ADVENT EVANGELICAL Lutheran Church

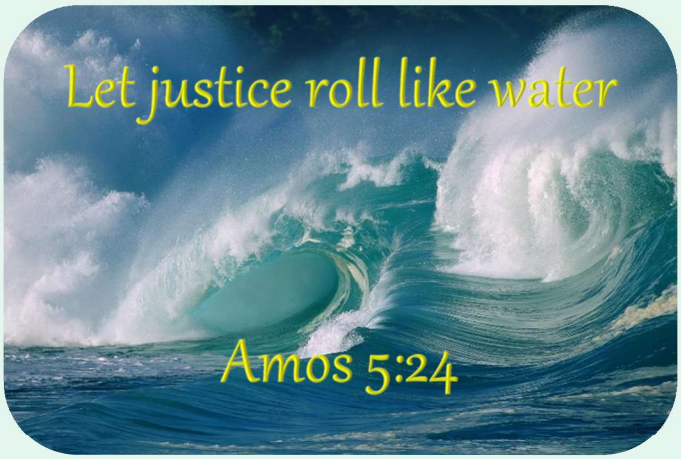
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Harvest Home Blessing

November 8, 2026 8:00 AM



LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP - ORDER OF WORSHIP



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.

Zoom Link for today's service: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83391027179 Passcode: WORSHIP8AM

In the principal service of Christian worship, the Holy Spirit gathers people around the means of grace—the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.
The basic pattern of this service—gathering, word, meal, sending—is a structure that allows for freedom and flexibility in the ways worship may be shaped locally, while focusing on what the church holds in common. The whole people of God are joined by the same gifts of grace, for the sake of the same mission of the gospel, into the life of the one triune God.

GATHERING [1]

Prelude *(a time for silent meditation)*

Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness [2]

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

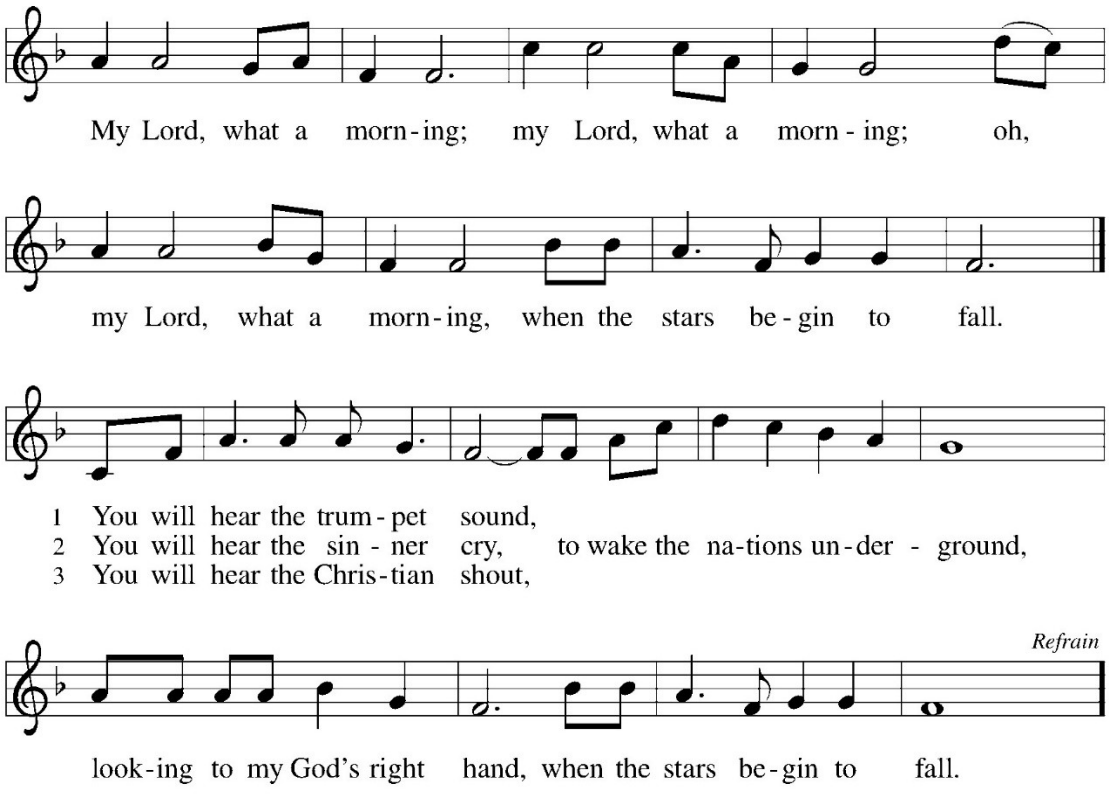
P: Most merciful God,
C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

[1] The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

[2] On the day of Christ's resurrection, and at other times, God gathers us in Christian assembly. We confess our sin and hear God's word of forgiveness. We give thanks for God's mercy in the gift of baptism.

Gathering Hymn [3]***:*** **"My Lord, What a Morning"** **WOV 627**



Text: African American spiritual
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual
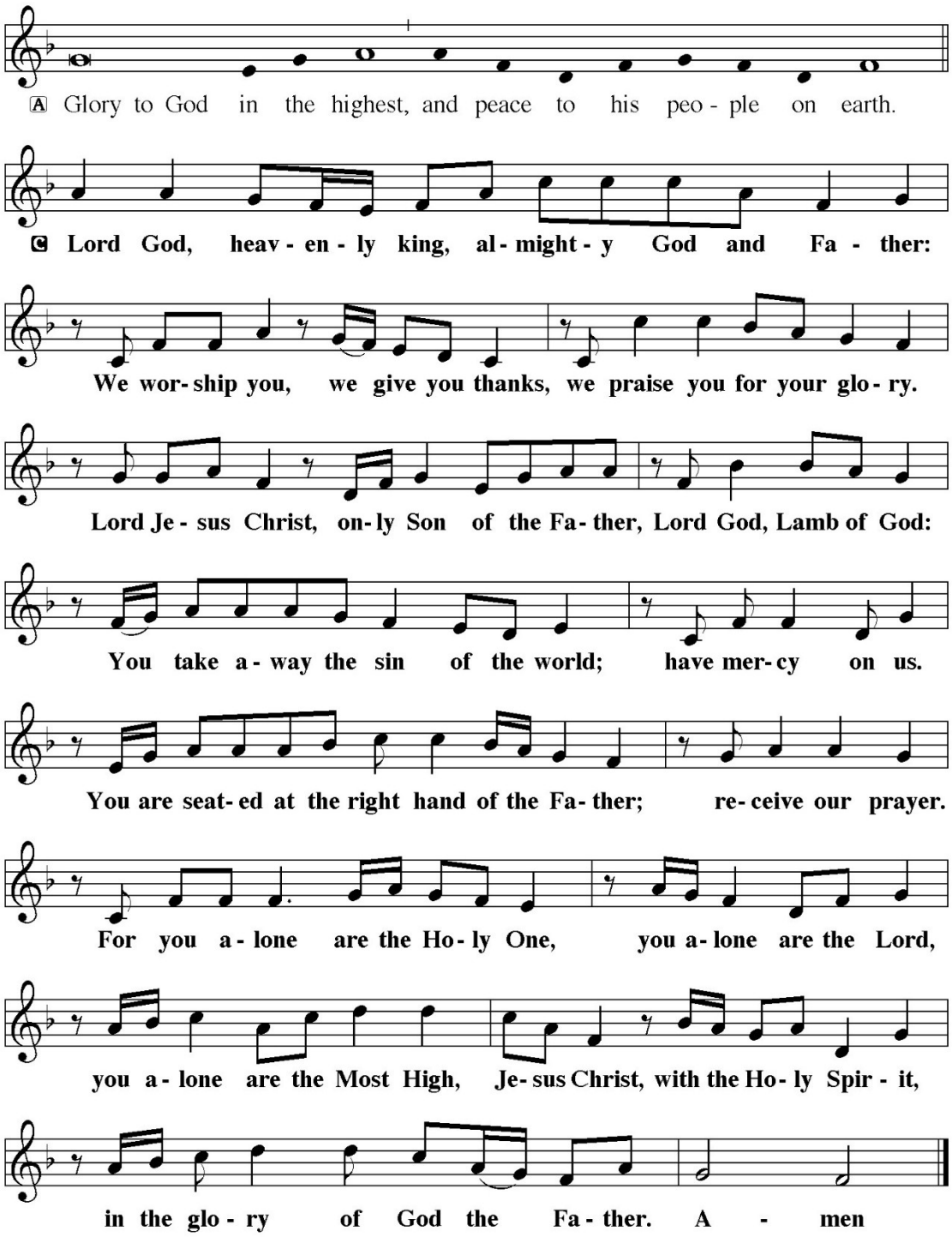
Greeting

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.

[3] Singing at the gathering may include hymns old and new; a prayer for God's mercy to fill the church and the world; a canticle of praise to God's glory revealed in Jesus Christ.

Hymn of Praise



Prayer of the Day [4]

P: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WORD [5]

***First Reading*: Amos 5:18-24**

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

***Psalm*: Psalm 70**

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.
2 **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me

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[4] During the gathering, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the name of the triune God. The presiding minister gathers the assembly into prayer.

[5] God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. The word of God is proclaimed within and by the gathered assembly. The first Bible reading, usually from the Old Testament, is followed by a psalm sung or spoken in response. The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church. We acclaim the living Word, Jesus Christ, present in the gospel reading. Preaching brings God's word of law and gospel into our time and place to awaken and nourish faith.

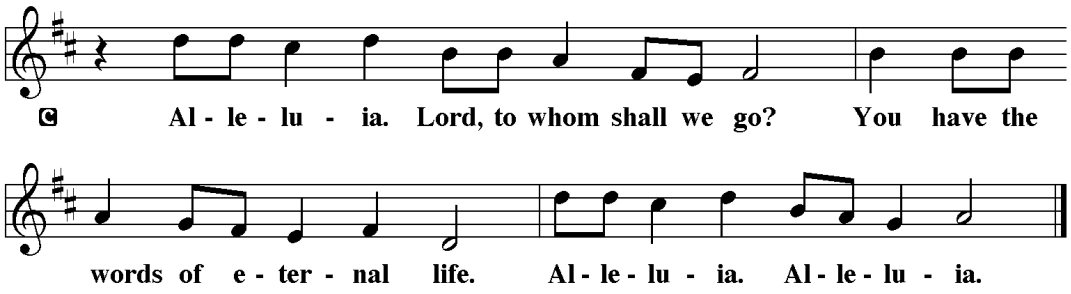
turn back because of their shame.
4 **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"
5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

***Second Reading*: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**
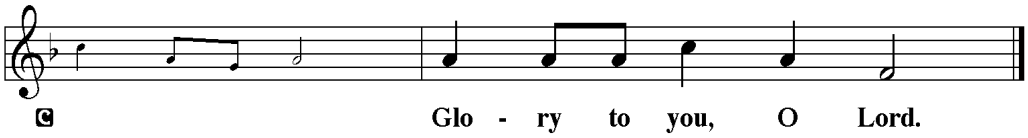
13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that
you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and
rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we
declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the
Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command,
with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the
dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds
together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore
encourage one another with these words.

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

Gospel Acclamation



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

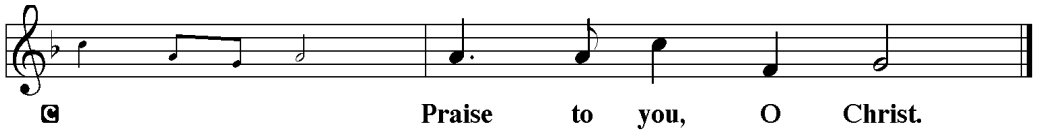


***Gospel*: Matthew 25:1-13**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took
their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When
the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their
lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight
there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young
women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for
our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you
had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy it, the

bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."
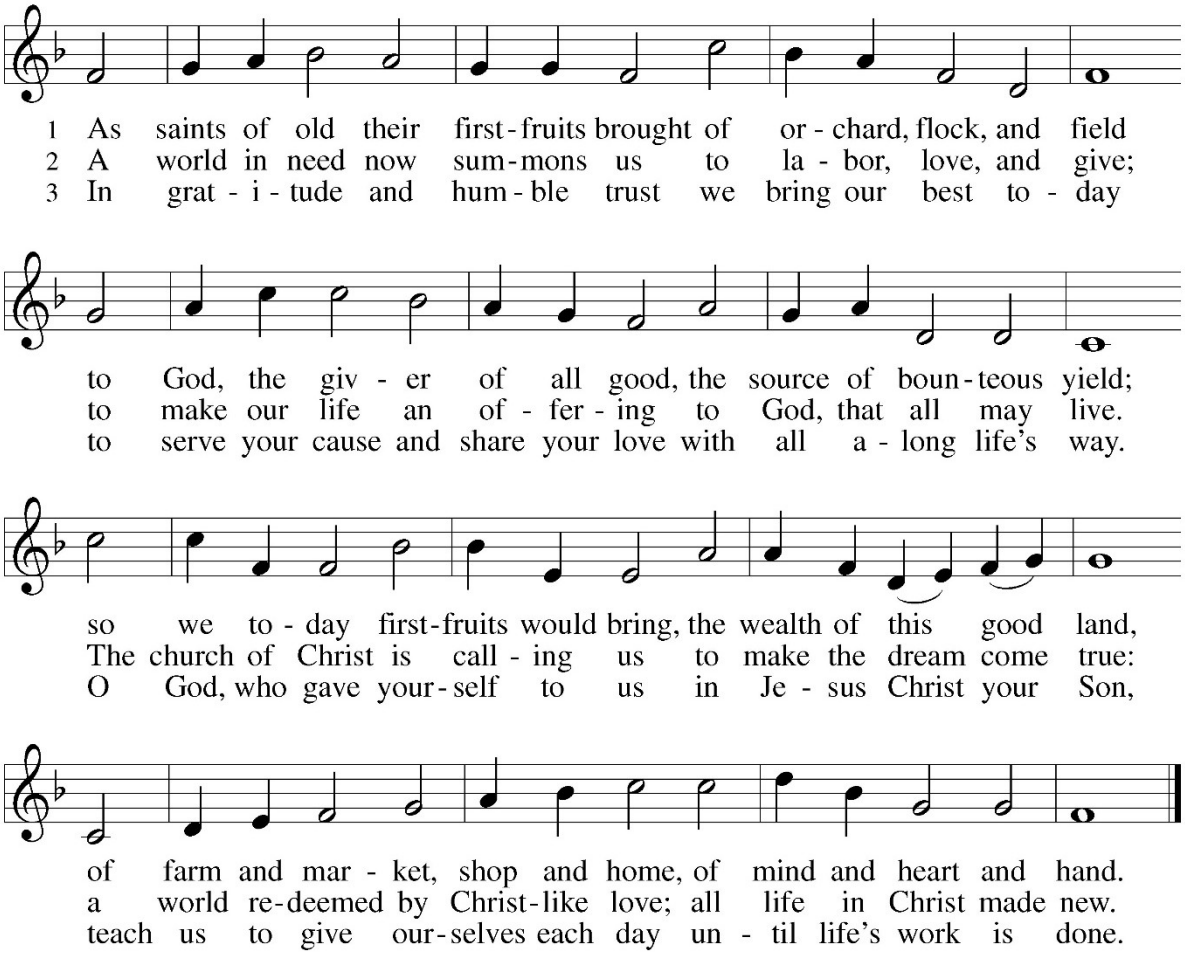
P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Guest Speaker: Mike Cerino, Director of Warminster Food Bank

Sermon

Hymn of the Day [6]**: "As Saints of Old" LBW 404**



[6] God's word is further proclaimed as we sing and as we confess our faith with the whole church. After praying for the whole world, we receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace.

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: God, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
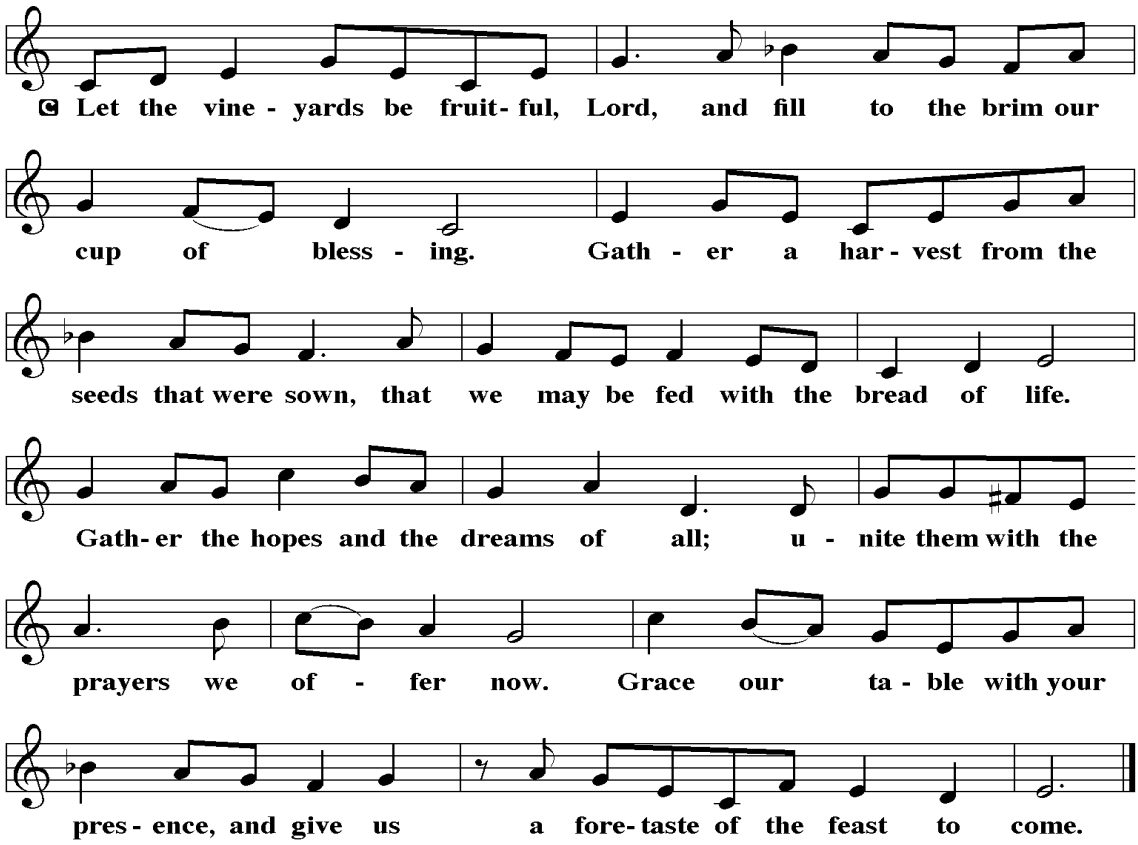
C: And also with you.

The Offering [7]

Please leave your offering by scanning the QR code or on our website:
https://giving.servantkeeper.com/adventrichboro

[7] A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. The table is set with bread and wine.

The Offertory



Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray…

C: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SACRAMENT [8]

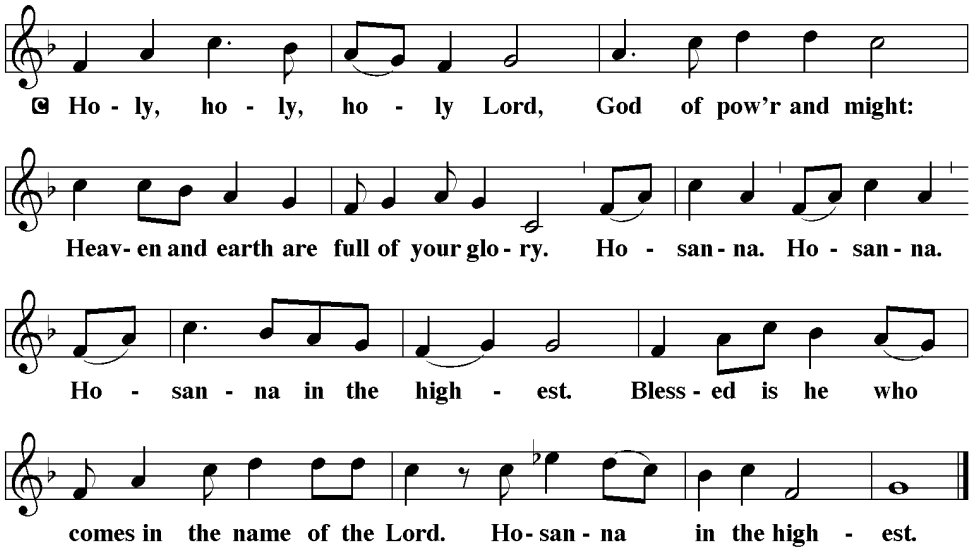
The Great Thanksgiving [9]

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: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...stays *(preface continues with words for the season and concludes...)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

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[8] God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

[9] Before the Lord's supper is shared, the presiding minister leads us into thanksgiving. With the whole creation, we join the angels' song.

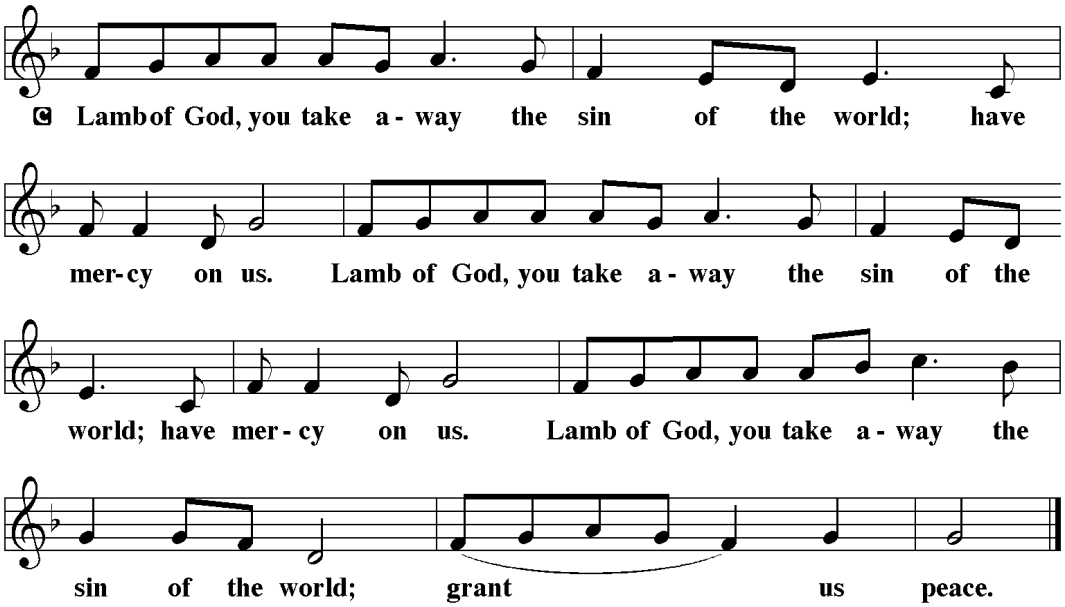
Lord's Prayer [10]

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.

Invitation to Communion [11]

P: Jesus welcomes you to this table.
Come, here is your God.



Distribution

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

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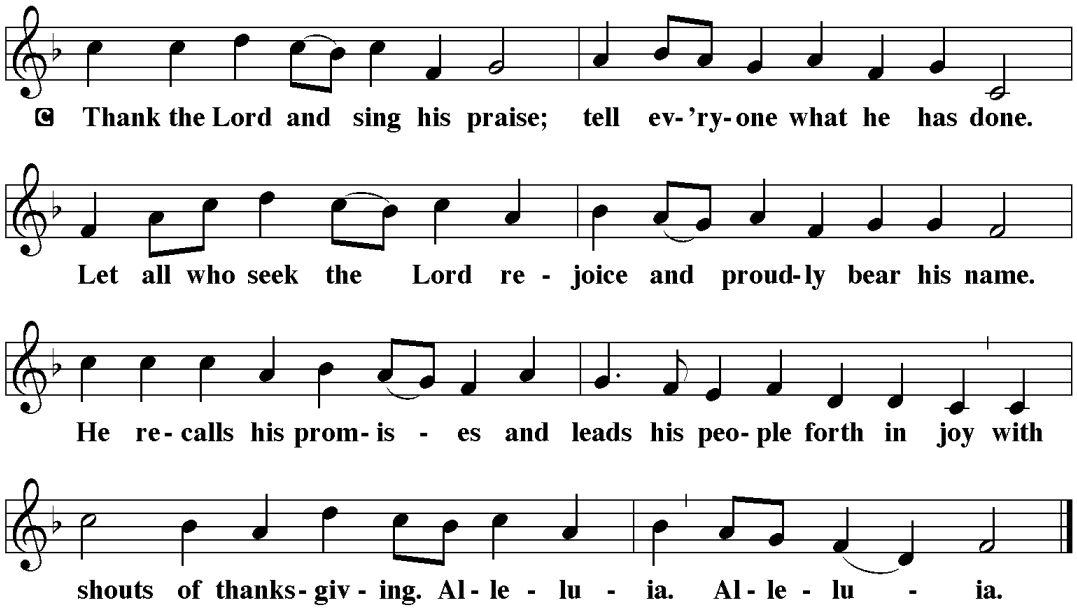
[10] The grace of God's gift is always proclaimed in Jesus' own words of command and promise at the table. A full thanksgiving also includes praise to God for creation and salvation; remembrance of the crucified and risen Christ; and prayer for the Holy Spirit in this meal. The thanksgiving concludes with the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us.

[11] In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission. It is traditional to sing as the bread is broken and as the meal is shared. We ask God to send us in witness to the world.

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle



Prayer after Communion [12]
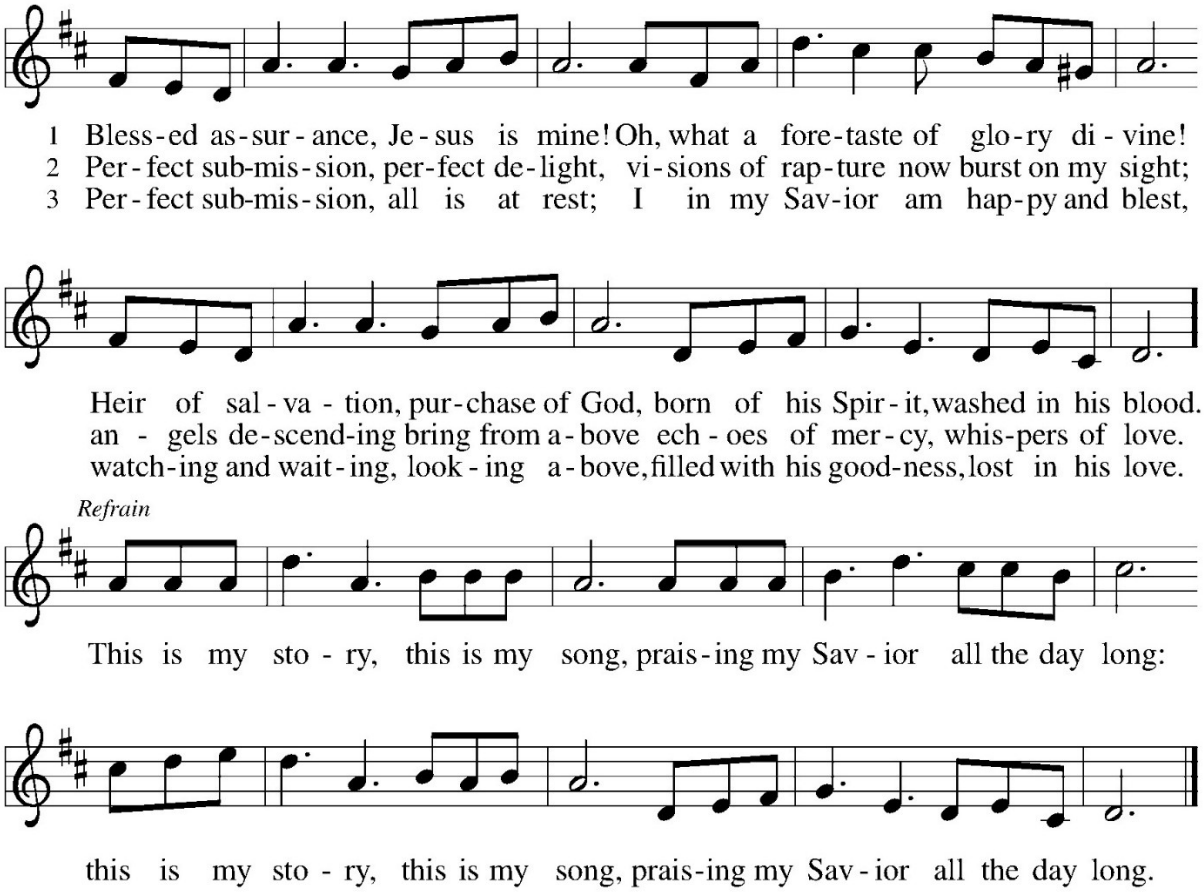
P: Let us pray… Living One,
in this feast you have made yourself known to us.
Send us now to tell of your wonders,
sing of your glory,
and proclaim your risen life
to a wounded and weary world.
C: Amen.

Benediction

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.

[12] God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world. God's mission includes the gifts of grace that we share in worship and take also to the absent; now, we are sent to continue our participation in God's mission. With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.

***Sending Hymn*: "Blessed Assurance"** **WOV 699**



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

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 pastormattollikainen@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 Jeanne and Tony Gryszka, in honor of their daughter, Diana's birthday, and by Shirley Morris, in loving memory of her son, George.

Mission Support

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

Worship Attendance for **Sunday, November 1**

Total: 43 9:00 AM: 30 + 7 (online) Sunday School: 6

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

Worship Matters! Deepening Your Faith through Understanding of Lutheran Worship
Via Zoom Thursdays in the fall at 7:00 PM, continues on November 12

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, November 12, 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 October 2026		
	Received for Oct 2026	Budget for Oct 2026
General Fund	$8,534.93	$19,805.00
Mortgage	$988	$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	$22	$133
Other Benevolence	$322	
Total	$9,866.93	$21,836.00
	Received 1/1/26-10/31/26	Budget 1/1/26-10/31/26
General	$99,950.30	$198,050.00
Mortgage	$14,288.00	$18,980.00
Bene-Synod Only	$942.00	$1,330.00
Other Benevolence	$4,577.00	
Total	$119,757.30	$218,360.00

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:

- Worship is available online and in person. Please stay home and worship online 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, 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

Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent
8:00 AM: Traditional worship service with Holy Communion
9:30 AM: Contemporary worship service with Holy Communion and Sunday School

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

COAT DRIVE AT ADVENT FOR POINT PREVENTION



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 15**.

GIFT CARD COLLECTION FOR HOLIDAYS IN NOVEMBER



We once again are collecting gift cards in denominations of $25 or less for our neighbors who depend on the Warminster Food Bank for food each month. The collection envelopes are available by the collection plate in the sanctuary. The gift cards collected in November will be given to our neighbors, beginning in December. Please consider helping our neighbors in need as we have done in the last few years. Your donations are greatly appreciated!



TABLE TENNIS FOR ADULTS – resumes 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.



ADVENT WOMEN'S CIRCLE MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday, November 10, 12:00 PM

Advent Women's Circle will hold their next lunch meeting at Advent on **Tuesday, November 10, at noon**. Please bring your own lunch.



MEN'S BREAKFAST – Saturday, November 14

The next Men's Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, November 14.**
Breakfast will be served around 8:30 AM. Coffee will be ready about 7:30 AM.



CARING FOR FRIENDS MEAL PREP – Sunday, November 15

On **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!



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
Sunday, December 6, immediately following the 9:30 AM service

Advent's annual Christmas Brunch will be held on **Sunday, December 6**, in the Fellowship Hall. The event includes live festive holiday music performed by Advent musicians and it lasts about an hour. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex for additional information and indicate what breakfast, lunch, or dessert dish you can share. All Advent members and friends, as well as their extended families, are welcome to attend!



POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
Sign up deadline is Sunday, December 13

A sign-up sheet for dedicating poinsettias for the Christmas Eve worship service will be on the round table in the narthex. Please sign up by **Sunday, December 13**. You may also call or email the church office with your dedication. Poinsettias may be picked up any time after the 7:30 PM service on Christmas Eve. Cost per plant is $15. Please contact Cindy Frey with any questions.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, November 8
24th Sunday after Pentecost
Harvest Home Blessing
Guest Speaker: Mike Cerino,
Executive Director, Warminster Food Bank

8:00 AM Traditional Worship Service - with Holy Communion
9:30 AM Contemporary Worship Service - with Holy Communion
Sunday School
10:30 AM Fellowship: Open
10:30 AM Adult Bible Study in the parlor

MONDAY, November 9

7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, November 10

12:00 PM Advent Women's Circle lunch meeting, *bring your own lunch*
2:00 PM Table Tennis for Adults, *ends at 4:00 PM*
6:30 PM Table Tennis for Adults, *ends at 8:30 PM*

WEDNESDAY, November 11

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

THURSDAY, November 12

7:00 PM Worship Matters Zoom Class with Pastor Matt

FRIDAY, November 13

7:30 PM A.A. Step Meeting

SATURDAY, November 14

8:30 AM Men's Breakfast, *coffee ready about 7:30 AM*

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
Sunday School
10:30 AM Fellowship: Open
10:30 AM Caring for Friends meal prep, *meet in the multipurpose room*
10:30 AM Adult Bible Study in the parlor