

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 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: "People Look East"

- 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.
- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.
- 4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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 3

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

Amen.

Light the third candle.

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

- 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse,
free your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave *Refrain*

Refrain

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

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Advent Sunday School Presents "God's Greatest Gift"**Away in a Manger**

The children sing verses 1 and 3. Congregation sings verse 2.

- 2 The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
The little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

- ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against
you, he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
- ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

- ¹⁸ as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
- ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

- ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.
- ³ **With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**
- ⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.
- ⁵ **Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**
- ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Emmanuel"

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel
God with us, revealed in us
His name is called Emmanuel
We love Him so, we love Him so,
His name is called Emmanuel

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: "Manger Throne"

1 What kind of king would leave His throne
In Heaven to make this earth His home?
While men seek fame and great renown
In lowliness our King comes down

2 You left the sound of angels' praise
To come for men with unkind ways
And by this Baby's helplessness
The power of nations is laid to rest
Chorus

Chorus

Jesus, Jesus, precious one
How we thank You that You've come
Jesus, Jesus, precious one
A manger throne for God's own son

3 What kind of King would come so small
From glory to a humble stall?
That dirty manger is my heart too
I'll make it a royal throne for You
Chorus

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

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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
Bruce Eklund
Kristi Ward
The Ward Family

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, December 1: 8:00 a.m.- 7+2=9; 9:30 a.m.- 31+2=33; SS-7 **TOTAL- 49**



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 this Wednesday, 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, or join us at the lunch scheduled for Tuesday, January 7.

MEN’S BREAKFAST



The Men’s Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, January 11 at 8:30 a.m.** Coffee will be ready at 7:30 a.m. If you are looking forward to new cuisine in the new year, prepare to be disappointed.

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. 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 until Wednesday, January 1. Pastor will return to the office on Thursday, January 2.

HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Monday, December 23: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Thursday, December 26: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Monday, December 30: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, December 31: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Thursday, January 2: 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 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.

SINGLE SUNDAY SERVICE ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 29 at 9:00 a.m.

A Lessons and Carols Service with no Communion will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 29. Sunday School and Bible Study are both cancelled and will resume in the new year.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30 pm Ping Pong until 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study-Gospel of Matthew

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00 pm Christmas Jazz Concert

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 **FOURTH 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 Fellowship Time: Gail Oines