

THE ADVENTURE - 2023



ADVENT EVANGELICAL 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
45 Worthington Mill Rd.
Richboro, PA 18954
215-355-2529
web: www.adventrichboro.org
e-mail: office@adventrichboro.org

Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church continues to worship indoors and online. Mask wearing at Advent is optional for the fully vaccinated and recommended for the unvaccinated and immunocompromised.

Based on Center for Disease Control, local governmental and church authorities' recommendations, Advent continues to have these precautions:

- Respect for those who choose to mask or not mask
- Social distancing
- Sanitizing hands and objects handled
- Staying home if you have any symptoms of illness or have been in close contact with anyone with COVID.
- The availability of online worship and the use of zoom for meetings.

Our leadership will continue to gauge the situation week by week and will keep the congregation informed of any adjustment to our precautions.



SUNDAYS OF WORSHIP JANUARY SCHDULE

JANUARY 1

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

No 8:00 a.m. Worship and No Sunday School
9:00 a.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time: Gail Oines

JANUARY 8

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

8:00 a.m. Service of the Word
9:30 a.m. Service of the Word
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open

JANUARY 15

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:00 a.m. Traditional Holy Communion
9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
10:45 a.m. Church Council Meeting

JANUARY 22

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:00 a.m. Traditional Holy Communion
9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
Adult Bible Study

JANUARY 28

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:00 a.m. Traditional Holy Communion
9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Holy Communion
Sunday School age 4 - grade 6
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open
Adult Bible Study

ONLINE WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday service may also be attended by Zoom and it will be live streamed on Facebook.

A recording of the service will be uploaded to YouTube and linked to our website immediately after the service concludes.

9:00 a.m. Topic: New Year Day Worship

Meeting ID: 815 6782 6622 Pass code: 396556

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81567826622?pwd=eWZ2ZzI2dTdKSEVHaW1qcDIzbHlNUT09>

Regular Scheduled Zoom Services:

8:00 a.m. Topic: Advent Lutheran Church Traditional Holy Communion

Meeting ID: 891 9503 9877 Pass code: 443533

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89195039877?pwd=dnVRTlRGamJQVXNZbENlVDJTT0pnUT09>

9:30 a.m. Topic: Advent Lutheran Church Contemporary Holy Communion

Meeting ID: 854 0562 9972 Pass code: 506714

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85405629972?pwd=aGErSFNlbVAvNmZsQkIzWVpTTktlQT09>



PASTOR MATT'S JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2023

The sanctuary is filled with people. Parents with cameras are searching for their son or daughter to take that perfect photo. In front of the altar, a boy and girl dressed as Mary and Joseph stand over a crib with a plastic baby in it. Shepherds are gathered around. Little cherubs dressed as angels and animals sit fidgeting up front.

The story of Jesus' birth has been told in alternating English and Spanish and now the gathered congregation sings "We Three Kings of Orient Are". The big moment has arrived and at the back of the church I cannot find the third king. His brother, the second king, informs me that he has gone to the bathroom. In that moment king number three scurries into position and with a little prod they begin to process into the sanctuary just as folk in the congregation are craning their necks around to see where those kings are.

I have many cherished memories from when I did my internship at Grace Lutheran in Camden. In almost every respect this pageant was like any other, but I remember it fondly for more than just the wonderful kids I worked with, the headaches, and the wonderful celebration. I remember this pageant differently than any other because it was introducing me to something new. This pageant did not take place on a Sunday or Saturday in Advent nor did it happen on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This pageant happened on January 6th after most of our society has packed up the decorations and the holiday season has ended. We were celebrating Three Kings' Day, the beginning of Epiphany.

In many cultures around the world the big day for celebrating the arrival of the baby Jesus is a day different than December 25th. Some cultures will have gift giving on each of the twelve days to Christmas from December 26th to January 5th. The twelfth day of Christmas, the day before Epiphany, is often a feast day called Twelfth Night. A huge Kings' Cake is baked in observance of Epiphany. In fact a Kings' Cake is part of the Mardi Gras celebration which draws its roots from French Catholicism. In some cultures, especially those in Central and South America, the big day of celebration and gift giving is the day of Epiphany, January 6th or Three Kings' Day.

So why would all these cultures focus more on the days after Christmas instead of Christmas day itself? What is so special about Epiphany? The three kings who visited and worshiped Jesus were from different lands, from different parts of the world. They were the first gentiles to recognize Jesus. Their visit of Jesus makes a profound statement that the salvation Jesus brings is not for just a select few but for all of humanity. Epiphany signifies the light of God's love entering the entire world through Jesus Christ. Because God's love is extended to all people we are all sisters and brothers in Christ. Christmas celebrates Jesus entering our lives which is a very important event. Epiphany celebrates what it means to have Christ present in our lives and also the lives of the people around us.

Peace,
The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen

CHURCH COUNCIL OPEN POSITIONS

Advent's Church Council currently has three open positions. These are all positions where the chairperson works with the assistance of the Church Council.

1. The **Evangelism Chairperson** identifies prospective members and encourages them to unite with the congregation and will also reach out to current members. The chairperson also tries to find ways to have Advent connect to the local community and other churches.
2. **Youth Coordinator** identifies and coordinates group activities for our youth. The committee assists in developing and maintaining programs that promote the special needs of personal growth and spiritual development for youth.
3. The **Congregation Life Chairperson** helps plan and implement fellowship/community activities, including special events and fellowship time/refreshments after church services.

We ask that you prayerfully consider volunteering to fill one of these positions. Please contact Church Council President, George Henry, or Pastor Matt if you are interested or have any questions.



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 8

Sunday School classes will resume on **January 8**. Students from age 4 through grade 6 are welcome to participate in lively lessons in the ***Holy Moly*** curriculum. Students meet in the sanctuary at **9:30 a.m.** to attend the first part of the worship service, then proceed to the classroom with their teachers following the children's sermon. Registration forms are available on the track rack in the foyer or they may be e-mailed to you. Please contact the church office to register or with any questions: office@adventrichboro.org or 215-355-2529.- Jeanne Gryszka, Sunday School Director

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023

The Offering Envelopes for 2023 are on the table in the narthex for pickup. If you did not receive envelopes, please contact the church office or Cindy Frey at 267-205-0713. Offering statements for 2022 will be available in early January.



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Many thanks to all who were able to contribute to our gift card outreach to the families who depend on the Warminster Food Bank for food each month. The total amount donated was \$1,600!! Be assured that your generosity is greatly appreciated!! Together we can make a difference in our neighbor's lives. Food donations will resume in January. Your continued support is needed. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to: www.warminsterfoodbank.org Thank you! Nancy Sclight Social Ministry



PING PONG SEASON HAS ARRIVED

We will begin playing Ping Pong weekly this year on January 10, starting at 6:30 PM and ending around 8 pm.

All are invited. No equipment is required. Please contact Ray if you plan to give it a try (rayheiss1@gmail.com).



MEN'S BREAKFAST SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Men's Breakfast will begin the New Year on Saturday January 14, 2023. We start serving at 8:30 a.m., coffee is ready and waiting at 7:30. Dave



NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

On October 30th, Advent welcomed David Elkin, Philip Stark, Alyson Wade, Patrick Wade, Christine Welsh and Kevin Welsh as new members at the 9:30 service.



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 2022



Advent's annual Christmas Brunch was held on December 4, 2022 after the 9:30 worship service, with about 25 attendees enjoying delicious food and fellowship. Two of Advent's talented musicians, Mike Dettra and Ray Heiss, provided live festive Christmas music. Thank you to all who worked to set-up for the event and to all who provided the food!



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17



Thank you to Mike Dettra and the Dettra Mentals (Bill Monaghan & Michael McGarry) for a festive and delightful Christmas Concert, which was held on Saturday evening December 17. Mike Sitler joined the group on drums for a few songs. Many were in attendance enjoying a variety of joyful songs. It was a great way to kick off the holidays with relaxation and entertainment!



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

Advent's Sunday School students reenacted the event of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem as a children's sermon on December 18. They dressed as the angel, Mary and Joseph to bring the message of Christmas to life for our congregations.





GIVE US YOUR SMILE!

Do you find that you have gotten used to ordering online and prefer that over endless shopping around for sales? If so, consider using Smile.Amazon.com for your shopping and shipping needs. This acts the same as an Amazon account, but Amazon Smile Foundation will donate .5% of your purchases to the charity of your choice. Simply indicate Advent Lutheran Church, Richboro as your charity and the church will benefit. No cost is added to you. Advent has received donations of \$516.24 as of June, 2022 from the Amazon Smile Foundation since 2016, when we signed up. If you need help setting up your account, call or text me (Gail Oines) at 215-534-8218.



ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

There are numerous dates available for 2023 to dedicate flowers to beautify the altar each Sunday. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex with your name and dedication. Two bouquets are available each week. The cost is \$25 per bouquet. In addition to making the altar more beautiful, you take the flowers home after the late service to enjoy during the week. If you have any questions call Cindy Frey 267-205-0713.



FELLOWSHIP TIME

We need committees or individuals to sign up to provide refreshments after the 9:30 a.m. service. The sign-up sheet through August is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (i.e. coffee & tea) and all paper products.



STITCH CLUB ITEMS AVAILABLE

Stitch club items are **available throughout the year**. If you need any of the items made by the Stitch Club, i.e., blankets, hats, baby items, please contact Hanna McCollum 215-962-9032 or Jeff Jobses 215-355-4149.



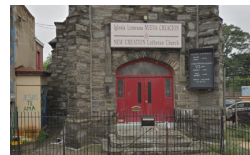
THE ARMED FORCES

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

Colonel Andrew M Frey, Jr is serving as Command Center Director, NORAD/NORTHCOM, stationed at Peterson SFB, Colorado Springs, CO

US Army Ranger Liam McKendry, grandson of Pastor Jo Wright stationed in Fort Benning, GA
PFC Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Alan and Rhona Slawter serving in the Middle East.

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.

The sign-up sheets for Mission Support dedications for 2022 are in the narthex. The cost to support the Mission weekly is \$25.00. There are openings available through the end of the year.

FINANCE UPDATE

The Finance Committee and Church Council thank you for your financial support throughout the year. For the month of November, revenue exceeded expenses by \$8,726. It was a tremendous month! However, for year-to-date, expenses have exceeded revenue by \$37,115. At this point last year, the deficit was \$20,672. The increase in the 2022 deficit compared to last year is a combination of reduced donations and increased expenses. Advent has been making ends meet by using funds from our reserves/investments. For those who are able, additional offerings in 2023 to the "General" category on your offering envelopes would be much appreciated. Thank you.

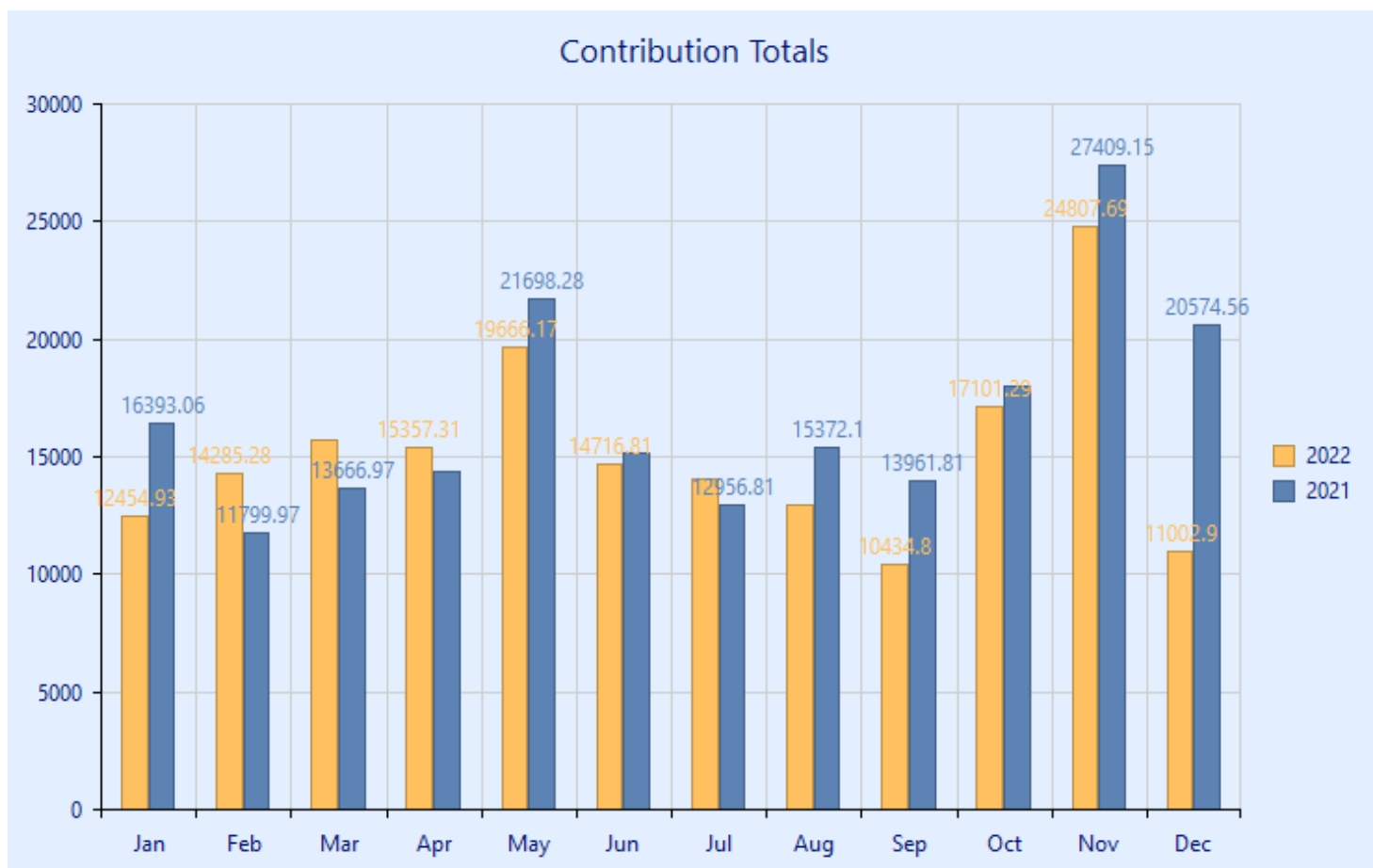
Benevolence offerings received YTD have been \$11,886. Benevolence offerings last year at this point were \$8,304. Advent's members and friends continue to provide financial support to those in need. Thank you!

Thanks to all who were able to attend the Annual Congregation Meeting on November 20, 2022, during which time a budget for 2023 was approved. Special thanks to Cindy Frey, Advent's Financial Secretary, for leading the budget discussion.

Stewardship information for 2023 will be shared with the congregation during January and early February. I ask that you prayerfully consider making a financial and/or time & talent commitment in 2023.

Thank you.

Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee Chairperson



Income for November 2022

Benevolence (LWR, Mission Support, etc.)	\$ 800.00
General Fund	\$16,921.69
Mortgage Fund	\$ 7,086.00

Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support of the church this year. 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

SERVING IN WORSHIP - JANUARY 2023 SCHEDULE

8:00 A.M. LAY READERS

1/08 Rose Herbert
1/15 Nancy Hill
1/22 Dave Elkin
1/29 Rose Herbert

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Non Communion Service
Hanna McCollum
Janice Hoffmann
Rose Herbert

9:30 A.M. LAY READERS

1/08 Gail Oines
1/15 Jennifer McQuiggan
1/22 John Flint
1/29 George Henry

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Non Communion Service
Jennifer McQuiggan
Joyce Heiss
George Henry

OUR TECH CREW

Passtor Matt, Mike Dettra, Tony Gryzka, Gary Zimmerman

ALTAR GUILD

8:00 A.M. Hanna McCollum
9:30 A.M. Gail Oines, Nancy Sclight, Rhona Slawter

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION

Linda Brownlee, Audrey Savchuck, Nancy Sclight, Rhona Slawter



JANUARY

8	Linda Gordon	14	Nancy Sclight	26	Keith Wills
10	Katie Dettra	18	Benicia Meyers	27	Kathy Sitler
12	Jim Hollingsworth	22	Colleen Morrison		

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



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st Sunday of Christmas 9:00 AM Service of Lessons and Carols 10:00 AM Fellowship Time: Open	2 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	3	4	5	6	7 10:00 AM -Noon Stitch Club
8 Baptism of Our Lord 8:00 AM Service of the Word No Holy Communion 9:30 AM Service of the Word No Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open	9 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	10 6:30 – 8:00 PM Ping Pong	11 6:30 Praise Team 7:15 Vocal Choir	12	13 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	14 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM-Noon Stitch Club
15 2nd Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: 10:45 AM Church Council Meeting	16 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	17 6:30 – 8:00 PM Ping Pong	18	19	20 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	21 10:00 AM-Noon Stitch Club
22 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	23 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	24 6:30 – 8:00 PM Ping Pong	25	26	27 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	28 10:00 AM-Noon Stitch Club
29 4th Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 AM Traditional Holy Communion 9:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Contemporary Holy Communion Sunday School age 4 - gr. 6 10:30 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	30 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	31 6:30 – 8:00 PM Ping Pong				