



ADVENT
EVANGELICAL
Lutheran Church

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 16, 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,
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: “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” LBW 423

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart. | 3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share. |
| 2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole. | 4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live. |

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

Text © 1961 Oxford University Press.

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: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Children's Sermon

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹ Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶ And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it



and hold fast my covenant—
⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 67

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Word of God, Word of Life,

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter.

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

Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

Hymn of Praise: "How Firm a Foundation"

LBW 507



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Apostles' Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: 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: Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The Offering

Please leave your offering by scanning the QR code

or on our website: <https://giving.servantkeeper.com/adventrichboro>



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.**

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: “Thank You For Hearing Me”

1 Thank you for hearing me
Thank you for hearing me
Thank you for hearing me
Thank you for hearing me

2 Thank you for loving me
Thank you for loving me
Thank you for loving me
Thank you for loving me

(Instrumental Interlude)

3 Thank you for saving me
Thank you for saving me
Thank you for saving me
Thank you for saving me

Dismissal

P: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

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.

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

Pastor Matt will be on vacation from **Wednesday, August 19 through Tuesday, August 25.**

If you have a pastoral emergency while Pastor is away,
please contact Rev. Sandra Brown,
at 215-680-3972 or brownsj@msn.com.



OUR MISSION

- + To **gather** as God's people and nurture one another
- + To **know** the Word of God
- + To **grow** in faith, love, and service
- + To **go** into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ

SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor	The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen
Music Director	Michael Dettra
Lay Reader	David Elkin
Communion Assistant	Megan Ward
Fellowship Time	Open

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by:

- ✙ Cindy Frey, in loving memory of her mother, Lorraine Zimmerman, and
- ✙ Tony and Jeanne Gryszka, in honor of their grandson, Nolan's 18th birthday.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Worship Attendance for **Sunday, August 9**

Total: 37 9:00 AM: 33 + 4 (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

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 \$0.75/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 July 2026		
	Rec'vd for July 2026	Budget for July 2026
General Fund	\$9,184.93	\$19,805.00
Mortgage	\$1,290	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$90	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$390	
Total	\$10,954.93	\$21,836.00
	Rec'vd 1/1/26-7/31/26	Budget 1/1/26-7/31/26
General	\$75,359.51	\$138,635.00
Mortgage	\$9,795.00	\$13,286.00
Bene-Synod Only	\$640.00	\$931.00
Other Benevolence	\$3,475.00	
Total	\$89,269.51	\$152,852.00

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Begins Sunday, September 20, during the 9:30 AM Worship Service



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 available in the church foyer and narthex. You can also download the form from the church website, www.adventrichboro.org, or contact the church office. Student books and crafts will be ordered based on the number of registered students, so please register soon!

Thank you! Please contact the church office at adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com or 215-355-2529 with any questions.

ANNUAL ADVENT FLEA MARKET

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



On **Saturday, September 26, 2026**, Advent will hold a Flea Market in the church parking lot from 9:00 AM until 12 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 round table in the church narthex and on the church website at www.adventrichboro.org. A Non-Refundable Registration Fee of \$10.00 will be charged upon registration. Registrations will be accepted up until the **deadline of Tuesday, September 22, 2026**. We look forward to seeing you at the Flea Market and helping you "declutter" your living space.

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 at 215-355-2529 to speak with Marie. Thank you for your interest in this church-sponsored event.

COMEDY & SCIENCE: THE ART OF STANDUP

Free Classes begin on Tuesday, September 29, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Limited Space - Registration Required



Learn the science behind what makes people laugh and develop the skills to write, perform, and own the stage. No experience is required – just a sense of humor and a willingness to learn. Register by contacting the church office or signing up on the interest sheet in the narthex.



**CRAFTING CHORDS, BUILDING BALLADS:
SONGS, STORIES & THE CREATIVE JOURNEY
AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH BUCKS COUNTY SINGER-SONGWRITER
BILL MONAGHAN
Monday September 21, 2026, 7:00-8:15pm
Community Room, Village Library of Wrightstown**

You've heard him sing the timeless songs of the Beatles, Billy Joel, and Elton John—but how did their music influence his own songwriting?

Join us for an intimate, coffee-house style evening with local singer-songwriter Bill Monaghan. Discover the fascinating stories behind the music as Bill pulls back the curtain on his creative process. From voicing verses and weaving words to molding melodies and crafting chords, you'll experience how raw ideas culminate into powerful live performances.

Whether you are a music lover, an aspiring songwriter, or simply enjoy a great story, Bill's ballads build a lasting bond. Come ready to listen, laugh, reminisce, and even ask questions about the songwriting journey as you encounter the original music of Bill Monaghan.

We hope you will join us!

To register, please visit: www.WrightstownLibrary.org and click on Register for Events. Find the event you are interested in and click on it to complete the registration for the library. Any questions please email freedmank@buckslib.org.

THE 28TH ANNUAL MICHAEL S. MONAGHAN SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT

Saturday October 3, 2026, 2:00 PM

Featuring CELTIC PRIDE in Concert!

What's Luck Got To Do With It?

Irish Songs, Stories, Blessings, Toasts & Jokes

Archbishop Wood High School Auditorium

655 York Road, Warminster PA 18974

\$20 Donation; General seating

All proceeds benefit the Michael S. Monaghan Scholarship.

Email Willie.Monaghan@gmail.com for ticket reservations and more information.



THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, August 16

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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

MONDAY, August 17

7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, August 18

10:30 AM Safe Space Team Meeting (*in person*)

THURSDAY, August 20

No Zoom Bible Study

FRIDAY, August 21

7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, August 23

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Service of the Word, no Communion
Worship Leader: David Elkin
10:00 AM Fellowship Time: Open