**THE CHURCH YEAR 教会年历**

For over a thousand years, Christians have remembered the important events in Jesus' life by celebrating them in order in their Sunday worship services.

1000多年以来，基督徒们不断纪念耶稣生命中的许多重要的事件，并按着次序在他们的主日敬拜中一一庆祝。

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Season | Length and Time | Color | Significance |
| **Advent** | 4 weeks (Nov.-Dec.) | Blue(or purple) | Advent means coming; we prepare for Christ's birth and his second coming. |
| **Christmas** | 12 days (Dec. 25- Jan. 6)Christmas Day is Dec. 25\* | White | We celebrate Christ's birth |
| **Epiphany** | 4-9 weeks (Jan. 6 -Mar.)Epiphany is Jan. 6; the first Sunday is the Baptism of our Lord; the last Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday | Green(White on the first and last Sundays) | Epiphany means revealing. We celebrate Christ's being revealed to be the Savior of all people. |
| **Lent** | 40 days (Feb.-Apr.)Begins with **Ash Wed**.;ends with **Holy Week** (**Palm Sunday**, **Maundy Thursday**, **Good Friday**) | Purple(Black or purple on Ash Wed.; black on Good Fri.) | During Lent we meditate on our Lord's suffering and death for us |
| **Easter** | 50 days (Mar.-May)Includes **Ascension** on 40th day | White(or Gold on Easter Day) | Easter is our celebration of Christ's resurrection\*\* |
| **Pentecost** | 23-28 weeks (May-Dec.)Begins with Pentecost Sunday, followed by **Trinity Sunday**; the remaining period is often called the "non-festival" part of the church year; Oct. 31 is **Reformation Day** | Green(Red on Pentecost and Reformation Days and 3rd last Sun.; White on Trinity Sun. and last 2 Sundays)\*\*\* | Pentecost recalls the giving of the Holy Spirit, his blessings on the church, and our life of sanctification |

\* Some churches follow another early custom of dating Christ's birth to Jan. 6.

\*\* Christians chose to worship on Sunday as a weekly celebration of Christ's resurrection (cf. Revelation 1:10).

\*\*\* In our WELS churches, the last 4 weeks of the church year are used to meditate on the end times and Christ's second coming.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 节期 | 长度和日期 | 颜色 | 意义 |
| 将临期 | 4周（11月至12月） | 蓝色（或紫色） | 将临期（Advent）意味着来临；我们预备基督的降生和祂的二次再来 |
| 圣诞期 | 12天（12月25日至1月6日）\* | 白色 | 我们庆祝基督的降生 |
| 显现期 | 4-9周（1月6日至3月） 主显节是1月6日；第一个主日是耶稣受洗的日子；最后一个主日是登山变像主日 | 绿色（第一个主日和最后一个主日为白色） | 显现期(Epiphany)的意思是显现出来。我们庆祝基督被显明出来，成为所有人的救主 |
| 预苦期 | 40天（2月-4月） 开始于圣灰日（Ash Wed）；结束于受难周（棕枝主日，濯足日，受难日） | 紫色（圣灰日为黑色或紫色；受难日为黑色） | 在预苦期，我们默想主为我们的受难和受死 |
| 复活期 | 50天（3月至5月） 包括第40天的升天节 | 白色（或在复活节时用金色） | 复活节是我们庆祝基督的复活的日子\*\* |
| 五旬期 | 23-28周（5月至12月） 开始于圣灵降临主日，接着是三一主日；接下来的时间通常称作教会年历中的“非节期”时期；10月31日是宗教改革纪念日 | 绿色（圣灵降临节、宗教改革纪念日和之后的第3个主日为红色；三一主日和最后的2个主日为白色\*\*\* | 五旬期使我们纪念赐给我们的圣灵，祂对教会的祝福和对我们生命的成圣。 |

\* 有些教会遵守另外一个早期的教会传统，认为耶稣降生的日子是1月6日。

\*\* 基督徒们选择在星期天崇拜，以此作为每周对耶稣复活的庆祝（参考启示录1:10）

\*\*\* 在我们WELS教会中，教会年历中的最后4周被用来默想末后的日子和基督的二次再来。