

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
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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 chose 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.



SEPTEMBER SUNDAYS OF WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 4 - 13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 9:00 AM** Service of the Word
- 10:00 AM** Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:15 AM** Adult Bible Study

FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS - 2 SERVICES SEPTEMBER 11 - 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

- 8:00 AM** Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:00 AM** Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 AM** Contemporary Holy Communion
- 10:30 AM** Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:45 AM** Church Council Meeting

**SEPTEMBER 18 - 15th SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST - HEALING SERVICES**

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

**SEPTEMBER 25 - 16TH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

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

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.

Sunday September 4th via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81545186885?pwd=SFA1Q2lISnB4dE9MSzJISjNRNzI4dz09>

Meeting ID: 815 4518 6885

Passcode: 500201

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>

WELCOME SUNDAY - FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS - SEPTEMBER 11

We will return to our normal Sunday schedule of a Traditional service at 8:00 a.m. The Contemporary service will be at 9:30 a.m.



HEALING SERVICE SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18 - BOTH SERVICES

There are many of us who are in need of healing or know someone in need of healing. We maybe be in need of physical, emotional or spiritual healing. On Sunday the 18th at both worship service we will have a service of healing. During the sermon time there will be an opportunity for folks to come forward for healing prayer with the laying on of hands and anointing. Folks when they come forward can receive a general blessing or can share a specific prayer request.



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 18 AT 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School classes will begin in-person on **September 18**. Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in lively lessons by the creators of the *Holy Moly* curriculum. Students will attend the first part of the **9:30 a.m.** worship service and will proceed to the classroom with their teachers following Pastor Matt's children's sermon

Pastor Matt's September Newsletter 2022

Happy Labor Day!! For most of us Labor Day signifies the unofficial end of Summer. Labor Day means more than this. Labor Day celebrates the accomplishments of the American laborer or worker in building up this nation. It also celebrates the rights for workers won by the labor union movement which started back in the mid 1800's and the industrial revolution.

The Industrial Revolution brought huge changes to how people make their livelihood. Before the industrial revolution most people would be what we would call self-employed farmers or craftsman. With the industrial revolution huge never before seen numbers of people were being employed in factories and other industrial operations by business owners. Many of the workers left their livelihood as farmers and so their livelihood became completely dependent on their employment. There were no rules early on. Some employers were good to their employees, but not all were. To be more competitive in the market many businesses demanded more and more out of their workers. There was time a laborer often worked 12 hours or more a day, in unsafe conditions, and for pay that was hardly enough to live on.

The labor movement began in order to address the working conditions of laborers. The labor movement did this by forming unions to confront business practices directly and by taking political action to pass laws to protect workers. These actions were consentaneous. Businesses in general did not like the labor movement, especially those that benefited the most from abusive practices. It was argued that the labor movement would destroy American business. Overtime more and more protection for workers was put in place and businesses discovered that well treated employees are more profitable to the business and society.

Today, there is a standard 8 hour a day, 40 hour work week, there are safety standards for the work place and there is a minimum wage. Things are much improved and yet there is still contention. In our politics there are those that are pro-union, courted union grassroots efforts and, those who are anti-union, courted by the business lobbyists. Business still argues that unions hurt American business. This argument takes on new weight when businesses can find less expensive labor in other countries. There are still workers today who work 12 hours a day between multiple jobs, in less-than-ideal conditions and still struggle to make ends meet.

How should we as Christians view labor issues in our society today? Should we be pro-union or not? Martin Luther in the Small catechism in praying for "workers of all kinds" references Ephesians 6:5-8:

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ; not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord, whether we are slaves or free.

In praying for "employer and supervisors", Luther references Ephesians 6:9:

And, masters, do the same to them. Stop threatening them, for you know that both of you have the same Master in heaven, and with him there is no partiality.

We have this theology called original sin. Each of us has it within us to sin against our neighbor. Whether we as Christians should be pro-union is not the appropriate question. The heart of the matter is whether we are pro "love your neighbor as yourself". By the love of God, employers and employees should be accountable to each other. Where unions demand too much of business threatening the economic viability of the greater good, we should take a stand. Where employees are not treated fairly for their work, we should take a stand. Ideally, anyone who works fulltime should be able to live off the income they earn. In other words, an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. Employers deserve an honest day's work and employees in return deserve an honest day's pay. This is how employers and employees "render service with enthusiasm" to each other and fulfill the law of "love your neighbor as yourself". I know labor issues are complex and there are no easy answers. Nonetheless, this Labor Day, I challenge us to consider how we can better proclaim God's love through the labor issues of today

God's Peace be with you,

Pastor Matt

PASTOR MATT ON VACATION SEPTEMBER 1-8

Pastor Matt will be out of the office for vacation from Thursday, September 1 and will return to the office on Thursday, September 8.

Pastor Nathan Krause from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Jamison will be providing emergency pastoral coverage for Pastor Matt. His contact number is 267-884-1195.



HERE'S THE SCOOP: ASSEMBLE MEAL TRAYS ON SEPTEMBER 7

The mission of *Caring for Friends* is to share **food** and **friendship** with isolated neighbors. A number of volunteers at Advent have offered to assemble the next group of meals. The food will be ready and the date of **Wednesday, September 7 at 10:00 a.m.** has been set ! If you can help us scoop some entrees and sides into trays, please sign up on the list in the narthex - If we see more names, we'll make more food! Thank you. <https://caringforfriends>



NEW MEMBER CLASS STARTING SEPTEMBER 18

Advent will be having four New Member Class sessions after the 9:30 Sunday worship service on September 18th and 25th and on October 2nd and 9th. The New Member Class will then be joined to the congregation through the Affirmation of Baptism in worship on Reformation Sunday, October 30th. If you are interested in becoming a new member please contact Pastor Matt or the church office.



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY STARTING SEPTEMBER 22

Wednesday night Bible Study is moving to Thursday nights at 7:00 PM beginning on **September 22nd**. 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>



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TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL

It is exciting to begin the school year with our in-person Sunday School schedule. Our program is well-organized, active and fun, helping students learn Bible lessons along with friends. If you have an interest in teaching Sunday School as part of a coordinated curriculum, please speak with Jeanne Gryska or Pastor Matt. We look forward to watching our attendance grow. Enthusiastic leaders and helpers make an impact!



PRAISE TEAM, VOCAL AND BELL CHOIRS PRACTICE

Church Choirs to resume this fall. We have Bell choir, Traditional choir and Praise Band. Practices will be on Wednesday evenings. Please see Mike Dettra or Pastor Matt for more information.



During the month of July 22 lbs of food was donated to the Warminster Food Bank. In addition, \$1983.00 was donated. Thanks to all who continue to support our neighbors in need. As we begin the fall season the following items would be greatly appreciated: jelly, instant oatmeal variety packs, spaghetti sauce, coffee, and laundry detergent. Thank-you!!

Nancy Sclight

BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Emerson Marie Wade and Hadley Kay Wade was celebrated on Sunday, July 17, 2022. Hadley and Emerson were born on August 17, 2020 to Patrick and Alyson Stark Wade. Emerson Marie Wade was sponsored by Peter Stark, Timothy Stark and Cheryl Stark. Hadley Kay Wade was sponsored by John Wade, Christopher Wade and Amy Cymanski.



Baptism of Emerson Marie Wade and Hadley Kay Wade baptized on Sunday, July 17, 2022



Hadley Kay Wade and Emerson Marie Wade presented by Pastor Matt to the congregation.

MITCH MCVICKER IN CONCERT AT ADVENT

Advent was pleased to have Mitchell McVicker, Christian recording artist, in concert on **Thursday, July 7**. He showed his quirky and inventive side with his insightful song lyrics, unconventional instruments and profound storytelling. McVicker's theology that God's Love washes over and through us regardless of our circumstances and situations was felt by all. It was a very enjoyable evening.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School was held from July 26 – 28, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. – noon, after having been postponed for two summers. The theme was **This is My Father's World**, where we celebrated God's creation and his love for us as an important part of his handiwork. We welcomed nine students and two "Kids' Crew" helpers to assist staff and students. We were pleased to have six experienced teachers as staff members. They all brought their backgrounds in Christian Education to our VBS format.

Thank you to our:

Christian Education Chairperson:
Pastor / VBS Teacher:
Curriculum Planners & Teachers:

John Flint
Rev. Matthew Ollikainen
Megan Ward, Nancy Slight, Rose Herbert
Rhona Slawter, Jeanne Gryszka
Dave Shearer

A/C Programming:

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.



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.

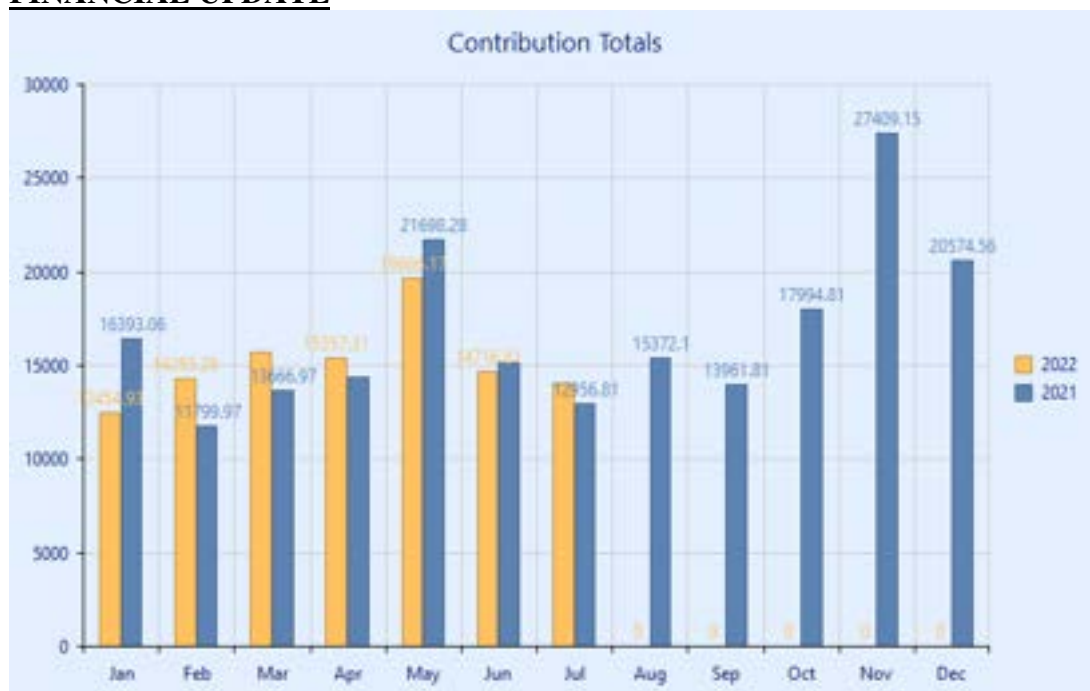
FINANCE UPDATE

The Finance Committee and Church Council thank you for your financial support throughout the year. For the year-to-date period through July 2022 expenses have exceeded revenue by \$34,793. For the corresponding period last year, expenses exceeded revenue by \$25,915. The increase in the current year deficit compared to last year is a combination of reduced donations and an increase in expenses.

We have recently secured very good mortgage terms with our lender, Mission Investment Fund, a Lutheran-based financial institution. Advent was able to extend our initial 5-Year Adjustable-Rate Mortgage (ARM) for an additional 5 years at the same rate we previously had, which was 3.875%. This is an excellent rate, considering that the Fed has increased borrowing rates by over 2.0% during this year, alone. Effective July 1, 2022, our mortgage payments were reduced by \$1,488/month, as a result of applying most of the proceeds from the sale of the tract of land to our mortgage principal. This will assist in reducing our current deficit.

For those who are able to help us address our deficit through contributions, additional donations specifically to Advent's "Current" offering category would be much appreciated. Thank you.
Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee Chairperson

FINANCIAL UPDATE



Income for June/July 2022

Benevolence (LWR, Mission Support, etc.)	\$ 1,800.00
General Fund	\$21,178.74
Mortgage Fund	\$ 5,782.00

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



AUGUST UPDATE

17 Emerson Wade & Hadley Wade

SEPTEMBER

2	Jake Eagles	Nicholas Masciotro			Luke Urbaniak
3	Cindy Frey	Emma Ward	22		Teena Hanlon
5	Paul Shearer	Timothy Ward	25		Rose Herbert
11	Mark Frey	16 Steven Urbaniak	26		Christopher Frey
	Charles Welsh	17 John Kelly	27		Kelly Sitler
13	Courtney Kirschner	19 Jeanne Gryszka	28		Cathy Wills
14	Cheryl Hollingsworth	20 Rick DeJames	30		Peggy Spahn

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

SERVING IN WORSHIP - SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS –

9:00 AM

9/4 Karen Matlack

8:00 AM Worship

9/11 Dave Shearer

9/18 Nancy Hill

9/25 Rose Herbert

9:30 AM Worship

9/11 Jennifer McQuiggan

9/18 John Flint

9/25 Gail Oines

ALTAR GUILD

8:00 A.M. Hanna McCollum

9:30 A.M. Karen Matlack, Gail Oines,
Nancy Sclight, Rhona Slawter

OUR TECH CREW

Mike Dettra, Karen Matlack, Tony Gryszka, Gary Zimmerman,




FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey Savchuck, Nancy Sclight, Rhona Slawter



September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	3
4 13th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 AM Summer Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship Time: open 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study	5 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting LABOR DAY 	6	7	8	9 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	10
11 14th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	12 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	13	14	15	16 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	17
18 HEALING SUNDAY 15th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - grade 8 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM New Member Meeting	19 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	20	21	22  7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	23 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	24
25 16th Sunday after Pentecost 8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - grade 8 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM New Member Meeting	26 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting			29  7:00 PM Bible Study via Zoom	30 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	