



# First Lutheran Church

## What is Advent?

The word “advent” is from the Latin word for “coming,” and as such, describes the “coming” of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh.

Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus’ earthly life began—in the Old Testament prophecies of His incarnation. After Advent comes Christmas, which is about his birth; then Epiphany, about His miracles and ministry; then Lent, about His Calvary-bound mission; then Easter, about His resurrection and the sending of the apostles; and then Ascension (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost, with the sending of the Holy Spirit.

The first half of the church year (approximately December through June) highlights the *life* of Christ. The second half (approximately June through November) highlights the *teachings* of Christ. The parables and miracles play a big part here. That’s “the church year in a nutshell,” and it should help reveal how Advent fits into the “big picture.”

Advent specifically focuses on Christ’s “coming”, but Christ’s coming manifests itself among us in three ways—past, present and future.

## Worship Service Schedule

Sunday Morning:

**8:30 a.m.**

Traditional Worship Service

**9:45 a.m.**

Sunday School & Bible Classes

**11:00 a.m.**

Blended Contemporary Worship Service

*Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month.*

The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of His incarnation at Bethlehem. The readings, which highlight Christ's coming in the future, focus on His "second coming" on the Last Day at the end of time. And the readings that highlight Christ's coming in the present focus on His ministry among us through Word and Sacrament today.

(Taken from the LCMS website)

# Events Coming Up

## **Christmas Decorating Party**

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided for all those who come to lend a hand. Hope to see you there!

## **Preschool Christmas Program**

Our Preschool students will have their Christmas Program on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3:00 p.m. All members are invited to join us as these precious little ones share the story of Jesus' birth!

## **Children's Christmas Program and Practices**

All children of the congregation are invited to be a part of our Christmas Program that will be held on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the 11:00 a.m. service. The practices for this program will be held on Sundays, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

## **Advent Services**

We will have special midweek Advent services on Wednesday evenings, December 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. On December 19<sup>th</sup> our Classical School will have their program at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for these services to prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Savior's birth this Christmas!

## **Advent Meals**

Please join us before our special Wednesday evening services for a meal at 6:00 p.m. On Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Spaghetti Dinner and on Wednesdays, December 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Soup Supper. For the Spaghetti Dinner you are asked to bring sauce, bread or a dessert to share. For the Soup Suppers you are asked to bring a pot of soup, bread or a dessert to share. Please join us for these meals to enjoy some delicious food and good fellowship!!

## **Offices Closed**

Please note our offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the Christmas holiday.

## **Adult Information Class**

Pastor Steve will be continuing an Adult Information Class during the Sunday School Hour this month. If you are interested in joining the Lutheran Church or just learning more about what we teach or reviewing our basic beliefs, this is the perfect class for you! It's not too late to join them!