

Dear Parents,

This weekend we are celebrating the fourth week of Advent! This is a week filled with expectations. We are probably having a harder time this year since our 'usual' expectations of how we celebrate Christmas are not feasible this year. We have to make a lot of adjustments and when we look back on this Christmas we may realize that we were surprised by what our Christmas was really like. Leading up to the birth of Jesus, Mary, too, was feeling unsure of what to expect. She was to become the mother of Jesus! This was not what she expected but what she most willingly said "yes" to. So let's all remember the words the angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid". Whatever this Christmas season holds for you and your family, I wish you joy amongst the confusion, peace amongst the unrest, happiness in the basics we have been blessed with, and strength to "Be not afraid".

Let's pray together this week for:

- The Church leaders, who we trust to be the good shepherds of God's people on earth
- For all leaders, that they act with responsibility
- For Christians everywhere as they prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ
- For us, as work towards growing closer to God and to being forgiving and kind to others

The lesson plan for the next three weeks is to cover pages 235 – 240 in the workbooks. Please also use the coming weeks to catch up on the chapters in the workbook and to bring the duo tangs up-to-date. There will most likely be a good opportunity to do that with the extended time at home which is probably on the horizon after Christmas. Just a reminder that the completion of the book and the duo-tangs are what will count as your child completing this year so that they can move on to the next level in September. Feel free to email me if you have any questions.

The prayer service this week can be found at <https://worship.pastoral.center/day/2020-12-20>

I wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas, filled with warmth and joy.

Beverley

Beverley Wiltsie

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