



What We Can Learn from Advent Calendars?

Dear Friends in Christ,

Advent begins this Sunday, December 1st. It is one of those rare years that the actual beginning of the season and the first day of Advent are in alignment.

Growing up, my mother would attach a cardboard Advent Calendar to the refrigerator after Thanksgiving.

Sometimes she bought them and at other times, they came from our Sunday School. Starting December 1, my brothers and I would take turns each day at breakfast getting to open each little window and reveal a picture or a scripture reading related to the season. Each open

Daily Bible Readings

December 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10 (1)
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 2

Numbers 17:1-11 2
Peter 3:1-18
Psalm 90

December 3

2 Samuel 7:18-29
Revelation 22:12-16
Psalm 90

December 4

Isaiah 1:24-31
Luke 11:29-32
Psalm 90

December 5

Malachi 3:5-12
Philippians 1:12-18a
Luke 1:68-79

December 6

Malachi 3:13-18
Philippians 1:18b-26
Luke 1:68-79

December 7

Malachi 4:1-6
Luke 9:1-6
Luke 1:68-79

December 8

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79 (78)
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 9

Isaiah 40:1-11
Romans 8:22-25
Psalm 126

December 10

Isaiah 19:18-25 2
Peter 1:2-15
Psalm 126

What We Can Learn from Advent Calendars?

window marked the progress of the days until the arrival of the big night, December 24th and the morning celebration that followed.

Since those days of my youth, Advent Calendars are only growing in popularity, variety, and complexity. And these calendars are not necessarily religious anymore. My friend, Pastor Dan Hallgrimson, a semi-retired pastor living in Corvallis, has in the past posted daily photos of himself enjoying one of his 24 Advent "Beers from Around the World" Calendar selections and what he paired with each of them.

Southern Living Magazine posted an article online revealing "The 38 Best Advent Calendars of 2024". Among them were A Book Lover's Advent Calendar with a book related accessory like a bookmark or bookplate sticker behind each window.

For fishing lovers, a calendar with 24 different fishing lures, a variety of types, behind each door.

For the baker, Williams and Sonoma has a calendar, "24 Days of Baking Cookies" with an item each day to aid the recipient with all their holiday baking.

There are also all kinds of food related calendars with everything from hot sauce, to cookies, to gourmet chocolates hidden behind each door or window.

There is something in our nature that finds fulfillment in marking time toward a goal as well as growing anticipation in the coming of an ultimate prize. Each of these little Advent windows reveal our progress and give us a little reward to encourage us on our journey. Advent wreathes similarly mark the coming of Christ with weekly candles on their circular journey to the Nativity of Jesus.

December 11

Isaiah 35:3-7
Luke 7:18-30
Psalm 126

December 12

Amos 6:1-8
2 Corinthians 8:1-15
Isaiah 12:2-6

December 13

Amos 8:4-12
2 Corinthians 9:1-15
Isaiah 12:2-6

December 14

Amos 9:8-15
Luke 1:57-66
Isaiah 12:2-6

December. 15

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6 (6)
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

December 16

Numbers 16:1-19
Hebrews 13:7-17
Isaiah 11:1-9

December 17

Numbers 16:20-35
Acts 28:23-31
Isaiah 11:1-9

December 18

Micah 4:8-13
Luke 7:31-35
Isaiah 11:1-9

December 19

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 10:10-18
Psalm 80:1-7

December 20

Isaiah 42:10-18
Hebrews 10:32-39
Psalm 80:1-7

December 21

Isaiah 66:7-11
Luke 13:31-35
Psalm 80:1-7

Now, the season of Advent is much more complex than a calendar with windows and prizes, but another pastor friend at text study this week shared an invitation to her congregation based on the imagery of an Advent Calendar.

What if, on each of Advent's twenty-four days leading up to Christmas, we asked ourselves at the close of the day, "What window did God open today that revealed God's presence in our midst or in my life?" What if we reflected on this question and shared our findings with one another or wrote them down for us to look over at the end of the month?

I like the idea of God opening the Advent windows for us. It rings true to me that Holy Spirit sometimes points out a view, or a person, or an event that we might have rushed past and missed the blessing if we didn't stop to pause.

So, in the busy weeks to come, pause at the metaphorical Advent window each day. Ask, "How has God's presence been revealed to me in my work, or leisure, or struggles?" Looking back, did someone bring healing, or help, or friendship to me? How did they, or maybe, how did I help reveal Christ?

May God Bless Your Advent Journey.

Peace!



December Birthdays

Evie Berg	7
Sonya Johnson	14
Jenni Lockett	17
Michelle Ripple	19
Dick Kaegi	21
Eva Nelson	22
Megan Popma	28
Steve Robert	28
Dan Harms	29
Taylor Miller	29





4-ingredient Chocolate Mint Marble Slice

4 Ingredients

2 x 180g blocks dark chocolate, chopped

1 tsp peppermint
essence

2 x 180g blocks white chocolate, chopped

Green gel food coloring, to tint

Step 1

Grease a 20 x 30cm slice pan.

Line with baking paper.

Step 2

Place dark chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl.
Microwave on High for 1 minute 30 seconds, stirring
every 30 seconds, or until melted and smooth.
Add the peppermint essence and stir until combined.

Step 3

Place white chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl.
Microwave on High for 1 minute 30 seconds, stirring
every 30 seconds, or until melted and smooth.
Add food colouring to tint green. Stir until evenly
coloured.

Step 4

Spoon large dollops of the dark and white chocolate
mixtures, alternating mixtures, into prepared pan.
Tap pan on bench until mixture is level. Use a skewer
to marble the mixtures. Set aside for 2 hours or until
firm. Cut into slices to serve.

December. 22

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 (52)
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

December 23

Micah 4:6-8 2
Peter 1:16-21
Luke 1:46b-55

December. 24

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96 (11)
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 25

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97 (11)
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

December 26

2 Chronicles 24:17-24
Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60
Psalm 148

December 27

Proverbs 8:32-36
John 21:19b-24
Psalm 148

December 28

Isaiah 54:1-13
Revelation 21:1-7
Psalm 148

December 29

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148 (13)
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

December 30

2 Chronicles 1:7-13
Mark 13:32-37
Psalm 147:12-20

December 31

1 Kings 3:5-14
John 8:12-19
Psalm 147:12-20

Prayers for	Requested by
Abraham	Barb B.
Anna (Grider) Westcott	Jim & Doris Grider
Bankhead Family	Wyatt Akin
Beth Brandt	Mary W.
Betty Gerhardt	Kenton and Mary Wolfe
Bob and Sally Boonstra	Doris Grider
Bonnie and Bruce John-	PC
Brooke	Heather W
Bruce Baker	Kevin Baker
Burt Aus	Judi Aus
Carol Smith	Helen D
Carolyn Popma Family,	PC
Charles G.	PC
Colin Brown	Heather W
Cindy Caufield	Susan W
Dana St. Clair	Diane Schaber
Dennis Ormseth	Mary W.
Dixie Scheehear	PC
Dyrdahl Family	PC
Ed Lapsley	Sharon G.
Ellen Paulson	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Eric Wechter	PC
Evie Berg	PC
Gayle Abernathy Family	PC
Heather Wechter	PC
Heide Hendrick	PC
Heidi Daniel Family	PC
Hollinger Family, Ellie	Kimberly Macklin
Howard & Kathy Brandt	Mary W.

Jan G	PC
Jean Ruter	Mary W.
Jerry McKenzie	Sharon G.
Jo Miller	Kimberly Macklin
JoAnn Caufield	Cindy C
Joanna Painter	Dixie
John Ries and Family	PC
Kate	PC
Kim	Lisa
Kimberly Kyser	Cindy C
Larry Marnella	Ilene Marnella
Laurie Boyce	PC
Linda Fender	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Lorrie D	PC
Lynn Bloomfield	Lonnie and Dan Harms
Mary Wolfe	PC
Matthew Brown	Heather W
Matt H	PC
Micah Akin	Wyatt Akin
Mike and Dixie Harms	Dan and Lonnie Harms
Mike McCue	Heather Wechter
Oscar D	Sam D
Piper	Heather W
Richard Dyrdahl	Lorrie Dyrdahl
Robert	Jordain
Roy Steven	Joyce
Shirley Ann Andreason	Ilene Marnella
Sylvia Peter	PC
Tammara Davidson	PC
Tom Haskins	Kim M.
Traci	Barb B.
Vi Anderson	Judi

- Those with memory care issues and those who care for them.
- Those receiving radiation or chemotherapy.
- Those who are in hospice care.
- Our loved ones serving in the armed forces, especially those serving overseas.
- All who are undergoing treatment for serious illness.



Giving TREE

Giving Tree

Se Habla Espanol?- we're looking for someone adept with Spanish and translating a letter we're going to insert with each family's delivery. We need someone to take on this task by drafting a letter, having it translated into Spanish, and then printed. Please contact Barb for insights on what to include in the letter and let me know too that you are helping out in this area.

Gift Tags – We need volunteers to be present at the gift tag bulletin boards and show others how to become a gift donor- the process of taking a tag, signing your name, cutting the bottom off, etc. – you know what I mean. Let's make a point to help anyone out that may not be clear on what to do.

Total Family Count (13) – this includes the shelter family and displaced families with a total head count of 60.

Key Dates:

- ✦ **Now – 12/8** – all gift tags, food items, etc., need to be purchased by each donor.
- ✦ **12/1**- last day to take a gift tag, setup after service in basement to set up tables by family/icon. Last year we had trees with corresponding icons on each table to make it simple. We need all hands on Decemkerk to get these tables ready for donors to return their gifts. Who would like to take this task on and organize it? (Please reach out to me, we can use a few folks to help out here).
- ✦ **12/8** – first to last day to return gifts and corresponding tags to basement.
- ✦ **12/8-12/9** – Volunteers needed to shop for remaining unclaimed gifts and food items and bring to church NLT 12/11.
- ✦ **12/11**- final day to drop off ALL ITEMS (gifts, food, etc.)
- ✦ **12/13** – come and help wrap any unwrapped gift items.
- ✦ **12/14 (Sat.)-11-1pm.** ALL HANDS ON DECEMBERK – please come to help pre-sort all items in basement.
- ✦ **12/21 (Sat.) 12-3pm** final sorting and delivery of perishable items. Delivery to all families begins between 3pm-6pm. (might be earlier, depending on how fast we get things sorted.) Ideally, if you could be a 'sorter' and delivery driver, that would be IDEAL!

December

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	2 6 pm AA	3 6 pm AA	4	5	6	7
8 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	9 6 pm AA	10 6 pm AA	11	12 9 am Backpack Buddies	13 6-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group Begins	14 5:15 pm AA Speaker Night
15 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	16 6 pm AA	17 6 pm AA	18 3 pm Food Share	19	20 6-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group	21 12-3 pm Giving Tree final day
22 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	23 6 pm AA Worship 11 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	24 6 pm AA Worship 11 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 10 am Christmas Day	26	27 6-8 pm "Welbriety" Recovery Support Group	28
29 10 am Worship 7 pm AA	30 6 pm AA New Year's Eve Gathering	31 6 pm AA New Year's Eve Gathering				

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COURIER



December 2024

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURORA



to the world, the LORD is come!