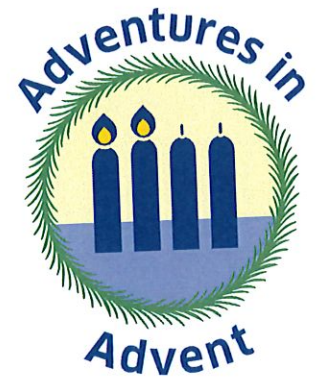


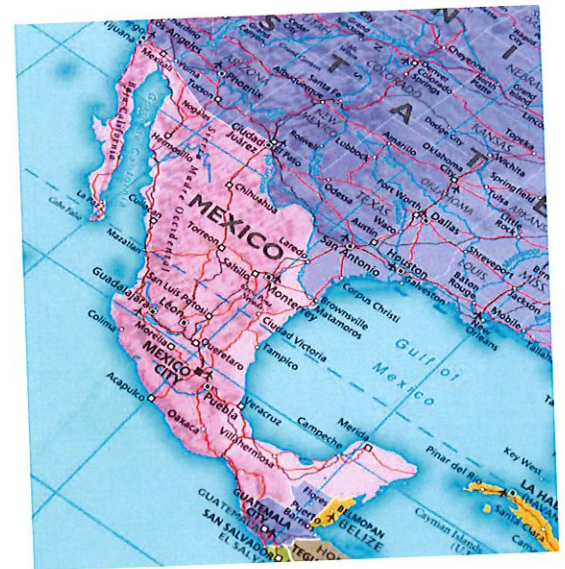
Second Week of Advent



Think of a place where your family spends time together—maybe it's the dinner table, the family room, the kitchen, or in the car. Leave this newsletter there, and read a fun fact or try an activity whenever you are in that space. Enjoy this season of waiting and preparing for the miracle of Jesus' birth—together!

Learn Together: Advent around the World

- What is Advent like in **Mexico**? Las Posadas is a tradition that honors Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for lodging (*posadas* means accommodations). On the nine days leading up to Christmas Eve, representing the nine months of Mary's pregnancy, families take turns housing Mary and Joseph. Each night people gather in the streets, dressed as shepherds and angels. They stop at houses, ask for lodging, and are refused until they reach a designated house. Then they enter the house and join in prayer, food, song, and a star-shaped piñata. On Christmas Eve, the celebrations culminate in a midnight mass.

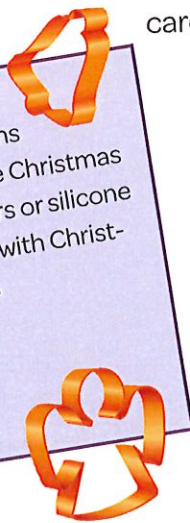


Create Together: Crayon Ornaments

Use old, broken crayons (or new ones!) to create Christmas-shaped crayon ornaments. Kids can help break the crayons and fill the shapes. Adults can take care of the baking. Hang them on your tree or give them away as gifts.

Supplies

- Variety of crayons
- Small oven-safe Christmas cookie cutters or silicone baking trays with Christmas shapes
- Kabob sticks
- String
- Oven
- Baking tray



1. Preheat the oven to 230 degrees.
2. Peel wrappers off of the crayons and throw them away. If not already broken, break crayons into pieces that will fit inside your cookie cutters or baking tray slots.
3. Fill each cookie cutter or baking tray slot with crayon pieces of different colors.
4. Bake for 15 minutes . then remove from oven and immediately use a kabob stick to create a small hole at the top of each shape. Cool completely.
6. Remove crayons from cookie cutters or baking tray.
7. Thread a piece of string through each crayon. Hang on your tree during the season, then use them to color after your tree comes down!

• Serve Together: The Great Bake-Off!

- Frosted sugar cookies, warm gingerbread, chocolate truffles . . .
- there's no tastier way to show love than with a homemade holiday treat. Bake your family's favorite Christmas goodies together. Then write a list of people you could give them to, like teachers, pastors, coaches, elderly relatives, and neighbors. Package them up in treat bags or mason jars, tie with colorful ribbon, and deliver your tasty gifts to share a little extra love this Advent season.



• Explore Together: Christmas Campout

- Don't worry, this campout is all about staying warm and cozy! Set up a mini-tent or make a pillow-and-blanket fort in the living room. Everyone in the family can help! Once the fort/tent is assembled, make hot chocolate (or apple cider, tea, etc.) and snuggle into your new Christmas campsite. Take turns sharing a favorite Christmas memory, or a highlight from everyone's week. Think about Mary and Joseph under a big bright star when Jesus was born.

