



ADVENT  
EVANGELICAL  
*Lutheran Church*

Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2025  
7:30 PM



***Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols***



Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church  
45 Worthington Mill Road  
Richboro, PA 18954-1909  
215-355-2529  
[Adventrichboro.org](http://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 come back to worship with us again.*

## We Gather in Jesus' Name

### Greetings and Announcements

### Invocation

### Confession and Forgiveness

**C:** God, wonderful counselor, we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.

**P:** God's loving kindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of **†** Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always

**C: Amen**

### Opening Hymn: "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

LBW 45

#### Verses 1 and 4

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels:



#### Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: **Refrain**

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P: Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God,  
you were before time began  
and came into the world to save us,  
Blessed are you, Son of righteousness,  
you shine with the Father's love  
and illuminate the whole universe  
Blessed are you, Son of Mary,  
born a child, you shared our humanity.

**C: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

P: Blessed are you, Son of David, born to rule,  
you received gifts from the Wise Men.  
Blessed are you, Son of man, baptized by John,  
you save us from ourselves.  
Blessed are you, heavenly King,  
teaching and preaching

healing and comforting,  
you proclaimed the Kingdom.

**C: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

P: With all the voices of heaven we celebrate the coming of our Savior.

**C: Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

P: With all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at his birth.

**C: Praise and honor and glory to You, O Lord most high.**

P: We rejoice in your coming, O Lord.

We remember your baptism and your life  
as servant of all and once more we seal our unity in the faith.

**C: 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**

P: *Let us pray...*

Almighty God, you made this Holy Night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His Glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**Choir Anthem: "Were You There on That Christmas Night?" by Natalie Sleeth**

**The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, Word of Life,  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High"**

**LBW 71**

**1** Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain**

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**2** Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

**3** Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. **Refrain**



**The Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Word of God, Word of Life,  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Carol: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"****LBW 54****Verses 1 and 4**

1 It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

**The Third Lesson: Luke 2:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Word of God, Word of Life,  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Carol: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"****LBW 60****Verses 1 and 3**

1 Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace Hail the Sun of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth Born to give them second birth  
Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

#### **The Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:15-20**

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Word of God, Word of Life,  
**C:Thanks be to God.**

#### **Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

**LBW 41**

##### **Verses 1 and 4**

**1** O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

**4** O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!



#### **Sermon**

#### **Carol: "Away in a Manger"**

**LBW 67**

**1** Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay;  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**2** The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

**3** Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

## **Candle Lighting Ceremony**

P: Arise, shine; for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." "You are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before humanity, that we may see your good works and give glory to God who is in Heaven."



*(Light is distributed to the Congregation)*

## **The Prayers**

P: God of Love, you are merciful to those who walk in darkness and despair, receive then the prayers we offer today for the peace of the world and the salvation of all men. Remember your church in all the world, give wisdom and courage to our pastors and to all the leaders of your people, bless the Christians of all lands and give them your peace.

**C: Lord, be gracious to us all.**

P: You are a God of peace. Let peace reign all over the earth, heal the wounds of pride and arrogance, clear the vision of those blinded by greed, and let people everywhere know your word of love in Jesus Christ.

**C: Lord, be gracious to us all.**

P: Your Son came like a beacon in a dark night. Give us courage and the radiance of love to bring his light into our darkness and keep us restless until it has penetrated the whole world.

**C: Lord, be gracious to us all.**

P: Watch over our loved ones that they may remember your love and share with us in thanksgiving. Increase the faith and confidence of the aged, and the poor. Encourage the afflicted. Give hope to those in despair and comfort to those who mourn.

**C: Lord, be gracious to us all.**

P: We remember the faithful departed who rest in your love and care. Bring us and all your children to stand in the full light of your presence and the radiance of your love.

**C: Lord, be gracious to us, and give us your peace. Amen.**

## **Carol: "Silent Night, Holy Night"**

**LBW 65**

### **Verses 1 and 3**

**1** Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

**3** Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*(Candles may be extinguished)*

## ***The Sharing of the Peace***

P: 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>*



## ***The Offertory Prayer***

P: Let us pray. . .

C: **Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ Our Savior. Amen.**

## ***The Thanksgiving***

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. Holy God, bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks; he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

C: **Amen.**

## ***Lord's Prayer***

**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** – The gifts of God, for the people of God!

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever.

C: Amen

**Blessing**

P: 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.

**Carol: "Joy to the World"**

**LBW 39**

**Verses 1 and 4**

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love



**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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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

Pastor

Rev. Matthew Ollikainen

Music Director

Michael Dettra

Guest Musician

Mark Pultorak

Lay Reader

David Elkin

Communion Assistant

Jennifer McQuiggan

### Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by the Sitler family in loving memory of Dorothy Green

### Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

### Last Sunday's Worship Attendance

**Sunday, December 21 Total: 40**

8:00 AM: 8                    9:30 AM: 29                    Sunday School:3

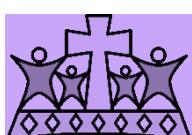
### **Contacting Pastor Matt**

Pastor Matt will be on vacation **Thursday, December 25 until Friday, January 2.**

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 [pastormattollikainen@gmail.com](mailto:pastormattollikainen@gmail.com).

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

### **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](mailto: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

**Next Bible Study Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 7:00 pm**

Thursday Night Bible Study now offers you an opportunity to "Stump the Pastor!" Submit your scripture-related questions via email to [adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

#### Altar Flowers Chart

The 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

#### Mission Support

The 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](mailto: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 Gryska, 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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!*

## November Financial Report

Financial Report For November 2025		
	Rec'd for November 2025	Budget for November 2025
General Fund	\$28,704.93	\$18,609.00
Mortgage	\$1,790	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$1,110	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$2,010	
Memorial		
Web Upgrade		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$33,614.93</b>	<b>\$20,640.00</b>
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-11/30/25	Budget YTD 1/1-11/30/25
General Fund	\$137,295.07	\$204,699.00
Mortgage	\$15,856.00	\$20,878.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$1,822.00	\$1,463.00
Other Benevolence	\$6,821.00	
Memorial	\$2,495.00	
Web Upgrade	\$450.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$164,739.07</b>	<b>\$227,040.00</b>

## THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

### WEDNESDAY, December 24

*No Choir or Band practice*

7:30 PM      Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

### THURSDAY, December 25

Merry Christmas!

*No Bible Study*

### FRIDAY, December 26

7:30 PM      A.A. Step Meeting

### SUNDAY, December 28

#### First Sunday of Christmas

9:00 AM      Lessons and Carols Service – no Communion

*No Sunday School*

10:00 AM      Fellowship: Open

### MONDAY, December 29

7:30 PM      A.A. Open Meeting

### TUESDAY, December 30

6:30 PM      Ping Pong

### WEDNESDAY, December 31

*No Choir or Band practice*

### THURSDAY, January 1

Happy and Blessed New Year!

*No Preaching Class*

### FRIDAY, January 2

7:30 PM      A.A. Step Meeting

### SUNDAY, January 4

#### Second Sunday of Christmas

8:00 AM      Traditional Service with Holy Communion

9:30 AM      Contemporary Service with Holy Communion

*Sunday School*

10:30 AM      Fellowship: Open

### Church Office 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