

# 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 Road  
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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 FOR MAY 2023**

### **MAY 7**

#### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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. Adult Bible Study

### **MAY 14**

#### **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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: Jeanine & Stephen  
            Saegert  
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

### **MAY 21**

#### **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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

### **MAY 28**

#### **DAY OF PENTECOST**

#### **Beginning of Summer Schedule**

8:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study  
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Holy Communion  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: Open  
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study

### **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>

**9:00 am 5/28 zoom information will be sent out with Worship Service information.**

## **PASTOR MATT'S THOUGHTS FOR MAY**

Christmas and Easter are the two biggest celebrations in the Church. I have often heard it said that Christmas should be celebrated year-round. This sentiment is often meant to promote peace on earth, good will to all people and generosity. When children wish for Christmas to come more than once a year, they usually are thinking more of presents. This noble idea of continually celebrating Christmas can just as nobly be applied to Easter.

Think about it. Easter is about resurrection. It's about new hope and new life. It is about conquering death, sin and evil with love. This is what our world and our lives need.

Often, people respond with fear to their circumstances. They act out of desperation. The hope of the resurrection instead allows us to respond with faith and deliberation, knowing that Jesus is there walking with us through the dark valleys. So often our society responds to violence with more violence. We are good at winning the war but struggle to win the peace, whether abroad in the geopolitical sphere or like how two parents may argue over their children's sporting event. The resurrection shows us that might does not make right, neither does wealth, prestige, fame, or any one ideology. Only love marked by forgiveness can make all things right.

I wish I could take credit for the idea of celebrating Easter year-round, but I can't. It is actually an idea that has long been part of our Christian tradition, going all the way back to the early Christian church. The fact is our traditional belief is that every time we worship, we celebrate Easter. Every time we worship, we encounter the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ through God's Word and through the Sacraments. This is true whether it is a Sunday in the season of Advent, Pentecost, Christmas, Lent or any other Sunday of the year. This is why folks who fast or give something up for Lent, will often take a break from their Lenten discipline on Sundays because Sundays are primarily Easter days even in the season of Lent. Even on that day we more often hear that we should always celebrate in our hearts year-round, Christmas, becomes an Easter moment when we worship and share in Word and Sacrament. The idea that Christmas is an occasion to celebrate Easter should not be surprising to us. After all, how would baby Jesus's birthday be any different than any other person's if he never became our Savior through the Resurrection?

So, I encourage you to continue to try and keep Christmas in your heart year-round. As we continue to celebrate Easter this May, I also encourage you to keep Easter in your heart year round too. The world needs Easter every bit as much as Christmas, if not more so. And if children can wish to celebrate Christmas more than once a year for the presents, it would be nice in my wish to always celebrate Easter that Cadbury Eggs would always be available throughout the years too.

Love and Peace,

Pastor Matt

## A FAVORITE SUNDAY SCHOOL SONG



The words of our simple Sunday School song: “Oh, How I Love Jesus” continue with . . . “because he first loved me.” Throughout Lent and Easter, we learned of Jesus’ sacrifice for us through his death and resurrection; that our sins would be forgiven and our destination will be heaven. We are now learning the events that took place after Jesus returned and how he gave an important message to his faithful followers. Our final class for this school year will be on **May 21**. We are happy to see our students find joy in the Lord each week as we learn our Bible stories together!

## OFFICE HOURS FOR MAY

The office will be open Monday, May 1, and Tuesday, May 2. The office will not be open until Friday, May 12.

Starting Tuesday, May 16, regular hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## CONTACTING PASTOR MATT

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 phone 215-859-3778 or by email at [pastor@adventrichboro.org](mailto:pastor@adventrichboro.org). If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.



## CHOIR AND PRAISE BAND PRACTICES

more details.

Practices of the Choir and Praise Band are on **Wednesday evenings; May 3 and May 10. Praise Band begins at 6:30, Vocal Choir practice begins at 7:15.** All are welcome and encouraged to join; no prior experience is necessary. Please see Mike Dettra, Music Director or Pastor Matt for



## THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will continue at 7:00 pm on Thursdays. We will continue to study The Sermon on the Mount. We will continue to meet by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632518358?pwd=Smg5dm1Ba0VZamZjNG1YMk02MlVvZz09>



## MEN'S BREAKFAST SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 8:30 A.M.

Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday May 13th. Our speaker will have some helpful hints about what to do for Mother's Day.

We serve at 8:30 AM, coffee is ready at 7:3

**Dave**



## RECENT/UPCOMING GRADUATES

We will recognize graduates of high school, college or trade school at a worship service in June. (The date will be listed in the June Newsletter). Please send or email the following information no later than **Sunday, May 28** to be included in the June Newsletter. Name of graduate, High School/Trade School/College name, Degree & Major (pursuing or received) plans for future.



## HE'S BACK!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 27 for an unforgettable experience. Mitch McVicker will return to Advent for a concert. More information to follow.



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 24 – 28**

Children aged 4 through completion of grade 6 are invited to attend Vacation Bible School at Advent the week of July 24 – 28 on Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m.– noon. Our theme is OPERATION RESTORATION. Students will learn Bible stories and how they guide us every day! We'll be busy with art, music, science and storytelling in this creative program, along with outdoor play and a snack each day! A suggested donation of \$15 for the first child in the family and \$10 for each additional child in the family is requested - but not required. Registration forms are available on the tract rack in the foyer or by contacting the church office.

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED**

Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time and talent to support and lead our ministries. There is currently a need for Sunday worship assistants who read the scripture lessons and assist with communion, perhaps on one Sunday a month or whenever you're available. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve Advent. See me or Gail Oines if you have any questions. Thank you!  
Tony Gryszka

## **LENTEN SOUP & SERVICE NIGHTS THANK YOU**

Thanks you to all who participated in the Lenten Soup and Service nights; those who provided soup, bread, and beverages, those who set/cleaned up, and those who tuned in for the service. The services were well attended whether in person or on zoom. Thank you to Linda Weaver for accompanying the hymns on piano and to Pastor Matt for providing the food for thoughts!



## **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.

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**



Warminster Food Bank thanks Advent for the generous donations.

For information about Warminster Food Bank see article included page 6, "Stomp Out Food Insecurity with Warminster Food Bank (article from the Special Advertising Section of the Philadelphia Inquirer, April 13, 2023 pg. R5.)

Please continue donating whatever you can each month either on days that the church office is open or you can deposit your bags in the bench outside the main entrance anytime. For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to [www.warminsterfoodbank.org](http://www.warminsterfoodbank.org).

Thank-you for your continued support of this important mission.  
Nancy Sclight, Social Ministry

# Stomp Out Food Insecurity with Warminster Food Bank

The Warminster Food Bank is a 501c3 organization that provides food to people in need in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. The Warminster Food Bank serves more than 800 individuals/200 families per month and more than 7500 individuals/1800 families per year with food donated by individuals and businesses. Donations and volunteers are always welcome. Warminster Food Bank takes great pride in its years of uninterrupted service providing for the ongoing food needs of the community since 1958.

In March 2020, Warminster Food Bank faced a time of crisis in the form of an international pandemic. At that time, many food banks shut their doors and discontinued service. Warminster Food Bank faced the same concerns, but realizing that more than ever many families needed their support, they decided to keep their doors open. They established strict safety protocols to ensure that their guests could receive substantial food assistance in a safe manner, as well as the protection of their fully volunteer staff.

At this time, Warminster Food Bank reinvented itself by changing the organization's name from Coordinating Council for Health and Welfare to Warminster Food Bank, with the goal of letting the community know exactly what area of need that they intended to support. Prior to March 2020 they were servicing about 40 to 45 families monthly with food baskets containing about 60 items. In a short period of time, demand started to steadily grow to about 80 families per month and the food baskets expanded to about 75 items. Each basket includes approximately 130 pounds of both perishable and nonperishable items, valued at over \$250. 80% of these families fall below 200 percent of the poverty line; the other 20 percent have faced extenuating circumstances, such as temporary unemployment, large medical expenses, difficult domestic circumstances, etc.

In addition, the Warminster Food Bank funds and supports many other food projects within the community, including:

Food distribution events where over 150 cars,

many of them low income or US Military Veterans' households, drive up to a designated location and receive 20 plus items of necessary food.

Providing ongoing support to a local middle school with a large low-income family population, providing for a monthly food distribution of targeted foods totaling 150 food bags, each weighing 20 lbs.

Supporting several food pantries, located in some of the poorest communities, with requested food items that they could not acquire without Warminster Food Bank's assistance, with over 5000 lbs. distributed throughout the past year.

Warminster Food Bank's signature fundraising event is their Annual Warminster Food Bank Donation Dash 5K Run & Walk, which will take place on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 9-11 a.m. (rain or shine) at Warminster Community Park, 1100 Veterans Way, Warminster, PA. This year's Title Sponsor is Branch Fitness. The cost is \$30.00 and the run will be a timed and sanctioned 5K race. The cost for the fun run and walk is \$15. Participants for both the 5K run and walk will receive an event T-Shirt. To register, visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Warminster/WarminsterFoodBank5kFunRunDonationDash>.

The deadline to register online is May 4, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.

Proceeds from the Warminster Food Bank Donation Dash 5K Run & Walk will benefit the Warminster Food Bank and the communities it serves.

Despite it being a rainy day, last year's race had 125 participants and raised \$11,000. "We were looking for an event that would help raise funds to support our mission," said Mike Cerino, Director, Warminster Food Bank. "We decided on a 5K run and walk, since it would be a fun event for runners and walkers of all ages and abilities. Last year's run and walk was a resounding success, even in the rain, and we're hoping for a bigger turnout this year"

For those who can't participate but want to help, monetary donations are accepted and sponsorship opportunities are available for area businesses. To make a donation

or learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Brian Foedisch at 267-307-0948 or via email at [mail@warminsterfoodbank.org](mailto:mail@warminsterfoodbank.org). To learn more about Warminster Food Pantry, visit <https://www.warminsterfoodbank.org>.



**Palm Sunday Procession**



**Good Friday**



**Advent Welcomes everyone on  
Easter Sunday**



**Easter Sunday Choir**



**Easter Sunday Worship Service**



**Mike Dettra Playing the Marimba**

## Service of the Word, Sunday, April 16



**Deaconess Gail Oines Preaches**



**Children Sermon**



### **Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt**

### **DRIVE in AND DROP off FOOD COLLECTION**



If you have food for the Warminster Food Pantry that you or your friends would like to donate, and the church is not open, just drive in and drop off the food under the seat of the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours.

For suggestions on which items are requested each week, go to: [www.warminsterfoodbank.org](http://www.warminsterfoodbank.org).



### **FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Worship

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 Jobes 215-355-4149.



### **NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Please consider supporting our sister congregation, Nueva Creación Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, which does vital ministry in North Philadelphia. A sign up sheet is found on the table in the narthex near the entrance to the sanctuary. The cost to support the Mission week is \$25.00. There are openings available through the end of the year.



### **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

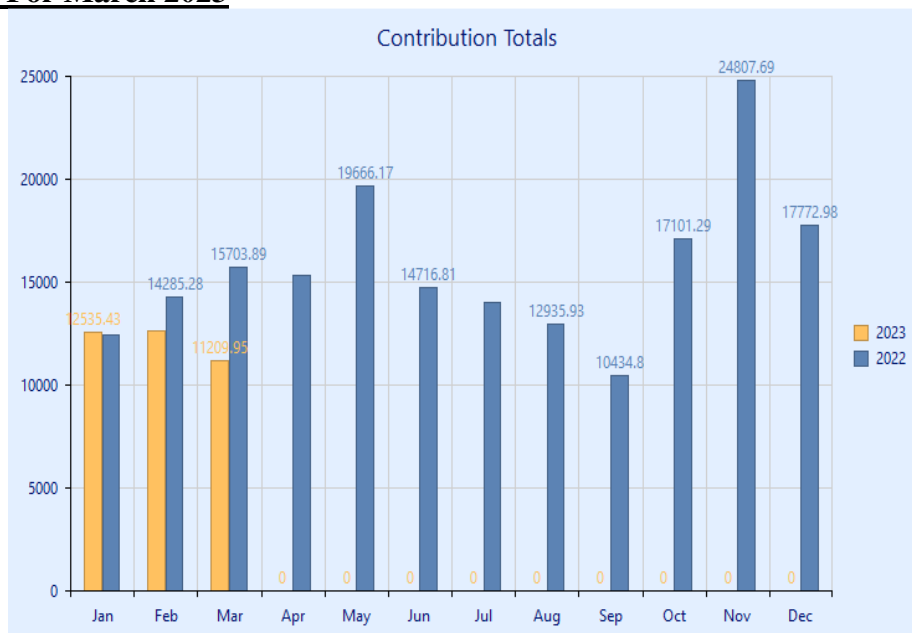
PFC Joseph Vanderstine, grandson of Alan and Rhona Slawter is back from Iraq and continuing his training at Fort Drum, NY.

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

### **FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Thank you for your financial contributions in support of Advent's ministries throughout the year. Advent had a difficult financial first quarter for 2023. Our combined operating and mortgage expenses for January through March exceeded revenue by \$22,590. Traditionally, the first quarter of the year has challenging financial months and this year was no exception. We continue to utilize our financial reserves to make ends meet, while working to enhance the worship experience by improving our online worship streaming equipment as well as other amenities in the church. For those who are able, additional donations to our "General Fund" will help reduce the current deficit and are most appreciated. All offerings are confidential. Tony Gryszka, Finance Committee/Stewardship Chairperso

## **Financial Report For March 2023**



General Fund	Rec'vd for March 2023	Budget for March 2023
Mortgage	\$8,490.95	\$17,281.00
Bene. - Synod		
Only	\$2,098	\$1,898.00
Other		
Benevolence	\$23	\$134
Total	\$598	
	\$11,209.95	\$19,313.00
General Fund	Recv'd YTD 1/1-3/31/23	Budget YTD 1/1-3/31/23
Mortgage	\$29,844.91	\$51,843.00
Bene. - Synod		
Only	\$6,870.00	\$5,694.00
Other		
Benevolence	\$177.00	\$402.00
Total	\$1,700.00	
		\$57,939.00

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

## SERVING IN WORSHIP – MAY 2023 SCHEDULE

### 8:00 A.M. LAY READERS

5/07 David Elkin  
5/14 Nancy Hill  
5/21 Rose Herbert  
5/28 David Elkin

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Hanna McCollum  
Open  
Rose Herbert  
Janice Hoffman

### 9:30 A.M. LAY READERS

5/07 Jennifer McQuiggan  
5/14 John Flint  
5/21 Gail Oines  
5/28 Open

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Jennifer McQuiggan  
John Flint  
Gail Oines  
Open

### OUR TECH CREW

Pastor Matt, Mike Dettra, Tony Gryszka, 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



### **MAY**

6 Joan Lenox	17 Tony Gryszka	27 William Dettra
10 Linda Weaver	21 Ron Brown	28 Helen Shearer
15 George Spahn	22 Nikolas Charles Buttil	

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6:30 Praise Team 7:15 Vocal Choir	4 7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom	5 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg	6 10:00 AM-Noon Stitch Club
7 <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 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	8 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	9	10 6:30 Praise Team 7:15 Vocal Choir	11 7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom	12 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg	13 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10:00 AM-Noon Stitch Club
14 <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 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: Jeanne & Stephen Saegert 10:45 AM Adult Bible Study	15 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	16	17	18 7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom	19 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	20 10:00 AM-Noon Stitch Club
21 <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> 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 Church Council Meeting	22 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	23	24	25 7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom	26 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	27 10:00 AM-Noon Stitch Club
28 <b>Day of Pentecost</b> <b>Beginning of Summer</b> <b>Schedule</b> 8:00 AM Adult Bible Study 9:00 AM Contemporary Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship Time: Open 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study	29 7:30 PM A.A. Open Meeting	30	31	1 7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom	2 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	3 10:00 AM-Noon Stitch Club