

ADVENT PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS

- ◆ The color for Advent is blue, which symbolizes anticipation and hope in our coming King. Violet can also be used during Advent as a symbol of our repentance in preparation for our coming King.
- ◆ We do not sing the Gloria in Excelsis in the Divine Service during Advent. This is the angels' song at Christmas, so during Advent, we pass over this traditional Hymn of Praise in silent anticipation.
- ◆ It has become common to use an Advent wreath to mark the season. This wreath has four candles, one for each week in Advent. As these candles are lit each week, our anticipation mounts as we look forward to Jesus' coming.
- ◆ We gather for midweek services. These services heighten our awareness and anticipation for the celebration of Christ's coming in the flesh.

Family Life

A Series of Messages for Advent and Christmas



Family life. It can be the best of times and — let's be honest — it can be the worst of times. Consider these family facts:

- ◆ You don't need remote control for your TV. If you have children, the chances of controlling anything are already remote.
- ◆ More ominous than the sound of an approaching riot is the sound of children suddenly quiet.
- ◆ A survey of marriage counselors has uncovered this bit of data: no marriage can survive white carpeting.

Everyone needs godly wisdom when it comes to family relationships. That's why, as we begin a new church year, we plan to learn from the families connected with our Lord's birth. This includes Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, along with Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John. These families faced infertility, frustration, loss, misunderstandings, death, and so much more. Preaching plans are as follows:

Advent 1 (November 28) – **Two Families** (Luke 1:5–25)
Advent 2 (December 5) – **Our Way** (Luke 1:57–66)
Advent 3 (December 12) – **A List!** (Matthew 1:1–17)
Advent 4 (December 19) – **Open the Door** (Matthew 1:18–20)
Christmas Eve – **Whoever Takes the Son Gets It All**
(Matthew 1:21–25)

You are encouraged to be a part of these Sunday worship services. Your family is worth time and investment in God's word!



Save the Date!

Sunday, December 12, 2021

You Are Invited to the

CHRISTMAS RALLY

Join in the Celebration
as a fun day is planned
at

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
(700 N Air Depot Blvd) where in our -

- 9:00 a.m. **Fellowship Hall** — **Complementary Refreshments** for All.
- 9:15 a.m. Children from Sunday School and School will be doing crafts, enjoying snacks and activities, and hear more about Christmas.
- Fellowship Hall** — Adults will see a **special viewing** of Christmas.
- 10:30 a.m. **Worship** — Children will be singing Thanksgiving songs in the worship service and will be presented with a “special” gift.
- 11:45 a.m. Christmas **Luncheon** — Complimentary lunch will be served.



Looking forward to seeing you on
Christmas Rally Sunday!

THE TIME OF CHRISTMAS ADVENT

Begins the fourth Sunday before December 25,
or the Sunday closest to St. Andrew (November 30),
and ends with midday prayer on December 24.



The Savior's birth is second in importance only to His resurrection on Easter Sunday. During the Time of Christmas, Christians reflect on God's great and gracious gift of Himself. The Church Year begins with Advent (from Latin *adventus*, which means “coming into”), a four-week period of preparation before Christmas. The story of Jesus during Advent is the story of hope coming into the world. When the time was just right, God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. The advent season teaches us to prepare to receive Jesus, the hope of the world.

In Advent, we wait for our coming King.

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 11:1-23
Matthew 1:18-25

Micah 5:2
Luke 1:26-38, 46-55