

THE ADVENTURE - 2024



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.



Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen, Pastor
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529

www.adventrichboro.org

e-mail

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.



SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

JANUARY 7

BAPTISM 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: Open
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 14

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL HONORING COUNCIL STEPPING DOWN

- 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

JANUARY 21

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 28

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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 18

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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 11

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

FEBRUARY 22 Mid Week Lenten Service

FEBRUARY 22-Mid-Week Soup Supper

FEBRUARY 25

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Congregational Meeting

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



FEBRUARY 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service at Noon and 7:00 pm

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services 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.

ZOOM INFORMATION

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=dnVRTIRGamJQVXNZbENIVDJTT0pnUT09>

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=aGErSFNIbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktIQT09>

Topic: Congregational Meeting

10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>

Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14

12:00 pm Service

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

Topic: Ash Wednesday Evening Service

Time: Feb 14, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>

PASTOR MATT'S JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

BOOK OF ACTS BIBLE STUDY

Beginning the first full week of Lent, the week of February 19, we will be starting the first congregation wide activity of the Strategic Mission Plan. We will be doing the **Book of Acts Bible Study!** "Congregation wide" means we want everyone in the congregation to participate.

Why should you participate? This Bible Study is life changing. The season of Lent is about recognizing and responding our need for God's love. The Book of Acts is about how God's love is active in the lives of Jesus' followers and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts Bible study will help to you recognize God's love active in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do this as a congregation? In many ways, the Book of Acts is more relevant today in informing the Church on how to be the Church than it has been for a long time. It can be argued that since the Roman Empire there has not been a world economy so extensive until now. It can be argued that no society has infused communities with so much multiculturalism as the Roman Empire until ours. Today, the Church struggles to adjust to no longer sitting at the center power and influence in western culture. The Church has not sat so far outside the center of our culture since the days of the early Church. The Church in the Book of Acts was faced with challenges and internal debates that threatened its very survival: what shall our mission field be, what religious rules of that past still apply to today, what does it mean to be faithful stewards of the resources of the Church, including money. Though the names and details of the specifics have changed, it can be argued that these are the most pressing issues for the Church today. The Book of Acts demonstrates the Church faces all these challenges through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Advent Lutheran Church moves forward, we too need the power of the Holy Spirit. The first step, to tap into that power more fully, is that we need to hone our ability to see God's love already active all around us.

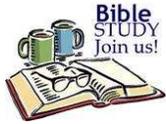
Multiple opportunities to be involved! Participate in the manner that best suits your needs and schedule.

- Sign up for a **Study Group** at a parishioner's home. *
- Sign up with a **Study Buddy** and meet in-person, online or by phone at your convenience. *
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** in-person at 9AM beginning February 18th, in-person.
- **Zoom at Noon** with Pastor Matt beginning February 20th.
- **Email Bible Study** with a YouTube video clip, at your leisure beginning February 20th.
- At the **Lenten Mid-Week Services** beginning February 21st at 7PM, online or in-person.
- *Sign-ups lists are in the church narthex beginning January 28th.*

May God bless you this coming Lenten Service as we explore God's loving activity in our church and in our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Matt



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Night Bible Study is taking a break through the season of Lent, during which we will be having our midweek Lenten soup supper and services on Thursdays for five weeks. You are encouraged to participate in the mid-week Lenten service where we will be doing the congregation wide Book of Acts Bible Study.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

On Sunday, **February 25** we will have **one worship 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.

Topic: Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will have two Ash Wednesday services on **February 14, at Noon and 7:00 p.m.**, in person and online.

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 8:00 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.

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
12:00 pm Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES,
THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 21

“*Book of Acts*” 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., February 21 through March 21.

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.

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm
Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

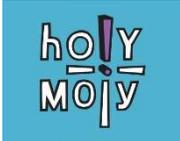
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>



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** February 22 through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 14



Sunday School classes will resume on **January 14** for the Epiphany lesson. We will then follow the Old Testament series of lessons we had begun in the fall. In February, we will celebrate God’s love and, as Ash Wednesday approaches, we will begin our Lenten lessons.

Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in these lively lessons in the **Holy Moly** curriculum. Students meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** to attend the first part of the worship service, then proceed to the classroom with their teachers following the children’s sermon. We invite you to attend and have fun learning with friends at Sunday School!

Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or they may be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office with any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.

Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 A.M. JANUARY 13 AND FEBRUARY 10

We have not made a decision on the menu for January 13th as we want to celebrate either Dr. Martin Luther (King) day or the Eagles stumble into the playoffs. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

February is an easier choice for menu as we will be celebrating Ground Hog Day. Don't ask about the menu. Saturday Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

Dave



INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30

We welcome new and previous members of church council who will be installed to start a new term: Kathryn Dettra, John Flint, Cindy Frey, George Henry, Jennifer McQuiggan, Gail Oines, Pastor Matt, Lynn Roccograndi, Mike Sitler, and Gary Zimmerman. We also will give recognition to Tony Gryszka, Nancy Hill and Nancy Slight, whose terms on council are finished. We thank them for their service.



SPAGHETTI DINNER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Come to Advent Lutheran church for a delicious Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner hosted by the Strategic Mission Team. The event will take place on the evening of Saturday, January 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit the Warminster Food Bank. Suggested offering is \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. To go meals will be available.



BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place January 30, 2024 from **2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card. Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1- 800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037. Thank you for your support.



GRATITUDE FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Warminster Food Bank is grateful to Advent for the generous donations of food, monetary donations and gift cards through the year. This year, Advent and our community have donated 1528 lbs. of food. \$2,056.00 in checks received and \$1,275.00 in gift cards!

Please continue donating whatever you can each month. Blue tote bags are available in the narthex. Food may be brought on Sunday and whenever the church office is open, or you can deposit your bags in the outdoor bench anytime. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank-you for your continued support of this important mission.

Nancy Slight, Social Ministry



PING PONG- TUESDAYS AT 6:30

All are welcome to join us for 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. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



PRAISE BAND and VOCAL CHOIR

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals soon. Please check the Sunday bulletin for updates. Praise Band rehearses from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, and the Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 p.m. If you would like to share your musical talent, please see Mike Dettra for more details.

CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ADVENT

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2023

Advent's annual Christmas Brunch was held on December 3 after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. All 35 attendees enjoyed the delicious food, fellowship and festive Christmas music played by three of Advent's talented musicians: Mike Dettra, Ray Heiss and Mike Sitler. Thank you to all who worked to set-up the event and to all who provided the wonderful variety of food!



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

Advent's Sunday School students reenacted the event of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as a children's sermon on December 17. They portrayed the angel, Mary and Joseph to bring us the message of God's gift to all. We thank Timothy, Julianna and Emma Ward for their wonderful acting and singing!



CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT AT ADVENT

Mike Dettra and his talented musicians shared Christmas joy at Advent on Friday evening, December 15. With a variety of instruments, with singing and Irish dance, the audience had a wonderful evening of music. Many thanks to all of the talented performers for inspiring us all!



PASTOR MATT'S BIRTHDAY CAKES

Pastor Matt and his birthday were celebrated at Advent at least twice in December. He plans to maintain his youthful side for many years to come . . . Best wishes, Pastor Matt!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve worship was held at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The morning service recognized the last Sunday of Advent season, while the evening service brought us the season of Christmas. The vocal choir sang at each one and our guest trumpet player added fanfare to the joyous evening celebration.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through December is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.



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.



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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR CHARITY IS A GREAT IDEA!

Recycling can tabs for charity is a great idea! If you bring them in, we'll drop them off. Look for marked containers in the narthex, located on the shelf above the coat rack. No cans, please – just tabs! The tab collection program began at **Ronald McDonald House Charities** of the Philadelphia Region in 1997. Since the inception of the program, **RMHC** has collected over 350 tons of tabs and over \$170,000! See RMHCphilly.org.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which 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 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., son of Cindy Frey, 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
- Specialist Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, NY.

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

Thank you.



JANUARY

8 Linda Gordon
10 Katie Dettra
12 Jim Hollingsworth
14 Nancy Sclight
18 Benicia Meyers
22 Colleen Morrison
26 Keith Wills
27 Kathy Sitler

FEBRUARY

5 Mike Sitler
9 David Frost
Marion Schmidt
13 Nicole Shearer
18 Julianna Ward
19 Kali Frey
24 Stephen Anderson
26 John Flint

ALTAR GUILD

Hannah McCollum, Gail
Oines, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

OUR TECH CREW

Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra,
Tony Gryszka,
Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey
Savchuck, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

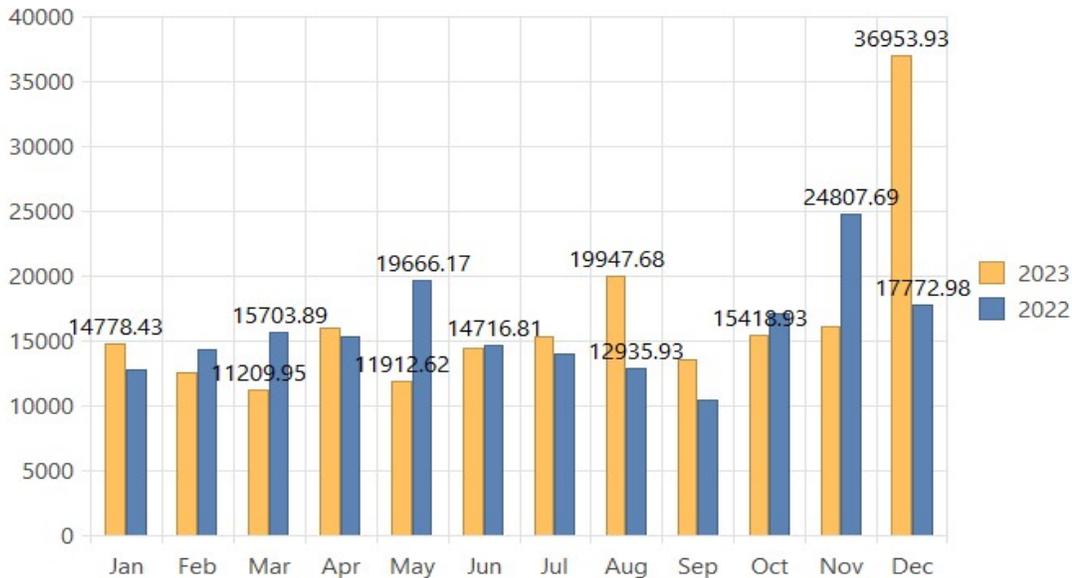
FINANCE REPORT

Thank you for your financial support! We had a great month in December, as year-end offerings enabled us to decrease the deficit by over \$16,000. Although the year-to-date deficit ended up at approximately \$27,000, Advent's investment portfolio increased in value by well over that amount. My detailed financial report will be included in Advent's 2023 Annual Report, which will be shared with the congregation on February 25, 2024, at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee, Chairperson

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report For December 2023

	Rec'vd for Dec 2023	Budget for Dec 2023
General Fund	\$31,385.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$4,943	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$83	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$542	
Total	\$36,953.93	\$19,313.00

	Rec'vd YTD 1/1-12/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/23
General Fund	\$158,639.72	\$207,372.00
Mortgage	\$30,898.00	\$22,776.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$791.00	\$1,608.00
Other Benevolence	\$8,090.00	
Total	\$198,418.72	\$231,756.00

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, 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

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	6
7 <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 Fellowship-Open	8 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	9 6:30 PM Ping Pong	10	11 Bible Study via zoom	12 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
14 <u>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</u> <u>Installation of Church Council</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16 6:30 PM Ping Pong	17	18	19 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	20
21 <u>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23 6:30 PM Ping Pong	24	25	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	27 6:00 PM - -8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 
28 <u>4th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30  2:00 – 7:00 PM Blood Drive	31			

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	3
4 5TH Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30	5 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6 6:30 PM Ping Pong	7	8	8 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	10 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
11 Transfiguration of our Lord 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	12 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	13 6:30 PM Ping Pong	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Services: Noon & 7:00 p.m. 	15	16 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	17
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25 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:00 PM Congregational meeting	26 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	27 6:30 PM Ping Pong	28	29 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services		30

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FEBRUARY 18

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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 11

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

FEBRUARY 22 Mid Week Lenten Service

FEBRUARY 22-Mid-Week Soup Supper

FEBRUARY 25

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Congregational Meeting

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



FEBRUARY 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service at Noon and 7:00 pm

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services 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.

ZOOM INFORMATION

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=dnVRTIRGamJQVXNZbENIVDJTT0pnUT09>

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=aGErSFNlbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktIQT09>

Topic: Congregational Meeting

10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>

Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14

12:00 pm Service

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

Topic: Ash Wednesday Evening Service

Time: Feb 14, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>

PASTOR MATT'S JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

BOOK OF ACTS BIBLE STUDY

Beginning the first full week of Lent, the week of February 19, we will be starting the first congregation wide activity of the Strategic Mission Plan. We will be doing the **Book of Acts Bible Study!** "Congregation wide" means we want everyone in the congregation to participate.

Why should you participate? This Bible Study is life changing. The season of Lent is about recognizing and responding our need for God's love. The Book of Acts is about how God's love is active in the lives of Jesus' followers and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts Bible study will help to you recognize God's love active in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do this as a congregation? In many ways, the Book of Acts is more relevant today in informing the Church on how to be the Church than it has been for a long time. It can be argued that since the Roman Empire there has not been a world economy so extensive until now. It can be argued that no society has infused communities with so much multiculturalism as the Roman Empire until ours. Today, the Church struggles to adjust to no longer sitting at the center power and influence in western culture. The Church has not sat so far outside the center of our culture since the days of the early Church. The Church in the Book of Acts was faced with challenges and internal debates that threatened its very survival: what shall our mission field be, what religious rules of that past still apply to today, what does it mean to be faithful stewards of the resources of the Church, including money. Though the names and details of the specifics have changed, it can be argued that these are the most pressing issues for the Church today. The Book of Acts demonstrates the Church faces all these challenges through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Advent Lutheran Church moves forward, we too need the power of the Holy Spirit. The first step, to tap into that power more fully, is that we need to hone our ability to see God's love already active all around us.

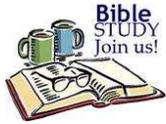
Multiple opportunities to be involved! Participate in the manner that best suits your needs and schedule.

- Sign up for a **Study Group** at a parishioner's home. *
- Sign up with a **Study Buddy** and meet in-person, online or by phone at your convenience. *
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** in-person at 9AM beginning February 18th, in-person.
- **Zoom at Noon** with Pastor Matt beginning February 20th.
- **Email Bible Study** with a YouTube video clip, at your leisure beginning February 20th.
- At the **Lenten Mid-Week Services** beginning February 21st at 7PM, online or in-person.
- *Sign-ups lists are in the church narthex beginning January 28th.*

May God bless you this coming Lenten Service as we explore God's loving activity in our church and in our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Matt



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Night Bible Study is taking a break through the season of Lent, during which we will be having our midweek Lenten soup supper and services on Thursdays for five weeks. You are encouraged to participate in the mid-week Lenten service where we will be doing the congregation wide Book of Acts Bible Study.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

On Sunday, **February 25** we will have **one worship 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.

Topic: Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will have two Ash Wednesday services on **February 14, at Noon and 7:00 p.m.**, in person and online.

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 8:00 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.

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
12:00 pm Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

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MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES,
THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 21

“*Book of Acts*” 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., February 21 through March 21.

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.

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm
Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>



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** February 22 through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 14



Sunday School classes will resume on **January 14** for the Epiphany lesson. We will then follow the Old Testament series of lessons we had begun in the fall. In February, we will celebrate God’s love and, as Ash Wednesday approaches, we will begin our Lenten lessons.

Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in these lively lessons in the **Holy Moly** curriculum. Students meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** to attend the first part of the worship service, then proceed to the classroom with their teachers following the children’s sermon. We invite you to attend and have fun learning with friends at Sunday School!

Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or they may be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office with any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.

Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 A.M. JANUARY 13 AND FEBRUARY 10

We have not made a decision on the menu for January 13th as we want to celebrate either Dr. Martin Luther (King) day or the Eagles stumble into the playoffs. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

February is an easier choice for menu as we will be celebrating Ground Hog Day. Don't ask about the menu. Saturday Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m. **Dave**



INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30

We welcome new and previous members of church council who will be installed to start a new term: Kathryn Dettra, John Flint, Cindy Frey, George Henry, Jennifer McQuiggan, Gail Oines, Pastor Matt, Lynn Roccograndi, Mike Sitler, and Gary Zimmerman. We also will give recognition to Tony Gryszka, Nancy Hill and Nancy Slight, whose terms on council are finished. We thank them for their service.



SPAGHETTI DINNER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Come to Advent Lutheran church for a delicious Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner hosted by the Strategic Mission Team. The event will take place on the evening of Saturday, January 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit the Warminster Food Bank. Suggested offering is \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. To go meals will be available.



BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place January 30, 2024 from **2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card. Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1- 800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037. Thank you for your support.



GRATITUDE FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Warminster Food Bank is grateful to Advent for the generous donations of food, monetary donations and gift cards through the year. This year, Advent and our community have donated 1528 lbs. of food. \$2,056.00 in checks received and \$1,275.00 in gift cards!

Please continue donating whatever you can each month. Blue tote bags are available in the narthex. Food may be brought on Sunday and whenever the church office is open, or you can deposit your bags in the outdoor bench anytime. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank-you for your continued support of this important mission. **Nancy Slight, Social Ministry**



PING PONG- TUESDAYS AT 6:30

All are welcome to join us for 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. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



PRAISE BAND and VOCAL CHOIR

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals soon. Please check the Sunday bulletin for updates. Praise Band rehearses from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, and the Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 p.m. If you would like to share your musical talent, please see Mike Dettra for more details.

CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ADVENT

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2023

Advent's annual Christmas Brunch was held on December 3 after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. All 35 attendees enjoyed the delicious food, fellowship and festive Christmas music played by three of Advent's talented musicians: Mike Dettra, Ray Heiss and Mike Sitler. Thank you to all who worked to set-up the event and to all who provided the wonderful variety of food!



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

Advent's Sunday School students reenacted the event of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as a children's sermon on December 17. They portrayed the angel, Mary and Joseph to bring us the message of God's gift to all. We thank Timothy, Julianna and Emma Ward for their wonderful acting and singing!



CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT AT ADVENT

Mike Dettra and his talented musicians shared Christmas joy at Advent on Friday evening, December 15. With a variety of instruments, with singing and Irish dance, the audience had a wonderful evening of music. Many thanks to all of the talented performers for inspiring us all!



PASTOR MATT'S BIRTHDAY CAKES

Pastor Matt and his birthday were celebrated at Advent at least twice in December. He plans to maintain his youthful side for many years to come . . . Best wishes, Pastor Matt!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve worship was held at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The morning service recognized the last Sunday of Advent season, while the evening service brought us the season of Christmas. The vocal choir sang at each one and our guest trumpet player added fanfare to the joyous evening celebration.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through December is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.



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.



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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR CHARITY IS A GREAT IDEA!

Recycling can tabs for charity is a great idea! If you bring them in, we'll drop them off. Look for marked containers in the narthex, located on the shelf above the coat rack. No cans, please – just tabs! The tab collection program began at **Ronald McDonald House Charities** of the Philadelphia Region in 1997. Since the inception of the program, **RMHC** has collected over 350 tons of tabs and over \$170,000! See RMHCphilly.org.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which 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 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., son of Cindy Frey, 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
- Specialist Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, NY.

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

Thank you.



JANUARY

8 Linda Gordon
10 Katie Dettra
12 Jim Hollingsworth
14 Nancy Sclight
18 Benicia Meyers
22 Colleen Morrison
26 Keith Wills
27 Kathy Sitler

FEBRUARY

5 Mike Sitler
9 David Frost
Marion Schmidt
13 Nicole Shearer
18 Julianna Ward
19 Kali Frey
24 Stephen Anderson
26 John Flint

ALTAR GUILD

Hannah McCollum, Gail
Oines, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

OUR TECH CREW

Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra,
Tony Gryszka,
Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey
Savchuck, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

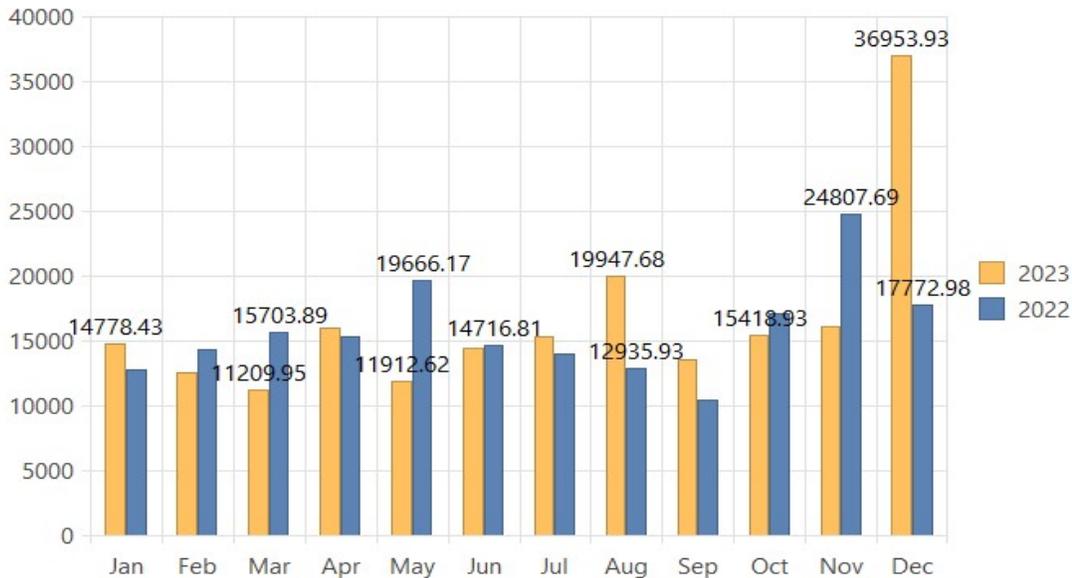
FINANCE REPORT

Thank you for your financial support! We had a great month in December, as year-end offerings enabled us to decrease the deficit by over \$16,000. Although the year-to-date deficit ended up at approximately \$27,000, Advent's investment portfolio increased in value by well over that amount. My detailed financial report will be included in Advent's 2023 Annual Report, which will be shared with the congregation on February 25, 2024, at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee, Chairperson

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report For December 2023

	Rec'vd for Dec 2023	Budget for Dec 2023
General Fund	\$31,385.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$4,943	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$83	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$542	
Total	\$36,953.93	\$19,313.00

	Recv'd YTD 1/1-12/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/23
General Fund	\$158,639.72	\$207,372.00
Mortgage	\$30,898.00	\$22,776.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$791.00	\$1,608.00
Other Benevolence	\$8,090.00	
Total	\$198,418.72	\$231,756.00

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, 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

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	6
7 <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 Fellowship-Open	8 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	9 6:30 PM Ping Pong	10	11 Bible Study via zoom	12 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
14 <u>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</u> <u>Installation of Church Council</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16 6:30 PM Ping Pong	17	18	19 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	20
21 <u>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23 6:30 PM Ping Pong	24	25	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	27 6:00 PM - -8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 
28 <u>4th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30  2:00 – 7:00 PM Blood Drive	31			

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	3
4 5TH Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30	5 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6 6:30 PM Ping Pong	7	8	8 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	10 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
11 Transfiguration of our Lord 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	12 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	13 6:30 PM Ping Pong	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Services: Noon & 7:00 p.m. 	15	16 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	17
18 1st Sunday of Lent 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	19 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	20 6:30 PM Ping Pong	21	22 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services	23 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	
25 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:00 PM Congregational meeting	26 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	27 6:30 PM Ping Pong	28	29 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services		30

THE ADVENTURE - 2024



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.



Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen, Pastor
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529
www.adventrichboro.org
e-mail
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.



SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

JANUARY 7

BAPTISM 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: Open
- 10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 14

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL
HONORING COUNCIL STEPPING DOWN**

- 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

JANUARY 21

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 28

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
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FEBRUARY 22 Mid Week Lenten Service

FEBRUARY 22-Mid-Week Soup Supper

FEBRUARY 25

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Congregational Meeting

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Beginning the first full week of Lent, the week of February 19, we will be starting the first congregation wide activity of the Strategic Mission Plan. We will be doing the **Book of Acts Bible Study!** "Congregation wide" means we want everyone in the congregation to participate.

Why should you participate? This Bible Study is life changing. The season of Lent is about recognizing and responding our need for God's love. The Book of Acts is about how God's love is active in the lives of Jesus' followers and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts Bible study will help to you recognize God's love active in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do this as a congregation? In many ways, the Book of Acts is more relevant today in informing the Church on how to be the Church than it has been for a long time. It can be argued that since the Roman Empire there has not been a world economy so extensive until now. It can be argued that no society has infused communities with so much multiculturalism as the Roman Empire until ours. Today, the Church struggles to adjust to no longer sitting at the center power and influence in western culture. The Church has not sat so far outside the center of our culture since the days of the early Church. The Church in the Book of Acts was faced with challenges and internal debates that threatened its very survival: what shall our mission field be, what religious rules of that past still apply to today, what does it mean to be faithful stewards of the resources of the Church, including money. Though the names and details of the specifics have changed, it can be argued that these are the most pressing issues for the Church today. The Book of Acts demonstrates the Church faces all these challenges through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Advent Lutheran Church moves forward, we too need the power of the Holy Spirit. The first step, to tap into that power more fully, is that we need to hone our ability to see God's love already active all around us.

Multiple opportunities to be involved! Participate in the manner that best suits your needs and schedule.

- Sign up for a **Study Group** at a parishioner's home. *
- Sign up with a **Study Buddy** and meet in-person, online or by phone at your convenience. *
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** in-person at 9AM beginning February 18th, in-person.
- **Zoom at Noon** with Pastor Matt beginning February 20th.
- **Email Bible Study** with a YouTube video clip, at your leisure beginning February 20th.
- At the **Lenten Mid-Week Services** beginning February 21st at 7PM, online or in-person.
- *Sign-ups lists are in the church narthex beginning January 28th.*

May God bless you this coming Lenten Service as we explore God's loving activity in our church and in our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Matt



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Night Bible Study is taking a break through the season of Lent, during which we will be having our midweek Lenten soup supper and services on Thursdays for five weeks. You are encouraged to participate in the mid-week Lenten service where we will be doing the congregation wide Book of Acts Bible Study.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

On Sunday, **February 25** we will have **one worship 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.

Topic: Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will have two Ash Wednesday services on **February 14, at Noon and 7:00 p.m.**, in person and online.

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 8:00 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.

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
12:00 pm Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES,
THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 21

“*Book of Acts*” 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., February 21 through March 21.

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.

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm
Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

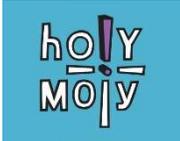
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>



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** February 22 through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 14



Sunday School classes will resume on **January 14** for the Epiphany lesson. We will then follow the Old Testament series of lessons we had begun in the fall. In February, we will celebrate God’s love and, as Ash Wednesday approaches, we will begin our Lenten lessons.

Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in these lively lessons in the **Holy Moly** curriculum. Students meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** to attend the first part of the worship service, then proceed to the classroom with their teachers following the children’s sermon. We invite you to attend and have fun learning with friends at Sunday School!

Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or they may be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office with any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.

Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 A.M. JANUARY 13 AND FEBRUARY 10

We have not made a decision on the menu for January 13th as we want to celebrate either Dr. Martin Luther (King) day or the Eagles stumble into the playoffs. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

February is an easier choice for menu as we will be celebrating Ground Hog Day. Don't ask about the menu. Saturday Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

Dave



INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30

We welcome new and previous members of church council who will be installed to start a new term: Kathryn Dettra, John Flint, Cindy Frey, George Henry, Jennifer McQuiggan, Gail Oines, Pastor Matt, Lynn Roccograndi, Mike Sitler, and Gary Zimmerman. We also will give recognition to Tony Gryszka, Nancy Hill and Nancy Slight, whose terms on council are finished. We thank them for their service.



SPAGHETTI DINNER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Come to Advent Lutheran church for a delicious Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner hosted by the Strategic Mission Team. The event will take place on the evening of Saturday, January 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit the Warminster Food Bank. Suggested offering is \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. To go meals will be available.



BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place January 30, 2024 from **2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card. Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1- 800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037. Thank you for your support.



GRATITUDE FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Warminster Food Bank is grateful to Advent for the generous donations of food, monetary donations and gift cards through the year. This year, Advent and our community have donated 1528 lbs. of food. \$2,056.00 in checks received and \$1,275.00 in gift cards!

Please continue donating whatever you can each month. Blue tote bags are available in the narthex. Food may be brought on Sunday and whenever the church office is open, or you can deposit your bags in the outdoor bench anytime. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank-you for your continued support of this important mission.
Nancy Slight, Social Ministry



PING PONG- TUESDAYS AT 6:30

All are welcome to join us for 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. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



PRAISE BAND and VOCAL CHOIR

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals soon. Please check the Sunday bulletin for updates. Praise Band rehearses from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, and the Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 p.m. If you would like to share your musical talent, please see Mike Dettra for more details.

CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ADVENT

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2023

Advent's annual Christmas Brunch was held on December 3 after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. All 35 attendees enjoyed the delicious food, fellowship and festive Christmas music played by three of Advent's talented musicians: Mike Dettra, Ray Heiss and Mike Sitler. Thank you to all who worked to set-up the event and to all who provided the wonderful variety of food!



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

Advent's Sunday School students reenacted the event of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as a children's sermon on December 17. They portrayed the angel, Mary and Joseph to bring us the message of God's gift to all. We thank Timothy, Julianna and Emma Ward for their wonderful acting and singing!



CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT AT ADVENT

Mike Dettra and his talented musicians shared Christmas joy at Advent on Friday evening, December 15. With a variety of instruments, with singing and Irish dance, the audience had a wonderful evening of music. Many thanks to all of the talented performers for inspiring us all!



PASTOR MATT'S BIRTHDAY CAKES

Pastor Matt and his birthday were celebrated at Advent at least twice in December. He plans to maintain his youthful side for many years to come . . . Best wishes, Pastor Matt!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve worship was held at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The morning service recognized the last Sunday of Advent season, while the evening service brought us the season of Christmas. The vocal choir sang at each one and our guest trumpet player added fanfare to the joyous evening celebration.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through December is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.



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.



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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR CHARITY IS A GREAT IDEA!

Recycling can tabs for charity is a great idea! If you bring them in, we'll drop them off. Look for marked containers in the narthex, located on the shelf above the coat rack. No cans, please – just tabs! The tab collection program began at **Ronald McDonald House Charities** of the Philadelphia Region in 1997. Since the inception of the program, **RMHC** has collected over 350 tons of tabs and over \$170,000! See RMHCphilly.org.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which 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 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., son of Cindy Frey, 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
Specialist Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, NY.

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

Thank you.



JANUARY

8 Linda Gordon
10 Katie Dettra
12 Jim Hollingsworth
14 Nancy Sclight
18 Benicia Meyers
22 Colleen Morrison
26 Keith Wills
27 Kathy Sitler

FEBRUARY

5 Mike Sitler
9 David Frost
Marion Schmidt
13 Nicole Shearer
18 Julianna Ward
19 Kali Frey
24 Stephen Anderson
26 John Flint

ALTAR GUILD

Hannah McCollum, Gail
Oines, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

OUR TECH CREW

Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra,
Tony Gryszka,
Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey
Savchuck, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

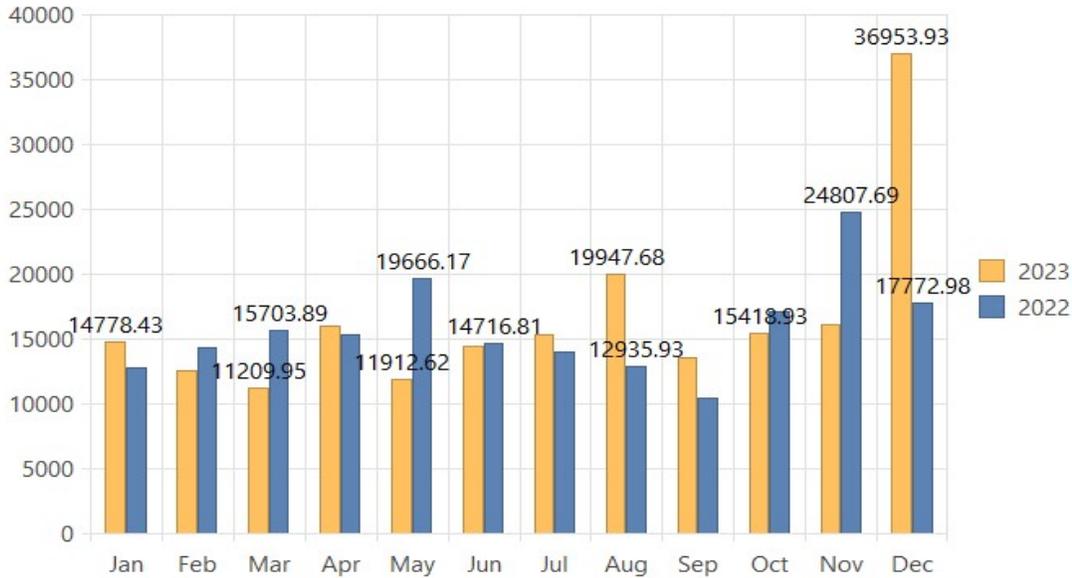
FINANCE REPORT

Thank you for your financial support! We had a great month in December, as year-end offerings enabled us to decrease the deficit by over \$16,000. Although the year-to-date deficit ended up at approximately \$27,000, Advent's investment portfolio increased in value by well over that amount. My detailed financial report will be included in Advent's 2023 Annual Report, which will be shared with the congregation on February 25, 2024, at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee, Chairperson

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report For December 2023

	Rec'vd for Dec 2023	Budget for Dec 2023
General Fund	\$31,385.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$4,943	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$83	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$542	
Total	\$36,953.93	\$19,313.00

	Rec'vd YTD 1/1-12/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/23
General Fund	\$158,639.72	\$207,372.00
Mortgage	\$30,898.00	\$22,776.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$791.00	\$1,608.00
Other Benevolence	\$8,090.00	
Total	\$198,418.72	\$231,756.00

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, 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

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	6
7 <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 Fellowship-Open	8 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	9 6:30 PM Ping Pong	10	11 Bible Study via zoom	12 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
14 <u>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</u> <u>Installation of Church Council</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16 6:30 PM Ping Pong	17	18	19 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	20
21 <u>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23 6:30 PM Ping Pong	24	25	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	27 6:00 PM - -8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 
28 <u>4th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30  2:00 – 7:00 PM Blood Drive	31			

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	3
4 5TH Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30	5 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6 6:30 PM Ping Pong	7	8	8 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	10 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
11 Transfiguration of our Lord 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	12 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	13 6:30 PM Ping Pong	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Services: Noon & 7:00 p.m. 	15	16 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	17
18 1st Sunday of Lent 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	19 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	20 6:30 PM Ping Pong	21	22 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services	23 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	
25 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:00 PM Congregational meeting	26 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	27 6:30 PM Ping Pong	28	29 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services		30

THE ADVENTURE - 2024



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.



Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen, Pastor
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529
www.adventrichboro.org
e-mail
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.



SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

JANUARY 7

BAPTISM 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: Open
- 10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 14

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL
HONORING COUNCIL STEPPING DOWN**

- 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

JANUARY 21

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 28

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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 18

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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 11

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

FEBRUARY 22 Mid Week Lenten Service

FEBRUARY 22-Mid-Week Soup Supper

FEBRUARY 25

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Congregational Meeting

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



FEBRUARY 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service at Noon and 7:00 pm

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services 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.

ZOOM INFORMATION

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=dnVRTIRGamJQVXNZbENIVDJTT0pnUT09>

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=aGErSFNlbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktIQT09>

Topic: Congregational Meeting

10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>

Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14

12:00 pm Service

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

Topic: Ash Wednesday Evening Service

Time: Feb 14, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>

PASTOR MATT'S JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

BOOK OF ACTS BIBLE STUDY

Beginning the first full week of Lent, the week of February 19, we will be starting the first congregation wide activity of the Strategic Mission Plan. We will be doing the **Book of Acts Bible Study!** "Congregation wide" means we want everyone in the congregation to participate.

Why should you participate? This Bible Study is life changing. The season of Lent is about recognizing and responding our need for God's love. The Book of Acts is about how God's love is active in the lives of Jesus' followers and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts Bible study will help to you recognize God's love active in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do this as a congregation? In many ways, the Book of Acts is more relevant today in informing the Church on how to be the Church than it has been for a long time. It can be argued that since the Roman Empire there has not been a world economy so extensive until now. It can be argued that no society has infused communities with so much multiculturalism as the Roman Empire until ours. Today, the Church struggles to adjust to no longer sitting at the center power and influence in western culture. The Church has not sat so far outside the center of our culture since the days of the early Church. The Church in the Book of Acts was faced with challenges and internal debates that threatened its very survival: what shall our mission field be, what religious rules of that past still apply to today, what does it mean to be faithful stewards of the resources of the Church, including money. Though the names and details of the specifics have changed, it can be argued that these are the most pressing issues for the Church today. The Book of Acts demonstrates the Church faces all these challenges through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Advent Lutheran Church moves forward, we too need the power of the Holy Spirit. The first step, to tap into that power more fully, is that we need to hone our ability to see God's love already active all around us.

Multiple opportunities to be involved! Participate in the manner that best suits your needs and schedule.

- Sign up for a **Study Group** at a parishioner's home. *
- Sign up with a **Study Buddy** and meet in-person, online or by phone at your convenience. *
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** in-person at 9AM beginning February 18th, in-person.
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- *Sign-ups lists are in the church narthex beginning January 28th.*

May God bless you this coming Lenten Service as we explore God's loving activity in our church and in our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Matt



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

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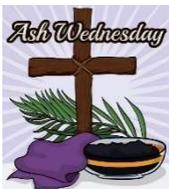
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On Sunday, **February 25** we will have **one worship service at 9:00 a.m.** The Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the service at **10:00 a.m.** Please plan to attend so that we make quorum and be able to conduct the business of the Church.

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.

Topic: Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will have two Ash Wednesday services on **February 14, at Noon and 7:00 p.m.**, in person and online.

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 8:00 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.

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
12:00 pm Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES,
THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 21

“*Book of Acts*” 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., February 21 through March 21.

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.

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm
Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

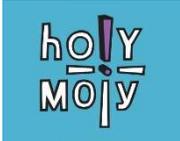
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>



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** February 22 through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 14



Sunday School classes will resume on **January 14** for the Epiphany lesson. We will then follow the Old Testament series of lessons we had begun in the fall. In February, we will celebrate God’s love and, as Ash Wednesday approaches, we will begin our Lenten lessons.

Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in these lively lessons in the **Holy Moly** curriculum. Students meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** to attend the first part of the worship service, then proceed to the classroom with their teachers following the children’s sermon. We invite you to attend and have fun learning with friends at Sunday School!

Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or they may be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office with any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.

Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 A.M. JANUARY 13 AND FEBRUARY 10

We have not made a decision on the menu for January 13th as we want to celebrate either Dr. Martin Luther (King) day or the Eagles stumble into the playoffs. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

February is an easier choice for menu as we will be celebrating Ground Hog Day. Don't ask about the menu. Saturday Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

Dave



INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30

We welcome new and previous members of church council who will be installed to start a new term: Kathryn Dettra, John Flint, Cindy Frey, George Henry, Jennifer McQuiggan, Gail Oines, Pastor Matt, Lynn Roccograndi, Mike Sitler, and Gary Zimmerman. We also will give recognition to Tony Gryszka, Nancy Hill and Nancy Slight, whose terms on council are finished. We thank them for their service.



SPAGHETTI DINNER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Come to Advent Lutheran church for a delicious Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner hosted by the Strategic Mission Team. The event will take place on the evening of Saturday, January 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit the Warminster Food Bank. Suggested offering is \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. To go meals will be available.



BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place January 30, 2024 from **2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card. Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1- 800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037. Thank you for your support.



GRATITUDE FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Warminster Food Bank is grateful to Advent for the generous donations of food, monetary donations and gift cards through the year. This year, Advent and our community have donated 1528 lbs. of food. \$2,056.00 in checks received and \$1,275.00 in gift cards!

Please continue donating whatever you can each month. Blue tote bags are available in the narthex. Food may be brought on Sunday and whenever the church office is open, or you can deposit your bags in the outdoor bench anytime. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank-you for your continued support of this important mission.

Nancy Slight, Social Ministry



PING PONG- TUESDAYS AT 6:30

All are welcome to join us for 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. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



PRAISE BAND and VOCAL CHOIR

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals soon. Please check the Sunday bulletin for updates. Praise Band rehearses from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, and the Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 p.m. If you would like to share your musical talent, please see Mike Dettra for more details.

CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ADVENT

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2023

Advent's annual Christmas Brunch was held on December 3 after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. All 35 attendees enjoyed the delicious food, fellowship and festive Christmas music played by three of Advent's talented musicians: Mike Dettra, Ray Heiss and Mike Sitler. Thank you to all who worked to set-up the event and to all who provided the wonderful variety of food!



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

Advent's Sunday School students reenacted the event of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as a children's sermon on December 17. They portrayed the angel, Mary and Joseph to bring us the message of God's gift to all. We thank Timothy, Julianna and Emma Ward for their wonderful acting and singing!



CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT AT ADVENT

Mike Dettra and his talented musicians shared Christmas joy at Advent on Friday evening, December 15. With a variety of instruments, with singing and Irish dance, the audience had a wonderful evening of music. Many thanks to all of the talented performers for inspiring us all!



PASTOR MATT'S BIRTHDAY CAKES

Pastor Matt and his birthday were celebrated at Advent at least twice in December. He plans to maintain his youthful side for many years to come . . . Best wishes, Pastor Matt!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve worship was held at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The morning service recognized the last Sunday of Advent season, while the evening service brought us the season of Christmas. The vocal choir sang at each one and our guest trumpet player added fanfare to the joyous evening celebration.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through December is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.



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.



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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR CHARITY IS A GREAT IDEA!

Recycling can tabs for charity is a great idea! If you bring them in, we'll drop them off. Look for marked containers in the narthex, located on the shelf above the coat rack. No cans, please – just tabs! The tab collection program began at **Ronald McDonald House Charities** of the Philadelphia Region in 1997. Since the inception of the program, **RMHC** has collected over 350 tons of tabs and over \$170,000! See RMHCphilly.org.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which 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 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., son of Cindy Frey, 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
- Specialist Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, NY.

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

Thank you.



JANUARY

8 Linda Gordon
10 Katie Dettra
12 Jim Hollingsworth
14 Nancy Sclight
18 Benicia Meyers
22 Colleen Morrison
26 Keith Wills
27 Kathy Sitler

FEBRUARY

5 Mike Sitler
9 David Frost
Marion Schmidt
13 Nicole Shearer
18 Julianna Ward
19 Kali Frey
24 Stephen Anderson
26 John Flint

ALTAR GUILD

Hannah McCollum, Gail
Oines, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

OUR TECH CREW

Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra,
Tony Gryska,
Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey
Savchuck, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

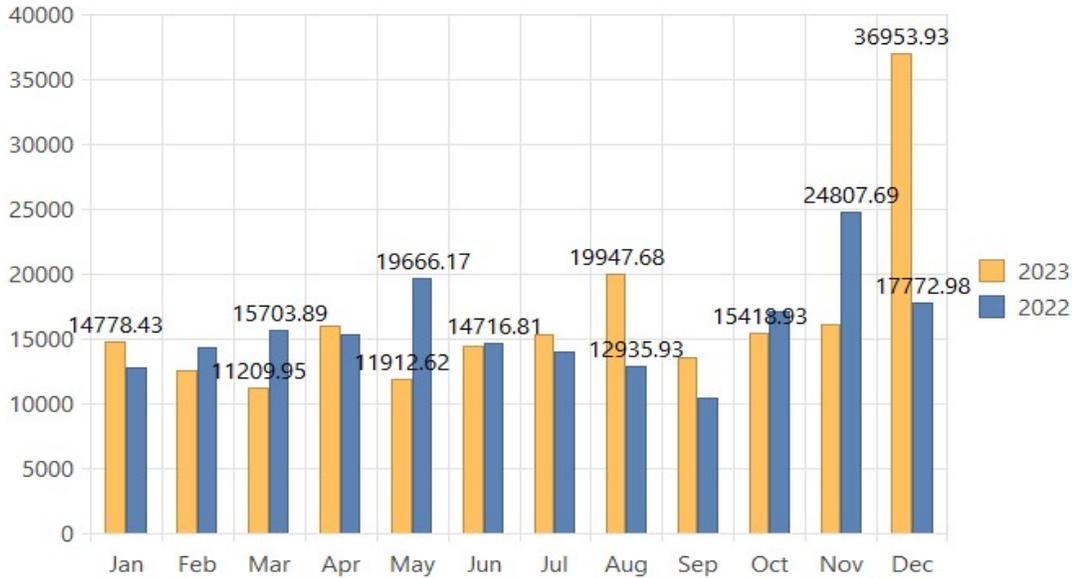
FINANCE REPORT

Thank you for your financial support! We had a great month in December, as year-end offerings enabled us to decrease the deficit by over \$16,000. Although the year-to-date deficit ended up at approximately \$27,000, Advent's investment portfolio increased in value by well over that amount. My detailed financial report will be included in Advent's 2023 Annual Report, which will be shared with the congregation on February 25, 2024, at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Tony Gryska, Finance Committee, Chairperson

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report For December 2023

	Rec'vd for Dec 2023	Budget for Dec 2023
General Fund	\$31,385.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$4,943	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$83	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$542	
Total	\$36,953.93	\$19,313.00

	Rec'vd YTD 1/1-12/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/23
General Fund	\$158,639.72	\$207,372.00
Mortgage	\$30,898.00	\$22,776.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$791.00	\$1,608.00
Other Benevolence	\$8,090.00	
Total	\$198,418.72	\$231,756.00

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, 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

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	6
7 <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 Fellowship-Open	8 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	9 6:30 PM Ping Pong	10	11 Bible Study via zoom	12 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
14 <u>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</u> <u>Installation of Church Council</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16 6:30 PM Ping Pong	17	18	19 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	20
21 <u>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23 6:30 PM Ping Pong	24	25	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	27 6:00 PM - -8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 
28 <u>4th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30  2:00 – 7:00 PM Blood Drive	31			

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	3
4 5TH Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30	5 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6 6:30 PM Ping Pong	7	8	8 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	10 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
11 Transfiguration of our Lord 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	12 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	13 6:30 PM Ping Pong	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Services: Noon & 7:00 p.m. 	15	16 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	17
18 1st Sunday of Lent 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	19 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	20 6:30 PM Ping Pong	21	22 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services	23 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	
25 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:00 PM Congregational meeting	26 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	27 6:30 PM Ping Pong	28	29 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services		30

THE ADVENTURE - 2024



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.



Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen, Pastor
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529
www.adventrichboro.org
e-mail
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.



SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

JANUARY 7

BAPTISM 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: Open
- 10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 14

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL
HONORING COUNCIL STEPPING DOWN**

- 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

JANUARY 21

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 28

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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 18

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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 11

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

FEBRUARY 22 Mid Week Lenten Service

FEBRUARY 22-Mid-Week Soup Supper

FEBRUARY 25

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Congregational Meeting

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



FEBRUARY 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service at Noon and 7:00 pm

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services 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.

ZOOM INFORMATION

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=dnVRTIRGamJQVXNZbENIVDJTT0pnUT09>

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=aGErSFNIbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktIQT09>

Topic: Congregational Meeting

10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>

Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14

12:00 pm Service

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

Topic: Ash Wednesday Evening Service

Time: Feb 14, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>

PASTOR MATT'S JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

BOOK OF ACTS BIBLE STUDY

Beginning the first full week of Lent, the week of February 19, we will be starting the first congregation wide activity of the Strategic Mission Plan. We will be doing the **Book of Acts Bible Study!** "Congregation wide" means we want everyone in the congregation to participate.

Why should you participate? This Bible Study is life changing. The season of Lent is about recognizing and responding our need for God's love. The Book of Acts is about how God's love is active in the lives of Jesus' followers and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts Bible study will help to you recognize God's love active in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do this as a congregation? In many ways, the Book of Acts is more relevant today in informing the Church on how to be the Church than it has been for a long time. It can be argued that since the Roman Empire there has not been a world economy so extensive until now. It can be argued that no society has infused communities with so much multiculturalism as the Roman Empire until ours. Today, the Church struggles to adjust to no longer sitting at the center power and influence in western culture. The Church has not sat so far outside the center of our culture since the days of the early Church. The Church in the Book of Acts was faced with challenges and internal debates that threatened its very survival: what shall our mission field be, what religious rules of that past still apply to today, what does it mean to be faithful stewards of the resources of the Church, including money. Though the names and details of the specifics have changed, it can be argued that these are the most pressing issues for the Church today. The Book of Acts demonstrates the Church faces all these challenges through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Advent Lutheran Church moves forward, we too need the power of the Holy Spirit. The first step, to tap into that power more fully, is that we need to hone our ability to see God's love already active all around us.

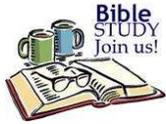
Multiple opportunities to be involved! Participate in the manner that best suits your needs and schedule.

- Sign up for a **Study Group** at a parishioner's home. *
- Sign up with a **Study Buddy** and meet in-person, online or by phone at your convenience. *
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** in-person at 9AM beginning February 18th, in-person.
- **Zoom at Noon** with Pastor Matt beginning February 20th.
- **Email Bible Study** with a YouTube video clip, at your leisure beginning February 20th.
- At the **Lenten Mid-Week Services** beginning February 21st at 7PM, online or in-person.
- *Sign-ups lists are in the church narthex beginning January 28th.*

May God bless you this coming Lenten Service as we explore God's loving activity in our church and in our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Matt



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Night Bible Study is taking a break through the season of Lent, during which we will be having our midweek Lenten soup supper and services on Thursdays for five weeks. You are encouraged to participate in the mid-week Lenten service where we will be doing the congregation wide Book of Acts Bible Study.



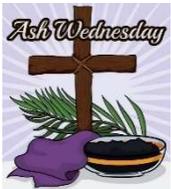
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

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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.

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**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

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MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES,
THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 21

“*Book of Acts*” 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., February 21 through March 21.

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Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm
Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>



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** February 22 through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 14



Sunday School classes will resume on **January 14** for the Epiphany lesson. We will then follow the Old Testament series of lessons we had begun in the fall. In February, we will celebrate God’s love and, as Ash Wednesday approaches, we will begin our Lenten lessons.

Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in these lively lessons in the **Holy Moly** curriculum. Students meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** to attend the first part of the worship service, then proceed to the classroom with their teachers following the children’s sermon. We invite you to attend and have fun learning with friends at Sunday School!

Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or they may be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office with any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.

Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 A.M. JANUARY 13 AND FEBRUARY 10

We have not made a decision on the menu for January 13th as we want to celebrate either Dr. Martin Luther (King) day or the Eagles stumble into the playoffs. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

February is an easier choice for menu as we will be celebrating Ground Hog Day. Don't ask about the menu. Saturday Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

Dave



INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30

We welcome new and previous members of church council who will be installed to start a new term: Kathryn Dettra, John Flint, Cindy Frey, George Henry, Jennifer McQuiggan, Gail Oines, Pastor Matt, Lynn Roccograndi, Mike Sitler, and Gary Zimmerman. We also will give recognition to Tony Gryszka, Nancy Hill and Nancy Slight, whose terms on council are finished. We thank them for their service.



SPAGHETTI DINNER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Come to Advent Lutheran church for a delicious Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner hosted by the Strategic Mission Team. The event will take place on the evening of Saturday, January 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit the Warminster Food Bank. Suggested offering is \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. To go meals will be available.



BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place January 30, 2024 from **2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card. Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1- 800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037. Thank you for your support.



GRATITUDE FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Warminster Food Bank is grateful to Advent for the generous donations of food, monetary donations and gift cards through the year. This year, Advent and our community have donated 1528 lbs. of food. \$2,056.00 in checks received and \$1,275.00 in gift cards!

Please continue donating whatever you can each month. Blue tote bags are available in the narthex. Food may be brought on Sunday and whenever the church office is open, or you can deposit your bags in the outdoor bench anytime. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank-you for your continued support of this important mission.

Nancy Slight, Social Ministry



PING PONG- TUESDAYS AT 6:30

All are welcome to join us for 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. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



PRAISE BAND and VOCAL CHOIR

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals soon. Please check the Sunday bulletin for updates. Praise Band rehearses from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, and the Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 p.m. If you would like to share your musical talent, please see Mike Dettra for more details.

CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ADVENT

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2023

Advent's annual Christmas Brunch was held on December 3 after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. All 35 attendees enjoyed the delicious food, fellowship and festive Christmas music played by three of Advent's talented musicians: Mike Dettra, Ray Heiss and Mike Sitler. Thank you to all who worked to set-up the event and to all who provided the wonderful variety of food!



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

Advent's Sunday School students reenacted the event of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as a children's sermon on December 17. They portrayed the angel, Mary and Joseph to bring us the message of God's gift to all. We thank Timothy, Julianna and Emma Ward for their wonderful acting and singing!



CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT AT ADVENT

Mike Dettra and his talented musicians shared Christmas joy at Advent on Friday evening, December 15. With a variety of instruments, with singing and Irish dance, the audience had a wonderful evening of music. Many thanks to all of the talented performers for inspiring us all!



PASTOR MATT'S BIRTHDAY CAKES

Pastor Matt and his birthday were celebrated at Advent at least twice in December. He plans to maintain his youthful side for many years to come . . . Best wishes, Pastor Matt!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve worship was held at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The morning service recognized the last Sunday of Advent season, while the evening service brought us the season of Christmas. The vocal choir sang at each one and our guest trumpet player added fanfare to the joyous evening celebration.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through December is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.



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.



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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR CHARITY IS A GREAT IDEA!

Recycling can tabs for charity is a great idea! If you bring them in, we'll drop them off. Look for marked containers in the narthex, located on the shelf above the coat rack. No cans, please – just tabs! The tab collection program began at **Ronald McDonald House Charities** of the Philadelphia Region in 1997. Since the inception of the program, **RMHC** has collected over 350 tons of tabs and over \$170,000! See RMHCphilly.org.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which 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 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., son of Cindy Frey, 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
- Specialist Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, NY.

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

Thank you.



JANUARY

8 Linda Gordon
10 Katie Dettra
12 Jim Hollingsworth
14 Nancy Sclight
18 Benicia Meyers
22 Colleen Morrison
26 Keith Wills
27 Kathy Sitler

FEBRUARY

5 Mike Sitler
9 David Frost
Marion Schmidt
13 Nicole Shearer
18 Julianna Ward
19 Kali Frey
24 Stephen Anderson
26 John Flint

ALTAR GUILD

Hannah McCollum, Gail
Oines, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

OUR TECH CREW

Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra,
Tony Gryszka,
Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey
Savchuck, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

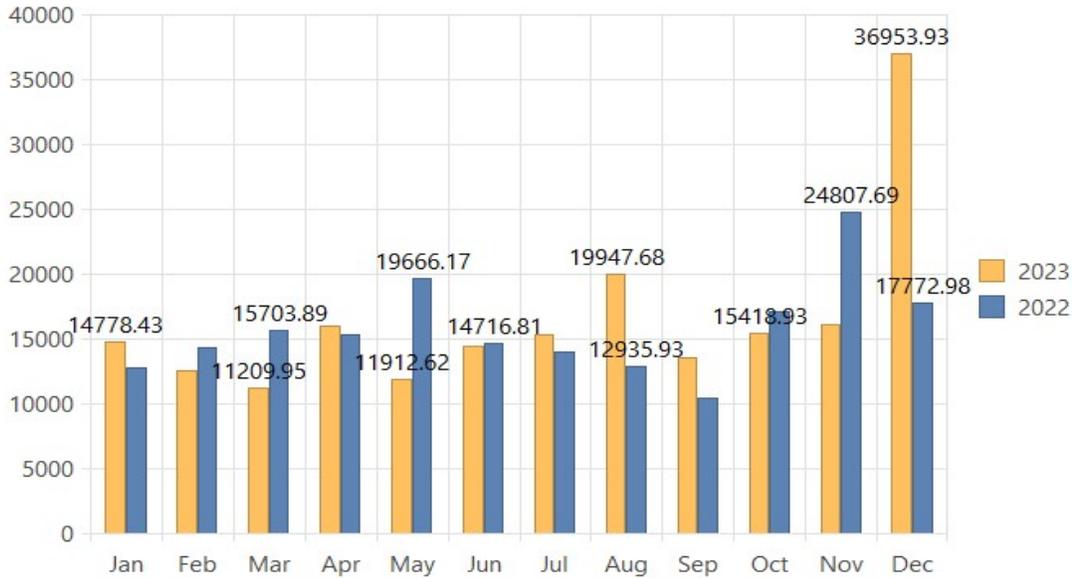
FINANCE REPORT

Thank you for your financial support! We had a great month in December, as year-end offerings enabled us to decrease the deficit by over \$16,000. Although the year-to-date deficit ended up at approximately \$27,000, Advent's investment portfolio increased in value by well over that amount. My detailed financial report will be included in Advent's 2023 Annual Report, which will be shared with the congregation on February 25, 2024, at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee, Chairperson

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report For December 2023

	Rec'vd for Dec 2023	Budget for Dec 2023
General Fund	\$31,385.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$4,943	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$83	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$542	
Total	\$36,953.93	\$19,313.00

	Rec'vd YTD 1/1-12/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/23
General Fund	\$158,639.72	\$207,372.00
Mortgage	\$30,898.00	\$22,776.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$791.00	\$1,608.00
Other Benevolence	\$8,090.00	
Total	\$198,418.72	\$231,756.00

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, 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

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	6
7 <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 Fellowship-Open	8 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	9 6:30 PM Ping Pong	10	11 Bible Study via zoom	12 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
14 <u>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</u> <u>Installation of Church Council</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16 6:30 PM Ping Pong	17	18	19 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	20
21 <u>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23 6:30 PM Ping Pong	24	25	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	27 6:00 PM - -8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 
28 <u>4th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30  2:00 – 7:00 PM Blood Drive	31			

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	3
4 5TH Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30	5 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6 6:30 PM Ping Pong	7	8	8 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	10 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
11 Transfiguration of our Lord 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	12 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	13 6:30 PM Ping Pong	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Services: Noon & 7:00 p.m. 	15	16 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	17
18 1st Sunday of Lent 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	19 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	20 6:30 PM Ping Pong	21	22 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services	23 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	
25 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:00 PM Congregational meeting	26 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	27 6:30 PM Ping Pong	28	29 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services		30

THE ADVENTURE - 2024



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.



Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen, Pastor
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529
www.adventrichboro.org
e-mail
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.



SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

JANUARY 7

BAPTISM 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: Open
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 14

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL HONORING COUNCIL STEPPING DOWN

- 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

JANUARY 21

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 28

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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 18

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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 11

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

FEBRUARY 22 Mid Week Lenten Service

FEBRUARY 22-Mid-Week Soup Supper

FEBRUARY 25

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Congregational Meeting

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



FEBRUARY 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service at Noon and 7:00 pm

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services 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.

ZOOM INFORMATION

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=dnVRTIRGamJQVXNZbENIVDJTT0pnUT09>

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=aGErSFNlbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktIQT09>

Topic: Congregational Meeting

10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>

Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14

12:00 pm Service

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

Topic: Ash Wednesday Evening Service

Time: Feb 14, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>

PASTOR MATT'S JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

BOOK OF ACTS BIBLE STUDY

Beginning the first full week of Lent, the week of February 19, we will be starting the first congregation wide activity of the Strategic Mission Plan. We will be doing the **Book of Acts Bible Study!** "Congregation wide" means we want everyone in the congregation to participate.

Why should you participate? This Bible Study is life changing. The season of Lent is about recognizing and responding our need for God's love. The Book of Acts is about how God's love is active in the lives of Jesus' followers and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts Bible study will help to you recognize God's love active in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do this as a congregation? In many ways, the Book of Acts is more relevant today in informing the Church on how to be the Church than it has been for a long time. It can be argued that since the Roman Empire there has not been a world economy so extensive until now. It can be argued that no society has infused communities with so much multiculturalism as the Roman Empire until ours. Today, the Church struggles to adjust to no longer sitting at the center power and influence in western culture. The Church has not sat so far outside the center of our culture since the days of the early Church. The Church in the Book of Acts was faced with challenges and internal debates that threatened its very survival: what shall our mission field be, what religious rules of that past still apply to today, what does it mean to be faithful stewards of the resources of the Church, including money. Though the names and details of the specifics have changed, it can be argued that these are the most pressing issues for the Church today. The Book of Acts demonstrates the Church faces all these challenges through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Advent Lutheran Church moves forward, we too need the power of the Holy Spirit. The first step, to tap into that power more fully, is that we need to hone our ability to see God's love already active all around us.

Multiple opportunities to be involved! Participate in the manner that best suits your needs and schedule.

- Sign up for a **Study Group** at a parishioner's home. *
- Sign up with a **Study Buddy** and meet in-person, online or by phone at your convenience. *
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** in-person at 9AM beginning February 18th, in-person.
- **Zoom at Noon** with Pastor Matt beginning February 20th.
- **Email Bible Study** with a YouTube video clip, at your leisure beginning February 20th.
- At the **Lenten Mid-Week Services** beginning February 21st at 7PM, online or in-person.
- *Sign-ups lists are in the church narthex beginning January 28th.*

May God bless you this coming Lenten Service as we explore God's loving activity in our church and in our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Matt



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Night Bible Study is taking a break through the season of Lent, during which we will be having our midweek Lenten soup supper and services on Thursdays for five weeks. You are encouraged to participate in the mid-week Lenten service where we will be doing the congregation wide Book of Acts Bible Study.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

On Sunday, **February 25** we will have **one worship 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.

Topic: Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will have two Ash Wednesday services on **February 14, at Noon and 7:00 p.m.**, in person and online.

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 8:00 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.

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
12:00 pm Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES,
THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 21

“*Book of Acts*” 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., February 21 through March 21.

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.

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm
Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

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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** February 22 through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

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Sunday School classes will resume on **January 14** for the Epiphany lesson. We will then follow the Old Testament series of lessons we had begun in the fall. In February, we will celebrate God’s love and, as Ash Wednesday approaches, we will begin our Lenten lessons.

Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in these lively lessons in the **Holy Moly** curriculum. Students meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** to attend the first part of the worship service, then proceed to the classroom with their teachers following the children’s sermon. We invite you to attend and have fun learning with friends at Sunday School!

Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or they may be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office with any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.

Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 A.M. JANUARY 13 AND FEBRUARY 10

We have not made a decision on the menu for January 13th as we want to celebrate either Dr. Martin Luther (King) day or the Eagles stumble into the playoffs. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

February is an easier choice for menu as we will be celebrating Ground Hog Day. Don't ask about the menu. Saturday Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m. **Dave**



INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30

We welcome new and previous members of church council who will be installed to start a new term: Kathryn Dettra, John Flint, Cindy Frey, George Henry, Jennifer McQuiggan, Gail Oines, Pastor Matt, Lynn Roccograndi, Mike Sitler, and Gary Zimmerman. We also will give recognition to Tony Gryszka, Nancy Hill and Nancy Slight, whose terms on council are finished. We thank them for their service.



SPAGHETTI DINNER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Come to Advent Lutheran church for a delicious Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner hosted by the Strategic Mission Team. The event will take place on the evening of Saturday, January 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit the Warminster Food Bank. Suggested offering is \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. To go meals will be available.



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The Blood Drive at Advent will take place January 30, 2024 from **2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card. Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1- 800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037. Thank you for your support.



GRATITUDE FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Warminster Food Bank is grateful to Advent for the generous donations of food, monetary donations and gift cards through the year. This year, Advent and our community have donated 1528 lbs. of food. \$2,056.00 in checks received and \$1,275.00 in gift cards!

Please continue donating whatever you can each month. Blue tote bags are available in the narthex. Food may be brought on Sunday and whenever the church office is open, or you can deposit your bags in the outdoor bench anytime. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank-you for your continued support of this important mission. **Nancy Slight, Social Ministry**



PING PONG- TUESDAYS AT 6:30

All are welcome to join us for 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. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



PRAISE BAND and VOCAL CHOIR

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals soon. Please check the Sunday bulletin for updates. Praise Band rehearses from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, and the Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 p.m. If you would like to share your musical talent, please see Mike Dettra for more details.

CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ADVENT

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2023

Advent's annual Christmas Brunch was held on December 3 after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. All 35 attendees enjoyed the delicious food, fellowship and festive Christmas music played by three of Advent's talented musicians: Mike Dettra, Ray Heiss and Mike Sitler. Thank you to all who worked to set-up the event and to all who provided the wonderful variety of food!



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

Advent's Sunday School students reenacted the event of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as a children's sermon on December 17. They portrayed the angel, Mary and Joseph to bring us the message of God's gift to all. We thank Timothy, Julianna and Emma Ward for their wonderful acting and singing!



CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT AT ADVENT

Mike Dettra and his talented musicians shared Christmas joy at Advent on Friday evening, December 15. With a variety of instruments, with singing and Irish dance, the audience had a wonderful evening of music. Many thanks to all of the talented performers for inspiring us all!



PASTOR MATT'S BIRTHDAY CAKES

Pastor Matt and his birthday were celebrated at Advent at least twice in December. He plans to maintain his youthful side for many years to come . . . Best wishes, Pastor Matt!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve worship was held at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The morning service recognized the last Sunday of Advent season, while the evening service brought us the season of Christmas. The vocal choir sang at each one and our guest trumpet player added fanfare to the joyous evening celebration.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through December is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.



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.



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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR CHARITY IS A GREAT IDEA!

Recycling can tabs for charity is a great idea! If you bring them in, we'll drop them off. Look for marked containers in the narthex, located on the shelf above the coat rack. No cans, please – just tabs! The tab collection program began at **Ronald McDonald House Charities** of the Philadelphia Region in 1997. Since the inception of the program, **RMHC** has collected over 350 tons of tabs and over \$170,000! See RMHCphilly.org.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which 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 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., son of Cindy Frey, 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
- Specialist Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, NY.

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

Thank you.



JANUARY

8 Linda Gordon
10 Katie Dettra
12 Jim Hollingsworth
14 Nancy Sclight
18 Benicia Meyers
22 Colleen Morrison
26 Keith Wills
27 Kathy Sitler

FEBRUARY

5 Mike Sitler
9 David Frost
Marion Schmidt
13 Nicole Shearer
18 Julianna Ward
19 Kali Frey
24 Stephen Anderson
26 John Flint

ALTAR GUILD

Hannah McCollum, Gail
Oines, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

OUR TECH CREW

Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra,
Tony Gryszka,
Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey
Savchuck, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

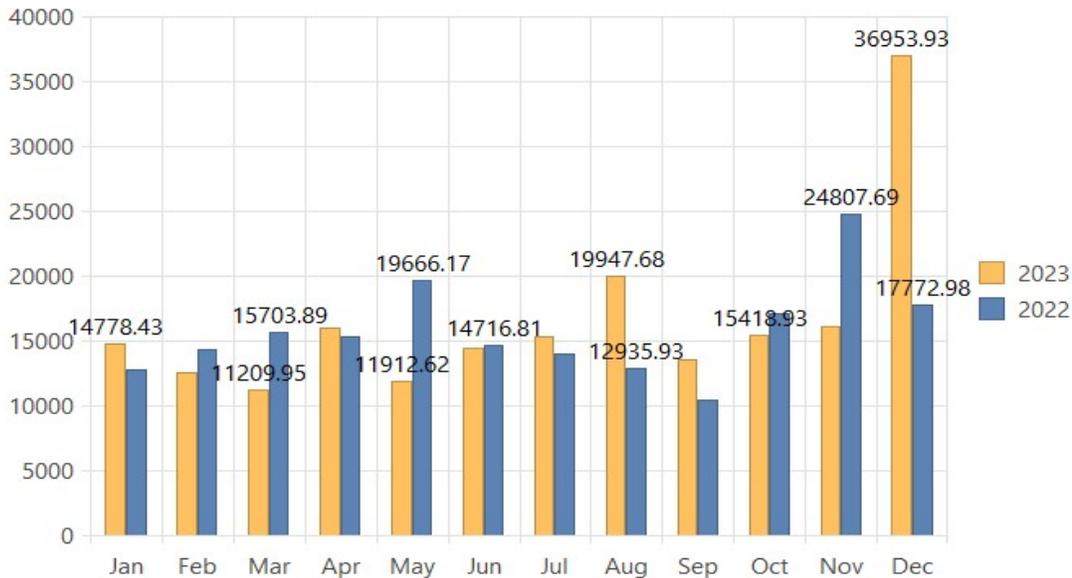
FINANCE REPORT

Thank you for your financial support! We had a great month in December, as year-end offerings enabled us to decrease the deficit by over \$16,000. Although the year-to-date deficit ended up at approximately \$27,000, Advent's investment portfolio increased in value by well over that amount. My detailed financial report will be included in Advent's 2023 Annual Report, which will be shared with the congregation on February 25, 2024, at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee, Chairperson

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report For December 2023

	Rec'vd for Dec 2023	Budget for Dec 2023
General Fund	\$31,385.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$4,943	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$83	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$542	
Total	\$36,953.93	\$19,313.00

	Rec'vd YTD 1/1-12/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/23
General Fund	\$158,639.72	\$207,372.00
Mortgage	\$30,898.00	\$22,776.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$791.00	\$1,608.00
Other Benevolence	\$8,090.00	
Total	\$198,418.72	\$231,756.00

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, 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

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	6
7 <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 Fellowship-Open	8 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	9 6:30 PM Ping Pong	10	11 Bible Study via zoom	12 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
14 <u>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</u> <u>Installation of Church Council</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16 6:30 PM Ping Pong	17	18	19 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	20
21 <u>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23 6:30 PM Ping Pong	24	25	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	27 6:00 PM - -8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 
28 <u>4th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30  2:00 – 7:00 PM Blood Drive	31			

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	3
4 5TH Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30	5 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6 6:30 PM Ping Pong	7	8	8 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	10 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
11 Transfiguration of our Lord 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	12 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	13 6:30 PM Ping Pong	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Services: Noon & 7:00 p.m. 	15	16 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	17
18 1st Sunday of Lent 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	19 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	20 6:30 PM Ping Pong	21	22 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services	23 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	
25 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:00 PM Congregational meeting	26 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	27 6:30 PM Ping Pong	28	29 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services		30

THE ADVENTURE - 2024



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.



Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen, Pastor
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529
www.adventrichboro.org
e-mail
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.



SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

JANUARY 7

BAPTISM 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: Open
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 14

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL HONORING COUNCIL STEPPING DOWN

- 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

JANUARY 21

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 28

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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 18

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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 11

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

FEBRUARY 22 Mid Week Lenten Service

FEBRUARY 22-Mid-Week Soup Supper

FEBRUARY 25

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Congregational Meeting

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



FEBRUARY 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service at Noon and 7:00 pm

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services 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.

ZOOM INFORMATION

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=dnVRTIRGamJQVXNZbENIVDJTT0pnUT09>

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>

Topic: Congregational Meeting

10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>

Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14

12:00 pm Service

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

Topic: Ash Wednesday Evening Service

Time: Feb 14, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>

PASTOR MATT'S JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

BOOK OF ACTS BIBLE STUDY

Beginning the first full week of Lent, the week of February 19, we will be starting the first congregation wide activity of the Strategic Mission Plan. We will be doing the **Book of Acts Bible Study!** "Congregation wide" means we want everyone in the congregation to participate.

Why should you participate? This Bible Study is life changing. The season of Lent is about recognizing and responding our need for God's love. The Book of Acts is about how God's love is active in the lives of Jesus' followers and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts Bible study will help to you recognize God's love active in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do this as a congregation? In many ways, the Book of Acts is more relevant today in informing the Church on how to be the Church than it has been for a long time. It can be argued that since the Roman Empire there has not been a world economy so extensive until now. It can be argued that no society has infused communities with so much multiculturalism as the Roman Empire until ours. Today, the Church struggles to adjust to no longer sitting at the center power and influence in western culture. The Church has not sat so far outside the center of our culture since the days of the early Church. The Church in the Book of Acts was faced with challenges and internal debates that threatened its very survival: what shall our mission field be, what religious rules of that past still apply to today, what does it mean to be faithful stewards of the resources of the Church, including money. Though the names and details of the specifics have changed, it can be argued that these are the most pressing issues for the Church today. The Book of Acts demonstrates the Church faces all these challenges through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Advent Lutheran Church moves forward, we too need the power of the Holy Spirit. The first step, to tap into that power more fully, is that we need to hone our ability to see God's love already active all around us.

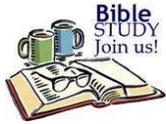
Multiple opportunities to be involved! Participate in the manner that best suits your needs and schedule.

- Sign up for a **Study Group** at a parishioner's home. *
- Sign up with a **Study Buddy** and meet in-person, online or by phone at your convenience. *
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** in-person at 9AM beginning February 18th, in-person.
- **Zoom at Noon** with Pastor Matt beginning February 20th.
- **Email Bible Study** with a YouTube video clip, at your leisure beginning February 20th.
- At the **Lenten Mid-Week Services** beginning February 21st at 7PM, online or in-person.
- *Sign-ups lists are in the church narthex beginning January 28th.*

May God bless you this coming Lenten Service as we explore God's loving activity in our church and in our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Matt



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Night Bible Study is taking a break through the season of Lent, during which we will be having our midweek Lenten soup supper and services on Thursdays for five weeks. You are encouraged to participate in the mid-week Lenten service where we will be doing the congregation wide Book of Acts Bible Study.



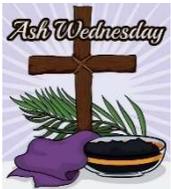
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

On Sunday, **February 25** we will have **one worship 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.

Topic: Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will have two Ash Wednesday services on **February 14, at Noon and 7:00 p.m.**, in person and online.

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 8:00 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.

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
12:00 pm Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES,
THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 21

“*Book of Acts*” 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., February 21 through March 21.

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.

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm
Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>



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** February 22 through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 14



Sunday School classes will resume on **January 14** for the Epiphany lesson. We will then follow the Old Testament series of lessons we had begun in the fall. In February, we will celebrate God’s love and, as Ash Wednesday approaches, we will begin our Lenten lessons.

Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in these lively lessons in the **Holy Moly** curriculum. Students meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** to attend the first part of the worship service, then proceed to the classroom with their teachers following the children’s sermon. We invite you to attend and have fun learning with friends at Sunday School!

Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or they may be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office with any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.

Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 A.M. JANUARY 13 AND FEBRUARY 10

We have not made a decision on the menu for January 13th as we want to celebrate either Dr. Martin Luther (King) day or the Eagles stumble into the playoffs. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

February is an easier choice for menu as we will be celebrating Ground Hog Day. Don't ask about the menu. Saturday Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m. **Dave**



INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30

We welcome new and previous members of church council who will be installed to start a new term: Kathryn Dettra, John Flint, Cindy Frey, George Henry, Jennifer McQuiggan, Gail Oines, Pastor Matt, Lynn Roccograndi, Mike Sitler, and Gary Zimmerman. We also will give recognition to Tony Gryszka, Nancy Hill and Nancy Slight, whose terms on council are finished. We thank them for their service.



SPAGHETTI DINNER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Come to Advent Lutheran church for a delicious Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner hosted by the Strategic Mission Team. The event will take place on the evening of Saturday, January 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit the Warminster Food Bank. Suggested offering is \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. To go meals will be available.



BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place January 30, 2024 from **2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card. Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1- 800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037. Thank you for your support.



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All are welcome to join us for 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. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



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CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ADVENT

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2023

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We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through December is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.



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.



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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR CHARITY IS A GREAT IDEA!

Recycling can tabs for charity is a great idea! If you bring them in, we'll drop them off. Look for marked containers in the narthex, located on the shelf above the coat rack. No cans, please – just tabs! The tab collection program began at **Ronald McDonald House Charities** of the Philadelphia Region in 1997. Since the inception of the program, **RMHC** has collected over 350 tons of tabs and over \$170,000! See RMHCphilly.org.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which 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 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., son of Cindy Frey, 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
Specialist Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, NY.

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

Thank you.



JANUARY

8 Linda Gordon
10 Katie Dettra
12 Jim Hollingsworth
14 Nancy Sclight
18 Benicia Meyers
22 Colleen Morrison
26 Keith Wills
27 Kathy Sitler

FEBRUARY

5 Mike Sitler
9 David Frost
Marion Schmidt
13 Nicole Shearer
18 Julianna Ward
19 Kali Frey
24 Stephen Anderson
26 John Flint

ALTAR GUILD

Hannah McCollum, Gail
Oines, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

OUR TECH CREW

Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra,
Tony Gryszka,
Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey
Savchuck, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

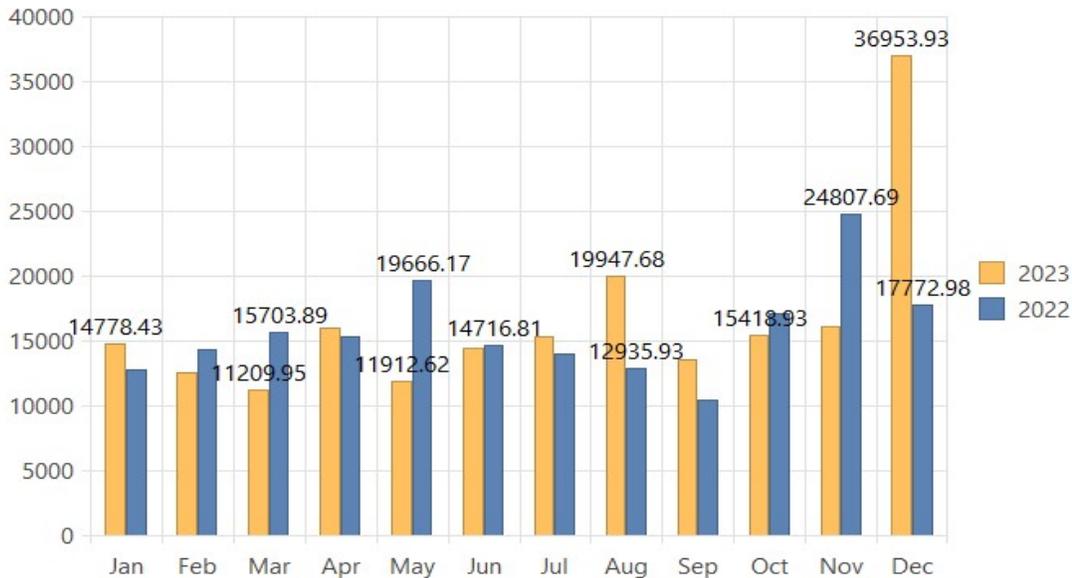
FINANCE REPORT

Thank you for your financial support! We had a great month in December, as year-end offerings enabled us to decrease the deficit by over \$16,000. Although the year-to-date deficit ended up at approximately \$27,000, Advent's investment portfolio increased in value by well over that amount. My detailed financial report will be included in Advent's 2023 Annual Report, which will be shared with the congregation on February 25, 2024, at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee, Chairperson

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report For December 2023

	Rec'vd for Dec 2023	Budget for Dec 2023
General Fund	\$31,385.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$4,943	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$83	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$542	
Total	\$36,953.93	\$19,313.00

	Rec'vd YTD 1/1-12/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/23
General Fund	\$158,639.72	\$207,372.00
Mortgage	\$30,898.00	\$22,776.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$791.00	\$1,608.00
Other Benevolence	\$8,090.00	
Total	\$198,418.72	\$231,756.00

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, 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

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	6
7 <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 Fellowship-Open	8 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	9 6:30 PM Ping Pong	10	11 Bible Study via zoom	12 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
14 <u>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</u> <u>Installation of Church Council</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16 6:30 PM Ping Pong	17	18	19 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	20
21 <u>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23 6:30 PM Ping Pong	24	25	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	27 6:00 PM - -8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 
28 <u>4th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30  2:00 – 7:00 PM Blood Drive	31			

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	3
4 5TH Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30	5 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6 6:30 PM Ping Pong	7	8	8 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	10 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
11 Transfiguration of our Lord 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	12 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	13 6:30 PM Ping Pong	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Services: Noon & 7:00 p.m. 	15	16 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	17
18 1st Sunday of Lent 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	19 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	20 6:30 PM Ping Pong	21	22 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services	23 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	
25 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:00 PM Congregational meeting	26 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	27 6:30 PM Ping Pong	28	29 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services		30

THE ADVENTURE - 2024



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.



Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen, Pastor
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529
www.adventrichboro.org
e-mail
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.



SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

JANUARY 7

BAPTISM 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: Open
- 10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 14

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL
HONORING COUNCIL STEPPING DOWN**

- 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

JANUARY 21

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 28

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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 18

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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 11

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

FEBRUARY 22 Mid Week Lenten Service

FEBRUARY 22-Mid-Week Soup Supper

FEBRUARY 25

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Congregational Meeting

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



FEBRUARY 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service at Noon and 7:00 pm

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services 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.

ZOOM INFORMATION

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=dnVRTIRGamJQVXNZbENIVDJTT0pnUT09>

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=aGErSFNlbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktIQT09>

Topic: Congregational Meeting

10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>

Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14

12:00 pm Service

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

Topic: Ash Wednesday Evening Service

Time: Feb 14, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>

PASTOR MATT'S JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

BOOK OF ACTS BIBLE STUDY

Beginning the first full week of Lent, the week of February 19, we will be starting the first congregation wide activity of the Strategic Mission Plan. We will be doing the **Book of Acts Bible Study!** "Congregation wide" means we want everyone in the congregation to participate.

Why should you participate? This Bible Study is life changing. The season of Lent is about recognizing and responding our need for God's love. The Book of Acts is about how God's love is active in the lives of Jesus' followers and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts Bible study will help to you recognize God's love active in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do this as a congregation? In many ways, the Book of Acts is more relevant today in informing the Church on how to be the Church than it has been for a long time. It can be argued that since the Roman Empire there has not been a world economy so extensive until now. It can be argued that no society has infused communities with so much multiculturalism as the Roman Empire until ours. Today, the Church struggles to adjust to no longer sitting at the center power and influence in western culture. The Church has not sat so far outside the center of our culture since the days of the early Church. The Church in the Book of Acts was faced with challenges and internal debates that threatened its very survival: what shall our mission field be, what religious rules of that past still apply to today, what does it mean to be faithful stewards of the resources of the Church, including money. Though the names and details of the specifics have changed, it can be argued that these are the most pressing issues for the Church today. The Book of Acts demonstrates the Church faces all these challenges through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Advent Lutheran Church moves forward, we too need the power of the Holy Spirit. The first step, to tap into that power more fully, is that we need to hone our ability to see God's love already active all around us.

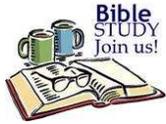
Multiple opportunities to be involved! Participate in the manner that best suits your needs and schedule.

- Sign up for a **Study Group** at a parishioner's home. *
- Sign up with a **Study Buddy** and meet in-person, online or by phone at your convenience. *
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** in-person at 9AM beginning February 18th, in-person.
- **Zoom at Noon** with Pastor Matt beginning February 20th.
- **Email Bible Study** with a YouTube video clip, at your leisure beginning February 20th.
- At the **Lenten Mid-Week Services** beginning February 21st at 7PM, online or in-person.
- *Sign-ups lists are in the church narthex beginning January 28th.*

May God bless you this coming Lenten Service as we explore God's loving activity in our church and in our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Matt



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Night Bible Study is taking a break through the season of Lent, during which we will be having our midweek Lenten soup supper and services on Thursdays for five weeks. You are encouraged to participate in the mid-week Lenten service where we will be doing the congregation wide Book of Acts Bible Study.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

On Sunday, **February 25** we will have **one worship 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.

Topic: Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will have two Ash Wednesday services on **February 14, at Noon and 7:00 p.m.**, in person and online.

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 8:00 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.

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
12:00 pm Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES,
THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 21

“*Book of Acts*” 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., February 21 through March 21.

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.

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm
Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>



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** February 22 through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 14



Sunday School classes will resume on **January 14** for the Epiphany lesson. We will then follow the Old Testament series of lessons we had begun in the fall. In February, we will celebrate God’s love and, as Ash Wednesday approaches, we will begin our Lenten lessons.

Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in these lively lessons in the **Holy Moly** curriculum. Students meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** to attend the first part of the worship service, then proceed to the classroom with their teachers following the children’s sermon. We invite you to attend and have fun learning with friends at Sunday School!

Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or they may be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office with any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.

Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 A.M. JANUARY 13 AND FEBRUARY 10

We have not made a decision on the menu for January 13th as we want to celebrate either Dr. Martin Luther (King) day or the Eagles stumble into the playoffs. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

February is an easier choice for menu as we will be celebrating Ground Hog Day. Don't ask about the menu. Saturday Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

Dave



INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30

We welcome new and previous members of church council who will be installed to start a new term: Kathryn Dettra, John Flint, Cindy Frey, George Henry, Jennifer McQuiggan, Gail Oines, Pastor Matt, Lynn Roccograndi, Mike Sitler, and Gary Zimmerman. We also will give recognition to Tony Gryszka, Nancy Hill and Nancy Slight, whose terms on council are finished. We thank them for their service.



SPAGHETTI DINNER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Come to Advent Lutheran church for a delicious Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner hosted by the Strategic Mission Team. The event will take place on the evening of Saturday, January 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit the Warminster Food Bank. Suggested offering is \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. To go meals will be available.



BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place January 30, 2024 from **2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card. Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1- 800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037. Thank you for your support.



GRATITUDE FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Warminster Food Bank is grateful to Advent for the generous donations of food, monetary donations and gift cards through the year. This year, Advent and our community have donated 1528 lbs. of food. \$2,056.00 in checks received and \$1,275.00 in gift cards!

Please continue donating whatever you can each month. Blue tote bags are available in the narthex. Food may be brought on Sunday and whenever the church office is open, or you can deposit your bags in the outdoor bench anytime. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank-you for your continued support of this important mission.

Nancy Slight, Social Ministry



PING PONG- TUESDAYS AT 6:30

All are welcome to join us for 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. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



PRAISE BAND and VOCAL CHOIR

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals soon. Please check the Sunday bulletin for updates. Praise Band rehearses from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, and the Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 p.m. If you would like to share your musical talent, please see Mike Dettra for more details.

CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ADVENT

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2023

Advent's annual Christmas Brunch was held on December 3 after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. All 35 attendees enjoyed the delicious food, fellowship and festive Christmas music played by three of Advent's talented musicians: Mike Dettra, Ray Heiss and Mike Sitler. Thank you to all who worked to set-up the event and to all who provided the wonderful variety of food!



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

Advent's Sunday School students reenacted the event of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as a children's sermon on December 17. They portrayed the angel, Mary and Joseph to bring us the message of God's gift to all. We thank Timothy, Julianna and Emma Ward for their wonderful acting and singing!



CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT AT ADVENT

Mike Dettra and his talented musicians shared Christmas joy at Advent on Friday evening, December 15. With a variety of instruments, with singing and Irish dance, the audience had a wonderful evening of music. Many thanks to all of the talented performers for inspiring us all!



PASTOR MATT'S BIRTHDAY CAKES

Pastor Matt and his birthday were celebrated at Advent at least twice in December. He plans to maintain his youthful side for many years to come . . . Best wishes, Pastor Matt!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve worship was held at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The morning service recognized the last Sunday of Advent season, while the evening service brought us the season of Christmas. The vocal choir sang at each one and our guest trumpet player added fanfare to the joyous evening celebration.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through December is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.



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.



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NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which 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 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., son of Cindy Frey, 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
- Specialist Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, NY.

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

Thank you.



JANUARY

8 Linda Gordon
10 Katie Dettra
12 Jim Hollingsworth
14 Nancy Sclight
18 Benicia Meyers
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26 Keith Wills
27 Kathy Sitler

FEBRUARY

5 Mike Sitler
9 David Frost
Marion Schmidt
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ALTAR GUILD

Hannah McCollum, Gail
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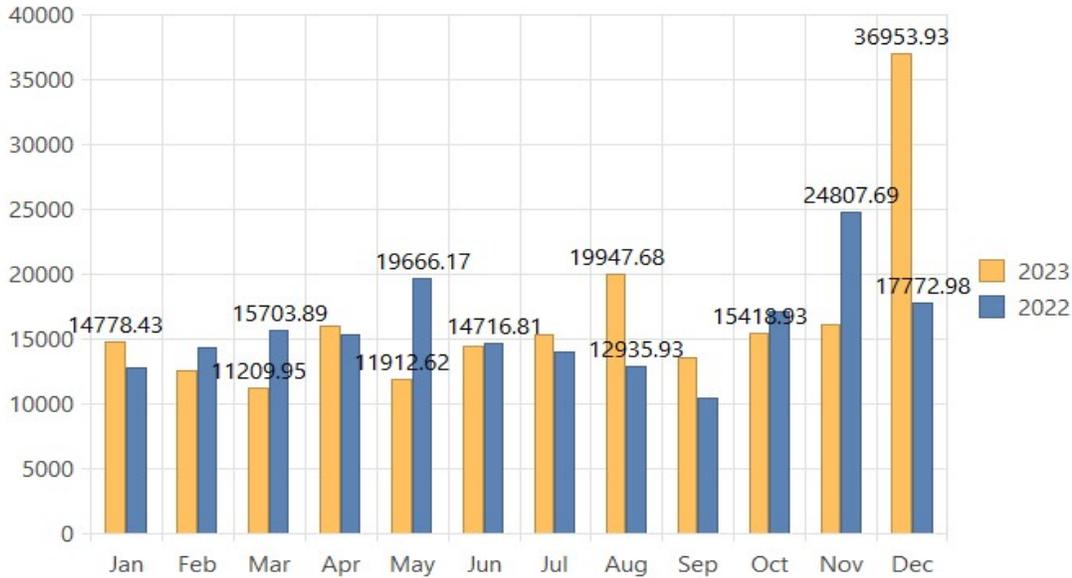
FINANCE REPORT

Thank you for your financial support! We had a great month in December, as year-end offerings enabled us to decrease the deficit by over \$16,000. Although the year-to-date deficit ended up at approximately \$27,000, Advent's investment portfolio increased in value by well over that amount. My detailed financial report will be included in Advent's 2023 Annual Report, which will be shared with the congregation on February 25, 2024, at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee, Chairperson

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report For December 2023

	Rec'vd for Dec 2023	Budget for Dec 2023
General Fund	\$31,385.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$4,943	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$83	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$542	
Total	\$36,953.93	\$19,313.00

	Rec'vd YTD 1/1-12/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/23
General Fund	\$158,639.72	\$207,372.00
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Bene. - Synod Only	\$791.00	\$1,608.00
Other Benevolence	\$8,090.00	
Total	\$198,418.72	\$231,756.00

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, 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

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	6
7 <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 Fellowship-Open	8 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	9 6:30 PM Ping Pong	10	11 Bible Study via zoom	12 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
14 <u>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</u> <u>Installation of Church Council</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16 6:30 PM Ping Pong	17	18	19 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	20
21 <u>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23 6:30 PM Ping Pong	24	25	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	27 6:00 PM - -8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 
28 <u>4th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30  2:00 – 7:00 PM Blood Drive	31			

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	3
4 5TH Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30	5 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6 6:30 PM Ping Pong	7	8	8 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	10 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
11 Transfiguration of our Lord 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	12 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	13 6:30 PM Ping Pong	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Services: Noon & 7:00 p.m. 	15	16 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	17
18 1st Sunday of Lent 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	19 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	20 6:30 PM Ping Pong	21	22 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services	23 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	
25 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:00 PM Congregational meeting	26 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	27 6:30 PM Ping Pong	28	29 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services		30

THE ADVENTURE - 2024



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.



Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen, Pastor
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529
www.adventrichboro.org
e-mail
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.



SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

JANUARY 7

BAPTISM 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: Open
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 14

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL HONORING COUNCIL STEPPING DOWN

- 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

JANUARY 21

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 28

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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 18

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
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 11

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

FEBRUARY 22 Mid Week Lenten Service

FEBRUARY 22-Mid-Week Soup Supper

FEBRUARY 25

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Congregational Meeting

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



FEBRUARY 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service at Noon and 7:00 pm

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services 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.

ZOOM INFORMATION

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=dnVRTIRGamJQVXNZbENIVDJTT0pnUT09>

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=aGErSFNlbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktIQT09>

Topic: Congregational Meeting

10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>

Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14

12:00 pm Service

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

Topic: Ash Wednesday Evening Service

Time: Feb 14, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>

PASTOR MATT'S JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

BOOK OF ACTS BIBLE STUDY

Beginning the first full week of Lent, the week of February 19, we will be starting the first congregation wide activity of the Strategic Mission Plan. We will be doing the **Book of Acts Bible Study!** "Congregation wide" means we want everyone in the congregation to participate.

Why should you participate? This Bible Study is life changing. The season of Lent is about recognizing and responding our need for God's love. The Book of Acts is about how God's love is active in the lives of Jesus' followers and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts Bible study will help to you recognize God's love active in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do this as a congregation? In many ways, the Book of Acts is more relevant today in informing the Church on how to be the Church than it has been for a long time. It can be argued that since the Roman Empire there has not been a world economy so extensive until now. It can be argued that no society has infused communities with so much multiculturalism as the Roman Empire until ours. Today, the Church struggles to adjust to no longer sitting at the center power and influence in western culture. The Church has not sat so far outside the center of our culture since the days of the early Church. The Church in the Book of Acts was faced with challenges and internal debates that threatened its very survival: what shall our mission field be, what religious rules of that past still apply to today, what does it mean to be faithful stewards of the resources of the Church, including money. Though the names and details of the specifics have changed, it can be argued that these are the most pressing issues for the Church today. The Book of Acts demonstrates the Church faces all these challenges through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Advent Lutheran Church moves forward, we too need the power of the Holy Spirit. The first step, to tap into that power more fully, is that we need to hone our ability to see God's love already active all around us.

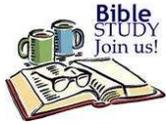
Multiple opportunities to be involved! Participate in the manner that best suits your needs and schedule.

- Sign up for a **Study Group** at a parishioner's home. *
- Sign up with a **Study Buddy** and meet in-person, online or by phone at your convenience. *
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** in-person at 9AM beginning February 18th, in-person.
- **Zoom at Noon** with Pastor Matt beginning February 20th.
- **Email Bible Study** with a YouTube video clip, at your leisure beginning February 20th.
- At the **Lenten Mid-Week Services** beginning February 21st at 7PM, online or in-person.
- *Sign-ups lists are in the church narthex beginning January 28th.*

May God bless you this coming Lenten Service as we explore God's loving activity in our church and in our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Matt



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Night Bible Study is taking a break through the season of Lent, during which we will be having our midweek Lenten soup supper and services on Thursdays for five weeks. You are encouraged to participate in the mid-week Lenten service where we will be doing the congregation wide Book of Acts Bible Study.



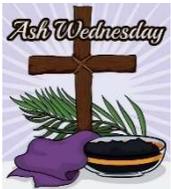
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

On Sunday, **February 25** we will have **one worship 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.

Topic: Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will have two Ash Wednesday services on **February 14, at Noon and 7:00 p.m.**, in person and online.

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 8:00 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.

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
12:00 pm Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES,
THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 21

“*Book of Acts*” 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., February 21 through March 21.

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.

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm
Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

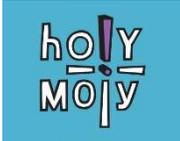
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>



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** February 22 through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 14



Sunday School classes will resume on **January 14** for the Epiphany lesson. We will then follow the Old Testament series of lessons we had begun in the fall. In February, we will celebrate God’s love and, as Ash Wednesday approaches, we will begin our Lenten lessons.

Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in these lively lessons in the **Holy Moly** curriculum. Students meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** to attend the first part of the worship service, then proceed to the classroom with their teachers following the children’s sermon. We invite you to attend and have fun learning with friends at Sunday School!

Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or they may be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office with any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.

Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 A.M. JANUARY 13 AND FEBRUARY 10

We have not made a decision on the menu for January 13th as we want to celebrate either Dr. Martin Luther (King) day or the Eagles stumble into the playoffs. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

February is an easier choice for menu as we will be celebrating Ground Hog Day. Don't ask about the menu. Saturday Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

Dave



INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30

We welcome new and previous members of church council who will be installed to start a new term: Kathryn Dettra, John Flint, Cindy Frey, George Henry, Jennifer McQuiggan, Gail Oines, Pastor Matt, Lynn Roccograndi, Mike Sitler, and Gary Zimmerman. We also will give recognition to Tony Gryszka, Nancy Hill and Nancy Slight, whose terms on council are finished. We thank them for their service.



SPAGHETTI DINNER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Come to Advent Lutheran church for a delicious Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner hosted by the Strategic Mission Team. The event will take place on the evening of Saturday, January 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit the Warminster Food Bank. Suggested offering is \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. To go meals will be available.



BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place January 30, 2024 from **2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card. Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1- 800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037. Thank you for your support.



GRATITUDE FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Warminster Food Bank is grateful to Advent for the generous donations of food, monetary donations and gift cards through the year. This year, Advent and our community have donated 1528 lbs. of food. \$2,056.00 in checks received and \$1,275.00 in gift cards!

Please continue donating whatever you can each month. Blue tote bags are available in the narthex. Food may be brought on Sunday and whenever the church office is open, or you can deposit your bags in the outdoor bench anytime. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank-you for your continued support of this important mission.

Nancy Slight, Social Ministry



PING PONG- TUESDAYS AT 6:30

All are welcome to join us for 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. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



PRAISE BAND and VOCAL CHOIR

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals soon. Please check the Sunday bulletin for updates. Praise Band rehearses from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, and the Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 p.m. If you would like to share your musical talent, please see Mike Dettra for more details.

CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ADVENT

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2023

Advent's annual Christmas Brunch was held on December 3 after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. All 35 attendees enjoyed the delicious food, fellowship and festive Christmas music played by three of Advent's talented musicians: Mike Dettra, Ray Heiss and Mike Sitler. Thank you to all who worked to set-up the event and to all who provided the wonderful variety of food!



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

Advent's Sunday School students reenacted the event of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as a children's sermon on December 17. They portrayed the angel, Mary and Joseph to bring us the message of God's gift to all. We thank Timothy, Julianna and Emma Ward for their wonderful acting and singing!



CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT AT ADVENT

Mike Dettra and his talented musicians shared Christmas joy at Advent on Friday evening, December 15. With a variety of instruments, with singing and Irish dance, the audience had a wonderful evening of music. Many thanks to all of the talented performers for inspiring us all!



PASTOR MATT'S BIRTHDAY CAKES

Pastor Matt and his birthday were celebrated at Advent at least twice in December. He plans to maintain his youthful side for many years to come . . . Best wishes, Pastor Matt!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve worship was held at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The morning service recognized the last Sunday of Advent season, while the evening service brought us the season of Christmas. The vocal choir sang at each one and our guest trumpet player added fanfare to the joyous evening celebration.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through December is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.



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.



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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR CHARITY IS A GREAT IDEA!

Recycling can tabs for charity is a great idea! If you bring them in, we'll drop them off. Look for marked containers in the narthex, located on the shelf above the coat rack. No cans, please – just tabs! The tab collection program began at **Ronald McDonald House Charities** of the Philadelphia Region in 1997. Since the inception of the program, **RMHC** has collected over 350 tons of tabs and over \$170,000! See RMHCphilly.org.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which 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 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., son of Cindy Frey, 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
- Specialist Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, NY.

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

Thank you.



JANUARY

8 Linda Gordon
10 Katie Dettra
12 Jim Hollingsworth
14 Nancy Sclight
18 Benicia Meyers
22 Colleen Morrison
26 Keith Wills
27 Kathy Sitler

FEBRUARY

5 Mike Sitler
9 David Frost
Marion Schmidt
13 Nicole Shearer
18 Julianna Ward
19 Kali Frey
24 Stephen Anderson
26 John Flint

ALTAR GUILD

Hannah McCollum, Gail
Oines, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

OUR TECH CREW

Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra,
Tony Gryszka,
Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey
Savchuck, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

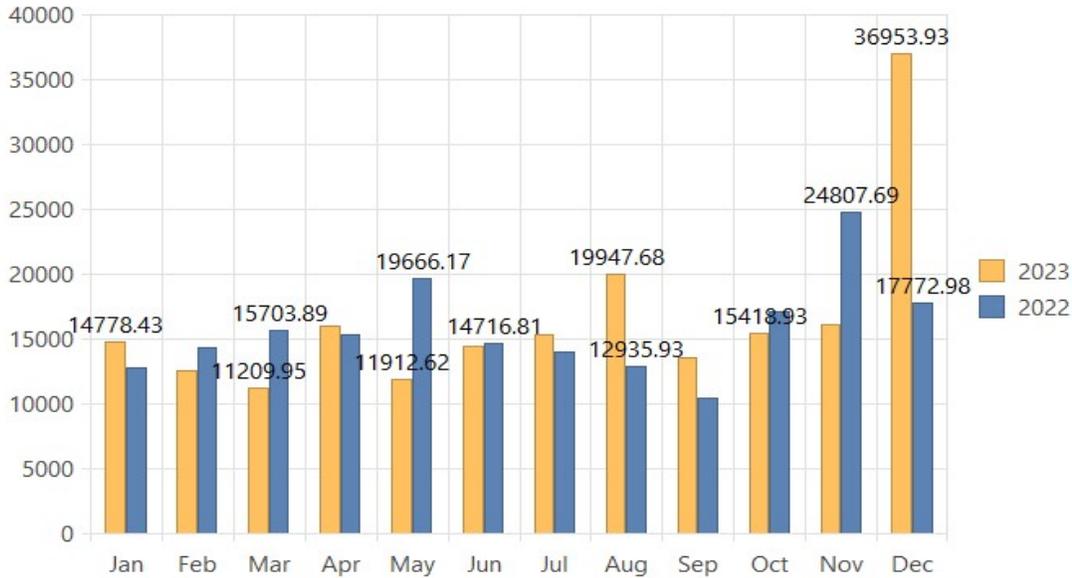
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Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee, Chairperson

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14 <u>2nd Sunday After Epiphany</u> <u>Installation of Church Council</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16 6:30 PM Ping Pong	17	18	19 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	20
21 <u>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23 6:30 PM Ping Pong	24	25	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	27 6:00 PM - -8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 
28 <u>4th Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30  2:00 – 7:00 PM Blood Drive	31			

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	3
4 5TH Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30	5 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	6 6:30 PM Ping Pong	7	8	8 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	10 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 
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25 2nd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 9:40 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:00 PM Congregational meeting	26 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	27 6:30 PM Ping Pong	28	29 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Services		30

THE ADVENTURE - 2024



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.



Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen, Pastor
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529
www.adventrichboro.org
e-mail
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.



SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

JANUARY 7

BAPTISM 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: Open
- 10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 14

2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

**INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL
HONORING COUNCIL STEPPING DOWN**

- 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

JANUARY 21

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 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
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 28

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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 18

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
- 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 11

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

FEBRUARY 22 Mid Week Lenten Service

FEBRUARY 22-Mid-Week Soup Supper

FEBRUARY 25

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Congregational Meeting

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



FEBRUARY 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Service at Noon and 7:00 pm

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services 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.

ZOOM INFORMATION

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=dnVRTIRGamJQVXNZbENIVDJTT0pnUT09>

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=aGErSFNlbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktIQT09>

Topic: Congregational Meeting

10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>

Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14

12:00 pm Service

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

Topic: Ash Wednesday Evening Service

Time: Feb 14, 2024 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>

PASTOR MATT'S JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2024

BOOK OF ACTS BIBLE STUDY

Beginning the first full week of Lent, the week of February 19, we will be starting the first congregation wide activity of the Strategic Mission Plan. We will be doing the **Book of Acts Bible Study!** "Congregation wide" means we want everyone in the congregation to participate.

Why should you participate? This Bible Study is life changing. The season of Lent is about recognizing and responding our need for God's love. The Book of Acts is about how God's love is active in the lives of Jesus' followers and the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts Bible study will help to you recognize God's love active in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why do this as a congregation? In many ways, the Book of Acts is more relevant today in informing the Church on how to be the Church than it has been for a long time. It can be argued that since the Roman Empire there has not been a world economy so extensive until now. It can be argued that no society has infused communities with so much multiculturalism as the Roman Empire until ours. Today, the Church struggles to adjust to no longer sitting at the center power and influence in western culture. The Church has not sat so far outside the center of our culture since the days of the early Church. The Church in the Book of Acts was faced with challenges and internal debates that threatened its very survival: what shall our mission field be, what religious rules of that past still apply to today, what does it mean to be faithful stewards of the resources of the Church, including money. Though the names and details of the specifics have changed, it can be argued that these are the most pressing issues for the Church today. The Book of Acts demonstrates the Church faces all these challenges through the power of the Holy Spirit. As Advent Lutheran Church moves forward, we too need the power of the Holy Spirit. The first step, to tap into that power more fully, is that we need to hone our ability to see God's love already active all around us.

Multiple opportunities to be involved! Participate in the manner that best suits your needs and schedule.

- Sign up for a **Study Group** at a parishioner's home. *
- Sign up with a **Study Buddy** and meet in-person, online or by phone at your convenience. *
- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** in-person at 9AM beginning February 18th, in-person.
- **Zoom at Noon** with Pastor Matt beginning February 20th.
- **Email Bible Study** with a YouTube video clip, at your leisure beginning February 20th.
- At the **Lenten Mid-Week Services** beginning February 21st at 7PM, online or in-person.
- *Sign-ups lists are in the church narthex beginning January 28th.*

May God bless you this coming Lenten Service as we explore God's loving activity in our church and in our lives.

Peace,

Pastor Matt



THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Night Bible Study is taking a break through the season of Lent, during which we will be having our midweek Lenten soup supper and services on Thursdays for five weeks. You are encouraged to participate in the mid-week Lenten service where we will be doing the congregation wide Book of Acts Bible Study.



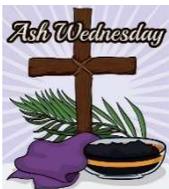
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

On Sunday, **February 25** we will have **one worship 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.

Topic: Congregational Meeting: 10:00 am February 25, 2024 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 898 2827 3113 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89828273113>



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

We will have two Ash Wednesday services on **February 14, at Noon and 7:00 p.m.**, in person and online.

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 8:00 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.

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
12:00 pm Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7633 6231

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89576336231>

**Topic: Ash Wednesday, February 14
7:00 p.m. Evening Service**

Join Zoom Meeting ID: 816 6736 4482

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81667364482>



MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES,
THURSDAYS FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 21

“*Book of Acts*” 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., February 21 through March 21.

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.

Topic: Mid-Week Lenten Service, 7:00 pm
Thursdays February 22 thru March 21

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 830 9865 6920

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83098656920>



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** February 22 through March 21. Please sign up at church to bring soup, bread or drinks. Please contact Gail Oines with any questions or concerns 215-534-8218.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 14



Sunday School classes will resume on **January 14** for the Epiphany lesson. We will then follow the Old Testament series of lessons we had begun in the fall. In February, we will celebrate God’s love and, as Ash Wednesday approaches, we will begin our Lenten lessons.

Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in these lively lessons in the **Holy Moly** curriculum. Students meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** to attend the first part of the worship service, then proceed to the classroom with their teachers following the children’s sermon. We invite you to attend and have fun learning with friends at Sunday School!

Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or they may be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office with any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.

Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



MEN'S BREAKFAST 8:30 A.M. JANUARY 13 AND FEBRUARY 10

We have not made a decision on the menu for January 13th as we want to celebrate either Dr. Martin Luther (King) day or the Eagles stumble into the playoffs. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

February is an easier choice for menu as we will be celebrating Ground Hog Day. Don't ask about the menu. Saturday Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. coffee ready by 7:30 a.m.

Dave



INSTALLATION AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:30

We welcome new and previous members of church council who will be installed to start a new term: Kathryn Dettra, John Flint, Cindy Frey, George Henry, Jennifer McQuiggan, Gail Oines, Pastor Matt, Lynn Roccograndi, Mike Sitler, and Gary Zimmerman. We also will give recognition to Tony Gryszka, Nancy Hill and Nancy Slight, whose terms on council are finished. We thank them for their service.



SPAGHETTI DINNER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Come to Advent Lutheran church for a delicious Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner hosted by the Strategic Mission Team. The event will take place on the evening of Saturday, January 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Proceeds from the free will offering will go to benefit the Warminster Food Bank. Suggested offering is \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under. To go meals will be available.



BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place January 30, 2024 from **2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.**

Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card. Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1- 800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037. Thank you for your support.



GRATITUDE FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Warminster Food Bank is grateful to Advent for the generous donations of food, monetary donations and gift cards through the year. This year, Advent and our community have donated 1528 lbs. of food. \$2,056.00 in checks received and \$1,275.00 in gift cards!

Please continue donating whatever you can each month. Blue tote bags are available in the narthex. Food may be brought on Sunday and whenever the church office is open, or you can deposit your bags in the outdoor bench anytime. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank-you for your continued support of this important mission.

Nancy Slight, Social Ministry



PING PONG- TUESDAYS AT 6:30

All are welcome to join us for 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. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



PRAISE BAND and VOCAL CHOIR

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume Wednesday evening rehearsals soon. Please check the Sunday bulletin for updates. Praise Band rehearses from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, and the Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 p.m. If you would like to share your musical talent, please see Mike Dettra for more details.

CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ADVENT

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2023

Advent's annual Christmas Brunch was held on December 3 after the 9:30 a.m. worship service. All 35 attendees enjoyed the delicious food, fellowship and festive Christmas music played by three of Advent's talented musicians: Mike Dettra, Ray Heiss and Mike Sitler. Thank you to all who worked to set-up the event and to all who provided the wonderful variety of food!



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

Advent's Sunday School students reenacted the event of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as a children's sermon on December 17. They portrayed the angel, Mary and Joseph to bring us the message of God's gift to all. We thank Timothy, Julianna and Emma Ward for their wonderful acting and singing!



CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT AT ADVENT

Mike Dettra and his talented musicians shared Christmas joy at Advent on Friday evening, December 15. With a variety of instruments, with singing and Irish dance, the audience had a wonderful evening of music. Many thanks to all of the talented performers for inspiring us all!



PASTOR MATT'S BIRTHDAY CAKES

Pastor Matt and his birthday were celebrated at Advent at least twice in December. He plans to maintain his youthful side for many years to come . . . Best wishes, Pastor Matt!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Christmas Eve worship was held at 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The morning service recognized the last Sunday of Advent season, while the evening service brought us the season of Christmas. The vocal choir sang at each one and our guest trumpet player added fanfare to the joyous evening celebration.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:00 a.m. and/or 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through December is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.



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.



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. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR CHARITY IS A GREAT IDEA!

Recycling can tabs for charity is a great idea! If you bring them in, we'll drop them off. Look for marked containers in the narthex, located on the shelf above the coat rack. No cans, please – just tabs! The tab collection program began at **Ronald McDonald House Charities** of the Philadelphia Region in 1997. Since the inception of the program, **RMHC** has collected over 350 tons of tabs and over \$170,000! See RMHCphilly.org.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church, which 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 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., son of Cindy Frey, 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
- Specialist Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, NY.

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

Thank you.



JANUARY

8 Linda Gordon
10 Katie Dettra
12 Jim Hollingsworth
14 Nancy Sclight
18 Benicia Meyers
22 Colleen Morrison
26 Keith Wills
27 Kathy Sitler

FEBRUARY

5 Mike Sitler
9 David Frost
Marion Schmidt
13 Nicole Shearer
18 Julianna Ward
19 Kali Frey
24 Stephen Anderson
26 John Flint

ALTAR GUILD

Hannah McCollum, Gail
Oines, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

OUR TECH CREW

Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra,
Tony Gryszka,
Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey
Savchuck, Nancy Sclight,
Rhona Slawter

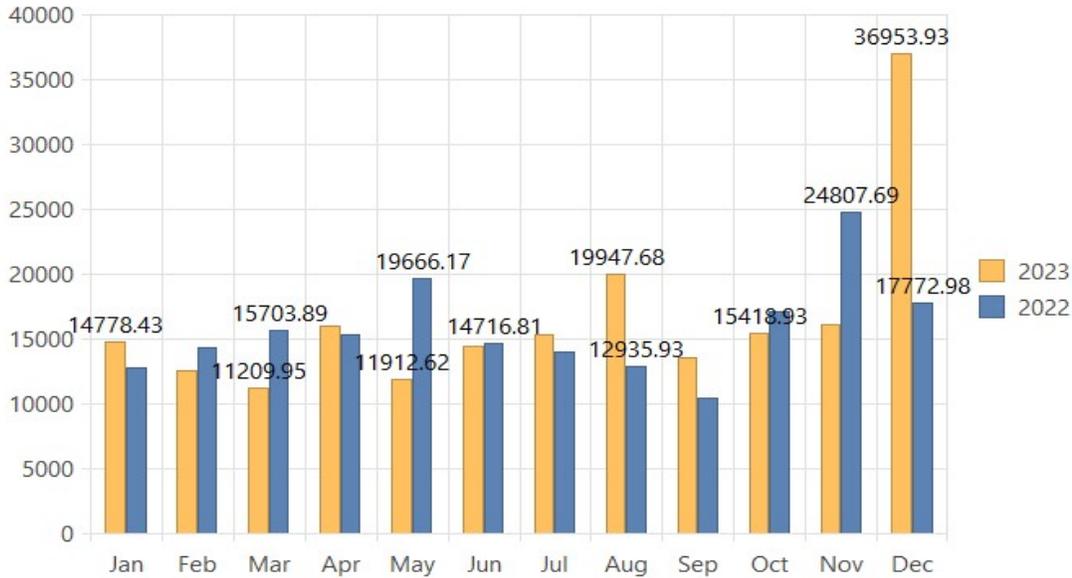
FINANCE REPORT

Thank you for your financial support! We had a great month in December, as year-end offerings enabled us to decrease the deficit by over \$16,000. Although the year-to-date deficit ended up at approximately \$27,000, Advent's investment portfolio increased in value by well over that amount. My detailed financial report will be included in Advent's 2023 Annual Report, which will be shared with the congregation on February 25, 2024, at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee, Chairperson

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report For December 2023

	Rec'vd for Dec 2023	Budget for Dec 2023
General Fund	\$31,385.93	\$17,281.00
Mortgage	\$4,943	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$83	\$134
Other Benevolence	\$542	
Total	\$36,953.93	\$19,313.00

	Rec'vd YTD 1/1-12/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/23
General Fund	\$158,639.72	\$207,372.00
Mortgage	\$30,898.00	\$22,776.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$791.00	\$1,608.00
Other Benevolence	\$8,090.00	
Total	\$198,418.72	\$231,756.00

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, 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

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	6
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21 <u>3rd Sunday After Epiphany</u> 8:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23 6:30 PM Ping Pong	24	25	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting.	27 6:00 PM - -8:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner 
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