



ADVENT EVANGELICAL *Lutheran Church*

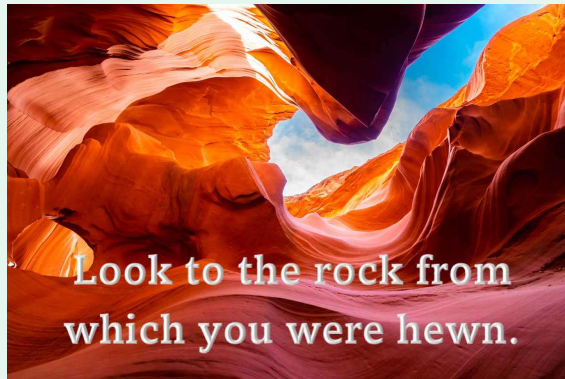
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

9:00 AM



Service of the Word



Look to the rock from
which you were hewn.

Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church
45 Worthington Mill Road
Richboro, PA 18954-1909
215-355-2529
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

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: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

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 Beauty of the Earth"

LBW 561



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For your - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly giv'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
a - gent of God's grand de - sign, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:



Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

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.

P: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God, Word of Life,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 138

- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.**
- ³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.
- ⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**
- ⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.
- ⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**
- ⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
- ⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Word of God, Word of Life,
Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of Praise: “Great is Thy Faithfulness” WOV 771

- 1** Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- 2** Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**

- 3** Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

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Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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>



Thanksgiving for the Word

P: Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

P: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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.

Sending

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: "Once Again"

1 Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice
You became nothing, poured out to death
Many times I've wondered at your gift of life
And I'm in that place once again
I'm in that place once again

2 Now you are exalted to the highest place
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow
But for now I marvel at your saving grace
And I'm full of praise once again
I'm full of praise once again **Refrain**

Refrain

And once again I look upon the cross where
you died
I'm humbled by your mercy
and I'm broken inside
Once again I thank you
Once again I pour out my life

3 Thank you for the cross
Thank you for the cross
Thank you for the cross, my friend
Thank you for the cross
Thank you for the cross
Thank you for the cross, my friend **Refrain**

Dismissal

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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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

Worship Leader
Music Director
Lay Reader
Fellowship Time

David Elkin
Michael Dettra
George Henry
Open

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated in loving memory of George Morris.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Attendance for Sunday, August 16, 2026, 9:00 AM

Total: 26 In-person: 22 Online: 4

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.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The **Summer Worship Schedule** continues through **Sunday, September 6** with a single worship service at 9:00 AM, followed by Fellowship Time.

Beginning **Sunday, September 13**, Advent will host an 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service and a 9:30 AM Contemporary Service on most Sundays, followed by Fellowship Time.



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 \$.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.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL & CONGREGATIONAL ACTIVITY

Next Saturday, August 29, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

On Saturday August 29, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the Strategic Mission Team will host an Ice Cream Social. Our congregational activity will be to gather together Ministry Brainstorm ideas and pick which new ministries to start in the fall.

Come one, come all for a delicious and inspiring time of fellowship!



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.



SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Advent will host a single worship service with Sunday School on **Sunday, September 27**, at 9:00 AM, followed by a special congregational meeting at 10:00 AM. The meeting will be held in person and via Zoom. The

Finance Committee and Church Council will be presenting information about the 2027 Stewardship Program as well as updating the congregation on the 2026 church finances. We ask that you please make plans to attend this meeting. Thank you.

Worship Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84972693871> Passcode: SINGLESERV

Meeting Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89856368740> Passcode: CONGRMTG

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 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?

Experience 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 23

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

MONDAY, August 24

7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

THURSDAY, August 27

No Zoom Bible Study

FRIDAY, August 28

7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, August 29

6:00 PM to Ice Cream Social and Congregational Activity
8:00 PM *hosted by the Strategic Mission Team*

SUNDAY, August 30

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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