

Lutheran FAQ: What is Advent All About?

How do you get ready to welcome important guests?

New years start in the church at Advent, on the calendar on January 1, and for school in the fall. What are some ways you start these new years?

What are some traditions your church or your family have for the time before Christmas? _____

The season of Advent helps us focus on Jesus' first coming (on Christmas) and his second coming (at the end of the age). Why do you think those two are put together on the calendar? What is God doing at each time? _____

Sometimes, the story of Christ's returning in glory is told as something scary. What does it look like to look forward to that day with hope more than or instead of fear? _____

How does your congregation show the season in the worship space? (Banners, paraments, vestments, etc.) _____

Pictures of Chrismons are available online. Draw some symbols below. Which Chrismons are familiar to you? Which ones are new?

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Deeper Dive:

When you can, look up images and explanations for Chrismons on the internet. Are there some that you find especially meaningful? What's something new to learn?

<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Worship/FAQ#liturgy> has lots of questions and answers about worship whys. The bottom two on the page are about Advent wreaths and liturgical colors. They also reference some excellent books.

You can make or buy Advent wreaths for use at home. Families use these in different ways, lighting them in the morning, over dinner, or before bed, and singing a verse of a favorite hymn or doing devotions. Check local craft stores, Christian book stores, or Pinterest.com for ideas.

Written by the ELCA South Carolina Synod to accompany the video "Lutheran FAQ: What is Advent all About?" found at https://youtu.be/dwUfz6_-0M