

# The Adventure

## MISSION STATEMENT

### OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- 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.

## INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

- Message from Pastor Matt [page 2](#)
- February Worship Schedule / Online Worship Information [pages 3-4](#)
- Worship-Related Information & Opportunities [pages 4-5](#)
- Prayers for Those in Need / Prayers for our Military [page 6](#)
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## CHURCH OFFICE

The church office at Advent is typically open Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Any changes to the office hours are posted in the weekly bulletins.

Phone: 215-355-2529

Email: [adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com](mailto:adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com)

Website: [www.adventrichboro.com](http://www.adventrichboro.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/adventrichboropa](https://www.facebook.com/adventrichboropa)

## 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](mailto:pastormattolikainen@gmail.com).

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



## FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE

**Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen**  
Pastor

45 Worthington Mill Road  
Richboro, PA 18954  
215-355-2529

[www.adventrichboro.org](http://www.adventrichboro.org)  
[adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com](mailto:adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/adventrichboropa/>



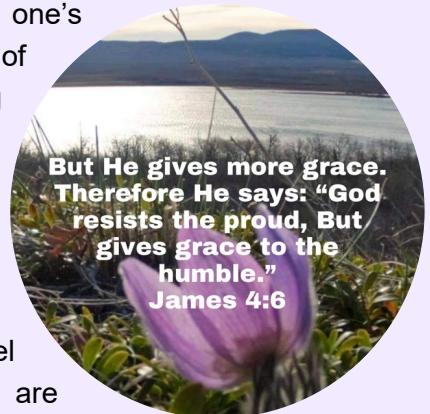
## HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

To help maintain the health of the congregation, Advent follows these precautions:

- Respect for those who choose to mask and/or social distance.
- Please stay home if you have any symptoms of illness or have been in close contact with anyone who is ill.
- Worship is available online.
- Those distributing communion will mask. Personal communion kits are available to those who prefer to commune in the pew or at home.
- Advent shares the peace with hand waves, peace signs and air hugs.

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MATT

Humility, to be humble, is to honestly assess and accept oneself, including one's strengths and weaknesses, in such a way that they neither need to boast of their greatness nor hide their weaknesses. Humility is not about being shamed or disgraced, as it is often misinterpreted. Humility tends to be counter-cultural. We live in a society where value is placed on qualities being in control of your life, being right, to be reliable, independent, to never have to apologize, to be strong, or to be perfect. The sum of these qualities has been called, "rugged individualism." We like and admire these qualities. When we can actually exhibit these qualities in our lives, we expect to feel powerful and secure. These are incredible standards to live by. They are incredible because they are nearly impossible to maintain. As much as we would like to think that we possess these qualities and actually live them, often life is beyond our control; we do fall short, we are reliant on others, we are weak, we sin and are imperfect. As our society places so much value on the strength and virtue of individualism, that humility as a virtue is lost.



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*The season of Lent is about humbly coming to terms with our true selves and then admitting our need for God and for one another.*

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Why is humility so important? There are times in life that come upon us as relentlessly as the rising of the tide, where the individual is powerless and simply trying harder does not make a difference. Then there is the fact that we simply can't be perfect. We do make mistakes. Even worst, we will knowingly do what is wrong and still find a way to justify it. In such times, it requires humility to admit we need more than ourselves to be saved and that we may even need to be forgiven. We need love and compassion of those around us, and most importantly, we need God. Such love and compassion can only be savored when we admit we need that love and compassion through humility. Without humility we are left to wallow in the consequences of sin and shortcomings, pretending they don't exist or blaming them on others. It is not enough to just hear that God loves us. Without humbly admitting our need for God, especially when convinced of our own rugged individualism as our main salvation, those words of God's love lose meaning. At best, God's love may sound nice, but not needed, because we can rely on ourselves. At worst, God's love may feel like an accusation of guilt or shame as it threatens to reveal what we are unwilling to admit about ourselves. To lack humility in the end cuts our sense of connection to God. It also cut our sense of connection to the people in our lives and the world around us.

The season of Lent is about humbly coming to terms with our true selves and then admitting our need for God and for one another. It is about renewing the promise of salvation in all aspects of life that comes through our baptism, not through ourselves. Yes, to be humble may not be easy in our culture today, but it also opens the door for true compassion, empathy and love.

Peace,  
Pastor Matt



## ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services may be attended by **Zoom** and they will also be live streamed on **Facebook**.  
A recording of services will be available on **YouTube** and our **website** after the services conclude.

### **ZOOM INFORMATION**

**PLEASE MUTE YOURSELF WHEN NOT SPEAKING**

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE on **SUNDAYS at 8:00 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978688226> Passcode: 309955

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE on **SUNDAYS at 9:30 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85489433054> Passcode: 940367

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

**February 18 at 12:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89754608960> Passcode: 461812

**February 18 at 7:00 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86534163707> Passcode: 098122

SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE on **SUNDAY, February 22 at 9:00 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88417511304> Passcode: 241674



## **WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL CELEBRATES GOD'S LOVE IN FEBRUARY**



"We love because God first loved us" is an important Bible verse that we will study in Sunday School as a basis for our Christian beliefs and as a guide for our everyday lives. Just as Pastor Matt reminds us in the children's sermon, God's love is all around us. We will learn to recognize God's presence in our lives and share his love with others.

In February, we will learn how God's Word comforts us and guides us in our thoughts, prayers and daily decisions day by day. Advent invites students age 4 through grade 6 to attend Sunday School. Students attend the first part of the 9:30 AM worship service, then proceed to the classroom following the children's sermon. Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or they can be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office with any questions. Many thanks to our classroom volunteers who assist with Sunday School!

- Jeanne Gryska, Sunday School Director

***PLEASE NOTE: Sunday School will begin at 9:00 AM on Sunday, February 22, as there will be a single worship service that day.***

### **BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Sunday In-Person Adult Bible Study**

Sunday in-person Bible Study with George Henry is held most Sundays after the 9:30 AM service. Check the weekly bulletins for the most up-to-date information. Meet in the Parlor.



#### **Thursday Night Zoom Bible Study – last Bible Study on February 12, will resume after Easter**

Thursday Night Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Matt will be held on most Thursdays at 7:00 PM, but NOT on the first Thursday of each month. 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>

## WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

### RESPONDING TO YOUR BAPTISMAL CALL AT WORSHIP SERVICES

You have many opportunities to respond to your Baptismal Call at worship services. Claim God's grace and share your gifts as part of the Praise Band or Vocal Choir, as a Lay Reader, Communion Assistant, Acolyte, or Greeter, or by assisting with set up for services. *Please contact the church office for more information at 215-355-2529.*



#### **Call for Praise Band & Vocal Choir Members**

Practices for both Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume on Wednesday, January 21.

♪ **Praise Band:** Wednesdays, **5:30 PM to 6:15 PM**

♪ **Vocal Choir:** Wednesdays, **6:15 PM to 7:30 PM**

*If you are interested in learning more about either Praise Band or Vocal Choir, please contact Mike Dettra, Music Director, or the church office at 215-355-2529.*

#### **Call for Worship Assistants**

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.

*If you are interested in learning more about assisting at worship, please contact Kristi Ward or the church office at 215-355-2529*

### DEDICATIONS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

*Payments for dedications may be made using the marked envelopes by the sign-up charts or by mailing payment to the church at 45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954.*

*Please make checks payable to **Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church** and write **Altar Flowers** or **Mission Support** in the memo.*

#### **Altar Flower Dedications**

The 2026 Flower Chart for weekly altar flowers is on the table in the narthex. Each bouquet is \$25. A lovely way to beautify the altar with a special dedication. Flowers may be taken home after the late service each week to enjoy in your home. Or you can also give to a family member, friend or neighbor – a great way to brighten someone's day!

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Frey 267-205-0713.



#### **Mission Dedications**

The 2026 Mission Dedication sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. The Mission Dedication donations benefit our sister church, **Iglesia Luterana Nueva Creacion**, which does vital work in North Philadelphia. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex on the table by the sanctuary doors. Please include your name and dedication. Dedications cost \$25. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication at 215-355-2529.



We need groups or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments for **Fellowship time**. Fellowship is held after the 9:30 AM service or the 9:00 AM service (on Sundays with a single worship service). The sign-up sheet through the end of the year is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e., coffee & tea) and all paper products.

If you would like to support Fellowship Time but do not have the time or ability to bake or shop for snacks, please consider donating a few dollars.

*Thank you on behalf of all the hungry snackers!*

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

At Advent, we actively pray for those in need by name through the **Prayers of Intercession** during worship and through the **Prayer Chain** during the week.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION DURING SERVICES

To add names of those in need of prayer:

- ❖ *If you are attending worship in-person*, please provide the person's first name to Pastor when he takes names at the beginning of the service.
- ❖ *If you are worshiping online*, please message or chat the name on Zoom or Facebook live stream and we will add the name to the list.

Because services are available world-wide through the internet, we use only baptismal or first names and omit surnames. The list of names gathered for *the Prayers of Intercession* in worship are maintained for just that day.

### 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 to Linda Weaver at [lindaweaver3@comcast.net](mailto:lindaweaver3@comcast.net).

More information may be provided to the allow the Prayer Chain volunteers to pray more specifically for the person added to the list.

### PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY



Please keep in your prayers all our service men and women, especially those related to our congregation:

- ❖ **Colonel Andrew M Frey, Jr.**, son of Cindy Frey, serving as Commander of the 2<sup>d</sup> Weather Group at Offutt Airforce Base, Nebraska
- ❖ **Specialist Aidan Hahn**, nephew of Marie McCool, serving in Kaiserslautern, Germany
- ❖ **Airman Andrew Slawter**, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico
- ❖ **Sergeant Joseph Vanderstine**, grandson of Rhona & Alan Slawter, stationed at Fort Drum, New York

*Please contact the church office at 215-355-2529 with any omissions or additions to our military prayer list.*

### A PRAYER FOR OUR SOLDIERS

*Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### A PRAYER FOR OUR VETERANS

*Dear Lord, we pray for all veterans who have bravely served our country. Please continue to shield them from harm and guide them through their journeys of healing and peace. Surround them with a supportive community and remind them of your unchanging love. We ask that you provide them with the strength to overcome any challenges they face, physically or mentally. Thank you, Lord, for the service of these heroes and your unending protection over their lives. Amen.*

## 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL INSTALLATION

Sunday, January 11, 2026



The 2026 Church Council was installed by Pastor Matt during the second service on January 11, 2026 and then proceeded to its first meeting of the new year after the service.

Returning members Pastor Matt, Katie Dettra, Gary Zimmerman, Keith Wills, Kristi Ward, Cime Eklund, and Mike Sitler were joined by John Flint who was elected to a 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term at the November 2025 Congregational Meeting.



During Council's January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, the following individuals were elected to serve in the five officer positions:

President:	Mike Sitler
Vice President:	Gary Zimmerman
Secretary:	Cime Eklund
Financial Secretary:	Cindy Frey
Interim Treasure:	George Henry

George and Cindy are serving as non-voting members of Council during 2026. A replacement for George as Interim Treasurer is currently being conducted. Anyone interested in serving our congregation in this position is asked to speak with Pastor Matt or Mike Sitler as soon as possible.

Church Council's leadership/membership on the Congregation's Standing Committees for 2026 are as follows:

Christian Education:	John Flint
Property:	Keith Wills
Worship and Music:	Kristi Ward
Evangelism:	Katie Dettra
Finance:	Tony Gryska, George Henry, Cindy Frey, and Janice Hoffman
Social Ministry:	Open
Congregational Life:	Open
Youth:	Open

These individuals discerned their spiritual gifts and followed their baptismal call to serve on Council and work on specific committees, and, by extension, the mission and ministries of Advent. What committees and/or ministries are you being called to engage in? Please consider your passions, spiritual gifts and baptismal call, and don't be discouraged by time commitment, all levels are important and appreciated. Please speak with any Council Member concerning current and future opportunities to put your talents into action, and remember that, collectively, we are "doing God's work with our hands."

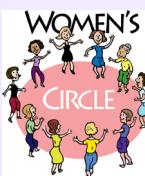


## ADVENT COMMUNITY – FEBRUARY EVENTS



### Men's Breakfast – Saturday, February 10, 8:30 AM

The next men's breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, February 14. In February at men's breakfast, we normally celebrate Groundhogs Day. However, since the powers that be have removed the resident groundhog from the property, we are looking for a volunteer to stand in for our absent figurehead. **We serve at 8:30 AM, coffee ready by 7:30 AM.**



### Advent Women's Circle— Next Meeting Tuesday, February 10, 12:00 PM

The Advent Women's Circle's mission is to support Advent through the implementation of projects that fill a need. We bring a simple lunch and discuss ideas and plans, all the while enjoying our time spent together with joy and humor. We celebrate birthdays for that month and write greeting cards to members in need of well-wishes.

Our social outings are an added feature that encourage us to explore local destinations. If you would like to attend an upcoming meeting or event as a new attendee, please contact the church office to confirm the date as it draws closer.

### Upcoming Outing: February 24 - Tour of Bryn Athyn Cathedral - Bryn Athyn, PA



### Ping Pong – Most Tuesday evenings, at 6:30 PM

All are welcome to come and enjoy an evening of Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM. If you are interested in giving it a try, please contact the church at 215-355-2529 or [adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com](mailto:adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com).

### The Leidy Microscopical Society hosts its 50th Annual Micromount Symposium Friday March 13 and Saturday March 14 in the narthex at Advent.

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

Friday March 13, 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Saturday March 14, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

\*Silent Auctions\* Give-Away Tables\*

Lunch is provided on Saturday with paid admission

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

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

### Speakers

Friday: "Peru: A Mining Country" by Leidy Member Juan Proano, Mining and Exploration Geologist.

Saturday: "It's a Small World After All" by Ron Sloto Author, Curator of West Chester University

Mineral Collection also served 41 years with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Questions: Email [donmcalarnen@outlook.com](mailto:donmcalarnen@outlook.com) Phone: 610 - 247-5097

Make checks payable to: The Leidy Microscopical Society

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

### SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH THE ADVENT COMMUNITY!

Have information or an event you would like to advertise to the Advent community?

Please reach out to the church office with any pertinent information.

215-355-2529

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

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### WARMINSTER FOOD BANK

#### DRIVE UP AND DROP OFF FOOD COLLECTION



If you have food for the Warminster Food Bank that you or your friends would like to donate and the church is not open, just drive in and drop off the food under the seat of the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. Most needed items currently needed include:

Food Items: fruit cups, taco shells, apple sauce, egg noodles, vegetable oil, saltines, tomato soup (condensed), shelf stable milk

Non-Food Items: store gift cards, laundry detergent (pods or liquid), household cleaning supplies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, other oral care items, toilet paper, paper towels, gently used grocery-size paper bags

To order supplies for direct delivery to WFB, go to their Amazon Wish List: <https://a.co/3JoRQBB>

Check the food bank's website for the most up-to-date needs: <https://warminsterfoodbank.org/>

### CARING for FRIENDS – February Update

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Caring for Friends meal ministry! We're grateful for the steady flow of lovingly prepared meals that help us serve neighbors in need throughout our community.

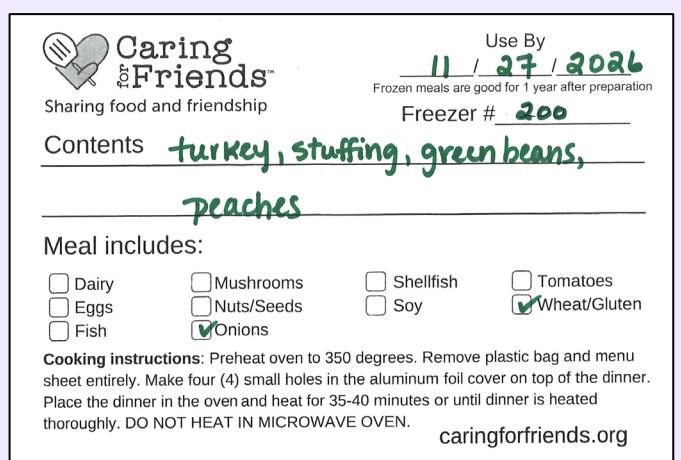
We continue to encourage volunteers to prepare meals at home. We've seen more families take home pans and fill their own freezers with ready-to-share meals. This extra effort is making a big difference!

If anyone has **turkey, ham, or other protein donations**, please speak with Kevin or Christine Welsh. These items are especially helpful and go a long way in supporting our meal program.

As always, pans and instructions are available to take home anytime. Every meal, big or small, helps us brighten someone's day.

Thank you for your kindness, generosity, and commitment to caring for others.

#### SAMPLE LABEL



## JANUARY EVENTS

### Men's Breakfast, January 10, 2026



### January Snowstorms at Advent

Thank you to everyone who helped to clear the property!





The information and events below are excerpts from the MinistryLink Newsletter from SEPA



## UPCOMING KINDLING FAITH EVENTS

[www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar](http://www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar)

**Online Pastoral Care Series** with Rev. Dr. Beth Toler continues in 2026!

Here are the remaining topics for the current academic year:

- February 9 &12 - Walking the Road to Recovery: Spiritual Care for those Facing Addiction
- March 9 &12 - Standing in the Storm: Spiritual Care as Crisis Response
- April 13 & 16 - Caring for Souls in a Wounded World: Spiritual Care in the Context of Climate Change



Augsburg Fortress is offering a free webinar series designed to support and inspire worship leaders, church musicians, and anyone passionate about congregational song. Serving Through Song features two more upcoming sessions led by well-known church musicians and composers who will share practical tools, musical insights, and creative approaches for strengthening your congregation's worship life.

### Upcoming Sessions:

- **February 26, 2026** – Anne Krentz Organ: Loaves and Fishes: Expanding the Reach of Music Ministry in Your Congregation
- **June 2, 2026** – Tom Trenney: Sacred Collaboration: The Holy Ground of Doing Ministry Together

All sessions are free with registration, and recordings will be available afterward.

<https://go.augsburgfortress.org/serving-through-song-a-music-webinar-series-from-augsburg-fortress>



## BEAR CREEK CAMP

<https://bearcreekcamp.org/>

### Spring Family Nature Retreat March 20-22

This nature-filled weekend gives families the chance to unplug, slow down, and enjoy the peaceful environment of Bear Creek Camp. Guided activities, open time to explore, shared meals, and comfortable accommodations create a refreshing retreat centered on nature, community, and rest.

### Spring Women's Retreat April 10-12

This retreat offers women the gift of rest, space, and presence in the beauty of God's creation. With flexible programming and ample free time, the weekend fosters gentle connection, creativity, and renewal.



## RESOURCES from the FAITH ALIVE WORSHIP LEARNING LAB on January 10 – now available online!

Resources shared at Faith Alive's Worship Learning Lab on January 10, 2026 are now available on their webpage. Explore the resources and begin considering how your congregation might take part in this initiative.

<https://ministrylink.org/congregational-vitality/faith-alive/>

## KEEP UP WITH SYNOD NEWS AND RESOURCES

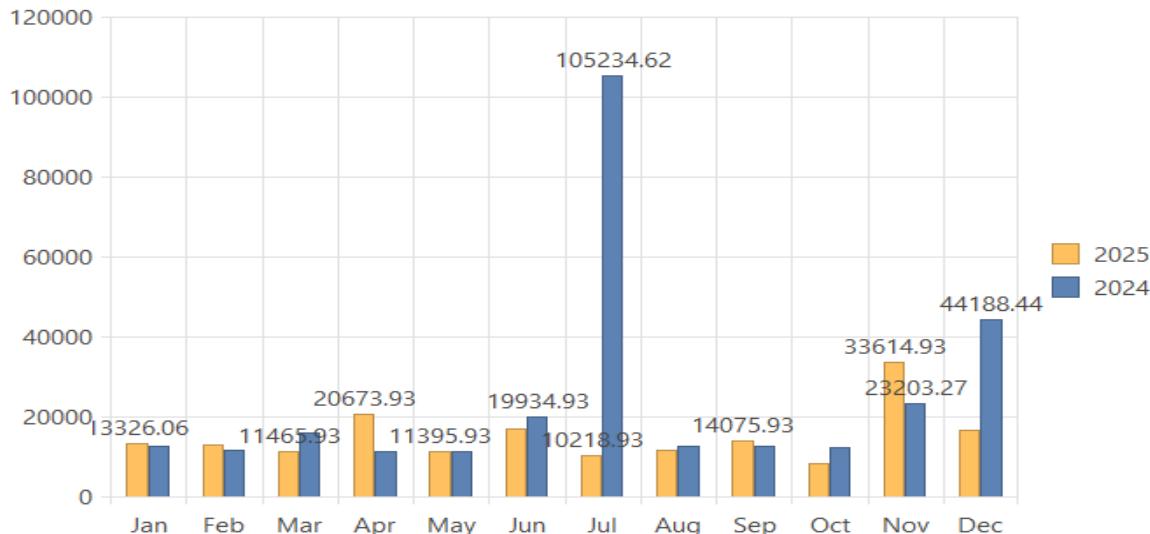
 Subscribe to the MinistryLink

newsletter to keep up with the latest news, events and resources offered through SEPA. Sign up using the QR code or visit: <https://ministrylink.org/mission-interpretation/subscribe/>.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Contribution Totals



July 2024 large amount reflects the receipt of insurance funds for the roof replacement.  
Additional Insurance payment received in December 2024

### Financial Report For December 2025

Rec'd for December 2025	Budget for December 2025
General Fund	\$14,909.01
Mortgage	\$1,333
Bene. - Synod Only	\$42
Other Benevolence	\$340
Memorial	
Web Upgrade	
Total	\$20,640.00

### Recv'd YTD 1/1-12/31/25      Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/25

Recv'd YTD 1/1-12/31/25	Budget YTD 1/1-12/31/25
General Fund	\$152,204.08
Mortgage	\$17,189.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$1,864.00
Other Benevolence	\$7,161.00
Memorial	\$2,495.00
Web Upgrade	\$450.00
Total	\$181,363.08
	\$247,683.00

Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support of the church this year. We greatly appreciate it. There are numerous ways to continue your offerings.

- Drop off your offering at the church office. The office is usually open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10 AM and 1 PM. Call to confirm hours.
- Mail a check to the church. The mailing address is "Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954"
- Contribute online at [www.adventrichboro.org](http://www.adventrichboro.org). At the top right of the page, click the "Donate" link to see the Giving Platform. You may choose to set up recurring donations or a one-time donation.

Again, thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions concerning your offering, please call Cindy Frey, Financial Secretary 267-205-0713

**Statements for 2025 Giving and envelopes for 2026 are available on the table in the narthex. If you do not have envelopes and would like to receive a box, please contact Cindy Frey.**

## FROM THE OFFICE

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb 5 Mike Sitler  
Feb 9 Dave Frost  
Feb 13 Nicole Shearer  
Feb 18 Julianna Ward



Feb 19 Kali Frey  
Feb 24 Stephen Anderson  
Feb 26 John Flint

*Please contact the church office if you or someone you know has been omitted from the list.*

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Church office hours are typically Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Marie McCool**  
**Office and Communications Administrator**  
**Phone:** 215-355-2529  
**Email:** [adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com](mailto:adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com)

### UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE

Please let the church office know if you have any changes to your contact information, including address, phone, and email. Please email or call with your updated information. If you are unsure if your information is correct, please reach out. Marie is happy to hear from you and check your information!

Phone: 215-355-2529 Email: [AdventLutheranRichboro@gmail.com](mailto:AdventLutheranRichboro@gmail.com)

### Lent

(excerpt from ELCA blogs page - <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/430/>)

#### Definition

Lent is the forty-day season (excluding Sundays) of penitence and preparation for the Three Days of Holy Week and Easter.

#### A Very Brief History

The term “Lent” originally comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “lencten” which means “spring.” This is the time, in the Northern Hemisphere, when the days are lengthening. The season began as period of fasting leading up to the Vigil of Easter. Catechumens, those preparing for baptism at Easter, would fast and spend days in intense preparation. For those that were already baptized, Lent was a period to be renewed in their faith by studying the Bible, the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer.



Although it was originally only a two-day period of preparation, Lent became a three-week preparatory period in the middle of the fourth century and then this was further expanded into six-weeks, or forty days. By the end of the fifth century, there was a desire to exclude Sundays from Lent since Sundays are always celebrated as feasts of the Resurrection. Thus Lent begins not on Sunday, but on Ash Wednesday.

The current practice of forty days of Lent recall Jesus’ forty-day fast in the wilderness after his Baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) as well as Moses’ forty-day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28).



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 1 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study	2 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	3 6:30 PM Ping Pong	4 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	5 <i>No Preaching Class or Zoom Bible Study</i>	6 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	7
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 8 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Church Council Meeting	9 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	10 12:00 PM Advent Women's Circle Meeting 6:30 PM Ping Pong	11 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	12 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	13 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	14 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast
Transfiguration of Our Lord 15 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study	16 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	17 6:30 PM Ping Pong	18 Ash Wednesday 12:00 PM & 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Services <i>No Band/Choir Practices</i>	19 <i>No Zoom Bible Study</i>	20 11:00 AM Holland Village Communion Service 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	21
First Sunday in Lent 22 9:00 AM Single Worship Service with Communion Sunday School 10:15 AM Annual Congregational Meeting	23 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	24 Advent Women's Circle Tour of Bryn Athyn Cathedral 6:30 PM Ping Pong	25 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	26 6:00 PM Soup Supper 7:00 PM Lenten Prayer Service	27 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	28