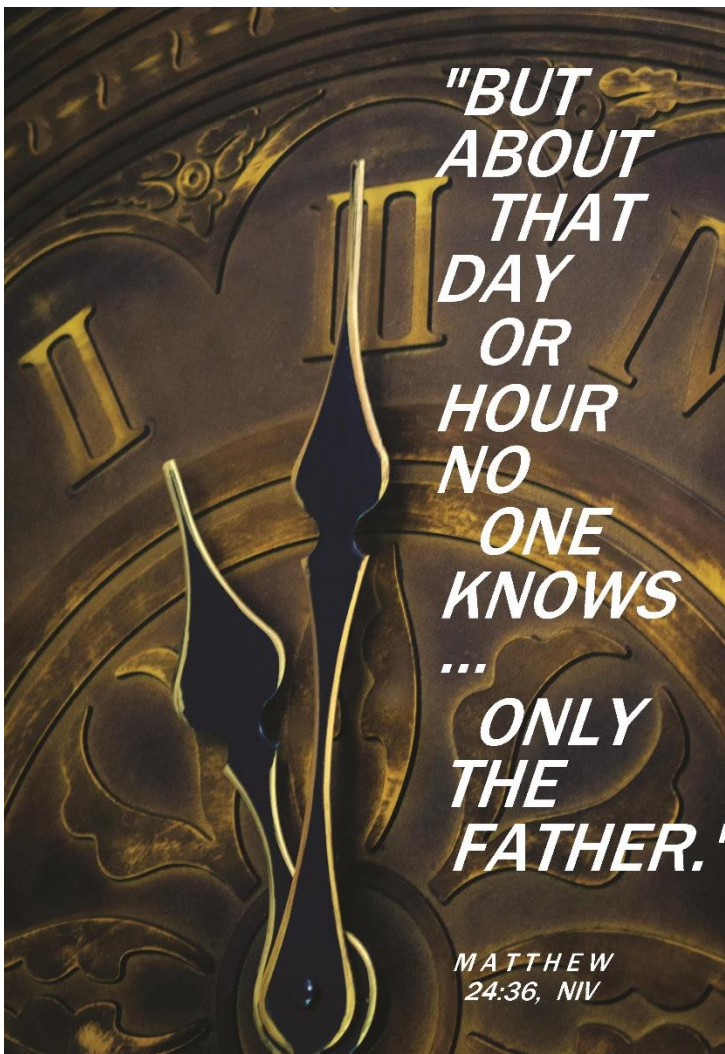


December 1, 2019



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

Juneau

Salem-Lowell

Horicon

Advent Wreath & Candles: Understanding the Meaning, History & Tradition

Advent is a time of expectation and hope. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas.

The History of Advent

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Most know Advent today as a time of anticipation and expectation of the birth of Christ. However, Advent began as early as the 4th and 5th centuries as a time of fasting and prayer for new Christians. Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

What Is the Advent Wreath?

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death as the evergreen is continuously green. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death on the cross, shedding his blood for our sins. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

Meaning & Symbolism of the Advent Candles

Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our dark world.

A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple {or blue}; the third candle is rose-colored. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.

The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.

The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.

The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy.

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace-He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.

The (optional) **fifth candle** represents **light and purity** and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day.

Excerpts from <https://www.crosswalk.com>

1st Sunday in Advent

OPENING HYMN #206

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

Please stand

INVOCATION

P: We rejoice, heavenly Father, that you have stirred up your might and have come to save us.

C: **Our spiritual eyes turn toward Bethlehem, the birthplace of your Son, as foretold by the prophet Micah.**

P: We accept with joy the fulfillment of your prophecy.

C: **As John the Baptist recognized your Son before he was born, help us also to recognize him as your Son and our Savior.**

P: In a most marvelous manner, you prepared a sacrifice for our sins in the womb of the Virgin Mary.

C: **Send us your Holy Spirit that we may truly believe and accept this miracle of your love.**

P: As we anticipate with joy the celebration of his birth,

C: **Grant us your grace that we may see in him the greatness of your love for us. Amen.**

SING
(263) **All glory be to God on high,
Who has our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh,
The strife at last is ended.
The Father's love, the Savior's birth,
Bring peace, good will, to all the earth;
Oh, thank him for his goodness!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: We confess, almighty God, that we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

C: **We have followed our own ways and the desires of our hearts instead of your will and way.**

P: We have broken your commandments and neglected your righteous decrees.

C: **We have offended you, our mighty and eternal God.**

P: There is no health in us.

C: **O Lord, have mercy on us.**

P: For the sake of your great mercy, O Lord, forgive us. Spare us the just punishment our sins deserve according to your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

C: **And grant that for his sake, we may live sober, upright and godly lives to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

SING O Jesus Christ, the only Son
(263) Of God, your heav'nly Father,
 You did for all our sins atone,
 And your lost sheep you gather.
 O Lamb of God, to you on high
 From depths of woe we sinners cry,
 Have mercy on us, Jesus!

P: God, our heavenly Father, has taken away your guilt and punishment. Because of the living and dying of God's appointed Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, he has forgiven you and restored you to your Father's house. May God grant you peace and joy as you await his return from heaven to gather his people home.

C: **Amen.**

ADVENT LITANY

P: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

C: **We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time. None of us knows what day that will be.**

P: We hear his call to watch.

C: **We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**

P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

One Advent candle is lit as the congregation sings

SING **Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,**
(23) **And ransom captive Israel**
 That mourns in lonely exile here
 Until the Son of God appear.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to you, O Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 6:9-22, 7:11-23 (NIV)

This is the account of Noah and his family.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. ¹⁰ Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. ¹⁴ So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. ¹⁵ This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. ¹⁶ Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. ¹⁷ I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. ¹⁸ But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. ¹⁹ You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. ²⁰ Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. ²¹ You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

²² Noah did everything just as God commanded him...

¹¹ In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. ¹² And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

¹³ On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. ¹⁴ They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. ¹⁵ Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. ¹⁶ The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in.

¹⁷ For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. ¹⁸ The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. ¹⁹ They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ²⁰ The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits. ²¹ Every living thing that moved on land perished — birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. ²² Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. ²³ Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 13:11-14 (EHV)

And do this since you understand the present time. It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is almost over, and the day is drawing near. So let us put away the deeds of darkness and put on the weapons of light. ¹³ Let us walk decently as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual sin and wild living, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not give any thought to satisfying the desires of your sinful flesh.

CHILDREN'S DEVOTION

Please stand

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 24:36-44 (EHV)

"No one knows when that day and hour will be, not the angels of heaven, not even the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ Just as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be when the Son of Man returns. ³⁸ In fact, in the days before the flood people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the very day that Noah entered the ark. ³⁹ And they did not realize what was coming until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man returns.

⁴⁰ "At that time two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² So be alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: If the master of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ You also need to be ready for this reason: The Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him.

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY #2

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

SERMON

Matthew 24:36-44

Please stand

CONFESSION OF FAITH

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please sign the Friendship Registers at the Juneau and Lowell Campuses. Then, pass the book down the pew for other worshipers to sign. Thank you!

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT

P: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

P: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

P: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

P: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

C: **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

P: And we join together and pray

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.** (spoken)

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN #21

"Hosanna to the Coming Lord"

Preacher: David Brandt
Liturgist (Juneau): Paul Schupmann
Organist: Dale Grulke / Haley Osantoski

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Announcements

Box Tops: There are some changes coming to the Box Tops for Education program. Please see the WELCOME newsletter for more information.

Churchwide Caroling: On Tuesday, December 10th we will have church-wide caroling. Our Junior Choir, Adult Choir, along with any members of our congregation who can join us, will leave from school at 5:30 and return around 7:00. We will be traveling by school bus to various nursing homes, etc. Upon our return, there will be pizza and goodies provided at school. Cost is \$3 for pizza. Any congregation members wishing to come along should contact Carol at school by 8am Monday, December 9th at 920-386-4644.

Calling all Bakers! On Monday, December 9th, the Ladies Aid will be delivering cookies to our shut-ins beginning at 8:00AM in the church basement. We are looking for volunteers to assemble, package, decorate, and deliver the cookies for over 50 shut-ins. How can I help? We are accepting cookie and bar donations, soft homemade and soft store-bought candy (with no nuts please), and caramel corn, etc. If you have any questions, please contact Geraldine Bischoff at 386-3356 or Marianne Zastrow at 386-4465. Thank you so much and so do the shut-ins! Also, if you know of anyone who would appreciate a cookie package this Christmas season who is not a shut-in, please contact Geraldine.

Adopt a Seminary Family for Christmas!

The St. John's Ladies Aid will again be sponsoring a seminary family this Christmas and we want to invite you, the members of St. John's, to be a part of this special Christmas gifting! We have been given the name of a deserving family by the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary staff (this couple has 2 small children – 18 mos and 1 mos) and we asked them for a wish list. In The Welcome, is their wish list. To participate, purchase any item(s) off the list, wrap it, include a card with Christmas wishes if you like or it can be anonymous, and bring it to church no later than Sunday, December 15th. There will be a drop box in the St. John's Juneau narthex. What a

blessing it is to be able to help this young family working on their way into the ministry!

Zumba is Extended! Our St. John's Zumba K-Group is extended for 2 additional weeks with all new Zumba dance – Wednesdays, December 4 @ 5:45pm & December 11 at 6pm. Please join us in the St. John Juneau's Fellowship Hall.

2020 Calendars: Numerous 2020 Calendars were donated to our church office. They are available for you to pickup in the narthex. Please take one or more home today!

Helping those in Need: Do you know a family in need this Christmas season? Are you in need of some extra help this Christmas? St. John's is making a "Giving Tree" this Christmas for those in need in our community. If you or someone you know would like some extra help to make this Christmas extra special, please contact Pastor Schupmann with the specifics of a gift, clothing sizes, etc. All requests will be kept confidential. In December, our members will have the opportunity to purchase those needed items and they will be delivered prior to Christmas. Please email your requests to Pastor Schupmann at pschupmann@stjohnsjuneau.org.

Food Drive: Beginning today, St. John's has a Food Drive in support of the food pantries in Dodge County. If you would like to participate, please bring your non-expired perishable food items to any campus by Sunday, December 8th.

Poinsettias for Church: Once again, 35 poinsettias have been ordered from Robin's Countryside Gardens to be purchased by members for the Juneau Campus this Christmas. The cost for the plant is \$14. If you would like to donate a poinsettia to church for the Christmas season, please see the sign-up sheet in the Juneau narthex.

Snow Removal: Would you be willing to help with snow removal this upcoming winter at the Juneau Campus? If so, our Trustees are looking to create a rotation of volunteers to be "on-call" for a few weeks during the winter season. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign-up in the narthex.

Joint Advent Service: There will be a joint Advent Service on Wednesday, December 4th at 7:00 PM with St. Stephen and Good Shepherd in Beaver Dam and our congregation. This year, it will be hosted by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam. The service will be a special reflective Advent Service with special choirs and sermonettes. *Also, please come and join us for some desserts and fellowship after the service.* Please join us as we prepare our hearts for our coming Messiah.

Christmas for Kids: St. John's will host a special **Christmas for Kids** on Saturday, December 21st from 10:30-noon. This special one-time event is open to all children in our community ages 3 years-old through 6th grade. Please register for this free event at www.stjohnsdodgecounty.com or on our app. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Krebs at 920.319.2002. Thank you!

Advent by Candlelight: On Sunday, December 8th at 6pm, St. John's Juneau Campus will host a special Advent by Candlelight for the ladies of our congregation. We are currently looking for 6-8 ladies to volunteer to be a hostess for the event. A hostess will provide a table setting of dessert plates and napkins (cups are optional) for 8 ladies at your table along with a dessert to share. The tablecloths and advent wreath centerpieces will be provided. Please sign-up in the narthex if interested and contact Heide Brandt if you have any questions at 989-574-5976. As the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season is upon us, let us take a few moments to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and praise God for His special gift.

Offerings given to our Lord the weekend of November 24th

Offerings from all 3 campuses

General	\$14,389.14
Debt	\$859.00
Improvement	\$240.89
Lakeside	\$138.35
Missions	\$753.39
Total	\$16,380.77

Candy Bag Donations: We are accepting donations of candy and/or money for the Christmas candy bags that are given to the

children on Christmas Eve. If you would like to participate, there will be a free-will offering today and next weekend. Members are also welcome to donate candy for the Christmas bags during that time. Thank you!



This Week at St. John's

Sunday (12/1)

8:00 AM Worship @ Juneau
8:30 AM *Sing to the Lord* Bible Class & Sunday School @ Lowell
9:15 AM *Sing to the Lord* Bible Class, Sunday School @ Juneau
9:30 AM Worship @ Lowell
10:30 AM Christmas Decorating @ Lowell
10:30 AM Worship @ Juneau
11:30 AM Elders @ Juneau
12:00 PM Organist Meeting @ Juneau

Monday (12/2)

6:30 PM *Connecting Sinai to Calvary* Bible Class @ Lowell

Tuesday (12/3)

8:15 AM *When Christ Walked Among Us* Bible Class @ Juneau
10:00 AM Luke Bible Class @ Clearview
10:00 AM Welcome Mailers @ Juneau
1:30 PM Jesus Cares @ Clearview

Wednesday (12/4)

5:00 AM Confirmation @ Juneau
5:45 PM Zumba @ Juneau
7:00 PM Joint Advent Service @ Good Shepherd

Thursday (12/5)

6:30 PM Ladies Aid @ Juneau
6:30 PM Worship with Communion @ Juneau

Saturday (12/7)

5:00 PM Worship with Communion @ Horicon

Sunday (12/8)

8:00 AM Worship with Communion @ Juneau
8:30 AM *Sing to the Lord* Bible Class & Sunday School @ Lowell
9:15 AM *Sing to the Lord* Bible Class, Sunday School & Confirmation @ Juneau
9:30 AM Worship with Communion @ Lowell
10:30 AM Worship with Communion @ Juneau
1:30 PM Piano and Jr. Choir Recital @ Juneau Public Library
6:00 PM Advent by Candlelight

*****December 1 – December 8 ~ Food Drive & Christmas Candy Bags Free-Will Offering*****

Welcome to St. John's

Pastors

David Brandt 608-343-2206
Paul Schupmann 920-344-9839
Joel Luetke 920-285-1351
Sr. Asst. Matt Hatzung 612-386-6131

Principal

Richard Cody

Worship Services

(same service at all locations)

Thursday

6:30pm Juneau

Saturday

5:00pm Horicon

Sunday

8:00am Juneau

9:30am Lowell

10:30am Juneau

Bible Class & Sunday School

Sunday Bible Class and Sunday School
Juneau Campus 9:15-10:15
Salem-Lowell Campus 8:30-9:15 AM



WELCOME

We are so glad you joined us to worship our Lord Jesus today! St. John's is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are happy to answer your questions about our service, our beliefs, or communicant membership in either of our congregations. Please join us again soon!

PERSONAL PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Good Shepherd, I was glad to be here, gathered with your flock to worship you. Cause the Word I have heard to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. Guide me in paths of righteousness, that my words and actions might lead others to glorify you.

If you have difficulty hearing, we have a hearing loop installed at the Juneau Campus. Simply turn your hearing aid setting to "T" and it should pick up the frequency. If you don't have that setting on your hearing aid or don't have a hearing aid but need help listening to the service, there are a limited number of listening devices that you can pick up in the narthex. An usher will be able to help you locate them.

St. John's Locations

Juneau Campus

920-386-3313
400 S. Main St.
Juneau, Wisconsin

Horicon Campus

920-386-3313
716 Clinton St.
Horicon, Wisconsin

Salem-Lowell

920-386-3313
105 Juneau Rd.
Lowell, Wisconsin

School Office

920-386-4644
402 S. Main St.
Juneau, Wisconsin