

LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP ORDER OF WORSHIP



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.

GATHERING ¹

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness ²

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God.

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

C: Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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 Hymn ³: "Lift High the Cross" LBW 377 Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 Led on their way on this triumphant sign.
 The hosts of God in conquring ranks combine. *Refrain*
- 3 All newborn servants of the Crucified Bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- **4** O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*

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.

Hymn of Praise



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.



Prayer of the Day 4

P: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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.

Word 5

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 1

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- ² Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
- ⁴ It is not so with the wicked;

they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

- ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy

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.

and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



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

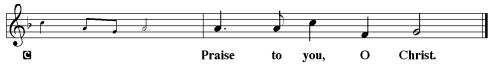


Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and

consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon



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.

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 holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

Prayer of the Church

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.

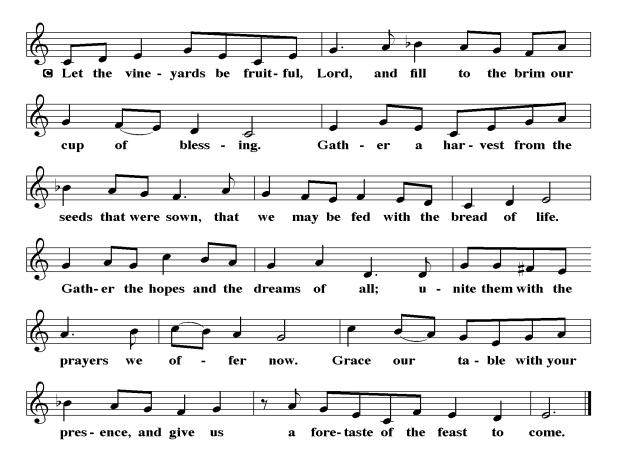
C: And also with you.

The Offering ⁷

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

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.

The Offertory



Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray... Merciful Father C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENT 8

The Great Thanksgiving 9

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

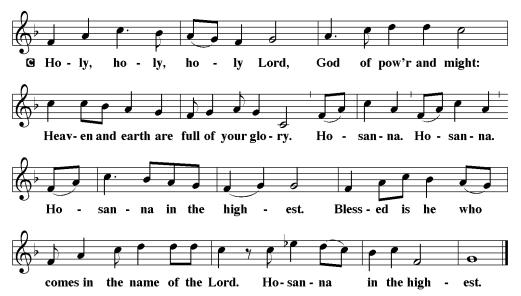
P: Lift up your hearts.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...stays (preface continues with words for the season and concludes...) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

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.**

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.

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.

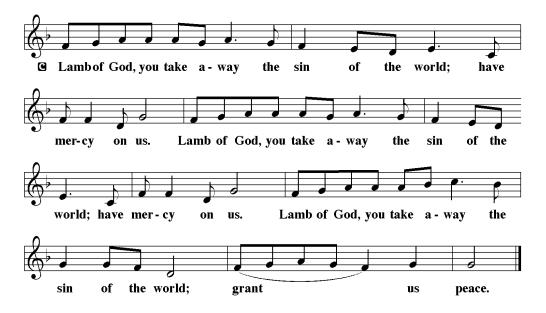
For Thine is the kingdom,

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

Invitation to Communion 11

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.



Distribution

The blood 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.

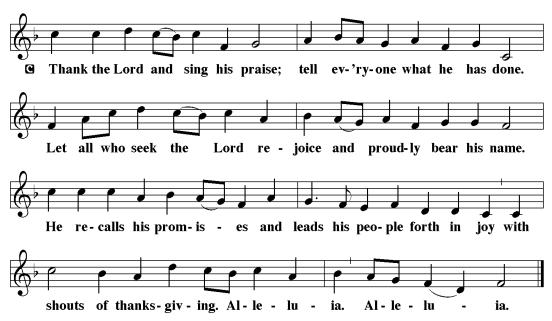
¹¹ In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission. It is traditional to sing as the bread is broken and as the meal is shared. We ask God to send us in witness to the world.

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle



Prayer after Communion 12

Let us pray... Living One,

in this feast you have made yourself known to us.

Send us now to tell of your wonders,

sing of your glory,

and proclaim your risen life

to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

C: Amen.

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.

Sending Hymn: "For the Beauty of the Earth" **LBW 561** For the earth, the beau - ty of the for beau - ty of the skies, the night, For the won-der of each hour of the day and of For the heart and mind's de - light, 3 joy of ear and eye, for the For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er. sis - ter, par - ent, child, For your - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly giv'n; love which from our birth for the o - ver and a - round us lies: vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars hill light: and of for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link-ing sense to sound and sight: earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild: friends on



of God's grand de - sign, peace on earth and joy

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

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in heav'n:



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 David Elkin
Communion Assistant Janice Hoffmann
Fellowship Time George Henry

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 31 9:00 AM: 27+4=31

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 <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.

Thursday Night Bible Study via Zoom – resuming September 11

Thursday Night Bible Study with Pastor Matt will resume on Thursday, September 11, 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. 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. 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!

July 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



Our Flea Market is next week...

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 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 nonrefundable 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.

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. 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.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, September 7 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 AM	Traditional Holy Communion
9:30 AM	Contemporary Holy Communion
10:30 AM	Fellowship Time: George Henry
10:45 AM	Bible Study in the Parlor with George Henry
	Flea Market Registration Deadline

MONDAY, September 8

7:30 PM	A.A.	Open	Meeting
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TUESDAY, September 9

12:00 PM Advent Women's Circle Meeting (bring your own lunch)

THURSDAY, September 11

7:00 PM Bible Study with Pastor Matt via Zoom

FRIDAY, September 12

7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, September 13

9:00 AM Advent Community Flea Market (ends at 12:00 PM)

SUNDAY, September 14 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 AM	Traditional Holy Communion
9:30 AM	Contemporary Holy Communion – Celebration of First Communion
10:30 AM	Fellowship Time: The Brum and Sitler Families
10:45 AM	Bible Study in the Parlor with George Henry

OTHER FALL DATES

- First Communion: Next 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.
- 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 16
- **New Members Class**: Tentative start date is Sunday, September 21. More information to follow
- Advent Women's Circle synagogue visit: Friday, September 25, 10:00 AM
- Mitch McVicker Concert: Wednesday, October 1 at 7:00 PM
- Men's Breakfast: Saturday, October 11, 8:00 AM