



ADVENT
EVANGELICAL
Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

9:00 AM



Lessons and Carols for Christmas



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.



Prelude (*a time for silent meditation*)

Announcements

Gathering Song: “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. | 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain |
|--|---|

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Dialogue

P: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: By day and night, he shines for all to see.

P: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C: that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

P: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

P: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: Jesus is the light of our lives.

P: Sing to God a new song!

C: A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Opening Prayer

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

Gracious God of heaven and earth,
you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—
a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.

Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

C: Amen.



LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Carol: “’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” LBW 72

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 ‘Twas in the moon of wintertime
When all the birds had fled
That God the Lord of all the earth
Sent angel choirs instead
Before their light the stars grew dim
And wond’ring hunters heard the hymn | 2 The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair.
As was the ring of glory
Around the infant there.
And when the shepherds then drew near
The angel voices rang out clear: <i>Chorus</i> |
|---|---|

Chorus

Jesus your king is born!
Jesus is born!
Glory be to God on high!

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.



Second Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" LBW 41

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!</p> |
|--|--|

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a


- ² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
- ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
- ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,
- ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight rulers.

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Third Carol: "Lo, How a Rose Is Growing" LBW 58

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|--|--|
| <p>1 Lo, how a rose is growing,
a bloom of finest grace;
the prophets had foretold it:
a branch of Jesse's race
would bear one perfect flow'r
here in the cold of winter
and darkest midnight hour.</p> | <p>2 The rose of which I'm singing,
Isaiah had foretold.
He came to us through Mary,
who sheltered him from cold.
Through God's eternal will
this child to us was given
at midnight calm and still.</p> |
|--|--|



Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.


Fourth Carol: "Once in Royal David's City" WOV 643

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child. | 2 He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy. |
|---|---|

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"



which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Fifth Carol: “Angels, From the Realms of Glory” LBW 50

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|--|--|
| 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king. | 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king. |
|--|--|

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.



Sixth Carol: "What Child is This" LBW 40

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!</p> | <p>2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!</p> |
|---|---|

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.



Seventh Carol: “The First Noel” LBW 56

- 1** The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

- 2** They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Prayer

P: It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

C: Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

P: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

P: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

P: In his light, draw all to the manger

C: to sing for joy with the angels.

P: In the brightness of his life

C: cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

P: In the brightness of his life

C: comfort those who are ill, facing death, grieving or suffering anguish in any way.

P: It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

C: In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

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>



Lord's Prayer

P: 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.**

Blessing

P: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

C: Praise God, all creatures here below!

P: You are the shepherds telling the story.

C: We tell it in the streets and across the land.

P: You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

C: We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

P: You are the angels announcing peace.

C: We live with joy and go now in peace.

P: Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Song: “Go Tell It On the Mountain” LBW 70

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev’rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. **Refrain**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior’s birth. **Refrain**

Dismissal

P: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God’s people on earth!

P: Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.

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
Music Director
Lay Reader
Fellowship Time

George Henry
Michael Dettra
Jeanne Gryszka
Open

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Worship Attendance

Total for Sunday, December 21: 40

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

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.

Contacting Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt is on vacation from Thursday, December 25 until Thursday, January 1.

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.

Praise Band and Vocal Choir Rehearsals

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

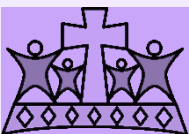
Praise Band: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

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.

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.*

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.

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!*

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		
Total	\$33,614.93	\$20,640.00
	Rec'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	
Total	\$164,739.07	\$227,040.00

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, December 28 **First Sunday of Christmas**

- 9:00 AM Single Service – Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas
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

Church Office closed
Choir and Band Practice cancelled

THURSDAY, January 1

Church Office closed
Preaching Class cancelled
Happy and Blessed New Year!

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

The church office will be open Monday 12/29 and Tuesday 12/30.