



2022 Advent Devotionals

Written by the Members and Friends of
Zion Lutheran Church

Dear Reader,

“Advent is the beginning of the Church Year for most churches in Western tradition. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent can be a season of spiritual journey for individuals as well as congregations as we wait in a spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation, and longing.”*

Thank you to all who contributed to this booklet and especially to Andi Martin for putting it all together.

Waiting for God strikes us in different ways. Join now as we explore what “Waiting” in 2022 means to us.

~ The Worship Team ~

* Sharon Ely Pearson, editor and the Christian Formation Specialist for Church Publishing Incorporated (CPI).2018

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday Hymn

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

1. First Monday of Advent

A Season of Waiting

Isaiah 40:31 – *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Advent is a season of waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ. While we should be waiting with patience, hope, and joy to celebrate the birth of Jesus, circumstances in our lives may cause us to be filled with stress, disappointment and maybe even anger. When these feelings arise, we should always remember that God's light and love shine through any kinds of darkness that we might encounter.

Stacey Miller

2. First Tuesday of Advent

I Am Waiting for Something Great!

John 14:2-3 – *In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, you may be also.*

For Christians, Advent is a time for Preparation and Anticipation: Preparation for celebrating Christ's birthday, and Anticipation of His Second Coming.

Celebrating Christ's birth is very important for us because Jesus Christ is so important in our lives here on earth. And our eternal lives in heaven are because of our belief in Jesus our Savior. Where would we be if God had not sent His only Son to be born of a virgin? Wow! Tough to even think about.

And because Jesus took our sins on Himself, we can anticipate His second coming when He takes all believers to live eternally with Him in heaven. I think that is what I am really waiting for; to be in heaven with my God. I'd be ready to go tomorrow! That would be the ultimate JOY for me!!! But until God decides it is my time to go, I'm going to do my best to serve Him and His people. I may not be the best servant all the time, but I'll definitely keep trying. And I'll rely on God to help me.

Dear God, this Advent and always, help me to be a good servant for You and Your people. Please be with me and lead me. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

Norma Wolz

3. First Wednesday of Advent

God's Grace

Isaiah 40:31 – *But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.*

During advent we wait to celebrate the birth of Christ. We also wait for the second coming of Christ. This requires patience even though we know that God promises us by His **grace** we will be saved. All we need to do is believe in Christ as our savior .

Waiting is often difficult especially when we wait for so many unimportant things everyday, like fast food, buses, carpools, doctor visits, etc. Surely waiting for something we know God has already promised should be easier. Isn't it wonderful to know that we will one day be with God and Jesus in heaven because of God's **grace**.

*Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to take away our sins. Please continue to help us daily to be deserving of Your love and **grace**. Amen.*

Jo Ann Moritz

4. First Thursday of Advent

God, Our Great Father

Jeremiah 31:3 – The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

God is our great Father. He loves us with an everlasting love; not because we are so great but because we are his, by faith, through his one and only son, Jesus Christ. God is good and full of grace.

Johnnie Tucker

5. First Friday of Advent

What Am I Waiting For

I am waiting for the feeling of peace of my mind, along with patience. Patience for accepting the fact that I am not in charge and cannot make changes in someone other than myself or somethings. I need to remember Advent is a time for preparation [not only planning, purchasing gifts, food, decorations, all material things] but preparation of my mind. Most of all, recalling if it had not been for the birth of our Lord Jesus and His dying for us, we would not be waiting for anything.

Dorothy Kaiser

6. First Saturday of Advent

The Wait is Over

The wait is over. Thanksgiving leftovers are put away and the Christmas season is here. Mixed in with the stress that seems to be a part of holiday planning is this deep longing for a sense of Jesus' presence in our daily lives. Each Advent we sing "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus." The people of 2,000 years ago had the privilege of walking with Jesus in person, but we have the same promise that He is constantly with us.

Dear Lord, help us to take lots of little breaks in our day to be aware that you are always at our side and to draw our inner peace and calm from you. The wait is over. Jesus is here!

Anonymous

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday Hymn

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

7. Second Monday of Advent

John the Baptist

Ever wondered how John knew it was the right time to prepare the way for the Messiah? Maybe there was an angel?

“The angel insisted, ‘It is your job to prepare people for the Messiah. It is your job to get them to turn from their own, fruitless ways to look to God for their salvation, toward God for their true Home.’

‘Will he be a good leader?’ asked John.

‘His blood will be shed for the reunion of God and the hearts of God’s people. That’s your mission, John. That’s your message! You’re the one who is to tell everyone to put their trust in God’s care for them and to follow the Way that Jesus will teach them, the simple, trusting Way of glorifying God, not themselves.’

John: ‘His will be the way of peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love! He won’t be the ‘king’ that our people expect. He’ll be what God knows is more lasting. He’ll turn the hearts of our people forever!’

‘Go! Tell the people to turn their hearts, to prepare to be followers of the ‘King of Love!’ ”

Pastor Jan Marvar, Friend of Zion

8. Second Tuesday of Advent

I Am Waiting (Hoping) For...?

This question took up a fair amount of my thinking time during the past month as I tried to focus on a true answer. I thought and I prayed and nothing seemed to gel. Suddenly one morning while I was resting in my recliner, the answer was so obvious: one of the first messages the world received at the time of Jesus' birth was the song of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest and PEACE to all people on earth." It is my greatest hope that all who live in conflict – from families to nations and continents – will, with God's help, find ways to resolve their differences and live in PEACE.

"Heavenly Father, Your will be done on earth as in heaven."

Doris McCall

9. Second Wednesday of Advent

What Am I Waiting For...

My personal struggle in recent months has been trying to get my family started. It's been frustrating, at times painful [invasive medical procedures and prescription side effects], and extremely disheartening with each failed attempt. I cling to hope, but each failure brings heartache and more longing for the children I hope to someday bear.

The subject of seeking infertility treatment is uncomfortable for some people. Some folks will tell me that "God has a plan," and "If you're meant to have children, then it'll happen." As a Christian, I believe these statements to be true, but it's also incredibly frustrating when I feel so ready to start my family now. Knowing God has a plan gives me hope though: hope to keep trying, praying, and *waiting*, which helps me to maintain a positive attitude through this long, seemingly never-ending time. After all, Sarah was 90 when she had Isaac!

God, please bless all who are struggling and longing for your help, according to your will, this Advent season. Amen.

Andi Martin

10. Second Thursday of Advent

“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” (The Lutheran Hymnal #85)

From heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home.
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
Whereof I now will say and sing.

To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild.
This little child of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

One day, many years ago....I think I was around 10....I was paging through our church's hymnal when I stumbled across this hymn. I was familiar with it, having sung it in church a number of times. I liked the hymn, liked its melody and message, and decided that I would try and memorize all 15 of its short verses. I can't remember how many verses I actually DID memorize, but this Advent/Christmas hymn has been a favorite of mine ever since. What a sweet and lasting memory...what a simple yet profound Christmas message!

Richard Schademann

11. Second Friday of Advent

That Baby in the Manger

“That baby born in a manger was a frail human who grew in human wisdom and stature, but He was also almighty God, the creator of the universe the Lamb of God without blemish who came to seek and save the lost. To leave Him in that manger and disregard the amazing implications of what His coming to earth means for all people for all time is to miss the very reason God became flesh. He did it for US.” *A quotation from God is Amazing by Bickel and Jantz

Submitted by Anonymous



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

13. Third Monday in Advent

Always Be Hopeful and Prayerful

Dear Lord, As we await your coming, help us to always be hopeful and prayerful. Let us continue to believe that you sent your son Jesus Christ into the world for us and although we celebrate your coming each year, we know that Christ has come into the world to save all people. Amen.

I love this time of year when the trees are so beautiful with their different colors. It's almost like they have been decorated for someone special. Praise God that someone special is coming! Until then, let us trust God and love each other.

Erma Miller

14. Third Tuesday of Advent

What Are You Waiting For?

Hosea 12:6 (From the Message, Contemporary Language) – *What are you waiting for? Return to your God! Commit yourself in love, in justice! Wait for your God, and don't give up on him ... ever!*

The first time God spoke to Hosea, he told Hosea to find a woman of “ill repute” and marry her and have children because the whole country had been unfaithful to God. I'll not go down that path, but just say it, so you might go read the book of Hosea, all 14 chapters.

Here we are, living in a time where this message of returning to God is so important. The culture of our country, and maybe some of us, have drifted away from God. And God's message is one of committing ourselves to love and justice.

Jesus says Love God and Love Neighbor, and he says it so many times in the Bible that you might think he is trying to make a point to us ... don't you think?

God is always with us, and is good and full of GRACE!

Pastor Larry Lemke

15. Third Wednesday of Advent

Of the Father

“Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, *he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see*, evermore and evermore.” (ELW #295)

The italic phrase above caught my attention. It points to the limitless, unfathomable nature of our God! Perhaps one of the most profound parts of our Bible occurs in the first five verses of the book of John. Here we are treated to a marvelous attempt to describe the indescribable...our God!!

John 1:1-5 – *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through*

him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

The Word, Christ, was sent to us to get the job done, and by believing in him we are given eternal life.

Tom Ingram, Friend of Pastor Jan Marvar

16. Third Thursday of Advent

Adopted

Galatians 4:4-5 – But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

Day by day, we are becoming children of God! We are, as St. Paul put it so well, now adopted children of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus!

How does that make you feel? Think about that for a while today. Once in a while, turn that thought over in your mind and heart: “I’m adopted!” You and I are part of the same family, the family of God, because of the event that took place so quietly, so off-the-beaten-track, more than 2000 years ago.

Thank you, Jesus! I have joy deep in my heart to be a part of your family, forever. Amen.

Pastor Jan Marvar, Friend of Zion

17. Third Friday of Advent

How Long, O Lord?

My mother’s health declined over a year and a half. She suffered 13 seizures during that time. With each one, I wondered “How long, O Lord, before the next one?” Then during the last two weeks of her life, I asked, “How long, O Lord, before you hold her hand and lead her gently to her resting place with you?”

I wonder how often God's chosen people asked, "How long, O Lord, before you send your promised Messiah?" Matthew chapter one tells us there were fourteen generations from Abraham to King David, fourteen generations from David to the exile, and fourteen generations from the exile to the birth of Jesus. That's a very, very, very long time to wait! The promise was kept and God became one with us. (Emmanuel)

Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago. Jesus came then. Jesus comes to us in the weekly celebration of the Eucharist and comes to us now as we prepare to celebrate his birth at Christmas. Jesus will come again just as he promised. "How long, O Lord?" We don't know the answer but we do know the promise is sure.

Gail Voss

18. Third Saturday of Advent

Advent Reflections

As we enter the holy season of Advent, we are reminded to be patient while watching and waiting. Music has always touched my soul, and during Advent, I find it especially helpful in finding Peace and calm during a commercialized time.

Isaiah 35:10 – And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing and everlasting joy upon their heads.

There are so many songs of the Advent/Christmas season that speak to me, it is difficult to choose but below are two favorites.

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing: this song reminds us to have God's grace in our hearts and minds.

Mary, Did You Know: this is a beautiful hymn to Mary reminding us of the fullness and wonder in her heart.

"Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb?" As we prepare our hearts for Advent let us remember the true meaning of Jesus' birth through prayer, reflection, and the **special music** of the season.

Wanda Devenport

Forth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Hymn

Mary, Did You Know

§ VERSE



1. Mar - y, did you know that your ba - by boy — would
(2. Mar - y, did you) know that your ba - by boy — would
(3.) know that your ba - by boy — is



one day walk _ on wa - ter? Mar - y, did you know that your ba -
give sight to _ the blind _ man? Mar - y, did you know that your ba -
Lord of all _ cre - a - tion? Mar - y, did you know that your ba -



- by boy _ would save our sons _ and daugh - ters? Did you know .
- by boy _ would calm a storm _ with His _ hand? Did you know .
- by boy _ will one day rule _ the na - tions? Did you know .



— that your ba - by boy _ has come to make _ you new? _
— that your ba - by boy _ has walked where an - gels trod, _
— that your ba - by boy _ is heav - en's per - fect Lamb, .

Last time to Coda ◊



— This Child _ that you _ de - liv - ered will
— and when you kiss your lit - tle ba - by you've
— and the



soon de - liv - er _ you. _ 2. Mar - y, did you _ Oh, Mar -
kissed the face _ of _ God? _

INTERLUDE

- y did you know? _ Ooh, Mar - y did you

know? _____ Ooh. _____ Ooh, _____ the

BRIDGE

blind will see, _ the deaf will hear, _ the dead will live _ a - gain. _____

_____ The lame will leap, _ the dumb will speak _ the

prais - es of _____ the Lamb. _____ 3. Oh, Mar - y, did you

⊕ Coda

sleep - ing Child _ you're hold - ing is the great _____

I _____ Am? _____ Oh,

Mar - y. _____ Oh. _____

Music by Buddy Greene
Words by Mark Mowry

CCLI Song # 839225
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19. Fourth Monday of Advent

Symbols of Christmas

Symbols are often used in the celebration of Christmas, the most celebrated of the holidays.

1. Candy cane resembles the shepherd's hook. The white stripe is a symbol of Christ's purity and holiness. The red stripe reminds us of the blood Jesus shed on the cross as a substitute for our sin.

2. The green Christmas tree symbolizes eternal life. The leaves of other trees turn brown and fall to the ground. The cedar tree remains green throughout all seasons.

3. Stars remind us that Jesus is the Light of the world and was the bright star that led the shepherds to the manger where the baby Jesus was born. It was a star that led wisemen from other countries to Jesus' location. They brought rich gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to worship the newborn King.

4. Angels remind us of a host of angels that sang "Glory to God in the Highest" to the shepherds on the hillside minding their sheep.

5. Sheep reminds us of Jesus, The Lamb of God, who was slain for our redemption.

6. Gifts symbolizes the love we share with family, friends and less fortunate families.

7. LOVE is the GREATEST GIFT of ALL, sent by our HEAVENLY FATHER In the human form of JESUS OUR SAVIOR.

May we remember the true meaning of Christmas, Christ's birthday as we celebrate this holiday.

Ara Tess

20. Fourth Tuesday of Advent

The Love of Jesus Conquers All

In this devotion, one of our members shares that because Jesus came to earth to become one of us, we can look forward to His final coming for us.

Jesus has conquered the last enemy of death. In Romans 8, Paul tells us how Jesus' death has freed us from sin and death. In 1 Corinthians 15, he tells us of Christ's resurrection and the promise of our resurrection. Philippians 3:20-21 describes our physical bodies will be transformed into spiritual bodies that will be suited for that Heavenly Kingdom of Righteousness that Jesus is preparing for Believers. 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 assures us that we will be raised in glory with imperishable bodies where we will see no pain, disease, worry or death. WE will only experience Love, Joy, and Happiness in the presence of CHRIST THE KING!

Anonymous

21. Fourth Wednesday of Advent

A Time of Waiting

John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Advent is a time of waiting. I am waiting for Christmas, presents, hot chocolate, and snow. Most of all, I am waiting for Jesus Christ the Son of God. Jesus loves me so much that he died on the cross to forgive my sins.

Jayda Tucker

22. Fourth Thursday of Advent

Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy

Advent is hope, peace, love, and joy. It renews our commitment to the gospel. During this time of the year, it seems that most people are kinder to one another. I

even notice it in the grocery stores. People speak more, they give you a smile, or say, “Have a great holiday.” I’m guilty of the same thing sometimes.

John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son.*

Annis Tucker

23. Fourth Friday of Advent

What Am I Waiting For

Advent is supposed to be a time of waiting with anticipation and hope; a period of joyful preparation for what is to come. But doesn’t that describe seasons throughout life? There are many days that are like opening a little door or pocket on an Advent calendar. On those mornings, we open our eyes with hopeful anticipation of what’s in store for us. We may spend extra time getting ourselves ready hoping that THIS will be the day that we’ll get recognized at work, or maybe we spend an afternoon preparing a delicious dessert counting on family or friends to stop by for a visit.

We also have mornings when we open our eyes and just want to close them again. For many, this is most prominent during the Christmas season. Reasons behind this may include the overwhelming feelings of stress we experience caused by the tasks and demands of the season, the feelings of grief and loneliness stirred up by memories of loved ones who are no longer here, or feelings of frustration because our preferred plans must be altered due to health issues. It becomes easy to convince ourselves that there is nothing in store for us for which to eagerly await and prepare.

God has not abandoned us to such feelings of hopelessness that come with living in this fallen world. While Advent is a time of waiting with anticipation and hope, it’s the focus of that hope that sets it apart. Hope in worldly things will ultimately fail us, but God sent a sign to remind us to look to Him and know that EVERYTHING WILL BE OK and that HE IS WITH US. Especially during Advent, we don’t have to look far to see a reminder of that sign of hope; a baby lying in a manger. And because of the resurrection of Jesus, we also have hope in His promise of eternal life, and THAT’S something to look forward to.

This Advent season, if you feel things becoming chaotic or stressful, or feel lonely or sad, then ask yourself, “What am I waiting for?” You may need to shift your focus from the worldly to the eternal and recall that God has and will continue to fulfill His promises. Jesus’ story did not end here on earth, and neither does yours. Hallelujah!

Christine Walters

24. Fourth Saturday of Advent

It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

This song just popped into my head as I began writing this. I’m sure it’s familiar to you all, even though it isn’t a traditional Christmas church hymn, it’s been very popular for decades. It talks about how this season brings cheerfulness, fun parties, and having your loved ones near. The joy of the season is contagious, and that’s one contagion I don’t mind spreading!

With all the “hustle and bustle,” the frantic shopping for gifts, and preparing all the food for the big day, it’s easy to lose yourself to the tasks at hand and forget about the “true meaning of Christmas.” If you’re one of those people, like me, that sometimes feels guilty for becoming so distracted that you forget to focus on “what’s important,” don’t. Remember that all your actions [the preparation, the shopping, the parties, etc.] are driven by love, and *that* is the true meaning of Christmas.

2 Corinthians 9:15 – *Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

Dear God, thank you for the indescribable gift of Jesus, his teachings, and his sacrifice for all mankind. Help me to love as Jesus loved. Amen.

Andi Martin

Christmas Day

Sunday Hymn

Joy to the Word



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



MERRY
Christmas

HAPPY NEW YEAR