



Christ the King Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 29, 2020

A blessed Advent to you with wishes for a joyful Christmas and enlightening Epiphany. Our theme for the season is “People on the Move.” Even though most of us cannot travel over the holidays, we’ll be reading stories of our faith ancestors, the Holy Family, the shepherds, and the Wise Men as they make their pilgrim way through the world. This packet of materials is a gift to you from the leadership and staff of Christ the King; it contains materials to accompany our worship and learning over the next forty or so days.

You’ll find eight “main pages,” one for each of the Sundays and Major Feasts of the season as well as a flyer for our mid-week Advent *Gloria Vespers*. You’ll find activity sheets for children including, from King’s Kids Preschool, a ready-to-color Advent wreath with guidelines for family devotions. From Team Service, the Witness and Outreach Committee, the Metro DC Synod, and the Boy Scouts come information about several opportunities for you and your household to be active in ministry during the season – through card-writing, food collection, or spending some time ringing the Salvation Army bell at Safeway! Here’s what’s in store:

WORSHIP

Sunday Worship

9:00 am on Facebook Live.

Remember, you do not need a Facebook account to watch the live version. The church website – www.gflutheran.org – has an easy-to-follow instruction sheet.

10:15 am in-person, indoors.

Our worship gatherings comply with Virginia’s recent heightened restrictions . You must register in advance on Eventbrite for in-person, indoor worship. Links can be found on the website, eblasts, and the Sunday Announcement sheet. Please don’t be bashful about signing up ... come every week if you like ... even if you have a large family! We do have space in the Sunday schedule for an additional in-person, indoor service, but we won’t know to add it unless the 10:15 service regularly fills up.

Holiday Worship

Midweek Gloria Vespers: Wednesday Evenings, December 2, 9, and 16.

7:30 pm on Wednesday evenings.

We'll worship using Zoom. Look for the link on the website, eblast, or Sunday Announcement sheet.

Christmas Eve: Thursday Evening, December 24

5:00 pm in-person, outdoors.

We'll gather around the bonfire for singing and a contemplation of the pilgrimage of the shepherds. No reservations required but masks will be worn and physical distancing will be practiced!

7:00 pm on Facebook Live.

11:00 pm in-person, indoors.

Candlelight Communion. IMPORTANT: you must register on Eventbrite. If the 11:00 pm time fills up, we will add a 9:30 pm service.

Christmas Day: Friday Morning, December 25

10:00 am on Facebook Live.

The Epiphany of Our Lord: Wednesday Evening, January 6

6:00 pm in-person, outdoors.

We'll gather around the bonfire for singing and a contemplation of the pilgrimage of the Wise Men. No reservations required but masks will be worn and physical distancing will be practiced!

In-person Brief Order Communion

Please make reservations on SignUpGenius for Chapel Communion and Drive-up Communion. Links can be found on the website, eblasts, and the Sunday Announcement sheet. Chapel Communion is held inside the sanctuary and is limited to 4 participants; Drive-up Communion is held on the driveway by the front porch of the building.

No Brief Order Communion the week of December 27

CHAPEL COMMUNION

December 1, Tuesday – Chapel Communion: 9:00-10:15 am and 6:00-7:00 pm

December 16, Wednesday – Chapel Communion: 3:00-4:30 pm and 6:00-7:00 pm

January 6, Wednesday – Chapel Communion: 3:00-5:00 pm

DRIVE-UP COMMUNION

December 8, Tuesday – Drive-up Communion: 3:00-4:30 pm

December 21, Monday – Drive-up Communion: 3:00-4:30 pm and 6:00-7:15 pm

EDUCATION

Sunday School: Pre-K through Senior High

11:15 am on Sundays, December 6, 13, and 20.

We offer five classes every Sunday. Three for elementary ages, one for middle-school age, and one for senior high. Weather permitting, classes meet in outdoor spaces. Masks are worn and physical distancing is practiced.

NOTE: Classes will not meet on November 29, December 27, or January 3.

Adult Forum:

11:15 am on Sundays using Zoom Meetings

The appropriate link can be found on the website, eblasts, and the Sunday Announcement sheet. The Adult Forum will not be taking any Sundays off.

People on the Move: November 29 – February 14

During this time of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, the Adult Forum will take a deep dive into the theme of “People on the Move.” Using video presentations from “The Bible Project” we’ll explore the biblical themes of exodus and exile as well as learning about the Gospel of Mark. We’ll mix it up a bit by inviting special guests with expertise in the areas of immigration, asylum, and refugee resettlement ... this will help us better understand what drives “people on the move” in our day.

PLEASE NOTE: *The Adult Forum is designed **not** to build on previous weeks so that participants can come and go week-by-week as their schedule permits without feeling they’ve missed previous lessons.*

Affirm/Connect:

Time and day TBA using Zoom Meetings

Affirm/Connect is an occasional adult education offering that invites a commitment from participants to go a bit more in-depth than we can on Sunday mornings during Adult Forum. Watch for information about how to be involved in the next Affirm/Connect program.

Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People.

Starting the week of January 10 and running for five weeks.

*Drawing from the resources of the book *Practicing Our Faith*, participants will learn more about some of the classic faith practices of Christianity – among them, hospitality, stewardship, sabbath, testimony, forgiveness, and singing – and consider how to adopt or deepen Christian practice in their own lives.*



GIFTS OF HOPE

more meaningful giving



PARTING MESSAGE from Carolyn Sowinski

It has been my honor to serve as the second Director of Gifts of Hope for the past nine years. My husband will be retiring in 2022 and at that time we will move back to Bloomington, Indiana, where we lived and raised our family prior to our 2010 move to Germantown, Maryland. Thank you for walking with me on this journey of generosity in our community. Thank you for showing kindness and compassion, sharing your time and resources, making a difference, and responding to God's grace.

Under the leadership of our next director, Natalie Cain, our commitment to help others continues. Our work in the community continues because of you—our donors, volunteers, congregations, organizations, and the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod.

COVID-19 IMPACT

Our community, our country, and our world face health and livelihood issues in 2020 and beyond due to COVID-19. Gifts of Hope (GOH) responds to these issues by changing in the following ways:

- Instead of visiting tables in church buildings, individuals can support GOH via our website (www.giftsofhopedc.org) or by mail (an order form is included in this catalog). We want to honor the health of our volunteers and donors, even if congregations return to on-site worship this year.
- We continue to have our catalog, though the size has been reduced this year.
- The number of gifts have been reduced to 20 in 2020. You will have the choice of supporting one or more of our 19 beneficiary organizations. The gifts are more general in scope, not for specific projects. Each organization needs to maintain flexibility as they find new and sometimes unique ways to serve their clients, and GOH wants to be flexible for them.

2020 Gifts of Hope - Gift Descriptions



1. Support all 19 beneficiary organizations

and your donation will be matched, dollar for dollar, by our lead donors. Your gift will help men, women, and children of all ages and provide help for a variety of needs. Your gift, divided equally among the organizations, will make a difference locally and globally.



2. Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center

provides unforgettable faith, education, and renewal experiences for all God's people in God's creation. The camp shares a welcoming, prayerful, playful space: a simple environment, disconnected from the distractions of technology and the world. Year-round, the staff hosts church groups, nonprofits, families, and community groups for large and small group retreats. Since the first Summer Camp in 1959, over 40 rostered leaders in the Church have begun their ministry as a camp counselor at Caroline Furnace. Gifts will support Summer Camp, community outreach, facility upgrades, and more. www.carolinefurnace.org



3. Community Family Life Services

was founded in 1969 and works to meet the varied needs of Washington, DC's most vulnerable citizens: those struggling with poverty and homelessness, and women returning home from prison. Your gift will help CFLS to provide crisis assistance, medical case management, food and clothing distribution, transitional housing, substance abuse counseling, employment placement, and mentoring. www.cflsdc.org



4. The Community of St. Dymas

is an ELCA Lutheran congregation within the walls of the Maryland State prison system. Staff and volunteers provide worship, Bible study, and Christian support to the inmates at four facilities, as well as support to those who have been transferred to a facility that doesn't have a formal congregation. These lively, faith-filled congregations are where God is changing lives through the good news of grace, forgiveness, and new life. CSD partners with aftercare programs to provide support for members after their release to find housing, employment and basic needs. The funds from Gifts of Hope have enabled CSD to continue to bring the Gospel into the prisons and to continue to support people as they transition back to the community. <http://www.stdysmasmd.org>

5. Fellowship Square

was founded in 1960 and advocates for and provides affordable housing and supportive services to older adults with very limited income. Foundation Square offers safe living environments that enhance independence, self-confidence, and the well-being of its diverse residents. The chaplaincy program provides pastoral care and counseling to residents. Your support will help with medical and dental care, counseling, and nutrition. www.fellowshipsquare.org



6. Good Shepherd Housing Foundation

makes hope possible by providing permanent rental housing to families with limited income. Rent does not exceed 30% of income and case management support is available in some of the homes. Your gift will support two projects: 'Keeping the Lights On' and 'Keeping your Car on the Road' and will change the lives of families. www.goodshepherdhousing.org



7. Housing Up

was founded in 1990 and builds thriving communities in Washington, D.C. by developing affordable housing and providing comprehensive support services to homeless and low-income families, empowering them to gain long-term independence. Living expenses include much more than just rent and utility payments, transportation costs, and household essentials. As families transition into life beyond 2020, your gift will provide the flexibility in funding needed to support the unpredictable needs of the people served by Housing Up. From navigating distance learning with their children to regaining stability after being laid-off due to COVID-19, you can make a difference in many families' lives. www.housingup.org



2020 Gifts of Hope - Gift Descriptions



8. Lutheran Campus Ministry

supports young adults as they navigate one of the most important times of their lives. Throughout the Synod, our campus ministries provide opportunities for students to worship, grow in their faith and connect with inter-faith learning opportunities, as well as develop leadership skills, participate in meaningful service opportunities, have time and space for retreats, and much more. Your donation helps support and raise up young adult leaders who are the present - and future - of the Church and the world. www.lutheranterps.com

9. Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area

walks with those in need and mobilizes community partners to provide services that offer hope and rebuild lives. LSS/NCA helps individuals and families who face challenges, including adoption care, refugee resettlement services, and youth development. Your gift will change the lives of others, by providing activities for youth, meals for all ages, and apartment furnishings. www.lssnca.org



10. Lutheran Volunteer Corps



celebrates its 40th anniversary by expanding the social justice year of service program for volunteers at least 21 years of age, to include service semesters in August, January, and June as well as year-long learning seminars on social justice topics. LVC continues the core values tradition of living in community, simply and sustainably; while volunteering 40 hours each week at partner Placement organizations with missions including immigration, housing, education, health, and other areas. LVC welcomes volunteers at all stages of life including retired, on sabbatical, in-between or changing jobs, gap year, and more. Participation is at no cost to the volunteer. Your gift helps fund the program for new generations learning the lifelong commitment to social justice. www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org

11. Lutheran Churches in Namibia

Our Synod has Companion Synod relationships with three entities in Namibia—The Paulinum Seminary, ELCIN, and ELCRN. This gift will help the various Lutheran entities in Namibia, and they can choose which project they like—whether it be books for the Seminary, hostel supplies for ELCRN or monies for the retired pastors' fund sponsored by ELCIN. Your gift will improve lives and livelihood and meet the spiritual needs of the Namibian people. metrodcelca.org/ministries/companion-synods

12. The Salvadoran Lutheran Church

is a new church, small in numbers, but with a powerful voice in a country where pain and hope are both easy to see. These Lutheran churches in El Salvador thrive among the least fortunate, in urban slums and small towns. Your gift will help fund micro-business grants and other projects, and support salaries for pastors, almost all of whom have jobs outside the church, to pay their bills and support their congregations. metrodcelca.org/ministries/companion-synods



13. Lutheran Churches in Slovakia

The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia dates from Luther's lifetime. Still recovering from persecution under communism, this church bears witness in a part of Central Europe where educational work and youth ministry are bearing great fruit. Ministry to immigrants and to the Roma people are also vital now. Your gift will help renovate damaged church buildings, maintain Lutheran schools, and enhance church grounds. metrodcelca.org/ministries/companion-synods

14. Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp and Retreat Center

serves others through year-round retreat hospitality and summer camp programming. The camp is a place of community and sanctuary, located in the beautiful Catoctin Mountains of Maryland as well as out in your own community. Committed to faith formation for people of all ages, everyone is welcomed and accepted as they are, a beloved child of God. Your gift will provide programming supplies and Camperships so everyone can experience life-changing, friendship building summer camp fun! www.mar-lu-ridge.org



2020 Gifts of Hope - Gift Descriptions



15. N Street Village

empowers homeless and low-income women in Washington D.C. to claim their highest quality of life. Through our strong community of hope and respect, the Village provides the tools for women to make real, lasting change in their lives. Your gift will help us provide for immediate client needs like food, clothing, and shelter, as well as access to health care and job training resources. www.nstreetvillage.org

16. Shelter House (formerly NOVACO)

provides permanent housing and emergency services to families affected by homelessness and domestic violence. Your gift can help to support a family with rent and utilities to ensure that they are able to maintain housing. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many families have experienced a loss of income. Your gift is needed now more than ever to help families stay housed through this crisis. www.shelterhouse.org



17. Roanoke College

is a four-year liberal arts college located in Salem, Virginia. Founded in 1842, Roanoke is the second-oldest Lutheran related college in America and lives at the intersection of faith and reason. Reason calls us to be honest. Faith calls us to be authentic. Your gift supporting Roanoke College will be directed to the scholarship program for students pursuing a church vocation who are from the Washington D.C. area or the three international companion synods. This gift will provide students with tuition assistance or help with other college expenses. www.roanoke.edu



18. Southeast Ministry

is located in Ward 8 of Washington, D.C. and provides a ministry of hope for men and women in a safe and respectful environment through math and literacy education, financial skills classes, job readiness, and other programs that celebrate achievements, build self-esteem, and transform lives. Clients are mapping their educational and vocational pathways so your gift will make a difference today and tomorrow. www.southeastministrydc.org



19. United Lutheran Seminary



is located on two campuses, Gettysburg and Philadelphia. The seminary offers graduate degree tracks and lifelong learning programs that equip rostered and lay leaders to serve with deep faith and excellence—in congregations, social ministry agencies, campus ministries, military settings, and global missions. Your gift to ULS will help seminarians meet basic needs and help underwrite housing expenses while they study the Word of God and develop skills which put words into actions. www.myuls.edu

20. The Village at Rockville - A National Lutheran Community

If you live long enough, you might run out of money through no fault of your own. The Village at Rockville admitted its first resident in 1895 and has never had to ask such a person to leave. Your gift can provide peace of mind, food, shelter, and stimulating activities for older adult residents. Thank you for keeping this promise alive. The Village at Rockville provides memory care services, short-term rehabilitation, outpatient physical and occupational therapy, nursing care, and hospice care. www.thevillageatrockville.org



How to Order

Option 1:

Pay online with PayPal at www.giftsofhopedc.org

Option 2:

Mail completed order form and check (payable to Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod) to:
Natalie Cain
7901 Bethelen Woods Lane
Springfield, VA 22153

Questions?

Email Natalie Cain at goh@metrodcclca.org

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Item No. _____ Donation Amount (\$) _____

COME ONE AND COME ALL AND HELP US SPREAD CHEER!
GOD'S WORK ~ OUR HANDS!
JOIN US ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 19TH AT SAFEWAY!



Contact: Louise Babirak for more details.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Add the items shown on each day.

You can substitute an item but try to keep it a good mix of foods.

Dec 1 – box of cereal	Dec 13 – canned beans
Dec 2 – peanut butter	Dec 14 – box of crackers
Dec 3 – stuffing mix	Dec 15 – box/bag of rice
Dec 4 – boxed potatoes	Dec 16 – container of oatmeal
Dec 5 – macaroni & cheese	Dec 17 – box of pasta
Dec 6 – canned fruit	Dec 18 – plastic jar of pasta sauce
Dec 7 – canned tomatoes	Dec 19 – can of soup
Dec 8 – canned tuna	Dec 20 – can of corn
Dec 9 – box of cake mix	Dec 21 – can of green beans
Dec 10 – plastic jar of applesauce	Dec 22 – can of carrots
Dec 11 – canned sweet potatoes	Dec 23 – can of chicken noodle soup
Dec 12 – can of icing	Dec 24 – can of cranberry sauce

No glass containers please.

The scouts will start collecting on December 26th. All food will be donated to SHARE in McLean. To arrange for a non-contact pickup, email your name and address to kmfoley.gf@gmail.com or text your name and address to 703-969-0906.

Share Hope for the Holidays

You can bring joy and hope to families in immigration detention, and to children who crossed our borders alone, by writing and decorating holiday cards in English and Spanish.

Thousands of immigrant mothers, fathers, and children – including infants – are being held in three federal detention centers in Texas and Pennsylvania.

Many have fled violence, starvation, or extreme poverty, only to be imprisoned in camps with poor sanitary conditions and inadequate medical care. To help ease their trauma and provide some hope and comfort during the dark days of December, you are invited to participate in the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) annual Hope for the Holidays program.



It's very easy! Just write a message of hope and friendship, in English and/or Spanish (or French, Arabic, or Portuguese) on the holiday card enclosed in this packet.

For suggested Spanish and English phrases and other information, see the *Hope for the Holidays Toolkit* at <https://www.lirs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Hope-for-the-Holidays-2019-Toolkit.pdf>

- Personalize the cards with stickers or drawings, perhaps sharing a favorite poem, quote, or Bible verse. Do not use glitter or other items that could cause choking.
- Sign your first name only and, if you like, your city and state, but no street address.
- Mail the card in the enclosed envelope, with a first-class stamp, to LIRS' partner church:

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
Attn: Hope for the Holidays
3807 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Be sure to mail the card in time for its arrival at First English by December 11!

If you want to send additional cards, here are some suggestions:

- Write happy generic greetings, not just "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays" because some of the immigrants do not celebrate Christmas.
- Place all of your cards (but no envelopes) into a large manila envelope or box. Mail that packet, with sufficient postage, to First English in Baltimore, at the address above.
- Include with the cards your completed cover sheet, downloaded from the LIRS Toolkit.
- Hold a card-writing party in person with your household or on Zoom with family or friends from Christ the King, school, or another organization. Each group should send their cards to First English, with a completed form.
- Take photos of your card-writing parties and send them to Ctk's Communications Director, ellen.acconcia@gflutheran.org.

Help spread the message of peace, joy, love, and hope this holiday season!

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” - Matthew 25:35

For 80 years, **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)** has offered welcome and hope to more than **500,000 refugees**. LIRS has transformed lives of the most vulnerable sojourners, supporting, equipping and empowering them, while advocating for policies that protect all of God’s children.

LIRS carries out much of its work in partnership with Lutheran congregations and with local service providers across the United States. LIRS funding and technical support enable local partners to help refugees plant roots in new communities, assist vulnerable migrants with legal and practical needs, find loving foster homes for refugee and migrant children, and improve the timely reunification of immigrant families.

The roots of Lutherans embracing refugees continues, as Lutheran congregations today support the work of LIRS by offering Circles of Welcome to refugees, assisting with Reception and Welcome for immigrants released from immigration detention, and participating in projects such as Hope for the Holidays and Migrant and Refugee Sunday.

Since its founding in 1939, LIRS has resettled displaced persons or asylum seekers from Germany and Eastern Europe (post World Wars I and II); Hungary following the 1956 Soviet crush of the Budapest student and factory worker revolution; Cuba after Fidel Castro’s 1959 regime change and imposition of a communist government; Uganda in 1972, when Dictator Idi Amin expelled 70,000 citizens; and Southeast Asia following the defeat of South Vietnam in April 1975, which triggered a flood of refugees.

In 1980, LIRS, which had expanded its staff and efforts following the fall of South Vietnam, hit the 100,000 mark in refugees resettled since World War II. That same year, the American Homecoming Act granted U.S. admission to 10,000 Amerasian children fathered by U.S. citizens, and the Refugee Act of 1980 created a permanent and systematic procedure for admitting refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States.

LIRS resettlement efforts continued in 1993, when the first survivors of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia arrived in the United States; in 1999, when 1,700 ethnic Albanians were forced out of Kosovo; and early in 2000, for the “Lost Boys”--young Sudanese refugees separated from their families for a decade or more after fleeing a civil war. In the first decade of the 21st century, LIRS has assisted in settling refugees from Burma, Tibet, Bhutan and Iraq, and ethnic Hmong from refugee camps in Thailand.

As one of the largest faith-based organization assisting both immigrants and asylum-seekers, LIRS also

- coordinates **6,000 volunteers** nationwide with the help of more than **100 local affiliates**;
- coordinates shelter operations along the border to provide recently released asylum seekers with basic supplies, assistance in planning their onward journey, hot meals, and a warm welcome; and,
- works to empower refugees to engage in advocacy at local and national levels.

Visit <https://www.lirs.org/> for more information about LIRS and how you can help.

People on the Move

Migration

Christ the King
Lutheran
Church
Great Falls, VA

MIGRATION.
Humans have always migrated. Short distances, long distances. Sometimes pushed into it because where we are lacks what we need. Sometimes, as in the case of Abram and Sarai, pulled into it because of the lure of the place we're going.

Both Peter and the author of Hebrews reflect that the core identity of God's people is "pilgrim" and "stranger."

Here is where the migratory identity of God's people is born:

Genesis 12:1-9
¹Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the

land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When

they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Advent 1
November
29, 2020

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

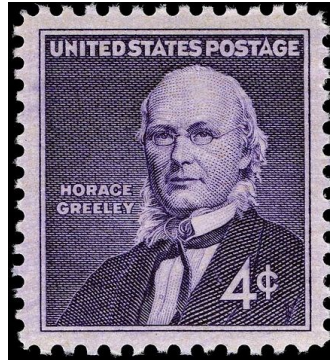
A random quote from a random pilgrim as seen on the Camino de Santiago:

*"Walk slow, don't rush.
That place you have to reach is yourself."*

Almanac

It's appropriate that the first Sunday in our "People on the Move" narrative arc falls on the anniversary of the death of Horace Greeley in 1872. Greeley was the founder and editor of the *New-York Tribune*. In addition to his work as a publisher and journalist he was a politician who served as a congressman from New York. He also ran for president in 1872, but lost to Ulysses S. Grant. One of Greeley's pet causes was the settlement of the American West; it was Greeley who popularized the slogan, "Go West, young man,

and grow up with the country." And although the settlement of the American West is a story with both heroic and tragic chapters, it does exemplify the migratory spirit that is a part of our common humanity.



A 1961 United States postage stamp honoring Horace Greeley

Visio Divina

Visio divina is a form of divine seeing in which we prayerfully invite God to speak to our hearts as we look at an image. Read the Genesis passage on the front page and then contemplate the artwork below. Imagine your entire family and all your worldly goods being contained in one Conestoga wagon as you migrate according to God's call.



CONESTOGA WAGON, WYOMING CENTENNIAL RIDE 1990
James Bama

Activity

Use this Advent to practice telling the story of your migration, your journey. Set aside time each week to sit alone or with those in your household. Light a candle (and then keep increasing the number of candles through the season).

Then gather one or items that prompt you to remember stories. Tree ornaments or other Christmas decorations. Christmas cards you've saved or those that arrive by mail (or email). Photo albums ... whatever works.

When did we buy that and what was going on in our lives at that time? Why are these people in our lives?

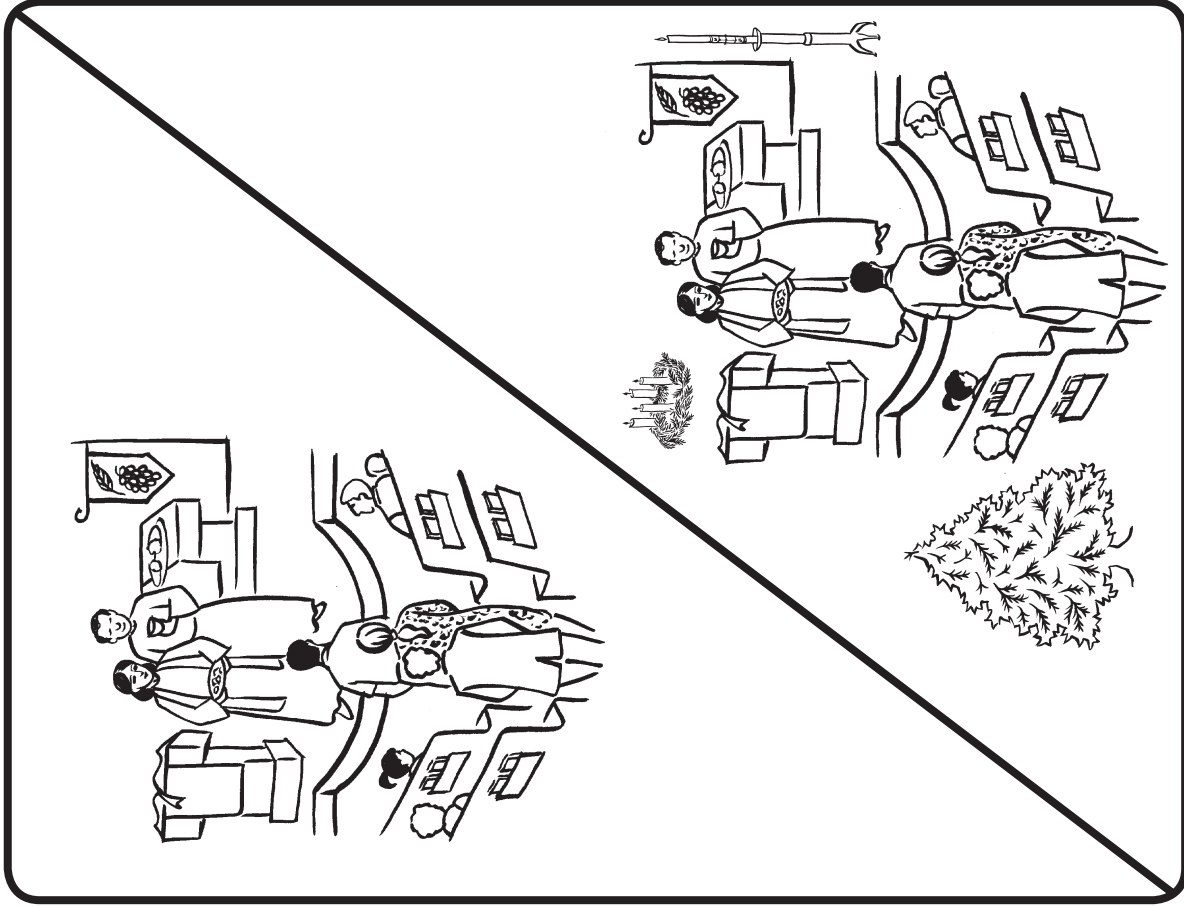
If you are alone in your household, write the story that the item prompts (and if that story involves someone who lives apart from you, share it with them!). If you share your house with others, tell the stories out loud.

*To feel the pull, the draw,
the interior attraction,
and to want to follow it,
even if it has no name still,
that is the "pilgrim spirit."
The "why" only becomes
clear as time passes, only
long after the walking
is over.*

Fr. Kevin A. Codd

For different seasons in the church, your worship space might look different. Below are two sanctuaries. One looks like the ordinary time of the church year. The other is decorated for Advent.

Find the differences and circle them.

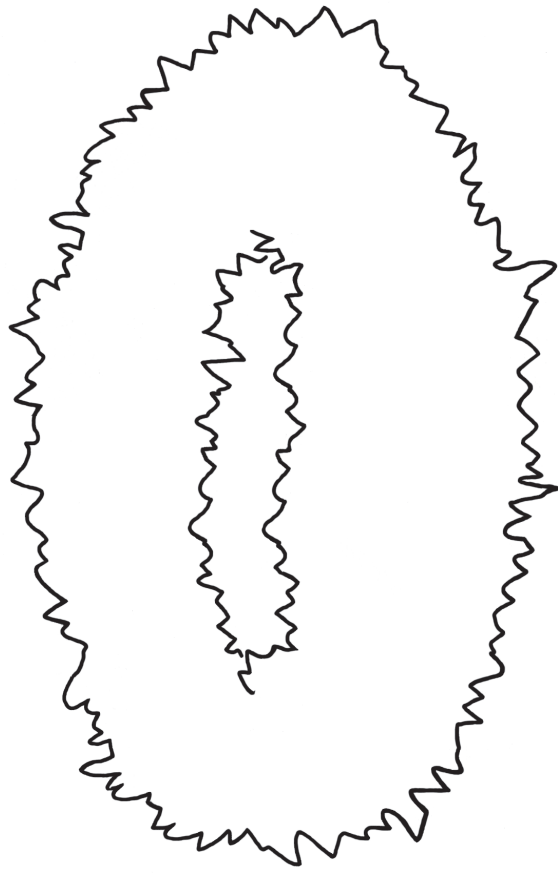


PRE-READER

Advent 1

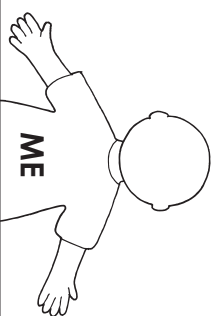
- Today is the **first Sunday** in **Advent**.
- The color we use for Advent is **blue**.
- Advent is the season when we prepare for the **coming of Jesus!**

In Advent, we use candles to count the Sundays until Christmas. Draw four candles on the wreath below. Then color the candles and the wreath.

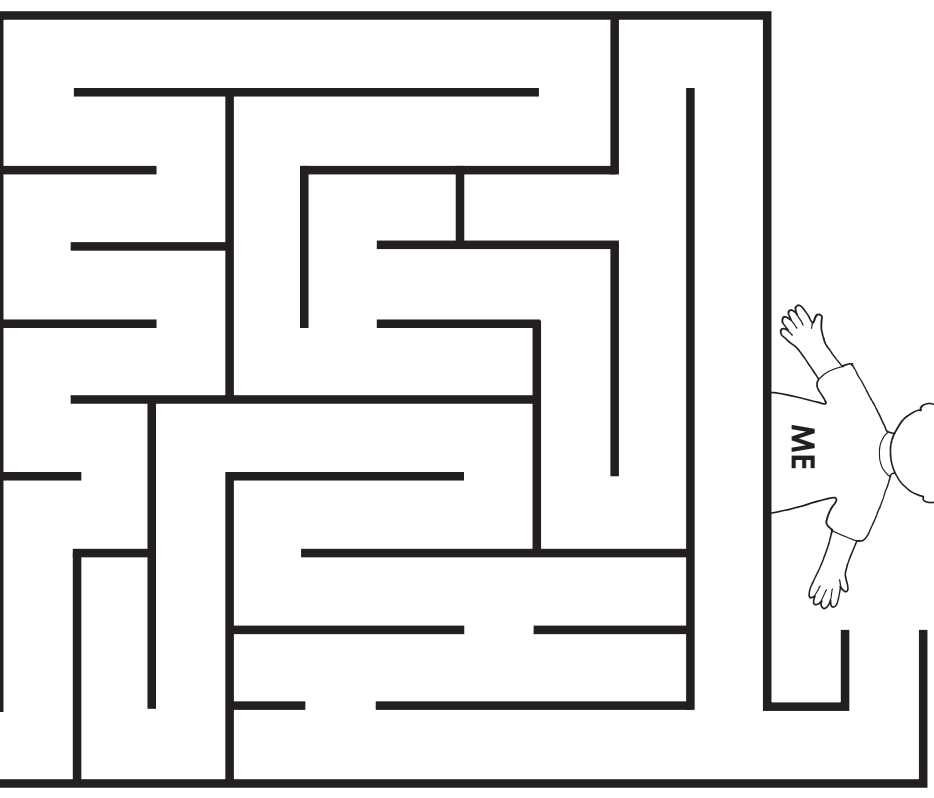


Jeremiah told people that some good news was coming. You can share the good news of Jesus, too!

Color in the picture of yourself at the START of the maze. Then complete the maze to help you get the good news to your friends!

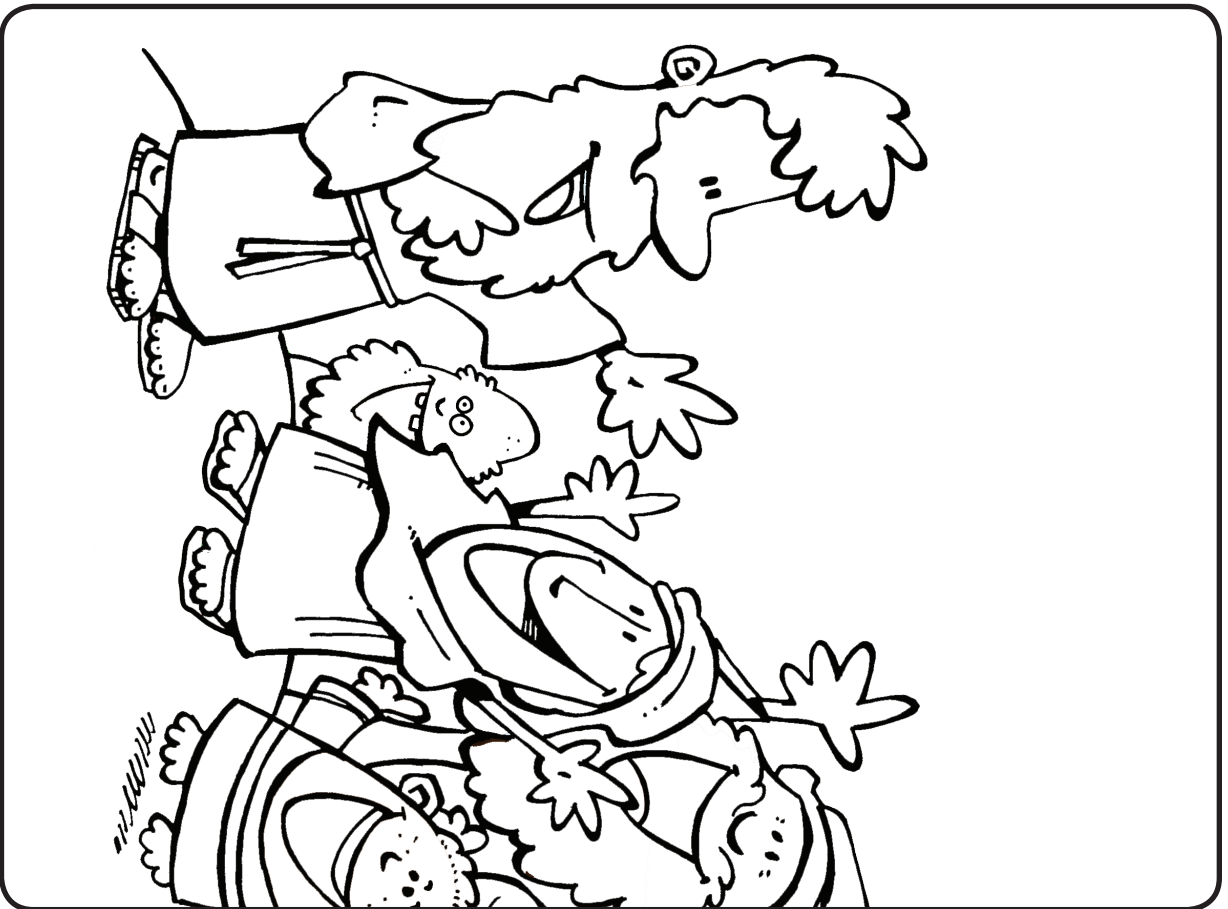


START



END

FRIENDS



God will send a leader from King David's family, and he will be a good ruler!



From King's Kids Preschool

We have an early Christmas present for you -- an Advent "wreath" and readings.

NOTE: If you use a wreath with real candles, please store it out of children's reach so they are not tempted to play with fire.

The Advent wreath is a wonderful tradition that you may want to add to your family's celebration of Christmas. You can use the four candles on any simple wreath to count down the four Sundays prior to Christmas. You can be creative; don't worry about doing it "right." The first Sunday of Advent comes right after Thanksgiving, but it's OK to start anytime – why not give it a try?

Each Sunday night (or whatever time/day you choose):

- 1) Light a candle (then 2, 3 and all 4 candles) on your wreath. You may add a votive candle (the Christ candle) in the center for a big finish on Christmas or Christmas Eve.
- 2) Read the passage from the Beginner's Bible.
- 3) Ask a question or two about the passage – you'll be surprised at what your child has learned! Children also love to think about how they might act if they were there.
- 4) Close this special time with a prayer.
- 5) Adapt as needed; some days you may only have time to light the candle and say a quick prayer. Other days a Bible story after dinner or before bed might be just right. The carols go nicely with the readings; play or sing them any time you like. Enjoy!

1) **Good news!** (First Sunday of Advent)

The prophet Isaiah told everyone Jesus would be born long before it happened. Then God sent the angel to Mary to tell her that she would have a baby, named Jesus, or Immanuel (which means God with us), and it was just as the prophets said. Jesus is the son of God!

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

The Angel's Secret (Luke 1:26-38 from The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories)

Gabriel was an angel. He obeyed God. Sometimes he took special news from God to people on earth. One day God sent Gabriel to a young lady. Her name was Mary. Gabriel went to Mary. He said, "Greetings! God is with you!" Mary was afraid. She wondered what he meant. But Gabriel said, "Do not be afraid. God loves you. He is going to give you a baby. You will name him Jesus. He will be God's Son!"

Mary was surprised. "How can this be true?" she asked.

"Nothing is impossible with God," said Gabriel.

"I believe you," said Mary. "I will do whatever God wants."

Then Gabriel left Mary.

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

- Questions for review and reflection:
 - a. Who brought the good news to Mary?
 - b. What do you think it would be like if an angel showed up in your room to give you a message? How do you think Mary felt? (Surprised, worried, happy, scared, sad?)
 - c. What exciting news does God want us to share this Christmas season?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the good news of Jesus' birth! Please help us to wait as faithfully as Mary did for the coming of your Son. May we always remember the true message of Christmas, and share that message with others through our words and deeds this Christmas Season! Amen.

2) The Most Special Baby (Second Sunday, Luke 2:1-7 from The Beginner's Bible)

Now Mary loved a man named Joseph. They were going to get married. One day Joseph had to take a trip to the city of Bethlehem. So Mary went with him. The city of Bethlehem was crowded. Many people had come there. Joseph and Mary looked for a place to stay. But there was no room in any house. All the beds were full. People were even sleeping on the floors. So Joseph and Mary had to stay in a stable where the donkeys and horses stayed. That night, the baby was born. It was God's baby son. Mary and Joseph named him Jesus, just as the angel told them to do. They wrapped him up so he would be warm. Mary made a soft bed for him in a manger. The baby Jesus slept there. Mary loved him. Joseph loved him. And God loved him.

"Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem"

- Questions for review and reflection
 - a. Who had to make a long trip? Where did they go?
 - b. What very exciting event happened while they were in Bethlehem?
 - c. Do you know what a stable is? Do you know what a manger is? (Explain that a stable is a common barn, and a manger is where an animal eats. Also describe the "stinky" or unpleasant environment that a stable would be for sleeping.)

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you so much for the birth of your Son, Jesus! Although Bethlehem did not have room for Him, allow us to make room for Him in our hearts. We pray that we would not miss out on how special His birth was this season. Help us to remember His humble start and to stay humble ourselves. Amen.

3) Shepherds Hear the Good News (Third Sunday, Luke 2:8-14 from The Beginner's Bible)

It was still night. Outside the town of Bethlehem, some sheep were sleeping. Shepherds were watching them. Suddenly an angel came to the shepherds. And God's glory shone around them. They were afraid. But the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news. This is happy news for all the people: today in Bethlehem, God's Son was born. You can go see him. He is wrapped warm and snug in a manger!"

Then many, many angels came from heaven. They praised God. "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth!"

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

- Questions for review and reflection:
 - a. How did the shepherds feel when the angels appeared?
 - b. What did the angels tell them to do?
 - c. How would you feel if all those angels appeared to you?

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you so much for the birth of your Son, Jesus! Help us to hear the Good News and make room for Him in our hearts. We pray that we would not miss out on how special His birth was this season. Amen.

4) Shepherds Tell the Good News (Fourth Sunday, Luke 2:15-20 from The Beginner's Bible)

When the angels left, the shepherds said, "Let's go find this baby!" So they hurried to town. They found the stable. And they saw the new baby. Then the shepherds left, thanking God. They told everyone what had happened. The people were amazed. And Mary always remembered this special time.

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

- Questions for review and reflection:
 - a. What did the shepherds do in response to the angels’ good news? (Emphasize that they obeyed, worshipped AND told others.)
 - b. What do you think about this good news?
 - c. What is the greatest gift of all time?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the gift of your Son! We know that He is the best Christmas present of all! Help us to respond to His birth the same way that the shepherds did. Remind us of the lessons that we have learned from the shepherds, and help us to live our lives as a precious gift to you. Amen.

- 5) Jesus, our Emmanuel** (Christmas Eve or Day; reread Luke 2:1-20 from the 2nd-4th candles or the scripture below. Be sure to light your special “candle” if you saved it for a big finish.)

The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them...For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2 & 6)

Then Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” (John 8:12)

“Away in a Manger”

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

“Joy to the World”

- Questions for review and reflection:
 - a. Who is the light of the world?
 - b. Whose birthday is today?
 - c. What birthday gift will you give to Jesus this year? (What can you do that would please God?)

Prayer: Jesus, we love you so much! Thank you for coming to this world to be our light! Help us to shine your light to the whole world, at Christmas and always. Be with us as we strive to live out the gifts we promised to give you this year. Happy Birthday Jesus! Amen.

Name _____



Advent Midweek Worship

Glory to God in the Highest!

**Christ the King
Lutheran
Church
Great Falls, VA**

Celebrating the song of the angels and
Ludwig von Beethoven's 250th birthday!
Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16 at 7:30 pm
ZOOM MEETING #863 5745 1575

Password: Gloria!

*(The Zoom link will be posted in the Sunday Announcements
and in the weekly eblasts.)*

The program

Our mid-week Advent worship this year will be an on-line Vespers that will combine candlelight, the song of the angels from Luke 2:13-14, and the work of one of Europe's greatest composers, Ludwig von Beethoven.

We'll gather at the "Zoom-hearth" at 7:30 pm. After a musical prelude we'll share prayer and Scripture and the lighting of the Advent Wreath.

Next, we'll listen to excerpts of the *Gloria* from Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* (with the music on the screen, so you can even sing along). After we listen (and sing), we'll have share brief musical and devotional reflections.

The service will end with a hymn and another short musical postlude.

The Gloria

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, the

whole heavenly host sang, "Glory!" Their song, as recorded by the Gospel of Luke, was only a dozen or so words: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors." But not long into the church's history, poets and musicians began to embellish scriptural song for both private and communal devotion. This practice, known as "private psalmody" resulted in several early Christian hymns, such as the *Te Deum*, the *Phos Hilarion*, and the *Gloria* as we know it today.

Even now, in Roman Catholic, Episcopal, and Lutheran worship, the *Gloria* is one of the five core sections of the Sunday service (the other four are: Lord have mercy; the Creed; Holy, Holy, Holy, and Lamb of God). Sometimes Lutherans replace the *Gloria* with "This is the Feast" (another embellished song from the Bible.

Here are the words to the *Gloria*:

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, you are worthy of all praise; We thank you for the gift of music to lift our hearts and enhance our worship. May we know what it is to be lost in the wonder of your praise, and come at last to the place where angels and arch-angels and all the choirs of heaven sing your praise for evermore, In Jesus's name, Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son, Lord God, lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

In our worship together, we'll divide the *Gloria* from Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* into three parts and focus on a different part each week.

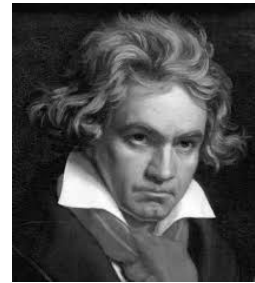
Missa solemnis

Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* in D major, Opus 123, was written between 1819 and 1823. It's premier was on April 7, 1824 in Saint Petersburg under the auspices of Prince Nikolai Galitzin, Beethoven's patron. In May of 1824 in Vienna, Beethoven himself conducted a performance of three sections: the Kyrie, Credo, and Agnus Dei.

The *Missa solemnis* is generally considered one of the composer's supreme achievements and, along with Bach's Mass in b minor, one of the most significant concert settings of the traditional Latin Mass.

Beethoven worked on the *Missa* at the same time as his Ninth Symphony. The music is technically and physically difficult for both choir and orchestra—featuring a notoriously difficult bassoon part. A typical performance of the complete mass runs about 85 minutes.

The work was dedicated to Archduke Rudolf of Austria, the archbishop of Olmütz. The copy presented to Rudolf was inscribed "*Von Herzen—Möge es wieder—Zu Herzen gehn!*" ("From the heart—may it return to the heart!")



Portrait of Beethoven
by Joseph Karl Stieler,
done in 1819-20

WEDNESDAY December 2

The composer's joyful opportunity is to imagine what it sounds like when a choir of angels sings, "Glory to God in the highest ..." What key do they sing in? Does it sound like a hymn, with everyone singing the same words at the same time in harmony? Or does it sound like an organ work set to voice, each part weaving in and around the others?

One thing Beethoven heard in his imagination was that it was loud! (This may be because he had, by this time, lost most of his hearing). He also decided that angels waltz! In the words of one music critic, "the first part of the *Gloria* explores every possible aspect of 3/4 time!"

WEDNESDAY December 9

The middle section of the *Gloria* changes moods and tempo, it is slow and meditative as it sings, "[Lamb of God ...] have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer."

Throughout the piece Beethoven engages in "tone painting," a technique where the music mimics the words. One example here is the soft tremors in the instruments as the singers sing, "have mercy on us."

Beethoven said of this movement of the mass, "No measure of this music is inexpressive."

WEDNESDAY December 16

(Happy Birthday, Ludwig!)

The *Gloria* section of the *Missa solemnis* is around 30 pages long; 10 of those pages are given over to the last doxology of the *Gloria*; "For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen."

In addition to a short tenor solo, and two fugue sections, the piece ends with the words "Glory to God in the highest" with all four choir parts singing full out at the top of their ranges.

People on the Move

Seeking Asylum Fleeing Hunger

Christ the King
Lutheran
Church
Great Falls, VA

ASLYUM
There comes a time in the lives of individuals, families, and nations when the preponderance of misery or danger becomes so acute that hope begins to slip away. And there is no resilience and imagination left to chart a recovery, to explore new options. The core promises of asylum are safety and relief. Asylum offers the physical and psychic space to begin facing the future again. In the vision of human community set forth in Scripture, even the guilty are promised this gift. For Israel [not the nation, but the man formerly known as Jacob] the need for asylum arises from famine. His beloved

son, Joseph, is in charge in Egypt and the people are being granted asylum in Goshen.

Genesis 46:1-7

¹When Israel [not the nation, but the man, also known as Jacob] set out on his journey with all that he had and came to Beer-sheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ²God spoke to Israel in visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am." ³Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. ⁴I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again;

and Joseph's own hand shall close your eyes."

⁵Then Jacob set out from Beer-sheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶They also took their livestock and the goods that they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and they came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, ⁷his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters; all his offspring he brought with him into Egypt.

Advent 2

December

6, 2020

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A random quote from a random pilgrim as seen on the Camino de Santiago:

"We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about face; in that case, the one who turns back soonest is the most progressive."

Almanac

The quintessential person on the move is St. Nicholas in his popular guise as Santa Claus. Every rooftop and chimney in the world in 24 hours!

Though Nicholas is one of the church's most beloved saints, little is known about his life. In the fourth century he was a bishop in what is now Turkey. Legends that surround Nicholas tell of his love for God and neighbor, especially the poor. One famous story tells of Nicholas secretly giving bags of gold to the

three daughters of a father who was going to sell them into prostitution because he could not provide dowries for them. Nicholas has become a symbol of anonymous gift giving.



A 1987 Finnish stamp celebrating St. Nicholas

Visio Divina

Visio divina is a form of divine seeing in which we prayerfully invite God to speak to our hearts as we look at an image. Read the Genesis passage on the front page and then contemplate the artwork below. What do the spoons say about the assumptions we make about haves and have nots?



HUNGER
Kateryna Bortsova

Activity

If you are in a household with others, have members of the family place a shoe or boot outside their bedroom door. Parents or caregivers can fill the shoe with little gifts, much as you would a Christmas stocking. Gold coins are the traditional gift, associated with the legend of St. Nicholas providing dowries in the form of bags of gold to three impoverished young girls to save them from prostitution.

If you are alone and have neighbors, leave a small gift such as a tin of cookies on a neighbor's doorstep. You could include a simple note, mentioning a little about St. Nicholas and his generosity.

The purpose of a pilgrimage is about setting aside a long period of time in which the only focus is to be the matters of the soul.

Many believe a pilgrimage is about going away but it isn't; it is about coming home.

L.M. Browning

How Closely Are You Listening?

During the sermon, readings, and prayers in worship today, see how many times you hear these words. For each time you hear a word, write a tally in the circle.

Jesus

Advent

Coming

Time

READY

SEASON

LIGHT

PREPARE

Wait



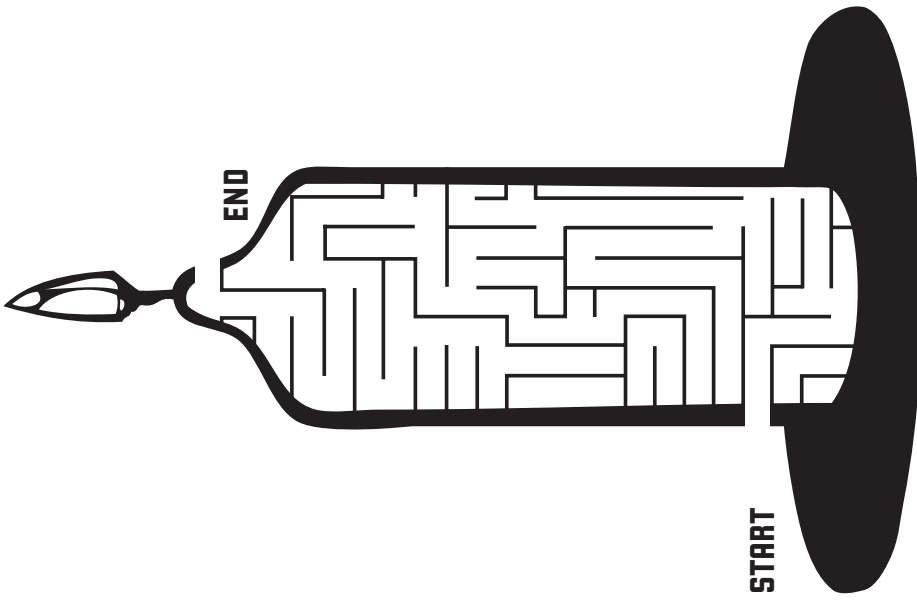
READER

Advent 2

- Today is the **second** Sunday in **Advent**.
- Advent is the church season before **Christmas**.
- During Advent we learn about **hope and peace**.

Work Your Way through Advent

Complete the candle maze. Do you know how many candles are on the Advent wreath this week?



Stories about Jesus' birth appear in two out of the four gospels. Matthew and Luke tell about what happened at Jesus' birth. Mark and John don't mention it.



How well can you write?

Take a look at the memory verse. In order to help memorize it, check out the silly ways to write it below!

**"He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David."
—Luke 1:69**

Write this verse with your regular writing hand in your BEST handwriting:

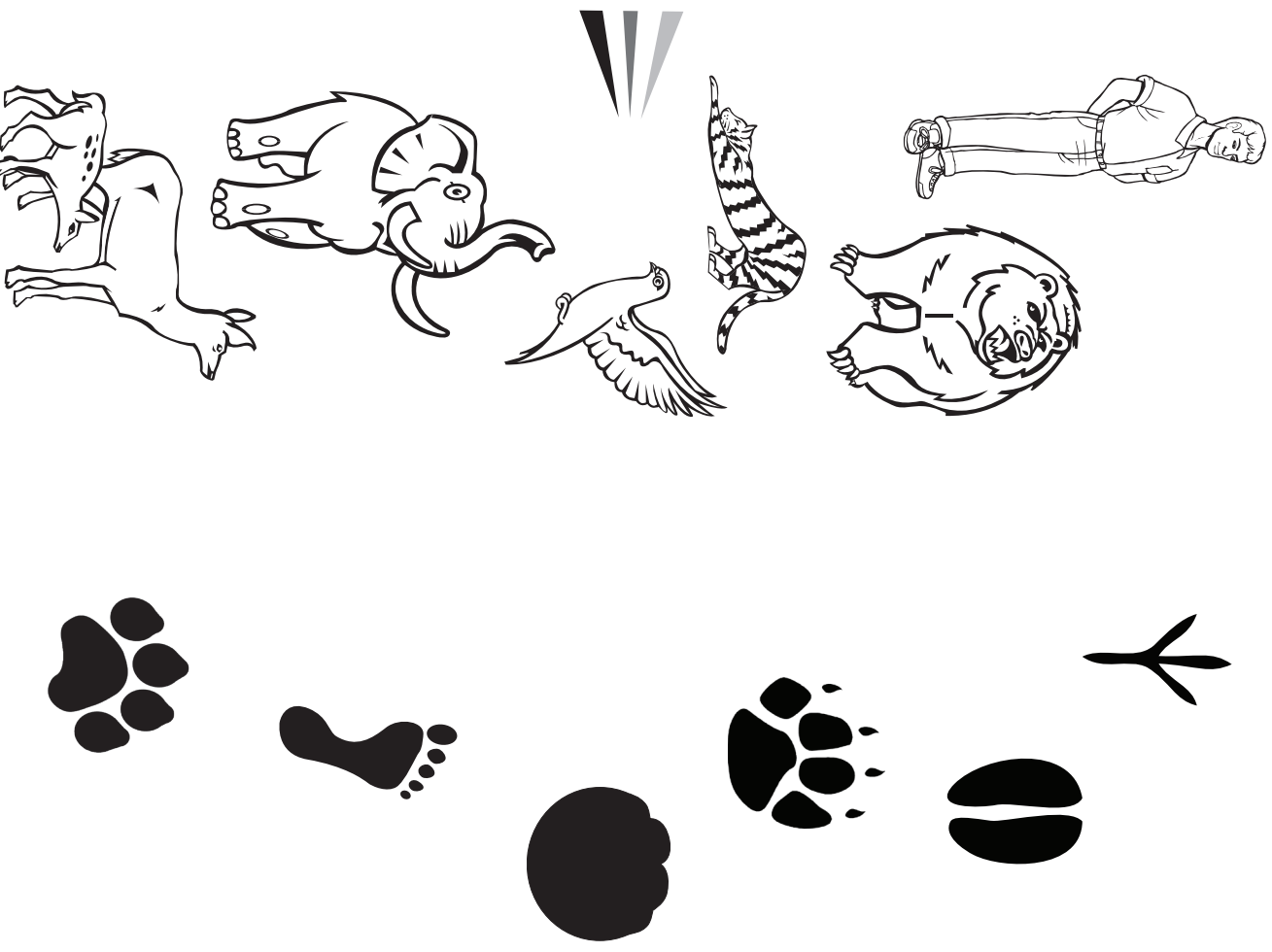
Now write it with the opposite hand:

Now, using your regular writing hand, close your eyes and write it:

Now see if you can write it behind your back:

Whose Feet?

Today's lesson says that God will guide our feet into the path of peace. See if you can match the footprints with the correct animal below.



People on the Move

Exodus

Christ the King
Lutheran
Church
Great Falls, VA

EXODUS

The word “exodus” is a Greek word that literally means “the way out.” For Jews and Christians, the word also connotes the way *toward* freedom. Here is the story of Moses’s commissioning as the leader of one of the greatest freedom marches in history.

Exodus 3:1-12

¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not

consumed. ³Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” ⁴When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry

on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey ... ¹⁰So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” ¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” ¹²He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

Advent 3
December
13, 2020

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A random quote from a random pilgrim as seen on the Camino de Santiago:

“All truly great thoughts are conceived by walking.”

Almanac

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Apparently she had decided to devote her life to God and her possessions to the poor. Beyond that, however, little is known for certain about Lucy. However, her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (the name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year. A tradition arose of a girl in the household, wearing a crown of

candles, bringing saffron rolls to her family early in the morning on the day of Lucia.



A 1991 Swedish Christmas stamp ... holiday at home.

Visio Divina

Visio divina is a form of divine seeing in which we prayerfully invite God to speak to our hearts as we look at an image. Read the Exodus passage on the front page and then contemplate the artwork below. Most everything in the painting is muted and dark. What do you make of the dozen or so splashes of color!?



EXODUS
Marc Chagall

Activity

The first person to bring a Christmas Tree into a house, in the way we know it today, may have been Martin Luther. A story is told that, one night before Christmas, he was walking through the forest and looked up to see the stars shining through the tree branches. It was so beautiful, that he went home and told his children that it reminded him of Jesus, who left the stars of heaven to come to earth at Christmas.

Gather around your tree (or any plant!) and asks God's blessing.

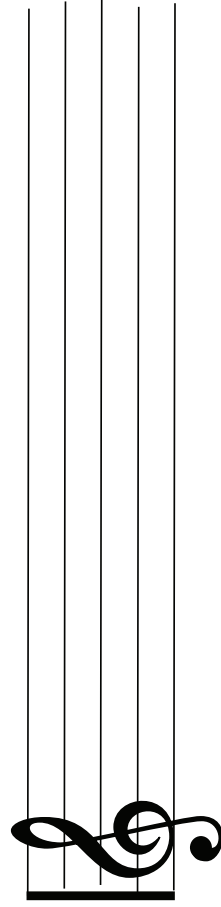
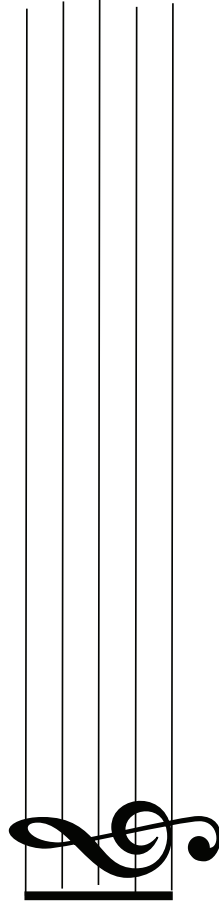
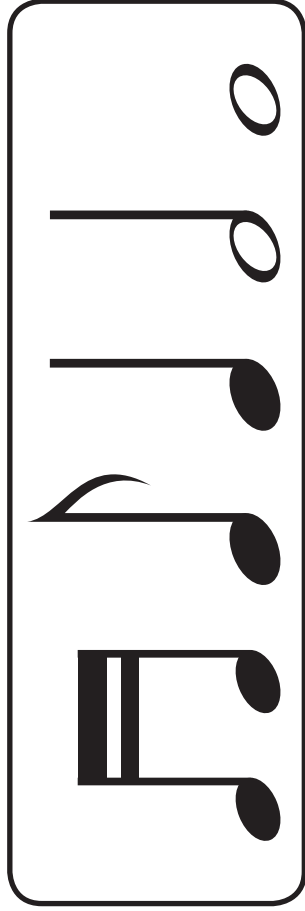
God our creator, we praise you for this Christmas tree, gift of the earth and sign of your evergreen presence. As we illumine this tree, let your blessing come upon us. Send us your Son, the tender branch of Jesse, who brings us light and life. May we who stand in its light eagerly welcome the true Light that never fades. All glory be yours now and forever. Amen.

We don't think about pilgrimage in this country. We don't think about meditation. The idea of taking a six-week walk is totally foreign to most Americans. But it's probably exactly what we need.

Emilio Estevez

During Advent we hear many Christmas carols even though it isn't Christmas yet.

Try and write your own Christmas song below! See the key of different kinds of notes. Then redraw them on the staff to create your own song. Make sure to include lyrics!

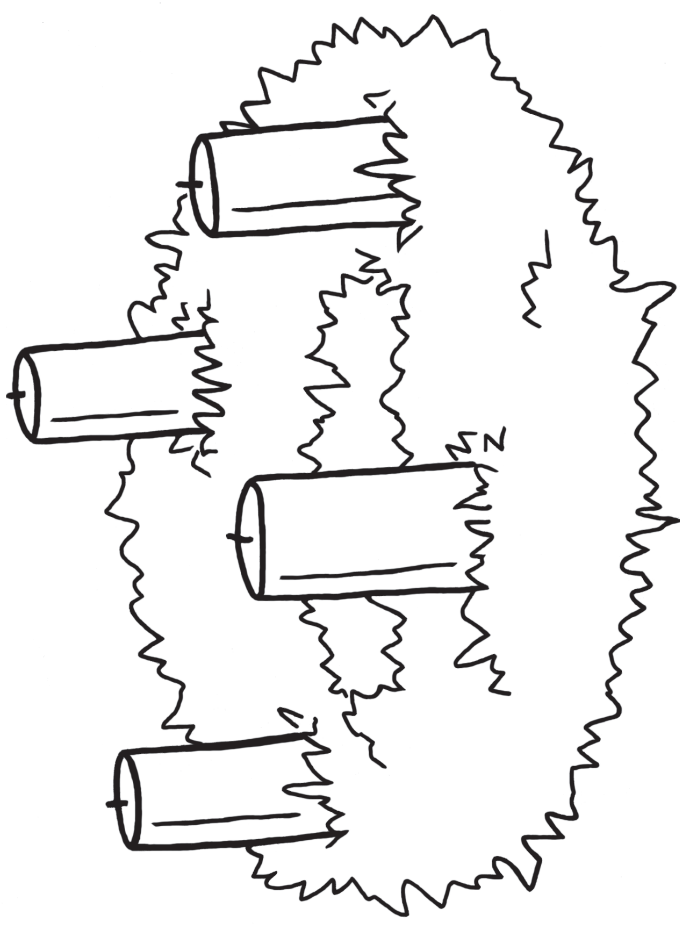


PRE-READER

Advent 3

- Today is the **third** Sunday in **Advent**.
- The symbol of Advent is a **candle**.
- The symbol of the candle reminds us that Jesus is the **light of the world**.

Below is an Advent wreath. Draw flames to show that it is over three of the candles to show that it is the third Sunday in Advent. Then color in the rest of the wreath.



In today's lesson, John tells people that Jesus is coming. The people were so excited! Below are a list of things you may be excited for.

Rate each event on a scale of 1 to 5. Then color in the images.

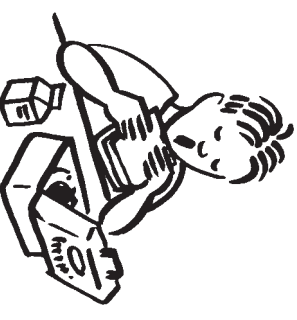
- | |
|---------------------------------------|
| 1 = I'm superduper excited |
| 2 = Yep, I'm looking forward to this |
| 3 = This should be okay. |
| 4 = Eh. |
| 5 = I am NOT looking forward to this. |



My birthday _____



Jesus' birth _____



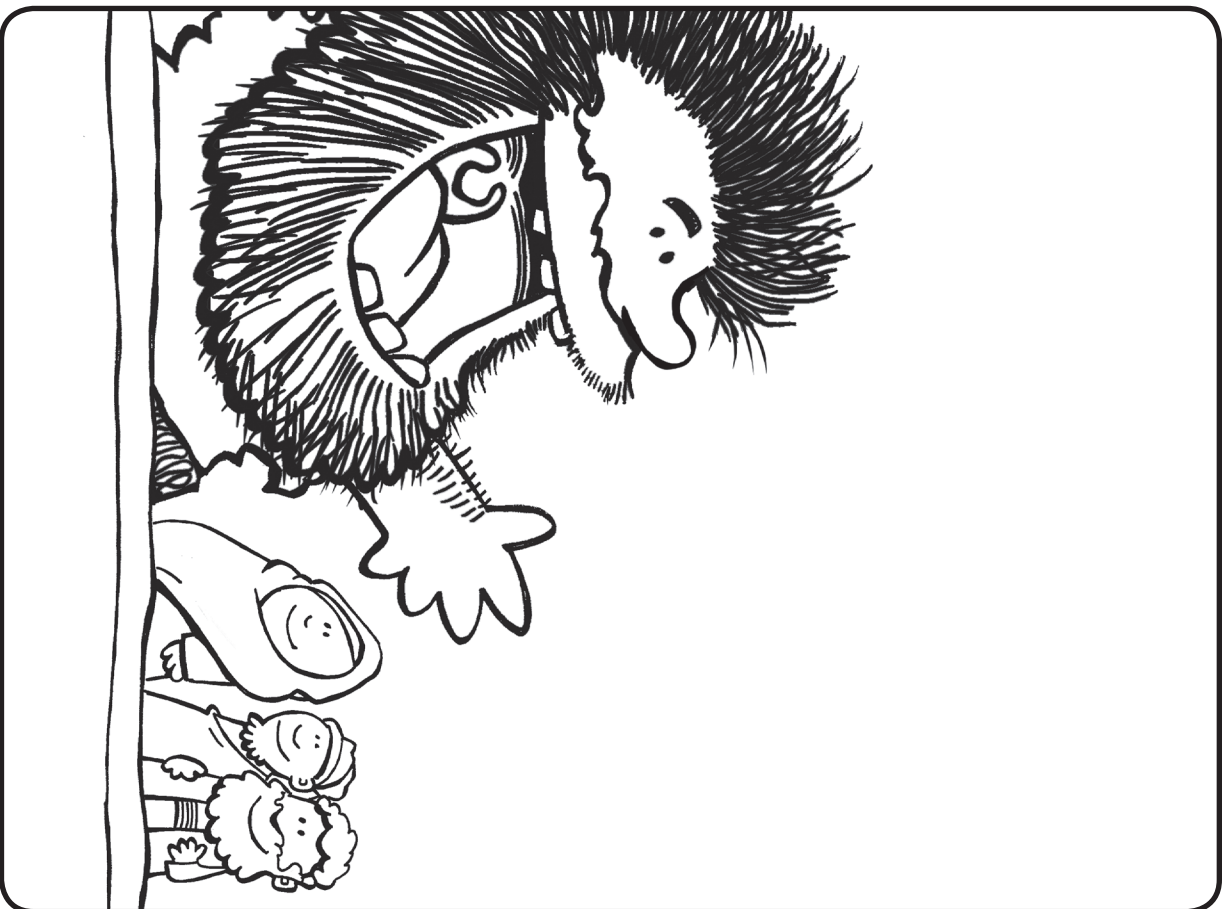
Today's lunch _____



Peace on earth _____



Going to school _____



John baptized people and told them that Jesus was coming soon!

People on the Move

Refugees

Christ the King
Lutheran
Church
Great Falls, VA

REFUGEE

In Luke's telling, the trip to Bethlehem was not a family reunion. They were forced to there by the Roman census and had to seek refuge when they arrived. Even before he was born, Jesus knew the lot of those with no control over their lives.

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of

Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All

went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Advent 4
December
20, 2020

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A random quote from a random pilgrim as seen on the Camino de Santiago:

"Don't come to the Camino looking for answers. Instead, come with an open heart and you may be surprised by what you find."

Almanac

Katie Luther was the wife of Martin Luther; she is commemorated on this day in the liturgical calendar.

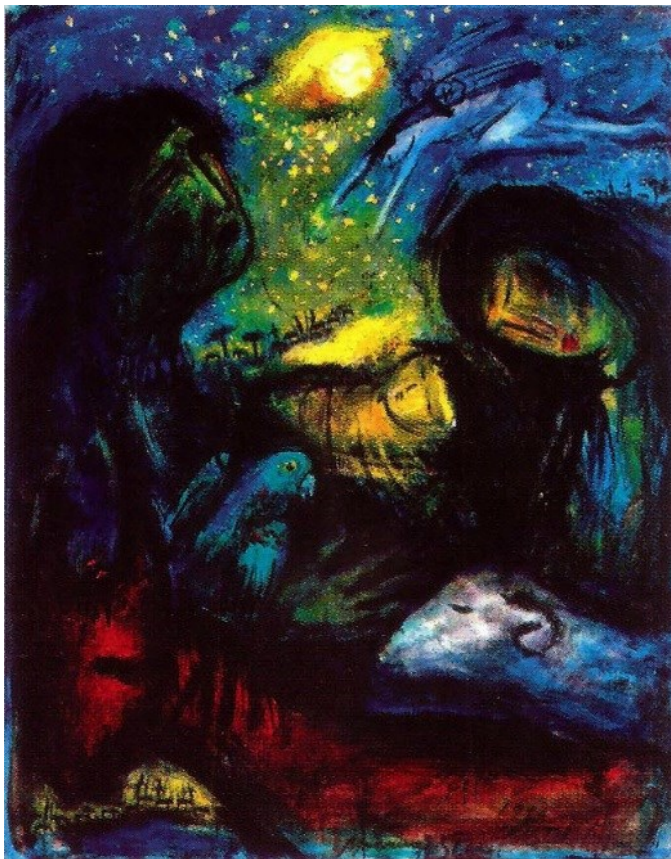
Born to an impoverished nobleman, when Katharina (Katie) was five her mother died and she was sent to live in a convent. She later took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin. Though initially Luther felt little affection for Katie, she proved herself a gifted

household manager and became a trusted partner. She was so influential that Luther took to calling her “my lord Katie.”



A 1999 German postage stamp in Katie Luther's honor

Visio Divina



NATIVITY
Tibata Hiroshi

Visio divina is a form of divine seeing in which we prayerfully invite God to speak to our hearts as we look at an image. Read the Luke passage on the front page and then contemplate the artwork here. How must it have been giving birth as refugees with only animals (and apparently one parakeet) to attend to you?

Activity

On the Winter Solstice, December 21, the longest night of the natural year, we observe the midpoint of heightened winter. In the north country, where winter is cold and often bleak, Solstice is a time to seek warmth and celebrate the slowly lengthening daylight. Although it will take weeks to arrive at springtime, the movement has begun and is worthy of note.

On the night of the Winter Solstice, then, Christians may join with others to sing and feast to welcome the light of the world. We do not worship nature; we give thanks and praise to God who created the universe, gave us Earth with all its complex splendor, and also gave us the Savior in whom the temporal and the eternal are wed.

The Sing can take a number of forms. Whether you are alone in the house or have family to share the space, here are the elements that are essential:

- Goodies ... both food and drink.
- Singing as many songs as you can think of that have to do with the light or the sun (hymns are fine, but include popular tunes, too!).
- Candlelight.

Real love is a pilgrimage. It happens when there is no strategy, but it is very rare because most people are strategists.

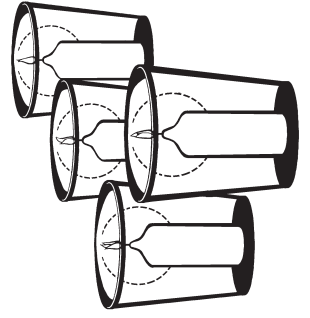
Anita Brookner

Make Your Own Advent Calendar

Advent is almost over. By now, you've heard Bible stories and songs during worship all about the coming of Jesus. In the Advent calendar below, draw an Advent or Christmas symbol for each day of Advent to help count down the days until Jesus' birth. See the symbols around the border and look around your worship space for some ideas!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Today!						



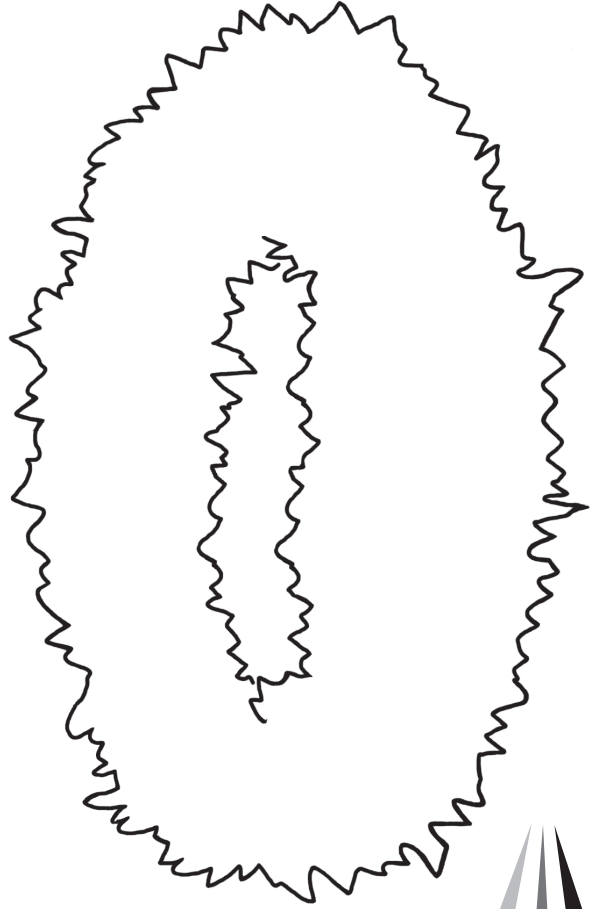
READER

Advent 4

- Today is the **fourth** Sunday in **Advent**.
- The color of Advent is **blue**.
- Advent means "**the coming**" in Latin.
- During Advent, we await **the coming of baby Jesus**.

Candle Mania

The symbol for Advent is a candle. In church, we can use many different kinds of candles for an Advent wreath: big ones, skinny ones, blue ones, spiral ones! On the Advent wreath below, invent four candle shapes, each one different than the rest. Then draw a flame on each candle to represent the fourth week of Advent.



How Would You Respond?

Today's lesson describes Mary's response to her unexpected and unbelievable pregnancy. She responds almost like a song, accepting God's amazing plan for her life. Below are various surprising scenarios. Fill in the bubbles with how YOU would respond!

You are getting a new sibling.

You failed a test at school.

You won a trip to Hawaii.

Your best friend is moving away.

You were voted class president.

Some of the words from today's memory verse are jumbled. When you figure out each scrambled word, write it in the blanks.

Memory Verse



And _____ said "My _____

ymar

ulos

magnifies the _____, and

rold

my _____ rejoices in God my _____,

tripsi

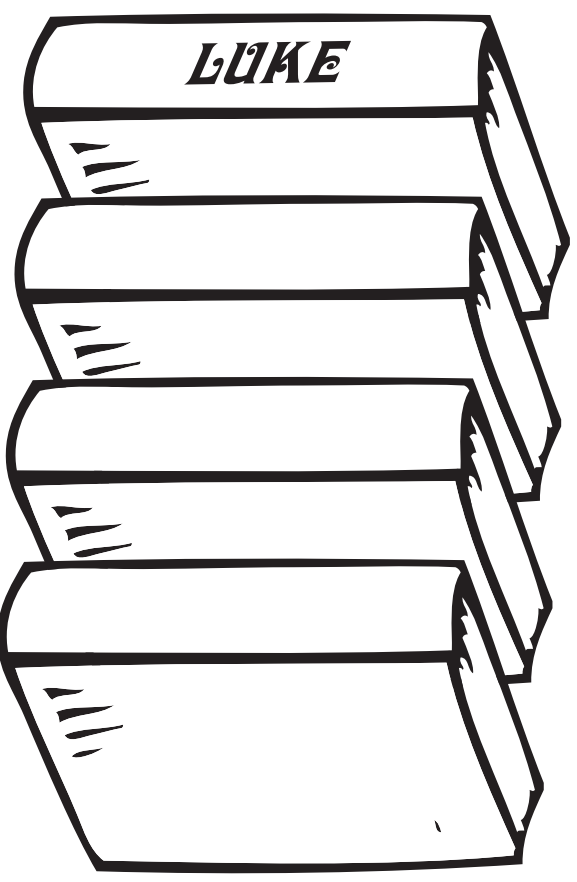
rovdsi

_____ 1:46-47

kelu

Did You Know?

Today's lesson comes from the book of Luke. Luke is one of the four Gospels. The word Gospel means "good news." Can you name the other three Gospels?



People on the Move

Pilgrimage

Christ the King
Lutheran
Church
Great Falls, VA

PILGRIMAGE

Luke doesn't tell us how the shepherds found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. And the angels threw them a curve ball. In the Bible, Jerusalem, not Bethlehem, is the "City of David!" But their pilgrimage was successful. They found what they sought: a savior.

Luke 2:8-20

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing

you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem

and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Christmas December 25, 2020

Prayer of the Day

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A random quote from a random pilgrim as seen on the Camino de Santiago:

"Everywhere is within walking distance if you have the time"

Almanac

Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first nativity scene in 1223 at Greccio, in central Italy. His intention was to refocus Christian worship on the Incarnation instead of on the gift giving and secular materialism of the age.

The nativity scene created by Francis is described in the book *Life of Saint Francis of Assisi* by Saint Bonaventura (written around 1260). The nativity scene was staged in a cave, near the town of Greccio and featured live animals and humans cast in the Biblical roles.



A 2011 Christmas Stamp
from Poland

Visio Divina



THE ADORATION OF THE SHEPHERDS
Caravaggio

Visio divina is a form of divine seeing in which we prayerfully invite God to speak to our hearts as we look at an image. Read the Luke passage on the front page and then contemplate the artwork here. Caravaggio was criticized for making the Holy Family and the shepherds so unmistakably poor and common. Does the lack of haloes and trappings of royalty help you contemplate the scene?

Activity

OBSERVE ALL 12 DAYS!

December 26: Bundle up and go outside and sing "Joy to the World" along with fields, rocks, hills, and all the earth!

December 27: Draw a picture of your favorite mountain and then sing "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

December 28: If you have a favorite nativity set, spend some time handling it and enjoying the pieces. Sing "O little town of Bethlehem."

December 29: Treat yourself to a breakfast of pancakes or waffles. Sing "O Come, All Ye Faithful" while waiting for things to cook.

December 30: Call, text, FaceTime, or Skype someone who might not be expecting to hear from you.

December 31: Make your New Year's Resolutions and sing "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear."

January 1: Today is the feast of the "Name of Jesus." Give thanks for your own name and for all the ways that it has blessed you. Sing "What Child Is This."

January 2: Sing "Away in a manger" and put a star near your own bed as a reminder that you are guarded, too.

January 3: Spend part of the evening by candlelight alone and sing "Silent Night" remembering its origin as the go-to song during a power outage!

January 4: If you can, take the magi from your nativity set and move them to a different part of the house so that you can reenact their arrival on January 6. Sing "Angels, From the Realms of Glory."

January 5: Collect as many stars as you can find in your home and place them around your nativity scene. Sing "We Three Kings" being sure to give lots of feeling to the part about the star.

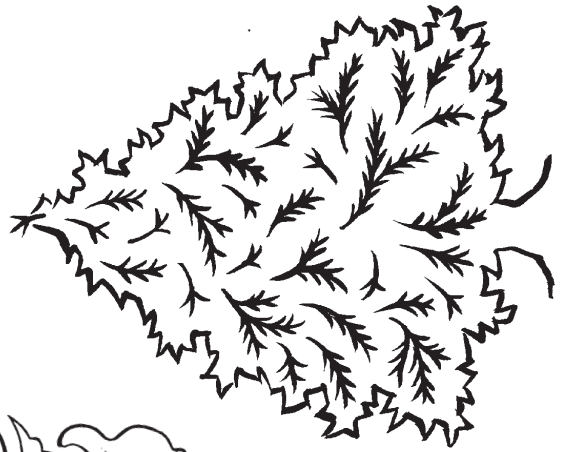
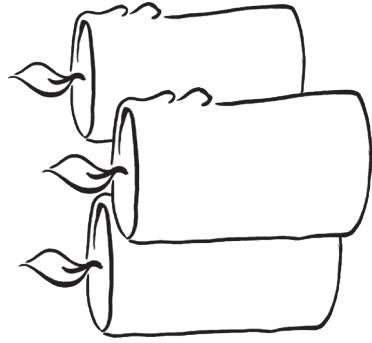
January 6: Reintroduce the magi to your nativity set and sing "The First Noel." If you're feeling really energetic, bake a king cake!

The Maori culture is different than our culture where we're most likely to introduce ourselves by email or fax and we conduct a lot of business in an impersonal way, whereas for Maori, the only way to do it is to make the pilgrimage and sit down face-to-face and have some tea.

Niki Caro

What's different about how your church looks today?

Circle the pictures below if they represent new things that you see in your worship space.

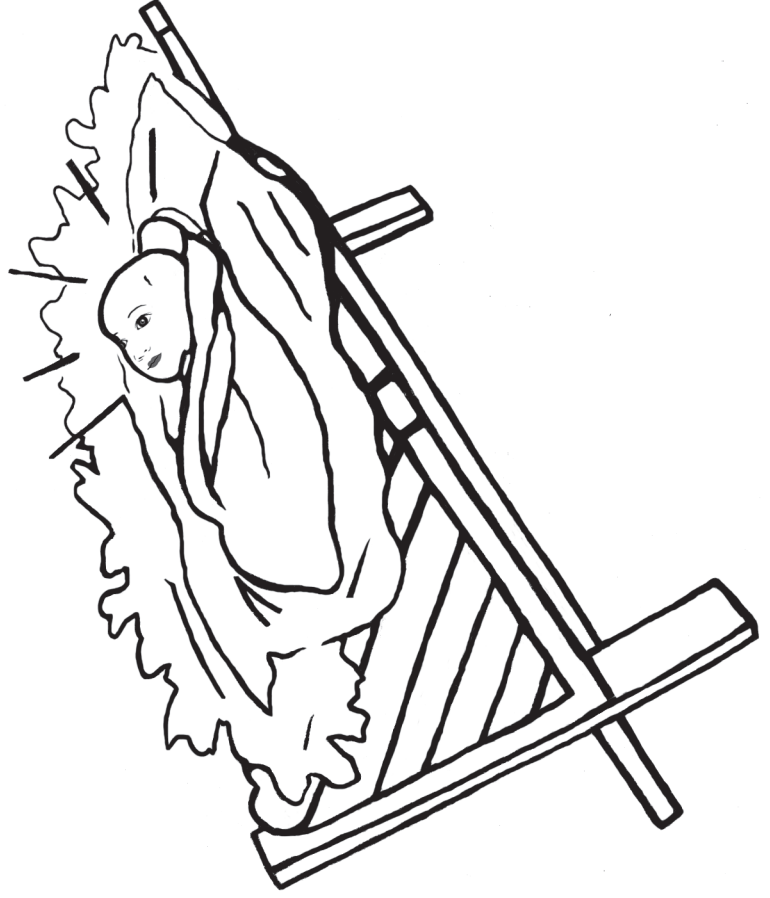


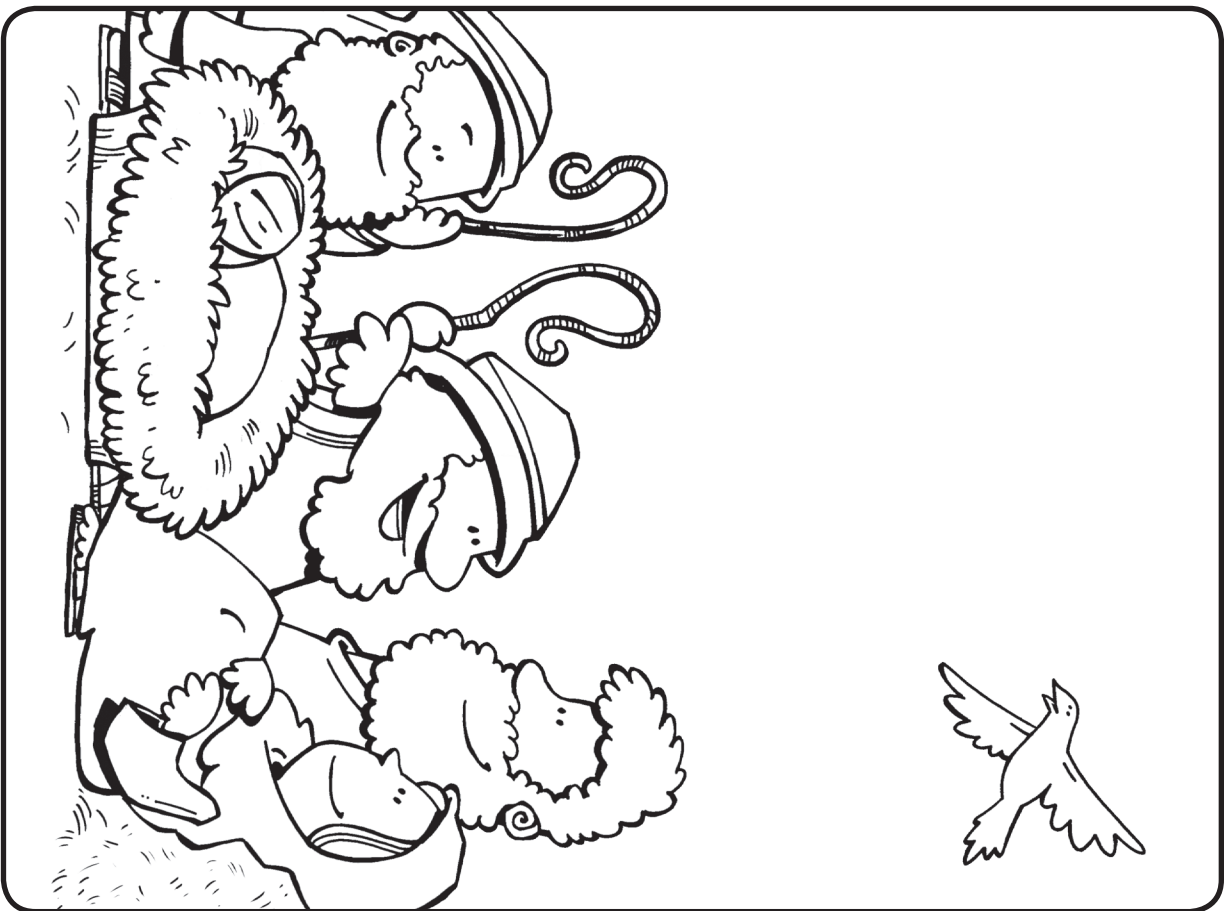
PRE-READER

Christmas Eve

- Today is Christmas Eve.
- On Christmas we celebrate the birth of baby Jesus.
- Christmas is Jesus' birthday!

Here is a picture of baby Jesus in the manger. Because it is Jesus' birthday, decorate this scene with balloons and streamers to help celebrate!

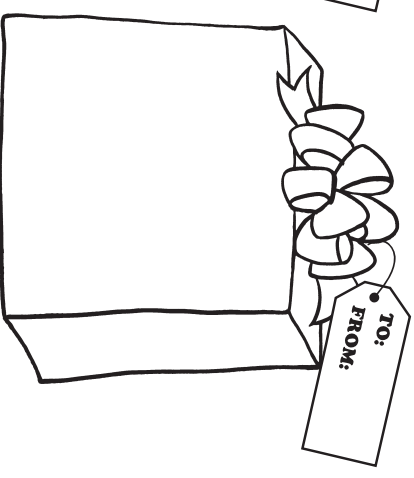
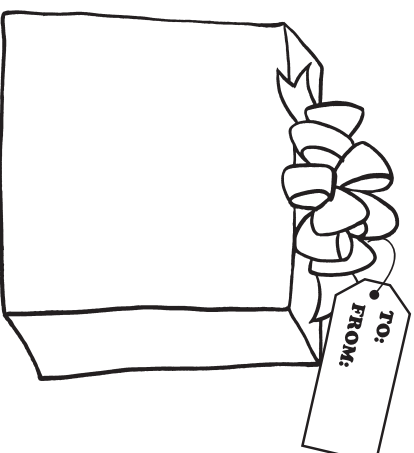
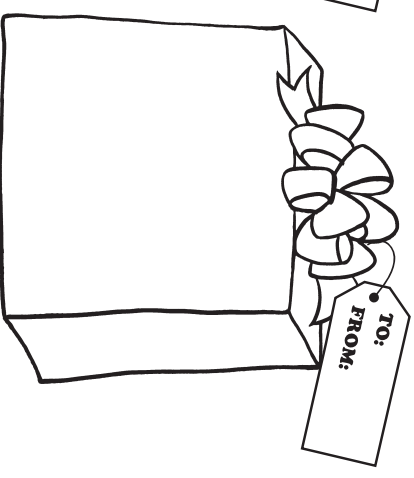
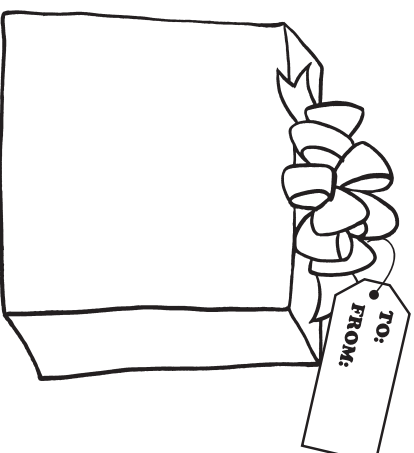




Those in the stable praised God for all they had seen and heard. Jesus was born!

On Christmas, God gives us the best gift of all: Jesus! But Christmas is not just about getting gifts. Christmas is also about giving.

In the gift boxes below, draw gifts that you want to give. It could be a new toy for a friend. You could also draw food or clothing for people who need these things.



People on the Move

Seeking Asylum Fleeing Violence

Christ the King
Lutheran
Church
Great Falls, VA

ASYLUM

Governments have always decided that certain threats need to be eliminated through incarceration or extermination. And only God—in the end—can judge when those decisions are rooted in justice and truth.

Are Joseph and Mary innocent of treason? They are fugitives harboring Jesus, whom they know is an existential threat to their lawfully appointed king, Herod. Luke's Christmas story does not burden us with the tragic story of Herod's state-sanctioned killings. But Matthew wants us to know that when God steps in to fix things ... people of privilege get nervous.

Jeremiah 31:15-17

¹⁵Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the LORD: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; ¹⁷there is hope for your future, says the LORD: your children shall come back to their own country.

Matthew 2:13-18

¹³Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and

his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

First Sunday of Christmas December 27, 2020

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A random quote from a random pilgrim as seen on the Camino de Santiago:

*"It is your road, and yours alone. Others may walk with you,
but no one can walk it for you"*

Almanac

December 27 is the Feast of T. John. John, the son of Zebedee, was a fisherman and one of the Twelve. John, his brother James, and Peter were the three who witnessed the light of the transfiguration. John and James once made known their desire to hold positions of power in the kingdom of God. Jesus' response showed them that service to others was the sign of God's reign in the world. Tradition has attributed authorship of the gospel and the three epistles bearing his name to the apostle John. John is a saint for Christmas through his

proclamation that the Word became flesh and lived among us, that the light of God shines in the darkness, and that we are called to love one another as Christ has loved us. The symbol for St. John is the "holy eagle."

A 1970 Postage stamp from Greece with the "holy eagle."



Visio Divina

Visio divina is a form of divine seeing in which we prayerfully invite God to speak to our hearts as we look at an image. Read the Matthew passage on the front page and then contemplate the artwork here. Why do you think the infant, Jesus, is the only one looking in a different direction? And is the family's companion friend or foe?



FLIGHT TO EGYPT
Anonymous Ethiopian Painting on Parchment

Activity

These couplets are rhyming lines from two *different* Christmas songs that have been mashed together. Can you identify them all?

The stars in the sky looked down
where he lay // To save us all
from Satan's power when we
were gone astray.

Vixen and Blitzen and all his reindeer
are pulling on the reins //
Echoing their joyous strains.
She didn't see me creep down the
stairs to have a peep // On a cold
winter's night that was so deep.
The silent stars go by // To see if
reindeer really know how to fly.
And mild and sweet the words re-
peat // Say hello to friends you
know and everyone you meet.
Ho, ho, ho, who wouldn't go? //
We're riding in a wonderland of
snow.

A child, a child shivers in the cold //
To touch their harps of gold.
Our finest gifts we bring // And
heaven and nature sing.

A beautiful sight, we're happy to-
night // Guide us to thy perfect
light.

He sees you when you're sleeping //
While shepherds watch are keep-
ing.

God and sinners reconciled // Round
yon virgin mother and child.

*Religion points to
that area of human
experience where in
one way or another
man comes upon
mystery as a
summons to
pilgrimage.*

Frederick Buechner

Find the Teachers

In today's lesson, Jesus established himself as a teacher, even though he was just a boy! Is there anyone at your church who is a teacher? During the Sharing of the Peace or after worship, ask the people around you if they are a teacher. If so, have them write their name and give you a grade on your completed bulletin.

Report Card

Teacher's Name _____ Grade _____

JESUS _____ At _____



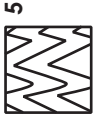
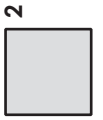
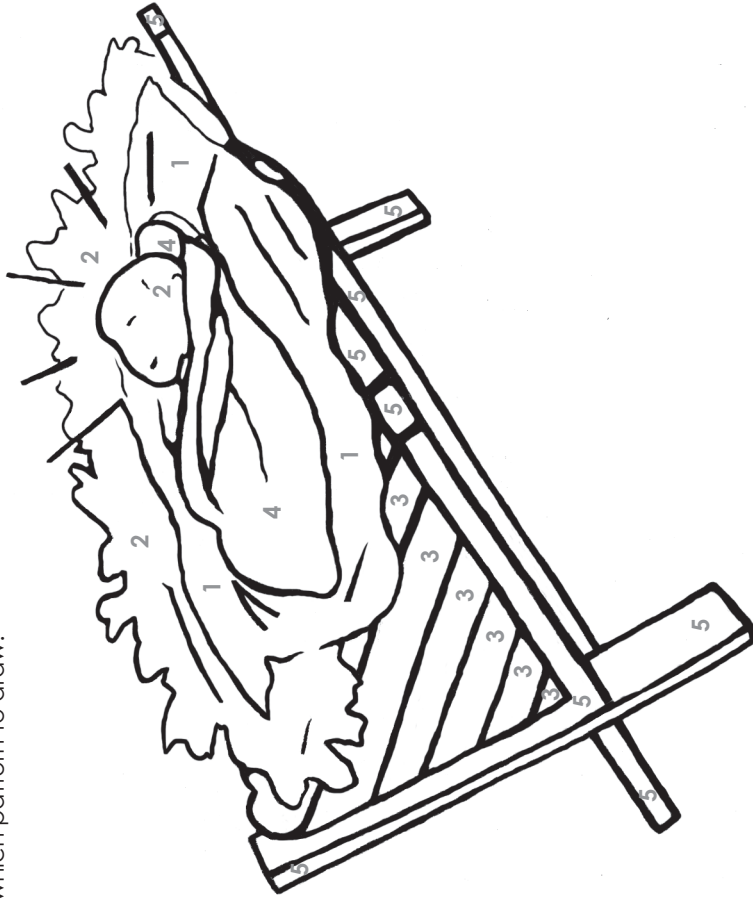
READER

Christmas 1

- Today is the **first** Sunday after **Christmas**.
- The color for the Christmas season is **white**.
- White represents the **light** that Jesus brings into the **world**.

Draw By Number

Below is an image of Jesus in a manger. Color it in using the key to show you which pattern to draw.



You're the Teacher!

In today's Bible story, we learn that Jesus taught grown-ups about God and the kingdom of heaven when he was still a boy. What have you taught grown-ups? What would you like to teach grown-ups? Write your lessons on the board below.

Today's Lesson



In today's memory verse, people were amazed when they heard Jesus—just a child—teaching others about God. Fill in a facial expression to show what your face would look like if you heard young Jesus preach.



"And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers."

—Luke 2:47



Find the book of Luke. (Hint: it comes after Mark and before John). Look at the first two chapters. Below are a series of events in the WRONG order. Read these first two chapters and then write the number that tells the RIGHT order. (Another hint: look at the titles of the sections for these events...you don't have to read every verse.) The first event has been numbered for you.

- Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem
- Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the temple
- Mary, Joseph, and Jesus go to Jerusalem for Passover
- Angel comes to Joseph
- Mary visits Elizabeth
- Mary and Joseph cannot find Jesus during the return trip from Jerusalem
- 1 Angel comes to Mary
- Mary, Joseph, and Jesus return to Nazareth
- John the Baptist is born
- Jesus is born

People on the Move

Immigration

Christ the King
Lutheran
Church
Great Falls, VA

IMMIGRATION

In the Gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are residents of Nazareth who go to Bethlehem in order to take part in the census. It makes sense, then, that after Jesus is born and the naming and purification rituals are finished, they return to their home. In the Gospel of Matthew, the assumption seems to be that they are residents of Bethlehem in Judea. The wise men from the east visit them "in their home." After their asylum in Egypt the holy family seeks to return to Bethlehem, only to be thwarted because Herod's son still occupies the throne. It is only then that Joseph and Mary decide to emigrate to Nazareth. The basic human questions are so simple on the face of it ... but so fraught with complications: "Where

am I allowed to live?" "Where is it safe for me to live?" Will I be welcome there?"

Luke 2

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ... ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons."

...

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Matthew 2:19-23

¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead. ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Second Sunday of Christmas January 3, 2021

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A random quote from a random pilgrim as seen on the Camino de Santiago:

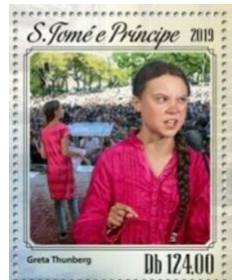
"Somewhere on your journey don't forget to turn around and enjoy the view behind you!"

Almanac

January 3, 2021 is Greta Thunberg's 18th birthday. She first heard about climate change in 2011, when she was eight years old, and could not understand why so little was being done about it. In her despair she stopped talking and eating. Eventually, she was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome and selective mutism. In one of her first speeches demanding climate action, Thunberg described her selective mutism as meaning she

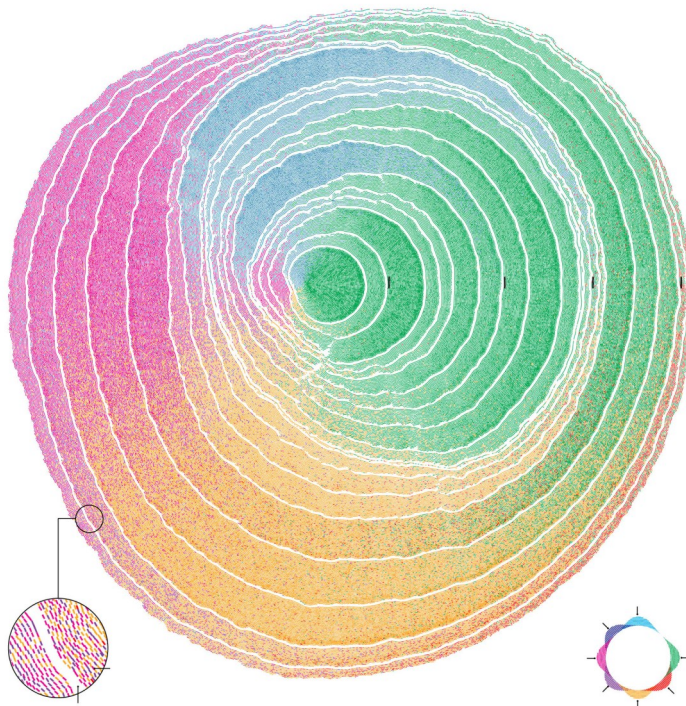
"only speaks when necessary." Thunberg challenged her parents to lower the family's carbon footprint by becoming vegan, upcycling, and giving up flying. Even though giving up flying meant her mother had to give up her international career as an opera singer, they did. Since then she's been challenging all of us.

A 2019 Postage stamp from São Tomé e Príncipe



Visio Divina

Visio divina is a form of divine seeing in which we prayerfully invite God to speak to our hearts as we look at an image. Enjoy this infographic!



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INFOGRAPHIC

Each ring represents a decade of immigration to the United States of America. Inner circle is 1830; outer circle is 2010-present. Each elongated dot represents 100 people. The colors shows where they were born: Light blue: Canada; Green: Europe; Red: Africa; Yellow: Latin America; Purple: Middle East; Pink: Asia; Dark blue: Oceania.

Activity

Whether or not you've been in the habit of making New Year's resolutions, consider this challenge: Christ the King Lutheran Church is blessed with members who are passionate, active, and involved in these issues. And as we live into our Long Range Plan we'll be doing more and more to "up our game" in these areas:

- Hunger
- Immigration and Refugees
- Peace in the Holy Land
- Human Trafficking and Gender-based Violence
- Environment and Climate Change
- Reconciliation of Difference (politics, race, class, religion)

Make this the year you commit to becoming knowledgeable ... make this the year you commit to action. This is *not* about "sides" (and even if it were, you'd find members of this congregation on both sides!). This is about letting your faith take you where God wants us to go: into this world in love prepared to speak and act as follower of Jesus.

As I make my slow pilgrimage through the world, a certain sense of beautiful mystery seems to gather and grow.

A. C. Benson

People on the Move

Pilgrimage

Christ the King
Lutheran
Church
Great Falls, VA

PILGRIMAGE

We don't know exactly where the magi hailed from ... we only know that they saw a "star at its rising" and knew that it signaled the birth of the king of the Jews. In all four gospels, people who *should* recognize Christ don't; and those who wouldn't be expected to, *do!* For Matthew and Mark that means emphasizing that foreigners, like the magi, grasp his importance while God's own people, like Herod, fail to.

Matthew 2:1-12

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to

pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child;

and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Epiphany of Our Lord January 6, 2021

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A random quote from a random pilgrim as seen on the Camino de Santiago:

"For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move."

Almanac

Epiphany isn't an everyday Christian word like sin or salvation. It comes from a Greek word meaning "showing forth." It names the day that the Church tells Matthew's story of the magi from foreign lands who follow the light of the star and thus "see" Jesus as Christ. Their gifts are symbols: gold, because they honor Jesus as the king; frankincense, because they worship Jesus as

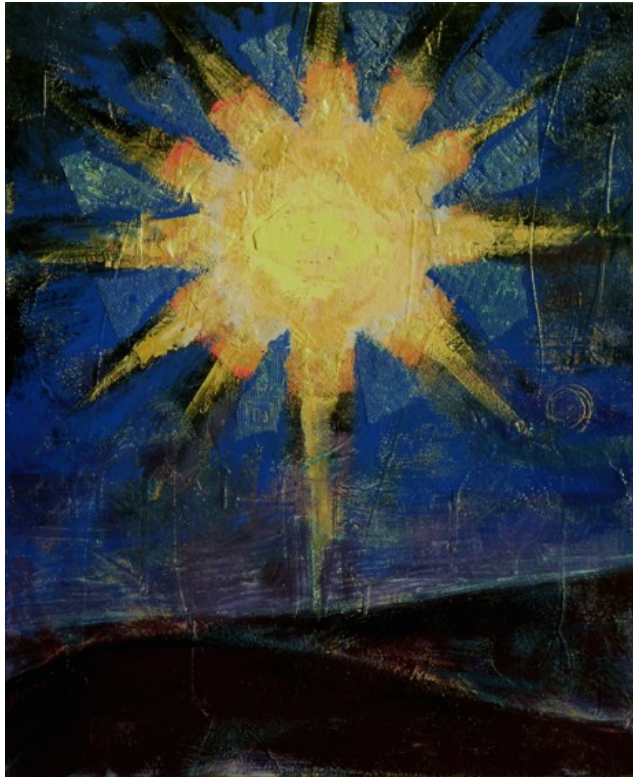
divine; and myrrh, because they are readying for his death. The Bible never tells us how many magi there were. We probably settled on three because there were three gifts!

A Christmas stamp from Cuba dated 1956-1957
Príncipe



Visio Divina

Visio divina is a form of divine seeing in which we prayerfully invite God to speak to our hearts as we look at an image. Read the passage from Matthew and contemplate the image. The star of Bethlehem is often depicted as being larger than normal, though the Bible does not indicate that it was. When things are very dark, a dim light will do as well.



STAR OF BETHLEHEM
Mollie Walker Freeman

Activity

Matthew writes that when the magi saw the star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. "On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matt. 2:10-11). Our homes are a primary location for our faith life, no matter how many live there or in what style. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome. Twelfth Night (January 5), Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6), or another day during the time after Epiphany offers an occasion for a blessing for the home. Following an eastern European tradition, a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main door; for example, 20 + CMB + 21. The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedicat*, which means "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar).

*As we've lost this idea
of pilgrimage, we've
lost this idea of
human beings walking
for a very, very long
time. It does
change you.*

Robyn Davidson

The color of Epiphany is white.

Draw 3 things in your church that are white and show that it is now Epiphany.

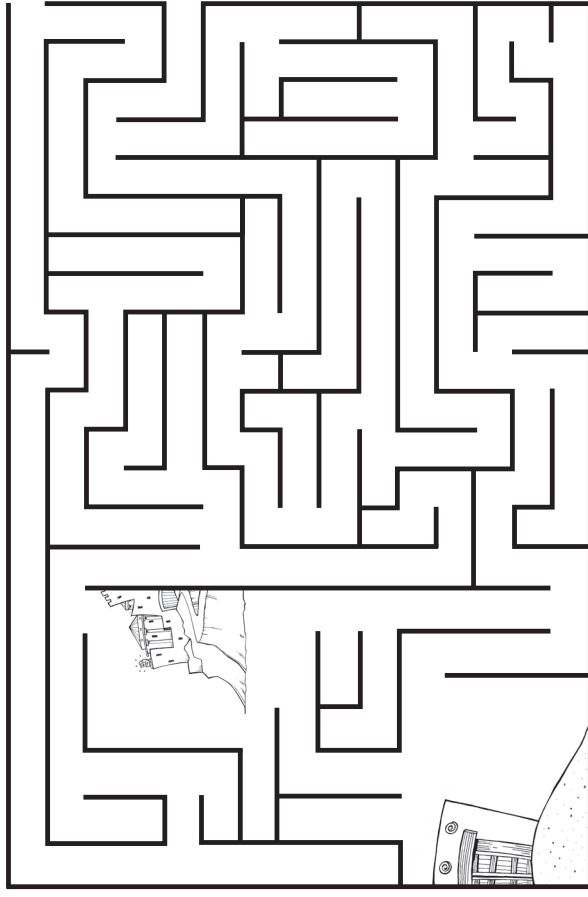


PRE-READER

Epiphany of Our Lord

- Today is a church festival called **Epiphany of Our Lord**.
- Today we remember the wise men following the star to **worship the baby Jesus**.
- The color of Epiphany is **white**.

Help the wise men find Baby Jesus and then make their way home. They visit King Herod on the way there, but not on the way back!

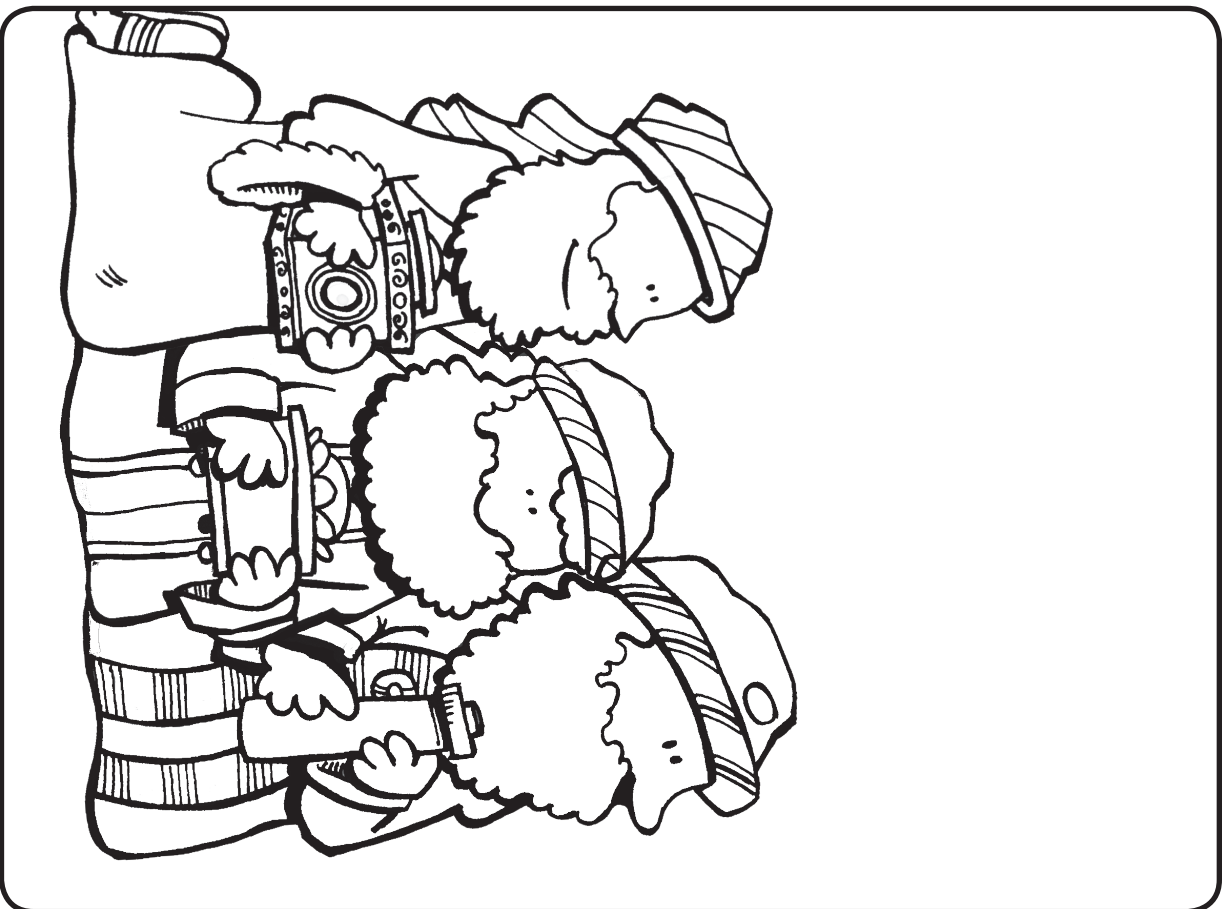


Today's story tells us how the wise men brought gifts to Jesus. If you were visiting a king, what gifts would you give? If you were visiting a baby, what gifts would you give?

Draw a picture of your gifts inside the gift boxes.

KING GIFTS

BABY GIFTS



The wise men brought Jesus very expensive gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were gifts fit for a king.

