

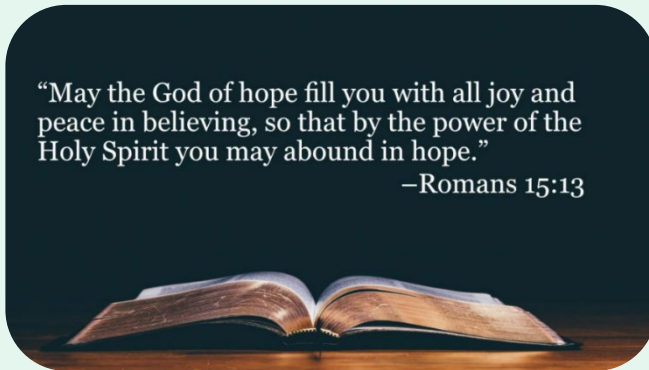


Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025
8:00 AM and 9:30 AM



Service of the Word

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”
—Romans 15:13



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: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

LBW 26



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
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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 2

P: Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.

You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames,

and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

C: Amen.

Light the second candle.

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

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

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

9:30 AM Service: Advent Sunday School Presents “God’s Greatest Gift”

Finale song: “Away in a Manger”

The students sing verses 1 and 3. Congregation sings verse 2.

- 2** The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes.
The little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
-

The Reading of God’s Word

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

- He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him,
and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,

² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Star Child"

- 1** Star Child, earth Child, go between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lighting rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone
alive!
- 2** Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone
alive!
- 3** Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone
alive!
- 4** Spared child, spoiled child, memory full of
years,
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone
alive!
- 5** Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

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: "People Look East"

WOV 626



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Keep awake!

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 |
| Music Director | Michael Dettra |
| Lay Reader 8:00 AM service | Open |
| Lay Reader 9:30 AM service | John Flint |
| Communion Assistant | N/A |
| Fellowship Time | Christmas Brunch |

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 for **Sunday, November 30:** **Total: 49**

8:00 AM: 8+1 9:30 AM: 30+3 Sunday School: 7

Communion Reminder

The Worship and Music Committee would like to remind the congregation that those going forward to the altar for communion have a few options. There is gluten-free bread in the small clear glass bowl, and white grape juice for those who prefer. Just let the Pastor or assistant know your preference.

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.

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.*

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!*

Coat Drive - **Thank you!**



Thank you to everyone who donated coats in this year's Coat Drive. Your generosity exceeded our expectations. Know that you've met the needs of those who need it most.

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 |



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, December 13, 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 will gather on Saturday, December 13. We serve at 8:30, coffee ready by 7:30.

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, December 7 **Second Sunday of Advent**

- 8:00 AM Service of the Word – no Holy Communion
- 9:30 AM Service of the Word – no Holy Communion
- Sunday School Christmas Pageant
- 10:30 AM Annual Christmas Brunch
- Decorating of the Christmas Tree

MONDAY, December 8

- 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, December 9

- 6:30 PM Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, December 10

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

THURSDAY, December 11

- 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Matt

FRIDAY, December 12

- 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, December 13

- 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast, coffee ready at 7:30 AM

SUNDAY, December 14 **Third Sunday of Advent**

- 8:00 AM Traditional Service with Holy Communion
- 9:30 AM Contemporary Service with Holy Communion
- Sunday School
- Special Guest: Mike Cerino, Director of Warminster Food Bank
- 10:30 AM Fellowship: Open
- Adult Bible Study in the parlor with George Henry
- Church Council Meeting