



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

755 Concordia Lane Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487
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"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

December, 2017

We have entered the Season of Advent. This marks the first "season" of the Church Year, affirming a Christian community's central focus: Jesus. We track time in Christ.

The basic dictionary meaning of the word *advent* is something like "the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event." So, we might hear someone talk about the "advent of the internet" or the "advent of the ski season." While we do not usually use the word *advent* much in our everyday conversations, we do use phrases like the "arrival of spring," or "the appearance of the full moon" and "making an entrance."

The word *advent* is the English version of the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming." The Latin *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*. This word was commonly used in the first century to talk about the coming of the emperor or ruler or king, i.e. the arrival of a notable person. *Parousia*, in the Bible, refers to the arrival of a VIP: Jesus.

For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. Throughout the Advent season, we share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and, in keeping with the command of the Christ, we remain vigilant and alert for his Second Coming.

Importantly, we can talk about the coming of Christ as past, present and future. Advent tends to emphasize the past and future arrivals. We are convinced, and make no mistake about it, that the Second Coming (Parousia) is as certain as the First Coming. So, importantly, we anticipate and celebrate His Presence *now*, the fact that He dwells among His people in the present.

"How?" some ask. "I don't see Jesus present; I don't feel His presence; I want to see Jesus." Others could also comment: "I've seen Jesus; I've felt His presence; I want to see Jesus." I can honestly say the same: "I want to see Jesus!" And, in keeping with the various ways that Advent helps me prepare for His arrival and presence, I can honestly say: "I have seen Jesus."

I see Jesus present and active in Holy Baptism. I see Jesus present and active in the Lord's Supper. I see Jesus present and active through the reading, study and application of His Word. Yes, when I read the Gospels and beyond into the Bible, I am looking at and conversing with Jesus. As a Lutheran, I firmly acknowledge the "sacred page" of the Scriptures. When the Scripture deals with me, Jesus is dealing with me. And you!

We have Wednesday Advent services on December 6 & 13, with a congregational Christmas caroling on December 20th.

We are making available four (4) Divine Services on December 24th: 10:00am (communion), 3:30pm, 5:30pm and 7:30pm (communion).

We will share one (1) Divine Service on Christmas Day at 9:00am.

"Come quickly, Lord Jesus, come!"

Luv ya'!

Pastor Craig



Happy December Birthdays

12-1	Judy Sherrod	12-28	Rebecca Duryea
12-8	Nancy Mayer	12-30	George Noyer
12-9	Melanie Scheer		
12-21	Raya Duryea		
12-22	Brad Nelson		
12-24	Clare Tarcha		
12-27	Beata Carrell		

Happy December Anniversaries

12-20	Kim & Charlyn Vance
12-23	Ron & Donna Wentzel
12-28	Steve Gunberg & Sherry Carrier

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule 2017

◇ **Advent Services 12/6, 12/13**
Soup Supper from 5:30--6:15pm & Worship Service upstairs at 6:30pm

◇ **Christmas Caroling 12/20 Downtown (Meet 6:25pm in the courthouse parking lot)**

◇ **Christmas Eve Morning 10am (Communion)**
◇ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship:**
3:30pm, 5:30pm & 7:30pm (Communion at 7:30pm)

◇ **Christmas Day Service (one service) 9:00am**

◇ **New Year's Eve Sunday- one combined service 10am & potluck following**

Christmas Poinsettias



Poinsettias will again be used to beautify our Sanctuary and Entryway as we celebrate the birth of Jesus as our Savior. If you can help us purchase the poinsettias, please donate \$15 or more and note "poinsettias" in the memo field. Checks can be left in the "flowers" mailbox above the coffee station. We will leave the poinsettias through Epiphany.

Concordia Members' Corner.....

Men's Bible Breakfast is December 9th at 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for fellowship, study and food.

Christmas Caroling at Casey's Pond 12/9: Please join us (meet in the lobby at 11:20) for Caroling at 11:30.

Ellie Bach-Paulison Holiday Benefit Concert 7pm 12/9.

Football Tailgate Party— Sunday, 12/10 1:30pm for a game starting at 2pm. Bring your favorite tailgate food to share!

Sisters in Spirit (S.I.S.)

Thank you for your donations of cookies, breads, crafts and other specialty items. We also thank all those who donated their hard work, time and talents to this special event.

It was a huge success and raised about \$8,000 for missions!

Angel Tree

Please take a tag off the Angel Tree in the Narthex. The gifts are to bless the Sun Valley Youth Center children (less fortunate children in Denver's poorest neighborhood).

Please return the Christmas gifts for the Sun Valley kids no later than 12/15.



Concordia's Website

The address is: www.steamboatlutheran.org

Missed a Sunday? Do you want to hear the sermon? You can click on the sermon section and choose the audio sermon and listen to it at your computer! Also, find the latest news and events and the calendar which will keep you up-to-date on meetings and happenings!

