



DECEMBER 2021

## Candles of Advent and Other Traditional Symbols around Christmas

At a time when much of the world is frantically gift shopping, putting up Christmas lawn decorations and anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus, Christians around the world are observing the liturgical season of Advent. From



the Latin word for "coming", Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ both in the past in His incarnation as the baby Jesus, but also in the future with His promised second coming as Christ Triumphant. Furthermore, Advent is a time to focus on His present coming to us in the Word and Sacraments. In the Lutheran church there have been many traditions observed during Advent that help Christians to both prepare for and anticipate His coming at this time. Martin Luther encouraged families to observe Advent as a time for them to teach their children about the coming of Christ.

Advent marks the beginning of the church calendar. It traditionally starts on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day (November 30th) and continues for four Sundays until Christmas. During this time the liturgical paraments and vestments in many churches will change to violet to recognize Advent as a time of preparation and repentance as well as a symbol of the royalty of the coming King. The color blue can also be used as a symbol of anticipation and hope.

Christians in many countries have adopted various traditions of lighting candles during Advent to observe this as the time of the coming of Christ who is the light of the world. One widespread tradition is the use of an Advent wreath both in the church and the home to

mark each Sunday in the Advent season. While the origin of this as an Advent tradition dates back to the Lutheran church following the Reformation, the current form commonly used today was developed more recently and is used in many other Christian churches throughout the world. The wreath is made out of evergreens in the shape of a circle to represent eternal life. It consisted of four candles originally; three purple or blue candles to match the liturgical colors and one pink candle lit on the 3rd Sunday in Advent. This 3rd Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday, meaning "rejoice" in Latin and comes from Philippians 4:4. Lighting this 3rd candle, Christians relax the fast to rejoice for the promised Messiah is coming soon. Many Advent wreaths also have a 5th candle, the Christ candle, which is lit during the time of Christmas, symbolizing that Christ, the light of the world, has entered the darkness.



Another tradition, is the observance of special commemoration days during the season of Advent, namely St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra on December 6th and St. Lucia, Martyr on December 13th. As

numerous stories surrounding St. Nicholas spread and became legend, Martin Luther was concerned that the observance of St. Nicholas day was becoming separated from Christ the true giver of gifts. As a response and an effort to replace St. Nicholas Day, Luther began the tradition of celebrating

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## Candles of Advent (*continued*)

the Christkindt or Christ Child who would bring gifts to children on Christmas Eve. Though Luther hoped to eliminate the secular traditions surrounding St. Nicholas, Lutherans today still observe his commemoration and give thanks to God for the gifts He gave him to bless others and confess Christ in a time of darkness and persecution.

St. Lucia was a Christian martyr in the 4<sup>th</sup> century who is traditionally known as wearing a candle-lit crown to light her way through the catacombs as she brought food to Christians who were being persecuted. Her



commemoration is meant to signal that Christmas is coming soon when Christ, the light of the world will

arrive. Today many Christians throughout the world celebrate by lighting candles and attending major festivals not only to commemorate her confession of faith and care for persecuted Christians, but in anticipation of the coming of the Christ child.

There is so much beauty and rich tradition during the season of Advent to prepare Christians for the coming of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem. When you see the altar draped in purple or blue, remember your King who came to bring you life and salvation. If you don't have one already, consider getting an Advent wreath for your home as you prepare for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. Give thanks to God for the confession of faith He gave to His people to shine His light in dark places. Learn about the tradition of reciting the O Antiphons (found in Lutheran Service Book along with hymn # 357 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel) and incorporate it into your Advent devotions. Finally, anticipate with joy the coming of our Lord! (Written by Deaconness Betsy Karkan who serves at Concordia University-Chicago.)

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES



### December 24 • Christmas Eve

#### 4:00 pm Worship • Contemporary Band

BORN FOR YOU!

**Theme:** The Wonder and Wander of the Shepherds

**Text:** Luke 2:1–20

**Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2–7; Titus 2:11–14; Luke 2:1–20

### December 24 • Christmas Eve

#### 7:00 pm Worship • Traditional Music

BORN FOR YOU!

**Theme:** The Wonder and Wander of the Shepherds

**Text:** Luke 2:1–20

**Lesson:** Isaiah 9:2–7; Titus 2:11–14; Luke 2:1–20

### December 25 • Christmas Day

#### 9:00 am Worship

"Come Let Us Adore Him - Be Not Afraid" –  
(All are Invited!)

**Theme:** "Be Not Afraid"

**Text:** Matthew 1:18–25

**Lesson:** Isaiah 62:10–12; 1 John 4:7–16;; Matthew 1:18–25



## MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

**December 1 • Midweek Advent 1 • 7:00 pm**

**Theme:** "I Wonder as I Wander the Word Made Flesh?" (*In the Likeness of man yet, God. Fully Divine & Fully Man*)

**Texts:** Isaiah 7:14; John 1:14

**Text:** Lessons: Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 8:1-4; John 1:1-4,10-14

**Hymns:** "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" LSB 357; "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" LSB 359 "I Wonder as I Wander" 642 WOV

**December 8 • Midweek Advent 2 • 7:00 pm**

**Theme:** "I Wonder as I Wander in God's Faithfulness"

**Text:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Lesson:** Isaiah 11:1-3; Philippians 1:3-6; Matthew 1:18-25

**December 15 • Midweek Advent 3 • 7:00 pm**

**Theme:** "Wonder as I Wander Compassionate Forgiveness"

**Text:** Luke 19:41-44 & John 11:30-36

**Lesson:** Isaiah 53:1-5; Galatians 4:4-5; Luke 19:41-44

**December 22 • Midweek Advent 4 • 7:00 pm**

**Theme:** "For unto Us a Child is Born - the Wonder as I Wander His Names"

**Text:** Isaiah 9:6-7

**Lesson:** Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 22:1-5; Luke 1:26-33



## SUNDAY SERVICES

**November 28 • First Sunday in Advent • 9:00 am**

**Theme:** Ready to Reveal to be Renew! "Trusting God's Promises and His Timing."

**Text:** Jeremiah 33:14-16

**Lessons:** Jeremiah 33:14-16. 1Thessalonians 3:9-13. Luke 19:28-40;

**Psalm:** Ps. 25:1-10

**December 5 • Second Sunday in Advent • 9:00 am**

**Theme:** Revealing the Messiah – John the Baptist Renews through Preaching Repentance. Ready to Renew!

**Text:** Luke 3:1-14 (15-20) John the Baptist points to Jesus as the Savior of the World. Renewed by the Washing in Him.

**Lesson:** Malachi 3:1-7b; Philippians 1:2-11; Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

**December 12 • Third Sunday in Advent • 9:00 am**

**Theme:** Revealing Joy in Jesus - Rejoicing and Restored. Jesus is our Identity, Security, and Meaning into Eternity.

**Text:** Luke 7:18-35 (All Persons Made by God, Not by Self! Rejoice! He has given heart, mind, soul and fascinating genes).

**Lesson:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 7:18-21 (29-35) Go and Tell John!

**December 19 • Fourth Sunday in Advent • 9:00 am**

**Theme:** Revealing the Peace of Christ. Humble Beginning and Life. Jesus the Peace the Surpasses All Understanding.

**Text:** Micah 5:2-5a.

**Lesson:** Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)

**December 26 • First Sunday After Christmas • 9:00 am**

**Theme:** Dedicated to Eternal Life for the World! Jesus' Dedicated as a first male gives light to All Nations!

**Text:** Luke 2:22-40

**Lesson:** Exodus 13:1-3a; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:22-40

**January 2 • Second Sunday After Christmas • 9:00 am**

**Theme:** Theme: The Father's Business – Renewing! The Wisdom of the Word in 2022 Renews!

**Text:** Luke 2:40-52

**Lesson:** 1 Kings 3:4-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

**January 9 • Epiphany Sunday Observance • 9:00 am**

**Theme:** Theme: Epiphany/Baptism of the Lord

**Text:** Luke 2:40-52

**Lesson:** 1 Kings 3:4-15; Ephesians 1:3-14; Matthew 2:1-12

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



### **Christmas Program Practices:**

Saturday, December 4, 10am-12pm

Saturday, December 11, 10am-12pm

### **Christmas Program:**

Sunday, December 12 during the church service with cookies and hot chocolate fellowship to follow!

**Join us one and all** - bring someone new to hear the Gospel and the story of the best gift ever... the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. The one saving truth and way of peace in this chaotic world.

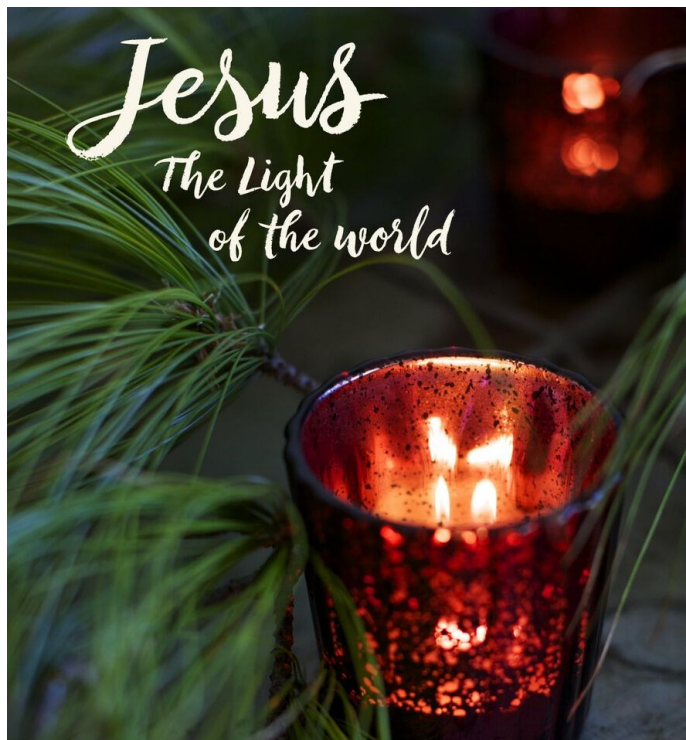
### **Sunday School Program "The Murdocks #4"**

The Murdocks - perhaps you remember them. They are a family of five, and up until the 2020 pandemic, they lived a typical suburban Minnesota lifestyle with both parents, Ron and Paula, working outside the home. Their three children, Charlotte, Melanie and Seth were all involved with school and extracurricular activities. The family is blessed with a rich (and somewhat eccentric) Aunt Agatha, who is a woman of faith who likes to spoil the Murdock family when she has a chance. Join us for a special celebration with our church family of the gifts of Christmas and the telling of the Murdock family story.

## GINGERBREAD BASH



Join us **Saturday, December 4th** for a FUN, hands-on event for kids, preschool through 5th grade. We'll build gingerbread nativities, hear the REAL reason for the season, sing songs, and discover that sometimes the greatest gift comes in the most ordinary box. All the fun is from 1-3 pm. We are asking everyone to register so we will have the supplies we need. For kids who will be at the Christmas program practice, we will be serving pizza immediately after practice. Any older child or adult who would like to assist us with the Gingerbread Bash, talk to Pam or Shari Schulze. Dare I say it? Snow date is December 11th. Invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives!



Christmas  
BLESSINGS

**Joy to the world,  
the Lord has come!**

PASTOR JIM • MEGAN LUCKFIELD  
MUI CHENG • NATHAN HENTGES  
GREG ALBRECHT

## THE LUTHERAN HOUR



**The Lutheran Hour** can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org). Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

### December 5

#### "Because We Belong"

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

The world tells us we must be useful in order to belong, but that's now how God sees us.  
(Luke 1:5-25)

### December 12

#### "When You're Expecting "

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

The season of Advent is about living in the middle of a story that is still unfolding, between what is already and what is yet to come.  
(Luke 1:20-80)

### December 19

#### "Charlie Brown Christmas Tree "

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

The drama surrounding the first airing of "The Charlie Brown Christmas Special" 56 years ago, against all odds, it gave viewers the true story of Christmas and doomed aluminum Christmas trees to near extinction.  
(Luke 2:1-15)

### December 26

#### "Rite of Passage "

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

(Luke 2:21-40)

## 2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



***A weekday 2-minute devotion that helps you see Jesus at work in your world.***

### Variety

A friend well-versed in my love for all-things-dairy sent me a gift card to a cheese shop. I've seen such shops. I just can't remember ever purchasing anything in one. This particular boutique specialized in exotically named milk curds. Who could pass up Redneck Cheddar?

My three favs sounded like two women and an opera singer: Sofia, Lenora a Fuego, and Sotocenera. (You have to draw the last one out with an Italian accent to get the full effect.) All on the soft side. Incredibly difficult for me to translate into words. Just lots of yumms.

I've not lived that sheltered of a life. Yet I never appreciated the number of distant cousins in the curd family. A cheese for every occasion. Every situation. Every taste. Kind of like grace. Regardless of your situation, there's a grace with your name on it.

Betty grace. Jack grace. Becky grace. Jeff grace. Grace for your huge failings. Grace for your minor mistakes. Grace for the times you intended harm. Grace for the times your ignorance simply took over. Grace by any other name.

With a taste that fits your particular occasion like the Party Planner knew exactly what He was doing. Soft sided. Incredibly difficult to put into words. Just lots of heavy sighs when you finally taste it and realize it hits the spot. Perfectly.

Given to you on a gift card that never runs out.

Compliments of Jesus.

Rev. Bill Woolsey  
*President and Founder*

**FiveTwo Network**

**Sign up to receive the 2 Minute Multiplier emailed to you! [www.fivetwo.com/2mm](http://www.fivetwo.com/2mm)**

# DECEMBER 2021

# Holy Cross

A Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Congregation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Worship	<b>2</b> 10:00 am POBLO Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00 am Christmas Program Practice 1:00 pm Gingerbread Bash
<b>5</b> <b>2nd Sunday in Advent</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	<b>8</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Worship	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Circuit Pastor's Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Christmas Program Practice
<b>12</b> <b>3rd Sunday in Advent</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 9:00 am Christmas Program 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	<b>14</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	<b>15</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 12:00 pm Newsletter 12:00 pm Articles Due 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>4th Sunday in Advent</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	<b>22</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 4:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> SILENT NIGHT <i>Holy Night</i> 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Contemporary Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Christmas Service
<b>26</b> <b>First Sunday After Christmas</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study <b>No Sunday School Today</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	<b>29</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due <b>No Confirmation Class</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	