

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



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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.

Pentecost IX Sunday, August 2, 2020

Introduction

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Prayer of the Day

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 55:1-5 - *Eat and drink that which truly satisfies*

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 - You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (*Ps. 145:16*)

Romans 9:1-5 - *The glory of God's people Israel*

Matthew 14:13-21 - *Christ feeding five thousand*

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

Genesis 32:22-31 - *Jacob receives a blessing from God*

Psalm 17:1-7, 15 - I shall see your face; when I awake, I shall be satisfied. (*Ps. 17:15*)

Pentecost X Sunday, August 9, 2020

Introduction

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

Prayer of the Day

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

1 Kings 19:9-18 - *The LORD speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb*

Psalm 85:8-13 - I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

Romans 10:5-15 - *Hearing and confessing the word of faith*

Matthew 14:22-33 - *Jesus walking on the sea*

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 - *Joseph sold by his brothers*

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b - Make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples. Hallelujah! (Ps. 105:1, 45)

Pentecost XI

Sunday, August 16, 2020

Introduction

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

Prayer of the Day

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 - *A house of prayer for all peoples*

Psalm 67 - Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 - *God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile*

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28 - *The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter*

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

Genesis 45:1-15 - *Joseph reconciles with his brothers*

Psalm 133 - How good and pleasant it is to live together in unity. (Ps. 133:1)

Pentecost XII,

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Introduction

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 51:1-6 - *The enduring foundation of God's salvation*

Psalm 138 - O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

Romans 12:1-8 - *One body in Christ, with gifts that differ*

Matthew 16:13-20 - *The profession of Peter's faith*

Alternate First Reading and Psalm
Exodus 1:8--2:10 - *Pharaoh's daughter takes Moses as her son*
Psalm 124 - We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler. (*Ps. 124:7*)

Pentecost III
Sunday, August 30, 2020

Introduction

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Readings and Psalm
Jeremiah 15:15-21 - *God fortifies the prophet against opposition*
Psalm 26:1-8 - Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (*Ps. 26:3*)
Romans 12:9-21 - *Live in harmony*
Matthew 16:21-28 - *The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter*

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

Exodus 3:1-15 - *From the blazing bush God calls Moses*
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b - Make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples. Hallelujah! (*Ps. 105:1, 45*)



ADVENT ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

Advent's worship leaders are bringing the worship experience to us each Sunday:

Thank you to . . .

Pastor Jo, Karen & Bob Matlack, Nancy Sclight, Mike Dettra, Lynn Roccograndi,
Joel Denis, Geoff Duffy and Paul Henke

We are pleased to participate in the music, the readings and sermon, prayers and Communion. Look for services on adventrichboro.org on the Media page. These services may be accessed any time that suits your schedule . . . You can invite friends and family to access them, too!

Bible Study of Kids Jesus is my Shepherd



God Knows Me !

¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—
¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.” John 10:14-16

Just as the sheep recognize their own shepherd by his voice, we recognize Jesus, who tells us to follow Him in our lives. He is our shepherd and we recognize him as God’s only son, who came to live among us and died on the cross for us, to show His love for us by forgiving our sins.

Jesus describes Himself as the good shepherd who will lay down His life for the sheep. We know that He is the only shepherd we need, as He will one day lead us to heaven.

We learn about Jesus in the Bible, where we discover so many lessons He taught about God’s love for us and His plan for our lives. God knows we are challenged by everyday issues, plus some bigger problems that we cannot control. The Word of God in the Bible reminds us to put our trust in Him as we do our best each day.

How can we recognize that Jesus is talking to us? Will He direct us when we need His guidance? Yes! We need to become familiar with His words by reading our Bible and learning the lessons we find there, and we will remember them. In the Scriptures, Jesus teaches us the importance of being kind to others, obeying our parents, telling the truth and the many ways we can follow Him along our way.

**Make your own sheep (even a flock!) - See page 8.
A special picture to color on page 9.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

During the COVID-19 pandemic it has been a blessing to see how we've supported each other, given generously, heard the Word through our online services, prayed for and encouraged others through Advent's Prayer Chain and prayer groups, and maintained the church property. Our Call Committee has also made tremendous strides in the full-time pastoral selection process and we've continued to support the food pantry. Your involvement in these activities has been most appreciated! The decision as to when to resume church services and building activities has a bearing on not only our members and friends, but also on lives in the community.

Our Bishop, Patricia A. Davenport, has stated "our highest priority is to do no harm" in the process of reopening churches. The local synod itself has taken a deliberate approach to resuming work with their staff by continuing to work remotely and the bishop is encouraged by congregations' commitment to online worship.

Advent will continue to be in conformance with local synod directives and provide weekly online services through our website www.adventrichboro.org until further notice. We hope you've enjoyed these services that have been coordinated by Interim Pastor Jo, the Praise Team, Music Director Mike Dettra, and the Audio Team. Thank You!

Please continue to pray for our church and stay safe.

In Christ,
George Henry, Advent Church Council President
On behalf of Church Council members

PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee is pleased to report that we are actively engaged in a two-phase interview process with three candidates being considered for the next pastor of Advent Lutheran Church, Richboro. Phase-1 interviews have been completed, which were conducted via video conferencing. We are presently scheduling phase-2 interviews of the three candidates.

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



PRAYER CIRCLE AT ADVENT

As we begin the month of August and we are still unsure of the condition of the world, much less our little community, we must turn to God for more than just a quick prayer.

Keep this in mind: Long before you woke up this morning and long after you to sleep tonight, the Spirit of God was circling you with songs of deliverance. He has been circling you since the day you were conceived, and He'll circle you until the day you die. The Holy Spirit is praying hard for you with groans that can't even be translated into human language!

If you have special prayer needs, please email either the church office or me and let us know. Then we send the requests out to our Prayer Circle to begin praying for your needs.

Remember to pray for Advent, besides your family, as we are all part of God's family. And ask God to grant us all health and safety during this time.

May God Bless you.
Karen Matlack
kmatl22349@verizon.net

REPORT FROM SOCIAL MINISTRY - NANCY SCLIGHT

During the month of July donations to the Warminster Food Cupboard totaled 100 pounds so far. Just a reminder that non perishable food items can be dropped off anytime at the main entrance of our church in the storage bench. Excess garden produce can be delivered for Monday only! Monetary donations can be mailed to the church with checks made out to Warminster Food Pantry. Thanks for your continued support during these uncertain times.

FINANCE CORNER

I hope everyone is healthy and staying safe. We're fortunate for the members and friends who've been able to support Advent through the COVID-19 pandemic by way of their financial offerings. Thank you!! There are several ways that you can financially support Advent, including: mailing in your offerings, giving monthly via automated bank account debiting, one-time online giving through the website, and by way of retirement account distributions. No matter which way you're able to support Advent, financially, or by volunteering your time and talent, thank you! Offerings may be mailed to Advent at P.O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954-0840. If you need additional information, contact Tony Gryska at tonygee517@gmail.com or at 267-408-3255.

Tony Gryska, Finance & Stewardship Chairperson

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 Gryska, at 267-408- 3255.



STAY IN TOUCH

We have been making the best of our time spent at home . . . By now, it would be a good idea to catch up with friends from church to compare notes! We can share our accomplishments, big and small - as we look forward to worshipping together once again!



THE ARMED FORCES

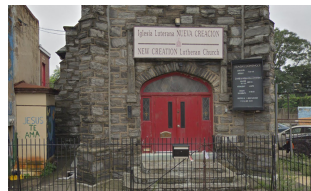
Please keep in your prayers all our service men and women and especially those related to our congregation:

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.

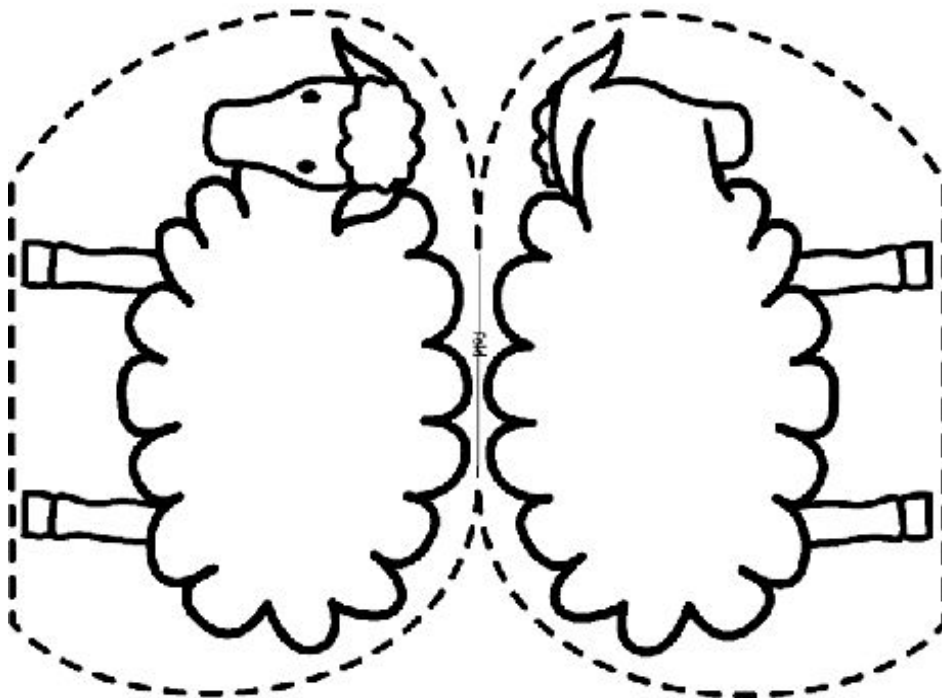


ADVENT'S BIRTHDAY CORNER AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 Nancy Hill | 11 Madeline (Pearson) Stiles | 17 Dorothy Masciotro |
| 2 Amelia Gouse | | 18 Laura Sanderlin |
| 4 Aimee Manco Casale
Jeff Jobs | 12 Savannah Rose Slawter | 21 Carter McGee |
| 5 Wesley Waninger
Megan Ward | 14 Jessica (Buttil) Baker
Dorothy Hofer
Kenneth Meyers | 24 Kylie Rayher
Tom Starke |
| 8 Paul Sorcek | 15 Nancy Starke | 27 Kristi Ward |
| 9 Christopher Starke | 16 Marie Beer
Janice Hoffmann
Kerry Sitler
Jack Walsh | 28 Téa Santiago |
| 10 Diane Kirschner | | 29 Daniel Gracey
Joanne Kelly |

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



Sheep

1. Print this page and color the sheep. Glue the page to a piece of cardboard, such as a recycled cereal box or manila folder.
2. After the glue dries, cut along the dashed lines.
3. Fold in half along the solid line, so your sheep stands up. If you want, draw a picture of a field or farm and use it as a background for your sheep.



Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."