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The Refuge Christian

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Advent by Stan Sutton

Advent is the season of preparation for the coming of Christ. It begins with the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas and concludes on Christmas eve. Advent is considered a period of penitence in preparation for the coming of the King. Advent means *coming*, generally in at least three senses: (1) the coming of Christ in the flesh, to be commemorated at Christmas; (2) the coming of Christ in the Word and Spirit, to be pondered throughout the church year; (3) the coming of Christ in glory at the end of time. (Seasons and Symbols, a handbook on the church year. Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Mn.)

Here are some suggested Scripture readings during the weeks of Advent...

Week One:

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

Week Two:

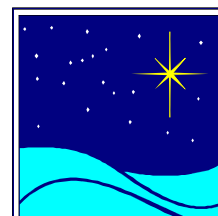
Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Week Three:

Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Week Four:

Isaiah 7:10-14 (15-17); Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25



Christmas Church Events

Journey to Bethlehem...

Once again, the Journey to Bethlehem program which was held on December 1st was a great success. We **thank all** who spent countless hours with costumes, decorations, food, and simply participating in the program. It was a great event especially for the children who attended.



Christmas Party...

Our annual Church Christmas Party is being held on December 9th from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Christmas Eve Celebration

We will have a special Christmas Eve worship service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We want you to come with your entire family. This will be a meaningful, but brief service.

Youth, etc.

Children's Church News:

I want to give a big thanks to all the people who have given of their time and talents over the last year helping with Children's Church and Kid's Corner. As we begin to look for teachers for the next year I would like you to consider signing up. Whether you helped out last year, the year before, or never before we'd like to give everyone the opportunity to serve in this capacity. We have easy to handle one month slots for each class so that you can try it out or fit it into your schedule. There will be an interest meeting on January 6th during the Sunday School time for those who are interested in helping or are looking for more information. Paul compares our spiritual lives to a race, come help the children learn to run.

- Nathan Wainwright

Teen News:

ICYC was a lot of fun. We had 4 students attend and everyone had a great time. The speakers were good, the music was good, the comedy was

good, all around a top notch weekend. We got to even catch up with old friends. Chrissy's High School youth minister was there and he'll be president of ICYC next year. So you can be sure we'll be going again. Plan for it! Thanks to all who donated money to help the kids get there.

-Nathan Wainwright

NEW PROGRAM! Family Time

Shelley Felger is leading a program designed for families of young children here at the church. Making time for you and your kids to be able to connect in a faith centered way and instill in them the importance of faith and family. They have already met for a Pumpkin carving fest and this last week (Dec. 2nd) they did some pre-Christmas activities. Watch for their next meeting to be announced soon.

Church

Financial Update

The accompanying chart represents the Cash Flow Report for the beginning of each month this year. Except Oct/Nov figures represent the figures through October 15th.

It depicts cash from all available sources—checking account, savings account, and money market account.

Report figures provided by Pam Sweitzer, Church Treasurer.

If you could consider a year-end gift to Refuge it would be a great help!

Thanks for caring about Refuge

Pastor Stan

