

Waiting for Jesus

AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR FOR FAMILIES

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
30 GENESIS 3:15	1 GENESIS 12:3	2 GENESIS 49:10	3 NUMBERS 24:17	4 DEUTERONOMY 18:15	5 2 SAMUEL 7:16	6 PSALM 2:7
7 PSALM 16:10	8 PSALM 22:1	9 PSALM 110:4	10 PSALM 118:22	11 ISAIAH 7:14	12 ISAIAH 9:6	13 ISAIAH 9:7
14 ISAIAH 11:1	15 ISAIAH 11:2	16 ISAIAH 42:1	17 ISAIAH 44:6	18 ISAIAH 53:3	19 ISAIAH 53:4-5	20 ISAIAH 61:1
21 JEREMIAH 23:5-6	22 MICAH 5:2	23 MALACHI 4:2	24 LUKE 1:31-33	25 LUKE 2:1-7	26 LUKE 2:8-20	27 MATTHEW 1:18-25

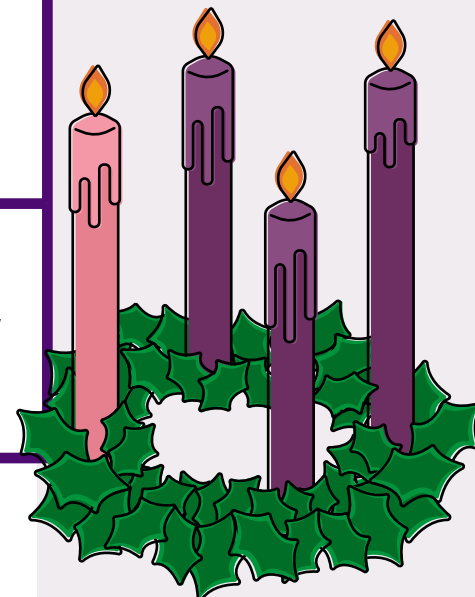
WHAT IS ADVENT?

The word *Advent* means “coming.” It is a penitential season to prepare for and reflect on Christ’s coming in past, present, and future.

Christ came in His incarnation as a baby, lowly in a manger.

Christ comes to us in the Word and Sacraments.

Christ will come again in His promised second coming.



Participating in devotions at home keeps you connected to the gifts you received in the Divine Service all week long.

TIPS FOR STARTING A DAILY DEVOTIONAL PRACTICE

- Choose a time each day for daily family devotions.
- Read the daily Bible verse(s).
- Talk about it: What does this verse say about Jesus?
- Respond with prayer.

Use your own words, the Lord's Prayer, or a prayer from pages 305-318 in the Lutheran Service Book.

- Sing an Advent hymn (LSB 331-357).

LOOKING FOR MORE?

- Older children may wish to help find the corresponding verses in the New Testament.
- If you're looking for more structure for your daily devotions, check out pages 294-298 in the *Lutheran Service Book*.

If you don't have a copy at home, ask about borrowing one from your congregation.

- Supplement with an additional Advent devotion, like the ones from Lutheran Laymen's League of Canada, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, or CPH's *Portals of Prayer*.
- You can find more calendars like this at:
<https://blog.cph.org/serve/tag/everyday-faith-calendar>

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

- If family devotions are new to you, start small and build on the habit.
- For a visual way to mark the season, consider:

Lighting candles on an Advent wreath, as a reminder that you are preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who is the Light of the World!

If you don't have an Advent wreath at home, you can make one as a family.

Colouring the calendar box or using a sticker to mark the date when you've finished your devotion.

- Repetition is a great learning tool, so come back to the reading throughout the day and talk about it.
- If children are having a hard time sitting still, give them a piece of paper and ask them to draw what they're hearing.
- Give older children a chance to read the verse(s).
- When praying, folding your hands and bowing your head is both a physical posture of worship and can help curb distractions.
- For younger children, use prayers they hear in church, have them repeat after you, or give them a prompt, e.g. "Thank you God for..." and let them complete the prayer.