

FaithTrek

Children's Ministry for 3 Year Olds through 5th Grade
December 2018



“Until All Are Fed” - Advent 2018

Advent is hard for many because we just want to skip from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Advent can help you keep the focus of Christmas on Jesus rather than Santa Claus, presents and other commercial aspects of Christmas. Advent, in Latin, means “coming”. We are waiting for the coming of the Christ child and that can be hard. Advent 2018 is December 2 through the 24th. The season of Christmas is December 25 to January 6 which is the meaning behind the *12 Days of Christmas* song.

There are many ways you can help children engage in the season of Advent.

Advent Calendars – They help answer a child’s “how many more days until Christmas” question and help us prepare for what is to come. Use store bought calendars or make your own, such as a paper chain. A calendar, from ELCA World Hunger, focusing on our *Until All Are Fed* theme, is also available in the Commons. Hang the calendar in an accessible spot and talk about the word of the day before bed.



FaithTrek kids explore the ELCA World Hunger Advent Calendar

Advent Activity Bowl – On small pieces of paper, write down spontaneous activities you can do as a family during Advent. Put them all in the bowl or box and draw one out each day for family fun and learning.

Advent Wreaths – The table-top wreath features four candles, lit each week of Advent, and a candle in the center that is lit on Christmas Eve. At First Lutheran, we use a white candle in the center and dark blue candles for Advent. The color blue represents hope and is the color of the dawn right before the sun comes up.

The Christmas Story – Read the story of Jesus’ birth in Luke 1-2 using a children’s storybook Bible. Imagine you are right beside the manger. Consider the emotions of those gathered - surprise, wonder, awe, fear and love. Act out the story using costumes. Ask questions about the nativity scene such as, “How did everyone, including the animals, get there? Why did God send the bright shining star? Why a barn?”

First Lutheran also has Advent devotion booklets available in the Commons. Focusing on the theme, *Until All Are Fed*, the booklet provides a story, reflection questions and a prayer for each week of Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



Advent Photo Hike

Put your smart phone to work as you walk through the season of Advent.

Tim and Olive have provided this Advent Photo A Day tool or you could make up your own list of words for our *Until All Are Fed* theme. Print your photos as you go along or wait until Christmas Day and create a slide show to share with guests.

Advent Serve Ideas

Our theme of *Until All Are Fed* sets the stage for serve projects that are focused on feeding others. Have a family meeting to discuss ways you can help feed the hungry. For younger children, concrete thinkers, that may mean bringing food to church for the Lutheran Food Pantry, giving a gift to the Backpack program or sharing homemade treats with a neighbor. For older youth, who are learning to be abstract thinkers, “feeding” can go beyond food to being a friend to a child who is often left out, inviting someone who lives alone to have dinner with your family or supporting an organization that helps those with special needs, such as Domesti-PUPS.

Save the Date

Join the celebration in the Activity Center on Sunday, December 16, from 9:30-10:30 am. We will celebrate Christmas with music, snacks and storytelling. FaithTrek kids, accompanied by a parent, will meet in the Activity Center instead of the Sanctuary. Friends and family are welcome.



Upcoming Events and Reminders

Preschool and Elementary Age Youth Group

Gather in the Activity Center on Sunday, December 2, from 4:30-6:00 pm, and delve deeper into the FaithTrek word of the month, “Journey.” We will explore our journey through Advent and Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem. Parents and grandparents will meet for community building activities and Bible Study. We will end with a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm with the middle and high school youth and families. The next gathering will be Sunday, January 6, when we will learn about Epiphany.

Christmas Schedule

There will be no FaithTrek on December 23 and December 30. We will have FaithTrek on Sunday, January 6, which is Epiphany.

Christmas Eve services on December 24 are at 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 10:30 pm. Christmas Day worship will be at 10:00 am. Invite a friend to celebrate the wonders of the Christmas with you and yours.

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.