

The Shephard's Voice

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Weekly Schedule

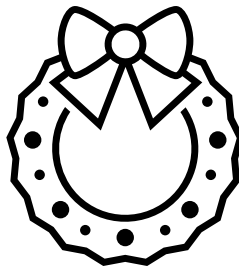
Sunday

Sunday School 8:00am
Bible Study 8:00am
Worship Service 9:30am

Wednesdays

5:30pm Confirmation
6pm Choir
3:15pm to 6:30 Youth Group

Holy communion is served on the 1st, 4th, and 5th Sundays of each month.



December Events

12/5 6pm Elders Meeting
12/6 7pm Advent Service
12/7 6pm AHG Meeting
12/10 10:30am Potluck
12/10 6pm Game Night
12/13 6pm Advent Service
12/14 6pm AHG Meeting
12/20 7pm Advent Service
12/21 6pm AHG Meeting
12/24 6pm Christmas Eve Service
12/25 9am Christmas Day Service
12/31 4pm News Years Eve Service

What is Advent?

Q: Why does the church year begin at Advent, what is the history of Advent, and what is the history behind the Advent candles and wreath?

A: 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.

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.

what is advent candles immanuel lutheran church joplin missouri

The purple candles matched the purple/blue paraments on the altar (purple for the royalty of the coming King). The pink candle was the third candle to be lit (not the fourth) on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent.

"Gaudete" means "Rejoice!" in Latin, which is taken from Phil. 4:4.

("Rejoice! ... the Lord is near"). Hence a "pink" candle was used to signify "rejoicing." Some also included a white "Christ candle" in the middle to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (Dec. 25 to Jan. 5).

3 Ingredients to Make Cake Mix Cookies

Box of Cake Mix:

Use any type of mix you like, any brand and any flavor. Grab a standard size box mix (15.25 ounces) for these recipes.

Eggs:

Use 2 eggs (a cake mix will call for 3, but only use 2 when making cookies).

Oil:

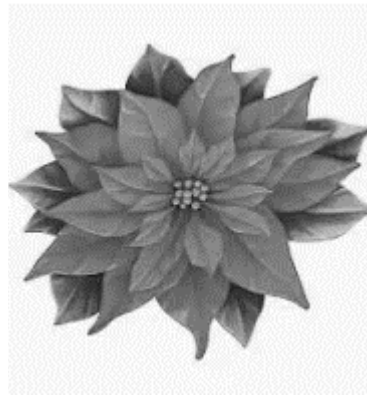
Vegetable oil works best here. You'll need ½ cup of oil per standard box of cake mix. You can substitute the same amount of melted butter if you prefer.

Add-ins & Toppings (optional):

chocolate chips, caramel, powdered sugar, flavor extracts, food coloring, nuts, candies, cinnamon, etc.

Christmas Poinsettias

Please sign up in the Narthax if you would like to purchase poinsettias for Christmas Eve. They can be picked up after January 1st. They are \$8 Each for a 6 ½ in plant. They will be Red.



Toys for Agape

This year we have decided to do toys for the Agape center in Waupaca. This will run just like Toys for Tots. These toys are for all aged children. Please no toy weapons. Thank You for all the support for our monthly drives. Let's fill the cart for the children this Christmas Season. We will be collecting toys till mid-December.

Advent Prayers

Week 1, Hope

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

Week 2, Peace

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best-version-of-ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

Week 3, Joy

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

Week 4, Love

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen.

Advent Family Prayer

A prayer you could use throughout Advent. God of Love, Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, As we wait and prepare for his coming. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

<https://www.immanuel.us/index.php?/adults/advent-prayers>