ADVENT EVANGELICAL
Lutheran Church

Second Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 12, 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

Prelude *(a time for silent meditation)*

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
P: Salvation belongs to our God
who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!
C: Amen.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.
Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.
You lead us beside still waters.
We thank you for the waters of creation:
morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.
We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

P: Blessed are you.
C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness
who accompanies us on our journeys.
We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.
We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

P: Blessed are you.
C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.
Break down barriers that divide us.
Fill us with the breath of peace.
Blessed are you.
C: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.
We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.
C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn:* "Here I Am to Worship"**

1 Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes, let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Refrain
Here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

2 King of all days
Oh, so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came to the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor
Refrain

3 And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
Refrain

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.

***Gathering Song:* "**

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

P: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Children's Sermon

The Reading of God's Word

***First Reading:* Acts 2:14a, 22-32**

14a Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]:
22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God
with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves
know 23 this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you
crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. 24 But God raised him up, having released
him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 25 For David
says concerning him,
'I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;

moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
[27] For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
[28] You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'
[29] "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. [30] Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. [31] Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
'He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'
[32] "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."
Word of God, Word of Life,
C: Thanks be to God.

***Psalm:* Psalm 16**
[1] Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."
[2] **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,**
upon those who are noble among the people.
[3] But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.
[4] **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,**
never take their names upon my lips.
[5] O Lord, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.
[6] **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;**
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.
[7] I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.
[8] **I have set the Lord always before me;**
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
[9] My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
[10] **For you will not abandon me to the grave,**
nor let your holy one see the pit.
[11] You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9
[3] Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead [4] and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, [5] who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
[6] In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, [7] so that the

genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.
8 Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel*: John 20:19-31**

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

***Hymn of Praise* "Bind Us Together"** **WOV 748**

Chorus

Bind us together Lord
Bind us together with cords
That cannot be broken
Bind us together Lord
Bind us together Lord
Bind us together with love

1 There is only one God
There is only one King
There is only one body
That is why we can sing
Chorus

2 Made for the glory of God
Purchased by His precious Son
Born with the right to be clean
For Jesus the vict'ry has won
Chorus

3 You are the fam'ly of God
You are the promise divine
You are God's chosen desire
You are the glorious new wine
Chorus

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

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: Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

Sacrament

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.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
C: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
C: Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of new life.
Receive the risen Lord.

Distribution

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray…
Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,
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:* "Trading My Sorrows"**

I'm trading my sorrow
I'm trading my shame
I'm laying it down for the joy of the Lord

I'm trading my sickness
I'm trading my pain
I'm laying it down for the joy of the Lord

Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord
Yes Lord, yes Lord, yes, yes Lord, Amen
Repeat entire song

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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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	John Flint
Communion Assistant	Megan Ward
Fellowship Time	Open

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Christel Hoffmann,
in loving memory of her grandfather, Fred Hoffmann.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Worship Attendance for Sunday, April 5:

Total: 100 8:00 AM: 25 + 3 9:30 AM: 71 + 1

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.

Recycling Can Tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities

Thanks to the efforts of many, we had assembled a large collection of aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. We thank Marie McCool and her son James, who recently turned them in. Your contribution will benefit the families staying in this wonderful facility while their loved one undergoes medical care nearby. United Scrap Metal recyclers weigh the donation of aluminum tabs to determine their value, based on the average value of around $.75/pound of tabs. They then send Ronald McDonald House Charities/Philly a check for the total amount, which directly benefits the families! Keep bringing those tabs!

Tabs can be placed in the marked containers in the narthex, on the shelf above the coat rack.

No cans, please – just tabs!

March Financial Report

Financial Report - March 2026		
	Rec'vd for March 2026	Budget for March 2026
General Fund	$11,764.93	$19,805.00
Mortgage	$1,970.00	$1,898.00
Bene - Synod Only	$55.00	$133.00
Other Benevolence	$565.00	
Total	$14,354.93	$21,836.00
	Rec'vd 1/1/26-3/31/26	Budget 1/1/26-3/31/26
General	$35,262.79	$59,415.00
Mortgage	$4,230.00	$5,694.00
Bene-Synod Only	$260.00	$399.00
Other Benevolence	$1,255.00	
Total	$41,007.79	$65,508.00

Mark Your Calendars

ADVENT WOMEN'S CIRCLE – Next Meeting Tuesday, April 14, 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. There is no outing scheduled for April. Stay tuned for information on future outings!

Potluck Lunch – Sunday, April 26, following the 9:30 AM Worship Service

On Sunday, April 26, we will have a potluck lunch following services to continue the Strategic Mission Plan. More information will be available soon.

ADVENT'S ANNUAL SPRING CLEANUP – May 2, 2026, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Advent's annual spring cleanup will be on Saturday morning, May 2, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. All volunteers are welcome and encouraged to participate! Suggested items to bring include work gloves, rooms, rakes, gardening tools, hedge trimmers, tree pruners, and weed whackers. We will be concentrating on weeding the gardens, applying mulch, and general cleanup. Yard waste bags will be provided. Hope to see you there! *Rain Date: May 9, 2026*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Monday, July 13 through Thursday, July 16, 9:00 AM to noon

Children, age 4 thru grade 6, set your calendar and invite your friends! There will be Bible lessons, games and activities; plus, snack and outdoor playtime, all with friends, old and new! We'll be happy to see you!

Registration forms will be available soon!

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, April 12
Easter Sunday/Resurrection of Our Lord
Second Sunday of Easter
8:00 AM Traditional Service with Holy Communion
9:30 AM Contemporary Service with Holy Communion
Sunday School *students age 4 to grade 6*
10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open
10:45 AM Adult Bible Study in the parlor with George Henry
10:45 AM Church Council Meeting

MONDAY, April 13
7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, April 14
12:00 PM Advent Women's Circle Meeting *Bring your own lunch*
6:30 PM Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, April 15
5:30 PM Praise Band Practice
6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice

FRIDAY, April 17
11:00 AM Holland Village Communion Service
7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, April 19
Third Sunday of Easter
8:00 AM Service of the Word – no Communion
9:30 AM Service of the Word – no Communion
Sunday School *students age 4 to grade 6*
10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open
10:45 AM Adult Bible Study in the parlor with George Henry

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.