

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 8, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**



***We Gather in Jesus' Name***

***Prelude*** (a time for silent meditation)

***Announcements***

***Confessions and Forgiveness***

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.  
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted  
false promises.**

God in our midst,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We plead: come to us.**

**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

## **Gathering Song: "Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn"**

WOV 633

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| <p>1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,<br/>for angels herald its dawning.<br/>Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,<br/>behold! the Child of our longing.<br/>Come as a baby weak and poor,<br/>to bring all hearts together,<br/>he opens wide the heav'nly door<br/>and lives now inside us forever.</p> <p>2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,<br/>Emmanuel comes a-singing,<br/>his humble song is quiet and near,<br/>yet fills the earth with its ringing;<br/>music to heal the broken soul<br/>and hymns of lovingkindness,<br/>the thunder of his anthems roll<br/>to shatter all hatred and blindness.</p> | <p>3 In darkest night his coming shall be,<br/>when all the world is despairing,<br/>as morning light so quiet and free,<br/>so warm and gentle and caring.<br/>Then shall the mute break forth in song,<br/>the lame shall leap in wonder,<br/>the weak be raised above the strong,<br/>and weapons be broken asunder.</p> <p>4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,<br/>though dark the winter and cheerless,<br/>the rising sun shall crown you with light,<br/>be strong and loving and fearless.<br/>Love be our song and love our prayer<br/>and love our endless story;<br/>may God fill ev'ry day we share<br/>and bring us at last into glory.</p> |
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### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle: Advent 2**

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.  
You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.  
Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,  
and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.  
We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.  
**Amen.**

*Light the second candle.*

### **"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"**

Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,  
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times once gave the law  
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Children's Sermon**

## *The Reading of God's Word*

### **First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm: Luke 1:68-79**

<sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.  
<sup>69</sup> **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**  
<sup>70</sup> Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
<sup>71</sup> from the hands of all who hate us,  
<sup>72</sup> **to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**  
<sup>73</sup> This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
**free to worship you without fear,**  
<sup>75</sup> **holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**  
<sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
<sup>77</sup> **to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**  
<sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

### **Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11**

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel: Luke 3:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

## **Sermon**

### ***Hymn of the Day: “Star Child”***

**1** Star-Child earth-Child go between of God  
Love Child Christ Child Heaven's lightning rod

**3** Grown child old child mem'ry full of years  
Sad child lost child story told in tears

#### ***Chorus***

#### **Chorus**

This year this year let the day arrive  
When Christmas comes for everyone  
Everyone alive

**4** Spared child spoiled child having wanting more  
Wise child faith child knowing joy in store

#### ***Chorus***

**2** Street child beat child no place left to go  
Hurt child used child no one wants to know

#### ***Chorus***

**5** Hope for peace Child God's stupendous sign  
Down to earth Child Star of stars that shine

#### ***Chorus***

## ***Apostle's Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe In the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen**

## ***Prayers of Intercession***

*(Each petition ends with... Lord, in Your Mercy, The congregation responds: receive our prayer.)*

### ***Sharing of the Peace***

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you**

***The Offering*** (Please leave your offering on our website: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home>)

### ***Offertory Prayer***

*Let us pray...*

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## ***Sacrament***

### ***The Great Thanksgiving***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you  
and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word  
dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and  
resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us. Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### ***Lord's Prayer***

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever.

**Amen.**

### ***Distribution***

The body of Christ, given to you  
The blood of Christ, shed for you

### ***Prayer After Communion***

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

### ***Sending/Blessing***

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

### ***Sending Hymn: "Born in Bethlehem"***

**1** Baby Jesus born in a stable  
A humble Savior's birth  
You left Your throne in heaven above  
To live here on earth

**2** Baby Jesus lyin' in a manger  
Cryin' for the world  
The angels told the shepherds  
Of the good news for us all

**3** Come thou sinners and you saints  
All peasants and all kings  
And bow before the earth's Redeemer  
Let all voices sing

**4** Baby Jesus do You know  
You'll die for all our sins  
Don't be afraid for in three days  
You will rise again

### ***Chorus***

Hallelujah the King is here  
Given for all men  
For today the holy Son of God  
Is born in Bethlehem

### ***Chorus***

Hallelujah the King is here  
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For today the holy Son of God  
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For today the holy Son of God  
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### ***Dismissal***

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### 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



### SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor:  
Music Director  
Lay Reader  
Communion Assistant  
Fellowship Time

The Rev. Matthew E Ollikainen  
Michael Dettra  
John Flint  
Megan Ward  
Annual Christmas Brunch

### ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by the Ward Family for Mary, the Mother of God.

### MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

### WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, December 1: 8:00 a.m.- 14+4=18; 9:30 a.m.- 35+4=39; SS-5 **TOTAL- 62**



### COMMUNION REMINDER

The Worship and Music Committee would like to remind the congregation that those going forward to the altar for communion have a few options. There is gluten-free bread in the small clear glass bowl, and white grape juice for those who prefer. Just let the Pastor or assistant know your preference. Thank you.

### 2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2025 Offering envelopes are on the table in the narthex for pickup. If you did not receive envelopes and would like to have them, please contact Cindy Frey or Tony Gryszka.

### 2025 FLOWER CHART

The 2025 Flower Chart to dedicate altar flowers each Sunday is on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$25 per bouquet, and you are welcome to take them home following the late service.

### POINSETTIA LIST FOR CHRISTMAS EVE DEDICATIONS



A sign-up sheet for dedicating poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service is on the table in the narthex. Please sign up by December 18. You can also call the office to leave your dedication. Poinsettias may be picked up any time after the 7:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Cost per plant is \$15.

### DONATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME



If you are looking for a way to assist with Fellowship Time but do not have the time or ability to bake or shop for snacks, please consider donating a few dollars. All those hungry snackers will appreciate it!

## THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

You are invited to a study of the Gospel of Matthew on Thursday nights via Zoom. Pastor will be leading the study, which utilizes the “The Jewish Annotated New Testament” as one of our resources to delve deep into Jesus’ times and to better understand this Gospel written to a Jewish-Christian audience.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82089110140>

Meeting ID: 820 8911 0140



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Advent Lutheran Church wants some new faces/voices helping before and during the services! We want you, in other words. Please consider sharing your gifts with us as an **Usher/Greeter**, **Lay Reader**, or **Communion Assistant**. We are also looking for young people who may be interested in being an **Acolyte**. Please see Gail Oines for more details and training information.



### PRAISE BAND and VOCAL CHOIR SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Advent’s Praise Band and Vocal Choir invite you to join them during the Advent season! Praise Band practices from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 p.m. Please see Mike Dettra, Music Director for more details.

## ADVENT LADIES LUNCH GROUP

- ❖ The next lunch meeting will be **Tuesday, January 7**, at noon in Advent's multipurpose room. BYO lunch.
- ❖ There is an outing scheduled to the Michener Art Museum in Doylestown on Sunday, **January 12**. Timing and transportation will be discussed at the January 7 lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact Fran Zanis, 267 847 5098, email [Ftkelly30@gmail.com](mailto:Ftkelly30@gmail.com), or join us at the lunch scheduled for Tuesday, January 7.



### MEN’S BREAKFAST – DECEMBER 14

The Men’s Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, December 14**. Coffee will be ready at 7:30 a.m. A disappointment this year is that Santa refuses to attend. His weak excuse is that he is not up to those heavy guys sitting on his lap anymore.

## DRIVE in AND DROP off FOOD COLLECTION

If you have food for the Warminster Food Pantry and the church is not open, just drive into the parking lot and drop off the food inside 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.

## PLEASE GIVE TO THE REBUILDING OF OUR CHURCH’S WEBSITE

Please help support the website rebuild through a financial gift, which will defray the costs totaling \$14,535 (for the rebuild and web hosting for one year). To date, over \$5,700 has been donated. Thanks to all who have made and will be making a financial gift in support of the appeal. Checks can be made out to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church (memo line: Electronic Service Appeal).

### CONTACTING PASTOR MATT

If you need to speak with Pastor Matt when he is not in the office, particularly in the case of a pastoral emergency, please feel free to call his cell at 215-859-3778 or email him at [pastor@adventrichboro.org](mailto:pastor@adventrichboro.org). If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.



## PASTOR MATT'S END OF YEAR SCHEDULE

Pastor Matt will be out of the office from Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> until Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>. Pastor will return to the office on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Church Office Hours for the week of Christmas and New Year's

Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For November 2024		
	Rec'd for Nov 2024	Budget for Nov 2024
General Fund	\$21,192.27	\$17,482.00
Mortgage	\$1,601	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$25	\$75
Other Benevolence	\$385	
Insurance Settlement		
Web Upgrade		
Total	\$23,203.27	\$19,455.00
	Rec'd YTD 1/1-11/30/24	Budget YTD 1/1-11/30/24
General Fund	\$131,228.66	\$192,302.00
Mortgage	\$18,553.00	\$20,878.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$560.00	\$825.00
Other Benevolence	\$5,980.00	
Insurance Settlement	\$87,496.69	
Web Upgrade	\$5,780.00	
Total	\$249,598.35	\$214,005.00

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**Sunday, December 15, during the 9:30 a.m. service**



Our Sunday School students are preparing for the upcoming Christmas mini-pageant, a feature of the 9:30 worship service on December 15.

Each Sunday during Advent season, they will have rehearsal time before their lesson. All are invited for the performance with family and friends to experience the joy our young actors will share! Thank you to our Pageant Parents for helping to coordinate the details.

### CHRISTMAS JAZZ CONCERT

**Saturday, December 21, at 7:00 p.m.**

The annual Christmas Jazz Concert will be held at Advent on **Saturday evening, December 21**, at 7:00 p.m. under the direction of our organist and choir director, Mike Dettra and his band, The Dettra Mental Trio. You can look forward to kicking off the holidays with an hour of relaxation and entertainment! A free-will offering will be taken and light refreshments will be served. Thank you for supporting Mike and his band.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**Tuesday, December 24, at 7:30 p.m.**

The single Christmas Eve service with Holy Communion will be at 7:30 p.m. Dedication poinsettia plants may be picked up after the conclusion of the service.

# THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8** **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion  
9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion  
Sunday School for students age 4 to grade 6  
10:30 am Annual Christmas Brunch  
followed by the Decorating of the Christmas Tree

## **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9**

7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

6:30 pm Ping Pong until 8:30 pm

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

6:30 pm Praise Team practice until 7:15 pm  
7:15 pm Vocal Choir practice until 8:00 pm

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**

7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study-Gospel of Matthew

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13**

7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**

8:00 am Men's Breakfast

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15** **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion  
9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion  
Annual Christmas Pageant  
10:30 am Fellowship Time: The Ward Family  
10:45 am Church Council Meeting