

The Adventure



DECEMBER 2025 ISSUE

MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- To **gather** as God's people and nurture one another.
- To **know** the Word of God.
- To **grow** in faith, love, and service.
- To **go** into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

- Message from Pastor Matt [page 2](#)
- December Worship Schedule / Online Worship Information [page 3](#)
- Worship-Related Information & Opportunities [pages 4-5](#)
- Prayers for Those in Need / Prayers for our Military [page 6](#)
- Church Council Update/ Harvest Home [page 7](#)
- Advent Community / December Events [page 8](#)
- Community Outreach [page 9](#)
- SEPA Synod News [page 10](#)
- Financial Report [page 11](#)
- From the Office / Birthdays [page 12](#)
- December Calendar [page 13](#)

COVID-19 RECOMMENDATIONS

Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church continues to have these precautions:

- Respect for those who choose to mask and/or social distance.
- Please stay home if you have any symptoms of illness or have been in close contact with anyone with COVID.
- Worship will continue to be available online.
- Those distributing communion will continue to mask but will no longer wear gloves. Personal communion kits are available to those who prefer to commune in the pew or at home.
- We will continue to share the peace with hand waves, peace signs and air hugs.
- Our leadership will continue to gauge the situation week by week and will keep the congregation informed of any adjustment to our precautions.

Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen
Pastor

45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954
215-355-2529

www.adventrichboro.org
adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/adventrichboropa/>



CONTACTING PASTOR MATT

If you need to speak with Pastor Matt when he is not in the office, particularly in the case of a pastoral emergency, please feel free to call his cell at 215-859-3778 or email him at pastormattolikainen@gmail.com.

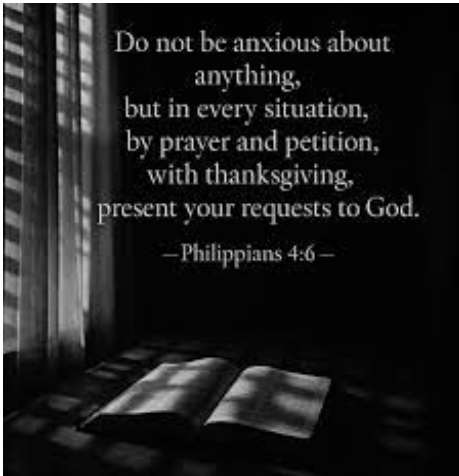
If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.

Pastor on Vacation:

Pastor Matt will be away **Thursday, December 25 through Thursday, January 1.**

In case of a pastoral emergency while Pastor is away, please contact Pastor Bo Bannister at 765-426-0500.

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MATT



We prayed. We prayed for healing. We prayed that the life-threatening illness would go away. We prayed knowing that the illness might not go away. We prayed knowing that if new life was not to be had with this illness, then there was the promise of everlasting life. We prayed for peace. We prayed for the peace of knowing that whatever happened it would be okay, that God was with us, that our loved ones would be watched over and that we would be watched over no matter what.

We prayed. We prayed for forgiveness. We prayed for reassurance that God's love is real and that we are precious to God even in the face of our sin. We prayed for open hearts.

We prayed to forgive. We prayed to forgive, not because the other deserved it, but because our hearts needed to heal, to let go. We prayed for our deep hurt to be healed. We prayed with the hope that our broken heart might love again.

"He enters your life so that no matter how you may encounter death and the perils of mortality, the love of God brings you resurrection."

We prayed for direction. We prayed that God would set the path ahead. We prayed that God would provide in ways seen and unseen. We prayed that our worry would be eased and our needs met. We prayed for trust in God, to have faith that God has a plan for us.

I have prayed these prayers with person after person. Again and again, I have seen these prayers answered. Again and again, I have seen the power of God's love to heal, sustain, comfort and change lives. I have witnessed miracles. And I have reveled in praying a different prayer: a prayer of joy and thanksgiving!

God loves us. God loves us so much that He send us his Son. Jesus is born into this world in such a way that, no matter what your circumstance, Christ Jesus enters your life. He enters your life so that no matter how you may encounter death and the perils of mortality, the love of God brings you resurrection. In this season of Advent, I encourage you to lift up your deepest concerns in prayer as a Christmas list to God. And then I encourage you to watch for how Christ enters your life in answering your prayer.

Peace,
Pastor Matt



DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

DECEMBER 21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Sunday School *students age 4 to grade 6*
10:30 AM Fellowship: Open

DECEMBER 28 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

9:00 AM Service of the Word – no Communion
No Sunday School
10:30 AM Fellowship: Open

DECEMBER 14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Sunday School *students age 4 to grade 6*
10:30 AM Fellowship: Open
10:45 AM Bible Study with George Henry

DECEMBER 24 CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship Service
with Holy Communion

ALTAR GUILD: Kristi Ward, Joyce Heiss, Jeanne Gryszka

OUR TECH CREW: Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra, Tony Gryszka, Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION: Linda Brownlee, Audrey Savchuck, Nancy Sclight, Rhona Slawter

SERVING IN WORSHIP – DECEMBER 2025 SCHEDULE

	8:00 AM		9:30 AM	
	LAY READER	COMMUNION ASST	LAY READER	COMMUNION ASST
12/7	George Henry	Janice Hoffmann	Bruce Eklund	Kristi Ward
12/14	David Elkin	Kristi Ward	John Flint	Joyce Heiss
12/21	George Henry	Janice Hoffmann	Bruce Eklund	Kristi Ward
12/24 – 7:00 PM	David Elkin	Joyce Heiss	N/A	N/A
12/28 – 9:00 AM	Jeanne Gryszka	N/A	N/A	N/A

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services may be attended by [Zoom](#) and they will also be live streamed on [Facebook](#).
A recording of services will be available on [YouTube](#) and our [website](#) after the services conclude.

ZOOM INFORMATION

PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF WHEN NOT SPEAKING

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE on **SUNDAYS at 8:00 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978688226> Passcode: 309955

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE on **SUNDAYS at 9:30 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85489433054> Passcode: 940367

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, **WEDNESDAY, December 24 at 7:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83963096008> Passcode: 318222

SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE, **SUNDAY, December 28 at 9:00 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89008534762> Passcode: 293266

WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS AND INFORMATION

Sunday School Schedule for December and January



On December 28, there will be NO Sunday School class. Class will resume on January 4, 2026. Our students are learning so much and enjoy each other's friendship. We are grateful for the wonderful volunteers who have assisted in the classroom each Sunday - It has been a pleasure to work together! The sign-up sheet will remain in place in the new year.

Christmas Pageant – December 7



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 to experience the joy our young actors will share! A special thank-you to our Pageant Parents for helping to coordinate the details.

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 has been placed in the narthex for volunteers to offer their help, one Sunday at a time. Thank you to all who have already signed up! 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. Volunteers require a background check. Feel free to contact me for more information.

-Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday In-Person Adult Bible Study

Sunday in-person Bible Study with George Henry is held most Sundays after the 9:30 AM service. Check the weekly bulletins for the most up-to-date information. Meet in the Parlor.

Thursday Night Zoom Bible Study

Thursday Night Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Matt will be held on most Thursdays at 7:00 PM, but NOT on the first Thursday of each month.

Thursday Night Bible Study offers you an opportunity to "Stump the Pastor!" Submit 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 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>



WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

RESPONDING TO YOUR BAPTISMAL CALL AT WORSHIP SERVICES

You have many opportunities to respond to your Baptismal Call at worship services. Claim God's grace and share your gifts as part of the Praise Band or Vocal Choir, as a Lay Reader, Communion Assistant, Acolyte, or Greeter, or by assisting with set up for services. *Please contact the church office for more information at 215-355-2529.*



Call for Praise Band & Vocal Choir Members

Practices for both Praise Band and Vocal Choir occur on most Wednesdays.

♪ **Praise Band:** Wednesdays, **5:30 PM to 6:15 PM**

♪ **Vocal Choir:** Wednesdays, **6:15 PM to 7:30 PM**

If you are interested in learning more about either Praise Band or Vocal Choir, please contact Mike Dettra, Music Director, or the church office at 215-355-2529.

Call for Worship Assistants

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.

DEDICATIONS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Payments for dedications may be made using the marked envelopes by the sign-up charts or by mailing payment to the church at 45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954.

*Please make checks payable to **Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church** and write **Altar Flowers** or **Mission Support** in the memo.*

Altar Flower Dedications

The 2026 Flower Chart for weekly altar flowers is on the table in the narthex. Each bouquet is \$25. Flowers may be taken home after the late service each week. A lovely way to beautify the altar with a special dedication and also to have flowers to enjoy in your home. Questions call Cindy Frey 267-205-0713



Mission Dedications

The 2025 Mission Dedication sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. The Mission Dedication donations benefit our sister church, **Iglesia Luterana Nueva Creacion**, which does vital work in North Philadelphia. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex on the table by the sanctuary doors. Please include your name and dedication. Dedications cost \$25. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication at 215-355-2529.



Poinsettia Dedications for Christmas Eve

Sign up deadline is Sunday, December 14

A sign-up sheet for dedicating poinsettias for the Christmas Eve worship service will be on the round table in the narthex. Please sign up by Sunday, December 14. You may also call or email the church office with your dedication. Poinsettias may be picked up any time after the 7:30 PM service on Christmas Eve. Cost per plant is \$15. Please contact Cindy Frey with any questions.



We need groups or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments for **Fellowship time**. Fellowship is held after the 9:30 AM service or the 9:00 AM service (on Sundays with a single worship service). The sign-up sheet through the end of the year is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.

If you would like to support Fellowship Time but do not have the time or ability to bake or shop for snacks, please consider donating a few dollars.

Thank you on behalf of all the hungry snackers!

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

At Advent, we actively pray for those in need by name through the **Prayers of Intercession** during worship and through the **Prayer Chain** during the week.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION DURING SERVICES

To add names of those in need of prayer:

- ❖ *If you are attending worship in-person*, please provide the person's first name to Pastor when he takes names at the beginning of the service.
- ❖ *If you are worshiping online*, please message or chat the name on Zoom or Facebook live stream and we will add the name to the list.

Because services are available world-wide through the internet, we use only baptismal or first names and omit surnames. The list of names gathered for the *Prayers of Intercession* in worship are maintained for just that day.

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 to Linda Weaver at lindaweaver3@comcast.net.

More information may be provided to allow the Prayer Chain volunteers to pray more specifically for the person added to the list.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY



Please keep in your prayers all our service men and women, especially those related to our congregation:

- ❖ **Colonel Andrew M Frey, Jr.**, son of Cindy Frey, serving as Commander of the 2^d Weather Group at Offutt Airforce Base, Nebraska
- ❖ **Private 1st Class Aidan Hahn**, nephew of Marie McCool, serving in Kaiserslautern, Germany
- ❖ **Airman Andrew Slawter**, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico
- ❖ **Sergeant Joseph Vanderstine**, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, New York

Please contact the church office at 215-355-2529 with any omissions or additions to our military prayer list.

A PRAYER FOR OUR SOLDIERS

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR OUR VETERANS

Dear Lord, we pray for all veterans who have bravely served our country. Please continue to shield them from harm and guide them through their journeys of healing and peace. Surround them with a supportive community and remind them of your unchanging love. We ask that you provide them with the strength to overcome any challenges they face, physically or mentally. Thank you, Lord, for the service of these heroes and your unending protection over their lives. Amen.

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Annual Congregational Budget and Council Elections Meeting was held on November 23, 2025, after a single-service of worship. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Matt. A total of 25 members of our congregation attended the meeting.



The first order of business was to review and vote on the proposed 2026 budget. The Finance Committee, consisting of Tony Gryszka, Cindy Frey, George Henry, and Janice Hoffman, as well as Pastor Matt and Mike Sitler had prepared the budget, which was then presented and discussed at the November 2025 Church Council meeting. Council approved the proposed budget as presented, which Tony Gryszka (Finance Chair) presented at the Congregational Meeting.

The 2026 budget reflects a 5.8% increase from the previous year. The increase was based on historical data, inflation, and anticipated costs. Line items within several of the budget categories were broken into greater detail for clarity and planning purposes. Copies of the budget were distributed via email to the Congregation the week of the meeting, and hard copies were available at the meeting.

After the presentation and following discussion on the budget, a motion was presented (and seconded) to approve the budget. The vote was unanimous to approve the budget.

The second order of business was to elect new members to Church Council. Per our new Constitution, a Nomination Committee was formed to seek and encourage people to serve on Council. The Nomination Committee consisted of Cime Eklund, Cindy Frey, Gary Zimmerman, and Mike Sitler. This process was presented at the Congregational Meeting, and then the floor was opened for nominations. John Flint was nominated (which he accepted) and then elected to a second 3-year term. His second term will begin on January 1, 2026.



We are grateful and thankful for the work of the Finance Committee, Nomination Committee, and Church Council. A special word of thanks to both Tony Gryszka for his leadership with the budget analysis and development and Cindy Frey for her administrative/computer work in preparing the proposed budget. In addition, the Congregation is thanked for fulfilling its governance role at Advent as well as financially supporting our ministries in 2026. A heartfelt thanks to all.

As this year comes to an end, let us give glory and thanks to God. We are an amazing Congregation, filled with love and actively living out our baptismal calls.

HARVEST HOME

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Thank you to everyone who donated food and supplies to the Warminster Food Bank as part of Harvest Home Blessing! Your continued generosity and kindness are inspiring.



ADVENT COMMUNITY – DECEMBER EVENTS



Men's Breakfast – Saturday, December 6, 8:30 AM

Santa finally answered the phone but said he was much too busy to attend our breakfast this year. Said he would check with the elves but haven't heard back. Elves don't eat that much anyway. We plan to get together Saturday, Dec. 13th. We serve at 8:30, coffee ready by 7:30.



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 includes live festive holiday music and lasts about an hour. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex for additional information, to RSVP, and indicate what breakfast, lunch or dessert dish you will bring. All family members and friends are welcome to attend!



Christmas Tree Decorating

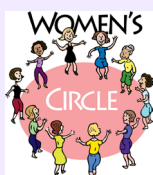
Sunday, December 7, immediately after the Christmas Brunch

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



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!



Advent Women's Circle– Next Meeting January 13, 12:00 PM

The Advent Women's Circle's mission is to support Advent through the implementation of projects that fill a need. We bring a simple lunch and discuss ideas and plans, all the while enjoying our time spent together with joy and humor. We celebrate birthdays for that month and write greeting cards to members in need of well-wishes.

Our social outings are an added feature that encourage us to explore local destinations. We thank Fran Zanis for serving as our leader and coordinator. If you would like to attend an upcoming meeting or event as a new attendee, please contact the church office to confirm the date as it draws closer.

Upcoming Outings/Meetings:

Peddlers Village Visit/Gingerbread House Displays – Tuesday, December 2

No Meeting in December



Ping Pong – Most Tuesday evenings, at 6:30 PM

All are welcome to come and enjoy an evening of Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in giving it a try, please contact the church at 215-355-2529 or adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com.

Ping pong will not be held on Tuesday, December 23.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH THE ADVENT COMMUNITY!

Have information or an event you would like to advertise to the Advent community?

Please reach out to the church office with any pertinent information.

215-355-2529

adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**Warminster
Food Bank**
A Vision. A Mission.

DRIVE UP AND DROP OFF FOOD COLLECTION

If you have food for the Warminster Food Bank that you or your friends would like to donate and the church is not open, just drive in and drop off the food under the seat of the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. Most needed items currently needed include:

Food Items: Cream soups (mushroom and chicken), gravy, broth, au gratin potatoes, mac and cheese, syrup, canned fruits, jelly, taco shells, ravioli, chicken noodle soup

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

To order supplies for direct delivery to WFB, go to their Amazon Wish List: <https://a.co/3JoRQBB>

Check the food bank's website for the most up-to-date needs: <https://warminsterfoodbank.org/>

GIFT CARD COLLECTION FOR HOLIDAYS



We will once again be collecting gift cards in increments of \$25 or less for our neighbors who depend on the Warminster Food Bank for food each month. The collection envelopes are available in 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.

CARING for FRIENDS – December Update



**Caring
for Friends**

As we move into this season of giving, we're continuing our partnership with Caring for Friends to help provide comforting, homemade meals to neighbors in need. This month, we're encouraging volunteers to take home meal pans and prepare a few

dishes right in their own kitchens.

Whether you're cooking a family favorite or assembling simple, hearty meals, every tray you fill makes a meaningful difference. Pick up pans after service or during office hours, take them home, and return your prepared meals with completed labels at your convenience. Please see below for an example of a completed label.

	Caring for Friends™	Use By <u>11 / 27 / 2026</u> Frozen meals are good for 1 year after preparation
Sharing food and friendship		Freezer # <u>200</u>
Contents <u>turkey, stuffing, green beans,</u> <u>peaches</u>		
Meal includes:		
☐ Dairy	☐ Mushrooms	☐ Shellfish
☐ Eggs	☐ Nuts/Seeds	☐ Soy
☐ Fish	☒ Onions	☒ Wheat/Gluten
Cooking instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Remove plastic bag and menu sheet entirely. Make four (4) small holes in the aluminum foil cover on top of the dinner. Place the dinner in the oven and heat for 35-40 minutes or until dinner is heated thoroughly. DO NOT HEAT IN MICROWAVE OVEN.		
caringforfriends.org		

Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and kindness, especially during this time of year when it is needed most. Together, we can make the holidays a little brighter for those in need.



The information and events below are excerpts from the MinistryLink Newsletter from SEPA



FAITH ALIVE WORSHIP LEARNING LAB – NEW DATE!

Saturday, January 10, 2026, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Lutheran Church of God's Love, Newtown

REGISTRATION IS OPEN: <https://community.ministrylink.org/faithaliveworshiplearninglab>

Faith Alive is a Lilly Endowment funded process in SEPA Synod for creating a wider welcome for children (ages 0-12) to be fully themselves in worship. You are invited to come along on this journey of faith and transformation.

UPCOMING KINDLING FAITH EVENTS

www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar

Online Pastoral Care Series with Rev. Dr. Beth Toler returns this fall! Registration will go live soon. Here are the remaining topics for the current academic year:

- January 12/15 - This is What Spiritual Care Looks Like: Community Activism and Engagement
- February 9/12 - Walking the Road to Recovery: Spiritual Care for those Facing Addiction
- March 9/12 - Standing in the Storm: Spiritual Care as Crisis Response
- April 13/16 - Caring for Souls in a Wounded World: Spiritual Care in the Context of Climate Change



HOLIDAY EVENTS

Musical Advent Calendar from 2025 Lutheran Summer Music Academy

Daily musical meditations to inspire reflection throughout the Advent season are available on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. Visit the web site at www.lsmacademy.org/acal or sign up to receive each day's video in your email at: <https://forms.gle/xfPUVkvTyUffp8PH7>

Live Nativity: Sunday, December 7, 3:00 to 5:00 PM, Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Sellersville, PA

An Evening of Christmas Music with A Wing and a Prayer Brass Ensemble: Sunday, December 7, 7:00 PM Emmaus Road Lutheran Church, Levittown, PA

Valley Choral Society featuring Elaine Hagenburg's Illuminare: December 14, 3:00 PM, Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasi, PA

A Candlelight Christmas Concert with The Acclamation Ringers: Sunday, December 14, 7:00 PM, Emmaus Road Lutheran Church, Levittown, PA

Christmas Concert, Sounds of the Season: Sunday, December 21, 4:00 PM, St. Peter's Church, North Wales, PA



KEEP UP WITH SYNOD NEWS AND RESOURCES

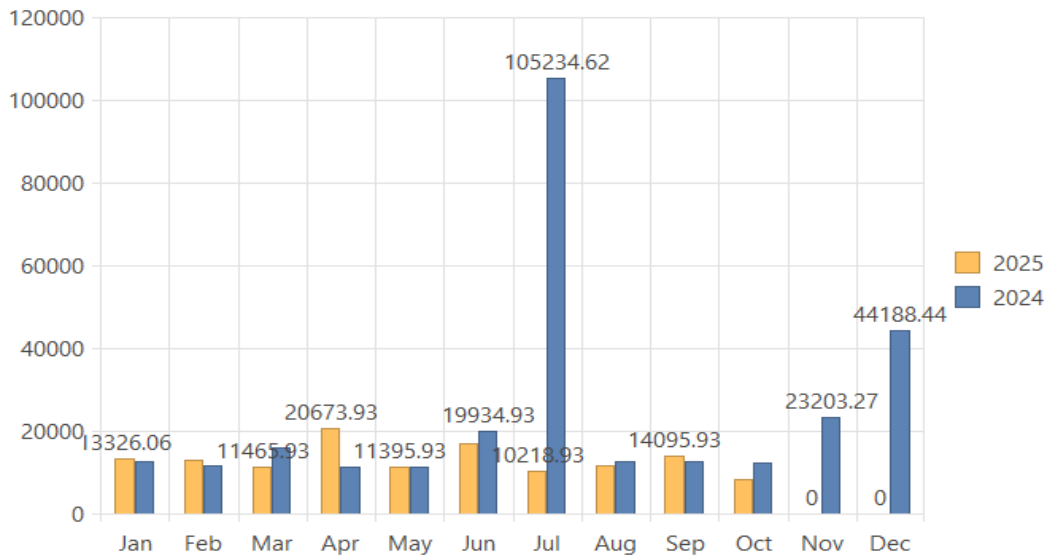
Subscribe to the MinistryLink newsletter to keep up with the latest news, events and resources offered through SEPA. Sign up using the QR code or visit:

<https://ministrylink.org/mission-interpretation/subscribe/>.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



July 2024 large amount reflects the receipt of insurance funds for the roof replacement.
Additional Insurance payment received in December 2024

Financial Report For October 2025

Rec'd for Oct 2025

Budget for Oct 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

Recv'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

Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support of the church this year. We greatly appreciate it. There are numerous ways to continue your offerings.

- Drop off your offering at the church office. The office is usually open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10 AM and 1 PM. Call to confirm hours.
- Mail a check to the church. The mailing address is "Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954"
- Contribute online at www.adventrichboro.org. At the top right of the page, click the "Donate" link to see the Giving Platform. You may choose to set up recurring donations or a one-time donation.

Again, thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions concerning your offering, please call Cindy Frey, Financial Secretary 267-205-0713

Envelopes for 2026 are available on the table in the narthex.

If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive a box, please contact Cindy Frey.



FROM THE OFFICE

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6 Tom McQuiggan	22 Pastor Matt Ollikainen
10 Dave Shearer	26 Judy Buttil
12 Logan Frey	26 Victoria Flint
22 Drew Frey	30 Shirley Morris

Please contact the church office if you or someone you know has been omitted from the list.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Church office hours are typically Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Holiday hours

Week of Christmas: Office will be open Monday 12/22 and Tuesday 12/23

Week of New Years: Office will be open Monday 12/29 and Tuesday 12/30

Marie McCool

Office and Communications Administrator

Phone: 215-355-2529

Email: adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com

THE SYMBOLISM OF ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES

Adapted from "What is the Advent Wreath?" by Mary Fairchild on learnreligions.com

The Advent wreath is a meaningful tradition practiced by many Christians during the season of Advent. The custom is part of the spiritual preparations that believers make for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, four or five candles are typically arranged. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the center of the wreath. As a whole, these colored advent candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world. Catholic tradition states that the four candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, each stand for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of Adam and Eve until the birth of the Savior.

First Week of Advent - Prophecy Candle: On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This first candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Second Week of Advent - Bethlehem Candle: On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger.

Third Week of Advent - Shepherds Candle: On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle," and it represents joy.

Fourth Week of Advent - Angels Candle: The fourth and last purple candle, often called the "Angels Candle," represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

Christ Candle: On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First Sunday of Advent Nov 30 8:00 AM Service of the Word – no Communion 9:30 AM Service of the Word – no Communion Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study	December 1 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	2 Advent Women's Circle – Peddler's Village Trip 6:30 PM Ping Pong	3 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	4 7:00 PM Preaching Class	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	6
Second Sunday of Advent 7 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion Christmas Pageant 10:30 AM Advent Brunch & Tree Decorating	8 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	9 6:30 PM Ping Pong	10 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	11 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	12 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast
Third Sunday of Advent 14 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Church Council Meeting 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16 6:30 PM Ping Pong	17 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	18 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	19 11:00 AM Holland Village Communion Service 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	20 Christmas Jazz Concert 7:30 PM
Fourth Sunday of Advent 21 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23 Ping Pong canceled	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	27
First Sunday of Christmas 28 9:00 AM Single Worship Service of the Word - no Communion <i>No Sunday School</i> 10:00 AM Fellowship	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30 6:30 PM Ping Pong	31 <i>Band and Choir practices canceled</i>	January 1 	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	3