

# THE ADVENTURE - 2020

# MARCH

## 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. Matthew E. Ollikainen, Pastor  
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In compliance with our Bishop's recommendation and considering the current outbreak of additional COVID-19 cases, Advent's Church Council has decided to cancel all indoor church services scheduled at this time.

We will continue to offer online worship services and will keep you informed of any technology enhancements on Facebook and the church website. As the weather permits, we will have outdoor in-person worship. Each week we will send you an email with the upcoming worship service and instructions on how to connect online and attend outdoors. For this reason, we will not be publishing weekly service information in the Newsletter.

### MARCH AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Codes: F-Facebook, OD - Outdoor service, W-website, Z-Zoom, ZO-Zoom only

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3 - 7:00 p.m.

Week 2 Online Lenten Service

**In Community with the Saints (ZO)**

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 7 - 9:00 a.m.

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT (Z, F, W)**

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 - 7:00 p.m.

Week 3 Online Lenten Service

**In Community with Our Neighbor (ZO)**

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 14 - 9:00 a.m.

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (Z, F, W)**

(Daylight Savings begins)

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17 - 7:00 p.m.

Week 4 Online Lenten Service

**In Community with Those on the Margins (ZO)**

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 21 - 9:00 a.m.

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT (Z, F, W)**

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24 - 7:00 p.m.

Week 5 Online Lenten Service

**In Community with Christ (ZO)**

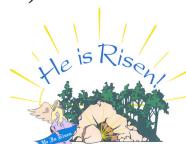


#### SUNDAY, MARCH 28 - 9:00 a.m.

**PALM SUNDAY (OD, Z, F, W)**

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY-APRIL 1 - 7:30 p.m. (ZO)

#### GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2-7:30 p.m. (ZO)



#### EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4 – 9:00 a.m. (OD, Z, F, W)



### PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY OUTDOOR WORSHIP

We invite you to join us for outdoor services at 9:00 a.m. on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Details will be sent once they are available.

## **PASTOR MATT'S MESSAGE MARCH 2021**

How will we heal? I wonder. There is so much to heal from, so much grief and trauma all around us. The pandemic has passed the 500,000 deaths mark. What a big number. After being in awe of 200,000 and 400,000, 500,000 is almost numbing to consider. Yet every single number is a life, a beloved person and network of grieving family and friends. Lives changed forever. That huge number doesn't capture the trauma of all those who have survived the virus but their health is not the same. Then there are all the ways all of our lives have been changed: the lost jobs and income, closed businesses, mask wearing and social distancing, isolation and struggling to stay connected online, the impact on the development of our children and youth and the pounds we have gained as our levels of activity have been confined. Amid all this, the daily challenges and patterns of living life have not paused for the pandemic and instead have shifted pushing us further out of our comfort zones. We almost have to be numb to the full weight of it all just to carry on. Oh how we all look forward to getting back to normal.

Again, how will we heal? There is a tendency in our culture to want to be strong and push forward. Once the pandemic has passed there will be a desire to simply leave the pandemic in the past. The effects of the pandemic won't simply disappear with the vaccine and when we reach herd immunity. It will take time before we are comfortable standing next to someone in line without 6 feet of social distancing or to have someone cough in the room mask-less without a knee jerk feeling of concern or fear. During the Great Depression, nearly a century ago, the stock market crashed and banks failed. People lost their jobs. People lost all their life savings. Survivors of the Great Depression were known to hide money around the house for decades afterward, just in case it would happen again. Years later when their children and grandchildren would inherit their homes, cash would be found hidden in the most peculiar places. All the deep pain, grief, trauma and depression from the pandemic won't just disappear by ignoring it. Such things unaddressed can linger for years or even a lifetime if unaddressed. Like cash hidden in peculiar places by the Depression generation, what symptoms from the tragedy of this pandemic will the next generations notice in us?

Fortunately, we know today more than ever how trauma affects us and how to heal from it. Instead of pushing forward and ignoring what is happening, it requires processing what is happening and being reassured that security and healing can be found. The seasons of Lent and Easter do this. Lent challenges us to look deeply into our human condition with all our sins and hurts. Easter proclaims that God loves us and resurrects us. God loves us. But it is not enough to just rejoice in this love, just as it will not be enough to simply rejoice when the pandemic is over. As we rejoice in God's love, that love needs to be proclaimed to every broken part of our hearts and our society. It is in doing this, the words of the Apostle Paul's become lived:

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:32-39 NRSV)

The world needs the love of God more than ever.

God's Peace be upon you,

Pastor Matt

## Bible Study for Kids Jesus Saves! \*

How thankful we are to have super-duper workers in our community who have special skills to help people who need help right away! We have nurses, doctors, fire-fighters, police officers and social workers nearby



– also military members both near and far. Many of these workers **SAVE LIVES** as part of their work and we often call them heroes.

Other workers transport goods, fix things and clean our surroundings to keep us safe and healthy. Often, they **SAVE LIVES** by keeping danger away. We also have teachers and pastors who lead us and guide us to keep us safe.

Could there be anything more important than SAVING LIVES ?? Hmm . . .

Here's another way to think about saving lives. It is found in the history of our Christian faith, in the Bible. It tells of God's plan for Jesus **our Savior** to live among us. He would teach others about God, perform miracles and **SAVE LIVES** as a healer. In his most amazing final days, he would rescue us all.



Jesus' miraculous life led to the sacrifice he made for us in death, and then he overcame death on Easter morning. **JESUS AROSE!** He surprised his loved ones by coming back to life! **JESUS SAVED US ALL!**

God in heaven.

He had come to take our place to save us from our sin, though he had no sin. He knew this was all part of God's plan. Through our faith in Jesus, we will continue to live with



\* Join Pastor Matt and Jeanne Gryska on Zoom on Sunday **March 21 and 28 at 6:30 p.m.** to learn more about Jesus' journey from the events of Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday!

## **VISITATIONS BY PASTOR MATT**

As your new pastor, I would like to meet and get to know you. One of the first things I have tried to do at every congregation I have served is to visit every household. This is a great way for me to get to know everyone in the congregation individually and to get to know the congregation as a whole. Because these visits are so important to my ability to serve this congregation, I would prefer not to wait until after the pandemic to start them. Anyone who would like to meet with me by zoom can do so now. Those who would prefer to wait until in person visits are possible are welcome to do so.

To schedule a zoom visit please call the church office at 215-355-2529 between 9AM and 1PM Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Speak with Fran and she will schedule a meeting time with you. If making a midday phone call is an inconvenience, which I know the work conditions for some it maybe, you may text Pastor Matt at 215-859-3778 or email [pastor@adventrichboro.org](mailto:pastor@adventrichboro.org) to schedule a meeting. The available time slots for zoom visits are: Tuesdays at 6PM, 7PM & 8PM, Wednesdays 1PM, 2PM & 3PM, and Thursdays at 6PM, 7PM & 8PM. If none of these time slots are possible for you, please text me to schedule another time during the week. I will not be doing household visits during Holy Week.

## **PASTOR MICHAEL OLLIKAINEN**



The Rev. Matthew Ollikainen did most of his growing up in nearby Newtown and is a graduate of Council Rock.

He graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia in 2002 and served his first call at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norwood in the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod.

The Rev. Ollikainen served his second call at Bethel Lutheran Church in Rolling Meadows, Illinois and served his third call at Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic back here in Pennsylvania.

In the congregation the Rev. Ollikainen is comfortable being referred to as Pastor Matt. His passion in ministry is to witness people as they catch on fire with the power of God's love through the Holy Spirit and to humbly know that he has been a part of it. Pastor Matt has two teenage kids, Erik and Eva. He enjoys cooking, hiking, bicycling and visiting the shore.

## **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

The Evangelism Committee has sent out information for an online prayer group that would meet once a month for 15-20 minutes. So far we have five people (besides Bob and me) that are willing to join. It would be a format of a short Bible verse, requests for prayer, offerings of prayer (everyone does not need to pray outloud), and then closing with the Lord's Prayer. If you would like to join us, and not every month is necessary, we would love to have more praying people! Just email me or let the office know.

I will be giving you some things to think about for the next few months.

### Today: Don't Be Afraid

*"The Lord is my light and my salvation - whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid?"*

Fact: There are 365 references in the Bible telling us not to be afraid and not to fear; that's one for every day of the year!

Fear is the number one tool of terrorists, and Satan is the ultimate terrorist. he comes to seal, kill, and destroy, and his chief mode of operation is through fear.

Don't let earthly voices leave you trembling. Turn down the earthly megaphone of fear so you can better hear the Lord's still small voice of love and peace.

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

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS – JOIN US ON ZOOM !**

To our Sunday School students: We'd like to introduce you to Pastor Matt and he'd like to meet YOU! As Easter approaches, Pastor Matt and I would like to invite you to join us for two Sunday School zoom classes on Sunday evening **March 21 and 28 at 6:30 p.m.** to learn about this most meaningful season on the Christian calendar. We have some booklets and activities to give you before we meet. You can join us on your computer or on the phone. We'll send you an email with the link to the classes. If you have any questions, please contact the church office: [office@adventrichboro.org](mailto:office@adventrichboro.org) or 215-355-2529.



Jeanne Gryska, Sunday School Director

## **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

We are now working on bringing our monthly Men's Breakfast to you virtually. Only remaining hurdle is for our technical staff to figure out how to transmit the wonderful aroma of sausage cooking.



## **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

Thanks to the generosity of Advent Members, \$95.00 was contributed during February to support the Food Pantry in Warminster. Thank you!

## **FLOWER CHART AND MISSION CHART**

The Flower Chart and Mission Chart for 2021 are on the table in the narthex. The cost of one bouquet is \$25.00. Because of services being suspended you can either email or call the office, leave a message if you would like to have a particular date for your dedication. All other questions please call Cindy Frey at 267-205-0713.

## **CARING FOR FRIENDS MEALS**

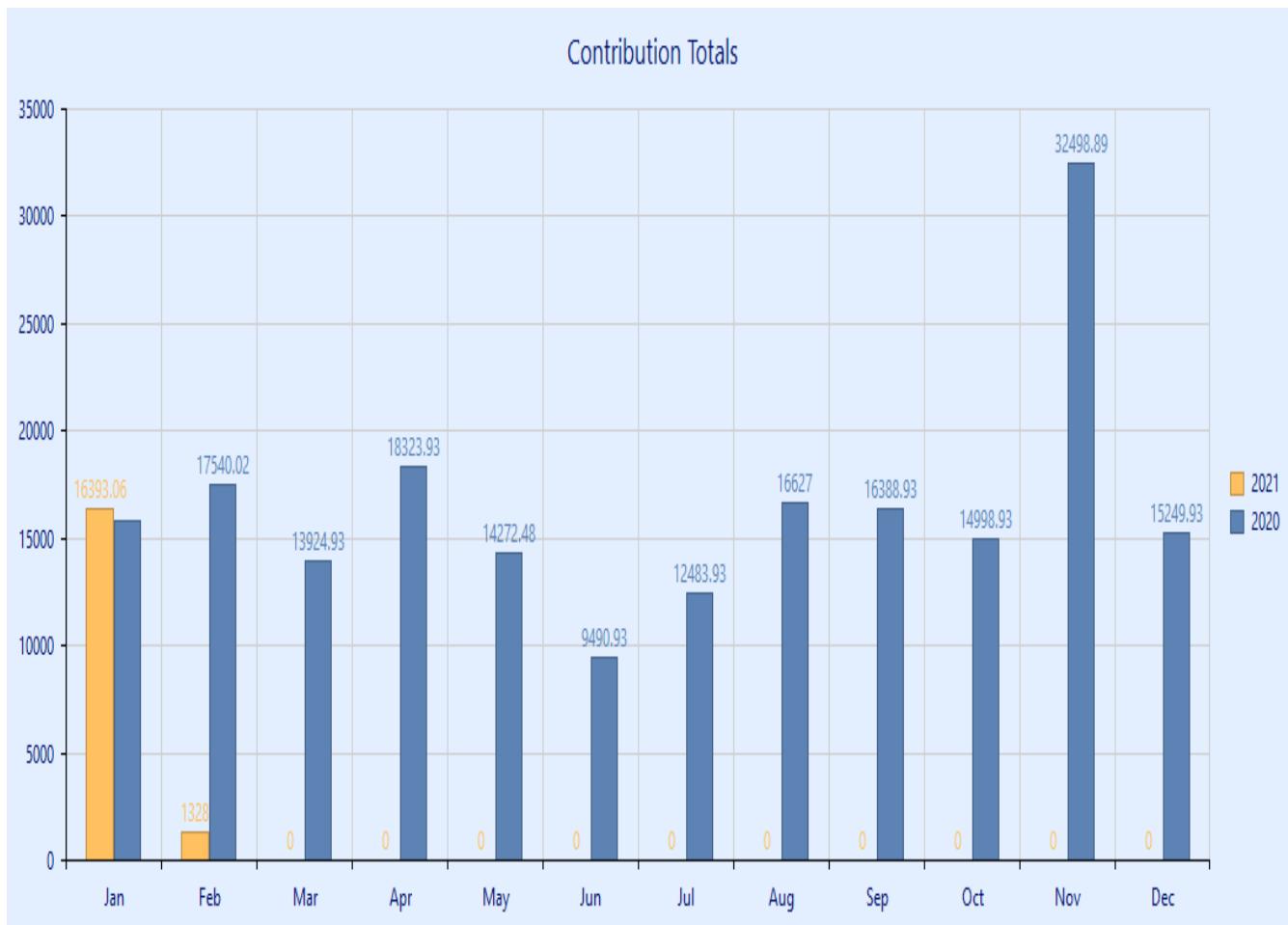
Advent thanks Jeff Jobes for packaging 6 soups on February 23, 2021.

## **TO CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE**

You may leave a message at the church office at 215-355-2529. 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 215-859-3778 or email him at [pastor@adventrichboro.org](mailto:pastor@adventrichboro.org)

FOR  
GOD  
SO  
LOVED THE WORLD  
HE  
GAVE  
HIS  
ONLY  
SON

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**



### **Income for January 2021**

Benevolence (LWR, Mission Support, etc.)	\$ 1,010.00
General Fund	\$11,422.56
Mortgage Fund	\$ 3,960.50

## **FINANCE UPDATE**

Again, thank you for your continued generosity with your financial offerings! During the pandemic, in the absence of in-person worship services, you may contribute online through our website, coordinate dropping off offering envelopes at the church by calling the church office at 215-355-2529 (generally on Tuesdays through Thursdays between 9:00 am -1:00 pm), or mail them to P.O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954-0840. Thank you for being generous givers!

Included in this year's box of offering envelopes are two special envelopes directed for our outreach to the Warminster Food Bank. Cash donations allow the food bank to service those in need by purchasing fresh and frozen foods and other items not often donated and to make bulk purchases of non-perishable foods at a discount. You may use these dedicated offering envelopes to support the food bank or leave a note along with your cash or check donation. Advent will ensure that your donation is included with others received and these donations may be made throughout the year. The Warminster Food Bank has recognized Advent on their website as a consistent partner. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of those in need in our community!



### 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 a student at Air War College, stationed at Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

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.

US Army Ranger Liam McKendry, grandson of Pastor Jo stationed in Fort Benning, GA

US Army SSG Sarah Kelly serving in Djibouti, niece of Fran Zanis

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 MARCH BIRTHDAYS



5	Justin Segal	11	Deborah Creighton	20	Andrew Sclight
7	Jake Benjamin Welwood		English	22	Sally Frost
9	Dave Becker	13	Donna Duffy		Arielle Segal
	Lauren Ciurley		Gideon Ulysses Stiles	23	Shane Hansen
	Brooke Creighton	18	John Masciotro	28	Tom Herbert
10	David Breig		Andy Stirzel	30	Rachael McQuiggan

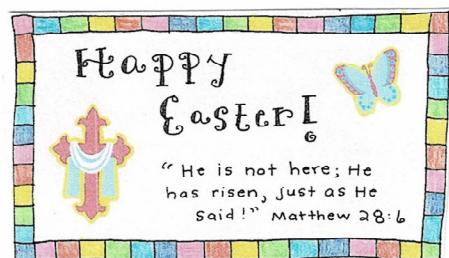
Please contact the church office if you or someone you know has been omitted from the list.  
Thank you.

## The Words of Jesus

Follow the verses through the season of Lent.  
Celebrate Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday!

1 "Let it be this way for now. It is right for us to do this. It carries out God's holy plan." Matthew 3:15	2 "People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4	3 "Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve." Matthew 4:10	4 "The Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15
5 "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Mark 1:17	6 "Let your light shine... Live so that others will praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16	7 "Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you." Matthew 5:44	8 "Your Father Knows the things you need before you ask him." Matthew 6:8
9 "Don't store treasures for yourselves here on earth." Matthew 6:19	10 "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." Matthew 6:21	11 "Do not worry about your life." Matthew 6:25	12 "He will certainly care for you." Matthew 6:30
13 "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness." Matthew 6:33	14 "Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7	15 "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31	16 "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." Matthew 9:2
17 "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." Matthew 9:12	18 "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, ask Him to send more workers into His fields." Matthew 9:37-38	19 "Give as freely as you have received!" Matthew 10:8	20 "And the very hairs on your head are all numbered." Matthew 10:30
21 "If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it." Matthew 10:39	22 "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28	23 "Don't be afraid. Take courage! I am here!" Matthew 14:27	24 "Let the little children come to me." Matthew 19:14
25 "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26	26 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind." Matthew 22:37	27 "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Matthew 22:39	28 "For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." Mark 10:45
29 "For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life." John 3:16	30 "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10	31 "I am the good shepherd. The good Shepherd gives his life for the sheep." John 10:11	32 "I am the way and the truth and the life." John 14:6
33 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me." John 14:1	34 "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32	35 "If you love me, you will do the things I command." John 14:15	36 "A new command I give you: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you." John 13:34
37 "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13	38 "I + is finished." John 19:30	39 "I am the light of the world. The person who follows me will never live in darkness. He will have the light that gives life." John 8:12	40 "In this world you will have trouble, but be brave! I have defeated the world!" John 16:33

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"He is not here; He has risen, just as He Said!" Matthew 28:6