

Arrival...

John 1:14(NLT)...

"So the Word (Jesus) became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."

The Advent season is here... Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there's more to Advent. The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival". Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas. By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ's first coming at Christmas.



Encouraging quote...

"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come."
~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

December is... (to name a few)

Bingo Month
National Fruitcake Month
Safe Toys and Gifts Month
World Food Service Safety Month
Write a Friend Month

First Sunday in Advent... Nov. 27
Congregational meeting... Dec. 11
Christmas Eve... Dec. 24
Christmas Day... Dec. 25
New Year's Eve... Dec. 31

Reflections on discipleship from Donna Williams...

Today's parable is a perfect one to lead into the Advent season. A time to reflect and look at what is our solid foundation in our Christian walk. It all began with a small baby, named Jesus, who made a huge impact on the world forever. As this parable talks about having a foundation of rock and not sand, so the house will not collapse, that also applies to our spiritual life. We, like the builder of a house must make a wise decision. To choose to trust in a firm and solid foundation. That foundation is this little baby Jesus. He lived on earth to guide and direct us each day by building our faith in Him. Advent is the beginning, and the Season of Lent is the eternal story for each of us until His second coming. As you walk through this Season of Advent, choose to build a strong relationship with Jesus and share the good news of the coming of this Holy person Jesus. Share the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Christ in Christmas. Matthew 7:24-27... "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain fell, the rivers rose, and the winds blew and pounded that house. Yet it didn't collapse, because its foundation was on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and doesn't act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 The rain fell, the rivers rose, the winds blew and pounded that house, and it collapsed. It collapsed with a great crash."

Bible Readings for Advent 2022

First Week, November 27th: Isaiah 9

Second Week, December 4th: Isaiah 40

Third Week, December 11th: Matthew 2

Fourth Week, December 18th: John 3

Advent readings are themed Scripture readings for each Sunday of Advent.

The four weeks of Advent are broken down into the themes:

1. Hope (or promise)
2. Preparation (waiting or prophecy)
3. Joy (peace)
4. Love (adoration)

One of the beautiful things about the Advent readings above is that they offer churches the opportunity to include both young and old in their services. The same can be true of private family devotions around the Advent wreath. By this point, you've probably realized that there are no set criteria for who should read the Advent readings in church. In some denominations, the lead pastor or worship leader may read the Advent reading to lead the congregation in worship.

Devotional - The Gift of Legacy

The Bible is full of prophecies that offer the message of Messiah's coming and full of promises fulfilled by Jesus.

Here are ten scriptures verses revealing Jesus—before and after his birth:

1. Jesus came from the line of Abraham. (Prophecy: Genesis 12:3. Fulfilled: Matthew 1:1)
2. Jesus' mother was a virgin. (Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14. Fulfilled: Matthew 1:18–23)
3. Jesus is a descendant of Isaac and Jacob. (Prophecy: Genesis 17:19 and Numbers 24:17. Fulfilled: Matthew 1:2)
4. Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. (Prophecy: Micah 5:2. Fulfilled: Luke 2:1–7)
5. Jesus came from Egypt. (Prophecy: Hosea 11:1. Fulfilled: Matthew 2:13–15)
6. Jesus was from the tribe of Judah. (Prophecy: Genesis 49:10. Fulfilled: Luke 3:33)
7. Jesus entered the temple. This is important because the temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 and was never rebuilt. (Prophecy: Malachi 3:1. Fulfilled: Luke 2:25–27)
8. Jesus is from the lineage of King David. (Prophecy: Jeremiah 23:5. Fulfilled: Matthew 1:6)
9. Jesus' birth was followed by great suffering and sorrow. (Prophecy: Jeremiah 31:15. Fulfilled: Matthew 2:16)
10. Jesus lived a perfect life, died by crucifixion, resurrected from death, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God. (Prophecies: Psalm 22:16; Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:10–11; Psalm 68:18; Psalm 110:1. Fulfilled: 1 Peter 2:21–22; Luke 23:33; Acts 2:25–32; Acts 1:9; Hebrews 1:3)

Take some time to read through these scriptures and see for yourself. Have you ever thought about why it is important to look at the lineage of Jesus? When I think of legacies, I remember that we have a righteous inheritance because of Jesus. Have you ever considered the legacy Jesus left behind as a gift?

Advent reflection: God is faithful to His Word and to all those who receive Jesus as their Savior. His eternal plan is for all mankind to be saved and to be made right with Him once again. These verses give us renewed anticipation and a hope-filled perspective for God's promises fulfilled through Jesus. It brings joy in this season when we remember the Christ child, yet at the same time leaves us in awe and wonder of how it came to pass! God's love for us is the best Christmas classic! The story of Jesus is real!

Upcoming scheduled events at the Church of God of Landisville**Sunday, December 4 - "Find Peace in the Heart of Christmas"**

Worship times... traditional worship service - 8:30am; Sunday school for all ages - 9:30am; contemporary praise and worship service - 10:30am. Shine Kids Club 456 and Youth group meetings... 6-8pm.

Sunday, December 11 - "Finding Joy In All Circumstances"

Schedule change... ONE COMBINED worship service - 9:00am. No Sunday school. Congregational meeting with continental breakfast (pastries, fruit and coffee/tea) at 10:30am in the MPR.

Sunday, December 18 - "The Heart of Christmas is Love"

Worship times... traditional service - 8:30am; Sunday school for all ages - 9:30am; contemporary service - 10:30am. Shine Kids Club 456 and Youth group meetings... 6-8pm.

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Christmas carols and candlelight service - 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day - ONE worship service - 9:00am in the Sanctuary; No Sunday school.**Sunday, January 1, 2023, New Year's Day** - ONE worship service with communion - 9:00am in the Sanctuary; No Sunday school.

Winter weather... We follow the Hempfield school district when it comes to delays and cancellations. We will update you with emails, text messages and phone calls for any changes to our weekly and weekend schedule. On Sundays, if the weather is bad, we will cancel the early service and Sunday school and meet for one combined, blended service at 10:30am. Stay tuned!

Please pray for those in our church family dealing with ongoing, life-changing circumstances and health issues...

From Landisville - Lois and Harold Groff, Hershey Groff, Bev Korman, Joanne Peters, Nancy Reitz, Lochlan Shiel, John Yoder; Lynda Fry and family as they mourn the sudden passing of Roger.

From Real Life Church - Deb Blaettler; Pastor Chuck Frank and wife Tammy; Esther Jenkins; Carol Regitz; Bob Weaver