

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
LAC DU FLAMBEAU
DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER
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Our Mission Statement:

As people of God and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe our Mission to be the building of a strong fellowship, ministering to the Spiritual and physical needs of the church, the community, and the world fulfilling our Lord's command to "Love our neighbors."

WHAT IS ADVENT?



It's that time of year again when Christians all over the world gear up for the season of Advent. If you're new to the term, don't worry! We will help you understand Advent, why Christians celebrate it, and how to make the most of this powerful season.

So, what is Advent?

Advent, which comes from the Latin word “adventus,” means “coming” or “arrival.” It’s a season that typically lasts four weeks before Christmas, preparing us for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

In one sense, it’s like a spiritual countdown to the big day. But, it’s not just about ticking off days on a calendar. The advent season is filled with significance and meaning. It’s a chance for us to reflect, hope, and grow in our faith.

Advent is a poignant reminder that life is full of waiting through painful seasons. Just as the world once waited for the promised Messiah, we, too, find ourselves in periods of anticipation, longing, and uncertainty.

In these challenging times, Advent teaches us (just as it has for thousands of believers before us) the value of patience, hope, and faith. It’s a season that encourages us to hold on to our faith in Christ Jesus that, even in the darkest of moments, we have the victory over the troubles of this world in Him. Advent prepares us to celebrate His birth.

By learning from the experiences of Mary and Joseph, we gain the strength to face our own challenges, and keep going. Their stories inspire us to keep moving forward in difficult times. Advent comforts us in the waiting that redemption and celebration are not far away. All we have to do is see how the arrival of Christ brought hope and salvation to the world and remember that he is coming again!

Now, why do we Christians celebrate Advent?

Well, Advent serves multiple purposes. Firstly, it harkens back to the anticipation of the Messiah of the Old Testament. throughout history, people waited for God’s promised savior. Advent helps us step into their shoes and experience that longing and hope firsthand.

Secondly, Advent directs our focus away from the commercial frenzy that often surrounds Christmas. It’s easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of buying presents and attending parties.

Advent encourages us to pause, and reflect on the true reason for the season – the birth of Jesus Christ

It’s a time to remember the ultimate gift God gave humanity. It’s the season for us to re-center our lives around Him and His example of love, compassion, and humility.

How do we make the most of the Advent season Spiritually?

Here are some practical tips to keep it real and meaningful:

1. Reflect on the Nativity Story: Read the Nativity Story from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke (See [Matthew 1:18-2:23](#) and [Luke 2:1-20](#)). Mull over the events surrounding Jesus’ birth and the people God used - Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the magi, etc. Let their stories inspire you. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you as He spoke to them... Words of hope, comfort, and joy.
2. Advent Wreath: consider setting up an [Advent Wreath](#) at home period. It’s a circle of greenery with four candles (Three purple and one pink), each representing different aspects of the season. Light a candle each week and take a moment to meditate on themes like hope, love, joy, and peace. It’s a great way to focus on Jesus amidst the holiday chaos.
3. Read advent devotionals. Spend a few minutes each day reading and reflecting on the significance of the incarnation of Christ.
4. Prayer and Meditation: take time to pray and meditate during advent It doesn’t have to be complicated or formal - just speak to God from your heart and listen for His guidance. Meditating on the gift of Jesus can help you find peace and clarity amidst the holiday chaos.
5. Acts of Kindness: advent is not just about introspection but also about reaching out to others. Use this season to perform random acts of kindness - whether it’s donating to a charity, volunteering at a shelter, or simply offering a listening ear to someone in need. Spread the love and joy that the Christmas season is all about.

6. Christmas Music with A Twist: Sure, you can enjoy all the Jingle Bells and catchy tunes, try but try incorporating some reflective and spiritually uplifting Christmas music into your playlist. Listen to hymns or songs that remind you of the deeper meaning of Christmas.
7. Advent Calendar with Scriptures: Swap out the typical chocolate advent calendar for one with daily Bible verses or messages. It's a fun way to keep the spiritual aspect of advent at the forefront of your mind each day.
8. If you're in a season of grief or waiting attend a blue Christmas service. These services focus on waiting on Jesus through bereavement and longing.

Remember, advent isn't about perfection or doing everything perfectly it's about opening your heart to God's presence and letting his love shine through you. Embrace the season with anticipation, And you'll find that advent will draw you close to Jesus and enrich your walk with him.

Take it one step at a time, and enjoy the journey toward Christmas with a sense of wonder and gratitude. May this advent season bring you closer to God and fill your heart with peace and love!

This article was taken from faithgateway.com

The DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Janeen Clarke	Dec. 1
Judy Loertscher	Dec. 3
Tonna Applegren	Dec. 12
Greg Stiles	Dec. 26

ANNIVERSARIES

Paul and Jan Hoppe	Dec. 11
Bill and Barb Streng	Dec. 16

Scripture readings for December

December 3 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Isa. 64:1-9; and Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 40:1-11 and Ps. 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Pet. 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa. 61:1-4,8-11 and Ps. 126 or Luke 1::46b-55; 1 Thess. 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

December 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Sam. 7:11, 16 and Luke 1:46b-55 or ps. 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom.16:25-27; Luke1:26-38

Christmas Eve

Isa. 9:2-7 and Ps.96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 31 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isa. 61:10-62:3 and Ps. 148; Gal. 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Special Dates for December

First Sunday of Advent	Dec. 3
Second Sunday of Advent	Dec. 10
Third Sunday of Advent	Dec. 17
Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve	Dec. 24
First Sunday of Christmas and New Year Eve	Dec. 31

Session Meeting November 19, 2023

Present: Reverend Kathy Smith, moderator, Kathy LaBarge, Jill Consie, Mary Jane Stevens, Ralph Kerler, Owen Karlmann, Tom Gelwicks, Steve Schunk, Glenn Morrison and Bill Raduege.

After determining a quorum Reverend Smith called the meeting to order at 11:06 with prayer.

Treasurers Report – Discussion on the budget followed. Bill Raduege indicated that contributions are down from last year. Motion by Glenn Morrison and seconded by Mary Jane Stevens to approve the budget report. Motion carried.

Mission – Jill Consie made a motion to send out the additional; mission funds, seconded by Kathy LaBarge. Motion carried.

Clerk’s Report – Kathy received a letter from Pearl Jonkman Hujet to resign her position on the session. The letter was acknowledged and approved by the session.

Buildings and Grounds – Ron Wilke is taking care of the propane getting filled. Questions regarding the garage and boundaries of the cemetery. Motion made by Jill Consie and seconded by Mary Jane Stevens to allow Steve Schunk to have a conversation with the Tribe. Motion carried.

Thank you to Tom Gelwicks for his service on the session.

Next was a discussion on what is the calling of the church? What should we consider when looking for a new pastor? There should be congregational input into this process.

Next session meeting will be December 10,2023.

Motion made to adjourn made by Glenn Morrison and seconded by Jill Consie. Motion carried.

The meeting closed at 12:37 with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy LaBarge, Clerk of Session.



WE ARE IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO SIGN UP FOR:
GREETER
LITURGIST
USHERS

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<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066635837878>

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