

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 17, 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 gifts 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.

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.

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,
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.
In the cross of ✝ Christ,
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: “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

LBW 343

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious
bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me with your
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me all my
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on
pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es,
feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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.

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.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD ⁵

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 82

¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

² **"How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?"**

³ Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

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.

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.

**⁴rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

**⁶Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**

⁷nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.’ ”

**⁸Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ⁶: “How Firm a Foundation”

LBW 507



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove
is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;
What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,
who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

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**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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: "Song of Love"

Jesus, king of my heart
Father, my peace and my light
Spirit, the joy of my soul You are

Jesus, to You none compare
Father, I rest in your care
Spirit, the hope of my heart You are

The heavens declare You are God
And the mountains rejoice
The oceans cry "Alleluia"
As we worship You Lord
For this is our song of love
Jesus, You saved my soul

I'll thank You forever more
Jesus, the love of my life You are

The heavens declare You are God
And the mountains rejoice
The oceans cry "Alleluia"
As we worship You Lord
For this is our song of love
Jesus, I am in awe

Of the love that You have shown
Jesus, how precious you are to me, to me

The heavens declare You are God
And the mountains rejoice
The oceans cry "Alleluia"
As we worship You Lord
For this is our song of Love

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
C: **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
Guest Musician
Lay Reader
Communion Assistant
Fellowship Time

The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen
Joseph Napi
Jeanne Gryszka
Megan Ward
Open

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by

- ✦ Cindy Frey in loving memory of her mother, Lorraine Zimmerman
- ✦ Lynn Roccograndi in loving memory of Julie's birthday

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, August 10 9:00 AM: 33+1 TOTAL: 34

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 pastormattolikainen@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 person (if applicable) and the action/spiritual gift through which God is being seen. For example, “Grandmom taught 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.

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 CO-TEACHER NEEDED



At Advent, we place a high value on Christian education and work together to teach children about the Bible. Our Sunday school program presently has a vacancy that we need to fill. If you would be interested in serving as a co-teacher in Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays during the school year, please contact the church office for more information. Thank you for your consideration.

-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. Please note that the large print edition and the regular edition are on different print schedules and cover different months. 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 adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com.

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.

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!

JULY 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For July 2025		
	Rec'd 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 adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com with any questions.



FLEA MARKET

ADVENT FLEA MARKET - Saturday, September 13, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Registration Deadline: Sunday, September 7

Non-refundable Registration Fee: \$10

On Saturday, September 13, Advent will hold a Community Flea Market in the church parking lot, providing all participants an avenue by which to make "decluttering their living space" a reality! This is a rain or shine event (held inside the church in the event of rain) for church members, family, friends, neighbors and community members to sell and buy items or just to browse.

Registration forms with detailed information are available on the round table in the church narthex and on the church website at www.adventrichboro.org for those wishing to have space to sell items. We look forward to seeing you at the Flea Market and helping you "declutter" your living space!

Please contact Coordinators Kathy Sitler (215-589-5423) or Cime Eklund with any questions that you may have about this 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 not 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 9
- **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

SUNDAY, August 17

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM	Single Worship Service with Communion
10:00 AM	Fellowship Time: Open
10:00 AM	Bible Study with George Henry in the Parlor
10:15 AM	First Communion Class with Pastor Matt

MONDAY, August 18

7:30 PM	A.A. Open Meeting
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FRIDAY, August 22

7:30 PM	A.A. Step Meeting
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SUNDAY, August 24

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM	Single Worship Service with Communion
10:00 AM	Fellowship Time: Open
10:00 AM	Bible Study with George Henry in the Parlor
10:15 AM	First Communion Class with Pastor Matt

