

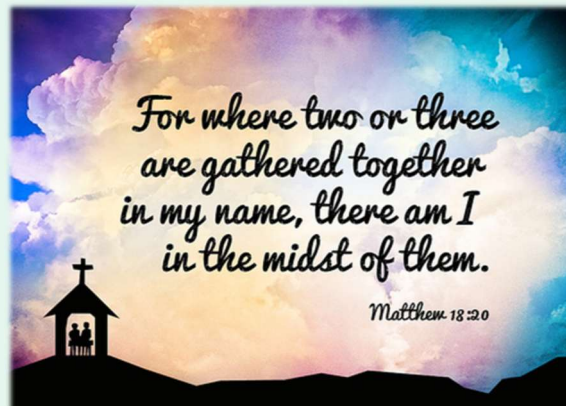


ADVENT
EVANGELICAL
Lutheran Church

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 6, 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.

Next week begins the fall worship schedule:
8:00 AM traditional service
9:30 AM contemporary service

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.

Gathering Hymn: "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

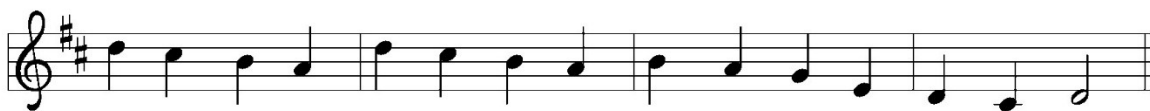
LBW 549



- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib - ute bring.
- 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis - tress.
- 3 Tend - er - ly he shields and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows.
- 4 An - gels help us to a - dore him, who be - hold him face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais-es sing.
Praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
In his hands he gent - ly bears us, res-cues us from all our foes.
Sun and moon bow down be - fore him; all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

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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: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Children's Sermon

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, Word of Life,

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk

decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, Word of Life,

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of Praise: “10,000 Reasons”

Chorus

Bless the Lord oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name

- 1** The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes

Chorus

- 2** You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find

Chorus

- 3** And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will
Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore
Forevermore

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: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

WOV 721



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.
 4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
 I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.
 I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."
 Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh

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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	Bruce Eklund
Communion Assistant	Joyce Heiss
Fellowship Time	Open

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Lynn Roccograndi,
in loving memory of Julie's birthday.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Worship Attendance for **Sunday, August 30**

Total: 36 9:00 AM: 33 + 3 (online)

Communion Reminder

The Worship and Music Committee would like to remind the congregation that those going forward to the altar for communion have a few options. There is gluten-free bread in the small clear glass bowl, and white grape juice for those who prefer. Just let the Pastor or assistant know your preference.

Call for Worship Assistants



Advent needs volunteers to assist with worship services! Training is provided for those interested in serving as Lay Reader, Communion Assistant, Acolyte or Greeter. Volunteers can also assist behind the scenes with set up prior to services. Contact Kristi Ward for more information: kward1411@yahoo.com or 215-284-2669.

Dedications for Sunday Services

Payments for dedications may be made using the marked envelopes by the sign-up charts.

*Please place payment in the offering plate or mail payment to the church at
45 Worthington Mill Road, Richboro, PA 18954.*

*Please write check to **Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church**
and write **Altar Flowers** or **Mission Support** in the memo line on your check.*

Altar Flowers Chart

The Flower Chart to dedicate altar flowers each Sunday is on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$25 per bouquet, and you are welcome to take the flowers home following the late service. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529

Mission Support

The Mission Support Chart is available for sign up on the table in the narthex. Mission Support Dedication donations benefit our sister church, Iglesia Luterana Nueva Creacion, which does vital work in North Philadelphia. Dedication donations are \$25. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529

Donations for Fellowship Time

Fellowship Time is held Sundays directly following the 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.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is a group of volunteers at Advent who pray every day, confidentially, for people added to the Prayer Chain. Names are maintained for one month unless asked to be removed earlier. To add names to the Prayer Chain:

- ✦ Complete a Prayer Request Card found in the pews of the sanctuary. Please place completed cards in the offering plate, or
- ✦ Submit names by email directly to Linda Weaver at lindaweaver3@comcast.net.

If you would like to be a Prayer Chain volunteer, please contact Linda Weaver.

Drive-in & Drop-off Food Collection – Warminster Food Bank

If you have food for the Warminster Food Bank and the church is not open, just drive into the parking lot and drop off the food inside the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. Check their website for the most current needs: www.warminsterfoodbank.org. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

Recycling Can Tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities

Thanks to the efforts of many, we had assembled a large collection of aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Your contribution will benefit the families staying in this wonderful facility while their loved one undergoes medical care nearby. United Scrap Metal recyclers weigh the donation of aluminum tabs to determine their value, based on the average value of around \$0.75/pound of tabs. They then send Ronald McDonald House Charities/Philly a check for the total amount, which directly benefits the families. Tabs can be placed in the marked containers in the narthex, on the shelf above the coat rack. *No cans, please – just tabs!*

Financial Report For 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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, 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.

COMEDY & SCIENCE: THE ART OF STAND-UP

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.

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.

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.



CRAFTING CHORDS, BUILDING BALLADS: SONGS, STORIES & THE CREATIVE JOURNEY

AN INTIMATE EVENING WITH BUCKS COUNTY
SINGER-SONGWRITER BILL MONAGHAN

Monday September 21, 2026, 7:00-8:15pm

Community Room, Village Library of Wrightstown

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

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

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, September 6 **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

MONDAY, September 7

- 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, September 8

- 12:00 PM Advent Women's Circle Meeting (*in person, bring lunch*)
- 2:00-4:00 PM Table Tennis at Advent – afternoon session
- 6:30-8:30 PM Table Tennis at Advent – evening session

THURSDAY, September 10

- 7:00 PM Affirmation of Baptism class (*via Zoom*)

FRIDAY, September 11 **Patriot Day, 25 Years of Remembrance**

- 7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting



SUNDAY, September 13 **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

This Sunday is the final Sunday of the **Summer Worship Schedule**, with a single worship service at 9:00 AM, followed by Fellowship Time.

Beginning next **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.