

# FAITH ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2018

The journey from the first Sunday in Advent to Christmas **unfolds as all good stories should, step by step.** Why?  
Could it be to keep us from getting *too* stunned by the awesome truth it bears?

**Advent is a time of preparation, a time to get ready!**

And a time to let the awesome truth - God came to live among us - truly sink in. Don't rush to Christmas – observe Advent, the time of preparation – so that the awesome truth this season bears can sink into your heart anew!



## Share

highs and lows



## Read

a Bible verse  
or story



## Talk

about how the  
Bible reading  
might relate to  
your highs  
and lows



## Pray

for one another's  
highs and lows



## Bless

one another

Dear families reading **One Wintry Night**,

Blessings on your family's preparation for Christmas! We know this is a hectic and crazy time. We ask you to pull out your **One Wintry Night** book, a gift to your family last year or this year, to help you slow down. Take time as a family to read this book and learn again or anew the true reason for the season – Jesus our Savior! **One Wintry Night** is a beautiful book which reviews the WHOLE Bible story teaching us WHY we need Christmas in the first place. Here are my suggestions for reading it together and as part of your family's Faith 5 practice. Of course, do what works best for you – just enjoy!!

Peace+, Pastor Amy

The time between now and January 5 is 42 days – I would suggest reading through the book three times – over 14 days each time. That means you should get through the book the first time December 8, the second December 22 and the third on January 5. I make suggestions below for breaking up two of the longer chapters. Have your children help tell the story the second and third times through. ***But truly – do what works best for your family!! We just hope you enjoy the story.***

1 – Luke 2:1-11, printed on the page before the title page

2 – Chapter 1 Caught in the Storm

3 – Chapter 2 The Boy and the Woman

4 – Chapter 3 In the Beginning

5 – Chapter 4 The Testing Tree

6 – Chapter 5 Eden Lost

7 – Chapter 6 The Man Who Listened, stop on page 25 at ... “if they would ever see dry land again!”

8 – Chapter 6 – pick it up on page 25 at ... “Then one day Noah...”

9 – Chapter 7 The Chosen People, stop on page 34 (with the frogs) at ... “because the locusts had eaten all the food.”

10–Chapter 7 – pick it up on page 34 at ... “Now God told His own people ...”

11–Chapter 8 Trouble after Trouble

12–Chapter 9 The Time Grows Short

13–Chapter 10 The First Christmas

14–Chapter 11 It is Finished

***\*\* On the back is a calendar of Bible verses or passages for adults or families with youth – just wanted you to have them too! I do think if your family has both youth and elementary child(ren) they could enjoy One Wintry Night together!***

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2018

# FAITH 5



**Share**  
highs and lows



**Read**  
a Bible verse  
or story



**Talk**  
about how the  
Bible reading  
might relate to  
your highs  
and lows



**Pray**  
for one another's  
highs and lows



**Bless**  
one another

The journey from the first Sunday in Advent to Christmas  
unfolds as all good stories should, step by step.  
Why?

Could it be to keep us from getting too stunned by the awesome truth it bears?

**Advent is a time of preparation, a time to get ready!**  
And a time to let the awesome truth - God came to live among us - truly sink in.

*Don't rush to Christmas – observe Advent, the time of preparation –  
so that the awesome truth this season bears can sink into your heart anew!*

Dear families reading **This is the Stable**,

Blessings on your family's preparation for Christmas! We know this is a hectic and crazy time. Last year or today you received the book This is the Stable as a gift, it was and is meant to help you slow down. We hope you will pull it out and take time as a family to read it and learn again or anew the true reason for the season – Jesus our Savior! This is the Stable is a beautiful book which tells the story of Christmas for very young children. Below are my suggestions for reading it together and as part of your family's Faith 5 practice. Of course, do what works best for you – just enjoy!! Get out your other Christmas books too and take time to read to your little ones this busy season so that they too know the true meaning of Christmas.

Peace+, Pastor Amy

I suggest reading the book over and over again in the next few weeks.

Transition as the days pass to letting your child tell the story, or read it to you if he or she is a reader.

Each page begins "this is" so, as your child gets to know the story, let him or her fill in the blank "this is \_\_\_\_\_."

***But truly – do what works best for your family!! We just hope you enjoy the story.***

***Finally, on the back is a calendar of Bible verses or passages for adults or families with youth – just wanted you to have them too! There is an additional calendar for school age children and their families reading One Wintry Night.***



**Share**  
highs and lows



**Read**  
a Bible verse  
or story



**Talk**  
about how the  
Bible reading  
might relate to  
your highs  
and lows



**Pray**  
for one another's  
highs and lows



**Bless**  
one another

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**Advent is a time of preparation, a time to get ready for Christmas!**  
And a time to let the awesome truth - God came to live among us - truly sink in.

*This Advent and Christmas Seasons I invite you to prepare and celebrate the awesome truth this season holds by reading a series of Biblical prophecies and their fulfillment in Jesus.*

Prophecy is a rather huge topic, so for this devo we will stick to prophecies that point to, and are fulfilled in, Jesus. First, let me share a few words about Biblical prophets. True prophets always delivered God's message not their own. Peter writes: *"First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."* (2 Peter 1:20-21)

The earliest Old Testament prophets largely advised the king. Later their focus turned more to God's people at large. It would be a mistake to think of prophets as only predictors of the future. Their primary role was to call people to holiness and to their covenant obligations; to repentance and faithfulness. Prophets also declared the promises of God in time of exile and when God's people were discouraged.

But prophets were also predictors of the future and spoke often of the Messiah and His coming. The Christian Church has a long tradition of interpreting Old Testament prophecies about Jesus.

Prophecy did not cease after the Old Testament. We will look at a few prophecies in the New Testament; those pertaining to Jesus and spoken in the early church to speak hope about our heavenly future.

On the back are Bible passages for you to use in your personal or family devotions this Advent and Christmas seasons. We invite you to use them in the context of the Faith 5, but however you use them, we hope they enrich your preparations for Christmas! May they help the awesome truth that God came to live among us truly sink into your hearts and minds again and anew.

We also encourage you to make worship a regular part of your preparations so we can get ready together! Each Saturday we pause to read Sunday's Gospel in preparation for worship. We also hope you'll invite someone you know who has no church family to join you. This is a terrific time of year for invitations!

I will continue to post daily verses and a short comment about each on **the Christ Lutheran Church Facebook page ([facebook.com/christlutheranchurchdubois](https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranchurchdubois)).**

May your preparations be fruitful and your days blessed. Peace+, Pastor Amy