

The Adventure



AUGUST 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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- August Worship Schedule / Online Worship Information, [page 3](#)
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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

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@adventlutheranchurchofrichboro

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.

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

Have you filled out the **Ministry Brainstorming Packet** yet? Here is how to do it:

Spiritual Gifts	Assets to be used from Advent & Community	Community Needs (Interviews & Demographics)	IDEA!!

This is the chart is from the work sheet in the **Ministry Brainstorm packet**. Refer to the Spirituals Gifts, Assets and Community Needs sections to fill out the work sheet and see how they match up. How they match up may inspire a new ministry idea.

Spiritual Gifts	Assets to be used from Advent & Community	Community Needs (Interviews & Demographics)	IDEA!!
Serving			

For example, one of the **Spiritual Gifts** well represented at Advent is “Serving.” That gift can be written in the **Spiritual Gifts box**. You do not have to fill out the boxes in order. Go in the order that most inspires you.

Spiritual Gifts	Assets to be used from Advent & Community	Community Needs (Interviews & Demographics)	IDEA!!
Serving		There is a need for grief support. Opportunities to develop personal relationships	

In interviews with community leaders, the **need** for “grief support” was expressed. “Opportunities to develop personal relationships” was expressed in the demographic reports. These needs can go in the **Community Needs box**.

Spiritual Gifts	Assets to be used from Advent & Community	Community Needs (Interviews & Demographics)	IDEA!!
Serving	Building Parking lot Welcoming Organizing	There is a need for grief support. Opportunities to develop personal relationships	

What **Assets** might be useful to bridge the Needs and Gifts? Advent has a “parking lot.” We are good at “welcoming” and “organizing.” Looking at the Gifts, Assets and Need on this chart, the **Ministry Idea** of a Grief Support Group come to mind. What other ideas can you come up with using other Gift, Assets and Needs?

Advent needs your ministry ideas! Please fill out a Ministry Brainstorming Packet and turn in the worksheet. The Strategic Mission Team will be gathering us together for a **Congregational Activity on Saturday, August 29, at 5:00 PM** for a meal and to compile our ideas. We will then together pick a few of our ideas to start as new Ministries this fall.

Peace,

Pastor Matt

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

AUGUST 2	TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	AUGUST 9	ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9:00 AM	Service of the Word - <i>no Communion</i>	9:00 AM	Summer Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 AM	Worship Leader: George Henry Fellowship: Open	10:00 AM	Fellowship: Open
AUGUST 16	TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	AUGUST 23	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9:00 AM	Summer Worship Service with Holy Communion	9:00 AM	Service of the Word - <i>no Communion</i>
10:00 AM	Fellowship: Open	10:00 AM	Worship Leader: David Elkin Fellowship: Open
AUGUST 30	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST		
9:00 AM	Summer Worship Service with Holy Communion		
10:00 AM	Fellowship: Open		

SERVING IN WORSHIP – AUGUST 2026 SCHEDULE

	LAY READER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
August 2 - 9:00 AM	Jeanne Gryszka	N/A
August 9 - 9:00 AM	Bruce Eklund	Kristi Ward
August 16 - 9:00 AM	David Elkin	Megan Ward
August 23 - 9:00 AM	George Henry	N/A
August 30 - 9:00 AM	Jeanne Gryszka	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

SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICE on **SUNDAYS, at 9:00 AM** (through September 6)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88182250134> Passcode: SUMMER

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Check the Bulletins and Upcoming Newsletters for dates and details.

Sunday In-Person Adult Bible Study

Sunday in-person Adult Bible Study with George Henry will resume in the fall. More info to come!

Thursday Night Zoom Bible Study

Thursday Night Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Matt will resume in the fall on Thursdays, at 7:00 PM.

WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES

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 began on **Sunday, July 19** and continues via Zoom on **Thursdays at 7:00 PM until August 13**. If you would like to participate, you still can! Reach out to Pastor Matt or the church office for more information.

Zoom link for Worship Matters

Thursdays through August 13: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88501398586>

Passcode for all classes: IT-MATTERS

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Begins Sunday, September 20



Children from age 4 through grade 6 are invited to attend Sunday School, at 9:30 AM, starting on September 20. Students will begin their class time in the worship service. They will join Pastor Matt for the Children's Sermon, then proceed with their teachers to the all-purpose room to gather for their class.

Our weekly Bible lessons are based on the clever **Holy Moly** curriculum. The **Bible Story Book** is written and illustrated in graphic novel style and the creative short videos bring the stories to life. The lessons are real conversation starters!

Learning together is fun! The registration form is included in the newsletter on page 19 and is also available in the church foyer and narthex. You can also download the form from the church website, or contact the church office (see page 1). Student books and crafts will be ordered based on the number of registered students, so please register soon!

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**.



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

Call for Praise Band & Vocal Choir Members

Practices for Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume in September.

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.



WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES (continued)



We need groups or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments for **Fellowship time**. Fellowship is held after the 9:00 AM service during the summer. 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!

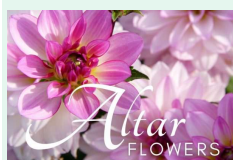
DEDICATIONS FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

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.*

You can also call the church office at 215-355-2529 to submit your dedications.

Altar Flower Dedications – Each bouquet is \$25



The 2026 Flower Chart for weekly altar flowers is on the table in the narthex. 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 give them 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 – Dedications cost \$25



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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN JULY

The theme of Advent's Vacation Bible School was **Shine your Light with Jesus**, a theme of space exploration based on the recent Artemis II mission around the moon. Advent welcomed 18 students for a week of friendship and fun from July 13-16, 9 am–noon. All were challenged to imagine how we can inspire others in our lives, similar to astronauts, as they study and explore the universe.

Our first Bible lesson taught us how God planned and created the world, as described in Genesis. Our next three lessons assured us that God knows each of us and is always with us, even if dark times arise. He has plans for us and wants us to seek his guidance through worship and prayer. He sent his son Jesus to be the example for us to follow: to shine God's light to others, that they, too, will know that God loves all of us.

We thank our students and their families for sharing their enthusiasm for our program. Daily events included an interactive simulated space launch, music in a variety of formats, crafts and games to enhance our theme, outdoor recreation, and snacks. Families and students were SO generous in their contributions of peanut butter and jelly for the Warminster Food Bank, in time for the new school year!



WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES (continued)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN JULY (continued)

We express our gratitude to our talented teachers and cheerful staff, along with behind-the-scenes experts, all of whom enhanced the students' experience at VBS:

Christian Education Coordinator:	John Flint
Pastor/VBS Teacher/Computer Manager:	Rev. Matthew Ollikainen
Curriculum Planners & Teachers:	Jeanne Gryszka, Megan Ward, Christine Welsh
Music Teacher:	Mike Dettra
Registration/Outreach:	Marie McCool; Megan and Kristi Ward
Electronic Communications	Marie McCool, Jeanne Gryszka
Slide Shows and Videos	James McCool, Marie McCool
Supplies and Snack Coordinators:	Jeanne Gryszka & Staff members
Theme Accessories for Students	Fran Zanis
Special Guests	John Flint, Carol Ward
Kids' Crew Helpers:	Martha Hoff, Ellen Hopping
Recreation Assistants:	Staff Members, Tony Gryszka
A/C Programming:	Dave Shearer
Playground Maintenance	Mike Sitler
Thrivent Liaison	Cindy Frey

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School such an incredible success. We are especially grateful to Jeanne Gryszka, whose vision, leadership, and tireless dedication brought the entire week to life. While the children experienced days filled with faith, friendship, crafts, games, music, laughter, and learning about God's love, many may not realize the countless hours that happened behind the scenes. Jeanne spent months planning, organizing, shopping, cutting, cooking, preparing materials, decorating, coordinating volunteers, setting up, cleaning up, and handling countless details that most of us will never see. She poured her heart into this ministry and carried the vast majority of the work before the first child arrived and long after each day ended. Please join us in thanking Jeanne and all of our wonderful volunteers for sharing their gifts so selflessly and making this year's VBS such a tremendous blessing.



(additional pictures on pages 13-14)

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 Chief, Weather Operations Division, at Langley Airforce Base, Virginia
- ❖ **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 AND THEIR SAFETY

*Almighty God, those who take refuge in you
will be glad and will forever shout for joy!
Protect our soldiers as they discharge their
duties. Protect them with the shield of your
strength and keep them safe from all evil and
harm. Be their constant companion and their
strength in battle, their refuge in every
adversity. May the power of your love enable
them to return home in safety, that, with all
who love them, they may ever praise you for
your loving care. Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR OUR VETERANS

*Almighty God, we ask that you bestow peace
upon our veterans, worthy people who gave
their best when they were called upon to serve
and protect their country. We pray that you
will bless them for their unselfish service in
the continual struggle to preserve our
freedoms, our safety, and our country's
heritage, for all of us. Bless them abundantly
for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices
they made. We pray that you will watch over
these special people and bless them with peace
and happiness. Amen.*

PROPERTY UPDATES

NEXT CHURCH CLEAN OUT/ORGANIZATION MEETING – TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 7:00 PM

Advent will host an in-person meeting on **Tuesday, August 4, at 7:00 PM**. We will continue to discuss the ongoing process of cleaning out and organizing the various rooms within the church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

EMERGENCY LIGHTS AND EXIT SIGN REPLACEMENT PROJECT COMPLETED



In the month of July, all of the interior and exterior emergency lights, as well as the interior exit signs in our building, were upgraded to LED lights. This work and the HVAC drain line work (Narthex only) done in spring 2026 were completed in preparation for retaping/repainting of the narthex and sanctuary, which is hoped to be accomplished down the road.

The LED project work was completed in July 2026 by Scott's Emergency Lighting & Power, which is located in Bensalem, PA. They were a pleasure to work with and provided excellent service.

Council authorized the work after having received quotes from 3 different companies. Scott's was awarded the contract (\$8,135), which was the lowest quote. Funding for the project was taken from the reserves from the \$125K land sale. Our mortgage company Mission Investment Fund has restricted the use of this money for capital projects, to include projects such as this one.



We have several people to thank for guiding this project through to its completion. First, is Dave Shearer for helping to initiate the project and contacting companies for estimates. Second is Property Committee Chair, Keith Wills and Mike Sitler for assessing the scope of the work. Third, is Church Council for their work in reviewing the quotes and approving the project. And lastly, thanks to Dave for on-site monitoring of the work and follow-up with Scott's for completion of work.



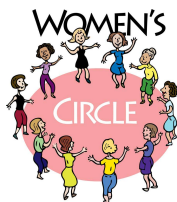
All of this is a true blessing for our congregation at this point in our history. The LED lights have a lower power demand (2 watts power/unit), provide extended on-time in the event of a power failure and emit brighter lighting. In addition, their batteries have a 4-to-5-year life-cycle. We can be thankful that our building is now better prepared for situations that result in a power loss.

ADVENT COMMUNITY – NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



CHURCH CLEAN OUT/ORGANIZATION MEETING – Tuesday, August 4, 7:00 PM

Advent will host an in-person meeting on **Tuesday, August 4, at 7:00 PM**. We will continue to discuss the ongoing process of cleaning out and organizing the various rooms within the church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!



ADVENT WOMEN'S CIRCLE – Next Meeting Tuesday, September 8, 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. Our social outings are an added feature that encourage us to explore local destinations.

The Women's Circle will hold its lunch meeting on **Tuesday, September 8, at noon**. Activities for the fall will be discussed, so bring your ideas!

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.



FLEA MARKET AT ADVENT – Saturday, September 26, 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon

On **Saturday, September 26, 2026**, Advent will hold a Flea Market in the church parking lot from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon, providing all participants an avenue by which to make “decluttering their living space” a reality! This is a rain or shine event (held inside the church in the event of rain) for church members, family friends, neighbors and members of the community to sell and buy items or just to browse.

Flea Market Registration forms with detailed information are available on the last page of this newsletter, on the table in the church narthex, and on the church website. A non-refundable Registration Fee of \$10.00 will be charged upon registration. The registration deadline is **Tuesday, September 22, 2026, or until space is filled**.

Please contact Coordinators Kathy (215-589-5423) or Cime (503-502-7691) with any questions that you may have regarding the Flea Market or call the church office to speak with Marie. Thank you for your interest in this church-sponsored event.



MEN'S BREAKFAST – Saturday, October 10, 8:30 AM

The first Men's Breakfast in the fall will take place on **Saturday, October 10, at 8:30 AM**. We serve at 8:30 AM, coffee ready by 7:30.

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

ADVENT COMMUNITY – NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)



PROTECTING SENIORS ONLINE: FREE ONLINE WEBINAR FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND CARETAKERS

Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Register for a free upcoming webinar focused on protecting senior citizens from online scams, including impersonation scams, phishing emails, and other schemes designed to steal personal and financial information. This webinar is being offered through a partnership between the PA Attorney General's Office and PA Office of Homeland Security and is open to members of the public.

Should you have any questions about this webinar, please contact the PA Office of Homeland Security (ra-homelandsecurity@pa.gov).

Register online: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/homelandsecurity/training-and-exercises>

2026 TAX UPDATE: NEW BENEFITS FOR YOUR GIVING

Changes to tax laws in 2026 mean more people can get a tax break for supporting our church!

What You Need to Know

For Non-Itemizers: If you take the standard deduction, you can now deduct up to **\$1,000 for single filers** or **\$2,000 for married couples filing jointly** for cash donations to churches and qualified nonprofits. The deduction applies to cash, check, or electronic payment contributions.



Why This Matters: Your generosity enables us to continue our mission, and this new law allows you to support Advent while potentially reducing your federal tax liability. This "above-the-line" deduction reduces your taxable income, even if you don't itemize.

If you have any questions, contact Tony Gryszka, Advent's Finance Chairperson. Thank you!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENTS – Tuesday, August 4, 2026



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring

police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Millions of neighbors take part in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August (Texas and select areas celebrate on the first Tuesday in October). Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, exhibits and much, much more.

Some of the local Police Departments hosting National Night Out Events:

Northampton Township: Municipal Park, 281 Hatboro Road, Churchville, PA, 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Middletown Township: 5 Municipal Way, Langhorne, PA, beginning at 5:00 PM

Doylestown Township: Central Park, 425 Wells Rd. Doylestown, PA, 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND NEWS



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: Coffee (pods or ground), instant oatmeal variety pack, juice, cereal, syrup, grated cheese, crackers, jelly

Non-Food Items: store gift cards, laundry detergent (pods or liquid), household cleaning supplies, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, 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/>

CARING for FRIENDS



Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and deliver meals throughout the year - your hard work and generosity are truly appreciated! Stay tuned for our next Caring for Friends meal prep.

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.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES



Thanks to the efforts of many, we have been able to donate a large collection of aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Your contribution benefits the families staying in this wonderful facility while their loved one undergoes medical care nearby. United Scrap Metal recyclers weigh the donations to determine their value. 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>

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – donation drive at Advent is Tuesday, October 27

The next blood drive at Advent is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 27, 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**. Along with traditional donations, the Red Cross is in need of “Power Red” donors. These blood donations can be used immediately for trauma patients, newborns and emergency transfusions during birth, people with sickle cell anemia, and anyone suffering blood loss. If your blood type is O+, O-, A-, or B-, please consider a Power Red blood donation.

If you are eligible and want to donate before Advent's next drive, please go to www.redcrossblood.org for a schedule of upcoming donation events.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND NEWS (continued)

Letter from Mike Cerino, Executive Director of the Warminster Food Bank

As the United States [celebrates] the 250th anniversary of its independence, it is fitting to remember the patriots who helped forge a new nation. They were courageous, dedicated, and visionary. Yet one essential factor made their victory possible: food.

During the Revolutionary War, enlisted troops were promised daily rations of meat, starch, and beans. Too often, however, those rations arrived in poor condition, in too little quantity, or not at all. Food was frequently salted so it could survive long journeys, but that preservation came at the expense of taste and nutrition. George Washington sent troops into the countryside to forage, beg, borrow, or take whatever provisions they could find. Many soldiers survived by scavenging, eating offal such as ox liver or sheep's head, and even consuming spoiled food when no better options were available. In their letters, soldiers and officers often wrote less about glory in battle than about the painful reality of hunger.

When harsh winters passed, crops returned, and game became more plentiful, the tide began to shift in favor of the Americans. Better-fed troops grew stronger, morale improved, and the British—whose supply lines stretched across the Atlantic—faced increasing strain.

Food again played a pivotal role during World War II, as Allied forces fought against the evils of fascism and tyranny. Feeding troops across oceans and battlefronts requires innovation, durability, and nutrition. Several wartime food developments helped meet those needs:

- M&Ms were created in 1941 to provide soldiers with chocolate that would not melt easily in their hands or pockets. A hard sugar shell made the candy practical for military use.
- Powdered eggs replaced fresh eggs in many rations, giving soldiers a protein source that could be stored for months and rehydrated for cooking or baking.
- Powdered milk supplied calcium and other nutrients in a shelf-stable form, especially for troops stationed far from reliable supply lines.
- Canned stews and processed cheese offered hearty, transportable meals that could withstand long storage. These innovations later influenced civilian convenience foods, including ready-to-eat meals and boxed macaroni and cheese.

In August 1944, during the Allied advance across France after D-Day, General George S. Patton's Third Army executed one of the most remarkable maneuvers of the war: moving 100 miles in just 48 hours. Well-fed American troops were able to advance rapidly against underfed German forces. That movement, part of the broader push toward the German border, stunned Allied commanders, alarmed German leaders, and helped hasten the end of the war.

Today, the United States is not fighting a war that depends on armed forces in the same way. Yet the connection between food and freedom remains. The fight against food insecurity is also a fight for basic human rights and freedom: freedom from fear, freedom from constant worry, and freedom from social and economic deprivation. The promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness depend, in part, on the people being properly fed. Your continued food and financial support in the fight against food insecurity help us keep freedom alive.

Happy Birthday, and may God Bless the USA.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PICTURES



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PICTURES (continued)





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



Save The Date!
Through the Woods Trail Run
Saturday, September 26
10:00 AM

Something new is coming to the Through the Woods Trail Run this year — we're expanding the event to include a 10k, a 5k, and a 1-mile fun hike!

Wind your way through forest paths, over hills, and through streams on 3,000 stunning acres. There's a distance for everyone! Families welcome, playground on site, and post-race lunch available for purchase.

<https://bearcreekcamp.org/5k/>



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Lutheran Disaster Response in Venezuela

Recently two powerful earthquakes struck Venezuela. Entire communities have been shaken to the ground. More than 1,700 lives have been confirmed lost so far, thousands more are injured, and countless families are now without shelter, safety or access to necessities.

Lutheran Disaster Response is already responding through trusted, long-standing partners in the region, including the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela (IELV). ELCA partners have deployed assessment teams to affected areas, working together to identify urgent needs, provide immediate relief (e.g. food, shelter, water) and coordinate a plan for long-term assistance.

Your gifts enable this church to provide fast and effective support to communities in need and to remain for as long as recovery takes, whenever and wherever a disaster occurs.

www.give.elca.org

**Doing Community Ministry
in the Small Church**

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership wrote an article, detailing how small churches can make a big impact in the world through partnerships, creative use of resources, and a focus on relational ministry.

<https://www.churchleadership.com/to-the-point/point-community-ministry-small-church/>



Faith Alive Worship Learning Lab
Saturday, August 15
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

United Lutheran Seminary Philadelphia Gather and learn more about how our congregations can welcome and support our youngest friends, focusing on children's sermons and child development.

<https://www.sepa.org/faith-alive>

**Resources from the January 10
Faith Alive Worship
Learning Lab are available online!**

Resources shared at Faith Alive's Worship Learning Lab on January 10, 2026, are available on their webpage.

<https://ministrylink.org/congregational-vitality/faith-alive/>

KEEP UP WITH SYNOD NEWS AND RESOURCES

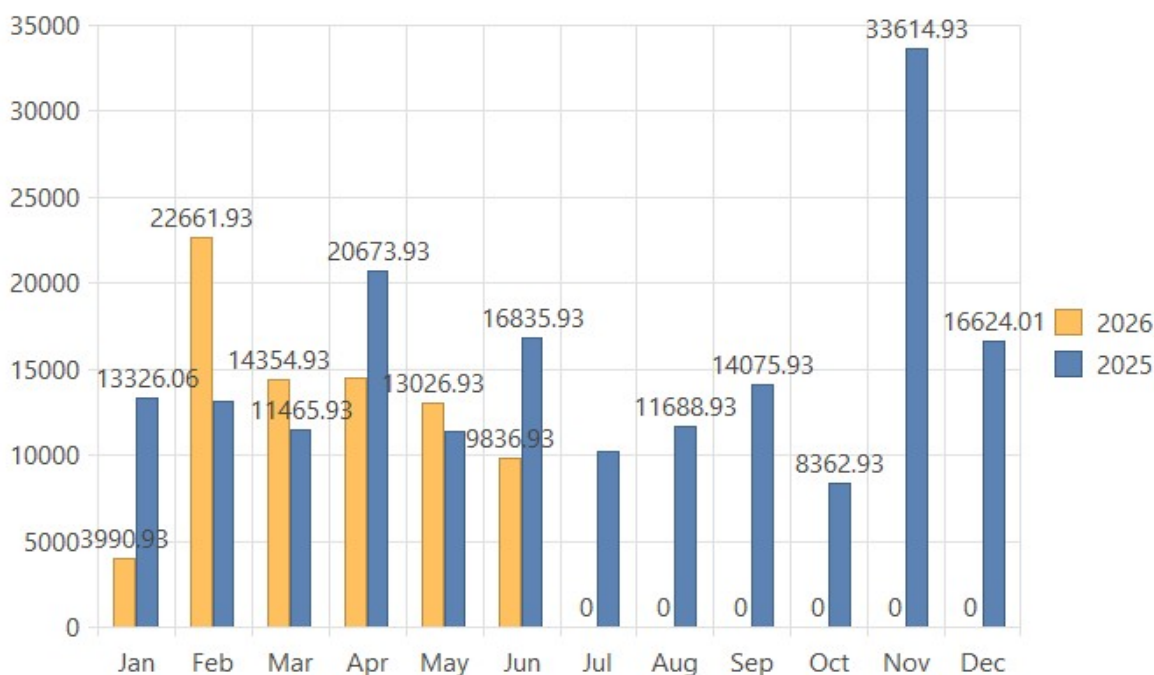
Subscribe to the MinistryLink newsletter to keep up with the latest news, events and resources offered through SEPA. Sign up using the QR code or visit:

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



FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report For 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

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

4	Jeff Jobes	14	Jessica Baker	17	Dorothy Masciotro
4	Megan Ward	16	Janice Hoffmann	27	Kristi Ward
10	Diane Kirschner	16	Jack Walsh	29	Joanne Kelly

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

Marie McCool

Office and Communications Administrator

adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com

www.adventrichboro.org

215-355-2529

August is "Happiness Happens" Month. I believe true happiness is grounded in gratitude. I hope you enjoy my favorite poem about everyday gratitude to help celebrate "Happiness Happens" month.

Blessing For Sound

By David Whyte

I thank you,
for the smallest sound,
for the way my ears open
even before my eyes,
as if to remember
the way everything began
with an original, vibrant, note,
and I thank you for this
everyday ordinary music,
always being rehearsed,
always being played,
always being remembered
as something new
and arriving, a tram line
below in the city street,
gull cries, or a ship's horn
in the distant harbor.
so that in waking I hear voices
even where there is no voice
and invitations where
there is no invitation
so that I can wake with you
by the ocean, in summer
or in the deepest seemingly
quietest winter
and be with you
so that I can hear you
even with my eyes closed,
even with my heart closed,
even before I fully wake.

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 th Sunday after Pentecost 2 9:00 AM Service of the Word No Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship: Open <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	3 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	4 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM Northampton Township National Night Out Municipal Park, Churchville 7:00 PM Bldg Reorg Mtg	5	6 7:00 PM Zoom Class: Worship Matters	7 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	8
11 th Sunday after Pentecost 9 9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship: Open	10 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	11	12	13 7:00 PM Zoom Class: Worship Matters	14 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	15
12 th Sunday after Pentecost 16 9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship: Open	17 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	18	19 <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	20 <i>No Zoom Bible Study</i> <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	21 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	22 <i>Pastor on vacation</i>
13 th Sunday after Pentecost 23 9:00 AM Service of the Word No Communion Worship Leader: David Elkin 10:00 AM Fellowship: Open <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	24 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	25 <i>Pastor on vacation</i>	26	27 <i>No Zoom Bible Study</i>	28 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	29 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Congregational Activity, Hosted by the Strategic Mission Team
14 th Sunday after Pentecost 30 9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship: Open	31 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	September 1	2	3 <i>No Zoom Bible Study</i>	4 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	5

✝ Advent Lutheran Church ✝
Sunday School Registration
2026-2027

Welcome! Complete one form per family and list children separately below.
Please return completed form in time for your students' first day of Sunday School.
Thank you!

Who usually brings child(ren) to Sunday School? (Please indicate)

- ☐ Parent(s): _____
- ☐ Relative or friend: _____
Name(s) and relationship
- ☐ Look for me in worship service

Emergency Contact during Sunday School:

Cell phone #1 _____ Whose phone _____
First name

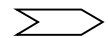
Cell phone #2 _____ Whose phone _____
First name

Parent Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail address:** _____
(please print)

Student Names*: [Please note any health info we should know about.]



{	#1 Student Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____ (include birth year)	}
{	#2 Student Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____ (include birth year)	}
{	#3 Student Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____ (include birth year)	}

* Please list additional students on back of form.



ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH (ALC)



FLEA MARKET REGISTRATION FORM & INFORMATION

September 26, 2026 (9:00 AM to 12:00 PM) Rain or Shine

Set-Up Time (8:00 AM to start)

We welcome your participation in our church sponsored Flea Market open to the Community, to be held in the parking lot of Advent Lutheran Church, located on the corner of 2nd St. Pike & Worthington Mill Rd. in Richboro, PA 18954. In the event of rain, the Flea Market will be held inside the church in various corridors and the social hall. Please read the guidelines below, complete the registration form at the bottom of this page, detach it and return it as soon as possible, no later than the registration **deadline** of Tuesday, September 22, 2026, or until spaces are no longer available. **A non-refundable registration fee of \$10.00 per space** (in the form of a check, made payable to Advent Lutheran Church with "Flea Market" notated on the memo line) must accompany your completed registration form. Please retain the top section of this form with the Flea Market Guidelines and other registration information for your future reference.

Completed registration forms and accompanying \$10.00 non-refundable fee should either be:

Mailed to:

Advent Lutheran Church
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909

Or place in a:

Sealed envelope marked "Flea Market" and put in the **Flea Market Registration Collection Box** located on the round table in the Church Narthex on Sunday mornings before or after worship service.

FLEA MARKET GUIDELINES:

1. Each participant must provide their own table, blanket/sheet to display their "for sale" wares in their space.
2. Sale items must be pre-priced by each participant and brought to church on the day of the Flea Market only, no earlier than 8:00 AM (do not bring sale items to the church prior to the day of the sale).
3. At the conclusion of the Flea Market, participants will be responsible for taking all their unsold items home with them (**NO items may be left behind at Advent Lutheran Church**).
4. Advent Lutheran Church Informational Brochures will be available at participant tables for distribution to any interested Flea Market attendees.

* Bottled water and Soft Pretzels will be available for sale during the Flea Market at a cost of **\$1.00** per bottle or pretzel.

Complete registration below, detach it, and return form by Tuesday, September 22, 2026 (registration deadline)



ALC FLEA MARKET REGISTRATION FORM



_____ I will participate in the Advent Lutheran Church Flea Market on September 26, 2026. I understand and will abide by the Flea Market guidelines stated above. (**initial on left line to agree**)

_____ I have enclosed a **\$10.00** non-refundable fee with my registration (**check made payable to Advent Lutheran Church** with "Flea Market" notated on the memo line of the check). (**initial on left line if you have paid your registration fee**)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Contact Kathy (215-589-5423) or Cime (503-502-7691) (Flea Market Coordinators)
with any Flea Market questions you may have.