WORSHIP - NOVEMBER SCHEDULE**

#### **NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

##### **8:00 AM Worship**

11/06	Nancy Hill
11/13	Rose Herbert
11/20	Open
11/27	Rose Herbert

##### **9:30 AM Worship**

11/06	Open
11/13	Gail Oines
11/20	Jennifer McQuiggan
10/27	John Flint

##### **ALTAR GUILD**

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

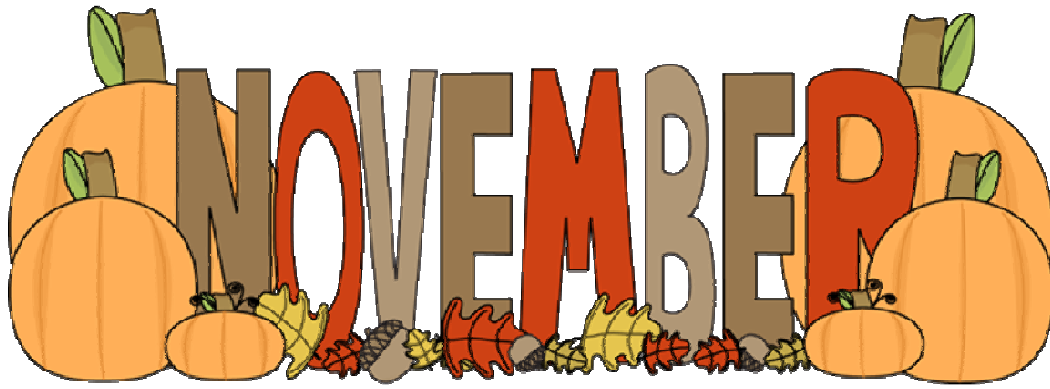
##### **OUR TECH CREW**


Mike Dettra, Tony Gryszka, Gary Zimmerman

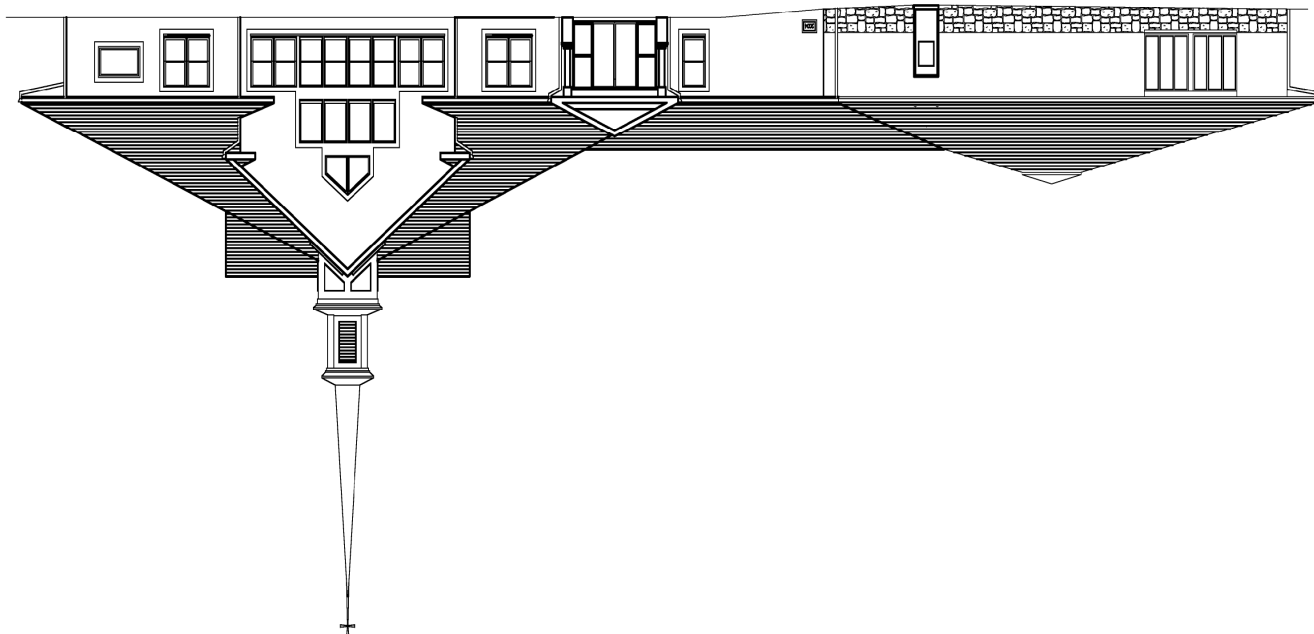
##### **FLOWER DISTRIBUTION**

Linda Brownlee, Audrey Savchuck, Nancy Slight, Rhona Slawter





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:30 Choir Practice	3	4	5 10:00 AM -Noon Stitch Club
6 <u>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	7 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	8	9	10 6:30 -9:30 PM CPR Training	11 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.  	12 8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast  10:00 AM -Noon Stitch Club
13 <u>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Jeanne & Tony Gryzka 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	14 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	15	16 6:30 Choir Practice	17 7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom  	18 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	19 10:00 AM -Noon Stitch Club
20 <u>Christ the King Sunday</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Congregational Meeting 3:00 PM Inter-Faith Service (see pg. 4)	21 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	22	23	24  	25 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	26 10:00 AM -Noon Stitch Club
27 <u>1st Sunday of Advent</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	28 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	29	30	1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	3 10:00 AM -Noon Stitch Club



*Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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Address Service Requested