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On Advent by Pastor Maxwell Whitehead

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Christmas songs are on the radio, houses are being decorated inside and out, the Christmas tree is set up in the church, and the hustle and bustle of Christmas vacation is ramping up. As far as the church year goes, we are into the well-known season of Advent!

And what is Advent all about? First of all, the term "advent" cannot be found in the Bible. It actually came about in the early church (the first observation of Advent is uncertain), and comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming".

We typically think of this season as a season of preparation, preparing for baby Jesus to be born. Some churches hold off on all Christmas songs until Christmas Day and the couple weeks post-Christmas. But here's the kicker: Jesus has already been born! There is nothing for us to prepare for (as far as Jesus goes)! We are actually freed from needing to prepare our souls, or needing to hold off on the Christmas hymns, or even from any fasting.

Jesus not only has been born, but also has already come to do what God, the Father, sent Him to do. He came to redeem us, save us, forgive us, from all of our sins and give us eternal life! Paul writes to the Galatians: *"When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the*

law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).

This is what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown. Yes, we celebrate time with family and friends. Yes, Christmas is a time for joy and love and peace. But when we move all of the light, fluffy snow away from what lies at the bottom of the pile that is the mountain of Christmas traditions, interpretations, and celebrations, we find that it is in fact our Savior and our God that grants us all of these things! What the Son came to do is the reason for the season. It is in His love and mercy that all the other facets of Christmas are even possible.

As you prepare for your various Christmas activities, know this to be true: no matter how anxious you get, or unprepared you may feel, Christ has already come for you. Christ has already taken your sins, died for you, and has been raised for you so that you may have eternal life in His name. There is no more preparing that you need to do, no more preparing that you can even accomplish. You have been redeemed and received by Christ now and forever.

This is most certainly true.
Pastor Max





Sunday, Dec 4

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)
 11:30 AM Council Meeting

Wednesday, Dec 7

7:30 AM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS - Wednesdays of Advent Caroling

Sunday, Dec 11

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Worship Service (Traditional)

Wednesday, Dec 14

7:30 AM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS - Wednesdays of Advent Caroling

Sunday, Dec 18

9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Worship Service & Sunday School
 Christmas Program (Communion)

Wednesday, Dec 21

7:30 AM Bible Study
 3:45 PM Jr VCIS
 5:30 PM Confirmation
 7:00 PM VCIS - Wednesdays of Advent Caroling

Saturday, Dec 24

7:00PM Worship Service (SVLC)

Sunday, Dec 25

NO Sunday School
 10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion) (OSLC)

Wednesday, Dec 28

NO AM Bible Study
 NO Jr VCIS
 NO Confirmation
 NO VCIS

December Scripture Readings

Dec 4: Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

Dec 11: Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 18: Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

Dec 24/25: Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)



December Ushers & Cleaners

December Ushers

Wayne & Wanda Kost
 Wayne & Linda Larsen
 Scott & Ashley Larsen

December 4 - 17 Cleaners

Sandra Swensen,
 Gail Anderson,
 Dawn Kludt,
 Audrey Kost

December 18 - 31 Cleaners

Linda Larsen,
 Haylee Sherard,
 Tammy Sorensen

Worship Helper Schedule

Sunday, Dec 4

ReaderKaren Larsen
 Acolytes Reagan & Nora Rudd
 Communion Helper Riley Gall
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, Dec 11

ReaderJanet Munkvold
 Acolytes Carston & Lincoln Mellem
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Sunday, Dec 18

ReaderCharlene Overgard
 Acolytes Kaleb Huber & Emily Ludens
 Communion Helper Parker Christensen
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Organist/Pianist Annet Kropuenske

Saturday, Dec 24 (SVLC)

ReaderVCIS Youth
 Live Stream Janet Munkvold
 Music Annet Kropuenske



Looking ahead to

JANUARY

Sunday, Jan 1

9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)

10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, Jan 4

7:30 AM Bible Study

3:45 PM Jr VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

7:00 PM Council Meeting

Sunday, Jan 8

9:00 AM Worship Service (Traditional)

10:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, Jan 11

7:30 AM Bible Study

3:45 PM Jr VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, Jan 15

9:00 AM Worship Service (Communion)

10:15 AM Sunday School



**BLESSINGS TO YOU
AND YOUR FAMILY...**

*May you be completely filled
with the Word of God, the
wonder of Mary, the obedience
of Joseph, the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.*

Peace be with you.

WEDNESDAYS OF ADVENT

Spread the Cheer of
Christmas



LIMITED TIME ONLY! Spread Christmas Cheer through the VCIS Youth this year! Donate \$30 and we will go caroling to the house of your choice complete with a plate of goodies for them! **We will go caroling on Wednesday evenings only.** Please contact Pastor Max to schedule your caroling visit.

Parade of Homes

December 4, 2022 from 4:30-7:00PM

The VCIS Youth are organizing a Parade of Homes! This is a chance for people to show off their Decked out Halls and maybe even some sweets. \$10/ticket to attend this Parade of Homes. Details of the route will be given on purchase of the ticket.



Sunday Service Time Change

January 1, 2023

SVLC Service 9:00-10:00AM
Sunday School 10:15 - 11:15AM

kids KORRAL

Date: December 17th
Where: Parish Hall
Time: 7:00PM - 11:00PM

Give yourselves a date night and let us watch your kids! Free Will donation is encouraged to help us get to North Carolina next June.

Sunday School Christmas Program will be Dec 18 at 10:30AM.

Kayla Mehlhaf's Annual Christmas Concert

December 4 @ 7:00PM - Wakonda UMC
December 11 @ 7:00PM - OSLC of Viborg
December 14 @ 7:00PM - Irene Cavalry Church

Enjoy an evening of music from Kayla Mehlhaf!
All donations go to Toys for Tots and the Angel Tree.

Spring Valley
LUTHERAN CHURCH
44707 289th St
PO Box 98
Viborg SD 57070



'TIS THE SEASON OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

Handels Messiah Dec 2 & 3 at 7:00PM

First Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD
Experience the musical, theological masterpiece of Handel performed by the South Dakota Symphonic Orchestra and Chorus.

Christmas with the Symphony Dec 10 at 7:30PM

Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD
Listen and sing along with Orchestra and South Dakota Symphonic Chorus.

Christmas with the Symphony Dec. 11 at 2:30PM

Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD
Listen and sing along with Orchestra and South Dakota Symphonic Chorus.

**Please visit www.svlcvib.org
to view the calendar online.**

To contact Pastor Max, you can
now email him at
prmax@svlcvib.org.