



ADVENT EVANGELICAL *Lutheran Church*

Second Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 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.

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,
Who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God,
who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and 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: “Find Me in the River”

1 Find me in the river, find me on my knees
I've walked against the water,
now I'm waiting if you please
We've longed to see the roses,
but never felt the thorns
And bought our pretty crowns,
but never paid the price

Chorus

Find me in the river, find me there
Find me on my knees with my soul laid bare
Even though you're gone and I'm cracked and dry
Find me in the river, I'm waiting here for you

2 Find me in the river, find me on my knees
I've walked against the water,
now I'm waiting if you please
We didn't count on suffering,
we didn't count on pain
But if the blessing's in the valley,
then in the river I will wait

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: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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: Genesis 12:1-4

¹ The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121 (*read responsively*)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

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.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of Praise ⁶: "Be Thou My Vision" WOV 776



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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.**

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.

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: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

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: O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
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.

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.

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.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Distribution ¹¹

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

Prayer after Communion ¹²

Let us pray...
God of our salvation,
We give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

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.

Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, 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.

Sending Hymn: "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever"

Over the mountains and the sea

Your river runs with love for me

And I will open up my heart

And let the Healer set me free

I'm happy to be in the truth

And I will daily lift my hands

For I will always sing

Of when Your love came down, yeah

I could sing of Your love forever

(sing 2x)

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

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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.

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	Joyce Heiss
Fellowship Time	Open

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Janice Hoffmann in loving memory of her father, Howard Bobb.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Worship Attendance for Sunday, February 22: **Total: 37**

9:00 AM: 22 + 8 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.

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.

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

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

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.

January Financial Report

Financial Report For January 2026		
	Rec'vd for January 2026	Budget for January 2026
General Fund	\$3,390.93	\$19,805.00
Mortgage	\$470	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$40	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$90	
Total	\$3,990.93	\$21,836.00
	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

Advent Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday, March 29 Volunteers & Donations Needed!

We are excited to celebrate Easter together with another joyful **Easter Egg Hunt** for our children and families! This year's egg hunt will be on **Sunday, March 29th**. Activities will begin at 10:45 AM and the Egg Hunt will be at 11:00 AM.

To register your child, please fill out the following form: <https://tinyurl.com/adventegg hunt26>.

To make this event run smoothly, we need the help of our wonderful church family.

We are looking for **volunteers** to help with:

- **Set-Up Crew** – help prepare tables, stations, and the hunt area
- **Craft Table** – assist children with a simple Easter craft
- **Coloring Table** – help keep coloring activities organized and welcoming
- **Snack Table** – help distribute snacks and keep the area tidy
- **Game Table** – run fun, age-appropriate games
- **Egg Stuffing** – help stuff plastic eggs ahead of time
- **Clean-Up Crew** – assist with tearing down and cleaning up after the event



We are also accepting **donations of individually wrapped chocolates and goodies** to fill Easter eggs. Your generosity helps make this event special for our kids!

If you're able to volunteer or donate, please write your information on the sign-up sheet in the narthex, or contact **Christine Welsh** at welsh0914@gmail.com or **267-566-6299**. Thank you for serving and supporting our church community this Easter! 💖

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Single Worship Service and Annual Congregational Meeting – Next Sunday, March 8

The annual Congregational Meeting has been rescheduled to next Sunday, March 8, following a single worship service at 9:00 AM. The service and meeting will be held both in-person and online via Zoom.

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, during the season of Lent. 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. Please RSVP for the Soup Supper so we can have an approximate head count. A response sheet and a sign-up sheet to provide soup, bread, and/or drinks are on the round table in the narthex. You may also call the church office to respond or sign up.

Lenten Prayer Service Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89416052406> Passcode: Lent2026

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.

Easter Lilies – Sign up by March 29



The sign-up sheet to place lilies on the altar for Easter Sunday is on the table in the narthex. Cost is \$15 per plant. You may also contact the office via phone or email with your request. Make checks payable to Advent Lutheran and write “Easter Lilies” in the memo line of the check. Please mail payment to Advent at 45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954 or use a Flowers envelope available in the narthex by the sign-up sheet and drop it into the collection plate.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, March 1

Second Sunday in Lent

- 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, March 2

- 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, March 3

- 6:30 PM Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, March 4

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

THURSDAY, March 5

- 6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper
- 7:00 PM Lenten Prayer Service, *With Love & Awe*

FRIDAY, March 6

- 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, March 8

Third Sunday in Lent

- 9:00 AM Single Worship Service with Holy Communion
- Sunday School: Children age 4 to grade 6
- 10:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting