



ADVENT EVANGELICAL *Lutheran Church*

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 3, 2026
8:00 AM



**LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled
You believe in God
Believe also in Me.**

John 14:1

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

Zoom Link for today's service

8:00 AM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88978688226>

Passcode: 309955

Gathering

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: "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

LBW 367

- 1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.
- 2 To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your lovingkindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction
shed within these walls today.
- 3 Grant, we pray, to all your faithful
all the gifts they ask to gain;
what they gain from you forever
with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.
- 4 Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory
while unending ages run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

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.**

Hymn of Praise:

☐ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **☐** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
☐ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. **☐** Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
☐ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ① Sing with all the people of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre-a - tion: Bless- ing, hon-or, glo- ry, and
 might be to God and the Lamb for- ev - er. A - men.
 ② This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ③ For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu - ia.
 ④ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Word

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² **Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.**

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, God of truth.

¹⁵ **My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.**

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-10

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and “A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 14:1-14

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 14TH chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C:

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing!"

LBW 363

- 1** Christ is alive let Christians sing
The cross stands empty to the sky
Let streets and homes with praises ring
Love drowned in death shall never die
- 2** Christ is alive
No longer bound to distant years in Palestine
But saving healing here and now
And touching ev'ry place and time
- 3** Not throned afar remotely high
Untouched unmoved by human pains
But daily in the midst of life
Our Savior in the Godhead reigns
- 4** In ev'ry insult rift and war
Where color scorn or wealth divide
Christ suffers still yet loves the more
And lives where even hope has died
- 5** Christ is alive and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age
Till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy
With justice love and praise

Apostles Creed

**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.**

Prayer of the Church

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>*



The Offertory



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray... Merciful Father,
C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving
what you have first given us –
ourselves, our time, and our possessions,
signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of him
who offered himself for us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
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.

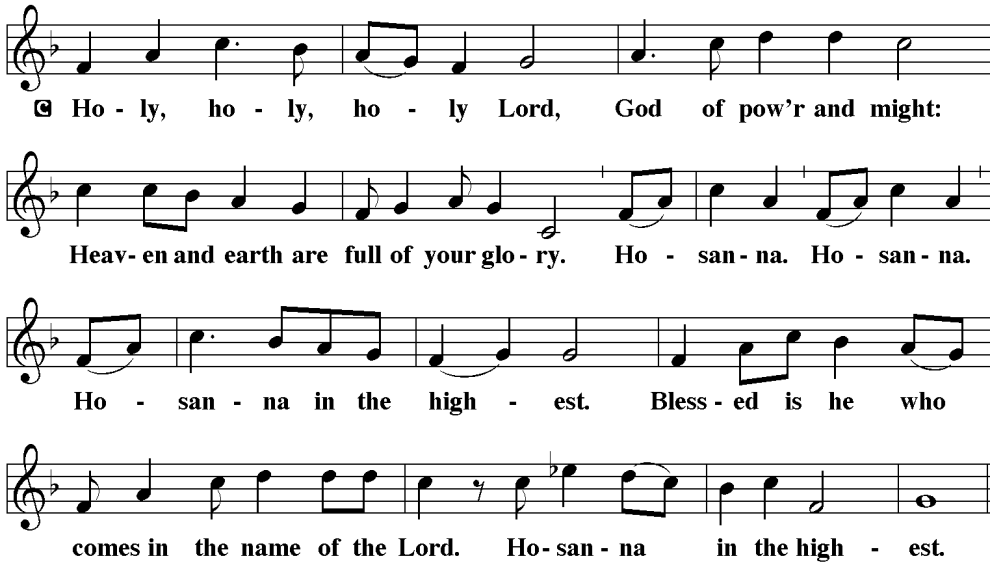
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

(preface continues with words for the season and concludes...)

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: 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.**

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

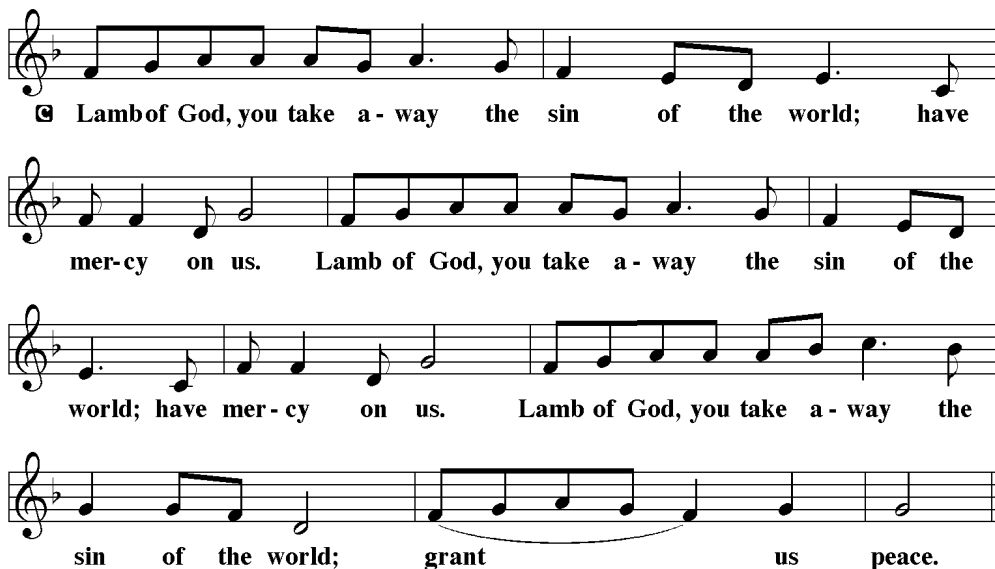
Lord's Prayer

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

**C: 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

P: Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

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

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray...

We give you thanks, almighty God,
that you have refreshed us
through the healing power of this gift of life;
and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us,
through this gift, in faith toward you
and in fervent love toward one another;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: 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.



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

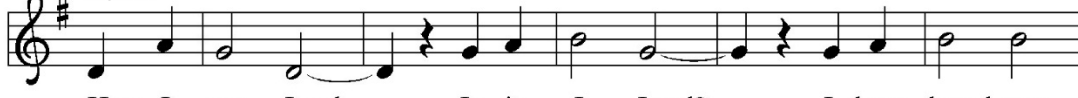


I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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	George Henry
Communion Assistant	Janice Hoffmann
Fellowship Time	George Henry

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Cindy Frey in honor of the high school graduation of her granddaughter, Emily.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Worship Attendance for Sunday, April 26:

Total: 45 8:00 AM: 13 + 3 9:30 AM: 22 + 3 Sunday School: 4

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.

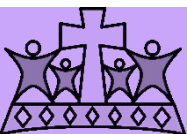
Praise Band: 5:30 PM – 6:15 PM

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. 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.

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

MEN'S BREAKFAST – Saturday, May 9, 8:30 AM

The next Men's Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, May 9. We serve at 8:30 AM, coffee is ready by 7:30 AM.

ADVENT WOMEN'S CIRCLE – Tuesday, May 12, 12:00 PM

The next meeting for the Advent Women's Circle is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, at 12:00 PM at Advent. Bring your own lunch along with some ideas for upcoming events and outreach!

DETTRA MENTAL SPRING CONCERT – Friday, May 22, 7:00 PM

Mark your calendars for Friday, May 22, at 7:00 PM when the Dettra Mental Quartet will be performing a Spring Concert at Advent. At-will donations will be accepted for the musicians. Light refreshments will be served.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE at ADVENT – Tuesday, May 26, 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Please consider donating and asking your family, friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will receive a Red Cross beach towel.

Options to sign up to donate:

- Sign up on the donor sheet, located in the narthex
- Sign up online at RedCrossBlood.org (enter sponsor code "AdventLutheran")
- Call 1-800-Red-Cross

Please sign up on the volunteer sheet in the narthex or reach out to Marie (781-521-0331) if you are able to donate treats for the snack table or volunteer for an hour or two on the day of the drive.

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, May 3

Fifth 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: George Henry
10:45 AM Adult Bible Study in the parlor with George Henry

MONDAY, May 4

- 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, May 5

- 6:30 PM Ping Pong

WEDNESDAY, May 6

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

THURSDAY, May 7

- 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Matt

FRIDAY, May 8

- 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, May 9

- 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast, *coffee ready at 7:30 AM*

SUNDAY, May 10

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Happy Mother's Day!

- 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



Summer Worship Schedule begins Sunday, May 24 and continues through Sunday, September 6.

From May 24 to September 6, Advent will have a single worship service at 9:00 AM, followed by Fellowship.

Worship will continue to be live streamed online, via Zoom and Facebook Live, and uploaded to the church's YouTube channel following the conclusion of service.