

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 9, 2025

9:30 a.m.



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: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

WOV 660

- 1** I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

- 2** In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

- 3** When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

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

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through 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: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
²**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**
⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,
¹⁰**no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
¹¹For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.
¹²**Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
¹³You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
¹⁴**I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**
¹⁵They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
¹⁶**With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them | my salvation.**

Second Reading: Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b} “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);
⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,
² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

1 How deep the Father’s love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

2 Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

3 I will not boast in anything
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

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: “One Thing Remains”

1 Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant through the trial and the change
One thing remains, yes, one thing remains

2 On and on, and on, and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never, ever, have to be afraid
One thing remains, one thing remains

Refrain

Refrain

Your love never fails
It never gives up
It never runs out on me
Your love never fails
It never gives up
It never runs out on me
Your love never fails
It never gives up
It never runs out on me
Your Love

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

Pastor	The Rev. Matthew E. Ollikainen
Music Director	Michael Dettra
Lay Reader	Gail Oines
Communion Assistant	Megan Ward
Fellowship Time	Open

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support is dedicated to the Glory of God.

LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, March 2 TOTAL: 56

8:00 AM: 9+3=12

9:30 AM: 34+5=39

Sunday School: 5

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.

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.

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.

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 call or email the office 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 a.m. 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!

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! We are 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 Welsh 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.

RECYCLING CAN TABS FOR RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

We are collecting can tabs to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities which help alleviate some financial burdens for families along their child's healthcare journey. Last year alone, they helped families save \$736 million in lodging and meal expenses.

Tabs can be placed in the marked containers in the narthex, on the shelf above the coat rack.

No cans, please – just tabs!

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For February 2025		
	Rec'd 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
	Rec'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

SUPPORT THE REBUILDING OF OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE

Please help support the website rebuild through a financial gift, which will defray the costs totaling \$14,35 (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 an evening of Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. 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, 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



ADVENT WOMENS CIRCLE – NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 12:00 PM
The Advent Womens Circle held its monthly lunch on Tuesday, February 11, at 12:00 p.m. The meeting was very productive and progress was made on some new initiatives.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, at 12:00 p.m. For more information or questions, please contact Fran Zanis, 267-847-5098.



THURSDAY EVENING LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AND 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.



PULPIT SWAP – SUNDAY MARCH 16, 2025

The Lower Bucks Conference is participating in a Pulpit Swap on Sunday, March 16. Advent will welcome Pastor Sandra Brown from Triumphant Faith International Worship Center in Philadelphia for both the 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM services. Pastor Matt will be leading worship at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Penndel, PA.



SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, March 23, 9:00 AM

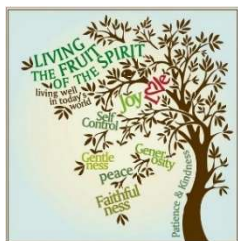
Advent will have a single worship service at 9:00 am in advance of the Congregational Meeting and Constitution Approval Vote.



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 a.m. 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 9– First Sunday of Lent

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: Open
10:45 am Church Council Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 10

7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

6:30 pm Ping Pong until 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

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: Open
10:45 am Bible Study in the parlor with George Henry