

THE ADVENTURE - 2020



ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

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



Rev. Josephine Wright, Interim Pastor
2nd Street Pike & Worthington Mill Rd.
P. O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954
215-355-2529

web: www.adventrichboro.org
e-mail: office@adventrichboro.org



In-person worship and church activities at Advent continue to be canceled until restrictions are lifted.
We invite you to listen to services on our website and follow these lessons with your Bible.

Sunday, May 3

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Introduction

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 2:42-47 - *The believers’ common life*

Psalm 23 - The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. (*Ps. 23:1*)

1 Peter 2:19-25 - *Follow the shepherd, even in suffering*

John 10:1-10 - *Christ the shepherd*

Sunday, May 10

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Introduction

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today’s gospel includes Jesus’ promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father’s house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus’ mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy

people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 7:55-60 - *The martyrdom of Stephen*

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 - Into your hands, O LORD, I commend my spirit. (*Ps. 31:5*)

1 Peter 2:2-10 - *God’s people chosen to proclaim God’s mighty acts*

John 14:1-14 - *Christ the way, truth, and life*

Sunday, May 17

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Introduction

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord’s table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 17:22-31 - *Paul’s message to the Athenians*

Psalm 66:8-20 - Bless our God, you

peoples; let the sound of praise be heard. (Ps. 66:8)

1 Peter 3:13-22 - *The days of Noah, a sign of baptism*

John 14:15-21 - *Christ our advocate*

Thursday, May 21 **Ascension of Our Lord**

Introduction

In today's readings the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (Acts 1:11); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

Readings and Psalms

Acts 1:1-11 - *Jesus sends the apostles*

Psalm 47 - God has gone up with a shout. (Ps. 47:5)

Psalm 93 (alternate) - Ever since the world began, your throne has been established. (Ps. 93:2)

Ephesians 1:15-23 - *Eyes to see the risen and ascended Christ*

Luke 24:44-53 - *Christ present in all times and places*

Sunday, May 24 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Introduction

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 1:6-14 - *Jesus' companions at prayer after his departure*

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 - Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 - *God will sustain and restore those who suffer*

John 17:1-11 - *Christ's prayer for his disciples*

Sunday, May 31 **Day of Pentecost**

Introduction

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

Readings and Psalm

Acts 2:1-21 - *Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds*

Numbers 11:24-30 (alternate) - *The Spirit comes upon the elders of Israel*

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b - Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 104:30)

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 - *Varieties of gifts from the same Spirit*

Acts 2:1-21 (alternate) - *Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds*

John 20:19-23 - *The Spirit poured out*

John 7:37-39 (alternate) - *The Spirit will provide living water*

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Jesus Will Return

Follow in your Bible to the book of **Acts**, Chapter 1, Verses 1-11.

Luke is the author, speaking to a fellow Christian:

In the 40 days between the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, He made clear to His disciples that He was truly alive and He taught them about the Kingdom of God. He instructed them to further the Kingdom through the Church. Jesus told His disciples to tell others about Him in Jerusalem and beyond, to the ends of the earth. He also taught His followers to wait until they realized the power of the Holy Spirit within them. Only then would they be capable of ministering to others.

Along with the promise of the Holy Spirit, Jesus also promised to return. This is known as the Second Coming. The early Christian church continued to declare its hope in Jesus' return. The leaders encouraged believers to wait expectantly and be prepared.

Jesus said:

I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

Enjoy these activity pages:

https://www.ctainc.com/product/jesus-lives-for-me-maze-activity-jlv19ad_puz

<https://www.ctainc.com/product/jesus-is-downloadable-coloring-page-jes7ad-pos-7-11>



We are grateful to Pastor Jo and Advent's worship team for producing a meaningful worship service online each week for all who have access to our website: adventrichboro.org.

We hope you have been able to tune-in! How fortunate we are to have talented and giving leaders who guide us in worship, song and prayer each Sunday.

We invite friends and interested listeners to join-in! We may miss the building and each other, but we feel the familiarity of worship from the message and music that help us feel closer to God and to our church routine. The audio services will remain online for several months.

Many thanks to Pastor Jo, Mike Dettra, Geoff Duffy, Karen and Bob Matlack and Nancy Slight.

For those of us at home, consider ways to keep in touch with friends from church, whether with a phone call, a written note or a new-fashioned text or e-mail. Every effort will be appreciated by the recipient! It's nice to do something with purpose and discover it was a great idea to reach out!

The Pastor Donders May 2020

May! What a beautiful month. Spring is in full bloom and the darkness of winter is behind us. The daylight hours are longer and the warmth of the sun reminds us of the promise of coming warmer weather. With the weather come the opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, for gardening, for sports, and picnics with family and friends. And here we are stuck in our houses and away from friends. Those who still have children at home at least have each other. Those who are alone have no one. We all communicate in whatever way we can; phone, email, texting, zoom and face book, but let's face it nothing takes the place of being with relatives and friends, sharing a meal, a hug, a conversation. We all hope that this will all be over soon and just a bad memory.

I think what concerned me most through all this was the lack of faith that I perceived. Such fear which of course was only magnified by the news media. Where was God in all this; our trust that He would be there no matter what? Fortunately, the apostles and leaders of the early Christian church went ahead, with courage. I cannot help but think that we will be called to answer that our churches were not open at least for prayer. Many churches were, even in our area. I know St Vincent had a chapel open certain times of day for people to pray. And they also let the AA members meet as long as they distanced themselves. We are all adults and know how to take precautions. Most of us have been washing hands regularly long before this, and sneezing and coughing into our arms. We know how to distance and that that is important. I have seen people at the grocery stores, drugstore, dollar stores, hardware stores, Home Depot and Lowes, but not at church! Even with our Easter sunrise outside with more than 6' apart only two people had the courage to attend.

Through all this our Lord has provided. I thank God that He has been with me as I have ministered to people in their homes, gave communion to the sick and gave me the strength to keep going and spared me from illness. I have to believe that as the apostles ministered and were protected as they were doing the Lord's work that we too are under that same umbrella. So as the days continue, whatever the government decides, know that our Lord is still in charge and will protect and care for you.

In Isaiah we read, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." And did not our Lord say, "Lo, I am with you even unto the end of the age."

And I leave you with one of my favorite epistles, Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Your servant in Christ our Lord,
Pastor Jo

Pastor Call Committee Update May 2020 The Adventure Newsletter

The call process remains in abeyance as previously reported in the April 2020 *The Adventure Newsletter* due to the corona virus pandemic and the closure of Advent in compliance with the most recent directive of Bishop Patricia Davenport (SE PA Synod) that churches cease holding in-person worship and in-person meetings. This directive is in response to Pennsylvania Governor Wolf's orders.

As Chair of the Call Committee, I have been in ongoing communication with our Dean, Pastor Norbert Hahn, concerning the current situation. It is anticipated that once the aforementioned orders are lifted the call process will proceed.

In the meantime, Dean Hahn has indicated that the Council of Deans is beginning the process of reviewing candidates for our call.

If you have any questions concerning the call process, please do not hesitate to contact Mike Sitler (215 498 7698).

It is asked that all members hold Church Council, the Call Committee, and the congregation in prayer throughout the call process.

Report Submitted by Call Committee Chair, Mike Sitler

Report from the Finance Committee - Tony Gryszka

Thank you for your continued generosity! We are grateful for those who have been able to mail in your offerings to support our fixed expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes those who subscribe to the "Simply Giving" electronic monthly offerings. Thank you! You may also make a one-time online donation through our website, www.adventrichboro.org, via the "Give Now" link. Offerings are kept confidential and are only accessed by our regular team of money counters. Offerings may be sent to Advent Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18940-0840.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Advent recently had an independent audit of our financial books and records completed for calendar year ended December 31, 2019. The audit was completed by the firm of Hutchinson, Gillahan, & Freeh, P.C., based in Quakertown, PA. We are happy to announce that we received a favorable qualified opinion in that "the financial statements present fairly in all material respects, the assets, liabilities and net assets, as of December 31, 2019, and its support, revenue and expenses for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting." The external audit was required by the synod as part of the pastoral transition process and is now included in Advent's Ministry Site Profile, accessible by the synod and pastoral candidates.

Report from Social Ministry - Nancy Sclight

Food donations collected in March were delivered to the Jesus Focus Ministry in Southampton, as our usual donation site was closed temporarily. The Warminster Food Cupboard has now reopened and is able to service 12 clients 3 days a week by appointment only. Donating food is important more than ever!! Please use our drive through storage bench which will be checked daily and delivered every Monday. We can make a difference! Thanks for all that you do to support the Cupboard during these stressful times.

Report from Congregational Life - Rhona Slawter

Since we've been unable to gather together, the Congregational Life Committee has been busy with projects inside the church.

Our first was tackling the Youth Room. Furniture was re-arranged and clutter stored away. New pictures were hung on the wall to make an inviting space for our youth.

We have also spruced up the nursery as well. We began by de-cluttering and getting rid of the old and broken toys. We then gave the room a thorough cleaning and disinfecting, wiping down all surfaces and toys. The room is ready for the little ones when we are able to gather together again.

EASTER EXPRESSIONS

Advent displayed Easter greetings to the neighborhood on Sunday, April 12 with a display of colorful lawn signs declaring Jesus' resurrection and a Happy Easter to All message on our electronic sign. We hope God's message of salvation was a meaningful part of your Easter Sunday.



TO CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE

If you need immediate assistance, you may reach Pastor Jo at 215-364-2298 (home) or at 215-499-5856 (cell). You may also leave a message at the church office at 215-355-2529, with Church Council President, George Henry, at 215-970-8523, or with Finance Committee Chairperson, Tony Gryzka, at 267-408- 3255.

FOR MAY UPDATES



Advent will continue to keep everyone informed of church info while we're staying at home. Check your emails and refer to the church website www.adventrichboro.org periodically. We thank Paul Henke for offering ideas for our website and for updating it often.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Board of Directors for the Men's Breakfast Assoc., met (not sure who they were as they wore masks) and thought it would be wise to cancel Men's breakfast for Saturday May 9th. You will be notified by text, email or carrier pigeon should there be a change in this decision.

Men's Group Coordinator,
Dave Shearer.

PRIMARY VOTE - JUNE 2

The General Primary has been postponed to June 2, 2020.



Be advised that PA voters may now vote either online or by mail-in ballot with NO REASON NEEDED for voting by mail or absentee.

The deadline to request a Mail-In Ballot is **May 26**, so order one soon, if you'd like one! <http://www.buckscounty.org/government/CommunityServices/BoardofElections/>.

Please vote for the candidates of your choice.

PRAYER CHAIN AT ADVENT

"You'll Get Through This"

Read over Isaiah 43:2 and put some emphasis on the word "through":



When you pass *through* the waters, I will be with you; and *through* the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk *through* fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.

These are unprecedented times so we don't know what tomorrow will bring. But our God does and we can't see what His plan is going to be.

We must trust in God, just as Joseph did in exile in Egypt, that He will get us *through* and that God will conquer evil. It may not be quick, but know that God will use this mess for good.

If you have any prayer requests, please email them to me so they can be placed on the Prayer Chain. Prayer is our answer to finding help in times of need.

Karen Matlack kmatl22349@verizon.net

PRAYER REQUEST FOR V.I.P.s

In addition to everyone on our Prayer Chain, please continue to pray for doctors, hospital staff, nurses, firefighters, EMT personnel, first responders, pharmacists, police, grocery store employees, restaurant workers, delivery drivers, volunteers truck drivers who continue to risk their own health during these days. May God keep them safe and healthy.

This is My



Father's World

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Our Vacation Bible School is planned for August 10 - 14 from 9 a.m. until noon. If our shelter-in-place is lifted, we will invite children age 4 through completion of grade 6 for a fun week of Bible lessons, music, outdoor play, games and crafts with friends. Registration forms are available on our website. We hope we'll see you at VBS!

GREETINGS FROM THE SANTIAGO FAMILY

Advent members Tanja Santiago and her children Téa and Max have relocated to Colorado and sent Easter greetings to all. Tanja said they were reminiscing about Easter at Advent last year, and that they miss everyone.

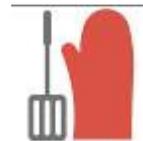


STITCH CLUB ITEMS AVAILABLE

If you would need anything throughout the year from the Stitch Club for babies or the elderly i.e. blankets, etc., please contact Hanna McCollum at 215-962-9032 or Jeff Jobses at 215-355-4149. Imagine the possibilities during shelter-in-place!

CARING FOR FRIENDS MEALS

Caring for Friends will continue sharing food while senior households in our community need it more than ever. The organization has adopted contact-free delivery, social distancing and enhanced food-safety precautions.



Nancy Slight, Rhona Slawter and Jeanne Gryska prepared 79 meals during April coordinated by Hanna McCollum. Check the website for ways you can contribute, if you would like to:

<https://caringforfriends.org/donate/>

THANK YOU

A special thank you to those who have been able to check on the church building and maintain the church grounds at this time. Your volunteer work is much appreciated!





GRADUATES OF 2020

We will recognize graduates in the June Newsletter and if possible, the June 21st service. Please e-mail the church office with the following information:

Name, High School/College name, College Degree & Major, Plans for future.

We salute our graduates for your many accomplishments and hope you will have an opportunity to celebrate in the near future.



THE ARMED FORCES

Please keep in your prayers all our service men and women and especially those related to our congregation:

US Air Force Lt. Col. Andrew Frey is the Senior Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs, stationed at the Pentagon.

US Air Force Major Fred Gouse is a pilot and instructor stationed at Holloman AFB, New Mexico.

US Army Colonel (Ret.) Jeff Williams is serving in Dubai, UAE as a military advisor.

If there are any errors or omissions, please notify the church office.
Thank you.



NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please keep Pastor Lyzette Rios Sanchez and our mission congregation Nueva Creación Lutheran Church in your prayers. Your mission support gifts help them to minister in an impoverished area of Philadelphia.



ADVENT'S BIRTHDAY CORNER
MAY BIRTHDAYS



2 Renate DeJames
4 Benedict Sanderlin
5 Amanda Earle
6 Joan Lenox
8 Alyssa (Matlack) Fell
10 Linda Weaver

11 Daniel McGee
 Jessica Sorcek
13 Fred Morley
14 Fran Kelly Zanis
15 George Spahn
16 Craig Wills
17 Tony Gryzka

20 Michele (Oines) Sanderlin
21 Ron Brown
27 William Dettra
28 Helen Shearer
30 Taylor Hollis

Please contact the church office if you or someone you know has been omitted from the list. Thank you.