

CHILDREN'S ADVENT NEWS



What's Inside:

Preparation
Action
Worship
Traditions
Conclusion

PREPARATION

We all need time to prepare for the things that are most important in our lives.

When company is coming to our house, most of us want to clean. (Most of us!)

When we get ready to go on vacation, we like to have the time to choose what we want to take, what we want to wear, etc. The same concept is true for the Advent

"How can we as the church teach children about the real meaning of Christmas?"

season. We need time to prepare, and so do our children. There are many fun, and creative activities that we can do with our children that will make the time of preparation more meaningful.

Advent means coming or arrival. In the church we celebrate Advent beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through Christmas Eve. It is a time to recall the first coming of Christ, and prepare ourselves for His second coming. Advent acknowledges that we live in both fulfillment and expectation therefore we need to prepare our children also.

There are things that we can do to prepare for this coming. One of the fun things to do is decorate.

When decorating, try to stay away from some of the secular temptations. Angels brought forth the message, so angels are a good item to use in decoration. Rudolf did not however, have anything to do with birth of the Savior, so you might want to steer clear of using this reindeer in your decorations! Snowflakes are a beautiful adornment for the windows, but since they have little to do with the Nativity, why not save them until after Christmas?



ACTION

Scripture beautifully describes the birth of Jesus. Do not miss the opportunity to read and re-read the Holy story to the children. There are also many other things to do with your children.

- * Advent calendars
- * Puzzles and word scrambles
- * Caroling
- * A live nativity
- * Plays and Programs
- * Advent wreath
- * Adopting a needy person or family
- * Making and decorating a Jesse tree



Whatever you choose to do, make sure you look at it with the eyes of the church, instead of the eyes of the secular world. Children need to know that Christmas is more than just the giving and receiving of presents.

WORSHIP

Advent is a perfect time to involve children in the worship service. It is great to include the children in the hanging of the greens and the lighting of the Advent candles. Children who are old enough to read well, should be encouraged to read the Scripture. Those who are not old enough are often able to act out the Scripture reading. Dancers and those who are able to use sign language can have a

part in relaying the story of Christmas to the congregation.

There is not much that is more beautiful, than the voices of children singing. Encourage them to sing the songs of Christmas during the worship services. Even if you do not have talented musicians in your church, the children can even sing a capella. There are many karaoke and accompaniment tracks available for churches without musicians.

TRADITIONS

When you send a holiday church newsletter, you can let all of your children write their own articles or stories. You can also include the activities that they are doing in the newsletter. Encourage the children to share their own family traditions with each other. Be aware that not all children will have good holiday memories, but this can be a time to create new church memories for them.

CONCLUSION

Whatever you do with the children this Advent season, do it with the love of Christmas. Show and share the love that is the gift of Christmas with the children of the church. Take the time and allow yourself to see Christmas once again through the eyes of a child!