



ADVENT
EVANGELICAL
Lutheran Church

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

9:30 AM



We Gather in Jesus' Name



Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529
Adventrichboro.org

Welcome Visitors! Discover god's abundant grace and love.

We extend a cordial welcome to all who worship with us today. We give thanks that you are here with us. Please sign our guest book and come back to worship with us again.



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.

WE GATHER IN JESUS' NAME ¹

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness ²

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

Blessed by the holy Trinity, † one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

C: we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found.

Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

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.

Gathering Song ³: “Mighty is our God”

Mighty is our God
Mighty is our King
Mighty is our Lord
Ruler of everything
His name is higher
Higher than any other name
His power is greater
For He has created everything

Repeat

Mighty is our God
Mighty is our King
Mighty is our Lord
Ruler of everything

Greeting

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 ⁴

P: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Children’s Sermon

THE READING OF GOD’S WORD ⁵

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,

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.

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.

so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”
⁷ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 113

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.
² **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**
³ From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.
⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations;
God’s glory above the heavens.**
⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,
⁶ **but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**
⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,
⁸ **enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**
⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time.⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain
but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, “He died for all.”
and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

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: God of grace,

C: Receive our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

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

C: And also with you.

The Offering ⁷

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

Offering Prayer

P: Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: 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.

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.



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. **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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

Distribution ¹¹

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

Let us pray...

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

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.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"

Over the mountains and the sea

Your river runs with love for me

And I will open up my heart

And let the Healer set me free

I'm happy to be in the truth

And I will daily lift my hands

For I will always sing

Of when Your love came down

I could sing of Your love forever

I could sing of Your love forever

I could sing of Your love forever

I could sing of Your love forever

(Repeat whole song)

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

Some content copyright by Augsburg Fortress and used by permission.

SundaysandSeasons.com License SB151685.

CCLI License:2665540

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

- + 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	Bruce Eklund
Communion Assistant	Megan Ward
Fellowship Time	Open

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by the Shearer family in memory of Tom.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, September 14 Total: 48 8:00 AM: 10 9:30 AM: 36+2=38

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.

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.

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.

Thursday Night Bible Study via Zoom – *Thursdays except the 1st Thursday of each month*

Thursday Night Bible Study with Pastor Matt will be held Thursdays at 7:00 PM. A weekly commitment is not needed! Come virtually with your Bible or just listen and follow along as your schedule allows.

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

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

Prayer Chain

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, please contact Linda Weaver to be added to the email list.

Donations for Fellowship Time

Fellowship Time is held Sundays directly following the 9:30 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!



Sunday School Assistants Needed

Our Sunday school program is presently in need of an assistant for each weekly class. Our policy requires us to have two responsible persons lead a class. At this time, we have one experienced teacher who teaches every week.

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. Thank you to those who have already volunteered! Feel free to contact Pastor Matt for more information. Thank you.

-Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director

Our Daily Bread



The regular and **large print editions** of Our Daily Bread devotional are 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.

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.

Recycling Can Tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities

We are collecting can tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities which help alleviate some financial burdens for families along their child's healthcare journey. Last year alone, they helped families save \$736 million in lodging and meal expenses.

Tabs can be placed in the marked containers in the narthex, on the shelf above the coat rack.

No cans, please – just tabs!

Blood Drive: Tuesday, October 28, 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM



Harvest Hope Blood Drive will take place at Advent on Tuesday, October 28th from 2:00 to 7:00. Please consider donating and asking your family, friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will receive a \$10 e-gift card, and a chance to win one of three \$5000 gift cards. A sign-up sheet is located in the narthex or sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code "AdventLutheran", or call 1-800-red-cross or

Audrey Savchuck at 215-913-1037.

Please see Audrey if you are able to volunteer - either an hour or two the day of the drive or to donate treats for our snack table.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday School Begins September 21



Children from age 4 through grade 6 are invited to attend Sunday School at 9:30 AM, 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. Registration 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 adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com or 215-355-2529 with any questions.

Praise Band and Vocal Choir Rehearsals begin this week

Rehearsals for both Praise Band and Vocal Choir resume this **Wednesday, September 24.**



Praise Band: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

Vocal Choir: 6:15 PM – 7:00 PM

If you are interested in sharing your musical talents through Praise Band and/or Vocal Choir, please contact Mike Dettra, Music Director.

Advent Women's Circle – synagogue visit: Friday, September 26, 10:00 AM



Our women's circle will visit the Beth Shalom synagogue in Elkins Park on Friday, September 26, at 10:00 AM. The synagogue was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, completed in 1959. For all who plan to attend, the cost of the tour is between \$12-\$15 per person, to be paid at the tour. A carpool will depart from Advent at 9:20 AM. We look forward to learning more about this National Historic Landmark.

MITCH McVICKER Concert - Wednesday, October 1, 7:00 PM - www.MitchMcVicker.com



Advent is again pleased to have Mitchell McVicker, Christian recording artist, with us in concert. McVicker's concert is a little bit Mark Twain meets MacGyver. His quirky and inventive approach includes insightful song lyrics, unconventional instruments, and profound storytelling. His concert connects the everyday with the otherworldly. McVicker's theology is daringly simple - God's love washes over and

through us regardless of our circumstances and situations. Come out for an evening of enjoyable and inspirational music. A free will offering will be taken.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, October 11, 8:00 AM



Hate to admit it but we failed the cooking class in Paris, so for the much anticipated new breakfast menus, forget it. 😊 See you on Saturday, October 11 at 8:00 AM. Coffee will be ready at 7:30 AM.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, September 21 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion
 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion
 First Day of Sunday School
 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open
 10:45 AM Bible Study in the Parlor with George Henry

MONDAY, September 22

7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, September 23

6:30 PM Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, September 24

5:30 PM Praise Band rehearsal
 6:15 PM Vocal Choir rehearsal

THURSDAY, September 25

7:00 PM Bible Study with Pastor Matt via Zoom

FRIDAY, September 26

10:00 AM Advent Women's Circle – synagogue visit
 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, September 28 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion
 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion
 Sunday School
 Baptism of Brooks McQuiggan
 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: The McQuiggan family
 10:45 AM Bible Study in the Parlor with George Henry

August Financial Report

Financial Report For August 2025		
	Rec'd for Aug 2025	Budget for Aug 2025
General Fund	\$9,573.93	\$18,609.00
Mortgage	\$1,620	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$150	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$345	
Web Upgrade		
Total	\$11,688.93	\$20,640.00
	Rec'd YTD 1/1/-8/31/25	Budget YTD 1/1-8/31/25
General Fund	\$91,601.28	\$148,872.00
Mortgage	\$11,841.00	\$15,184.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$632.00	\$1,064.00
Other Benevolence	\$4,161.00	
Web Upgrade	\$450.00	
Total	\$108,685.28	\$165,120.00