

# 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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### ADVENT REOPENING FOR WORSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 13 at 9:00 a.m.

**(The 9:00 a.m. starting time is a compromise between Advent's usual service times of 8:00 and 9:30 a.m.)**

We are pleased to announce that Advent will be resuming in-person indoor worship services beginning on **Sunday, September 13**. There will be one service at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday until further notice. Young children are welcome to attend; however, our nursery will not be open and Sunday School will not begin until further notice. For those who are unable to attend, we will continue to offer our online audio service.

Our church council is prepared to take all necessary precautions for a safe indoor experience. We will be following all CDC and state guidelines: Social distancing will be in effect, as well as mandatory wearing of masks. Please plan to arrive by 8:50 a.m. for safe-distance seating.

More information will be sent out soon with a detailed list of procedures to be put in place. Please look for it in your mail or e-mail. Thank you for continuing to pray for and support Advent as we move forward.

### 14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 6

Online Worship Service  
[adventrichboro.org](http://adventrichboro.org)

### 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 20

9:00 am      Worship Service  
Social distancing and masks  
Guest Preacher – Pastor Jo  
on vacation

### 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 13

9:00 am      Worship Service  
Social distancing and masks  
Communion will be offered  
- no-touch distribution

### 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 27

9:00 am      Worship Service  
Social distancing and masks  
Guest Preacher – Pastor Jo  
on vacation

We invite you to follow these lessons with your Bible.

**Pentecost XIV**  
**Sunday, September 6**

**Introduction**

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

**Prayer of the Day**

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. **Amen.**

**Readings and Psalm**

- *The prophet's responsibility to warn the people*

(Alternate 1<sup>st</sup> Reading): **Exodus 12:1-14** - *The passover of the LORD*

**Psalm 119:33-40** - I desire the path of your commandments. (*Ps. 119:35*)

**Romans 13:8-14** - *Live honorably as in the day*

**Matthew 18:15-20** - *Reconciliation in the community of faith*

**Pentecost XV - September 13**

**9:00 a.m. Service**

**Introduction**

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

**Prayer of the Day**

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Readings and Psalm**

**Genesis 50:15-21** - *Joseph reconciles with his brothers*

(Alternate 1<sup>st</sup> Reading): **Exodus 14:19-31** - *Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea*

**Psalm 103:1-13** - LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy. (*Ps. 103:8*)

**Romans 14:1-12** - *Accepting diversity in the community of faith*

**Matthew 18:21-35** - *A parable of forgiveness in the community of faith*

## Pentecost XVI - September 20

**9:00 a.m. Service**

### **Introduction**

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving-kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Jonah 3:10--4:11** - *God's concern for the city of Nineveh*

(Alternate 1<sup>st</sup> Reading): **Exodus 16:2-15** - *Manna and quails feed the Israelites in the wilderness*

**Psalm 145:1-8** - The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (*Ps. 145:8*)

**Philippians 1:21-30** - *Standing firm in the gospel*

**Matthew 20:1-16** - *The parable of the vineyard workers*

## Pentecost XVII - September 27

**9:00 a.m. Service**

### **Introduction**

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

### **Prayer of the Day**

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32** - *The fairness of God's way*

(Alternate 1<sup>st</sup> Reading) **Exodus 17:1-7** - *Water from the rock in the wilderness*

**Psalm 25:1-9** - Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love. (*Ps. 25:6*)

**Philippians 2:1-13** - *Christ humbled to the point of death on a cross*

**Matthew 21:23-32** - *A parable of doing God's will*



## **BIBLE STUDY FOR KIDS** **The Greatest Commandment**

In **The Old Testament**, in the book of Exodus, God declares His laws to Moses and the people of Israel. Included in these laws are **The Ten Commandments**, in which God tells the people: “You shall have no other Gods before me”, which is The First Commandment. We understand that there is just one God and we worship only Him. These laws continue to guide our Christian faith. God’s commandments are meant for all of God’s children, young and old!

In **The New Testament**, Mark 12:29-30 reflects this commandment, when a teacher of the law asks Jesus which of the commandments is the most important. Jesus answers, “The most important one” is this:



***Love the Lord your God***

*with all your heart  
and with all your soul  
and with all your mind  
and with all your strength.*

Every commandment is important. This one is the most important. God says: Do not worship anyone or anything else before Him. We need to put God first and to make God #1 in our lives.

When God says, “You shall have no other gods before me”, it means we sometimes lend too much importance to famous people and things that take our attention away from God, our Father, and His love for us. We must keep our focus on our creator, our one God.

Read **Exodus 20** to learn God’s Ten Commandments!

Enjoy this craft - (found on page 9 ) You can cut out two printed circles and add a paper fastener to create a dial, which reveals The Ten Commandments by number:

[https://biblecraftsbyjenny.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/1/2/101295324/10\\_commandments\\_wheel\\_pdf.pdf](https://biblecraftsbyjenny.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/1/2/101295324/10_commandments_wheel_pdf.pdf)



## The Pastor Ponders September 2020

If there is one word that could correctly describe this past summer, it is HOT! I know there have been other hot summers but you must admit this was one of the hottest. We were blessed in our area that we did not have the terrible droughts and heat that others have had. Nonetheless it was difficult here as well, as flowers and vegetables suffered while we humans took rescue in air conditioning, if we were able.

Plus it has been difficult here for many, many reasons. In our isolation we have missed important milestones in our family's lives. Graduation from high school and college have happened but in such a restricted way. Our brothers and sisters in nursing homes and retirement villages have not been allowed to see friends and relatives and some have lost loved ones during this time as well.

Everything has changed it seems, even those stores that are open for business have restrictions and perhaps the most difficult thing to endure is not being able to worship together in our churches. The book of Hebrews reminds us of the life of faith in the 10th chapter verse 22ff. ***Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.***

This September promises to be like no other September we have experienced with all its rules and regulations, but let us keep in our hearts the fact that whatever we face, "God is in Control" and in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose.

May God keep you strong in your faith and bless you in the name of the † Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Jo

## **PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Call Committee is pleased to report that we have interviewed three candidates for our call process and will be conducting a Ministry Site Visit for two of them. This visit consists of the Call Committee members observing (in person) each candidate leading a worship service, to include preaching a sermon. The third candidate has been released from our call process, resulting in no Ministry Site Visit be conducted for the candidate.

The Ministry Site Visits for the two candidates are currently being coordinated by our Dean, Pastor Norbert Hahn, who is determining where and when they will take place. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated health and safety concerns, the Ministry Site Visits will occur as soon as possible, but not until it is appropriate to engage in corporate in-person church services. It is anticipated that they will take place in early to mid October.

We are making good progress with our call process, which once the Call Committee completes its work will make a recommendation of one candidate to Church Council for their consideration.

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

## **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

Prayer: It is a difficult thing for many people to do. It is easy to say, "I'll pray for you" - but following up isn't so easy. The next time someone gives you news that you know needs prayer, stop and ask God to help YOU. You can not do it without God's help and He is just waiting for you to ask. See? Wasn't that easy?

As we begin September, please pray for Advent, the family of Advent, our children, and our nation. We are looking for a new pastor, and will have the opportunity to see the candidates preach in person. That is very exciting, since we haven't been in church for a while! Pray that God will raise up the right person for the job; He knows who is the right one, we just have to follow His lead.

Pray for the children: they are most likely not returning to school as expected, and will be doing distance learning again. Perhaps college students are back, but they need prayer just as much as the younger ones do. If you are a parent who is trying to do work from home and keep your children engaged in school work, take a break and share a Bible story with them. Children love to hear Bible stories, and this is your chance to let them know that God is important in our lives. If you need some help, you can email me: [kmatl22349@verizon.net](mailto:kmatl22349@verizon.net)

And, lastly, but perhaps most important of all, pray for our nation as we get closer to the election. Read up on the issues that each candidate stands for; this is not a personality contest, this is for the future of our country. Be aware of those issues and be ready to explain your reasoning. And of course - PRAY hard!

Keep safe, keep praying! See you when we reopen the doors. Meanwhile, be sure to see the website for weekly audio services, and check out the Facebook page: Advent Lutheran Church, Richboro, PA for daily inspiration. God bless you all.

Karen Matlack  
[kmatl22349@verizon.net](mailto:kmatl22349@verizon.net)

## **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.



## **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.

 **CENTRO NUEVA CREACIÓN**  
HOME OF THE **GOODLANDS**®



## **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**  
**SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



2	Jake Eagles	16	Sandra Davis Frey	26	Christopher Frey
3	Cindy Frey		Lauren Nickey		Kelly Sitler
5	Paul Shearer		(Hollingsworth)	28	Cathy Wills
11	Mark Frey		Steven Urbaniak		Ella Grace Manco
13	Courtney Kirschner	17	John Kelly	30	Peggy Spahn
	Louis Manco		Emilia McNulty		
14	Cheryl Hollingsworth	19	Jeanne Gryszka		
15	Allison Becker	20	Rick DeJames		
	Nicholas Masciotro		Luke Urbaniak		
	Emma Ward	22	Teena Hanlon		
	Timothy Ward	25	Rose Herbert		

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

