



## 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 *adventus*, 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

Please note: Children’s Church/SCS (3 yr.-grade 6) is held during the morning Worship Services. Teen and Adult SCS are held at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays when there are two services (7:45 & 10:15)

December 2: First Sunday in Advent  
--Holy Communion at 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.  
--Children’s Church at 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.  
--Teen & Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
--Lighting of the First Advent Candle

DECEMBER 9: Second Sunday in Advent  
--Holy Communion 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.  
--Children’s Church at 7:45 & 10:15 a.m.  
--Teen & Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
--Lighting of the Second Advent Candle  
--11:45 Pizza Lunch & 12:30 Caroling

DECEMBER 16: Third Sunday in Advent  
-- **One Service only: 9:00 a.m. - Cantata**  
--Lighting of the Third Advent Candle  
--Special Congregational Meeting \*; No SCS

DECEMBER 23: Fourth Sunday in Advent  
-- **Praise Service: 9:00 a.m. only; No SCS**  
--Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: December 24



*Christmas Eve*  
SERVICE

6:00 p.m. Family Service with  
Glow sticks  
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with  
Special

Music

DECEMBER 30: Service of Lessons & Carols



**9:00 a.m. One service only**  
No SCS

JANUARY 6: Baptism of Our Lord  
-- **Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.; No SCS**  
Burning of the Greens outside after the service;  
followed by a Luncheon in Hoefffer Hall.

\* 12/16 - Special Congregational Meeting after  
9:00 a.m. service to elect council persons and  
vote on 2018 budget (included in this mailing)