



ADVENT

Advent is the beginning of the church year, a preparation for the coming of Christ and includes the four Sundays before Christmas. Advent, from the Latin *advenit*, means “coming” and refers to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ as pretold by the prophets, His coming as a baby in Bethlehem, the coming of Christ into our lives, and His coming again at the end of time (The Second Advent). So this, the first season in the Christian Year, has a sense of Excitement, Adventure, and Wonder! BLESSED ADVENT!

The color of Advent is blue, symbolizing the hope and truth that comes to us in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Advent wreath is an old Advent custom. The wreath without beginning and end stands for eternity of God, and the greens for life and growth. It has four candles, one for each Sunday. The weekly increasing light of the candles is a symbol of Jesus Christ and the light of the world over-coming darkness, sin and death with the love of God and life eternal. The center candle, the Christ candle, is lighted Christmas Eve to remind us that the Light of the World has come in Jesus.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

NOVEMBER 27: First Sunday in Advent

- Praise Service at 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.
- Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
- Lighting of the First Advent Candle

DECEMBER 4: Second Sunday in Advent

- Holy Communion 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.; SCS 9
- Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

DECEMBER 11: Third Sunday in Advent

- Holy Communion 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.; SCS 9
- Lighting of the Third Advent Candle
- Special Congregational Meeting after 10:15 a.m. service to elect council persons and vote on 2017 budget (budget is included in this mailing); (followed by light lunch for those who will be **caroling** to our sick and shut-ins)

DECEMBER 18: Fourth Sunday in Advent

- One Service only:** 10:15 a.m. - Cantata
- Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle
- Sunday Church School 9:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: December 24



- 6:00 p.m. Family Service
- 8:00 p.m. Traditional Service with Special Music
- 10:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service

DECEMBER 25: Service of Lessons & Carols

9:00 a.m. One service only

JANUARY 1: Holy Communion; No SCS

9:00 a.m. One service only – Hymn Sing!

JANUARY 8: Baptism of Our Lord

- 7:45 a.m. – Holy Communion Service; No SCS
- 10:15 a.m. - Intergenerational Nativity/Epiphany Play

