TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 31, 2025 9:00 AM



In the principal service of Christian worship, the Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace—the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.

The basic pattern of this service—gathering, word, meal, sending—is a structure that allows for freedom and flexibility in the ways worship may be shaped locally, while focusing on what the church holds in common. The whole people of God are joined by the same aifts of grace, for the sake of the same mission of the gospel, into the life of the one triune God.

GATHERING 1

Prelude a time for silent meditation

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness ²

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: Amen.
- P: Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P: Merciful God,
- C: you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

¹ The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

² On the day of Christ's resurrection, and at other times, God gathers us in Christian assembly. We confess our sin and hear God's word of forgiveness. We give thanks for God's mercy in the gift of baptism.

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn 3: "Praise and Thanksgiving"

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer, For all things living You have made good: Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard. Hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
- Lord, bless the labour We bring to serve you, That with our neighbour we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, We would work with you; Harvesting, milling, For daily bread.

- **LBW 409** Father, providing Food for your children, Your wisdom guiding Teaches us share One with another, So that, rejoicing With us, our brother May know your care.
- 4 Then will your blessing Reach every people; Each one confessing Your gracious hand. When you are reigning No one will hunger: Your love sustaining Fruitful the land.

Greeting 4

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

C: And also with you.

³ Singing at the gathering may include hymns old and new; a prayer for God's mercy to fill the church and the world; a canticle of praise to God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ.

⁴ During the gathering, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the name of the triune God. The presiding minister gathers the assembly into prayer.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD 5

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,

^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble. Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 112

- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord and have great delight in God's commandments!
- ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.
- ⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.
- ⁶ For they will never be shaken;

the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

- ⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
- ⁸Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.
- ¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

⁵ God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. The word of God is proclaimed within and by the gathered assembly. The first Bible reading, usually from the Old Testament, is followed by a psalm sung or spoken in response. The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church. We acclaim the living Word, Jesus Christ, present in the gospel reading. Preaching brings God's word of law and gospel into our time and place to awaken and nourish faith.

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Children's Sermon

Sermon



Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

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.

⁶ God's word is further proclaimed as we sing and as we confess our faith with the whole church. After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace.

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: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The Offering

Please leave your offering on our website: https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home

Offering Prayer 7

P: Let us pray...

C: Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

SACRAMENT 8

The Great Thanksgiving 9

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

⁷ A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. The table is set with bread and wine.

⁸ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

⁹ Before the Lord's supper is shared, the presiding minister leads us into thanksgiving. With the whole creation, we join the angels' song.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer 10

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Invitation to Communion 11

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

Distribution

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



¹⁰ The grace of God's gift is always proclaimed in Jesus' own words of command and promise at the table. A full thanksgiving also includes praise to God for creation and salvation; remembrance of the crucified and risen Christ; and prayer for the Holy Spirit in this meal. The thanksgiving concludes with the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us.

¹¹ In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission. It is traditional to sing as the bread is broken and as the meal is shared. We ask God to send us in witness to the world.

Prayer after Communion 12

P: Mothering God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Once Again"

Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice You became nothing, poured out to death Many times I've wondered at your gift of life And I'm in that place once again I'm in that place once again

Refrain

And once again I look upon the cross where you died I'm humbled by your mercy and I'm broken inside Once again I thank you Once again I pour out my life

2 Now you are exalted to the highest place King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow But for now I marvel at your saving grace And I'm full of praise once again I'm full of praise once again **Refrain**

Thank you for the cross
Thank you for the cross, my friend
Thank you for the cross
Thank you for the cross
Thank you for the cross
Thank you for the cross, my friend
Refrain

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

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¹² God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. God's mission includes the gifts of grace that we share in worship and take also to the absent; now, we are sent to continue our participation in God's mission. With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.

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 The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen Music Director Michael Dettra Lay Reader David Elkin Communion Assistant Kristi Ward Fellowship Time Open

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 24 9:00 AM: 40+9 TOTAL: 49

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 pastormattollikainen@gmail.com. If he is not available to take your call, leave a message, and he will contact you.

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 Communion Assistant know your preference. Thank you.

GOD SIGHTINGS – INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTS



Please take the time to reflect on how God is seen in your life through actions and/or spiritual gifts that you or someone in your life has done. On the paper chain link (available in the narthex), please identify the <u>person</u> (if applicable) and the <u>action/spiritual gift</u> through which God is being seen. For example, "<u>Grandmom taught</u> me how to bake a pie." The person who is displaying God should be underlined and the action or spiritual gift should be underlined twice.

Schedule for Worship Services

Beginning next Sunday, September 7, Advent will resume offering <u>two</u> Sunday worship services, an 8:00 AM Traditional Worship service and a 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service, followed by Fellowship Time.

PRAYER CHAIN AT ADVENT

The Prayer Chain is a group of volunteers at Advent who pray every day, confidentially, for people added to the Prayer Chain. Names are maintained for one month unless asked to be removed earlier. To add names to the Prayer Chain:

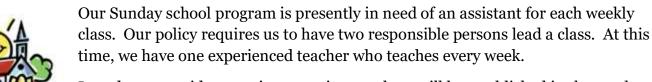
- * Complete a Prayer Request Card found in the pews of the sanctuary. Please place completed cards in the offering plate, or
- * Submit names by email directly to Linda Weaver at lindaweaver3@comcast.net.

 If you would like to be a Prayer Chain volunteer, contact Linda Weaver to be added to the email list.

DRIVE-IN & DROP-OFF FOOD COLLECTION – WARMINSTER FOOD BANK

If you have food for the Warminster Food Bank 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. Check their website for the most current needs: www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSISTANTS NEEDED



In order to provide an assistant, a sign-up sheet will be established in the narthex for volunteers to offer their help, one Sunday at a time. Volunteers require a

background check. If you can help by serving as an assistant to our teacher in Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. on one or more Sundays during the school year, please sign an empty space. Feel free to contact Pastor Matt for more information. Thank you.

-Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director

OUR DAILY BREAD



The **large print edition** of Our Daily Bread devotional is now available in the narthex at Advent. <u>Please note that the large print edition and the regular edition are on different print schedules and cover different months</u>. The devotionals are also available digitally:

- Download their app at: https://www.odbm.org/about-us/mobile-resources
- Sign up for an email subscription at: https://www.odbm.org/about-us/email-subscription.

If you have any questions or need assistance accessing the devotionals digitally, please contact the church office at 215-355-2529 or <u>adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com</u>.

DONATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME

Fellowship Time is held Sundays directly following the 9:00 AM service. The sign-up sheet to provide refreshments for Fellowship Time is available in the narthex on the refreshment table. Advent supplies hot beverages and paper products.

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.

The hungry snackers will appreciate it!

DEDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Payments for dedications may be made using the marked envelopes by the sign-up charts.

Please place payment in the offering plate or mail payment to the church at

45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954.

Please write check to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church and write Altar Flowers or Mission Support in the memo line on your check.

2025 ALTAR FLOWERS 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 the flowers home following the late service. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529

2025 MISSION SUPPORT

The 2025 Mission Support Chart is available for sign up on the table in the narthex. Mission Support Dedication donations benefit our sister church, Iglesia Luterana Nueva Creacion, which does vital work in North Philadelphia. Dedication donations are \$25. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529.

Office Hours Change for this week:

The church office will be closed on Thursday, September 4 and will reopen on Tuesday, September 9, at 9:00 AM

JULY 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For July	2025	
	Rec'vd for July 2025	Budget for July 2025
General Fund	\$8,698.93	\$18,609.00
Mortgage	\$1,155	\$1,898.00
Bene Synod Only	\$50	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$315	
Web Upgrade		
Total	\$10,218.93	\$20,640.00
	Recv'd YTD 1/1/-7/31/25	Budget YTD 1/1-7/31/25
General Fund	\$82,027.35	\$130,263.00
Mortgage	\$10,221.00	\$13,286.00
Bene Synod Only	\$482.00	\$931.00
Other Benevolence	\$3,816.00	
Web Upgrade	\$450.00	
Total	\$96,996.35	\$144,480.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 21



Children from age 4 through grade 6 are invited to attend Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., starting on September 21. Students will begin their class time in the worship service. They'll join Pastor Matt for the Children's Sermon, then proceed with their teacher(s) to the all-purpose room to gather for their class. Our weekly Bible lessons are based on the clever *Holy Moly* curriculum. The *Bible Story Book* is written and illustrated in graphic novel style and

the creative short videos bring the stories to life. The lessons are real conversation-starters! Learning together is fun! The registration form is available in the church foyer and narthex, and on our website. This is important, as student books and crafts will be ordered based on the number of registered students. Thank you! Please contact the church office at 215-355-2529 or

ADVENT FLEA MARKET - Saturday, September 13, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Registration Deadline: Sunday, September 7 or until space is full Non-refundable Registration Fee: \$10

Our Flea Market is just weeks away...

adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com with any questions.

If you are still looking to "declutter/downsize items in your living space", please consider joining us for this event. On Saturday, September 13, Advent is holding a September 13 are avenue for you to

Flea Market in the church parking lot from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM, providing an avenue for you to achieve your goal of selling items you can no longer use. This is a **rain or shine event** (held inside the church in the event of rain) for church members, friends, neighbors and members of the community to sell and buy items or just browse.

Water and soft pretzels will be available during the flea market at a cost of \$1.00 each.

Flea Market Registration Forms (with detailed information) are available for completion and can be found on the round table in the church narthex or on the church's website at www.adventrichboro.org.

A **non-refundable registration fee** of \$10.00 must accompany your registration. Flea Market Registrations will be accepted until **September 7**, **or until spaces are no longer available.**

We look forward to seeing you at the Flea Market and helping you "declutter/downsize" items you no longer can use but that others may.

Please contact our Flea Market coordinators **Kathy Sitler (215-589-5423)** or **Cime Eklund** with any questions that you may have regarding the Flea Market. Thank you for your interest and participation in this church- sponsored event.

OTHER FALL DATES

- **First Communion**: Sunday, September 14, during the 9:30 AM service
- Baptism of Brooks McQuiggan: Sunday, September 28, during the 9:30 AM service
- **Bible Study with George Henry in the Parlor**: Sundays after the 9:30 AM service, beginning September 7. For Sundays in August, meet after the 9:00 AM single worship service.
- **Bible Study with Pastor Matt via Zoom**: Thursdays at 7:00 PM, beginning September 11. Bible Study will <u>not</u> be held on the *first* Thursday of each month.
- Preaching Class: First Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM, starting September 4
- Advent Women's Circle: Tuesday, September 9 at 12:00 PM for a planning meeting. Bring your lunch.
- **Ping Pong**: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM, beginning September 16
- New Members Class: Tentative start date is Sunday, September 21. More information to follow
- Mitch McVicker Concert: Wednesday, October 1 at 7:00 PM
- Men's Breakfast: Saturday, October 11, 8:00 AM

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

9:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:15 AM	SUNDAY, August 31 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Single Worship Service with Communion Fellowship Time: Open Bible Study with George Henry in the Parlor First Communion Class with Pastor Matt		
- · · · ·			
MONDAY, September 1			
	Happy Labor Day!		
7:30 PM	A.A. Open Meeting		
	THURSDAY, September 4		
7:00 PM	Preaching Class with Pastor Matt		
	EDIDAY Contembor =		
7:30 PM	FRIDAY, September 5 A.A. Step Meeting		
/.30 1 M	A.A. Step Weeting		
	SUNDAY, September 7		
	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost		
8:00 AM	Traditional Worship Service with Communion		
9:30 AM	Contemporary Worship Service with Communion		
10:30 AM	Fellowship Time: Open		
10:00 AM	AM Bible Study with George Henry in the Parlor		