

ADVENT MEANS "COMING"

During this season, we:

- remember Jesus' coming into the world,
- look forward to the celebration of Christ's presence among us at Christmas, and
- hope for Jesus to come again.

Advent begins on the 4th Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve.

Christians have been celebrating Advent, the coming of the Christ Child, for more than 400 years. On Saturday, December 6 we prepare the church for Christmas by greening worship spaces with the Advent wreath, evergreens, trees and Chrismons (tree ornaments in the symbols of Christ). Families are invited to make this a family time to work together and enjoy each other while celebrating the Advent season.

This year Advent begins on Sunday, November 30. Candles are lit on the Advent wreath, one each Sunday, until all the candles are lit by the Sunday before Christmas. On Christmas Eve the Christ Candle in the center of the wreath is lit.

ADVENT SERVICE OF HEALING

Saturday, December 20, 2008 at 6:00 pm

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we gather around the cross to offer prayers of healing for ourselves, others, and all creation. This service will include an opportunity for the anointing with oil and laying on of hands, as well as Holy Communion.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & DINNER

"Scrooge in Bethlehem" will be presented by the children on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. Dinner and a dessert auction will be hosted by Senior Youth who will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Donations will help defray the cost of the trip.

2008 ADVENT CALENDAR

Sunday, November 30 - First Sunday in Advent

Symbolizes HOPE with the Prophet's Candle - Jesus is coming

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
- 7:00 p.m. Service of Healing & Holy Communion

Saturday, December 6

- 3:00 p.m. Greening of the Church & Children's activities
- 5:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. Blessing of the Greens & Holy Communion

Sunday, December 7 - Second Sunday in Advent

Symbolizes FAITH with the Bethlehem Candle - Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

Saturday, December 13

- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Program Practice

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday in Advent

Symbolizes JOY with the Shepherd's Candle - joy at the coming birth of Jesus

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Program & Dinner

Saturday, December 20

- 6:00 p.m. Service of Healing & Holy Communion
- Empty Stocking Food Pickup Dec. 19, 20, 21

Sunday, December 21 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

Symbolizes PEACE with the Angel's Candle - the message of the angels: "Peace on earth, good will toward men"

- 8:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion
- No Sunday School
- 11:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 p.m. A child friendly worship experience with Holy Communion (held outside, weather permitting)

6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. Traditional candlelight worship with Holy Communion

(Church Office closed December 25 & 26)

EMPTY STOCKING FUND

This a community-wide effort to provide Christmas gifts and a food basket for those in need. You may help by purchasing gifts for a family, deliver gifts, donate food items or make a monetary gift. A list of needed food items is posted at church. Hams for food baskets will be purchased with donated funds. Checks may be put in the offering plate marked *Empty Stocking Fund*. If you would like to help with this project, call Trudy Blake at 235-0859.

POINSETTIAS/ALTERNATIVE GIFT

Poinsettias will adorn the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Orders accepted through Dec. 7. As an alternative to ordering a poinsettia, you may make a donation (for the same amount as the price of a poinsettia, \$11.00 per plant) to ELCA World Hunger Appeal. All donations and memorials will be listed in a special pamphlet on Christmas Eve. You may send your order to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sundays.

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SERVICE OF LIGHT

Sunday, January 4, 2009 at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

The Epiphany of our Lord brings the twelve days until Christmas to an end and begins a season that will focus on God's revelation in Jesus. The day is filled with surprises, mysterious visitors, and exotic gifts.