



ADVENT EVANGELICAL *Lutheran Church*

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 18, 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: “Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)”

1 One day when heaven was filled with His praises
One day when sin was as black as could be
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
Dwelt among men my example is He
The Word became flesh
And the light shined among us
His glory revealed

Chorus

Living He loved me dying He saved me
Buried He carried my sins far away
Rising He justified freely forever
One day He's coming
O glorious day (glorious day)

2 One day they led Him up Calv'ry's mountain
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree
Suffering anguish despised and rejected
Bearing our sins my Redeemer is He
The hand that healed nations
Stretched out on a tree
And took the nails for me **Chorus**

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, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Children's Sermon

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.

The Reading of God's Word ⁵

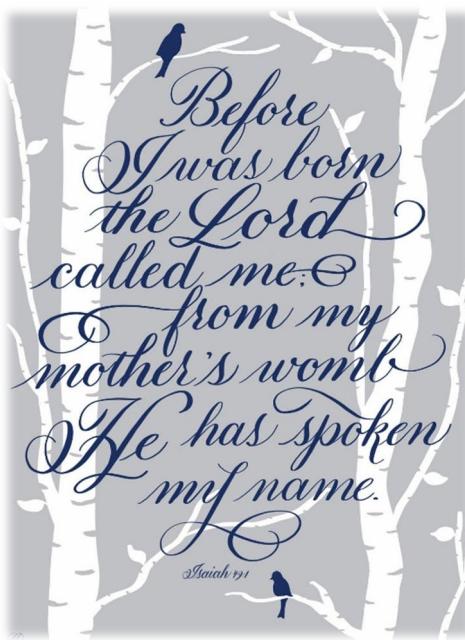
First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he
named me.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and
vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD
and my reward with my God."
⁵ And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his
servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
⁶ he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my
servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of
the earth."
⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by
the nations, the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate
themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen
you."



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.

Psalm: Psalm 40:1-11

¹ I waited patiently upon the Lord,
 who stooped to me and heard my cry.

² **The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
 and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³ The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
 many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

⁴ **Happy are they who trust in the Lord!**

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!

 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;**

you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.

⁷ And so I said, "Here I am; I come.

 In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ **'I love to do your will, O my God;
 your law is deep within me.'**"

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;

 I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart;**

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;

have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.

¹¹ You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;

 may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:29-42

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of Praise ⁶: “As the Deer”

1 As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart’s desire
And I long to worship Thee
You alone are my Strength, my Shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart’s desire
And I long to worship Thee.

2 I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye
You alone are my Strength, my Shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart’s desire
And I long to worship Thee.

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.

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>*



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.**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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: "We Are Marching in the Light of God"

WOV 650

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march-ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march-ing in the light of God.

Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo

si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Dismissal

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

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

Pastor

The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen

Music Director

Michael Dettra

Lay Reader

Bruce Eklund

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 11: **Total: 44**

8:00 AM: 5 + 3 = 8 9:30 AM: 26 + 4 = 30 Sunday School: 6

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 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.

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.

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.

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!*

December Financial Report

Financial Report For December 2025		Budget for December 2025
General Fund	Rec'd for December 2025 \$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

Road Closure and Detour Information from Northampton Township

From Tuesday, January 6, through Friday, January 30, Route 232 (Second Street Pike) will be closed to through traffic 24 hours a day between Twining Road and Sacketts Ford Road. During the closure, motorists will be detoured using Route 332 (Newtown Richboro Road/Richboro Road), the Newtown Bypass (Route 413/Route 532), and Swamp Road.

Local access will be maintained. Drivers should plan for additional travel time, as traffic backups and delays are expected. All work is weather-dependent.

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 pastormattollikainen@gmail.com.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, January 18
Second 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
Guest Speaker: Mike Cerino,
Director of the Warminster Food Bank
10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open
10:45 AM Adult Bible Study in the parlor with George Henry

MONDAY, January 19

7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, January 20

6:30 PM Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, January 21

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

THURSDAY, January 22

7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Matt

FRIDAY, January 23

7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, January 25

Third 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