

THE ADVENTURE - 2023

FEBRUARY

ADVENT EVANGELICAL 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



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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.



SUNDAYS OF WORSHIP FEBRUARY SCHDULE

FEBRUARY 5

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

FEBRUARY 12

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

FEBRUARY 19

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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



FEBRUARY 22

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will be having Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday, **February 22 at Noon and 7:00 p.m.** in person and online. See page 5 for more online information.

FEBRUARY 26

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

- 9:00 a.m. One service only**
- 10:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting
See page 4 for online information
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open

SUNDAY 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 Pass code: 443533

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

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

Meeting ID: 854 0562 9972 Pass code: 506714

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



PASTOR MATT'S THOUGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

NRSV 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

This piece of scripture is often referred to as the 'love passage.' I Corinthians 13:1-13 is the most chosen scripture passage read at all the weddings I have so far had the privilege to officiate. My guess is that this is true of Christian weddings in general. Valentine's Day is an occasion, like weddings, to celebrate love, especially romantic love. The love expressed in I Cor.13 is the kind of love I think we all desire to have in our lives.

The Greek language, in which most of the New Testament was originally written, has four different words for the English word *love*. There is *Eros*. It is the love of beauty in all things. *Eros* toward another person may start off as just physical passion but can evolve into love of both the outward and inner beauty of the person. *Eros* is romantic passionate love best typified in marriage. There is *Philia*. You may recognize this as one of the root words in *Philadelphia*, which traditionally is translated as the 'city of brother of love.' This interpretation is not entirely accurate. *Philia* is a dispassionate love characterized more by loyalty and commitment to another. *Philia* is what binds friends and communities together. There is *Storge*. This is the love that binds family together, such as the love of a parent and child or close siblings. It is a love of deep connection which is not always limited to family. Finally, there is *Agape*. This is the highest form of love. *Agape* is unconditional, selfless, and even self-sacrificing. It expresses deep affection and concern without an expectation of return.

The word for love that St. Paul intentionally uses in I Cor.13 is *Agape*. Paul intentional redefines the word in order to deepen its meaning. The kind of love Paul has in mind is a divine love that only God can fully accomplish. Because this kind of divine *Agape* can only come from God, we can only see it in a mirror dimly until we meet God face to face. For Paul, the life of faith involves learning, maturing and growing in the *Agape* love that only that comes from God. As we are learning this new divine *Agape* love from God, it then deepens our expression of *Agape* love to others.

This Valentine's Day, as we pick out cards and honor our loved ones, let us celebrate *Eros*, *Philia* and *Agape* love; but most importantly let us remember that the *Agape* love we need more than any other is the divine love of God.

Love and Peace,
Pastor Matt



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY - FEBRUARY 2, 9 AND 16 AT 7:00 P.M.

Thursday Night Study will resume on **February 2nd at 7:00 p.m.** We will study the Sermon on the Mount which starts in chapter 5 and continues through chapters 6 and 7 of the Gospel of Matthew. We will study one chapter a week on February 2nd, 9th and 16th. Thursday Night Bible Study will then take another break through the season of Lent, during which we will be having our midweek Lenten soup supper and services on Thursdays for five weeks. Our next Thursday night Bible Study will be after Holy Week and Easter on April 13th. Thank you to everyone who submitted study ideas. We have several interesting suggestions to us guide this Spring.

WE L♥VE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School students will be celebrating God's love in February, beginning with a day of fun in the theme of LOVE. We'll make time to create a craft or two and describe the many ways we feel God's love shown to each of us. In fact, we'll be sharing that love with the congregation on Sunday February 12. We'll continue by learning more about Jesus' teachings in our upcoming lessons, as we follow more Bible stories in our *Holy Moly* videos and lesson books. It's fun learning together at Sunday School!



FEBRUARY 26 - CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday, **February 26** we will have **one service at 9:00 a.m.**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the service at **10:00 a.m.**

Please plan to attend so that we make quorum and be able to conduct the business of the Church.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, please plan to attend via zoom.

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

Meeting ID: 884 7671 6384 Pass code: 083867

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88476716384?pwd=ZkZ5SzY0RkZlN3ppY205Y29qZEQrdz09>

CHURCH COUNCIL OPEN POSITIONS

Advent's Church Council currently has three open positions. These are all positions where the chairperson works with the assistance of the Church Council.

1. The **Evangelism Chairperson** identifies prospective members and encourages them to unite with the congregation and will also reach out to current members. The chairperson also tries to find ways to have Advent connect to the local community and other churches.
2. **Youth Coordinator** identifies and coordinates group activities for our youth. The committee assists in developing and maintaining programs that promote the special needs of personal growth and spiritual development for youth.
3. The **Congregation Life Chairperson** helps plan and implement fellowship/community activities, including special events and fellowship time/refreshments after church services.

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 are interested or have any questions.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will be having Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday, **February 22 at Noon and 7:00 p.m.** in person and online. We will also be having mid week Lenten Services throughout five weeks of Lent on Thursdays.

Ash Wednesday 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 **1:00 p.m.** on Ash Wednesday for Noon service and **8 p.m.** for the 7:00 p.m. service: <https://www.adventrichboro.org>

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

Zoom:

Smart device/Computer instructions- Click on the links listed below for the Noon Service and 7:00 p.m. Service.

Phone instructions: Call 1-646-558-8656

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

Noon Ash Wednesday Service

Meeting ID: 841 9863 4613 Pass code: 177117

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84198634613?pwd=NjJBdkhYMjlBRkRrY1JJZlB3SVZMZz09>

[BdkhYMjlBRkRrY1JJZlB3SVZMZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84198634613?pwd=NjJBdkhYMjlBRkRrY1JJZlB3SVZMZz09)

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Meeting ID: 818 0965 8781 Pass code: 403537

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81809658781?pwd=eEFKQ1NOa1lHV2FsWENDcExuWXArZz09>

[0a1lHV2FsWENDcExuWXArZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81809658781?pwd=eEFKQ1NOa1lHV2FsWENDcExuWXArZz09)



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES THURSDAYS MARCH 2 - MARCH 30

Beneath the Cross of Jesus is the theme for worship this season of Lent. We live our lives beneath the cross of Jesus, beneath God's manifold love and grace that reach to us even from Calvary. Based on the hymn "Beneath the cross of Jesus" (ELW 338), this series explores what it means for us to abide at the foot of the cross, to cling to the rock of our salvation, to dwell in the house of the Lord, and to confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness.

Services will be held in person and online this year **Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m., March 2 through March 30.**

Mid week Lenten Worship 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. While using Zoom, please mute yourself when you are not speaking.

Meeting ID: 864 7772 3021

Pass code: 443360

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86477723021?pwd=cEFHd2hxY0xMRVJPT2hCQjQ5MnF2Zz09>



MID WEEK LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Gather at church during the season of Lent for soup and fellowship before the mid week Lenten worship service. The Soup Suppers will begin at **6:00 p.m.** in the social hall on **Thursdays** March 2 through March 30. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

SOCIAL MINISTRY



Our main focus this year has been providing food and gift cards to the families who rely on the Warminster Food Bank to help sustain a healthy lifestyle. The need has grown substantially since the cost of everything has continued to increase. We and other churches are the backbone of our operation. This year Advent donated 1,578 lbs of food, \$3,104 in monetary contributions, and \$1,605 in gift cards during the holiday season!! Rhona Slawter and I are fortunate to be able to see firsthand the gratitude of the families!

Thank-you to all who have helped our neighbors in need.

Nancy Sclight/Social Ministry



CHOIR AND PRAISE BAND PRACTICES RESUME

Practices of the Choir and Praise Band resume on **Wednesdays: 6:30 Praise Band, 7:15 Choir.** All are welcome and encouraged to join, no prior experience is necessary. Please see Mike Dettra, Music and Choir director or Pastor Matt for more details.



PING PONG TUESDAY NIGHTS

We are playing Ping Pong weekly on Tuesday nights, starting at **6:30 pm** and ending around 8 pm.

All are invited. No equipment is required. Please contact Ray Heiss if you plan to give it a try (rayheiss1@gmail.com).



MEN'S BREAKFAST SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Men's breakfast will take place Saturday, February 11 at 8:30 am. We start serving at 8:30 a.m., coffee is ready and waiting at 7:30. Dave

JOYFUL CELEBRATION ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS MORNING



Vocal Choir Christmas Eve



The beautiful, fragrant and welcoming Christmas Tree of 2022



Christmas Morning



Children's sermon



AMAZON SMILE ENDING

After nearly a decade, Amazon Smile Foundation will no longer support buyers chosen charities. With more than 1 million charities globally to choose from, Amazon has realized that their impact to help is spread too thin. They realize they will have a more significant and lasting impact if they invest in specific areas and focus efforts in the communities where their employees live and work. This means that Advent will no longer receive the quarterly disbursements from the congregation's purchases through Amazon Smile. Please consider making any purchases you are contemplating before February 20th when the program will end. Please contact Gail Oines at 215-534-8218 if you have any questions.



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.

For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to: www.warminsterfoodbank.org.



ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

There are numerous dates available for 2023 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 9:30 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 Jobes 215-355-4149.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church in Philadelphia who does vital ministry in North Philadelphia. A sign up sheet is found on the table in the narthex near the entrance to the sanctuary. The cost to support the Mission week is \$25.00. There are openings available through the end of the year.



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.

FINANCE / STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

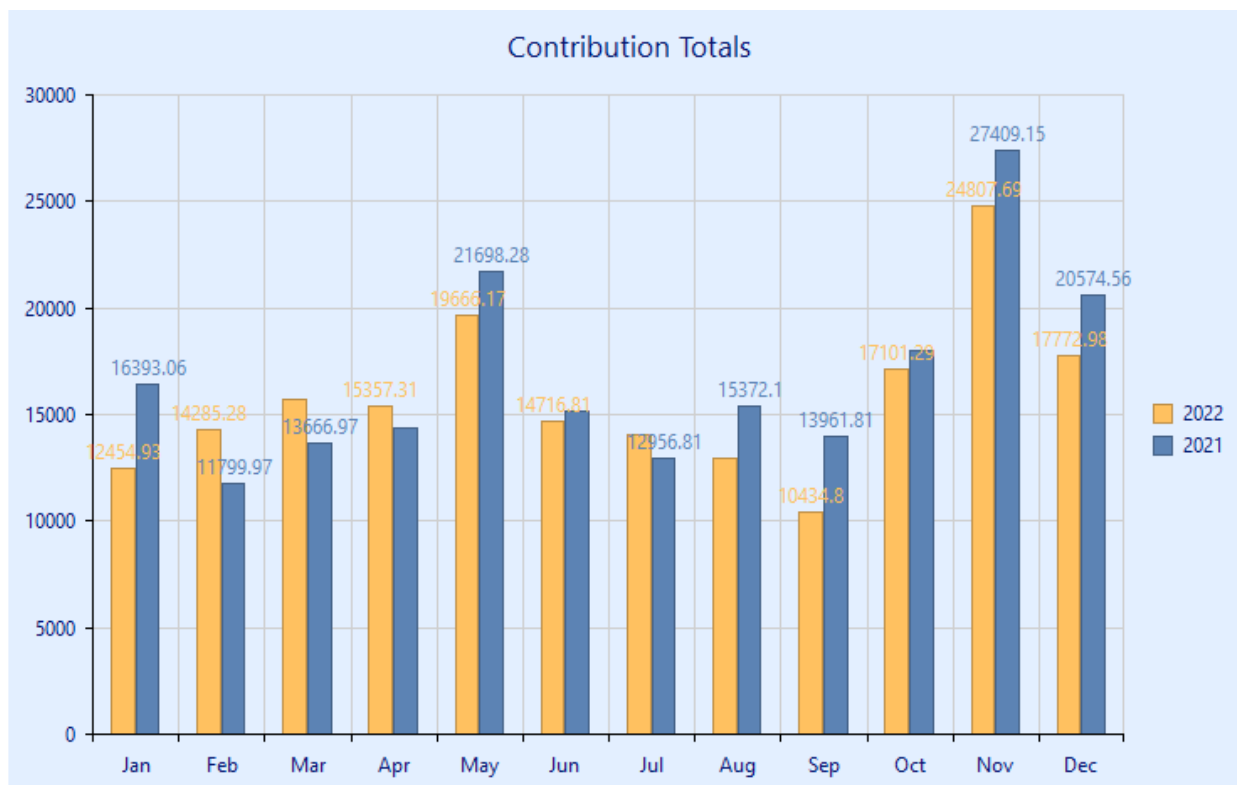
The Finance Committee and Church Council thank you for your financial support in 2022! For calendar year 2022, expenses exceeded revenue by \$38,510. Included in this deficit were some unexpected expenses, as well as the purchase of some capital items. However, we had a good November and December, and church attendance has picked up. Therefore, I'm optimistic that we will have a better year ahead.

Advent is grateful for your regular offerings, whether or not you're able to be present at church services. Salaries and overall administrative expenses increased due to the pandemic and inflation, and Advent was able to cover the deficit through our savings and investments. For those who are able, additional offerings to the "General" category on your offering envelopes in 2023 would be much appreciated. Please continue to support the other offering categories.

Benevolence offerings for 2022 were \$12,986, an increase of 47% from the previous year. Advent's members and friends continued to provide financial support to those in need. Thank you!

Thank you to Pastor Matt for his spiritual leadership and to everyone who volunteers their time and talent by coordinating programs and participating in the various ministries we have to offer. We are blessed!

Tony Gryszka
Finance Committee/Stewardship Chairperson



Income for December 2022

Benevolence (LWR, Mission Support, etc.)	\$ 1,100.00
General Fund	\$13,916.98
Mortgage Fund	\$ 2,756.00

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. 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
FEBRUARY 2023 SCHEDULE

8:00 A.M. LAY READERS

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

2/05	Open	Hanna McCollum
2/12	Rose Herbert	Rose Herbert
2/19	Open	Open

9:00 A.M. ONE SERVICE

2/26	Dave Elkin	Janice Hoffman
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9:30 A.M. LAY READERS

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

2/05	Jennifer McQuiggan	Jennifer McQuiggan
2/12	Gail Oines	Gail Oines
2/19	John Flint	Joyce Heiss

OUR TECH CREW

Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra, Tony Gryszka, Gary Zimmerman

ALTAR GUILD

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

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey Savchuck, Nancy Sclight, Rhona Slawter



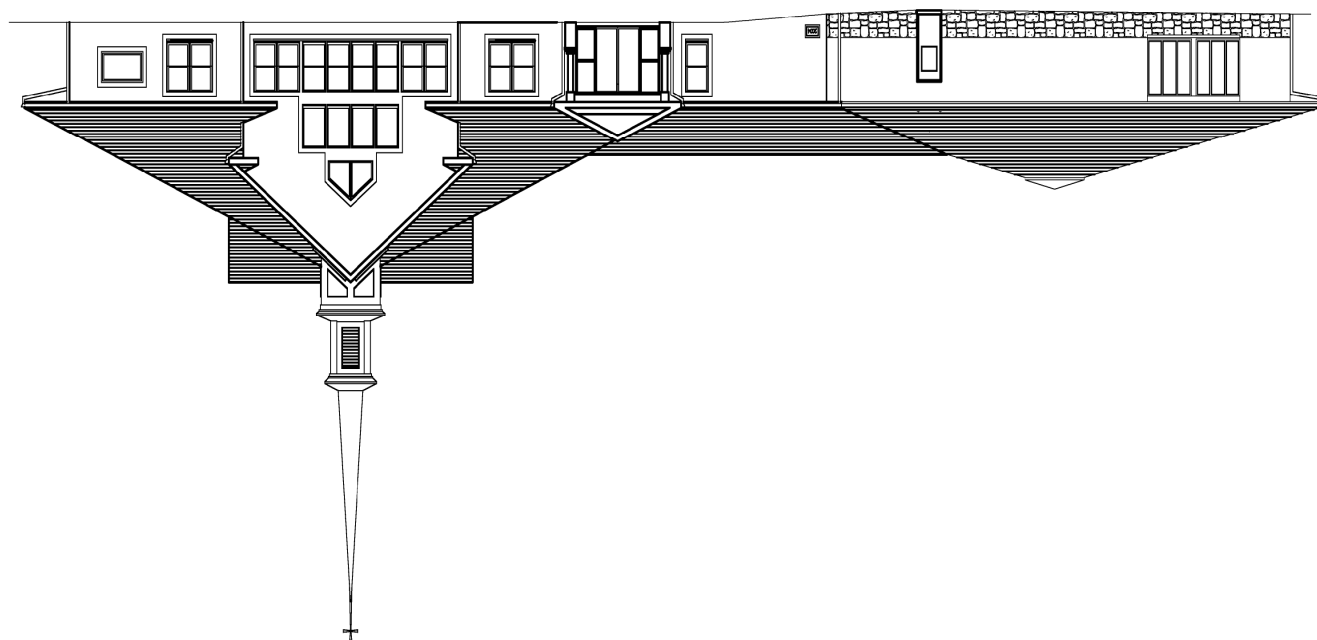
FEBRUARY

5	Mike Sitler	13	Nicole Shearer	24	Stephen Anderson
9	David Frost	15	Sarah Rilling		
	Marion Schmidt	18	Julianna Ward		

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

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Vocal Choir	2 7:00 pm Bible Study 	3 7:30 pm A.A. Step Mtg	4 10:00 pm - Noon Stitch Club
5 5th Sunday after Epiphany 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: George Henry 10:45 am Adult Bible Study	6 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting	7 6:30 – 8:00 pm Ping Pong	8 6:30 pm Praise Team 7:15 pm Vocal Choir	9 7:00 pm Bible Study	10 .	11 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am- Noon Stitch Club
12 6th Sunday After Epiphany 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: Tony & Jeanne Gryszka 10:45 am Church Council Meeting	13 7:30 Ppm A.A. Open Meeting	14 6:30 – 8:00 pm Ping Pong 	15 6:30 am Praise Team 7:15 am Vocal Choir	16 7:00 PM Bible Study	17 7:30 am A.A. Step Mtg.	18 10:00 am- Noon Stitch Club
19 Transfiguration Sunday 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	20 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting 	21 6:30 – 8:00 pm Ping Pong	22 Ash Wednesday Services at 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm	23 7:00 pm Bible Study	24 7:30 pm A.A. Step Mtg.	25 10:00 am- Noon Stitch Club
26 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 am one service 10:00 Annual Congregational Meeting 10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open	27 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting	28 6:30 – 8:00 pm Ping Pong				



Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Address Service Requested