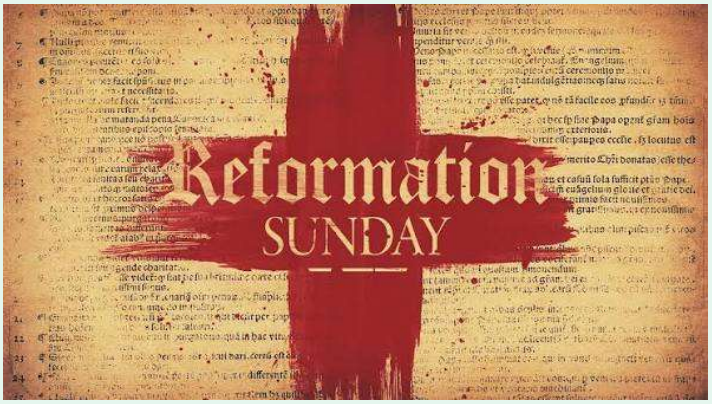
ADVENT EVANGELICAL
Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026
8:00 AM & 9:30 AM



Service of the Word



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

Welcome Visitors! Discover God's abundant grace and love.

We extend a cordial welcome to all who worship with us today. We give thanks that you are here with us. Please sign our guest book and come back to worship with us again.

Zoom Links for today's services:

8:00 AM	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83391027179	Passcode: WORSHIP8AM
9:30 AM	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84982959860	Passcode: WORSHIP930

We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude *(a time for silent meditation)*

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
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*: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" LBW 229**



Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: The word is near you,
C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,
C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,
C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray…
Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

***First Reading*: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the
house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with
their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a
covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. 33 But this is the
covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put
my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall
be my people. 34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the
LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I
will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

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

***Psalm*: Psalm 46**

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
2 **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;
3 though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
4 **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**

the holy habitation of the Most High.
5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
6 **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth melts away.
7 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
8 **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,**
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;
9 behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
10 **"Be still, then, and know that I am God;**
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
11 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

***Second Reading*: Romans 3:19-28**

19 Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26 it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

***Gospel*: John 8:31-36**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

31 Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly
my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They
answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone.
What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.
35 The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there
forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

***Hymn of the Day:* "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" LBW 367**

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever
and our confidence alone.

2 To this temple, where we call you,
come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
come, with all your lovingkindness,
hear your people as they pray;
and your fullest benediction
shed within these walls today.

3 Grant, we pray, to all your faithful
all the gifts they ask to gain;
what they gain from you forever
with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory
evermore with you to reign.

4 Praise and honor to the Father,
praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit,
ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory
while unending ages run!

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe In the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends with: 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 going to our website:
https://giving.servantkeeper.com/adventrichboro

Thanksgiving for the Word

P: Let us pray.
Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.
For your Word of life, O God,
C: we give you thanks and praise.

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God,
C: we give you thanks and praise.

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

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

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: **"Come, All You People" WOV 717**



Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

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OUR MISSION

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

SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Worship Leader	George Henry
Music Director	Michael Dettra
Preacher	Bruce Eklund
Lay Reader 8:00 AM	
Lay Reader 9:30 AM	
Fellowship Time	George Henry

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by
John and Victoria Flint, in honor of their 67th wedding anniversary, and
Tony and Jeanne Gryszka, in loving memory of Tony's dad, Anthony, Sr.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Attendance for Sunday, October 18, 2026, **Total: 41**

8:00 AM: 9 + 4 (online) 9:30 AM: 23 + 2 (online) Sunday School: 3

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 setup prior to services.
Contact Kristi Ward for more information: kward1411@yahoo.com or 215-284-2669.

Praise Band and Vocal Choir Practice Schedule

Praise Band and Vocal Choir rehearsals have resumed on Wednesdays. If you are interested in learning more about either band or choir, or would like to become a member of either group, please contact Mike Dettra, Music Director.

Praise Band Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 5:30-6:15 PM
Vocal Choir Rehearsals: Wednesdays, 6:15-7:00 PM

All Saints Day – Sunday, November 1
Submit Names of Remembrance by Sunday, October 25

The first Sunday in November is All Saints Sunday. We will celebrate a service of Holy Communion and will especially remember family and friends who have died in the last year. If you have someone you wish included in our prayers, please complete a form, which is available on the table in the narthex, and return to the church office or you may place it in the offering plate no later than **Sunday, October 25**. You may also call or email the office with the information.

Worship Matters! Deepening Your Faith through Understanding of Lutheran Worship
Via Zoom Thursdays in the fall at 7:00 PM, continues on October 29

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 **Thursday, October 29, at 7:00 PM**. All are welcome to participate!

Zoom link for Worship Matters: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88501398586
Passcode (if prompted): IT-MATTERS

Sunday School – Sundays, during the 9:30 AM Worship Service



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.

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 September 2026		
	Rec'vd for Sept 2026	Budget for Sept 2026
General Fund	$7,592.93	$19,805.00
Mortgage	$1,880	$1,898.00
Benevolence - Synod Only	$120	$133
Other Benevolence	$390	
Total	$9,982.93	$21,836.00
	Rec'vd 1/1/26-9/30/26	Budget 1/1/26-9/30/26
General	$91,415.37	$178,245.00
Mortgage	$13,300.00	$17,082.00
Benevolence - Synod Only	$920.00	$1,197.00
Other Benevolence	$4,255.00	
Total	$109,890.37	$196,524.00

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

Pastor Matt will be on vacation through **Monday, October 26**.
If you have a pastoral emergency while Pastor is away, please contact **Rev. Sandra Brown**, at **215-680-3972** or brownsj@msn.com.

MASKING AT WORSHIP/EVENTS AND SHARING OF THE PEACE ADVENT UPDATE

The Church Council discussed and updated the precautions taken at Advent to help maintain the health of the congregation, based on the current CDC recommendations:

- Worship will continue to be available online and in person. Please stay home if you have any symptoms of illness or have been in close contact with anyone who is ill.
- Those distributing communion will no longer mask. Personal communion kits will continue to be available to those who prefer to commune in the pew or at home.
- Members who are comfortable doing so, may once again Share the Peace with handshakes. Hand waves, peace signs and air hugs are still appropriate, if that is more comfortable or appropriate for your personal situation.
- Please continue to respect those who choose to mask and/or social distance.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 25 – Reformation Sunday
8:00 AM: Service of the Word - no Communion
9:30 AM: Service of the Word and Sunday School - no Communion

Sunday, November 1 – All Saints Day
9:00 AM: Single worship service with Holy Communion and Sunday School
10:00 AM: Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 8 – 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Harvest Home Blessing
Guest Speaker at both services
Mike Cerino, Executive Director of Warminster Food Bank
8:00 AM: Traditional worship service with Holy Communion
9:30 AM: Contemporary worship service with Holy Communion and Sunday School

Sunday, November 15 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost
8:00 AM: Traditional worship service with Holy Communion
9:30 AM: Contemporary worship service with Holy Communion and Sunday School

Sunday, November 22 – Christ the King
9:00 AM: Single worship service with Holy Communion and Sunday School
10:00 AM: Annual Congregational Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

"SPEED FAITH-ING" EVENT – PRESENTED BY THE LOWER BUCKS CONFERENCE
Sunday, November 1, 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM, Advent Richboro

An evening of faith and connection, the event begins with dinner at 5:00 PM, followed by a "Speed Faith-ing" program at 6:00 PM. Share your faith with members of Advent and other Lower Bucks Conference congregations in a "speed dating" style format. Hosted by the LBCC Dean, Rev. Heeralal Mukesh Cheedie. RSVP by signing up in the narthex or contact the church office.

FREE COMEDY SHOW AT ADVENT - Friday, November 6, 7:30 PM



The Stand-Up Comedy Class will have a FREE Comedy Showcase featuring headliner Ryan Roe, along with the graduates of the inaugural Comedy Science class at Advent. Please come and support the class members as they perform their own original sets! Please RSVP so the organizers have a general head count. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact the church office.

COAT DRIVE AT ADVENT FOR POINT PREVENTION
Collection ends on Sunday, November 25



We are collecting new and gently worn coats (all sizes) for Prevention Point Philadelphia. This is a non-profit organization that supports the unhoused and addicted in the Kensington area of Philadelphia. Please place donations in the designated bin in the narthex. We are collecting coats until **Sunday, November 25**.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – donation drive at Advent is Tuesday, October 27



A 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.

TABLE TENNIS WILL RESUME ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10



Table Tennis at Advent is back with weekly sessions on Tuesdays.
This year we will offer afternoon sessions from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, in addition to the evening sessions from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. All are invited, no matter the skill level. Paddles and balls are provided.

There will be no sessions on Tuesday, October 27, due to the Red Cross Blood Drive, and Tuesday, November 3, due to Election Day.

CARING FOR FRIENDS – MEAL PREP ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15



Sunday, November 15, we will prepare meals for *Caring for Friends* after the 9:30 AM church service. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve others in our community and share God's love through a simple act of kindness. Volunteers are needed and everyone is welcome. Whether you can stay for the entire time or just lend a quick helping hand, your time and willingness to serve will make a difference. We hope you'll join us as we come together to help those in need. Thank you for being part of this meaningful ministry!

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, October 25
Reformation Sunday

8:00 AM	Service of the Word - no Communion
9:30 AM	Service of the Word and Sunday School - no Communion
10:30 AM	Fellowship Time: Open
10:30 AM	Adult Bible Study in the Parlor

MONDAY, October 26

7:30 PM	A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, October 27

1:00-6:00 PM	Red Cross Blood Drive
7:00 PM	Comedy and Science: The Art of Standup class

WEDNESDAY, October 28

5:30 PM	Praise Band Rehearsal
6:15 PM	Vocal Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, October 29

7:00 PM	Worship Matters Zoom Class with Pastor Matt

FRIDAY, October 30

7:30 PM	A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, November 1
All Saints Day

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