

# ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

At

Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 25, 2025

Grace to you, and peace, from Him Who was, Who is, and Who is to come, even Christ the Lord! Amen.

Again it is time to begin a new year in the Christian calendar with the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Not too long ago the season of Advent was a time for repentance, as men and women sought to prepare their hearts and minds to consider the mystery of Jesus born at Bethlehem, God in human flesh, the Savior hidden under the veil of weakness and humility. And in preparing for the joyful celebration of the first “advent” (literally, “coming”) of Christ on earth, men and women in the Church saw that they also needed to be prepared for Jesus’ final “advent” at the Last Day. So, a kind of sober spirit of reflection and repentance was encouraged during the weeks leading up to Christmas, as people were turned to consider the “Last Things:” death, judgment, hell, and heaven. Advent also used to be considered a “closed time” in the Church: weddings were delayed, parties were discouraged until the actual Twelve Days of Christmas (December 25 – January 5), and the overall tone of worship was decidedly somber.

But all things change.

However, I would challenge you think about whether a more reflective mood during Advent might not be a healthy counter-balance to the world’s frenetic activity at this time of year. Between shopping, parties, having company over, and travel, who isn’t exhausted by the time Christmas actually arrives?

During this Advent at Mt. Calvary, we shall again explore a series of mid-week devotions centered on “Making Ready the Way.” We will look back to how God prepared the world for Christ’s birth, and see what that tells us about being prepared for Christ’s return today. And what we will discover is that there is *joy in repentance*. There is a quiet joy in turning away from the sin that warps our lives, and there is an expectant joy in turning towards the life that God pours out upon us in Christ.

So, come, let us prepare to adore Him, and make ready the way. I invite you to step away from the world’s hurried hawking of Christmas, and come into our sanctuary to feel the quiet confidence of waiting for what God gives us in Christ as we observe this time of joyful waiting called Advent.

Yours in His Name,

Rev. Barry A. Long, Pastor



**Advent: "O Come, O Come, Immanuel....."**

**Sunday, November 30 - 1st Sunday of Advent**

Sung Divine Worship, 9:00 a.m.

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:45 a.m.

*Church Decorating following the 11:45 service*

**Wednesday, December 3 - 1st Wednesday of Advent**

*"Making Ready the Way: Gabriel's Promise"*

Mid-day Prayer, 11:15 a.m.

*Sandwich and Salad lunch to follow*

Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 4 - 1st Thursday of Advent (Ad Te Levavi)**

Spoken Divine Worship, 6:00pm

**Sunday, December 7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent**

Sung Divine Worship, 9:00 a.m.

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:45 a.m.

**Wednesday, December 10 - 2nd Wednesday of Advent**

*"Making Ready the Way: Mary's Song"*

Mid-day Prayer, 11:15 a.m.

*Soup and Salad lunch to follow*

Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 11 - 2nd Thursday of Advent (Populus Zion)**

Spoken Divine Worship, 6:00pm

**Saturday, December 13**

Women of Mt. Calvary Christmas Brunch, 9:30am

**Sunday, December 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent**

Sung Matins, 9:00 a.m.

Voters' Meeting, 10:30 a.m.

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:45 a.m.

**Wednesday, December 17 - 3rd Wednesday of Advent**

*"Making Ready the Way: Zechariah's Song"*

Mid-day Prayer, 11:15 a.m.

*Soup, Salad, and Sandwich lunch to follow*

Vespers, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, December 18 - 3rd Thursday of Advent (Gaudete)**

Spoken Divine Worship, 6:00pm

**Sunday, December 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent**

Sung Divine Worship, 9:00 a.m.

*"Birthday Party for Jesus" during Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.*

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:45 a.m.

*"Spreading Joy Through Fellowship and Song" following Worship*

*Everyone in the congregation is invited to join us for lunch, cookie decorating, and caroling to our shut-ins.*



**Christmas: *"Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth, peace....."***

**Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

Spoken Communion Service at 3:00 p.m.

Family Candlelight Service with Holy Communion, at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

Chorale Divine Service, 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, December 28 - *First Sunday after Christmas***

Sung Matins, 9:00 a.m.

*(Note only one service this day)*

**Sunday, January 4 - *Second Sunday after Christmas***

Worship, 9:00 a.m.

*(Note only one service this day)*

**Tuesday, January 6: The Epiphany of our Lord**

Spoken Divine Worship, 11:15 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

May God richly bless our keeping of the season by making us to grow ever more sure in the knowledge of our Savior, and ever more open to sharing His works of grace!