

## **ADVENT DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE**

Daily Bible Readings (focusing on the anticipation of Jesus and early life of Jesus according to Luke):

Nov 29<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:5-7

Nov 30<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:8-13

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Luke 1:14-17

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Luke 1:18-20

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Luke 1:21-23

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:24-25

Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:26-38

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:39-45

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:46-56

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:57-58

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:59-61

Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:62-64

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:65-66

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:67-75

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:76-77

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> Luke 1:78-80

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Luke 2:1-5

Dec 16<sup>th</sup> Luke 2:6-7

Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Luke 2:8-14

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Luke 2:15-20

Dec 19<sup>th</sup> Luke 2:21

Dec 20<sup>th</sup> Luke 2:22-24

Dec 21<sup>st</sup> Luke 2:25-35

Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Luke 2:36-40

Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> Luke 2:41-52

## Daily Prayer:

We encourage you everyday from Nov 29<sup>th</sup> to Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> to pray the words from Martin Luther's small catechism/with slight revisions (or if you want to say your own prayer during these times we encourage you to do so):

### **When you awaken**

*I thank you, gracious God, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept my loved ones and myself this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into your hand I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that evil may have no power over me. Amen.*

### **Before Supper**

*Generous God, the eyes of all look to You, O God, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing (Psalm 145:15-16). Bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

### **After Supper**

*Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good. God's love endures forever. God gives food to every creature. God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. God's pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor God's delight in the legs of people; God delights in those who fear God, who put their hope in God's unending love (psalm 136:1, 25; 147:9-11). We thank You, o God, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.*

### **Before you Sleep**

*I thank You, gracious God, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

**\*Sometime during each day we encourage you to pray the Lord's Prayer**

## Weekly Worship Log:

We are invited into God's grace through Word and Sacrament. God encourages us to come to worship as often as we can. We encourage you throughout Advent to become regular attendees. To come hear the Word of God and receive the sacrament. Below you have an opportunity to discern your worship experience, and to reflect on the times you were unable to be there.

Did I attend Worship on December 2<sup>nd</sup>? Why or Why not?

If yes? How did the service move you into a deeper relationship with God and neighbor?

Did I attend Worship on December 9<sup>th</sup>? Why or Why not?

If yes? How did the service move you into a deeper relationship with God and neighbor?

Did I attend Worship on December 16<sup>th</sup>? Why or Why not?

If yes? How did the service move you into a deeper relationship with God and neighbor?

Did I attend Worship on December 23<sup>rd</sup>? Why or Why not?

If yes? How did the service move you into a deeper relationship with God and neighbor?

Did I attend any of the midweek worship services during Advent? Why or Why not?

If yes? How did these services move you into a deeper relationship with God and neighbor?

**\*These notes are for your own reflection and between you and God**

**Giving:**

Generous giving is core to our identity as disciples. Jesus often challenged people to give generously for the mission of the church. Paul says, we are invited to enjoy the act of giving. So, we encourage you to joyfully give generously to our ministries during this Advent season. Below are four stewardship challenges we encourage you to practice.

**Challenge One (Quantity giving):** We encourage you to give an offering every Sunday during Advent. For some of us we are monthly givers, and for others we may give every other week or when we are in church. I encourage all of us wherever we are on the spectrum to try and give an offering every week to remember that God is our provider and source of everything we have. Giving to us all the time.

**Challenge Two: (Giving amount):** We encourage each one of you to give 1% more than you normally give in a one-month period during Advent. This challenge invites us to grow in faith and trust knowing that even though we may be giving more than we think we can afford, we believe that God will provide. If you want to challenge yourself even more we invite you to try tithing (10%) your gross earnings during Advent. If you already tithe, challenge yourself to increase your giving's for the Sunday's in Advent by another 5%.

**Challenge Three: (Priority giving):** We encourage you to take the next couple of days to reflect on what kind of material things you like to spend your money on. Then I encourage you to sacrifice one of those things and redirect the money to the ministry during Advent.

**Challenge Four: (Time and talent sharing):** During Advent, we encourage you to volunteer to help out at least one Sunday. (Worship Assistant, Musician, Tech, Ushers, Candle Lighters, Coffee Setup, Communion Assistant, Counters).

*\*Thank you so much for participating in our Advent Discipleship Challenge. Our goal is that through this discipleship challenge you will develop and continue living out healthy spiritual habits that will help you love God and neighbor in your daily lives. And will help us as the body of Christ see that practicing generosity leads to an abundance of resources where we can do so much more for the community we are called to serve.*