

**What is Advent?**

Advent marks the beginning of the Church Year. Advent is made up of the four Sundays that come right before Christmas. In other words, the deeper into Advent you go, the closer you get to Christmas Day. For Christians, the First Sunday in Advent is kind of like the “New Year’s Day” of the Church Year calendar.

**Why do we celebrate Advent?**

The word Advent means “coming.” During Advent, we prepare for the coming of the One who was born that first Christmas in a stable. We prepare for the One who saved us from sin, death and the power of the devil: our Lord Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and exciting time of preparation!

**What is the Advent wreath?**

The Advent wreath is the circle of candles (and/or evergreen branches) that you see in the sanctuary during the season of Advent. Some Advent wreaths hang from the ceiling of the sanctuary while others are placed on a floor stand. Either way, the Advent wreath is one of the many beautiful things you’ll see around the church during Advent.

**How do we use the advent wreath?**

It used to be that the Advent wreath was used in the home to help count the four weeks of Advent. Now you can find them in homes as well as in the church sanctuary. Each Sunday in Advent, a new candle on the wreath is lit. For example, during the first week in Advent, only one candle is lit. During the second week in Advent, two candles are lit. We do this to remember and prepare for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!






**What does it mean when four candles have been lit on the Advent wreath?**

You’ve been preparing and patiently waiting for that wonderful day of celebration. When four of the candles on the Advent wreath have been lit, it means that Christmas is almost here! That’s right! The day on which we remember the birth of our Savior is right around the corner!

**What is the rest of the Advent story?**

The Advent of Christ has three parts. God’s Word tells us that Jesus not only came to earth as a man at Christmas, but that He comes to be with His church through His Word and Sacraments. Finally, God’s Word reminds us that He will return in judgement on the Last Day. If you think about it, there sure are a lot of great things to remember and look forward to during the season of Advent!



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 	29	30	1	2	3	4
5 	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 	20	21	22	23	24	25 
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**G**ather around every day this month to read the story of how God sent joy to the world with the gift of His Son, Jesus. While you're at it, spread some joy of your own as a family!

ADVENT 2021: THE PARENT CUE FAMILY CALENDAR

1

Light a candle at dinner time or bed time. Share your favorite Christmas tradition that you *don't want to miss* doing together this year.  
Luke 1:27



2

Choose 1-3 relatives or family friends. Record a short selfie video Christmas greeting as a family and text it to them.  
Luke 1:26-28



3

What's stressing you out right now? *Share with each other.* Then pray that God would give you His peace this season.  
Luke 1:29-30



4

Break out a pack of glow sticks. Have a Christmas dance party with upbeat Christmas music.  
Luke 1:30



5

Have a "baby food" picnic or snack by the Christmas tree with Baby Bel cheese, baby carrots, mini pigs in a blanket, mini muffins, or other mini snack foods.  
Luke 1:31



6

God's plan for Christmas surprised everyone. If you could plan Christmas this year *exactly* the way you wanted, what would it look like?  
Luke 1:32



7

Taking care of a new baby is a big challenge! Take a meal to a family you know with a new baby, or pick up diapers to donate to a local shelter or food bank.  
Luke 1:34-36



8

Bake a batch of Christmas cookies (no shame if you grab a tube from the grocery fridge section!) Share a snack together and take some of them to a neighbor.  
Luke 1:38



9

Create a playlist of everyone's favorite Christmas carols and worship songs. Play it while on the go all week—and *don't be afraid to sing along!*  
Luke 1:39-56



10

Parents, share about a particularly *special* or *unique* Christmas that you experienced as a child.  
Luke 2:1-4



11

Take a trip around the neighborhood or other areas of your town or city to check out the *amazing Christmas lights* along the way.  
Luke 2:5



12

Using Google Maps, take a look at the modern-day streets of Bethlehem. *What do you think Bethlehem was like when Jesus was born?*  
Luke 2:6



13

Use a Nativity set or stuffed animals to *act out the Christmas story* as a family member reads it from Luke 2.  
Luke 2:7



14

Roast marshmallows for s'mores while looking up at the stars—the *same ones* the shepherds saw! (Or make them in the oven and eat them by candlelight.)  
Luke 2:8



15

Tell your child how you shared the good news of their birth (or arrival in your family) with others.  
Luke 2:9



16

What would YOU do if a brilliant angel from God appeared in your home? *Share how you would react.*  
Luke 2:9



17

Make Christmas cards for anyone in your life who might need a little joy today, from the mailperson to the crosswalk guard. *You could even add a gift card or small treat.*  
Luke 2:10



18

Try making "real" hot cocoa with cocoa powder, melted chocolate, sugar, and milk of your choice. While the cocoa heats, share with each other something big you are waiting for right now.  
Luke 2:11



19

Choose a few small gifts to *unwrap early*. Celebrate together that God gave us such an amazing and unexpected gift as Jesus!  
Luke 2:12



20

Choose or make a special ornament for your Christmas tree that represents *something good* God has done for your family this year.  
Luke 2:13-14



21

Grab a gingerbread man or other Christmas cookie for each member of the family to place on their forehead. Race to see who can shimmy the cookie down and bite it first before it drops. *No hands!*  
Luke 2:15-16



22

Share your favorite Christmas movies with each other. Then pick one (or two!), *make some popcorn*, and settle down in Christmas PJs for a Christmas movie marathon.  
Luke 2:17-18



23

What's the biggest thing you want to thank God for right now? (In addition to Jesus!) *Share with each other and give God a giant round of applause.*  
Luke 2:20



24

Jesus' name means "the Lord is salvation"! Share with each other what your name means. (Google is your friend for this.) Then *share the story* behind your name if you know it.  
Luke 2:21



25

Before opening gifts, take *time to read* the story of God's *greatest gift of all time*, Jesus, in Luke 1:26-2:21.

