

Dear Trinity Families,

With all of the changes to children's ministry, and just life in general this year, we thought it was very important to engage and equip families at the table the best way we could during this year's Advent Season. That being said, we have created this template for an Advent Activity Paper Chain that can be displayed somewhere in your home for a reminder of Jesus' birth!

This is done by cutting out one strip for each day and building the chain as the days progress. Each strip for the chain has the date that it should be done on. Feel free to color the strips however you choose, or print it out on colored paper if that is what you would like to do! 😊

Each day has different pieces of Scripture to be read, discussion topics or questions to think about and talk through together, and an occasional activity to complete as a family.

For each Sunday of Advent, the chain links explain a part of the Advent Wreath that we are creating as well as the weeks go on. If you have an Advent Wreath at home already with candles, that is great! Please use it. If you do not have one, no worries. There are many options of what we can do instead.

If an Advent Wreath is a foreign concept to you that is okay! The idea of an Advent Wreath is to provide a tangible thing that reminds us of the birth of our Savior. The circular green wreath reminds us of our eternal life through Jesus. Then we have four candles, three purple and one pink. They each have their own purpose and we will uncover those in our links for those specific Sundays! Finally there is a white candle at the end that represents the Christ Candle and that is brought out on Christmas Eve.

If you do not have an Advent Wreath already, you and your children could color your own and cut out the different pieces, you could create a picture with a wreath and add the proper candles each week to your drawing, or you could also find things around the house as substitutes like a green scarf for the wreath and crayons for the candles. Be creative! You do not have to go out and purchase items for a wreath; let's use what we've got! 😊 I have attached a few examples of these in the last page of the packet, as well!

We will be posting videos each Sunday on our Youtube Channel; **TrinityCT kids!** I will also be providing reminders on our Facebook Page **Trinity Lutheran-252 Ministry**.

Our hope is for this to be a blessing to your family, and a way to come together and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. We pray for peace and joy to flood your family this Advent Season. If you have any questions at all please email me at [ewright@trinityct.org](mailto:ewright@trinityct.org).

Blessings to your family,

Emily Wright

# TRINITY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## ADVENT ACTIVITIES

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**November 29, 2020**

Today we put the first "purple candle" on our Advent Wreath. As a family you can light the candle, but if it isn't a candle and is another object that is okay too! We typically use candles to prepare our hearts and minds for the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus. Jesus is the light! The first candle represents HOPE. This is the hope that we have in the birth of Jesus. Together read **Psalm 33:20** and talk about the hope that we have for this child to be born.

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**November 30, 2020**

Together read **Luke 1:26-27**. Here we meet Mary and Joseph! What do you think Mary and Joseph were like? What do you think life looked like for them, compared to how life looks for us now? If you could ask Mary and Joseph one question, what would it be?

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**December 1, 2020**

Today read **Luke 1:28-30**. The angel spoke to Mary. What did he tell her? Why do you think Mary was afraid? Talk as a family about some things that might make us afraid sometimes and what we can do when we are feeling afraid. Pray together, and ask God to take away our fears, and to help us to remember to give HIM our fears instead of carrying them ourselves!

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**December 2, 2020**

Read **Matthew 1:18-24** to hear about how Joseph, Jesus' father, had a dream and the Lord appeared to him in that dream! Think about how afraid Mary was in yesterday's reading. Notice that Joseph was scared too, but the Lord told him not to be. How would you feel if the Lord came to you in a dream and talked directly to you?

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**December 3, 2020**

Read **Luke 1:31-33** today and talk about where Jesus got his name. Who told Mary what his name must be? The name Jesus means savior; God sent Jesus to be our Savior! Let's talk about our names. Where did we get our name from? What do our names mean? Research that as a family.

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**December 4, 2020**

Together read **Luke 1:38**. What does Mary mean when she says she is a servant of the Lord? How can we be servants of the Lord every day? Today try and do a chore of someone else's in your family. Serve your family in a new way! Don't do it because you have to, do it because you love your family. We serve those we love because Jesus served us first in an incredible way!

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**December 5, 2020**

Read **Luke 1:46-56** and see the words in Mary's Song of Praise to God. Here we can be reminded that when our trust is in God, he is our deliverer and we can put all of our worries or troubles on Him. Create your own "song of praise" today as a family. This could be a song, a poem, a prayer, a letter, anything! What can we thank God for today?

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**December 6, 2020**

Today we are adding the second "purple candle" to our Advent Wreath! This is the candle of Peace to remind us that Jesus is our true peace and that he brought peace to this earth in unexpected ways. With Jesus in our lives and in our hearts we are able to have peace no matter what is going on around us. It can also be considered the candle of preparation. Read **Colossians 3:15**.

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**December 7, 2020**

Today read the story of Jesus' birth in **Luke 2:1-7**. What was different between Jesus' birth and other births today? The Bible said that Jesus was laid in a manger. Talk about what that exactly is and what that meant for Jesus and his family. After that, listen to, or sing, the song "Away in a Manger."

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**December 8, 2020**

Read the story of the shepherds in **Luke 2:8-15** together. Imagine what it would be like if you were one of these shepherds receiving this news! Would you be happy, or confused, maybe shocked, or in disbelief? Why do you think you would feel that way? The shepherds also told many people about the birth of Jesus. Would you do the same thing?

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**December 9, 2020**

Today, continue reading **Luke 2:16-20**. The shepherds made it to Jesus and according to the story they seemed pretty excited. Today make a card for someone that will bring them a feeling of excitement or joy. Write a special note or draw a special picture, and mail it to them! Shhh, let it be a surprise!

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### December 10, 2020

Read together from **Matthew 2:1-8** very closely. These three Wise Men were very excited to go out and find this child that had been promised as the King of the Jews. But this really upset King Herod. King Herod tried to trick these Wise Men into going to find baby Jesus and coming back to tell him where he is. Has there ever been a time where you felt like someone was tricking you? What did you do?

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### December 11, 2020

Today let's finish the reading about the Wise Men! We are reading **Matthew 2:9-12**. What does the Bible say that the Wise Men were filled with when they saw the star? What did the Wise Men do when they saw Baby Jesus? What do you think it would be like if you saw Baby Jesus laying in a manger?

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### December 12, 2020

Today we are going to go back to **Matthew 2:11** to re-read that. What did the Wise Men bring to Jesus for gifts? These items that the Wise Men brought were very valuable during this time. Frankincense was used as a perfume and also a symbol of deity, gold was very valuable, and myrrh was an anointing oil. Think really hard about what three things you would bring Jesus as a gift.

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### December 13, 2020

Today we are adding the third "candle," to our wreath, which is pink! This candle reminds us of the joy that Jesus brings to us and to the whole earth! We can see examples of this joy in the stories of both the wise men and also the shepherds. Read **Isaiah 55:12** then think back to the story of the shepherds and try to identify where it seems like the shepherds were filled with joy! How can we spread the joy of Jesus with people around us that might not know Him?

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### December 14, 2020

The last two weeks we spent a lot of time learning about Jesus' birth, and his parents, Mary and Joseph, and their story. This week we are going to talk about WHY Jesus was born, and WHERE he came from. Read **John 1:1-10** and think about what it could be talking about. Who is the light? For help, look back to what we said on the link from the very first day... We use candles for Advent because who is the light? Hmmm.

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**December 15, 2020**

Yesterday we learned that Jesus is the light in the verses in the book of John. Today we are going to take another look at **John 1:10-14**. It tells us here that Jesus came to the world, even though the world didn't know him, and maybe didn't receive him well. He left heaven to come here to help us. Why do you think Jesus did that?

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**December 16, 2020**

Tonight we are going to review the readings from **John 1:1-14** again. We have a pop quiz! ;) Our quiz questions are: 1. Did Jesus' life start when he was born as a baby to Mary and Joseph? 2. Where was Jesus BEFORE he came to earth as Mary and Joseph's child?

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**December 17, 2020**

Create your own Christmas cards today and include your favorite verse out of all the Scripture readings we've covered so far! Talk with your family about why you chose the one that you did. Send them to a family member, a neighbor, the mailman! Anyone!

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**December 18, 2020**

As a family, read **Isaiah 9:6** and choose one of Jesus' names that you like best. Create a picture together with this name and hang it on your fridge as a reminder every day that because of Jesus we are able to celebrate Christmas together!

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**December 19, 2020**

Tonight enjoy a family Christmas movie! Regardless of what movie you choose, talk as a family about how important it is to remember that Christmas is about the joy of Jesus and remembering that we are able to give gifts to show people that we love and appreciate them because Jesus gave us the ultimate gift by coming to earth on Christmas day!

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**December 20, 2020**

Today is the fourth "candle," and the last of our purple ones! This candle reminds us of love, specifically the love that Jesus has for us. We talked a lot about Jesus' love for us this last week! Reflect on that as a family. Jesus came to this earth and was born on Christmas day because God loves us so much. Jesus was our perfect gift, and we didn't even know it! Together read **1 John 4:10-11** and talk about what this means for us!

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**December 21, 2020**

Read **Luke 2:25-38** about Simeon and Anna. They both celebrated Jesus' birth! Today, ask different members in your family how they celebrated Christmas when they were kids. Call your grandparents, your aunts, and your uncles and see what they have to say about their childhood Christmas celebrations!

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**December 22, 2020**

Re-read the birth of Jesus, both from **Matthew 1:18-2:12** and **Luke 2:1-20**. These two accounts are similar in the sense that it is about the birth of Jesus, but also very different! Take a little while to compare and contrast those similarities and differences!

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**December 23, 2020**

Go around the dinner table with your family tonight, or carve out a few minutes for this activity and re-tell the Christmas story all together. Try to keep the accounts of the story together, and everyone take a part! After, take time to pray together as a family for all that you are thankful for and blessed with!

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**December 24, 2020**

On Christmas Eve we bring out the final "candle" and place it in the center of our wreath. This is usually a white candle because it helps us remember the Christ candle, which is lit every Sunday at church! This final "candle" is also known as the adoration candle. **Today, read John 1:14** together with your family and thank Jesus for coming to be our perfect gift. Sing or listen to the song "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and don't forget to adore our Lord and Savior! Merry Christmas Eve!

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