

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 1, 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.

These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are ☩ forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation. **Amen.**

Gathering Song: “Mary Had a Baby”

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Mary had a baby, my Lord;
Mary had a baby, my Lord;
Mary had a baby, Mary had a baby,
Mary had a baby, my Lord.</p> <p>2 Where did she lay him, my Lord?
Where did she lay him, my Lord?
Where did she lay him, where did she lay him,
where did she lay him, my Lord?</p> <p>3 Laid him in a manger, my Lord;
laid him in a manger, my Lord;</p> | <p>laid him in a manger, laid him in a manger,
laid him in a manger, my Lord.</p> <p>4 What did she name him, my Lord?
What did she name him, my Lord?
What did she name him, what did she name him,
what did she name him, my Lord?</p> <p>5 Mary named him Jesus, my Lord;
Mary named him Jesus, my Lord;
Mary named him Jesus, Mary named him Jesus,
Mary named him Jesus, my Lord.</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 1

Praise to you, O God, our salvation, who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, You hurry to gather all people to Your peace. **Amen.**

Light the first candle.

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

- 1** Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

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

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children’s Sermon

The Reading of God’s Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

- ¹To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.
- ²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- ³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- ⁴**Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**
- ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- ⁶**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**
- ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- ⁸**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
- ⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.
- ¹⁰**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "How Many Kings"

1 Follow the star to a place unexpected
Would you believe after all we've projected
A child in a manger
Lowly and small the weakest of all
Unlikeliest hero wrapped in His mother's shawl
Just a child
Is this who we've waited for 'cause

2 Bringing out gifts for the newborn Savior
All that we have whether costly or meek
Because we believe
Gold for His honor and frankincense for His
pleasure
And myrrh for the cross He'll suffer
Do you believe
Is this who we've waited for

Chorus 1

How many kings stepped down from their thrones
How many lords have abandoned their homes
How many greats have become the least for me
And how many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me

Chorus 2

How many kings stepped down from their thrones
How many lords have abandoned their homes
How many greats have become the least
How many gods have poured out their hearts
To romance a world that is torn all apart
How many fathers gave up their sons for me

Ending

Only one did that for me oh

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: "Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)"

1 What hope we hold this starlit night
A King is born in Bethlehem
Our journey long we seek the light
That leads to the hallowed manger ground

2 What fear we felt in the silent age
Four-hundred years can He be found
But broken by a baby's cry
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground

Chorus

Emmanuel Emmanuel
God incarnate here to dwell
Emmanuel Emmanuel
Praise His name Emmanuel
(Praise His name Emmanuel)

3 The Son of God here born to bleed
A crown of thorns would pierce His brow
And we beheld this offering
Exalted now the King of kings
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
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
Worship Assistant
Fellowship Time

The Rev. Matthew E Ollikainen
Michael Dettra
Jennifer McQuiggan
Open

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, November 24: 9:00 a.m.- 32+2=34; SS-4 **TOTAL- 38**



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.

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**. Also, if you know a young person who may be interested in being an **Acolyte**, we could use them, too.



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.



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.



COAT DRIVE –DECEMBER 1

We are collecting new and gently worn coats (all sizes) for Prevention Point Philadelphia. This is a non-profit organization that supports the unhoused and addicted in the Kensington area in Philadelphia. We are collecting coats this **Sunday, December 1**. Please place donations in the designated bin in the narthex.



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!

DRIVE in AND DROP off FOOD COLLECTION

If you have food for the Warminster Food Pantry 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.

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 – 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.

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.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For October 2024		
	Rec'd for Oct 2024	Budget for Oct 2024
General Fund	\$10,219.53	\$17,482.00
Mortgage	\$1,376	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$125	\$75
Other Benevolence	\$725	
Insurance Settlement		
Web Upgrade		
Total	\$12,445.53	\$19,455.00
	Rec'd YTD 1/1-10/31/24	Budget YTD 1/1-10/31/24
General Fund	\$110,036.39	\$174,820.00
Mortgage	\$16,952.00	\$18,980.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$535.00	\$750.00
Other Benevolence	\$5,595.00	
Insurance Settlement	\$87,496.69	
Web Upgrade	\$5,780.00	
Total	\$226,395.08	\$194,550.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Sunday, December 8, immediately after 9:30 a.m. service

Advent's annual Christmas brunch will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2024, in the Fellowship Hall, immediately after the 9:30 worship service. This event lasts about an hour and festive live Christmas music will be provided by Advent's own talented musicians. The sign-up sheet in the narthex provides additional information, and all family members and friends are welcome to attend. Thank you!

ADVENT CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING

Sunday, December 8, immediately after Brunch

We will be decorating the Christmas Tree in the narthex on Sunday, December 8, after Christmas Brunch. All are invited to participate.



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.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 – FIRST 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: Open
- 10:45 am Bible Study in the Parlor with George Henry

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 6:30 pm Ping Pong until 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study-Gospel of Matthew

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

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