



ADVENT  
EVANGELICAL  
*Lutheran Church*

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, July 26, 2026  
9:00 AM



***We Gather in Jesus' Name***



Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church  
45 Worthington Mill Road  
Richboro, PA 18954-1909  
215-355-2529  
[www.adventrichboro.org](http://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**

### **God Sightings**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

*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,  
whose compassion endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess to you all our sins.**

**Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.**

**In your mercy, call us back to you.**

**Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.**

**Restore us to dwell in your peace.**

**In Christ's name we pray,**

**Amen.**

P: Jesus says, "Come to me,  
all you who are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,

Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,

your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God's love.

**C: Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn: "For the Fruit of All Creation"

LBW 563



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For his gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

### 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: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

### Children's Sermon

## The Reading of God's Word

### First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my

father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup> Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Word of God, Word of Life,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136**

<sup>129</sup> Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

<sup>130</sup> **When your word is opened it gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

<sup>132</sup> **Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup> Order my footsteps in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup> **Rescue me from those who oppress me,  
and I will keep your commandments.**

<sup>135</sup> Let your face shine upon your servant  
and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup> **My eyes shed streams of tears,  
because people do not keep your teaching.**

**Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39**

<sup>26</sup> The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God,

who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### ***Gospel Reading***

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

#### ***Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52***

<sup>31</sup> [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### ***Sermon***

## **Hymn of Praise: "Bind Us Together"**

**WOV 748**

### **Refrain**

Bind us together, Lord, Bind us together  
With cords that cannot be broken  
Bind us together, Lord,  
Bind us together,  
Bind us together with love

- 2** Made for the glory of God,  
Purchased by His precious Son;  
Born with the right to be clean,  
For Jesus the victory has won.

### **Refrain**

- 1** There is only one God,  
There is only one King;  
There is only one Body,  
That is why we sing:

### **Refrain**

## **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: God of grace,*

**C: Hear 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: Loving God,**

**we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.**

**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,**

**so that all creation can taste your abundance.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus,**

**through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.**

**Amen.**

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## **Sacrament**

### ***The Great Thanksgiving***

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: 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.

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***

P: 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***

Heaven has come near.  
Come, share in the feast!

### ***Distribution***

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

### ***Prayer after Communion***

P: Let us pray...  
Compassionate God,  
through the gifts of bread and wine  
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.  
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,  
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.  
C: Amen.

### ***Blessing***

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.

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

|                                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Over the mountains and the sea   | I could sing of Your love forever  |
| Your river runs with love for me | I could sing of Your love forever  |
| And I will open up my heart      | I could sing of Your love forever  |
| And let the Healer set me free   | I could sing of Your love forever  |
|                                  | <b><i>(Sing whole song 2x)</i></b> |

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

### ***Dismissal***

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!  
C: Thanks be to God.



## 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 | Kristi Ward                    |
| Fellowship Time     | Open                           |

### Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Cindy Frey,  
in honor of the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of her grandson, Andrew.

### Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

### Worship Attendance for Sunday, July 19

**Total: 34**      9:00 AM: 32 + 2 (online)

## 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.

## 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](mailto:kward1411@yahoo.com) or 215-284-2669.

## 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](mailto: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](http://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!

| Financial Report For June 2026 |                       |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|                                | Rec'vd for June 2026  | Budget for June 2026  |
| General Fund                   | \$7,511.93            | \$19,805.00           |
| Mortgage                       | \$1,340               | \$1,898.00            |
| Bene. - Synod Only             | \$140                 | \$133                 |
| Other Benevolence              | \$845                 |                       |
| Total                          | \$9,836.93            | \$21,836.00           |
|                                | Rec'vd 1/1/26-6/30/26 | Budget 1/1/26-6/30/26 |
| General                        | \$66,174.58           | \$118,830.00          |
| Mortgage                       | \$8,505.00            | \$11,388.00           |
| Bene-Synod Only                | \$550.00              | \$798.00              |
| Other Benevolence              | \$3,085.00            |                       |
| Total                          | \$78,314.58           | \$131,016.00          |

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## WORSHIP MATTERS!

### Deepening Your Faith through Understanding of Lutheran Worship



Pastor Matt is leading a 5-part educational program on the importance of worship and the purpose and patterns in Lutheran worship. The intention of this program is to develop a richer understanding of the foundations and practices of Lutheran worship and to connect that understanding to God in our daily lives: at home, in our communities, and in the world.

The program will continue for the next three Thursdays via Zoom:

**July 30, August 6 and 13, at 7:00 PM.**

**\*\*Participant books for the Worship Matters program were ordered by the church office.**

If you would like to participate in the class, but did not reserve a book, please speak with Pastor Matt or contact the office (phone 215-355-2529 or email [adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com](mailto:adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com)).

## BUILDING REORGANIZATION – NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday, August 4, at 7:00 PM**

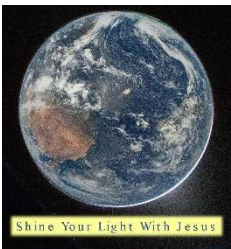
The next meeting to discuss and implement the reorganization of the building is scheduled for Thursday, August 4, at 7:00 PM

## ANNUAL ADVENT FLEA MARKET

**Saturday, September 26, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

The Annual Flea Market at Advent will be held on Saturday, September 26. The event is rain or shine. More details, including registration information, will be available in August. Save the date and stay tuned!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – WE ARE OVER THE MOON!



We have so many reasons to give thanks for our Vacation Bible School program: 18 great students, talented teachers, dedicated families, kind volunteers, words of encouragement, a cheerful playground and beautiful weather - all of the components for a great week, where learning together was FUN and ADVENTUROUS.

The theme of this year's Vacation Bible School was *Shine your Light with Jesus*, learning about the Bible while celebrating space exploration. Each morning, the students helped Pastor Matt with a simulated rocket launch. They heard the creation story when God made the world and all the stars in the sky. They were visited by a "famous astronaut" and learned about the Artemis II mission. The students learned about God's love for them being ever-present like the stars. By the end of the week, the students even created their own lanterns to shine their light to the world!

Thank you to everyone who made this year's VBS a success and to everyone who brought in peanut butter and jelly for Warminster Food Bank!

## THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

### SUNDAY, July 26

#### Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### MONDAY, July 27

7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

### TUESDAY, July 28

6:30 PM Ping Pong – *all are welcome!*

### THURSDAY, July 30

7:00 PM Worship Matters! class  
with Pastor Matt via Zoom

### FRIDAY, July 31

7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

### SUNDAY, August 2

#### Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### CONTACTING PASTOR MATT

If you need to speak with Pastor Matt when he is not in the office,  
particularly in the case of a pastoral emergency,  
please feel free to call his cell at 215-859-3778  
or email him at [pastormattolikainen@gmail.com](mailto:pastormattolikainen@gmail.com).

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