



ADVENT
EVANGELICAL
Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Sunday, February 1, 2026
9:30 AM



We Gather in Jesus' Name



Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529
www.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.

In the principal service of Christian worship, the Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace—the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need. The basic pattern of this service—gathering, word, meal, sending—is a structure that allows for freedom and flexibility in the ways worship may be shaped locally, while focusing on what the church holds in common. The whole people of God are joined by the same gifts of grace, for the sake of the same mission of the gospel, into the life of the one triune God.

We Gather in Jesus' Name ¹

Prelude *(a time for silent meditation)*

Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness ²

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice

C: **you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: **Amen.**

¹ The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

² On the day of Christ's resurrection, and at other times, God gathers us in Christian assembly. We confess our sin and hear God's word of forgiveness. We give thanks for God's mercy in the gift of baptism.

Gathering Song ³: “How Deep The Father's Love For Us”

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 How deep the Father's love for us How vast beyond all measure That He should give His only Son To make a wretch His treasure How great the pain of searing loss The Father turns His face away As wounds which mar the Chosen One Bring many sons to glory</p> <p>2 Behold the Man upon a cross My sin upon His shoulders Ashamed I hear my mocking voice Call out among the scoffers</p> | <p>It was my sin that held Him there Until it was accomplished His dying breath has brought me life I know that it is finished</p> <p>3 I will not boast in anything No gifts no pow'r no wisdom But I will boast in Jesus Christ His death and resurrection Why should I gain from His reward I cannot give an answer But this I know with all my heart His wounds have paid my ransom</p> |
|--|--|

Greeting

P: 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.

Prayer of the Day ⁴

P: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Children's Sermon

The Reading of God's Word ⁵

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

- ¹ Hear what the LORD says:
Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
- ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.
- ³ “O my people, what have I done to you?

³ Singing at the gathering may include hymns old and new; a prayer for God's mercy to fill the church and the world; a canticle of praise to God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ.

⁴ During the gathering, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the name of the triune God. The presiding minister gathers the assembly into prayer.

⁵ God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. The word of God is proclaimed within and by the gathered assembly. The first Bible reading, usually from the Old Testament, is followed by a psalm sung or spoken in response. The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church. We acclaim the living Word, Jesus Christ, present in the gospel reading. Preaching brings God's word of law and gospel into our time and place to awaken and nourish faith.

- In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
- ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.
- ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”
- ⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
- ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
- ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 15 *(read responsively)*

- ¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your holy hill?
- ² **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**
- ³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.
- ⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**
- ⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

- ¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”
- ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ

crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of Praise ⁶: "Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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: Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The Offering ⁷

Please leave your offering by scanning the QR code

or on our website: <https://giving.servantkeeper.com/adventrichboro>



⁶ God's word is further proclaimed as we sing and as we confess our faith with the whole church. After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace.

⁷ A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. The table is set with bread and wine.



Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray...

**C: God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

Sacrament ⁸

The Great Thanksgiving ⁹

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

⁸ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

⁹ Before the Lord's supper is shared, the presiding minister leads us into thanksgiving. With the whole creation, we join the angels' song.



Lord's Prayer ¹⁰

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.

Invitation to Communion

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

Distribution ¹¹

The body of Christ, given to you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Prayer after Communion ¹²

Let us pray...

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart.

Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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.

C: Amen.

¹⁰ The grace of God's gift is always proclaimed in Jesus' own words of command and promise at the table. A full thanksgiving also includes praise to God for creation and salvation; remembrance of the crucified and risen Christ; and prayer for the Holy Spirit in this meal. The thanksgiving concludes with the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us.

¹¹ In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission. It is traditional to sing as the bread is broken and as the meal is shared. We ask God to send us in witness to the world.

¹² God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. God's mission includes the gifts of grace that we share in worship and take also to the absent; now, we are sent to continue our participation in God's mission. With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.

Sending Hymn: "Love the Lord"

Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart
With all your soul, with all your mind
And with all your strength
Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart

With all your soul, with all your mind
And with all your strength
With all your heart, with all your soul
With all your mind, with all your strength

Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart
With all your soul, with all your mind
And with all your strength
I will serve the Lord with all my heart

With all my soul, with all my mind
And with all my strength
I will serve the Lord with all my heart
With all my soul, with all my mind
And with all my strength

With all my heart, with all my soul
With all my mind, with all my strength
I will serve the Lord with all my heart
With all my soul, with all my mind
And with all my strength



Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Some content copyright by Augsburg Fortress and used by permission.
SundaysandSeasons.com License SB151685. CCLI License: 2665540*



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 | The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen |
| Music Director | Michael Dettra |
| Lay Reader | John Flint |
| Communion Assistant | Megan Ward |
| Fellowship Time | 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 for Sunday, January 25: **Total: online only due to weather**

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.

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 first 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



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 to 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 is in the narthex for volunteers to offer their help, one Sunday at a time. Volunteers require a background check. 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. Thank you to those who have already volunteered!

-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.

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.

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.

December Financial Report

| Financial Report For December 2025 | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Rec'd for December 2025 | Budget for December 2025 |
| General Fund | \$14,909.01 | \$18,609.00 |
| Mortgage | \$1,333 | \$1,898.00 |
| Bene. - Synod Only | \$42 | \$133 |
| Other Benevolence | \$340 | |
| Memorial | | |
| Web Upgrade | | |
| Total | \$16,624.01 | \$20,640.00 |
| | Recv'd YTD 1/1-12/31/25 | Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/25 |
| General Fund | \$152,204.08 | \$223,307.00 |
| Mortgage | \$17,189.00 | \$22,776.00 |
| Bene. - Synod Only | \$1,864.00 | \$1,600.00 |
| Other Benevolence | \$7,161.00 | |
| Memorial | \$2,495.00 | |
| Web Upgrade | \$450.00 | |
| Total | \$181,363.08 | \$247,683.00 |

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Second Street Pike Now Open - Culvert Repairs Completed

Second Street Pike, which had been closed between Twining Road and Sacketts Ford Road, is now open. Repairs to the Second Street Culvert are complete.

Ash Wednesday – February 18

Advent will have two Ash Wednesday services, at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM.
Services will be available in-person and online.

Single Worship Service and Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, February 22

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 22 following a single worship service at 9:00 AM. The service and meeting will be held both in-person and available online via Zoom. More details, including the Zoom link information, will be available in the coming weeks.

Lenten Soup Supper and Prayer Service – “With Awe and Love”

Thursdays: February 26 to March 26

Advent will once again host the Thursday night Soup Supper and Prayer Service, beginning on February 26. Soup will be served at 6:00 PM, followed by the Lenten Prayer Service, at 7:00 PM. The prayer service will also be available online via Zoom. A sign-up sheet to provide soup, bread, and/or drinks is on the round table in the narthex.

The Leidy Microscopical Society 50th Annual Micromount Symposium at Advent Friday, March 13, 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM and Saturday, March 14, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Interested in rocks and minerals? You may want to check this out!

Speakers, silent auctions, give-away tables, and more!

Visitor's Fees: \$5.00 for Friday, \$10.00 for Saturday – includes lunch.

Table space for two days: \$35.00 for ½ table; \$45.00 for full 6-foot table.

Questions: Email donmcalarnen@outlook.com Phone: 610-247-5097

Make check payable to: The Leidy Microscopical Society

Mail check to: Don McAlarnen, 916 Senator Road, East Norriton, PA 19403, or pay when you attend.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, February 1

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:00 AM Traditional Service with Holy Communion
- 9:30 AM Contemporary Service with Holy Communion
Sunday School: Children age 4 to grade 6
- 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study in the parlor with George Henry

MONDAY, February 2

- 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, February 3

- 6:30 PM Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, February 4

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

THURSDAY, February 5

No Preaching Class or Zoom Bible Study

FRIDAY, February 6

- 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, February 8

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

- 8:00 AM Traditional Service with Holy Communion
- 9:30 AM Contemporary Service with Holy Communion
Sunday School: Children age 4 to grade 6
- 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting

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.