

Advent & Christmas 2018

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Advent 2018 Devotionals & Calendars:

This year we have several options for you:

- 1) In the narthex (back of sanctuary) we have two beautiful Advent Calendars with door to open each day in Advent to show scripture verses, hymn lyrics, prayers and other inspiration messages.
- 2) We also have a limited number of assorted Free Advent Devotional books. Look through them and feel free to take whatever you'd like.
- 2) If you are a Kindle user we suggest a .99 cent book you can download from Amazon: Celebrating Christmas with Jesus: An Advent Devotional, Kindle Edition, by Max Lucado.
- 3) On the Maple Leaf Lutheran Church Facebook page we will post online Advent devotionals and ideas throughout the season. "Like" that page and check it often.

This year Advent starts on Sunday, December 2nd. Blessed Advent to you all!

Advent Worship 2018: Prepare the Way

This year Advent starts on Sunday, December 2 with the first Sunday of Advent. Join us every week as we use "Everlasting Light," which is a liturgy set to Advent and Christmas tunes. We will also light the candles on our Advent Wreath in a special way and weekly add "star prayers" to the manger as we wait for the coming of Christ at Christmas.

Other special Advent events include:

December 16: Annual Children's Christmas Pageant

December 23: Christmas Carols Hymn Sing

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals:

Please make sure your calendars are marked for the following dates:

Practices: Saturdays, December 8 and 15, 9:00 am-noon at church. Sunday, December 16, 8:00 am at church.

Pageant: Sunday, December 16, during worship.

Please note, this play has many small speaking roles and a few songs. The little kids have been working on the songs in Sunday School with Ellie, and they are coming along nicely. Most kids will need to sing and speak. The older kids will be able to master the songs and their lines fairly quickly. For little kids who don't want speaking roles, we have a few of those, too. There is a place for everyone in this musical! If you have questions please contact Darrick M or Pastor Julie.

Children's Christmas Pageant:

Please join us on Sunday, December 16 for our 10:30 am worship service as our children and youth present to us, "Little Lambs in Bethlehem." The angels arrive to announce the good news of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. But oh no, a group of little lambs had wandered off while this was happening, and when they return, they find that no one is there. What will they do?? They sense that something wonderful must be happening. They can feel it. And that big bright star in the East just has to be leading them somewhere. So, off they go, in search of their shepherds and flock. Along the way, they will discover just how important this night really is. They will find their way to a very special manger in Bethlehem.

Christmas Carols: Hymn Sing

This year the fourth Sunday of Advent falls on December 23, SO close to Christmas! Because of that we will be doing something a little different. Join us on Sunday December 23, at our regular 10:30 am worship for a fun and festive "Christmas Carols" Hymn Sing worship service. Not only will you sing some of your favorite Christmas carols but you will also hear stories about the authors of those songs and the inspiration and scripture behind them. This promises to be a special service full of joy, praise and encouragement.

Advent to Christmas transition: HELP NEEDED

Please consider joining us right after worship on Sunday, December 23 as we take some time to take down the Advent decorations and get ready for our Christmas Eve worship service and the season of Christmas. We will be putting all the tea lights in the windows, prepping the handheld candles and generally getting ready for the season of Christmas. Many hands make light work. Thank you.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Our candle light Christmas Eve service will be at 8:00 pm on Monday, December 24th. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with beautiful words, inspiring music and songs as well as the ever popular candlelight portion of the service. This is one of the most beautiful and touching worship services of the year and to have you here makes it all the more special. Invite your friends and family to this special event.