



Events



Above: Howard Sylvester and Steve Szymanski.



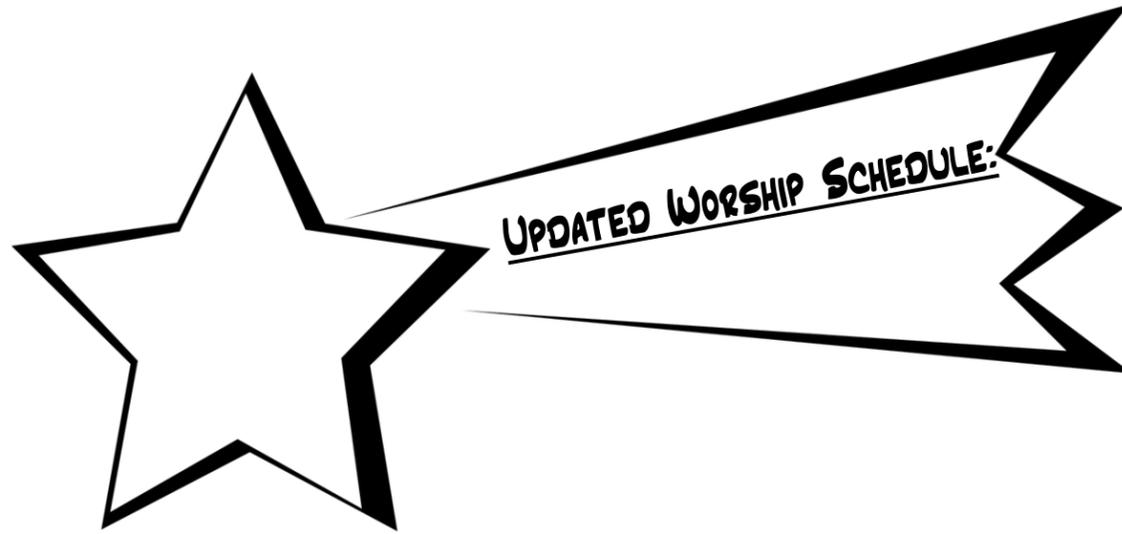
Thank you so much LWLC people for making another successful Lutefisk and Meatball Extravaganza! A little over 200 meals were served and a little over \$3200 was made.

TOP PICTURE: Pr Ann picking up the lutefisk from Chris, the CEO of Olson's Fish. Ann and Chris were classmates.



Just a few of L.A.M.E. volunteers: Terry Sylvester, Bruce Neubauer, Breanna Lueck, Patti Goke, and Maddison Lueck.





ONE SERVICE ON SUNDAYS:

BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, WE WILL BE HAVING *ONE* SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30AM.
TABLE TALK WILL FOLLOW THE SERVICE IN THE ROOM OF HOPE.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE:

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING ADVENT. PLEASE LOOK FURTHER IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR THE PLANS FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE NEW YEAR.

ADVENT VESPERS

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT VESPERS SERVICES (DEC 1, 8, 15) WILL BE POSTED ONLINE FOR VIEWING AT
YOUR LEISURE AT 7:00PM.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

THERE WILL BE A "BLUE CHRISTMAS" SERVICE ON SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 19 AT 5:00PM.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WILL BE ONLINE ONLY. STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WHERE AND
WHEN TO WATCH. THIS IS DUE TO THE RISE IN COVID CASES AND LOW NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE
AREA WHO ARE VACCINATED.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! NO SERVICES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 9:30AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 9:30AM

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CORNER

Council Corner

Property: There was a storm that went through the area with wind and hail that caused substantial damage in the Sauk Rapids area. Damage was also done to our buildings. Our insurance company has authorized repair/replacement for our buildings, including a new roof and siding for the church building. Repairs are expected to begin in the spring.

If you have questions for any of our council members, please contact them as follows:

- Council Corner**
- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| President: Lana Weber | presidentlwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Vice President: <i>vacant</i> | vicepresidentlwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Secretary: <i>vacant</i> | secretarylwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Treasurer: Mary Soroko | treasurerlwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Liaisons... | |
| Congregational Life: <i>vacant</i> | conglifelwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Education: <i>vacant</i> | educationlwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Finance: Brian Ulrich | financelwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Inreach: <i>vacant</i> | inreachlwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Outreach: Leann Giese | outreachlwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Personnel: Aaron Sufka | personnellwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Property: <i>vacant</i> | propertylwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Worship & Music: Jana Johnson | worshipmusiclwlcmn@gmail.com |
| Youth: <i>vacant</i> | youthlwlcmn@gmail.com |

WELCOME to Mary Soroko who stepped up to be on council as the treasurer. THANK YOU, MARY!

If you're able to help fill in on the Council until our next Annual Meeting on February 6, 2022, or are interested in adding your name to the ballot, please contact the church office.

If you have questions or comments for our current council, please contact one of the following:

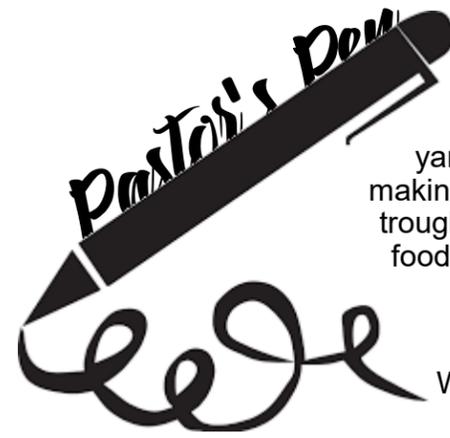
- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Lana Weber | Brian Ulrich | Leann Giese |
| Jana Johnson | Judy Bettendorf | Aaron Sufka |
| Pastor Ann | Pastor Wayne | Brad Giese |

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, December 21 at 6:30 pm. Individuals are also invited to attend council meetings.

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar! Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 6.

Do you have a passion for carrying out God's mission and the mission of Living Waters Lutheran Church? Have you been thinking about how you might be able to share your gifts and talents with the people of LWLC and our community? Have you thought about serving on the church council? If you have questions about the positions or are interested, please contact Pastor Ann, Pastor Wayne, a council member, or the church office.



A Way In A Manger...

Yes, that's right...a "way" in a manger.

What is the "manger" where we find this "way," this hope, this promise? It's a food trough that's in the barn, past that dirty, muddy barnyard with cattle, sheep, and other animals wandering through the mud, making ruts filled with dirty water and manure. This manger, this food trough, offers hope of nourishment for the animals that come searching for food. They look for what has been promised to them.

What might the muck look like for us?

Family challenges...
Strained relationships...
Job insecurity...
Unemployment...
School issues...
Health crises...
Discrimination...
Homelessness...
Financial messes...



Sometimes we need to be reminded that we need to get through the mud and the muck and focus on the promise. It's there...for us...maybe not how we planned or expected, but it's there...that little baby...waiting for us...offering a promise of comfort, of hope, of nourishment for our souls.

Emmanuel: God with us!

A Way In A Manger

By Ann Bjorklund (December 25, 2014)

In the season of Advent, we focus on the coming of Jesus—we think about what's to come. We think about preparations. The challenges that often seem to be present, though, are that people are preparing for Christmas—for traveling, for guests who will be arriving, cleaning the house, cooking and baking and gift buying. Those things often consume our time so much that we forget about the gift of Jesus coming into our world, giving us hope, shaking things up, and challenging the norms of our society. Jesus was controversial 2000 years ago and still is today, because he subscribes to the importance of love, kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. It's countercultural to forgive those who have hurt you, whether on purpose, or by accident. It's countercultural to give without expecting something in return. It's countercultural to share all that we have, trying to make everyone's lives better rather than looking out for number #1.

As Christians, Jesus calls us to go against the grain...to be countercultural...to love extravagantly and freely. I invite you to experience the joy of loving without limits, just as Jesus did over 2000 years ago, and still does today.

Christmas Blessings!

Pastor Ann



living waters living nativity

Living Waters will again be hosting the Living Nativity in the Coborn's parking lot (Sauk Rapids) on Saturday, December 18 from noon-4:00pm. We are in need of volunteers to participate as characters. If you can assist, please call the church office at 320-255-1135. Thanks to Dan & Kelli Pederson for sharing their animals with the community!

JUSTICE COMMITTEE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

The Racial Justice Task Force has changed its name to reflect an expanded focus on justice. The new name will be "Justice Committee for All God's Children." Issues that may be addressed include homelessness, food insecurity, LGBTQIA+ issues, racism, and address other topics as well.

The next meeting of the committee is December 2 at 6:00 pm.

Table Talk **Sundays, at 10:30 am.**

Join the conversation each Sunday morning for good discussion and information about a variety of topics. Come whenever you want! The conversation is informal, and no one is pressured to talk.

Sundays, 10:30 - 11:30 am. Table Talk will meet in the Room of Hope. For now, bring your own coffee.



November 28: FINDING HOPE
December 5: LIKE A BABY GIRAFFE
December 12: MOTHER MARY
December 19: OPEN DISCUSSION
December 26: CHRISTMAS MEMORIES



Food Shelf
Advent Calendar
Each day Add an Item to a Box.
The week of Christmas Donate Box to LWLC Food Shelf.



- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut Butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - pasta
- December 5 - mac and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna/chicken
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of instant rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - instant potatoes
- December 18 - pasta sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - canned corn
- December 22 - canned mixed vegetables
- December 23-24 canned carrots, green beans



TAKE AN ADVENT BREATHER!

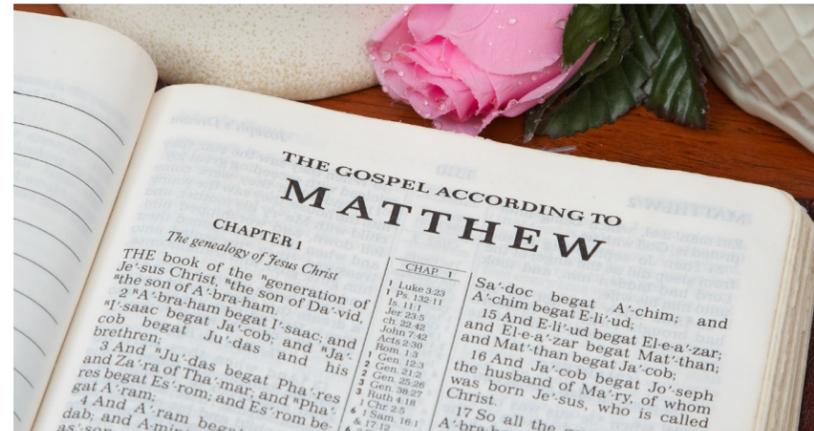
In the midst of what can be a stressful, busy season, join us online on Wednesday evenings, or at a time that works into your schedule. You will receive an email with the link to the service. This is a time for calm and quiet reflection. With the sanctuary only lit by candles, each week's service offers beautiful music, readings, and prayers.

**WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 1, 8, 15
ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.**

BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

**COME AND STUDY THE
BOOK OF MATTHEW. MEET AT
LWLC IN THE ROOM OF HOPE ON
TUESDAYS AT 1:00 PM. THANK
YOU TO PASTOR DORIS FOR
LEADING THIS GROUP.**

**IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT EVERY
WEEK, COME WHEN YOU CAN!**



Resignation of Patti Goke

Long-time Administrative Assistant, Patti Goke, has given her resignation. Patti's last scheduled day is April 1, 2022 or earlier if a replacement can be found sooner. (*This is not an April Fool's joke.*) We're thankful for her many years of service here at Living Waters.

We are still looking for someone to fill Linda Becker's position. She hopes to resign at the first of the year. This position is 6-10 hours per week. If you are interested in the financial secretary position, please contact Pr Ann.



Food Shelf & Giving with Gratitude

Many of our young people were part of making our food drives successful, as well as so many of you and our community members. Thank you for your generosity and for caring for those in need, just as Jesus calls us to do.

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

Thank you to Mara Jahnke who applied for a \$500 grant from Thrivent provided 500 items of food are collected. That number was surpassed. But, so was the amount of the grant! LWLC will now receive \$1000 to purchase food for the food shelf.

Also, thank you to Mara for getting the word out about the Giving with Gratitude food through food drive! The donations from the public have been quite honestly humbling and overwhelming.

(MORE ON NEXT PAGE)

Giving With Gratitude

Thank you for your generosity! Our Giving with Gratitude food shelf drive was successful because of you and so many community members. **Almost \$4000 in cash** was donated along with at least **2,182 items** added to our food shelf. We always welcome your generosity and willingness to help our neighbors who are faced with food insecurity.

Thank you to:

Andy Ditlevson
Brad Giese
Harry Hodel
Mara Jahnke
Bruce Neubauer
Tauna Quimby
Lori Schoborg
Mary Soroko
Terry Sylvester
Russ Victorian



THANK YOU to the following people who decorated the sanctuary for the season of Advent.

Kia Lindholm

Shari Hinkemeyer

Bruce Neubauer

Jana & Landon Johnson

Terry Sylvester & Alyssa Swenson (Terry's daughter)

Bonnie Raduns



New Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1st read one chapter
of the book of Luke in the Bible each
evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an
entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up
Christmas morning knowing WHO and
WHY we celebrate!!



LWLC Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus, we seek to reach, teach, and care for God's world as a
welcoming and inclusive community.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support. Way you can give.

- Set up BILL PAY through your bank or credit union. It is free and they will mail a check on YOUR schedule.
- Send money through PAYPAL. Just make sure you select you are sending money to a *friend* then there is not a fee. Send to church@lwlcmmn.org
- The old-fashioned way: send a check via the USPS to 1911 4th Ave No Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Questions: call the church office (320) 255-1135

Thrivent Grants

Do you have a Thrivent policy or financial service products that you've purchased from them? Did you know that they offer seed money for projects that benefit others? Thrivent members that have certain products have access to these funds (\$250 plus shirts and other advertising materials) up to 2 times per year. Living Waters has many projects that support people in our community that can benefit from additional funding. If you are a Thrivent member and would like to share those funds to support one of these efforts or something that you're passionate about, we would be more than willing to assist you in requesting funds or finding our more about the process, assisting with upcoming projects, or coming up with ideas for new projects.

Contact Pastor Ann at ann@lwlcmmn.org or 763-447-7664 or Patti at patti@lwlcmmn.org or 320-255-1135 to assist you.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Thank you to everyone who has Living Waters Lutheran Church designated on your AMAZON SMILE ACCOUNT. A percentage of qualified purchases is given to Living Waters if you have designated Living Waters as your charity of choice.

transition



Transition Team

The transition team has submitted a draft of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) to the council for review. (The MSP is the document that potential pastoral candidates will look at. This document gives a snapshot of Living Waters and what they are seeking in a pastor.) Watch for further updates as the process continues.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology Task Force needed...

Living Waters Lutheran Church has responded to COVID in the way many churches have...by increasing their online presence and footprint. This has been a great way to reach our congregational base, as well as serving as a form of outreach. Our increased exposure also adds to our potential vulnerability. We're looking for several people who will evaluate our current software and hardware for possible vulnerabilities that might need to be addressed. Your research and assessment will be used to help align policies and practices around our current technology, as well as ways we might efficiently and effectively proceed into the future. The approximate time commitment for completion of this project is 3 months. If you're interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Pastor Ann or the church office.



Stewardship

Watch your mailbox for your opportunity to carry out God's mission with your time, talents, and financial gifts. We appreciate your passion for the things that God is up to through the people of LWLC!

stewardship



2022 ELCA
YOUTH GATHERING

boundless

NEW DATES. SAME BOUNDLESS GOD.

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

JULY 24-28, 2022 | MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Will you have an 8-12 grader this fall who might be interested in attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, July 2022?

If so, please email Jen Kiewel (jen.kiewel@gmail.com) the following information: Youth Name, Age/year in school, parent/guardian name, address, phone (do you text?)



Pastor Ann Bjorklund
763-447-7664 (cell)
Pastor Wayne Anderson
(320) 250-5747
Church office
320-255-1135

Contact Information

**Living Waters Lutheran Church Youth Education
Winter/Spring 2022**

7-9th grade will continue to meet from 6 -7 pm on Wednesday evenings

4th- 6th grade will meet from 5:15-6:15 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

NEW: *PreK-3rd graders will be moving from Sunday mornings to Wednesdays. They will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays along with the 4-6th graders from 5:15 -6:15 pm. Registration forms are available in the church office. All are welcome!*

7-9th grade dates

January 5,12,19,26

February 2,9,16,23

March 2,9,16,23,30

April 6, (not the 13th -Holy Week), 20,27

May 4,11

PreK-6th grade

January 12, 26

February 9,23

March 9,23

April (not the 13th Holy Week) 27

May 11

We will be using the Remind Me app for communication. The link to has been sent via email. Contact the church office if you need the link resent to you.

Kids will be together from 6-6:15 for music. We need song leaders!

REMINDER - we are still looking for an Education Coordinator. Job description is available in the church office or online. In the meantime, Kirsten Stiegel thanks you for your patience as she volunteers to coordinate education for our youth.

A HUGE thank you goes out to DeNetta Wolbeck and Lori Schoborg for leading the 7-8th graders, Pastor Doris Weber for leading 9th graders, and Paul Raduns for helping with 4-6th graders. Also to Paul Martinson, Max Fortner and Fionn Falk - our very own house band!

HELP NEEDED - with the addition of the PreK-3rd graders, we will need additional leaders!! Please reach out to Kirsten at stiegelfamily@charter.net to volunteer.

**On the following pages are activities for our
youngest members. Please download and print out
for them. There is one for each of the upcoming
Sundays.**

Send

Getting ready for Christmas

Jesus told a story to help his disciples get ready for his coming. Jesus wants us to get ready for his coming, too. Praying is one way we can get ready for Christmas.



Ask someone to help you write a prayer of thanks to God.



 Dear God, please help me get ready for Jesus' birthday by talking to you. Amen

This week

Every day, thank God for something good that happened that day.



Gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent means "coming." During Advent we get ready and wait for Jesus to come. What's different in your worship space today? What colors do you see? Do you see an Advent wreath? What color are the candles? Is one candle burning?

Color and light one candle here.



Send

W	C	H	U	R	C	H	C
D	B	A	Z	E	J	C	O
G	I	F	T	S	Y	A	O
O	B	X	V	B	M	R	K
C	L	P	R	A	Y	D	I
Q	E	T	H	J	N	S	E
G	C	A	N	D	L	E	S

Getting ready for Christmas

Some ways we can get ready for Jesus are hidden in the puzzle. Look for the underlined words. Circle the words you find.

Come to church.

Pray together.

Send Christmas cards.

Read the Bible.

Light Advent candles.

Make gifts.

Bake cookies.



this week

Say prayers with your family around your Advent wreath.

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gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the second Sunday in Advent. How many candles are burning on the Advent wreath today?

Color and light two candles.



Listen to the words of the songs you sing in worship. What do you hear again and again?

Send

Getting ready for Jesus

One way we can get ready for Jesus is by sharing. God wants us to share our clothes, food, and the gifts and talents that God has given us.

Draw a heart by each of these things you can give to someone.



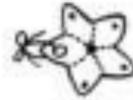
_____ A hug



_____ A smile



_____ A homemade Christmas card



_____ A homemade Christmas ornament



_____ Christmas cookies



_____ A good shirt and pants you have outgrown



Thank you, God, for blessing me with gifts to share with others. Amen

This week

Make a gift to give at Christmas.

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Gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the third Sunday in Advent. How many candles are burning on the Advent wreath today?

Color and light three candles.

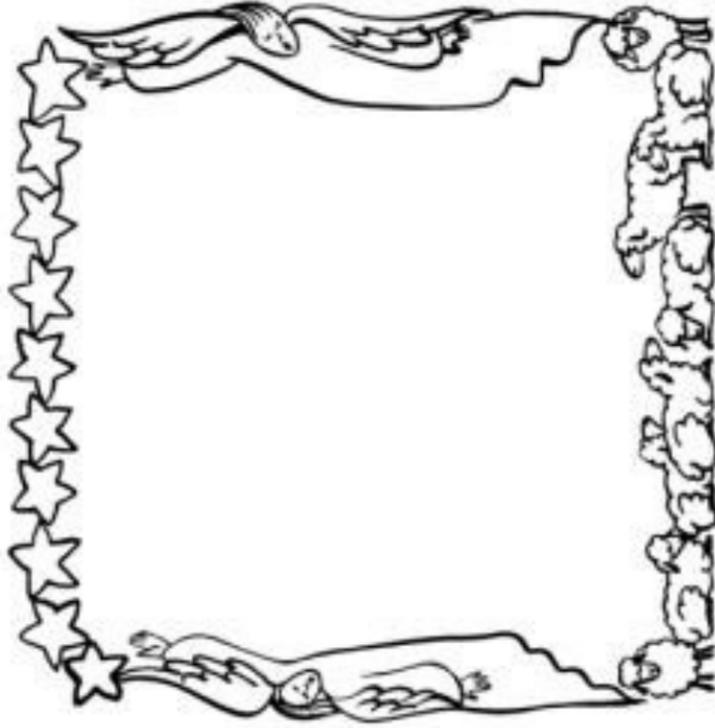


Count the Advent-colored things that you see in your worship space. Write down the number you find. _____

send

Christmas Eve

All four candles on the Advent wreath are burning. We have been waiting three weeks for Jesus' birthday. Now it is almost here. Draw a picture of one way your family celebrates on Christmas Eve.



*Dear God, the waiting is almost over.
Thank you for sending Jesus. Amen*

this week

Celebrate Jesus' birthday with your family.

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gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent. How many candles are burning on the Advent wreath in your worship space today?

Color and light all four candles.

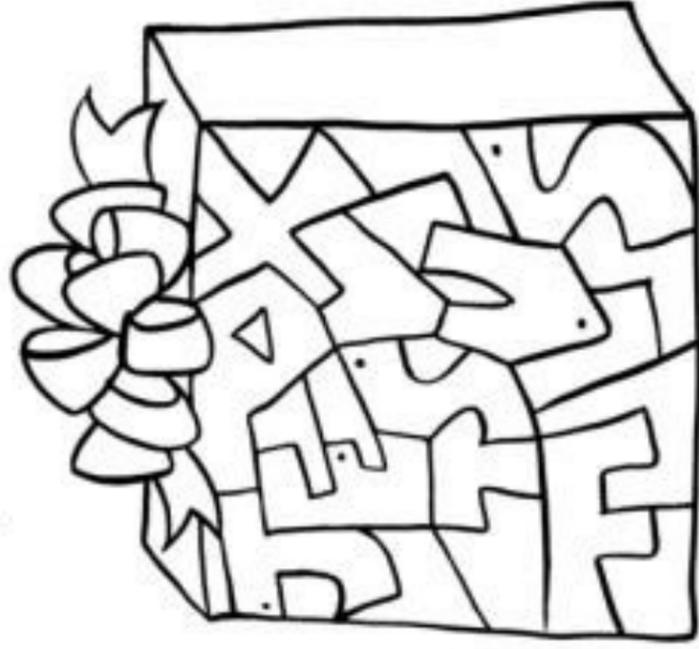


Finally, all the candles are lit. What else have you been waiting for the last three weeks?

Send

Christmas gifts

We give Christmas gifts to celebrate Jesus' birth. Color in the dotted spaces to find the best Christmas present of all.



Thank you, God, for sending baby Jesus to us and to all people. Amen

this week

Tell the Christmas story to a friend.

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Kids Celebrate

Nativity of Our Lord

gather

Welcome to worship. It's Christmas! How is your worship space decorated to celebrate Jesus' birthday? Finish decorating this church.

• Add flowers to the flower pots. ❁

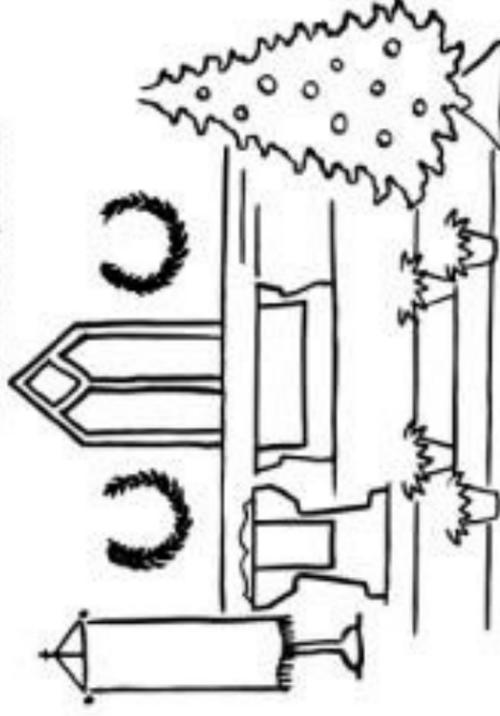


• Add bows to the wreaths.



• Add a star on top of the tree.

• What else can you add?



Send

Teaching about God's love

Even as a child, Jesus taught others about God's love. You can teach others about God's love, too. Draw a heart beside each picture that shows a way you can teach others about God's love.



Dear God, please help me teach others about your love. Amen

This week

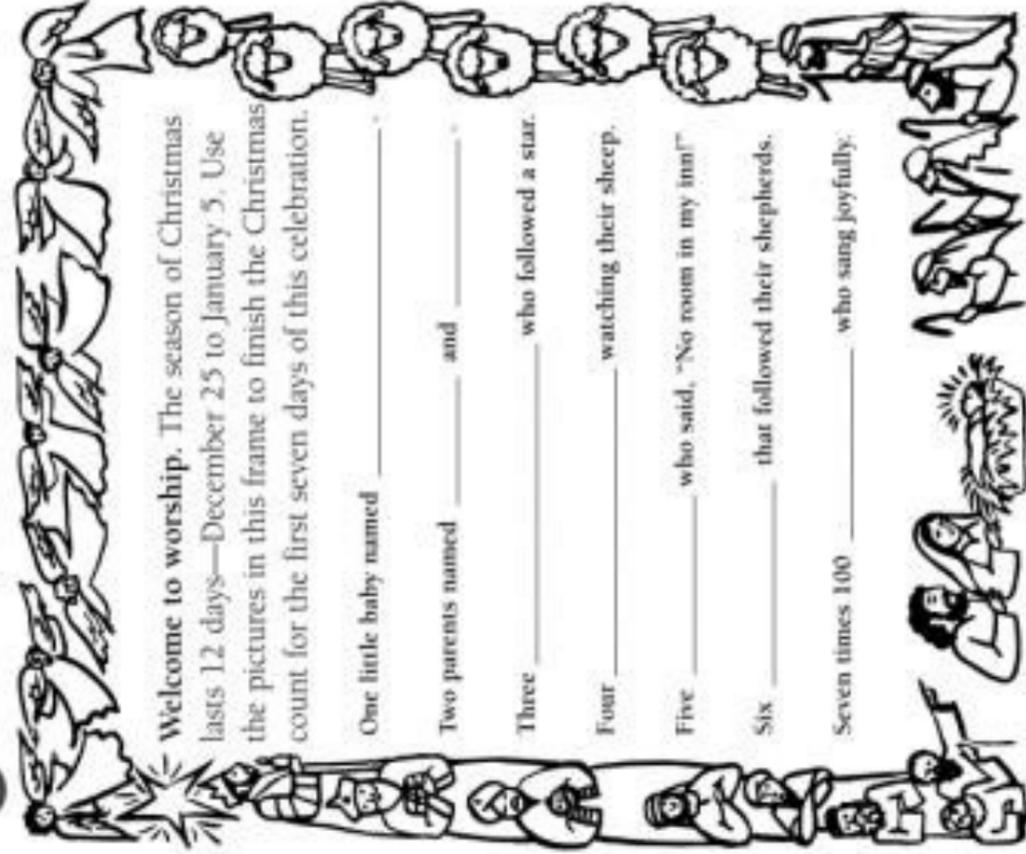
Celebrate Christmas and the New Year with your family and friends!

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Kids Celebrate

First Sunday of Christmas

gather



Welcome to worship. The season of Christmas lasts 12 days—December 25 to January 5. Use the pictures in this frame to finish the Christmas count for the first seven days of this celebration.

- One little baby named _____.
- Two parents named _____ and _____.
- Three _____ who followed a star.
- Four _____ watching their sheep.
- Five _____ who said, "No room in my inn!"
- Six _____ that followed their shepherds.
- Seven times 100 _____ who sang joyfully.

Send

We can be little lights for Jesus by sharing his love. Unscramble the words to find five ways we can share Jesus' love. Write the first letter of each unscrambled word inside the star. Then write the letters in the stars in order to finish the sentence.

 _ _ _ _ _ (hesra)

 _ _ _ _ _ (pleh)

 _ _ _ _ _ (tiveni)

others to church.

Be  _ _ _ _ _ (cine)

to others.

Tell  _ _ _ _ _

(oveyneer) about Jesus.

Let your love      every day.

 Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to teach us about your love. Amen

This week

Light a candle at dinner every evening. Have everyone name one way they can share Jesus' love tomorrow.

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Children Celebrate

Second Sunday of Christmas

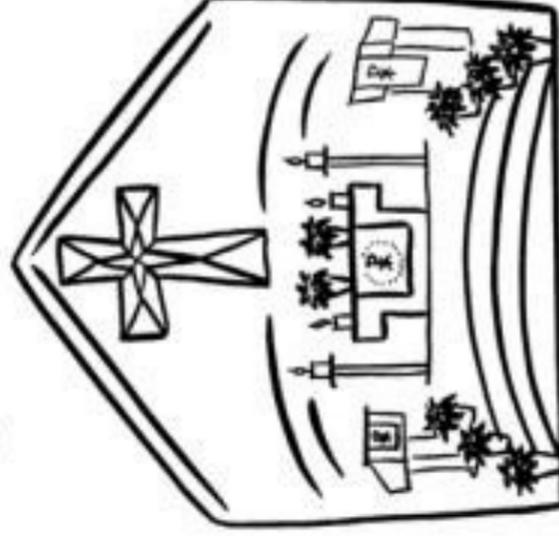


Gather

Welcome to worship.

The season of Christmas lasts for _____ days.

To find the answer, count the  and the , and put the numbers in the boxes at the bottom. Add the two numbers. Write your answer in the blank.



 +  =