

# THE ADVENTURE - 2021



## 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  
2nd Street Pike & Worthington Mill Rd.  
P. O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954  
215-355-2529  
web: [www.adventrichboro.org](http://www.adventrichboro.org)  
e-mail: [office@adventrichboro.org](mailto:office@adventrichboro.org)



In compliance with the recommendations of our Bishop, the ELCA and CDC guidelines we continue to offer online worship by Zoom, Facebook live stream and the church website due to the pandemic. The threshold for hosting outdoor worship is when daily infection rate for Bucks County are less than 20 infections per 100,000 people. The threshold for resuming indoor worship is when daily infection rates are less than 10 infections per 100,000. We are currently considering and seeking guidance on hosting in person worship for those who are vaccinated. We continue let you know each week by email how to connected to online worship. In that email we will also let you know when we resume in person worship outdoors, indoors or for those who are vaccinated. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we struggle to navigate these difficult decisions during a difficult time.

### MAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Codes: F-Facebook, W-website, Z-Zoom

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 9:00 a.m.  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (ZFW)

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 9:00 a.m.  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (ZFW)  
MOTHERS'S DAY - BABY MANNA  
COLLECTION



SUNDAY, MAY 16, 9:00 a.m.  
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (ZFW)

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS - 5/16 & 5/23  
@6:30 p.m. (Z)

TUESDAY, MAY 18 - PRIMARY ELECTIONS -  
Please vote for the candidate of your choice

SUNDAY MAY 23 , 9:00 a.m.  
PENTECOST SUNDAY (ZFW)

SUNDAY MAY 30, 9:00 a.m.  
TRINITY SUNDAY (ZFW)  
MEMORIAL DAY  
COMMEMORATION  
Recognition of Veterans



Here are your options for gathering to worship: **YouTube:** Click on the church website link after 12:00PM Sunday morning: <https://www.adventrichboro.org/> **Facebook:** Go to the church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/adventrichboropa/> **Zoom:** [Smart device/Computer instructions](#)- Click on this [link](#) or refer to invitation below. **Phone instructions:** Call 1-646-558-8656

- While using Zoom, please mute yourself when you are not speaking. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83682161896?pwd=eS9DTVFzSmVRTFNNQnlwOTViOWdyQT09>  
Meeting ID: 836 8216 1896 Passcode: 565217

**USE THE ABOVE INFORMATION FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP. IT WILL NOT CHANGE!**

**PASTOR MATT - A VOICE FROM WITHIN**  
**MAY NEWSLETTER 2021**

Do you remember a moment in your life when you found your voice? Maybe it wasn't just one moment, but a series of moments. Such a moment can be when you are moved from the kids table to the adult table at the holidays and you find yourself having an opinion on the conversation that occurs. It can be the moment when a student might find him or herself in the role of turning around and teaching others what they have learned. One can find their voice when others turn to them to lead the group. It can be the moment when love or great need requires a difficult truth to be spoken. Moments of finding our voice are often filled with mixed emotions: a burning desire to speak out and uncertainty on how the words will be received; fear or distress to speak uncomfortable words yet great fear of what will transpire if nothing is said; the earnestness of the words welling up from within verses the unfamiliar attention those words will draw upon you; or, hesitation to expose a personal vulnerability that simultaneously compels you to comfort or guide others experiencing the same vulnerability. Finding your voice can be both scary and exhilarating. In the end, finding our voice is a mark of personal growth.

On the day of Pentecost 2000 years ago the Holy Spirit fell upon Jesus' followers and they started proclaiming the love of God in all languages. Jesus' followers were not trained public speakers. By speaking about this new faith of encountering God's love through Christ's death and resurrection, they were sharing something deeply personal and of great meaning to them. They were speaking a message that was not welcomed by everyone and, indeed, would bring persecution upon them. There was good reason to feel uncertain in their words, yet they spoke out boldly none the less. Why? They were filled with God's love.

Of all the motivators that can push us to find our voice, love is the most powerful. As a pastor, I often see people find their voice. Often I have seen individuals shock themselves and their closest family and friends with profound and moving words crafted from the depths of their souls. I have heard such words at funerals, baptisms and weddings. Every once in a while, I'll even hear such words at church meetings and ministries. When such powerful words are spoken, usually what is said gives everyone in the room permission to be more deeply moved and appreciative of the moment than they were before.

The day of Pentecost is a day about finding our Christian voice. It is about witnessing the power of God's love in our lives and in the world around us. To witness is to first recognize and then to share. Find your Christian voice. Look and listen for God's blessings in your life. Feel God's love through those blessings. Be moved. And then share what you have encountered with those around you. Yes, sharing your words will bring mixed emotions, but the words are not just yours alone. Your words will be the Holy Spirit's as well, filled with God's love. God's love has power. You will discover in finding your Christian voice, that it is not just you who is moved, the world around you is moved too.

Peace,  
Pastor Matt



### WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to the adult Bible study on the Letter of Paul to the Romans taking place Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm by Zoom.

Zoom invitation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632518358?pwd=Smg5dm1Ba0VZamZjNG1YMk02MlVvdz09>

Or by phone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)



### MOTHER'S DAY/BABYMANNA

On Sunday, May 9, Mother's Day will be observed. Traditionally we have requested contributions to Baby Manna. The donations provide formula and nutritional supplements for infants in need in the Philadelphia area. Please make your check out to Advent Lutheran Church with a note for Baby Manna. You can drop your donation off at the church or send it to Advent Lutheran Church P.O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954.

### SPRING CLEANUP DAY: MAY 15

Advent's annual Spring cleanup will be on Saturday morning, May 15, from 9-11 a.m. Rain date: May 22. All volunteers are welcome to participate! Suggested items to bring include work gloves, brooms, rakes, gardening tools, hedge trimmers, tree pruners, and weed whackers. We'll be concentrating on weeding the gardens, applying mulch, and general cleanup. Yard waste bags will be provided. Hope to see you there!

### RECENT/UPCOMING GRADUATES

We will recognize graduates of high school and college at a worship service in June. (The date will be listed in the June Newsletter) Please send or email the information requested (form on page 9) no later than May 23 to be included in the June Newsletter.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL ZOOM SCHEDULE

Our Sunday School students have been *zooming* along with Bible lessons! Here's the schedule for upcoming **Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m.** We're having fun as we learn together! Our next lesson will be on May 16th. Invite friends to join us! We'll need their email address to send the email with the schedule and the link to the classes. If you have any questions, please contact the office: [office@adventrichboro.org](mailto:office@adventrichboro.org) or 215-355-2529. - Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director



	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>School</b>
May	16	6:30 p.m
	23	"
June	13	"
	27	"
July	11	"
	25	"

### 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 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.

### **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

The evangelism committee currently can't meet in person, HOWEVER the prayers go on no matter what! \*\*PLEASE let me know if there are needs, and there is no such thing as a "small need" in the eyes of God. There are times that we find out someone needs prayer and it is after the fact, when if we could send out a prayer request immediately Heaven would be flooded!

This month we are giving you all an evangelism challenge:

\*\*When you see someone wherever you are, ask them how they are doing, and offer out-loud to pray for them. You don't need to pray in the store, restaurant, gas station, wherever, but let them know that you care enough to pray. Some people are very uncomfortable with this, but it is a guarantee the message will be received and appreciated. Even if they feel embarrassed.

This is a great start to spreading the love of God to our community.

Until we are able to meet in person, keep the love of God flowing! Thank you.

You can send me a request either way as listed below.

**Karen Matlack**

**kmatl22349@verizon.net**

**text message to 215-932-1283**

### **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

During the month of April our church donated 164 lbs of food for the Warminster Food Bank. That included fresh apples, oranges, and carrots we received from a local preschool which were deposited in our outside bench! Also through the efforts of Jeanne Gryszka and her helpers we assembled 49 meals for Caring For Friends, formally called Aid For Friends. Thanks to George and Peggy Spahn for their assistance and to Tony Gryszka who delivers the meals to the Caring for Friends distribution center in Northeast Philadelphia!! For further information, please check <https://caringforfriends.org/wp-content/uploads/Caring-for-Friends-Cooking-Tips.pdf>. We continue to make a difference in our community!

Thanks again for your generosity.

Nancy Slight Social Ministry

### **FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

In addition to your non-perishable food donations dropped off at Advent, we are also supporting the Warminster Food Bank by way of quarterly monetary donations. Cash donations allow the food bank to service those in need by purchasing fresh and frozen foods and other items not often donated, and make bulk purchases of non-perishable foods. If you are able to support this ministry, make checks payable to Advent Lutheran Church and indicate the donation is for the food bank. 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!

Thank you for continuing to support all of the ministries at Advent. This includes your time and talent, as well as your financial donations. Many have donated their time and talent during the pandemic, e.g., by maintaining the church property and church website, making food donations and preparing meals/volunteering time at/for the food bank, participating in online worship services and prayer chain, coordinating & participating in online Christian education classes, and providing leadership on the Church Council. You are making a difference in the Kingdom of God. Thank you! Financial offerings may be dropped off in-person at the church office (normally Tues-Thurs between 9:00-1:00, please call first) or by mail to P.O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954-0840. Contact me if you have any questions. Tony Gryska 267-408-3255.

### **EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE ON APRIL 4**

We thank everyone who was able to either attend in person or view/listen online our Easter Sunday outdoor worship service. We estimated 61 persons in attendance. Thank you! Many worshippers set up their folding chairs in front of the church, while others worshipped inside their cars by way of remote radio transmission. Choir Director/organist, Mike Dettra, coordinated the music for the service with our worship team, which was supplemented with trumpet and saxophone musicians. (I previously submitted a few photos for consideration). Alleluia, He is Risen!



## **ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING ON APRIL 18**

We thank everyone who was able to either attend in person or view/listen online Advent's outdoor Annual Congregation meeting to review the reports of Church Council for calendar year 2020. Due to the pandemic, this meeting was postponed from the normal meeting time in February each year. The annual report was transmitted via e-mail to everyone on our e-mail list several days prior to the meeting. If you did not receive the report electronically or wish to have a paper copy, please contact the church office. Contact the church office if you wish to be added to our e-mail distribution list. Thank you!

## **A THANK YOU TO OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST**

Advent thanks Mike Dettra for his leadership in coordinating the online worship services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mike's efforts have enabled the weekly and special worship services to be broadcast over Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, and telephonically. Thank you, Mike!

## **ELCA SYNOD ASSEMBLY**



The 2021 Southeastern PA Synod Assembly was held online on Saturday, April 24. The theme was *Serving an Unchanging God in Changing Times*. Updates related to documents and personnel were voted on. Advent was represented by Pastor Matt, Tony Gryszka and Jeanne Gryszka.

## **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 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.

## **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)

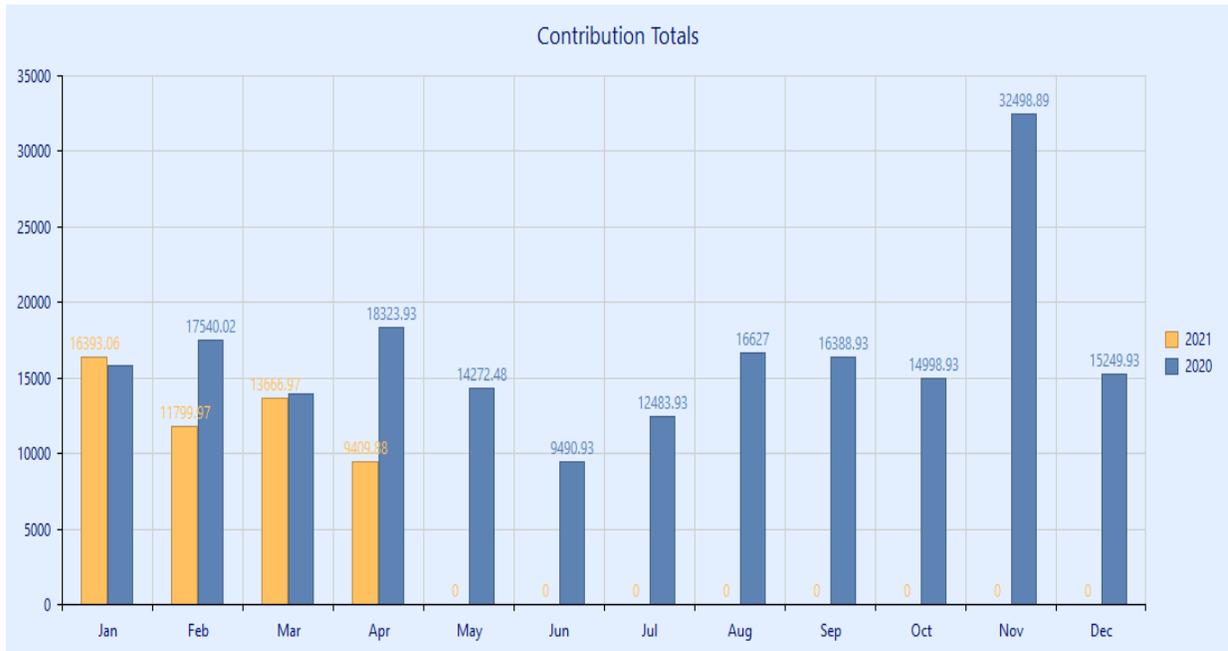
## **OFFERING UPDATE**

Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support of the church during these trying times. We greatly appreciate it. There are numerous ways to continue your offerings.

- Drop off your offering at the church office. The office is usually open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10 AM and 1 PM. Call to confirm hours.
- Mail a check to the church. The mailing address is "Advent Lutheran Church, PO Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954"
- Contribute online at [www.adventrichboro.org](http://www.adventrichboro.org). At the top of the page, click the "Give Now" link to see frequently asked questions. At the bottom of the page click the "Give Now" link for our Giving platform. You may also choose to set up recurring donations or a one-time donation.

Again, thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions concerning your offering please call Cindy Frey, Financial Secretary 267-205-0713

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**



**Income for March 2021**

Benevolence (LWR, Mission Support, etc.)	\$ 515.00
General Fund	\$10,168.47
Mortgage Fund	\$ 2,983.50



**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**  
**MAY BIRTHDAYS**



**MAY**

2	Renate DeJames	13	Jessica Sorcek	27	Seraphina McMahon
3	Ariadne Stiles	14	Fred Morley	28	William Dettra
4	Benedict Sanderlin	15	Emerson Stocchi	30	Helen Shearer
5	Amanda Earle	16	Fran Zanis		Taylor Hollis
6	Joan Lenox	17	George Spahn		Jaxson McNulty
8	Alyssa (Matlack) Fell	18	Craig Wills		
10	Linda Weaver	19	Tony Gryszka		
11	Daniel McGee	20	Michele Oines		
		21	Ron Brown		

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

**HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES**

**Parents:** If your child is graduating or has recently graduated from High School or College, please fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate or mail to church office.

Name of graduate: \_\_\_\_\_

High School/College (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Degree & Major (pursuing or received): \_\_\_\_\_

Plans for future: \_\_\_\_\_

**Color this symbol of New Life in Jesus –  
A Butterfly !**

