



First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025
8:00 AM and 9:30 AM



Service of the Word



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.

We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.



Gathering Hymn: "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

LBW 25



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Greeting

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.

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Advent Week 1

Praise to you, O God, our salvation, who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, You hurry to gather all people to Your peace.

C: Amen

Light the first candle.

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.**

⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹ Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Mary Had a Baby”

1 Mary had a baby, my Lord.
Mary had a baby, my Lord.
Mary had a baby, Mary had a baby,
Mary had a baby, my Lord.

2 Born in a manger, my Lord.
Born in a manger, my Lord.
Born in a manger, born in a manger,
born in a manger, my Lord.

3 She named him King Jesus, my Lord.
She named him King Jesus, my Lord.
She named him King Jesus,
she named him King Jesus,
she named him King Jesus, my Lord

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

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends with: God of grace.

C: Hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The Offering

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



Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Sending

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.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" WOV 633



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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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

Worship Leader	George Henry
Preacher	Bruce Eklund
Music Director	Michael Dettra
Lay Reader 8:00 AM service	David Elkin
Lay Reader 9:30 AM service	John Flint
Communion Assistant	N/A
Fellowship Time	George Henry

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated:

- + by the Wills family in loving memory of Catharine Wills
- + by Tony and Jeanne Gryszka in loving memory of Nancy Hill

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Last Sunday's Worship Attendance

Sunday, November 23 Total: 43

9:00 AM: 35+2 Sunday School: 6

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.

Pastor Matt will be on vacation **until Monday, December 1.**

Please contact Pastor Bo Bannister at 765-426-0500 in case of a pastoral emergency.

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.

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.



Thursday Night Bible Study via Zoom

most Thursdays except the 1st Thursday of each 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

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.

Sunday School Assistants Needed



A sincere **Thank You** to all who have signed up to help with Sunday School! Our Sunday school program continues to need an assistant for class time each week at 9:30 AM. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex for volunteers to offer their help, one Sunday at a time.

Volunteers require a background check. Feel free to contact me for more information.
- 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.*

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'vd 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'vd YTD 1/1-10/31/25		
	Rec'vd 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

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 Sclight if you have any questions.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 7, during the 9:30 AM service



Our Sunday School students are preparing for the upcoming Christmas mini-pageant, a feature of the 9:30 worship service on December 7. They have been rehearsing each Sunday morning as part of their Sunday School class. All are invited for the performance with family and friends to experience the joy our young actors will share! A special thank-you to our Pageant Parents for helping to coordinate the details.

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



Advent's annual Christmas Brunch will be held on Sunday, December 7, in the Fellowship Hall. The event lasts about an hour and includes live festive holiday music. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex for additional information. All family members and friends are welcome to attend!

Christmas Tree Decorating

Sunday, December 7, immediately after the Christmas Brunch



We will be decorating the Christmas tree in the narthex at the conclusion of the Christmas Brunch. All are welcome to participate!

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



A sign-up sheet for dedicating poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service is on the table by the Mission Dedication and Flower Dedication Charts. Please sign up by Sunday, December 14. You may also call or email the church office with your dedications. Poinsettias may be picked up any time after the 7:30 PM service on Christmas Eve. Cost per plant is \$15.

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



The annual Christmas Jazz Concert will be held at Advent on Saturday, December 20, at 7:30 PM under the direction of our organist and Music Director, Mike Dettra and his band, Dettra Mental Music. You can look forward to kicking off the holidays with an hour of relaxation and entertainment! A free-will offering will be taken and light refreshments will be served. Thank you for supporting Mike and his band!

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 AM Service of the Word – no Communion
9:30 AM Service of the Word – no Communion
Sunday School: Children age 4 to grade 6
10:30 AM Fellowship: George Henry
10:45 AM Adult Bible Study with George Henry in the parlor

MONDAY, December 1

- 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, December 2

- 6:30 PM Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, December 3

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

THURSDAY, December 4

- 7:00 PM Preaching Class with Pastor Matt

FRIDAY, December 5

- 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 AM Traditional Service with Holy Communion
9:30 AM Contemporary Service with Holy Communion
Sunday School Christmas Pageant
10:30 AM Annual Christmas Brunch
Decorating of the Christmas Tree