



ADVENT
EVANGELICAL
Lutheran Church

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 27, 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,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others.**

Turn our hearts back to you.

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

P: Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.
 Music: SLANE, Irish tune

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 love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Sermon

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the LORD came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³ As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

¹ To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of Praise: “Forever”

1 Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good He is above all things
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

2 With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Pre-Chorus

Sing praise sing praise

Chorus

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever

3 From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Pre-Chorus

Chorus

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: Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

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: God of creation,

you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.

All blessings are from you;

make us generous with what we have.

Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts

in service to you and in love to our neighbors,

today and always.

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

Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Distribution

The body of Christ, given to you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Prayer after Communion

P: Let us pray...
Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup,
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

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: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

LBW 551



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow-ing foun-tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Dismissal

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
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.



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	Janice Hoffmann
Fellowship Time	Open

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated
by Cindy Frey, in honor of the birthday of her son, Chris, and
by Jeanne and Tony Gryszka, in honor of their 48th wedding anniversary.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Worship Attendance for **Sunday, September 20**

Total: 40 8:00 AM: 10 + 2 (online) 9:30 AM: 22 + 2 (online) Sunday School: 4

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.

Praise Band and Vocal Choir

Practices for both Praise Band and Vocal Choir will resume this Wednesday, September 30.

5:30 PM Praise Band

6:15 PM Vocal Choir

New members are welcome! Please contact Mike Dettra, Music Director, if interested.

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.

Donations for Fellowship Time

Fellowship Time is held Sundays directly following the last worship 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.

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

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 August 2026		
	Rec'vd for Aug 2026	Budget for Aug 2026
General Fund	\$8,462.93	\$19,805.00
Mortgage	\$1,625	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$160	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$390	
Total	\$10,637.93	\$21,836.00
	Rec'vd 1/1/26-8/31/26	Budget 1/1/26-8/31/26
General	\$83,822.44	\$158,440.00
Mortgage	\$11,420.00	\$15,184.00
Bene-Synod Only	\$800.00	\$1,064.00
Other Benevolence	\$3,865.00	
Total	\$99,907.44	\$174,688.00

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT ADVENT

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - **POSTPONED UNTIL NOVEMBER 1**

The original schedule of events in the month of September was intended to lift up and support the notion of Stewardship. This schedule included Affirmation of Baptism classes, honoring of Volunteers, Affirmation of Baptism as part of worship, culminating in a special congregational meeting scheduled for this Sunday, September 27. Due to unforeseen circumstances, including the weather forecast for this weekend, and Pastor needing to be with his family through the decline and passing of his mother-in-law, the decision has been made to postpone the congregational meeting that was scheduled for this Sunday, September 27. This decision was not made lightly. Ultimately, by postponing, the Advent community will have the opportunity to properly experience and engage in the events that were originally envisioned for September. Below is the revised upcoming schedule.

Thursday, October 1 and 8, 7:00 PM: Affirmation of Baptism classes via Zoom

Sunday, October 4 - Honoring of Volunteers at both worship services

8:00 AM: Traditional worship service with Holy Communion

9:30 AM: Contemporary worship service with Holy Communion and Sunday School

Sunday, October 11 - Affirmation of Baptism at both worship services

8:00 AM: Traditional worship service with Holy Communion

9:30 AM: Contemporary worship service with Holy Communion and Sunday School

Sunday, October 18

8:00 AM: Service of the Word - no Communion

9:30 AM: Service of the Word - no Communion

Sunday, October 25

8:00 AM: Service of the Word - no Communion

9:30 AM: Service of the Word - no Communion

Sunday, November 1

9:00 AM: Single worship service with Holy Communion and Sunday School

10:00 AM: Special Congregational Meeting

Thank you for your understanding. Please reach out to Pastor Matt or Mike Sitler with any questions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Children from age 4 through grade 6 are invited to attend Sunday School. Students begin their class time in the 9:30 am worship service (or 9:00 AM when there is a single worship service). They 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.

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

COMEDY & SCIENCE: THE ART OF STAND-UP

Free Classes begin **THIS** 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.

TABLE TENNIS IS BACK!



Table Tennis at Advent is back 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.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast will resume on **Saturday, October 10.**

Breakfast will be served around 8:30 AM

Coffee is ready about 7:30

UPCOMING COMMUNITY/AREA EVENTS

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.



Northampton Day Festival 2026

Sunday, October 4, 2026

10 AM - 4 PM, Rain or Shine.

98 Upper Holland Road, Richboro PA

www.northamptonday.fun

FREE admission, FREE parking, FREE entertainment, fun for the whole family!



CRAFTS IN THE MEADOW

Saturday, October 17, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Sunday, October 18, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Tyler Park Center for the Arts

The Crafts in the Meadow Fall Invitational Craft Show is a fine art and craft event showcasing excellence in craftsmanship, alongside a festive weekend of live music, performing arts, and refreshments. Over 130 fine artisans will be featured, with demonstrations, live music, great food, and plenty of fun for kids too! Tickets are \$10 at the event (cash only), children under 12 are free.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, September 27

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

MONDAY, September 28

- 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, September 29

- 2:00-4:00 PM Table Tennis at Advent – afternoon session
- 6:30-8:30 PM Table Tennis at Advent – evening session
- 7:00-8:30 PM The Art of Stand-Up Classes

WEDNESDAY, September 30

- 5:30 PM Praise Band Practice
- 6:15 PM Vocal Choir Practice

THURSDAY, October 1

- 7:00 PM Affirmation of Baptism: Zoom Class with Pastor Matt

FRIDAY, October 2

- 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, October 4

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Honoring of Volunteers

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