

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 16, 2025

9:30 a.m.



The Advent community extends a heartfelt and warm welcome to Pastor Sandra Brown, our visiting pastor today. Advent is honored to have her here and blessed to hear God's Word through her.

Welcome, Pastor Sandra!

We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A reading from **Romans 6:3-5**: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit
and forgives us all our sins,
strengthen us in all goodness
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gathering Song: “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

WOV 697

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Wash O God our sons and daughters
Where Your cleansing waters flow
Number them among Your people
Bless as Christ blessed long ago
Weave them garments bright and sparkling
Compass them with love and light
Fill anoint them send Your Spirit
Holy dove and heart's delight</p> <p>2 We who bring them long for nurture
By Your milk may we be fed
Let us join Your feast
Partaking cup of blessing living bread</p> | <p>God renew us guide our footsteps
Free from sin and all its snares
One with Christ in living dying
By Your Spirit children heirs</p> <p>3 O how deep Your holy wisdom
Unimagined all Your ways
To Your name be glory honor
With our lives we worship praise
We Your people stand before You
Water washed and Spirit-born
By Your grace our lives we offer
Recreate us God transform</p> |
|---|--|

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Sermon

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 27

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴**One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;**

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the
beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

⁷Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

8 My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”

Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

**¹⁰ Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

**¹² Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!

**¹⁴ Wait for the Lord and be strong.
Take heart and wait for the Lord!**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: "On the Third Day"

1 Creation brings an offering,
As autumn leaves turn to gold,
The trees bow down in highest praise,
Now made bare before Your throne.
The western sky an amber blaze,
At the end of the day,
For everything must die to rise again.

2 The winter's chill, a bitter cold,
As sin and shame leave us to fall,
The clouds now full of newborn snow,
For grace to come and save us all,
Within the darkest night of man,
Was found Your saving hand,
For everything must die to rise again.

Chorus 1

On the third day, behold the King,
On the third day, death has no sting,
On the third day, we're forgiven and
reconciled.

3 The earth it groans in labor pains,
As flowers stretch to heaven above,
Your creatures sing the prophet's song,
To be a gift of selfless love.
The sun is rising in the east,
And Your spirit is unleashed,
For everything must die to rise again.

4 And so we wait in joyful hope,
For You to come and take us home,
And so we join beneath the cross,
In suffering from whence we go.
The greatest act of sovereign grace,
In the universe displayed,
For everything must die to rise again.

Chorus 2 (sing twice)

On the third day, the saints rejoice,
On the third day, we lift our voice,
On the third day, united and glorified.

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe In the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends with... God, in your mercy.

*The congregation responds: **hear our prayer.***

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you

The Offering (Please leave your offering on our website:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home>)

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray...

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sacrament

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

Distribution

The body of Christ, given to you
The blood of Christ, shed for you

Prayer After Communion

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending/Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "Thank You, Lord"

1 I come before You today
And there's just one thing that I want to say
Thank You Lord thank You Lord
For all You've given to me
For all the blessings that I cannot see
Thank You Lord thank You Lord

2 For all You've done in my life
You took my darkness and gave me Your light
Thank You Lord thank You Lord
You took my sin and my shame
You took my sickness and healed all my pain
Thank You Lord thank You Lord **Chorus**

Chorus

With a grateful heart with a song of praise
With an outstretched arm,
I will bless Your name
Thank You Lord
I just want to thank You Lord
Thank You Lord
I just want to thank You Lord
(Thank You Lord)

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

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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



SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Visiting Pastor
Music Director
Lay Reader
Communion Assistant
Fellowship Time

The Rev. Sandra Brown
Michael Dettra
John Flint
Kristi Ward
Joanne Kelly

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated by Lynn Roccograndi in honor of the birthday of his father, Samuel.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, March 9 TOTAL: 44

8:00 AM: 8+2=10

9:30 AM: 29+1=30

Sunday School: 4

PULPIT SWAP TODAY – WELCOME PASTOR SANDRA BROWN!



The Lower Bucks Conference is participating in a Pulpit Swap today, Sunday, March 16. Advent welcomes Pastor Sandra Brown for both the 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM services. Pastor Sandra works with congregations in transition in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. She is currently serving as Interim Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran in Somerton, and has been serving in the Lower Bucks conference in this capacity for over 10 years. Welcome, Pastor Sandra!

Pastor Matt will be leading worship at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Penndel, PA.

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 at 215-859-3778 or email him at pastor@adventrichboro.org.

If he is not available to take your call, leave a message and he will contact you.

COMMUNION REMINDER

The Worship and Music Committee would like to remind the congregation that those going forward to the altar for communion have a few options. There is gluten-free bread in the small clear glass bowl, and white grape juice for those who prefer. Just let the Pastor or assistant know your preference. Thank you.

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM – WILL RESUME AFTER EASTER SUNDAY

Thursday Night Bible Study will resume after Easter on Thursday, April 24. Consider coming to the Soup Supper and Lenten Service on Baptismal Call on Thursdays, starting on March 13.

EASTER LILIES – SIGN UP BY APRIL 13

The sign-up sheet to place Easter Lilies on the altar for Easter Sunday is on the table in the narthex until April 13. Cost is \$15 per plant. You can also contact the office via phone or email with your request at 215-355-2529 or adventlutheranrichboro@gmail.com

DEDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

2025 ALTAR FLOWERS CHART

The 2025 Flower Chart to dedicate altar flowers each Sunday is on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$25 per bouquet, and you are welcome to take the flowers home following the late service. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529

2025 MISSION SUPPORT

The 2025 Mission Support Chart is available for sign up on the table in the narthex. Mission Support Dedication donations benefit our sister church, Iglesia Luterana Nueva Creacion, which does vital work in North Philadelphia. Dedication donations are \$25. You can also call the church office to submit your mission dedication: 215-355-2529

DONATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME

Fellowship Time is held Sundays directly following the 9:30 AM service. The sign-up sheet to provide refreshments for Fellowship Time is available in the narthex on the refreshment table. Advent supplies hot beverages and paper products.

If you are looking for a way to assist with Fellowship Time but do not have the time or ability to bake or shop for snacks, please consider donating a few dollars. The hungry snackers will appreciate it!

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For February 2025		
	Rec'vd for Feb 2025	Budget for Feb 2025
General Fund	\$10,494.64	\$18,609.00
Mortgage	\$1,324	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$85	\$133
Other Benevolence	\$976	
Web Upgrade	\$200	
Total	\$13,079.64	\$20,640.00
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-2/28/25	Budget YTD 1/1-2/28/25
General Fund	\$21,684.70	\$37,218.00
Mortgage	\$2,775.00	\$3,796.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$115.00	\$266.00
Other Benevolence	\$1,631.00	
Web Upgrade	\$200.00	
Total	\$26,405.70	\$41,280.00

**NEW EVENT: EASTER EGG HUNT ON SUNDAY, APRIL 13, AT 11:00 AM
SEEKING ASSISTANTS!**



Advent is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 13, at 11:00 AM! Christine Welsh has agreed to lead the event and is looking for some energetic and enthusiastic help for the planning and execution of the event.

If you are interested in being involved,
please contact Christine at 267-566-6299 or welsh0914@gmail.com.

To help jump start the event preparations, if you are able, please complete a short planning questionnaire: <https://tinyurl.com/adventegghunt>.



DRIVE-IN & DROP-OFF FOOD COLLECTION – WARMINSTER FOOD PANTRY

If you have food for the Warminster Food Pantry and the church is not open, just drive into the parking lot and drop off the food inside the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

SUPPORT THE REBUILDING OF OUR CHURCH’S WEBSITE

Please help support the website rebuild through a financial gift, which will defray the costs totaling \$14,535 (for the rebuild and web hosting for one year). To date, over \$9,900 has been donated. Thanks to all who have made and will be making a financial gift in support of the appeal. Checks can be made out to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church (memo line: Electronic Service Appeal).

PING PONG – TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 6:30 PM

All are welcome to come and enjoy Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM. Please call the church 215-355-2529 if you want to give it a try.

FOURTH ANNUAL WOMEN’S GATHERING AND LUNCHEON: “FINDING JOY IN YOUR LIFE”

Saturday, April 5, at 12:00 to 2:00 PM

Family of God Lutheran Church, 4770 Route 202, Buckingham, PA

Family of God Lutheran Church in Buckingham will host the Fourth Annual Women’s Gathering and Luncheon on Saturday, April 5. It will be a time to share and enjoy thoughts and concerns, and to pray together. Luncheon will begin at 12:00 PM, followed by a group discussion about “Finding Joy in Your Life.”

Register by phone for the event:

Pastor Josephine Wright at 215-364-2298 or

Family of God Lutheran Church at 215-597-5973

The event is open to women of all ages and denominations.

No fee to attend ~ Free will offerings will be taken for the luncheon

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



THURSDAY EVENING SOUP SUPPERS AND LENTEN SERVICES

Thursdays, March 13 through April 10

6:00 PM: Soup Supper

7:00 PM: Lenten Service: “Baptismal Call”

During the season of Lent, gather at Advent on Thursday evenings. Soup supper and fellowship will be followed by a Lenten worship service focused on Baptismal Call.

- For the Soup Supper, please sign up in the narthex to bring soup, bread or drinks.
- The Lenten service will also be available via Zoom and Facebook. The link for the service will be sent via email the week prior to the first Soup Supper.



SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 23, 9:00 AM

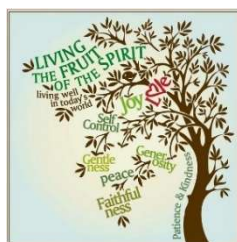
Advent will have a single worship service at 9:00 AM in advance of the Congregational Meeting and Second Constitution Approval Vote.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - NEW CONSTITUTION APPROVAL VOTE

Sunday, March 23, following the 9:00 AM Service

The congregation will have a second chance to vote on the approval of the new constitution following the single worship service at 9:00 AM on Sunday, March 23.



SPIRITUAL GIFTABILITIES INVENTORY

Sunday, March 30, 10:45 AM

For those who were not able to complete the Spiritual Giftabilities Inventory, you have an opportunity following the 9:30 AM service on March 30, to convene with Pastor Matt, who will guide you through the process. This inventory is meant to assist congregants in identifying and understanding their personal spiritual gifts and to identify the spiritual gifts of the congregation.

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 16 – Second Sunday of Lent

Pulpit Swap: Pastor Sandra Brown

- 8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion
- Sunday School for students age 4 to grade 6
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time: Joanne Kelly
- 10:45 am Bible Study in the parlor with George Henry

MONDAY, MARCH 17

- 7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

- 6:30 pm Ping Pong until 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

- 5:30 pm Praise Band Practice
- 6:15 pm Vocal Choir Practice

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

🌸 First Day of Spring 🌸

- 6:00 pm Soup Supper
- 7:00 pm Mid-week Lenten Service

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

- 7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 23 – Third Sunday of Lent

- 9:00 am Single Worship Service with Holy Communion
- Sunday School for students age 4 to grade 6
- 10:00 am Fellowship Time: Open
- 10:00 am Congregational meeting and Second Constitutional Vote

