

THE ADVENTURE - 2021

September

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
e-mail: office@adventrichboro.org



Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church **worship services are indoor and online!** 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.

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 5

Labor Day Commemoration

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

WINE/BEVERAGE EVENT (see pg 4)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 7:00 P.M.

FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 12

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time - Julie & Lynn Roccograndi
- 6:30 p.m. Sunday School Zoom meeting

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 19

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship - Jeanne & Tony Gryska
- 10:45 a.m. Church Council Meeting

18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 26

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time - Nancy Slight
- 6:30 p.m. Sunday School 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=eS9DTVfzSmVRTFNNQnlwOTViOWdyQT09> Meeting ID: 836 8216 1896
Passcode: 56521

PASTOR MATT SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

There is so much heartbreak in the world right now. As I write this newsletter our nation is evacuating from Afghanistan as the Taliban takes over the country. The situation is a mess. There is finger pointing about why it is a mess. Finger pointing aside, it is just simply tragic to watch unfold as so many Afghans fear the oppression the Taliban will bring. At the same time, Haiti struggles to recover from a massive earthquake in the middle of hurricane season. There are so many people who died in collapsing buildings. There so many people with horrible injuries that the local hospitals struggle to treat. Couldn't Haiti be better prepared after suffering a similar earthquake ten years ago? While these things are happening, another season of wild fires surges in the western United States. There are heat waves going on in different parts of the world. Once-in-a-century weather events seem to happen regularly, affecting people's lives. The contentious debate over what to do, if anything, about climate change continues. And then there is the pandemic. We are tired of wearing masks. Some of us are tired of being told to get vaccinated. Some of us are tired of telling others to get vaccinated. There are angry voices yelling about protecting liberty, personal rights, the greater good, or life. The angry words, debating and mutual distrust does not change the tragedy of overwhelmed hospitals and the grief of losing over 600,000 loved ones in our nation alone.

Unfortunately, letting our heartbreak turn us against one another does not make the heartbreak go away it can make tragic situations worse. We need to have debates to hopefully find a consensus on how to address the many tragic things going on in the world. Before debates can build to consensus there has to be something else. We need **LOVE**. As Christians we are called to love. Jesus implores us to love one another as he loves us. He calls us to even love our enemies. Again and again in Jesus' ministry he loves those around him, even those who disagree with him. Again, and again Jesus sought out those who were suffering to bring love and compassion. It didn't matter whether they were rich, poor, Jew or gentile. We are called to follow Jesus' example. Instead of jumping straight to distrust or the blame game, we as Christians are called to bring love and compassion to wherever we find heartbreak.

So how do we do this? First and foremost, we need to be centered in the love of Jesus. Prayer and taking time to notice the love of God active in our lives, eases our fears so we don't jump immediately to distrust. When we know the compassion of Jesus for us it is easier to be compassionate toward others. Being compassionate toward others does not mean that we need to agree with their opinion, it means having empathy for the fears and concerns with which they hold their opinion. Our prayers for the fears and concerns of others have great power when filled with this kind of empathy and compassion. In addition to the power of prayer and reaching out in empathy to others, there is also the power of our actions. Give to the charities and aid organizations that are responding to so many of the crises in our nation and around the world. Where you can give of your own time and talents to those around you, do so. The most powerful expressions of love and compassion are the ones expressed in both words and deeds. If you are not sure how to act, pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to call you to what God wants you to do.

The heartbreaking things going on in the world are so vast it may seem that there is little difference any one person can make. The truth is that the love of God to heal broken hearts is extraordinary even when it is one heart at a time. Through God, we as Christians have the power to make a difference.

God's Peace be with you,
Pastor Matt



Bible Study for Kids The Wisdom of Jesus

In the **Old Testament** of the Bible, we learn that God had promised to send a Savior for all mankind - and he kept his promise! God sent his son Jesus, born without sin, to save us from our sins. We learn about the life of Jesus in the **New Testament** of the Bible.

When Jesus was a baby, his mother Mary and her husband Joseph dedicated him at the temple to honor God. On that day, two friends, Simeon and Anna, realized that he was the Messiah that God had promised. There was not much written about Jesus as a young child, but we know Jesus was obedient to his parents, who followed God's laws. The Bible tells us:

“. . . the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom,
and the grace of God was upon him.” Luke 2:40

Jesus grew up learning about God from the leaders in the temple. The teachers were amazed at Jesus' knowledge when he was a boy. He was already preparing to become a teacher and minister to others. He was doing God's will.

At age 12, there was an event in his life that shows his enthusiasm. Every year, his parents Mary and Joseph, along with many others, would go to the festival at the temple in Jerusalem. It was a long way from their home in Nazareth and it took them three days to get there. One time, on their trip to return home, Mary and Joseph could not find Jesus. They looked for him and asked others if they had seen him. He wasn't with any of the travelers. Where could he be?

They hurried back to the city to look for him. There they found Jesus, still in the temple, listening to the teachers there and asking questions. Mary and Joseph were relieved to see him and quite amazed at his fascination with the teachings of the church leaders at his young age. Mary asked Jesus "Son, why have you done this . . . ? Your father and I have been . . . searching for you everywhere." "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" Jesus said this, revealing that God was his Father. "But they didn't understand what he meant." Luke 2:49-50



God loves you so much that He sent His only Son Jesus into this world as a baby. He lived a life without sin and died on the cross for all sins. God raised Him to life three days later. All who put their faith in Jesus are forgiven from all their sins and are given the gift of eternal life.

Look for the coloring page on page 10.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS SEPTEMBER 12

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. Let us look forward to worshipping together either in person or online.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – FUN LESSONS ON ZOOM!

Sunday School classes will begin the new school-year on Zoom, with a fun new curriculum. The lessons are written in rhyme, the illustrations are presented in the style of a graphic novel and the videos tell the Bible stories in a creative way!



We invite new students to join our class, which is geared to elementary ages. Older students are welcome, too, as we follow our Bible lessons with Pastor Matt and the Sunday School teachers.

Our lessons will be on the **2nd and 4th** Sundays every month. We're ordering student books and crafts in advance, so please let us know if we can order them for you! Contact the church office to register new students or to ask any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.

See you on zoom!

- Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director

	SUNDAY	SCHOOL
September	12	6:30 p.m.
	26	“



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

All are welcome to the adult Bible study on the Letter of Paul to the Roman s 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)

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE EVENTS

FLEA MARKET CANCELLED

Due to circumstances beyond our control the annual flea market that was scheduled is not taking place this year.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming favorites:

ANNUAL WINE/BEVERAGE GATHERING SEPTEMBER 11 7:00 PM



Lynn and Julie Roccograndi will be hosting our annual Wine/Beverage Gathering on **Saturday, September 11 at 7pm**. Their address is 19 Drexel Drive in Richboro. Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer or dessert and wine if you choose. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex or you can call the church office. Hope to see you there for a night of fellowship and good conversation.



ADVENT CHRISTMAS BRUNCH - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

The annual Christmas Brunch will be held Sunday, December 5 in the fellowship hall immediately **following the 9:30 am service**. Please join us in sharing Christmas fun and fellowship, including delicious food, live music and fun decorating the church for Christmas.



MIKE DETTRA'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT - FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 7:30 P.M.

Our Music Director, Michael Dettra and his band will be performing their popular holiday jazz concert at Advent on **Friday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m.** You can look forward to the holidays with an hour of relaxation and entertainment. Light refreshments will be served. A free-will offering will be taken.



STITCH CLUB STARTING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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.



MEN'S BREAKFAST WILL RESUME SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9

Advent's men's group will resume its monthly breakfast and fellowship on **Saturday, October 9 at 8:30 am**. All men of the congregation are invited to attend. For more information please speak with Men's Group Coordinator, Dave Shearer



ADVENT'S STITCH CLUB BAZAAR SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 10, 17 & 24

The Advent Stitch Club is having their Bazaar on Sundays, October 10, 17, and 24, before and after Sunday services. There will be wonderful hand made items on display for sale in the narthex.

Proceeds from the sale will help support the weekly flower arrangements that grace our altar each week. Thank you for supporting this cause!



SOCIAL MINISTRY

During the months of July and August your generous donations were delivered to the Warminster Food Bank. Many families relied on food donations to feed their children who were home from school for the summer months. The Food Bank is still offering fresh fruits and vegetables, if you have a surplus from your summer garden it would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you for your continued generosity.

Nancy Sclight, Social Ministry



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

It is important that we remember our friends and family and church members that have not been able to attend services. There are prayer needs that are going unnoticed. It is our job as Christians to pray for those in need.

In the narthex on a high top table are materials to help us all. One of the things we can do is to send a postcard to someone in need of prayer. These postcards are stamped; you just add the address and a short message. It is an easy way to reach out and share the love and care of God.

And of course, if there are prayer requests that need attention immediately, either email or text me, send an email to the office, or call the office. We are here to offer help when it is needed.

Karen Matlack
kmatl22349@verizon.net
text: 215-932-1283



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The volunteer positions include: **Altar Guild** (setting up the altar), **AV technicians** (operating working the sound system and cameras [training included]) **Candle Lighters/Snuffers** for before and after the service. **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 & 2nd lessons and Psalm plus some of the prayers during the service), and **Usher** (help people find seats, direct them to communion, collect offering during the service).

If you are interested in helping, please contact Gail Oines at deaconago@yahoo.com.



CARING FOR FRIENDS MEALS

On August 2, Hanna led the macaroni team through the assembly of 75 dinners. The assembly team included Hanna McCollum, Jeanne Gryszka, Peggy and George Spahn, Jeanne Wagner and Christel & Janice Hoffmann, with Dave Shearer as materials specialist. Advent thanks them all for their time and energy, along with Tony Gryszka who delivered the meals to the Caring for Friends facility in Northeast Philadelphia.

FLOWER CHART & MISSION SUPPORT FOR 2021

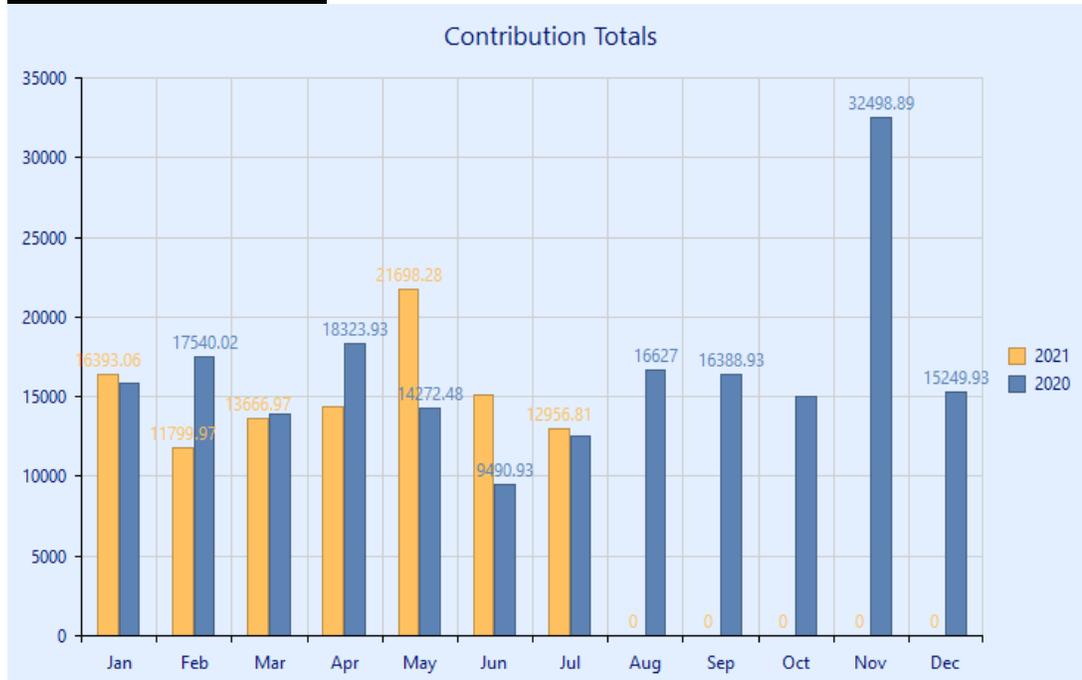
The sign-up sheets for Altar Flower and Mission Support dedications for 2021 are in the narthex. The cost to dedicate one bouquet is \$25.00. One week of Mission support is \$25.00. There are many openings available on the Mission Support chart.

FINANCE & TIME/TALENT NOTES

We continue to thank you for your generosity in supporting Advent. Your financial offerings make a difference in our Advent church lives, as well as by our outreach to the community and beyond. This includes food and monetary donations to the Warminster Food Bank and to other ministries that we support. Your time and talent include worship service participation, providing church maintenance, supporting congregational events, as well as involvement in other facets of church life. You are much appreciated!

Thank you,
Tony Gryszka, Finance Chairperson

FINANCIAL UPDATE



Income for June & July 2021

Benevolence (LWR, Mission Support, etc.)	\$ 1,307.00
General Fund	\$21,838.00
Mortgage Fund	\$ 4,960.00

Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support of the church during the summer. We greatly appreciate it. They 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. 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



ADVENT'S BIRTHDAY CORNER
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



SEPTEMBER

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

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

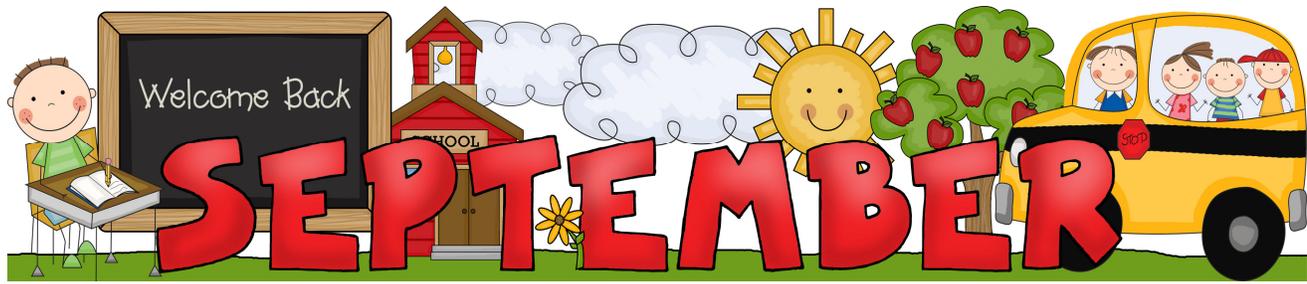


THE ARMED FORCES

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. Sarah's tour is over and she is back in the United States. Thank you for your prayers.

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 7:30 PM A.A. Topic Group	3 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	4
5 15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Labor Day Commemoration 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship Service	6 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting LABOR DAY	7	8 7:00 Bible Study by Zoom (see pg 4)	9 7:30 PM A.A. Topic Group	10 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	11 10:00 AM Stitch Club 7:00 PM Wine & Beverage Gathering at Lynn & Julie Roccograndi's (see pg 4)
12 16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Traditional Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship Time - Lynn & Julie Roccograndi 6:30 PM. Sunday School Zoom Meeting	13 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	14	7 7:00 Bible Study by Zoom (see pg 4)	8 7:00 Bible Study by Zoom (see pg 4)	17 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	18 10:00 AM Stitch Club
19 17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion. 10:30 AM Fellowship Time - Tony & Jeanne Roccograndi 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	20 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	21	22 7:00 Bible Study by Zoom (see pg 4)	23 7:30 PM A.A. Topic Group	24 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	25 10:00 AM Stitch Club
26 18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Traditional Holy Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship:- Nancy Sclight 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM. Sunday School Zoom Meeting	27 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	28	29 7:00 Bible Study by Zoom (see pg 4)	30 7:30 PM A.A. Topic Group		

Where was Jesus?

