



ADVENT EVANGELICAL *Lutheran Church*

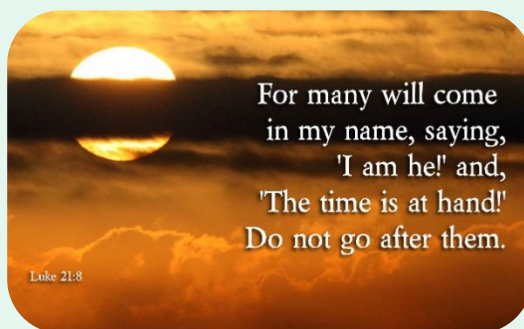
Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

8:00 AM



**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: "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."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, early American

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.

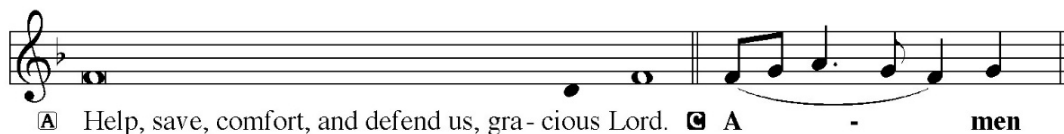
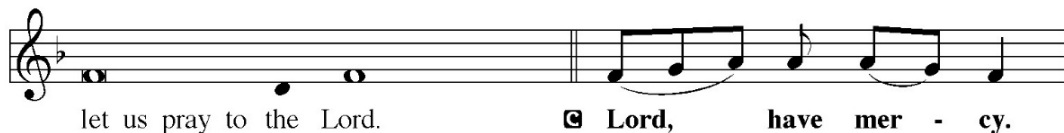
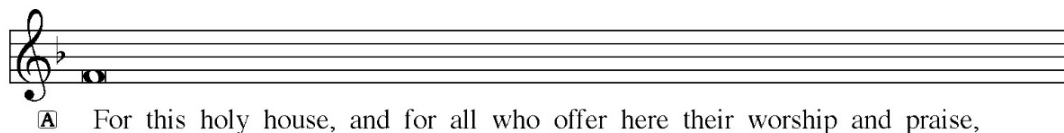
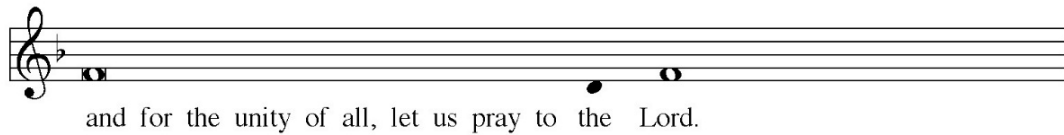
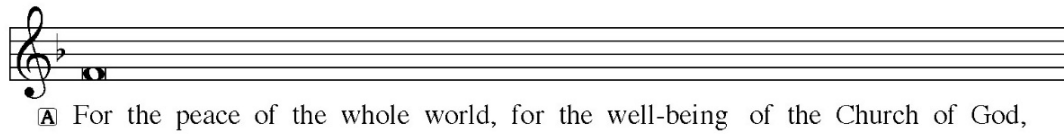
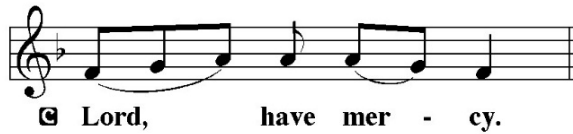
Kyrie



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. B Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

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: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Word ⁵

First Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a

¹See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root

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.

nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 98

¹ Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

² **O Lord, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ **Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵ Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸ **Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.**

⁹ The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.



Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

⁵When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶“As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

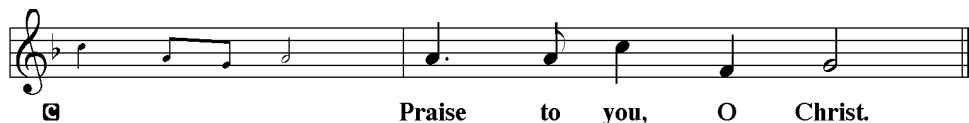
⁹“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹²“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

¹³This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷You will be hated by all because of my name.

¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

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.

Prayer of the Church

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 ⁷

Please leave your offering by scanning the QR code
or on our website: <https://giving.servantkeeper.com/adventrichboro>



The Offertory

Musical notation for the Offertory, consisting of six staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

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.

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.

Sacrament⁸

The Great Thanksgiving⁹

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

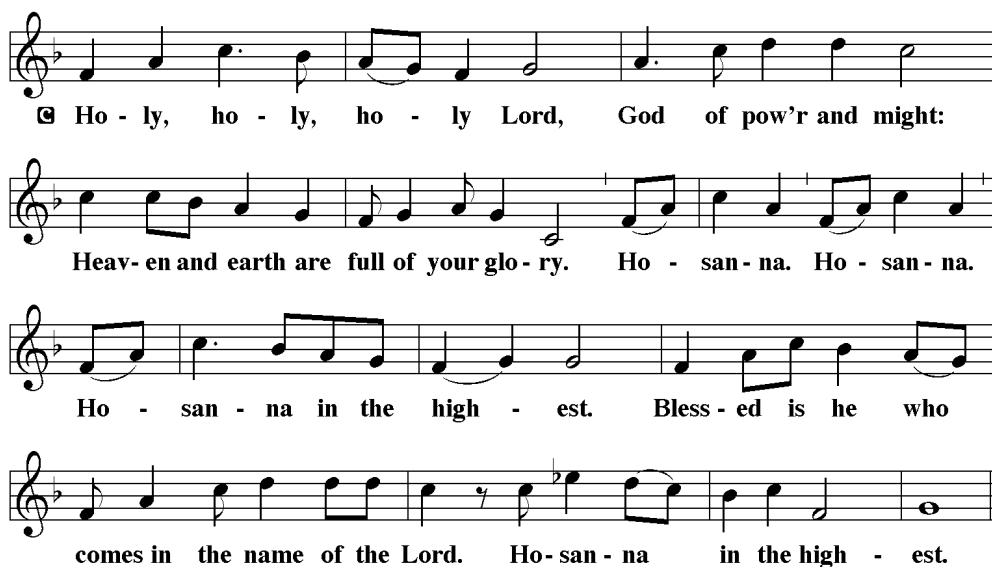
P: Lift up your hearts.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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.**

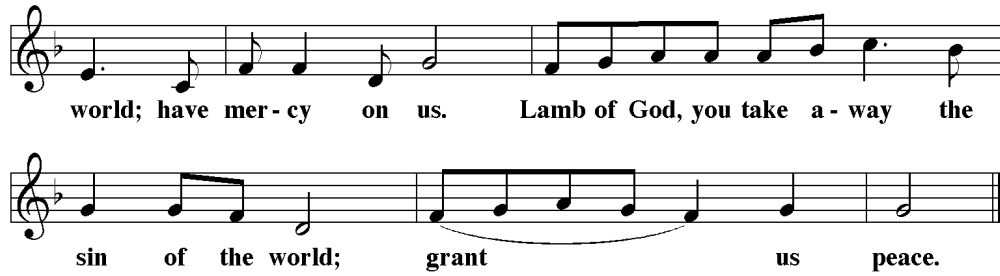
Invitation to Communion ¹¹

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



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.



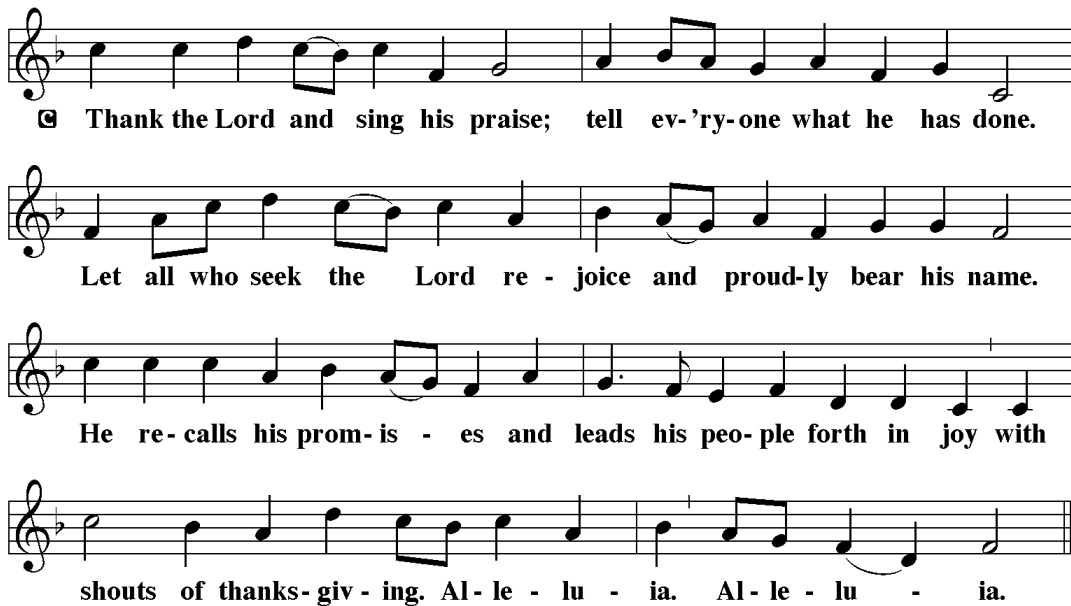
Distribution

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

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.

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

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: "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

Chorus

Swing low sweet chariot

Comin' for to carry me home

Swing low sweet chariot

Comin' for to carry me home

1 I looked over Jordan and what did I see

Comin' for to carry me home

A band of angels comin' after me

Comin' for to carry me home

2 If you get there before I do
Comin' for to carry me home
Just tell my friends I'm comin' home too
Comin' for to carry me home

Ending

Swing low sweet chariot

Comin' for to carry me home

Swing low sweet chariot

Comin' for to carry me

Comin' for to carry me

Comin' for to carry me home

Comin' for to carry me home

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

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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.



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
Guest Musician	Joseph Napi
Lay Reader	David Elkin
Communion Assistant	Janice Hoffmann
Fellowship Time	Open

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by the Hoffmann family in loving memory of Anna Hoffmann.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Worship Attendance for **Sunday, November 9:** **Total: 56**

8:00 AM: 9+4 9:30 AM: 36+0 Sunday School: 7

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.

Praise Band and Vocal Choir Rehearsals

Rehearsals for both Praise Band and Vocal Choir are held on Wednesday evenings.

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.

Call for Worship Assistants



Advent needs volunteers to assist with worship services! Training is provided for those interested in serving as **Lay Reader, Communion Assistant, Acolyte or Greeter.**

Volunteers can also assist **behind the scenes** with set up prior to services. Contact Kristi Ward for more information: kward1411@yahoo.com or 215-284-2669.

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

Most Thursdays except the first Thursday of the month

Thursday Night Bible Study now offers you an opportunity to "Stump the Pastor!" Submit your scripture-related questions via email to adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com with "Stump the Pastor" in the subject line OR handwrite your questions on the Stump the Pastor slips located in a basket on the round table in the narthex. George Henry will tabulate the questions and select those to be answered each week during the Zoom Bible Study.

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



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 to 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 is 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 AM on one or more Sundays during the school year, please sign an empty space. Thank you to those who have already volunteered!

-Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director

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.

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.

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. Go to www.odbm.org for more information.

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!*

October Financial Report

Financial Report For October 2025		
	Rec'd for October 2025	Budget for October 2025
General Fund	\$6,567.93	\$18,609.00
Mortgage	\$1,015	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$20	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$340	
Memorial	\$420	
Web Upgrade		
Total	\$8,362.93	\$20,640.00
	Rec'd YTD 1/1/-10/31/25	Budget YTD 1/1-10/31/25
General Fund	\$108,610.14	\$186,090.00
Mortgage	\$14,066.00	\$18,980.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$712.00	\$1,330.00
Other Benevolence	\$4,811.00	
Memorial	\$2,495.00	
Web Upgrade	\$450.00	
Total	\$131,144.14	\$206,400.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Coat Drive: **Extended to Sunday, November 23**



We are collecting new and gently worn coats (all sizes) for Prevention Point Philadelphia. This is a non-profit organization that supports the unhoused and addicted in the Kensington area of Philadelphia. We are collecting coats until Sunday, November 23. Please place donations in the designated bin in the narthex.

Single Worship Service & Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, November 23



The congregational meeting to approve a budget for year 2026 and to nominate and elect members to Church Council will be held on Sunday, November 23, at 10:15 AM. The meeting will be available via Zoom for those not able to attend in person.

This meeting will follow a single worship service at 9:00 AM. Your attendance is important, as it is necessary that we have the required quorum of member voters. Thank you in advance for attending this important meeting!

Special Food Collection for Harvest Home – Sunday, November 23



Please consider bringing a food or supply donation as part of the Harvest Home blessing. Donations will be directed to the Warminster Food Bank.

Items currently needed include:

Food Items: ketchup, mustard, broth, salsa, baked beans, jelly, rice, canned fruits, stuffing mix, bread crumbs, instant oatmeal packets, pancake mix, syrup, taco shells, knorr rice sides, saltines

Non-Food Items: store gift cards, laundry detergent (pods or liquid), household cleaning supplies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, other oral care items, toilet paper, paper towels, gently used grocery-size paper bags

Gift Card Collection for the Holidays



We are once again collecting gift cards for our neighbors who depend on the Warminster Food Bank for food each month. The collection envelopes are available on the table by the entrance of the sanctuary and will be given to our neighbors beginning in December. Please consider helping our neighbors in need as we have done in the last few years. Your donations are greatly appreciated! Please contact Nancy Sclicht if you have any questions.

Upcoming Events in December

Sunday School Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 7, during the 9:30 AM service

Annual Christmas Brunch: Sunday, December 7, following the 9:30 AM service

Christmas Tree Decorating: Sunday, December 7, immediately after the Christmas Brunch

Poinsettia Dedication Sign-up for Christmas Eve Service: now through Sunday, December 14

Christmas Jazz Concert: Saturday, December 20, 7:30 PM

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, November 16

Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:00 AM Traditional Service with Holy Communion
- 9:30 AM Contemporary Service with Holy Communion
Sunday School: Children age 4 to grade 6
- 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study in the parlor with George Henry

MONDAY, November 17

- 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, November 18

- 6:30 PM Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, November 19

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

THURSDAY, November 20

- 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Matt: "Stump the Pastor"

FRIDAY, November 21

- 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, November 23

Christ the King

Harvest Home Blessing

- 9:00 AM Single Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sunday School: Children age 4 to grade 6
- 10:00 AM Fellowship and Annual Congregational Meeting