

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601
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December 2021

In the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we observe the season of Advent, which means "coming." In this season, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' first coming into the world, when He was born as the Son of God in our flesh to save us from our sin. At the same time, we prepare our hearts for His coming again on the Last Day, to judge the world and bring believers to heaven.

On each of the Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle on our Advent wreath, each symbolizing another aspect of Jesus' coming. Here are some of the meanings that have been associated with each:



The purple candle lighted on the first Sunday of Advent is the **Prophecy Candle**, symbolizing hope. It recalls the hope and longing of the Old Testament saints who clung to God's promises of a Savior to be born, such as the prophecy given in Isaiah 9:6: *"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*



The purple candle lighted on the second Sunday of Advent is the **Bethlehem Candle**, symbolizing faith. It reminds us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, as God was fulfilling His promise that the Savior would be born there. As we read in Micah 5:2: *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."*



The pink candle lighted on the third Sunday of Advent is the **Shepherd's Candle**, symbolizing joy. It reminds us of the joy the shepherds felt as they followed the angels' announcement and found the newborn Savior. Then with overflowing joy, they spread the good news to all, as we read in Luke 2:20: *"Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was*

told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds."



The purple candle lighted on the fourth Sunday of Advent is the **Angels' Candle**, symbolizing Peace. It recalls the angels' announcement that night over Bethlehem, as they proclaimed the peace of God for sinners in the birth of our Savior: Luke 2:10-14: *"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord....' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!'"*



Finally at Christmas as we celebrate our Savior's birth, we light the white candle at the center of the wreath. This is the **Christ Candle**. It reminds us that Jesus Christ is the true and perfect Light of the world. The Son of God was born in our midst to redeem us out of the darkness of our sin and death. Through His holy life and innocent death for us, He takes away our sins and gives us His holiness. Through faith in Him who is the Light of the world, we are given the light of life. We are made children of God and heirs of eternal life with Him. Now we can go forth as a light for Him in the world, proclaiming His message of peace for sinners.

Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
Lo! He from whom joy streameth,
Poor in the manger lies;
Yet not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies!
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

In His saving love,
Pastor Smith

Is “Baby Jesus” Just a Children’s Story?

December 2021

In my house, we watch *Frosty the Snowman* any month of the year; that’s how much my toddler loves it. I enjoyed watching *Frosty* as a child and I still do as an adult, but *Frosty* is very much a children’s story. My toddler will ask to watch it, or sing the songs, or act out the parade on any given day. The songs, animation, and story all particularly appeal to young children. Yes, *Frosty the Snowman* is a children’s story. It is a nice, family-friendly, nostalgia-inducing Christmas story, but it is *just* a children’s story.

What about the very first Christmas story? Is the birth of Jesus *just* a children’s story? A virgin is visited by an angel, becomes pregnant, gives birth among animals, and angels tell lowly shepherds that the Son of God and Savior of the world has just been born in the little town of Bethlehem—is that *just* a children’s story? Is it a make-believe story which can do no more for us than any other make-believe story?

No, the story of Jesus’ birth is nothing like make-believe stories. It is **an historical account** communicating real benefits to both children and adults, people of all ages. Holy Scripture is better attested to than any other ancient document. It records this divine event which was foretold many years in advance. This coming Savior was promised to Adam’s line (Genesis 3:15), and then more specifically to Abraham’s line (Genesis 26:4), and finally to David’s line (Jeremiah 23:5-6). This coming Savior was prophesied to be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). This coming Savior was prophesied to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). All this, and more, has come to pass. *Just* a children’s story? No, not even a story at all, but a **factual record** of God’s work in human history for people of all ages.

The four Gospels and Acts, which record the life of Jesus and the ministry of His apostles in detail, are *historical* accounts. They were drawn from *eyewitness testimony*, not folklore developed from oral tradition. Non-Christian writers in the decades that followed also corroborated the basic facts concerning the life, ministry, and death of Jesus. Such extra-biblical writers noted that the same Apostles and Evangelists who insisted that Jesus had risen also were willing to die for that message. Prominent among those writers are the Jewish

historian Josephus and the Roman historian Tacitus. Clearly, Jesus was a *real, historical* man—an unusual and amazing man, too, because He also was the Son of God.

History and the Bible both reveal *that* Jesus came, but the Bible, with its “Good News” or Gospel message, uniquely explains *why* His coming matters. The Son of God took on human flesh for your salvation. The law of God demands that you live a perfect life and it demands that you be punished in hell if you do not live such a life. Without the Son of God coming as your substitute, you would be doomed to hell because you are sinful, but the Son of God has come as your substitute. He lived a perfect life. He bore the punishment for your sin, and rose from the grave—winning forgiveness and eternal life for you.

The Son of God became as we are—assuming, partaking in, our flesh. The tiny head which Mary lovingly kissed would one day wear a crown of thorns. The little hand which wrapped around Joseph’s finger would one day be pierced by a nail. The baby Jesus was placed in the wood of the manger so that one day He would be nailed to the wood of the cross. His precious, divine blood would be shed to conquer sin and death’s hold on you. Jesus was born to live and die for you. Rising back to life, Jesus defeated sin and death for you. Jesus was born for your salvation.

*To you this night is born a Child
Of Mary, chosen Virgin mild;
This little Child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.*

(“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come,” ELH, 126:3)

Pastor David H. Locklair serves at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Portage, Indiana, and Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hobart, Indiana. His articles for the Christ in Media Institute connect superhero mythology to Christian apologetics (www.christinmedia.org).

Learn More:
www.els.org/apologetics

December 2021			Christ Lutheran Church			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div></div> <p>“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)</p>			1	2	3	4
5 <i>Advent 2</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>Advent 3</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship 9:30 AM Congregational Meeting 10:30 AM	13	14 <i>Happy Anniversary Charles & Eva Brumble</i>	15 Midweek Advent At the Smiths Service at 11:00 AM Lunch served after	16 <i>Happy Birthday Wally Klein</i>	17	18
19 <i>Advent 4</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	20	21 <i>Winter Begins</i> <i>Happy Birthday Aspen Smith</i>	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Children’s Program 6:30 PM	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> Christmas Morning Service 9:30 AM <i>Happy Birthday Adeena Klein</i>
26 <i>Christmas 1</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship 9:30 AM	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year’s Eve</i>	

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