



ADVENT
EVANGELICAL
Lutheran Church

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
United States Semiquincentennial
Sunday, July 5, 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

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,
source of hope in every nation,
rest for the weary,
glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of all mercy,

**C: we have sinned against you,
our neighbors, and your creation.
Within ourselves and our communities,
our desire to do what is good
is at war with the evil that dwells in us.
We lament the evil that holds us captive.
We repent of the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us
for lives of compassion and courage
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

P: All-merciful, Almighty God
forgive you all your sins
Through the grace of ✝ Jesus Christ,
and by the Spirit's power
strengthen you in doing what is good.

C: Amen.



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for - get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
 Lord is king, let the heav-ens ring; God reigns, let the earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

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: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts
 are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you,
 and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Sermon

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

- ⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- ¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
- ¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
- ¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14

- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ **LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**
- ¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.
- ¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**
- ¹² that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**
- ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

- ¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.
- ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades.

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of Praise: "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

LBW 562



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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: Blessed are you, O God,
for waves of grain and harvesters,
fruitful vines and winepresses,
for our labor and our rest,
for the gifts of your hand in this land.
Transform us and what we offer
into the banquet of your compassion,
serving your love without limits
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

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

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

Citizens of the commonwealth of heaven:

Taste and know that God is good to all.

Distribution

The body of Christ, given to you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray...

We thank you, God of heaven and earth,
that you fill our deepest need
with the very gift of Jesus Christ,
broken and poured out for us.
Pour us out into a broken world.
Channel our common life
toward the common good,
following the way our Savior leads 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: "America, the Beautiful"

1 O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain
America America God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea

4 O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears
America America God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Seek liberty and justice for all.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Contacting Pastor Matt

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



Summer Worship Schedule 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.



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	Jeanne Gryszka
Communion Assistant	George Henry
Fellowship Time	Open

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Christel Hoffmann,
in loving memory of her great grandmother, Julianna Martin.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Worship Attendance for Sunday, June 28

Total: 31 9:00 AM: 29 + 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 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.

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

We are still collecting 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!

Advent Needs Your Help with Ministry Brainstorming!

We are seeking new ministry ideas this summer! With the help of the Ministry Brainstorm Packet, **we encourage you to complete the ministry worksheet** to help brainstorm new ministry ideas. The Ministry Brainstorm Packet includes information supplied by the congregation, as well as information received through community leader interviews and demographic studies. The Ministry Brainstorm Packet and Worksheet were emailed to the congregation and are also available in hardcopy in the narthex.

When you complete the ministry worksheet, please place it in the labeled folder on the table in the narthex. You can also email or mail it to the church office.

I can't wait to see what wonderful, impactful ministries that the Holy Spirit will inspire us to begin!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NEXT BUILDING REORGANIZATION MEETING

Thursday, July 9, 7:00 PM

This is an open invitation for all to attend an in-person meeting on Thursday, July 9, at 7:00 PM. The meeting's purpose is to continue the exchange of ideas for the process of cleaning out and organizing the various rooms within the church.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

"WORSHIP MATTERS" PROGRAM

Thursday Night Bible Study is on hiatus until July, when Pastor Matt will begin the "Worship Matters" program.

Beginning Sunday, July 19, at 10:30 AM,

continuing on Thursdays, July 23 through August 13, at 7:00 PM via Zoom

Pastor Matt will lead 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 begin on **Sunday, July 19**, after 9:00 AM worship (in person and via Zoom, at 10:30 AM) and continue via Zoom on the following **Thursdays, at 7:00 PM: July 23 and 30, August 6 and 13.**

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, July 5

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

United States Semiquincentennial

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

MONDAY, July 6

7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

WEDNESDAY, July 8

7:00 PM Church Council Retreat via Zoom

THURSDAY, July 9

No Zoom Bible Study

7:00 PM Building Reorganization Meeting

FRIDAY, July 10

7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, July 12

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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