

# 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  
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P. O. Box 840, Richboro, PA 18954  
215-355-2529  
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Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church is worshipping indoors! Mask wearing is optional. Those not fully vaccinated are encouraged to still wear a mask. Other precautions such as social distancing and hand sanitizing are also encouraged.

Please be aware that we are still not completely out of the woods yet. Church Council and I will continue to watch what happens. Please be prepared that should there be a dramatic spike in infections we may need to resume precautions as may be recommended by our civil and religious authorities. It is my hope that this will not happen.

God bless us as we have walked a long road to where we are and in hope walk forward.

### JULY 4 - SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

#### Independence Day Commemoration

9:00 a.m. Worship Service - indoor & online  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study

### JULY 11 - SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 a.m. Worship Service - indoor & online  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Sunday School Zoom Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Zoom Meeting

### JULY 18 - EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 a.m. Worship Service - indoor & online  
10:15 a.m. Church Council  
7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Zoom Meeting

### SATURDAY, JULY 24 2:00-4:30 MEET PASTOR MATT AT ADVENT

### JULY 25 - NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 a.m. Worship Service - indoor & online  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
6:30 p.m. Sunday School Zoom Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Zoom Meeting

### AUGUST

### AUGUST 1 - TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 a.m. Worship Service - indoor & online  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Zoom Meeting

### PASTOR ON VACATION

Thursday August 5 to Wednesday, August 11

**AUGUST 8 - ELEVENTH SUNDAY**

**AFTER PENTECOST**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service-indoor & online  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Zoom Meeting

**AUGUST 15 - TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service-indoor & online  
10:15 a.m. Church Council  
7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Zoom Meeting

**TUESDAY AUGUST 17, 7:00-9:00 P.M. MEET PASTOR MATT AT ADVENT**

**AUGUST 22 - THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service-indoor & online  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Zoom Meeting

**AUGUST 29 - FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service-indoor & online  
10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Zoom Meeting

**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=eS9DTVFzSmVRFENNOlhwOTViOWdyQT09>  
Meeting ID: 836 8216 1896 Passcode: 565217

**USE THE ABOVE INFORMATION FOR NON INDOOR SUNDAY WORSHIP.**

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**PASTOR MATT - SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021**

On Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> we will go back to two worship services at Advent Lutheran Church. This will please those who miss the traditional or contemporary worship service they enjoy so much. I am looking forward to experiencing our regular worship services essentially for the first time. It is another step of getting back to normal. And as I say that I wonder what the new normal will be. The fact is, there are folks who are not in worship yet because of real health concerns including some our younger members who are not yet able to be vaccinated.

While many aspects of society have gotten back to normal, the pandemic is not yet over. And that is the rub at the moment. There is uncertainty about the future. At this point the world is simply wishing the pandemic to be over... for good... with no more variants. We justifiably want people to stop getting sick and dying. We want the restrictions to be over for everyone. I think wanting to get back to normal is about more than escaping COVID restrictions and the impact of the pandemic. I think it is also about not wanting anymore

surprises or uncertainty. Thinking about the way it was and wanting to go back becomes comforting because there is no uncertainty about the past. When we remember the past there is comfort in knowing what happens next. This makes the past feel less complicated and more idyllic than the present.

There is no going back to the past or getting rid of uncertainty. And this has nothing to do with the pandemic. It is about the nature of reality. What happens next is always uncertain. This does not mean we are stuck with living only with uncertainty. The one thing we can always be certain about is God's love. We can always be certain about the promise of death and resurrection through Jesus Christ. No matter what happens to us, through Christ we are given new life. Through the love of God through his son, Jesus Christ, we no longer need to seek certainty in what happens next. We can trust that no matter what happens, God's love prevails.

In September we go back to two worship services. It is one of many ways we are gradually getting back to normal in our lives and in our society. How will things work out? What will happen next? What will the new normal end up looking like, I do not know. And that is okay. I will take comfort in the love of God and see what happens next.

Peace,  
Pastor Matt



## Kids' Bible Lesson

### Our Faith Heals Us

After he was baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus went into the community to do the work of a minister. He reached out to people wherever he went. He noticed some fishermen and chose them as to be his companions and helpers - his disciples. He cared about all people and took special care of those who were lost, sick or troubled. When he saw someone who was ill, he would often summon the Holy Spirit of his baptism to heal that person, right in front of many others who would be there to witness his amazing miracle!

As these people told others about Jesus' power to heal, more people realized that Jesus was truly God's son, and he was the only one on earth who could perform such miracles. They had **faith** in his Godly love and in his ability to bring someone to good health or even revive them from death.

In the Bible, we read in the book of Mark that we can also find the Holy Spirit in those everyday people who believe in Jesus. Most who saw him in-person believed that Jesus was God's son. They trusted him and had faith in him. Those who wanted to be healed tried to get close to him and ask if they could receive a miracle, as others had. It was their faith in Jesus that shone through and directed the Holy Spirit.

Jesus knew he had a bigger mission for God's people. He needed to teach them about God's promise of heaven. He traveled from place to place with his disciples, teaching and telling people he met that they should turn away from sin and have faith in him, the son of God.

Today, we are the ones who believe. We learn from those who lived in Jesus' time by reading about them in the Bible and by praying to God. We know that God is close at all times and is ready to comfort us when we need his gentle hand.

We rejoice that in Christ we find healing – and hope. He is with us and cares for us. When we turn to him in faith for guidance and comfort, he listens and provides meaning in our lives, as he gave up **his** life so that we may find our way to heaven.

Look for the coloring page on page 9

## **FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

On Sunday, September 12 we return to our fall worship services with Traditional Worship at 8:00 a.m. and Contemporary Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

## **PASTOR MATT OUT OF OFFICE AUGUST 5 TO AUGUST 11**

Pastor Matt will be out of the office from Thursday, August 5 to Wednesday, August 11. An email will be sent informing you of who will be handling Pastoral emergencies as the time comes closer.

The office will be open the usual hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9 am to 1 pm. Telephone number 215-355-2529.

## **VISITATIONS BY PASTOR MATT**

Members of Advent Lutheran Church,

I want to get to know you! To help me do this, it is my goal to visit every household in the congregation.

I am ready to visit anyone who is vaccinated in person. I will still do household Zoom visits for anyone who would prefer to meet in that fashion.

To schedule a visit please call the church office at 215-355-2529 between 9 am and 1 am 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 you may text or call Pastor Matt at 215-859-3778. The available visitation time slots are: Tuesdays at 6 pm, 7 pm & 8 pm. Wednesdays 1 pm, 2 pm & 3 pm, and Thursdays at 6 pm & 8 pm. If none of these time slots are possible for you, please text me to schedule another time during the week.

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 7:00 pm by Zoom.

Zoom invitation:

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

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

## **THE CHURCH CONSTITUTION**

The church constitution guides how our congregation functions according to our faith, theology, and the laws of our society. The constitution of our congregation that was adopted in 1963 was based on a document called “The Model Constitution for Congregations” of our denomination. Down through the years many updates have been made to that model constitution by our denomination. There are many reasons why the updates are made. Many of these updates are intended to make congregations function more effectively. Some of these updates keep the constitution current with changes in federal law. Advent’s constitution has not been updated according to The Model Constitution for Congregations since the congregation was founded.

Some many ask, “We have been fine with our constitution the way it is for all this time, why update it now?” The constitution is like the airbag in your car. You might not think about it day to day as you drive around, but you certainly would not want to drive around without it and you most certainly want it to work well when it does have to work.

Church Council has set up a task force that is working on updating our constitution. Once we have worked out all the updates that need to be made, the constitution and the proposed update will be presented to the congregation with ample opportunity for answers and questions. At the end of the process the congregation will vote as to whether to approve the changes to the constitution. Please look forward to regular communication about the update process. If you have questions or concerns about updating the constitution please contact Ray Heiss, chair of the constitution task force, or Pastor Matt.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL – CONTINUES on ZOOM! JULY 11 & 25 6:00 P.M.**

Our Sunday School students are working together and having fun, too, as we follow our Bible lessons with Pastor Matt and our Sunday School teachers. Our upcoming lessons will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in July . . . Join us on these Sunday evenings, and invite your friends: ) Contact the church office if you have any questions: [office@adventrichboro.org](mailto:office@adventrichboro.org) or 215-355-2529. See you on zoom!



- Jeanne Gryska, Sunday School Director

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

Several activities have been planned for the summer months to help our congregation reconnect after so many months of uncertainty!

**On Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>:** an informal gathering is planned at church for all to reconnect and get to know Pastor Matt! The time will be from 2:00-4:30. Light refreshments will be available. The time is flexible so that you may come and go as necessary.

**Another gathering is planned for Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 7:00 pm in the narthex to meet with Pastor Matt. All are welcome to attend both events in case family commitments or work schedules interfere. Light refreshments will be available.

**Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>:** Finally, we are hoping to resume our fall flea market. There are no table fees, but pre-registration will be required. More information on these events will be sent by email.  
Rhona Slawter, Congregational Life

## **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

We have so much to be thankful for since we are open for worship!  
Here's a thought from **Max Lucado** that I believe states it quite well.

We have the opportunity to offer heartfelt prayers for every person we see: the attendant at the grocery store, the nurse in the doctor's office. You don't have to tell them of your intercessory prayer. When we seek to bless others through prayer, we are blessed. Studies draw causal links between prayer and faith and health and happiness. The act of praying for others has a boomerang effect. It allows us to shift the burden we carry for others to the shoulders of God.

Don't grow angry at the church's condition, pray for her. Don't fret about the future of your family, pray for them. Assume the posture of prayer. Is there a crisis in your world? Are you called to give hope where hope cannot be found? Is prayer all that you have? That's okay—prayer is all you need. This is how happiness happens.

Have a great summer, and don't forget to pray and ask for prayer! God is always listening, and I am just a text or email away. God bless you all!  
Karen Matlack, [kmatl22349@verizon.net](mailto:kmatl22349@verizon.net)

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

During the month of June our church donated 143 lbs of food to the Warminster Food Bank. Just a reminder that many families rely on food donations to feed their children who are now home from school for the summer months. The Food Bank has added fresh fruits and vegetables so if you have a surplus from your summer garden it would be greatly appreciated! Thank you for your continued generosity.  
Nancy Sclight, Social Ministry

### **THANK YOU FROM THE ANDREW M. FREY, JR. FAMILY**

Thank you for all the flowers, cards, and memorial offerings in memory of Andy. All the support from Advent members has made this difficult time a little easier. We sincerely appreciate everything. Cindy, Drew, Chris Frey and families

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

As Advent returns to a more normal mode of worshipping we are trying to look ahead to the fall. Volunteers are needed to make sure the services run smoothly. The volunteer positions include (but may not stay limited) to **Altar Guild** (setting up the altar), **AV technicians** (working the sound system and cameras that we hope to have installed [training included]), **Communion Assistant** (help with the distribution of communion during the service), **Flower distribution** (wrapping flowers and distributing them after the service), **Lay Reader** (read the 1 & 2<sup>nd</sup> lessons and Psalm plus some of the prayers during the service), **Money Counter** (count the offering after late service), and **Usher** (help people find seats, direct communion, collect offering during the service, when we return to these things). e also need Candle Lighters/Snuffers for before and after the service. Should Communion Assistants and Lay Readers agree, the two can be combined into **Worship Assistant** as we have done in the past.

As you can see above, it takes many people for a service to be successful. The Advent family is great at stepping in and doing what needs to be done, but we need YOU to prevent burnout and to be there when others can't. Thanks for your consideration..

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

The next meeting of the Men's Breakfast will be held Saturday, October 9 at 8:30 (AM). Mark your calendars

### **STITCH CLUB STARTING IN SEPTEMBER**

Stitch club will start meeting on Saturday, September 11 - 10:00 a.m. to noon. Stitch club is open to all who would like to join.

### **FOOD TRAYS FOR CARING FOR FRIENDS**

Fifty food trays for Caring for Friends were assembled on Monday, June 21 at 10:00 am. Advent thanks Hanna McCollum, Jeanne Wagner, Joyce Heiss, Linda Weaver, Pat Brown, George & Peggy Spahn for their time and energy along with Tony Gryszka who will deliver the meals to the Caring for Friends facility in Northeast Philadelphia.

### **FLOWER CHART & MISSION SUPPORT FOR 2021**

The sign-up sheets for Altar Flower and Mission Support dedications for 2021 are in the narthex. The cost to dedicate one bouquet is \$25.00. One week of Mission support is \$25.00. There are many openings available on the Mission Support chart.

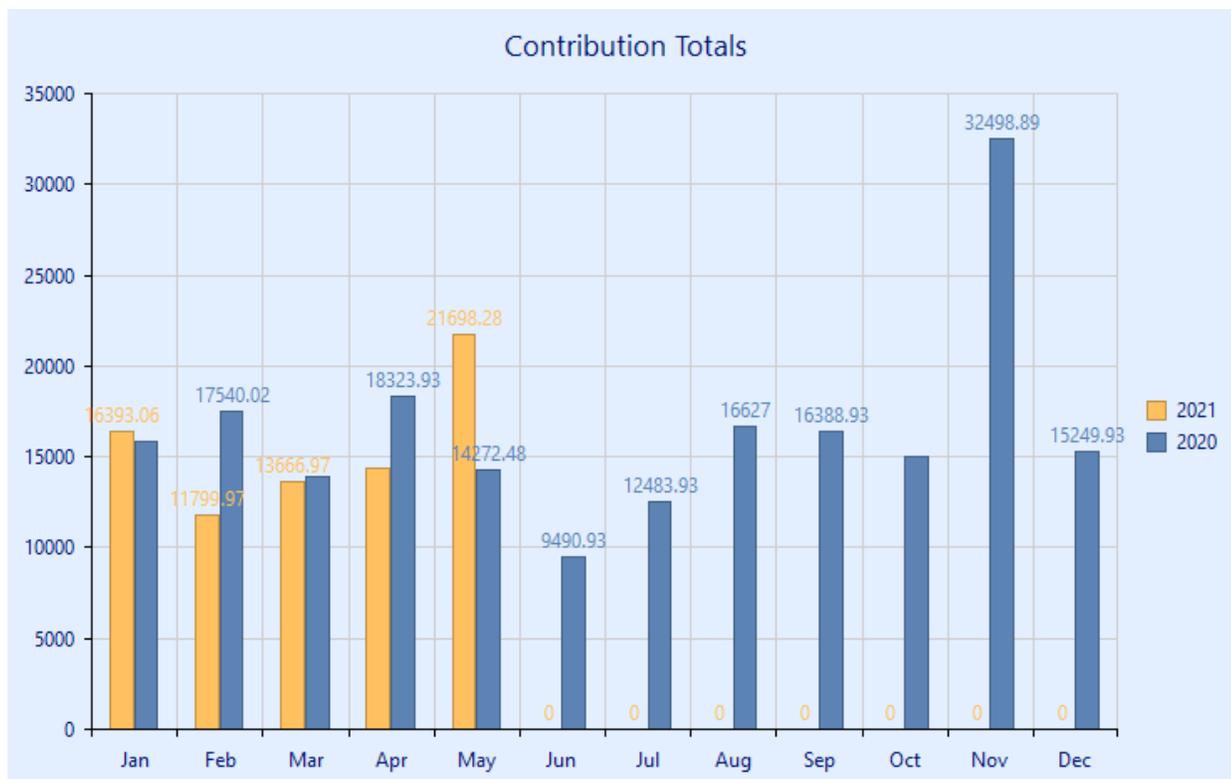


### **NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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.

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

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**



**Income for May 2021**

Memorial	\$ 300.00
Benevolence (LWR, Mission Support, etc.)	\$ 1,175.00
General Fund	\$16,799.78
Mortgage Fund	\$ 3,423.50

Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support of the church during these trying times. Please remember to send in offerings during the summer months. 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



**THE ARMED FORCES**

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

Lt. Col. Andrew M Frey, Jr is serving as Senior Weather Officer, NORAD/NORTHCOM stationed at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs,

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.



**ADVENT'S BIRTHDAY CORNER**  
**JULY & AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**



**JULY**

- |                    |                        |                           |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Jenna Geragi     | 11 Angela Janet Casale | 22 Pat Brown              |
| Jen McQuiggan      | 12 Laszlo Kovacs       | 24 Raffaele Manco         |
| 4 Liz Holford      | 15 Allison Kirschner   | 25 Andrew Frey, III       |
| 5 Judy Rilling     | Lindsey Kirschner      | 27 Andrew Breig           |
| 6 Andy Frey, Sr.   | 19 Everlyee Stocchi    | 29 Kathleen Pearson       |
| 7 Karen Breig      | 20 Larry Kovacs        | 30 George Preston Slawter |
| Bernadette Pearson | 21 Scarlet Belle Betz  | 31 Steve Sanderlin        |
| 8 Joshua Hanlon    | Tyler McGee            |                           |
| 10 Joyce Heiss     | Fred Wagner            |                           |

**AUGUST**

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

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

## Jesus Helps Others

### Jairus's Daughter

He took the twelve-year-old girl by the hand and said, "Talitha, kum!" which means, "Little girl, get up!" The girl got right up and started walking around. Everyone was greatly surprised.

Mark 5: 41-42

