

The Adventure



SEPTEMBER 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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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



This month we focus on **Stewardship!**

The Grey Bucket: God's Infinite Love and Blessings

The Pipe: The Gifting of God's Love and Blessings

The Faucet: God's People, aka YOU!

The Black Bucket: Your Neighbor, All the World

The Faucet Off: When we hold too tightly to God's Love and Blessings, we savor only the finite amount of love and blessings we can hold within ourselves. What love and blessings we hold on to grow stale with in us, like water turning coppery when sitting in the plumbing for too long.

The Faucet On: The Love and Blessings of God flow through us as we share with those around us and the world. As we spread God's Love and Blessings, they multiple exponentially allowing us to encounter more of God's infinite Love and Blessings than we could ever imagine.

Stewardship: Turn the Faucet On

"As your pastor, I want you to have the full experience of God's love. Seeing how God loves you is one part of the experience. The other part of the experience is seeing how God loves others through you. You receive God's love in baptism, and then you are called in baptism to share that love with others - this is the full Christian experience of God's love. God's love is so much greater than the individual, and for this reason, you can only encounter a fraction of God's love by yourself. When you share God's love with others, the experience of that love multiplies exponentially. The problem is that we have a tendency to doubt just how abundantly God loves us, that God's love is infinite. When these doubts take hold of us, we can be tempted to hold tightly to the love God gives us instead of sharing it. Like a faucet shut off, we hoard that fraction of God's love we can encounter on our own and fail to encounter the infinite love of God flowing out of us to others, like a faucet turned on. This free flowing of God's love causes us to give cheerfully out of God abundance and our lives experience the fullness of God's love."

– excerpt from the 2024 Stewardship Letter



As a congregation, we are ready to *really* turn the faucet on. There is a sense of God's love present as we gather for worship and church activities. This sense of God's love has deepened as we have done God Sightings, explored our spiritual Giftabilities and mapped the assets with which God has blessed Advent. Through these activities, we know we are connected to God's infinite Love and Blessings.

We know that Advent's faucet does work. We know this as we have been filled with the joy of sharing God's love with our neighbors through ministries like the Warminster Food Bank, Caring for Friends meals and coat donations; and to the world through Lutheran World Relief donations. Our faucet is on and is has been for the past sixty plus years of this congregation's ministry. But our faucet is only just on, as a steady stream. It is a steady, reliable stream, but still just a stream. It can be so much more. With the Ministry Brainstorm Packet that we have spent so much time developing, we have a tool to help us really turn the faucet on. As we develop new ministries this fall, we can turn the steady stream to a powerful gush, God's Love flowing out to our neighbor and the world. And the muscles to turn the knob of that faucet are our time, talent and treasure. It's time to turn the faucet on!

Peace,
Pastor Matt

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 6

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

SEPTEMBER 13 - HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:00 AM	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
9:30 AM	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion
10:00 AM	Fellowship: Open

SEPTEMBER 20 - AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:00 AM	Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
9:30 AM	Contemporary Worship Service with Holy Communion
	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Fellowship: Open

SEPTEMBER 27

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM	Single Worship Service with Holy Communion
	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Congregational Meeting

SERVING IN WORSHIP – SEPTEMBER 2026 SCHEDULE

DATE/TIME	LAY READER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT
9/6 – 9:00 AM	Bruce Eklund	Joyce Heiss
9/13 – 8:00 AM	George Henry	Janice Hoffmann
9/13 – 9:30 AM	Jeanne Gryska	Kristi Ward
9/20 – 8:00 AM	David Elkin	Kristi Ward
9/20 – 9:30 AM	Bruce Eklund	Joyce Heiss
9/27 – 9:00 AM	David Elkin	Janice Hoffmann

SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Beginning **Sunday, September 13**, Advent will follow the regular Sunday worship schedule which includes a **traditional worship service** at 8:00 AM and a **contemporary worship service** at 9:30 AM. Exceptions to this schedule will be noted on the calendar.

Services will continue to be available **in-person**, weather-permitting, and **online** live via Zoom and Facebook. Past services and sermons are available on Advent's YouTube page with new videos uploaded every Sunday after services have concluded.

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

WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Worship services may be attended by [Zoom](#) or through the live stream 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

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE on **SUNDAYS**, at **8:00 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83391027179> Passcode: WORSHIP8AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE on **SUNDAYS**, at **9:30 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84982959860> Passcode: WORSHIP930

SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**, at **9:00 AM**

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

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

An Affirmation of Baptism will take place at both services on Sunday, September 20.



What does it mean to affirm your Baptism? Think of Baptism as the pulsing note of God's love, playing in the ongoing music of your life. God's love is the base note that continuously provides a firm foundation for the other notes in our lives. As the other notes of our lives weave back and forth, that base note reminds us that it is God who creates us and the music. When the music in our lives becomes sad or tragic, it is God who composes hope and new life into our lives. It is God who sustains the music, guiding how we are to share God's love in our lives. As we get wrapped up in the melodies and harmonies of life, we can stop noticing the base note of God's love holding it together. To affirm our Baptism is to take time to notice God's love as the firm foundation of our lives. The Affirmation of Baptism service is appropriate to use when we want to recognize how the base note of God's love has been especially meaningful, like at the completion of Confirmation or new members' class. It can also be used as a periodic reaffirmation or refocus on that base note of God's love in the present and into the future.

Affirmation of Baptism Classes: Thursday, September 10 and 17, 7:00 PM

Leading up to the Affirmation of Baptism, classes will be held on **Thursday, September 10 and 17, at 7:00 PM via Zoom**, open to all baptized persons who would like to revisit and explore more deeply the call of their baptism.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81078210901>
Passcode: AFFIRM2026

HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS – Sunday, September 13, 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM Services

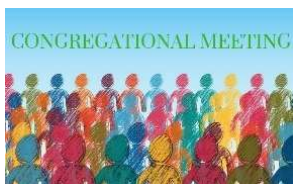


Advent will honor the many volunteers from the congregation at both worship services on **Sunday, September 13**. These volunteers do innumerable jobs both in the public eye and behind the scenes to forward the mission of the church and to keep Advent a welcoming, dynamic, and vibrant place. Thank you!

WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES (continued)

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Begins Sunday, September 20



We invite children from age 4 through grade 6 to attend Sunday School at 9:30 AM, starting on **September 20**. Students begin their class time in the worship service. They'll join Pastor Matt for the Children's Sermon, then proceed with their teachers to the all-purpose room to gather for their class. For Sundays with a single worship service, such as **September 27**, Sunday School will be held during the 9:00 AM service, unless otherwise noted.

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 on page 18 of this newsletter and is also available in the church foyer and narthex, and on our website. Please register early, as student books and crafts will be ordered based on the number of registered students. Thank you. Feel free to contact me or the church office for more information.

-Jeanne Gryzka, Sunday School Director

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Check the weekly bulletins for any changes.



Sunday In-Person Adult Bible Study

Sunday in-person Adult Bible Study with George Henry will resume on **Sunday September 13**, after the 9:30 AM worship service.

Worship Matters! Deepening Your Faith through Understanding of Lutheran Worship Via Zoom Thursdays in the fall at 7:00 PM, resuming on September 23

Pastor Matt will continue leading an educational program and discussion 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 continues via Zoom on **Thursdays, at 7:00 PM beginning September 23**. If you would like to participate, you still can!

Zoom link for Worship Matters: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88501398586>

Passcode (if prompted): IT-MATTERS

WORSHIP-RELATED INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES (continued)

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 (5:30 PM) and Vocal Choir (6:15 PM) will resume on **September 23**.

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.

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.



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!

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 worshipping 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

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.

ADVENT COMMUNITY – NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



CHURCH CLEAN OUT/ORGANIZATION MEETING – Tuesday, September 1, 7:00 PM

Advent will host an in-person meeting on **Tuesday, September 1, at 7:00 PM** to continue discussing the ongoing process of cleaning out and organizing the various rooms within the church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

TABLE TENNIS IS BACK!



Table Tennis at Advent will resume on **September 1** with weekly sessions on Tuesdays. This year we will offer afternoon sessions in addition to the evening sessions.

- Afternoon sessions are 2:00 to 4:00 PM
- Evening sessions are 6:30 to 8:30 PM

All are invited, no matter the skill level. Paddles and balls are provided.

ADVENT WOMEN'S CIRCLE



The mission of Advent Women's Circle is to support the Advent community through the implementation of projects that fill a need. For meetings, 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.

Next Meeting: We will hold our next lunch meeting on **Tuesday, September 8, at noon**. Activities for the fall will be discussed, so bring your ideas! Please bring your own lunch. If you would like to attend an upcoming meeting or event as a new attendee, please contact the church office to confirm the details as it draws closer.

Next Outing: Andalusia Historic House, Gardens & Arboretum Tour, Bensalem, PA
Friday, September 25, 10:00 AM Cost: \$30.00 Reservations Required

Please **RSVP by September 10** to the church office or to Fran at mftkelly30@gmail.com. This outing includes a one-hour tour of the house and a self-guided tour of the formal gardens and grounds. Attendees should pack a lunch.



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 (page 19), 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.

ADVENT COMMUNITY – NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)



COMEDY & SCIENCE: THE ART OF STANDUP

Free Classes at Advent 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.



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.

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



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

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.

To register, please visit: www.WrightstownLibrary.org and click on Register for Events. Click on the event to complete the registration for the library.

Any questions please email freedmank@buckslib.org.

THE 28TH ANNUAL MICHAEL S. MONAGHAN SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT

What's Luck Got To Do With It?

Irish Songs, Stories, Blessings, Toasts & Jokes

Saturday October 3, 2026, 2:00 PM

Featuring **CELTIC PRIDE** in Concert!

Archbishop Wood High School Auditorium

655 York Road, Warminster PA 18974

\$20 Donation; General seating

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



ADVENT COMMUNITY – NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS (continued)

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!



ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Polls will be open from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Make a plan to vote!

Register to vote, **check** your voter registration status, or **request** a mail-in or absentee ballot online at: <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/vote/voter-registration>.

The last day to **register to vote** in Pennsylvania is **Monday, October 19, 2026**
The last day to request a **mail-in or absentee ballot** is **Tuesday, October 27, 2026**



Cards sent for Gail's birthday by friends at Advent

A THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM GAIL OINES

To my Advent family:

Thank you a million times over for all the love you sent me. I appreciate hearing from you and wish you could have all attended the party. I realize the distance is great, but I hope there will come a time that we could at least meet in the middle.

Until we meet in person again, take care my friends. You are in my thoughts and prayer!

-Gail

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

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, cooking oil, mayonnaise, ketchup, breadcrumbs, beef stew, chili

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! We'll be doing some more meal prep dates this fall, so keep an eye out for those dates!

In the meantime, meal trays are still available in the narthex for anyone who would like to take some home, fill them, and help provide meals to those in need.

Thank you for continuing to support this ministry!

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.

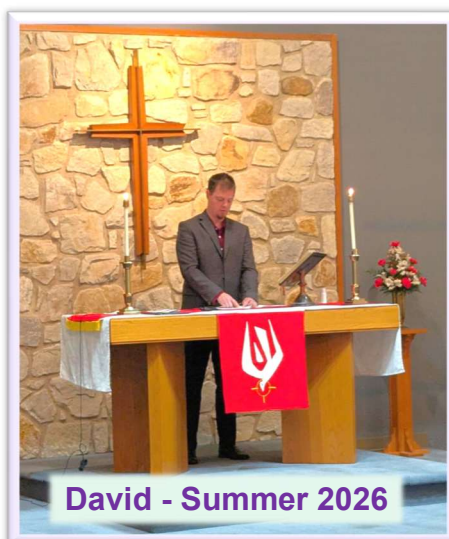
SUMMER WORSHIP

Advent is blessed to have such a wonderful group of people who are involved in the weekly worship services. We would like to say a special thank you to Bruce Eklund, David Elkin, and George Henry, who have stepped in to lead worship and preach when Pastor Matt has been away. The care and dedication each of you has brought to the worship services have enriched Advent and furthered the mission of the congregation to **gather** as God's people and **nurture** one another; to **know** the Word of God; to **grow** in faith, love, and service, and to **go** into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Thank you, George, David, and Bruce for sharing your talents, time, and insight with Advent!



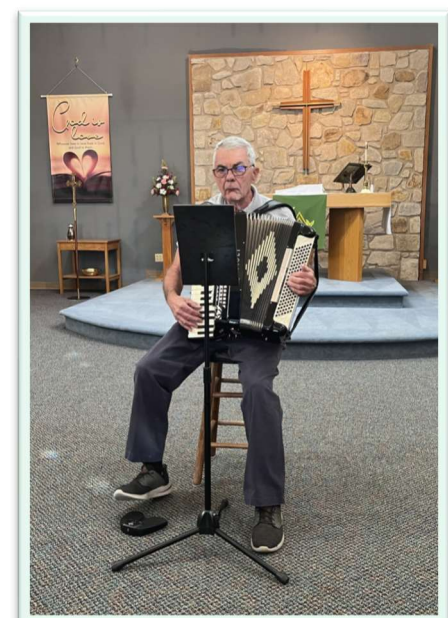
Bruce - Summer 2026



David - Summer 2026



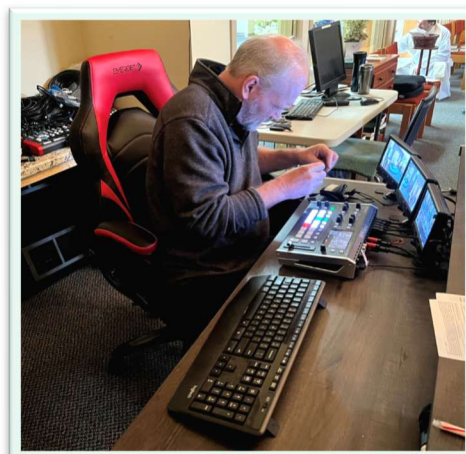
George - Summer 2026



Ray Heiss, playing a prelude for Sunday Worship in July

"¹⁰ Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."
-1 Peter 4:10

Thank you to all those who work both in the public eye and behind the scenes to make worship at Advent not only possible, but the special experience that it is!



Gary Zimmerman, running the cameras and livestream for Sunday worship

ANNUAL SEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY MEETING – MAY 29 AND 30, 2026



The South Eastern Synod of PA (SEPA) held its annual Assembly meeting on May 29 and 30, 2026 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Landsdale, PA. Pastor Matt and Advent representative, Mike Sitler attended the Assembly. Joyce Heiss was also planning to go but had a change of plans at the last minute. SEPA is part of the 2.7 million Lutherans in the ELCA of which approximately 55,000 are in 140 congregations in the SEPA. This year's SEPA Assembly included nearly 400 Lutheran pastors/deacons and congregation lay representatives. It was a most joyful and engaging gathering of fellow Lutherans, who

hailed from Philadelphia and the surrounding counties.

The *esprit de corps* was palpable, from the personal one-on-one interactions at meals, breaks, workshops; and during the Assembly meeting itself, which was held in Trinity's sanctuary. What a memory, hearing the assembled voices sing so beautifully, rising to the rafters, and with love for God. Our diversity as a Christian community was also evident and is a strength, reflecting one of the core values of the synod.



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA + Synod Assembly

The theme for this year's Assembly was *Imago Dei*, which translates to the "Image of God". The focus was on seeing as God sees: all of his creation, to include Humans (Genesis 1:27). Bishop Bryan Penman during his Annual Address (and throughout the assembly proceedings) addressed the image problem that is currently confronting the church: "not a branding problem, not a communication problem, but an image problem – in the deepest most theological sense of that word." We were challenged and are called to action to "whether we truly see the *Imago Dei* in every person." Antithetically, Christians in today's society are often viewed as judgmental, hypocritical, and irrelevant.

The central message of the Assembly meeting aligns with Advent's current Strategic Mission Planning. In many ways, we are already working on this year's SEPA focus. The work in which we (and SEPA) are engaged is what the world is hungry for. Let's go forth, boldly proclaiming the good news of Jesus' love for all and further developing Advent's commitment to engage in meaningful relationships and actions through our ministries.



We left the Assembly having gained more than we had anticipated: making new relationships, gaining useful information in support of our current and future ministries, and experiencing our part in the broader SEPA Synod. This year's Assembly experience was life changing. All encouraged, if able, to experience it at least once. God Bless!



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



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

US Areas - Severe Storms and Wildfires

Devastating wildfires across the western United States are threatening lives, homes and entire communities. When wildfires force evacuations and leave devastation behind, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response help sustain relief and recovery ministries long after media attention fades.

Lutheran Disaster Response is also working with local partners to respond to storms across the U.S., helping to coordinate immediate needs while also preparing for the long road ahead — debris removal, repair and rebuilding, case management, and the ongoing emotional and spiritual care so many survivors need.

Venezuela and Colombia Earthquakes

Lutheran Disaster Response is responding through trusted, long-standing partners in the region, including the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Venezuela (IELV), and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO). ELCA partners are working together to identify urgent needs, provide immediate relief, and coordinate a plan for long-term assistance.

Middle East Crisis

Lutheran Disaster Response is working with our companions on the ground throughout the Middle East, to provide critical assistance for those affected by the conflict, including emergency food and water, shelter and essential supplies, trauma-informed care and long-term recovery efforts.

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/>



Through the Woods Trail Run

**Saturday, September 26
10:00 AM**

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/>



Faith Alive Worship Learning Lab Saturday, October 17 8:00 AM to 2:00 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>

KEEP UP WITH SYNOD NEWS AND RESOURCES

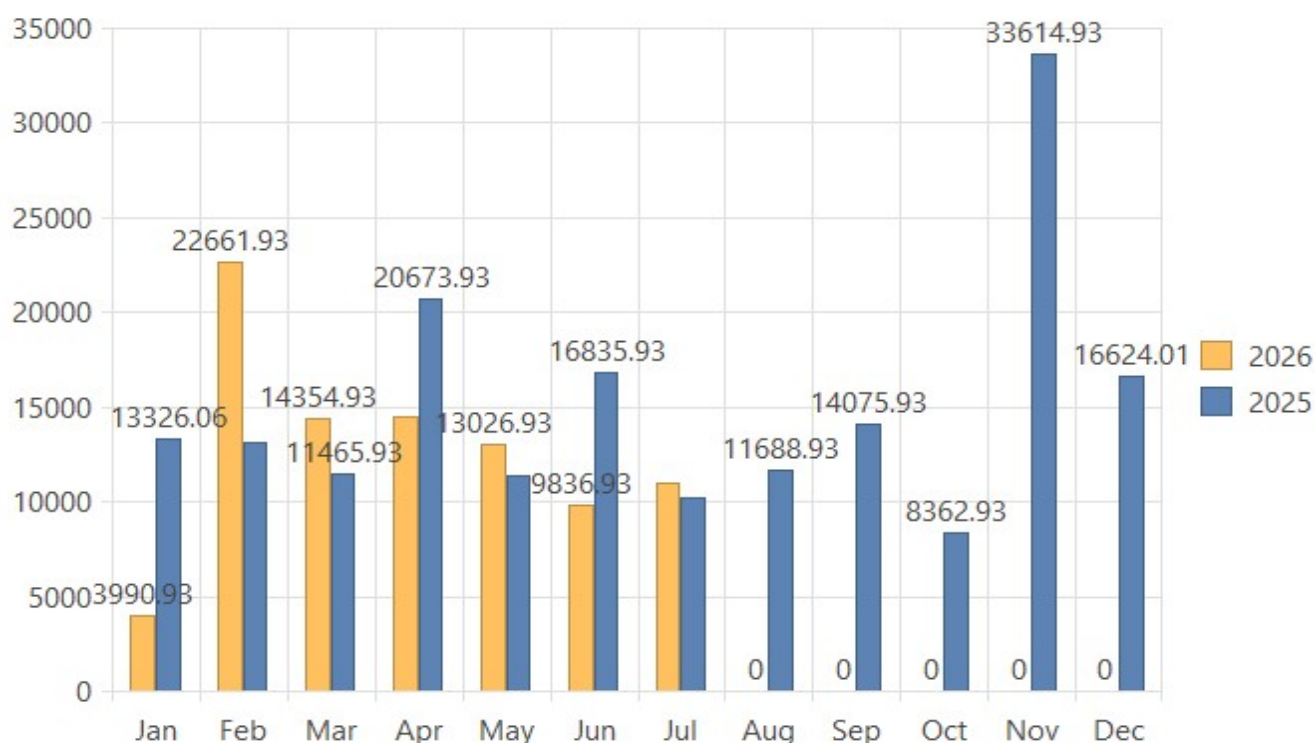
Subscribe to the MinistryLink newsletter to keep up with the latest news, events and resources offered through SEPA. Sign up using the QR code or visit:

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



FINANCIAL REPORT

Contribution Totals



Financial Report For July 2026		
	Rec'd 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'd 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

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Cindy Frey
5 Paul Shearer
11 Mark Frey
11 Charles Welsh
11 Kayce Welsh
11 Kevin Welsh



13 Courtney Kirschner
15 Nicholas Masciotro
15 Emma Ward
15 Timothy Ward
16 Steven Urbaniak
17 John Kelly



19 Jeanne Gryszka
20 Luke Urbaniak
22 Teena Hanlon
25 Rose Herbert
26 Christopher Frey
27 Kelly Brum

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
The office will be closed on Tuesday, September 1.

Marie McCool

Office and Communications Administrator

adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com www.adventrichboro.org

215-355-2529

DID YOU KNOW? THE ORIGINAL SEAL OF BUCKS COUNTY



Original Seal of Bucks County

Did you know that Bucks County was founded in 1682 by William Penn and was named after Buckinghamshire, the Penn family home in England. The original seal of Bucks County was created in March 1683, and William Penn's Council ordered "That the seal of the County of Bucks be a tree and a vine." Penn had written that in Bucks County, "the woods yield us plums, grapes, peaches, strawberries and chestnuts in abundance." The shield came from the Penn family crest. Used to certify official documents until the American Revolution, the seal was eventually supplanted by one with the official device of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Did you also know that the old insignia is still used on County stationery and vehicles to denote Bucks County's rich heritage? Large tile replicas of the original seal, made by Dr. Henry Chapman Mercer, may be seen at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown and the State Capitol in Harrisburg.

(source: www.buckscounty.gov)



Tile replica of original Bucks County Seal

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 th Sunday after Pentecost 30 9:00 AM Summer Worship Service with Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship: Open	31 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	1 <i>Church office is closed</i> 2:00 PM/6:30 PM Table Tennis 7:00 PM Building Reorganization Meeting	2	3 <i>No Zoom Bible Study</i>	4 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	5
15 th Sunday after Pentecost 6 9:00 AM Summer Worship Service with Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship: Open	Labor Day 7 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	8 12:00 PM Advent Women's Circle Meeting 2:00 PM/6:30 PM Table Tennis	9	10 7:00 PM Affirmation of Baptism Class via Zoom	11 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	12
16 th Sunday after Pentecost 13 HONORING OUR VOLUNTEERS 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship: Open 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study 10:30 AM: Council Meeting	14 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	15 2:00 PM/6:30 PM Table Tennis	16	17 7:00 PM Affirmation of Baptism Class via Zoom	18 11:00 AM Holland Village Communion Service 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	19
17 th Sunday after Pentecost 20 AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM 8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service with Communion 9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service with Communion Sunday School Begins 10:30 AM Fellowship: Open 10:30 AM Adult Bible Study	21 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	First Day of Fall 22  2:00 PM/6:30 PM Table Tennis Deadline to register to sell at the Advent Flea Market	23 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	24 7:00 PM Worship Matters Class via Zoom	25 10:00 AM Advent Women's Circle Outing to Andalusia House 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	26 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Advent Flea Market
18 th Sunday after Pentecost 27 9:00 AM Single Worship Service with Communion Sunday School 10:00 AM: Congregational Meeting	28 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	29 2:00 PM/6:30 PM Table Tennis 7:00 PM Comedy & Science: The Art of Standup	30 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice	October 1 7:00 PM Worship Matters Class via Zoom	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting	3

✝ 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:

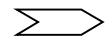
Cell phone #1 _____ Whose phone _____
First name
Cell phone #2 _____ Whose phone _____
First name

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.