

The Adventure



ADVENT
EVANGELICAL
Lutheran Church

MAY 2026 ISSUE

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

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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

Website: www.adventrichboro.com

Facebook: 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 pastormattollikainen@gmail.com.

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

Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen
Pastor

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

www.adventrichboro.org
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

Who are the people in our neighborhood?

One of the components of the Ministry Brainstorm Packet is demographic information on the needs of the community. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod for many years has subscribed to a demographic resource website for the benefit of congregations like ours. As the Strategic Mission Team has been preparing our Ministry Brainstorm Packet, I accessed the website MissionInsite™ using the synod account and looked up the area of Richboro. I would like to share just a little bit of what I found:

Top 15 Life Concerns in the Richboro Area (from MissionInsite™)			
Ranking	Concern	Ratio	Strength of Concern
1	Financing the future/savings/retirement	3.0	Strong Concern
2	Social & political tensions/discord	3.0	Strong Concern
3	Fear of the future or the unknown	2.7	Strong Concern
4	Personal health problems	2.5	Strong Concern
5	Stress/time to relax	2.3	Strong Concern
6	Health crisis/illness	2.1	Strong Concern
7	Losing weight/diet issues	2.0	Strong Concern
8	Will & estate planning	1.7	Somewhat Strong Concern
9	Day-to-day financial matters	1.6	Somewhat Strong Concern
10	Making the right choices/finding direction	1.6	Somewhat Strong Concern
11	Reaching my goals/being successful	1.5	Somewhat Strong Concern
12	Social media & internet	1.4	Somewhat Strong Concern
13	Illegal immigration	1.2	Moderate Concern
14	Balancing work & family	1.1	Moderate Concern
15	Racism/racial injustice	1.1	Moderate Concern

Advent is well positioned to address some of the top concerns of our neighbors. Our congregation has a diversity of political and social dispositions, and yet, this is a place where we believe we are all children of God who are welcomed and loved. Yes, the future is unknown and can be fearful, and yet we know that our future has the promise of the resurrection. We have the assurance that no matter what happens, God's love prevails. Worship, fellowship, prayer and Bible study bring spiritual nourishment that relieves stress and anxiety. Better spiritual health means better overall health. Our baptism gives us daily purpose and direction.

“Our congregation is a place where we believe we are all children of God.”

The Top 5 Spiritual Giftabilities expressed in Advent's membership are: **Teaching, Administration, Serving, Mercy** and **Wisdom**.

Is there a way to teach the community how to put political and social tension/discord aside?

Is there a way to serve the community that enhances health and eases tension/stress?

*How can we show mercy and share wisdom that builds faith
and casts out fear of the future and the unknown?*

These questions may seem challenging, but the good news is that we have tools to answer them. The Strategic Mission Team has interviewed over a dozen community leaders who have expressed specific needs of the community. We also have a great list of assets in the congregation and in the community. Coming up with a ministry idea is like doing simple math. For example, we could match the #1 concern of future finances with the spiritual gift of teaching. We match these to the synod stewardship person,

the incredible gifts of Advent's Finance Team, and a connection with a local bank whose president believes faith is an important part of managing finances. We bring these all together and host a "Faith and Finances" community event. Does this idea excite us as congregation? Is the Holy Spirit guiding us to do this as a ministry? I don't know. That is something for us to discern as a congregation, as well as other limitless ministry ideas the Spirit will help us come up with.

"Our baptism gives us daily purpose and direction."

At the Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, June 6, at 5:00 PM, the Strategic Mission Team will share with the congregation the results of our Community Leadership Interviews and the MissionInsite™ Demographic Study. The demographics, and especially the interviews, point to many ministry possibilities and partnerships. I hope the possibilities will fill you with the same hope and excitement as I am experiencing. We will then introduce to the congregation the Ministry Brainstorm Packet where we will together create ministry ideas!

Peace,
Pastor Matt



MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Summer Worship Schedule begins Sunday, May 24

MAY 3: FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Sunday School *students age 4 to grade 6*
10:30 AM Fellowship: Open
10:45 AM Bible Study with George Henry

MAY 17: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Sunday School *students age 4 to grade 6*
10:30 AM Fellowship: Open
10:45 AM Bible Study with George Henry

MAY 10: SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mother's Day
8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Sunday School *students age 4 to grade 6*
10:30 AM Fellowship: Open
10:45 AM Bible Study with George Henry

MAY 24: DAY OF PENTECOST

9:00 AM Service of the Word – no Communion
10:00 AM Fellowship: Open

MAY 31: THE HOLY TRINITY

9:00 AM Summer Worship Service with Communion
10:00 AM Fellowship: Open

SERVING IN WORSHIP – MAY 2026 SCHEDULE

8:00 AM

9:30 AM

	LAY READER	COMMUNION ASST	LAY READER	COMMUNION ASST
Sun 5/3	George Henry	Janice Hoffmann	Bruce Eklund	Joyce Heiss
Sun 5/10	David Elkin	Janice Hoffmann	John Flint	Joyce Heiss
Sun 5/17	George Henry	Kristi Ward	Bruce Eklund	Megan Ward
SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS – May 24 to September 6				
	LAY READER		COMMUNION ASSISTANT	
Sun 5/24 9:00 AM	David Elkin		N/A	
Sun 5/31 9:00 AM	John Flint		Kristi Ward	

ALTAR GUILD: Kristi Ward, Joyce Heiss, Jeanne Gryszka

TECH CREW: Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra, Tony Gryszka, Gary Zimmerman

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION: Linda Brownlee, Audrey Savchuck, Nancy Sclight, Rhona Slawter

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

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE on **SUNDAYS, at 9:00 AM** (beginning May 24)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88182250134> Passcode: SUMMER

WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – LAST CLASS IS MAY 17

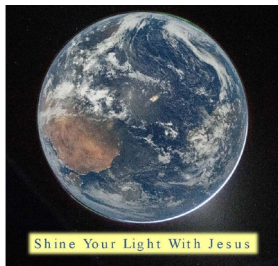


In the month of May, we will look closer at The Holy Spirit and The Lord's Prayer. These "focal points" will round out our previous lessons about God the Father and Jesus, his son.

During this school year, our students have responded to our creative **Holy Moly** lessons with great interest and enthusiasm. They have worked together, sung together, prayed together and encouraged one another as friends. We are so proud of them! On May 17th, they will be celebrated for their success. This will be our last class until mid-September.

All of us are thankful for the **many talented volunteers** who have assisted in our Sunday School class throughout this school year. You have supported our students and shown them that these lessons will last them a lifetime!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Vacation Bible School at Advent will be held July 13–16 (Monday through Thursday) from 9:00 AM to noon. Children age 4 through completion of 6th grade are encouraged to attend and invite your friends! We'll have Bible lessons, games and activities, plus snack and outdoor playtime with friends - old and new, who will be SO happy to see YOU! **The VBS registration form is available on page 7, on the church website and by request via email from the church office.**

Copies are also available in the narthex. Please register SOON to allow time for teachers to gather items for our students.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday In-Person Adult Bible Study

Sunday in-person Bible Study with George Henry will be held through Sunday, May 17 and will resume in the fall. Check the weekly bulletins for the most up-to-date information. Meet in the Parlor.



Thursday Night Zoom Bible Study – Thursdays, at 7:00 PM

Thursday Night Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Matt will be held on most Thursdays at 7:00 PM. 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 Praise Band and Vocal Choir are held weekly September through May.

♪ **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



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 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!

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.

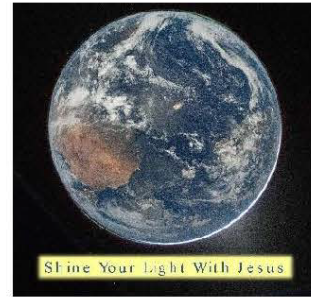
**Advent Lutheran Church
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Mon-Thurs July 13-16 9:00 am - Noon

Age 4 to grade 6

*To insure availability of materials,
please register by **June 30, 2026***

215-355-2529



45 Worthington Mill Rd. Richboro PA 18954

adventlutheranrichboro.org

Take off with us and **Shine Your Light With Jesus**, as we find enLIGHTening history in the Bible ! We'll learn about the light we can share and shine around the world. Look forward to fun as we explore Bible lessons, crafts, games, outdoor play, music and snacks with your friends at VBS !

Name(s) of Children (May add names on back)	Grade Completed	Age (Years)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

NOTE: Children must be potty-trained and able to separate from parent without stress.

Parent Name(s): _____ Phone: _____ Alternate Phone #: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Church Affiliation, if any: _____

Emergency Contact Person: Name: _____ Phone: _____

Parent Signature _____

Please mail, drop off or email completed registration form to adventlutheranrichboro.org by **June 30**. Advent requests a donation of \$10.00 for each student for the four-day program to cover the cost of materials. Payment may be included with form or brought on July 13. Checks may be made payable to Advent Lutheran Church with **VBS** on the note line.



If the suggested donation is a financial hardship for your household, then please register without making the suggested donation or make a donation within your means.

We want every child to be able to enjoy Vacation Bible School!

- I grant permission for the VBS leaders to photograph the minor(s) above for any lawful purpose associated with the VBS program. **Please circle:** Y N
- Snacks will be served: **Please note any food allergies on other side.**

ADVENT COMMUNITY – MAY EVENTS



ADVENT SPRING CLEAN UP – Saturday, May 2, 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, rakes, 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



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

Our next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday, May 9 at 8:30. We are feeling a little disappointment this month. The breakfast falls a little later in the month, so we will probably have to forgo the usual May Pole celebration. I know how we will all miss seeing the group do their normal May Pole dance.
We serve at 8:30 AM, coffee ready by 7:30.



ADVENT WOMEN'S CIRCLE – Next Meeting Tuesday, May 12, 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 Events:

Tuesday, May 12, 12:00 PM – next meeting, bring your own lunch
Friday, May 15 – Visit to the Pearl Buck House



DETTA 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.



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 through **Tuesday, May 12**. Ping Pong may be held on select Tuesdays at 6:30 PM through the summer. Please check the weekly bulletin announcements or call the church office at 215-355-2529 for each week's schedule. The regular schedule will resume in the fall. If you are interested in giving it a try, please contact the church at 215-355-2529 or adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com.

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

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.

More information may be provided to 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^d 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

Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Rhona and Alan Slawter, was honorably discharged as he completed his military service. Please continue to keep Joseph in your prayers as he adjusts to civilian life. Thank you for your service!

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 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.

FALL 2025/SPRING 2026 HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES

Congratulations to all Fall 2025 and Spring 2026
High School and College Graduates and their families!

Advent will recognize new graduates in the June/July 2026 Newsletter and in a worship service on a date to be determined.

Please send the information requested below no later than **Sunday, May 24**, to be included in the June/July Newsletter. Forms are also available in the narthex.

To submit your information, you may:



Email the church office at AdventLutheranRichboro@gmail.com.



Call the church office at 215-355-2529.



Complete the form below and place in the offering plate in the church sanctuary.



Complete the form below and mail to the church:

Advent Richboro
45 Worthington Mill Drive
Richboro, PA 18954

Fall 2025/Spring 2026 High School and Technical/College Graduate Information

Graduate's Name: _____

High School: _____

or

College or Technical School Name: _____

Course of Study or Degree & Major: _____

Plans for the future: _____

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

The Blood Drive will take place at Advent on Tuesday, May 26, from 2:00 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.



**American
Red Cross**

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 1-800-733-2767 (Red Cross phone scheduling)

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

CARING for FRIENDS – May Update

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare meals following the Spaghetti Dinner - your hard work and generosity are truly appreciated!


Stay tuned for our next Caring for Friends meal prep, planned for the second half of May. We'll share the date as soon as it's confirmed.

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.

Sincerely,
Kevin Welsh

SAMPLE LABEL

	Caring for Friends Sharing food and friendship	Use By <u>11 / 27 / 2026</u> <small>Frozen meals are good for 1 year after preparation</small>		
Contents	<u>turkey, stuffing, green beans,</u> <u>peaches</u>	Freezer # <u>200</u>		
Meal includes:	<input type="checkbox"/> Dairy	<input type="checkbox"/> Mushrooms	<input type="checkbox"/> Shellfish	<input type="checkbox"/> Tomatoes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Eggs	<input type="checkbox"/> Nuts/Seeds	<input type="checkbox"/> Soy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wheat/Gluten
	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onions		
Cooking instructions: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Remove plastic bag and menu sheet entirely. Make four (4) small holes in the aluminum foil cover on top of the dinner. Place the dinner in the oven and heat for 35-40 minutes or until dinner is heated thoroughly. DO NOT HEAT IN MICROWAVE OVEN.				
caringforfriends.org				

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES



Ronald McDonald
House Charities
Philadelphia Region

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! Keep bringing those tabs!

<https://rmhcphilly.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Recycle-for-RMHCphilly.pdf>



TUESDAY, MAY 19 IS ELECTION DAY IN PA

On Tuesday, May 19, polls are open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Make a plan to vote!

Last day to register to vote: **May 4, 2026**

Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot: **May 12, 2026**

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/vote/voter-registration>

COMMUNITY OUTREACH (continued)



Warminster
Food Bank
A Vision. A Mission.

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: breadcrumbs, apple sauce, fruit cups, pancake mix, syrup, broth, gravy, stuffing mix, baked beans, mustard, jelly, pasta sauce, diced tomatoes, ramen noodles, ready-to-serve soup, mayonnaise

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/>

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE WARMINSTER FOOD BANK

Dear Volunteers, Supporters, and Friends,

Over the years, we have shared countless stories of donors who have gone above and beyond to support the Warminster Food Bank. Their efforts have demonstrated remarkable generosity and kindness within our community.

For example, the nine-year-old student from Willow Dale Elementary School who collected over 3,500 pounds of food to benefit those in need. The Archbishop Wood Cheerleaders collected another 3,500 pounds of food at Giant Food Stores in just a 3-hour period during the fall, students from the Nativity of Our Lord Parish School gathered over 6,000 cans of soup for their "Souper Bowl" initiative, and a local woman who celebrated her 50th birthday by asking her friends to contribute to the Warminster Food Bank and raised 1,000 pounds.

These examples are just a few among many, and each one continues to inspire us with the community's commitment to helping others. While we often highlight these extraordinary heart-warming contributions, there are donors whose generosity has remained largely unrecognized.

In 2025, the Warminster Food Bank received more than 2,400 individual donations. Among them, 475 donations came from a single source, donors who prefer to be known simply as "Anonymous." These donors provided over \$53,000 worth of food, money, and gift cards during the year, making them the highest "single" contributor to our mission last year.

Anonymous donors choose to give quietly, without seeking recognition or praise. Their motivation stems from a genuine desire to help those in need. The impact of their generosity is felt deeply by the people we serve: Single parents juggling multiple jobs to support their families, elderly couples struggling with medical bills, government workers affected by shutdowns with no paychecks, refugees from war-torn Ukraine arriving here sometimes with just the clothes on their back and few supporting relatives to help them adjust to their new home, and lately, individuals facing drastic reductions in SNAP benefits. All of them benefit directly from the kindness of our anonymous donors.

Our guests not only appreciate this support but also recognize how it improves their lives. Most importantly, Our Anonymous donors see those in need and respond with generosity, grace and compassion. They don't seek to be known, but we will never forget what they do for our community. We are grateful for the privilege of being stewards of their trust and for their unwavering commitment to our mission.

Sincerely, Mike Cerino, Executive Director

PICTURES FROM EASTER SUNDAY



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

Save the Date! Lutheran Night at the Phillies, June 5, 2026 Use Code LUTHERAN
Join with your family and friends to cheer on the Phillies.

https://mlb.tickets.com/schedule/?agency=MLB_MPV&orgid=21#/sales_group_code:salesGroupId=7455



May Play Day at Bear Creek

Saturday, May 2, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

New and returning camp families register to visit Bear Creek for a day of exploring, meeting staff, and seeing what the camp has to offer!

Cookout lunch is freely offered to all and pre-registration is appreciated for planning.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Register:

<https://bearcreekcamp.org/mayplayday/>

Ascension Worship Service to host

ULS Dean Rev. Dr. Teresa

Smallwood as preacher

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Reformation Lutheran Church

Media, PA

<https://relcmedia.org/>

6:30 PM Light Dinner

7:30 PM Worship Service

Synod Assembly

May 29-30, 2026

Trinity Lutheran, Lansdale, PA

Introducing A New Music Webinar Series!



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:

- **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>



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

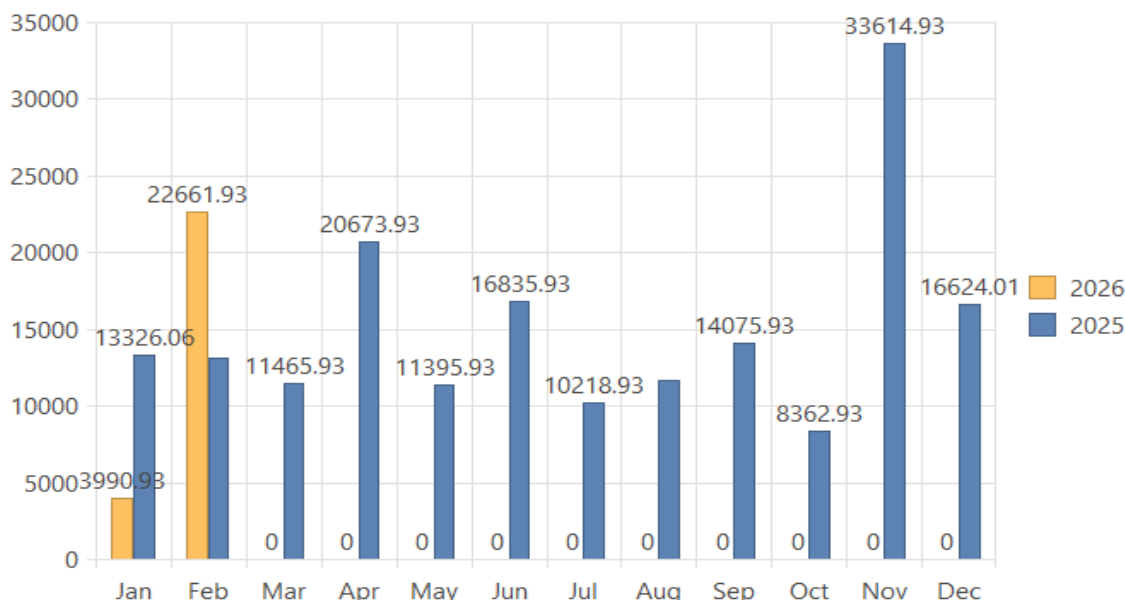
Subscribe to the MinistryLink newsletter to keep up with the latest news, events and resources offered through SEPA. Sign up using the QR code or visit:

<https://ministrylink.org/mission-interpretation/subscribe/>.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report for March 2026

	Rec'vd for March 2026	Budget for March 2026
General Fund	\$20,106.93	\$19,805.00
Mortgage	\$1,790	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$165	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$600	
Total	\$22,661.93	\$21,836.00
	Rec'vd 1/1/26-3/31/26	Budget 1/1/26-3/31/26
General	\$23,497.86	\$39,610.00
Mortgage	\$2,260.00	\$3,796.00
Bene-Synod Only	\$205.00	\$266.00
Other Benevolence	\$690.00	
Total	\$26,652.86	\$43,672.00

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 9:00 AM and 2:00 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. 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.

FROM THE OFFICE

6 Joan Lenox
10 Linda Weaver
15 George Spahn
17 Tony Gryska



21 Ron Brown
22 Nikolas Buttil
27 William Dettra
28 Helen Shearer

An April birthday was missed! Please wish Joan Russel (4/29) a very happy belated birthday!

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
The church office will be closed the week of May 18 and will reopen on Tuesday, May 26.

Marie McCool

Office and Communications Administrator

Phone: 215-355-2529

Email: adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com

When Prayer is Bittersweet (Praying on Mother's Day) by Aden Coterrill

<https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/when-prayer-is-bittersweet/>

It has been said that emotional maturity includes the ability to accept the possibility of having two conflicting emotions at once. If true, then we might say the Bible is quite an emotionally mature book.

For the Bible regularly places joy and suffering side by side. For instance, psalms of praise and lament are regularly placed adjacent to one another unashamedly.

Yesterday—Mother's Day—I sought to bear witness to this biblical testimony in the way I led our brief time of prayer. I did so because I have witnessed two equal and opposite errors in church services on a day like Mother's Day (or indeed Father's Day). The first danger is insensitive celebration that is too careless of the widespread grief that many feel on such occasions. The second danger—perhaps an overcorrection in response to the first—is to give only attention to the sadness. This muffles the proper response of joy and thanks for a good gift from above.

I sought to craft a prayer last Sunday that avoid either of these two errors by articulating before God both praise and lament at once. I share it here in the hope it might benefit others that have been wounded by either of these two common missteps.

A Prayer on Mother's Day

Almighty God and Heavenly Father,

This Mother's Day we lift our hearts and prayers and imaginations to your throne.

Today we consider your vastness; the manifold ways you reveal yourself.

With the Prophet Isaiah (66:13) we delight:

Like a mother comforts her child, you promise to comfort us.

With the Prophet Hosea (13:8) we tremble:

Like a mother bear you defend your cubs from harm.

As your precious Law (32:11) says:

You shield and care for your people like a mother eagle.

Like an eagle that stirs up its nest

and hovers over its young,

that spreads its wings to catch them

and carries them aloft.

(continued on next page)



You—Lord—lead your people.

And most of all, Lord.

Today we remember the mother-like compassion
of even our own Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 23:37):

*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often I have longed to gather your children together,
as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.*

Let these images of love and compassion in your Scriptures move us today, Lord.
Help us to see in the best moments of motherhood something of your very nature.

To this end:

I want to praise and thank you for Mums of all stripes and kinds.

For those who have raised children from their own flesh.

For those who have welcomed, adopted, or fostered children.

For those who have been spiritual mothers or disciple-makers.

This day we honor this often-hidden labor of love before you.

Today, Lord, we want to recognize this love as a glimpse of your very nature.

...

And yet whilst we grasp joy in one hand today, we hold lament in the other.

For—Lord—we weep with those who are weeping today.

For those without mothers.

For those estranged from mothers.

For those struggling with mothers.

For those struggling as mothers.

For those longing to be mothers but unable.

For mothers who have carried children in their bodies who have died.

Lord, today we rejoice and weep at once.

Lord, we praise motherhood for all its created goodness.

Lord, we lament all its wounds and difficulties.

...

In all this Lord, in both the joy and grief that comes with all earthly relationships:

Help us—by your Spirit—to bask in your perfect love.

...

Almighty God:

In our griefs...

Extend your mother-like comfort.

In our fear...

Protect us like a bear with cubs.

In our uncertainty...

Lead and guide us like an eagle.

We pray Lord:

Gather us your children together
as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.

...

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit,

Amen.

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Fourth Sunday of Easter April 26</p> <p>8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship</p> <p>10:45 AM Adult Bible Study</p>	27 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	28 6:30 PM Ping Pong	29 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	30 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	May 1 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	2 Advent Annual Spring Clean Up 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
<p>Fifth Sunday of Easter 3</p> <p>8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship</p> <p>10:45 AM Adult Bible Study</p>	4 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	5 6:30 PM Ping Pong	6 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	7 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	8 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	9 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast <i>Rain Date: Spring Clean Up</i>
<p>Sixth Sunday of Easter 10</p> <p><i>Happy Mother's Day!</i></p> <p>8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship</p> <p>10:45 AM Adult Bible Study</p>	11 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	12 12:00 PM Advent Women's Circle Meeting 6:30 PM Ping Pong	13 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	14 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	15 11:00 AM Holland Village Communion Service 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	16
<p>Seventh Sunday of Easter 17</p> <p>8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion Last Day of Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship</p> <p>10:45 AM Adult Bible Study</p>	18 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	19 Election Day <i>No Ping Pong</i> <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	20 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	21 <i>No Zoom Bible Study</i> <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	22 7:00 PM Dettra Mental Concert 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	23 <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>
<p>Pentecost Sunday 24</p> <p>Summer Worship Schedule Begins</p> <p>9:00 AM Service of the Word - no Communion</p> <p>10:00 AM Fellowship <i>Pastor on Vacation</i></p>	25 Mem. Day 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>	26 Red Cross Blood Drive 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM	27 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	28 7:00 PM Zoom Bible Study	29 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	30
<p>Trinity Sunday 31</p> <p>9:00 AM Summer Worship Service with Communion</p> <p>10:00 AM Fellowship</p>	June 1 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	2 <i>No Ping Pong</i>	3 <i>No Praise Band or Vocal Choir Practice</i>	4 <i>No Zoom Bible Study</i>	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	6 5:00 PM Spaghetti Dinner