

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
1326 South 26 Street
Omaha, NE 68105-2380

Return Service Requested
Dated Material

Email: graceluth@graceluth.com
Web Site: www.graceluth.com

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS
9:00 A.M. Christian Education
10:30 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Damon D. Laaker
Editor/Church Secretary – Benhi Khabebe
Youth Ministries - Brenda Spahr
Organist - Lynda Laird
Sexton - Brian Sutej
Interfaith Health Ministries - Virginia McGill

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha NE
Permit No. 39

*Inspired By Christ, it is our mission
to share God's Word and Love in
care and in service to all.*



Early Sunday, November 1



2009

THE GRACE MESSENGER



2009 Council Members

Ron Adrian Sarah Emery June Hilmer Gloria Moore
Andrew Edwards Vicki Cox David Nange Ernest Olson
Arlone Farber Pastor Laaker ** Vicar Angela Khabeb
Financial Secretary: Janet Hula Treasurer: Margie Sutej

The regular meeting of the Council was held October 13th. The Council members shared their prayer concerns: We pray for the family of Meghan, Sarah's co-worker as they deal with the sudden death of her Grandmother; we pray for Vicki's brother in law, Ron Hansen as he heals from infection; we pray for Ken Catlett as the cancer has spread to his brain; for Ron's coworker, Chuck Pond, whose mother just passed away; we pray for Angie & Dorothy Benaci as they stay at St. Joe's awaiting an operation, for Amy Johnson, friend of Gloria's, whose cancer has returned; for Ken Hilmer with his continued struggles with his heart. We pray for all those with swine flu, for all of our service people, and for Ivo & his family.

Ron led devotions from Ezekiel 37:27 and Revelations 21:2-3. Both passages reminding us that God is with us, among mortals, while remaining constant in his care over us.

Visions for Ministry: The Council is reading "*Radical Welcome*" by Stephanie Spellers. We will be discussing this chapter in greater detail at our next meeting. Please re-read pages 97-119 in the book by the next meeting.

Reports were received from the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer. Please continue to give generously.

Christian Education: Faith Quest continues.

Evangelism/Outreach: After school program and ESL are underway.

Finance: Stewardship info coming in November.

Property: A member has asked about getting handicap parking spots reserved in our lot.

Service/Social Ministry: Halloween party is on the 30th! Organizational meeting is at 6:30 on the 15th.

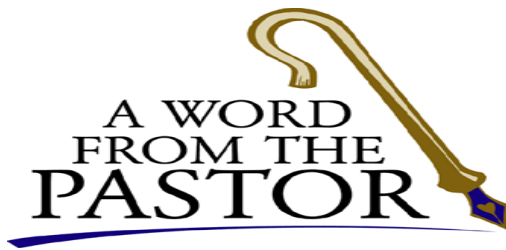
Support/Stewardship: 120th Celebration of the church on Sunday the 18th!

Worship: Attendance has been low, please consider bringing a friend to worship!

Unfinished Business: No new report.

New Business: No new report.

Announcements: Arlone will bring treats and lead prayer for our November meeting.



As we left our early days story last month, the council has just approved the use of an envelope system for individual donation records. Now the story continues.

“On April 7, 1896, an agreement was reached with the Shull heirs. The deed was changed making possible the erection of a \$5,000.00 church building.

“Excitement began to build. New conversations were held regarding the building of a permanent church structure. Information was received that indicated a pipe organ was available from a congregation at McCook, Nebraska, for the cost of transportation. Finally, a way was found to fund the transportation of the organ, then at its meeting on August 4, 1896, the council was informed that someone else had stepped in and claimed the organ.

“Prior to this meeting, Pastor Kuhns had been approached by someone who suggested that the congregation might wish to investigate the structure of a church building in Oakland, Iowa, as a possible model for its building. A committee was appointed. On August 5, 1896, Messrs. J. F. Smith and William Wilke, together with the pastor, visited Oakland, Iowa, to see the church recommended for duplication. This was a 72 mile round trip in a buggy in one day. The return trip was made in a rain-storm, the only light being flashes of lightning. Mr. Smith was the driver.

“The church building in Oakland, Iowa, still stands. The name of the congregation is First Congregational Church. It was built some 11+ years before Grace’s building.

“The committee returned with great enthusiasm. A special council meeting was held and Pastor Kuhns was authorized to begin conversations with Kent and Bell, architects, Council Bluffs, Iowa. In addition, he was to seek a settlement with Walker and Kimball, architects, Omaha, for work done earlier.

“The council met again on August 24, 1896, to review the plans submitted by Kent and Bell, architects. They proposed a set of plans substantially duplicating the church in Oakland. Their proposal was to draw the plans, supervise the construction, and other necessary details for a fee of \$40.00.

“On September 1, 1896, the council authorized Pastor Kuhns to take charge of “breaking ground for the new edifice.” Then on September 15, 1896, the council decided to invite bids for the construction, with the bids to be opened on September 28th.

“October 5, 1896, at a congregational meeting, the church council as trustees, were empowered to enter into a contract for the building of the church. That same evening, with Mr. Charles W. Haller as legal adviser and Mr. Lyman Waterman as notary public, a contract was made with John A. Anderson & Company, Omaha, for complete mason work for \$1,715.00, and with C. Bosen, Council Bluffs, Iowa, for complete carpenter work for \$1,796.50. In addition, the council was authorized to execute a mortgage of \$3,000.00 to the Board of Church Extension. All these papers were held in escrow until the dedication of the church, when they were recorded in their proper order.

“On Wednesday, October 7, 1896, Mr. W. S. King, County Surveyor, ran the lot lines and fixed the levels for the new building, and at 11:00 a.m., ground was broken. Then on Sunday, October 25, 1896, the corner stone for the new Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church was laid.”

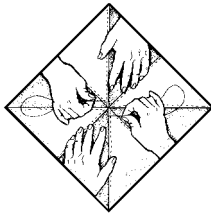
We have had the marvelous opportunity to celebrate with Pastors Hahle and Konig a bit of our history. We rejoice in the vision of our ancestors to plant a mission center here in this place. It was a wise decision to begin a congregational giving emphasis. Please take note of the opportunity to review your financial giving toward the ministry offered in Jesus’ name through Grace Lutheran Church as we enter our fall emphasis “Empowered by God – Responding by Grace.” Our future lies before us. May God Bless us we seek to be faithful in mission sharing God’s Word and Love in care and service to all.

Pastor Laaker

Grace Happenings



**W/ELCA
Board Meeting
&
Circle Meeting**
Tuesday, November 17th
November Bible Study
1:00 p.m.
Hostess - Barbara Narducci



Join us on Monday Mornings for Quilting! 9:00 a.m.

Quilts and lap robes are given to Lutheran World Relief, Hurricane Disaster Relief, the Open Door Mission and local nursing homes.

Drop by and help cut squares and tie quilt tops on to the backs.

Coffee break is at 10:00 a.m. No special skills are needed except the ability to laugh and have fun!

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Thursday

Games, Crafts, and Fun
Geared for Elementary Kids!

Free!

If OPS is not in session, the After-School program does not meet!

Director, Brenda Spahr



After-School Program



Lutheran Women of Omaha Luncheon

November 11, 2009

12:00 p.m.

Cost - \$6.00

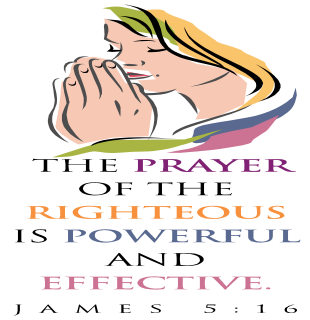
Program - Hometowners - mixed vocal group
Project - NSWV Vision Fund

Reservation are required and are due by Nov 9.
Call Mardelle Gocek at 292-1328



The thickest cloud may
bring the heaviest
shower of blessing.

Prayer Concerns from Family and Friends



- ◆ Andrew Edwards - Doing dialysis a couple times a week until a kidney can be found. (member)
- ◆ Brandin Nelson, burned over 90% of his body, friend of Bob and LaVonne Moss.
- ◆ Ken Hilmer - As he struggles with his heart condition and breathing problems. (member)
- ◆ La Vonne Moss -Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ◆ Fern Matson - Ongoing health issues. (member)
- ◆ Elna Burns - Suffered a stroke sister of Don Olson (member)
- ◆ Kristine (Nelson) Mauler- Treatment for her cancer. (daughter of Barbara Nelson))
- ◆ Wendy Henexson- Recovery from surgery. (daughter of Pastor Liz Conner)
- ◆ Lado family - as they adjust to life without father and husband.

Pray for our Shut - ins and Nursing Home residents:

Mae Lane

Richard Moore

Thelma Harrahill - (In Kansas with her children)

Pray for wisdom for your Church Council here at Grace Church.

Pray for the Council Members. Ask God to bless their ministry among us.

Pray for strength and spiritual wisdom for the leaders in the local church and the Nebraska Synod:

Pastor Laaker

Vicar Angela and family

Bishop David deFreese, Nebraska Synod

Bishop Mark Hanson, ELCA Bishop, United States

- ◆ Pray for the Sudanese community in general. Titus Duli, David Nange and Charles Tuw are the elders for the Sudanese Worshiping Community.

Let's encourage each other as we see God's hand in answering our prayers

Mark Your Calendar! Lutheran Service Corps Spaghetti Supper Benefit

Sunday, November 8, 2009
St. Timothy Lutheran Church
510 N 93rd St
(93rd and Dodge)
5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

Cost - Adults \$7.00
Children (5-12) \$4.00 (under 5) \$2.00
Families \$20.00



Benefit for Uta Halle Girls Village

Nuts and Candy
Just in time for Holiday Baking

Place Your order by November 13

Delivery - November 24

Payment for your order will be due upon delivery.

A sign up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board.
Contact LaVonne Moss at 556-4131 for more information.



2010 God's Creation Calendar

Fundraiser for the Grace Lutheran Church Library

Only \$5.00!

It's our annual calendar order time again!

If you pre-ordered a calendar or wish to purchase one, contact

Donna Adrian

Brenda Spahr

Barb Nelson or Carolyn Matson

These are great gifts for Christmas!

High Quality, Comparable to Calendars at the mall selling for \$12.00!

Hurry!

When they're gone...

They're GONE!



A Christmas tree will stand in the upper fellowship hall in December. The tree is called the Mitten Tree. As the season of Christmas progresses, the tree becomes gaily decorated with warm winter accessories.

Each year, people from Grace Lutheran Church bring donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, and other warm items and place them on the tree. These gifts of warmth are donated to area shelters.

During the special sales in the month of November and December, consider adding a pair of mittens or a scarf or two to your shopping basket.

A father was reading a Bible story to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

<http://www.makeitclearnow.org>

Grace Celebrating 120 years Of Ministry



Pastor Dennis Hahle and his wife Jeanne.



Pastor Paul Konig and wife Marcella enjoying the food..



Thanks, Everyone!



Stewardship Minute

*Monthly reflections on our role
as managers of God's blessing.*

"Effective Stewardship" by Kenneth L. William

- ◆ First, there is a matter of our time. Time is one resource that is given to everyone equally. All of us have twenty four hours in every day. No more, no less. How we use our time reflects accurately what is a priority in our lives. Some people have made the TV a priority in their lives. They might not admit to it, but by totaling the amount of time they spend in front of the set, it would be hard to draw any other conclusion. Others have made sports a priority. How can we tell that's true? Again by the amount of time they spend pursuing sports. The key question is this: How much of the 168 hours available to each of us every week is spent in pursuing of God or in service to God's kingdom, especially here in this ministry?
- ◆ Then there is matter of our talents, an area in which all of us have not been gifted equally. Some have been gifted by God to work with their hands, with machines, or with computers. Others excel in their ability to communicate orally or via the printed page. The effective outreach of the Gospel here at Grace Lutheran Church is made possible only when Gods people who are part of this fellowship use their combined talents for God's glory and for the good of his ministry.
- ◆ Finally there is the matter of our treasure. Don't be confused. Money cannot be buy salvation. Money cannot buy eternal life. Money can't even buy security which God alone provides. But how we use money is an indication of our priorities. Think about the process: God owns everything. According to Psalm 24:1." The earth is the Lord's." God has never relinquished His title deed to the world, but God enables us to earn that which rightfully belongs to Him. God then seeks to have us return a portion of what He entrusted to us through our giving.
- ◆ Giving is not to help the poor God pay His bills. Giving is not because God needs anything from us. Giving is God's way of growing Christians. Every time we give to Gods glory from hearts that have been redeemed by God's love and grace, we give away a little of our selfishness. Every time we give of our resources, we grow in grace and in walk with Christ.
- ◆ As you consider your life during this time of stewardship emphasis, will you- like the Macedonian Christians - excel in the "grace of giving "by first giving yourself to the Lord? Will you then respond by grace through giving your time, your talents and your treasure to be used by God in this ministry?
- ◆ As you consider your response to these questions, and as you seek the Lord's direction concerning your giving in the next few months, please remember these simple yet profound words:

Only one life,t' will soon be past;
only what's done for Christ will last.

Grace Lutheran's Stewardship Theme for 2010
"Inspired By God- Responding By Grace!"
 2010 Stewardship Drive begins on November 1st.

Begin now and ask God what He wants to do through you in 2010

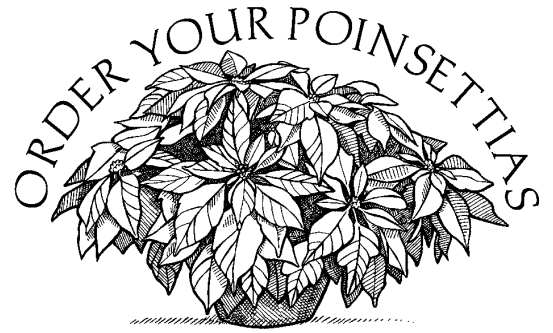
POINSETTIAS

Cost:
\$9.00 each

A Sign Up sheet
has been posted on the Bulletin Board

The Deadline for Ordering is December 7th

Be sure to designate whether you would like to take your flowers home after the holiday or donate them to the church for shut-ins or staff.



**Give Glory to God
through decorating
God's House
for the
Christmas Celebration!**

Thanksgiving Eve
Wednesday, November 25, 2009
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
1326 South 26 Street

Grace Lutheran Church is hosting a Community Thanksgiving Eve Service, Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00 p.m. Many churches have been invited to join in a service of Thanksgiving and Fellowship. The friends and family of Grace Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend this service.

Mark your calendar and come participate in this wonderful opportunity to praise God for His bountiful blessings!



Younkers Community Day
Saturday, November 14, 2009
6:00 a.m. - Continues All Day

Coupons good at any Younkers!

Buy a \$5.00 Booklet and get a \$10.00 Coupon!
Your \$5.00 will go to the Lutheran Pantry.

Each booklet contains a \$10 coupon good on almost any merchandise item priced at \$10 or more (customers spend \$5 for the booklet and get \$10 back on their first purchase!), plus eight 20% off coupons and offers for great bonus items, available on Community Day only. All coupons are valid on top of our already low One Day Sale prices.

Contact the Church office or Pastor Laaker
for Coupon Booklets

COMMUNITY
DAY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
2009
COMMUNITY DAY 2009
Starts at 6am
Furniture Galleries open at 9am. Carson's Gateway (IL) is closed.
Event not at our New Jersey locations.
BOSTON • Bergner's • Boston Store • Carson Pirie Scott
Elder-Beerman • Heiberger's • Younkers

Additional News

Wednesday Night Faith Quest Come Explore God's Word Free Activities for All Ages!

Grace Lutheran Church
1326 South 26 Street



Each Wednesday Night
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
(Snacks are provided.)
Lots of fun for everyone!

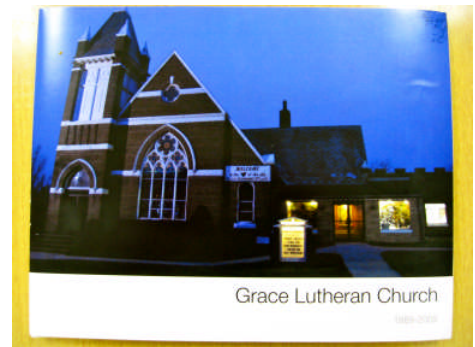
Omaha Together One Community
IPL Training Session
First United Methodist Church – Room 112
Monday, November 9th, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
How to Hold a House Meeting
Creating a Public Life

Do you want the opportunity to bring your congregation together to discuss issues important to your community? Do you want to form relationships with others in your institution? On Monday, November 9th, please join members of other OTOC institutions to participate in a training session and discussion on building relationships through the practice of house meetings – small groups of congregants gathering to learn about one another through personal stories. For more information, contact the OTOC Office at (402) 344-4401.



Awakoko Werge was recently crowned Miss Sudan at a beauty pageant in Kansas City, MO.

She is a member of Sudanese Lutheran Fellowship at Grace Lutheran.



Memory Book: A Memory Picture Book was created documenting the 120 year history of Grace. Members of the congregation contributed pictures of various events throughout their years at Grace. It is available at the church for viewing. If you wish to purchase a copy of the book, please talk to Amanda Vazquez, 679-5559. The estimated cost is \$65-75, which includes the shipping cost.

Thanks to all who helped with the 120th Anniversary Celebration!

Thank You! It was a wonderful celebration of joy as we welcomed former Pastors Konig and Hahle. They shared their joy in ministry both in conversation and in the gospel word. We are grateful for their ministry time among the people of Grace. We extend our deepest thanks to Pastor Konig and Pastor Hahle for coming, sharing your time and celebrating with us. We seek to continue ministry as called disciples of Christ.

We, also, extend our deep thanks to all who brought the good food to share at the potluck. One never has to worry about being fed and fed well at a potluck. Thanks is due to the Council Members who planned and organized the events.



Virginia McGill
Director, (402) 660-6689
Gema Wolde
(402) 616 4721
Se habla español .

Interfaith Health Service Part of National Conference

For the past several months, I have been involved in helping organize and plan out a National Immigration and Refugee Conference that was held here in Omaha on October 2nd-4th. The conference, sponsored by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), was initiated by Interfaith's newest partner, the Pixan Leadership Team, to facilitate learning more about educational opportunities, leadership development and a Christ's call to be of service to others within the immigrant community.

I was delighted and humbled to be one of the few community members involved in the conference this year. Over 80 people attended the weekend activities from California, Arizona, Oregon, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. Highlights of the conference included meetings with the USCCB organizers from Washington, DC, to discuss health care, education and community organizing, presentations from UNO and College of Saint Mary's on learning opportunities, small groups sessions focusing on teenagers and higher learning, and a Robert Wood Johnson presentation on health disparities among immigrants.

A personal highlight for me was listening to keynote speaker, Juanatano Cano, share his immigration journey. Juan is one of 11 children, all of whom grew up in a remote farming village without electricity and running water in Guatemala. In a small group break out presentation, Juan also shared that as the oldest in his family, at 5 years old, it struck him that he did not have many material possessions when some of the villagers treated his family differently because they did not have money for shoes or for new clothing. He decided that education was the only way forward for his family. He immigrated to the United States when he was 20 years old and completed college and graduate school with an emphasis in teaching. Juan noted with pride that all 10 of his brothers and sisters finished college and well over half completed law school, medical school and graduate schools in California. Juan speaks three languages fluently and travels around the United States to encourage others to pursue education along with their dreams.

The USCCB was so pleased with conference attendance and the rich dialogue that resulted from group discussions that they have voted to return to Omaha next year for another conference. I have already begun meeting with Pixan leaders to talk about hopes, dreams and themes for next year's conference. I hope to extend an invitation to the 2010 conference to all of our Interfaith Health Service Latinas in Action participants, partners and congregation members when dates are finalized. Please keep our planning process in your prayers so that we may be Spirit led in our discussions.

With Thanks,

Virginia McGill, Interfaith





November

Special Days at
Grace Lutheran Church
In November.

Every Wednesday Night - Faith Quest
(except November 25)
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Light snacks will be provided

- ◆ 1 - Daylight Savings Time Ends.
- ◆ 3 - Shipment for LWR . Have your donations to the church.
- ◆ 10 - Church Council Meeting.
- ◆ 16 - Monthly Prayer Service.
- ◆ 14 - Younkers Community Day
- ◆ Last day to order nuts and candy for Uta Halle fundraiser.
- ◆ 17 - Hymn Selection Meeting.
W/ELCA board meeting and Circle.
- ◆ 25 - Community Thanksgiving Service, 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ 26 - Thanksgiving Day.

- ◆ November is the 11th month of the year.
- ◆ Named for Tiberus Caesar.
- ◆ The Anglo-Saxons referred to November as the "wind month."
- ◆ One of four months that has 30 days.
- ◆ November begins on the same day of the week as March every year.
- ◆ November's Birthstone is the Topaz or Citrine.
- ◆ November's Flower is the Chrysanthemum.



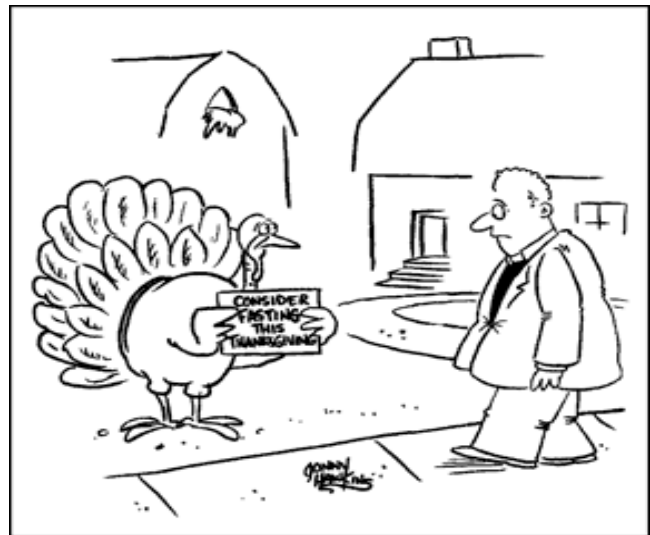
November 11, 2009

Pray for all
soldiers
everywhere.

Veterans Day

"Carve your compliments in stone.
Carve your complaints in sand."

Sign outside a church in Albany, GA
From the Joyful Noise Newsletter, June 2008



I purchased a telephone-answering machine with a prerecorded message that used a male voice. When Mother returned from vacation, I forgot to mention it to her.

The next Saturday, the phone rang and the machine answered. After the message, there was a pause and the caller hung up. A second time and the same result. Then the phone rang a third time. I heard, "This is your mother, I think. If I am, please call me."

Thanksgiving Day

WORD LIST

apple
celebrate
cornucopia
cranberry
family
feast
Grace
gravy
harvest
Indian
Mayflower
pie
pilgrim
potato
pumpkin
stuffing
thankful
Thursday
tradition
turkey
yam

m m b h m j k p o t a t o h c
w a e p g k e t u r k e y i p
n x y r h e g q s m r v p n k
s t u f f i n g o d p h u d l
g m p i l g r i m z j k p i e
f c a t c o r n u c o p i a d
f e a s t e w v s g j f a n r
m w m g h e l e q c r s n f s
c y c r a n b e r r y a m w j
f o g a n m r k b y d x v d r
w e p c k m t h u r s d a y f
f h g e f l a o h f a m i l y
y q i v u s t r a d i t i o n
b a p p l e x f h a r v e s t

“Many people are like garbage trucks. They move around with spirits full of garbage – anger, hatred, fear, frustration, disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they feel the urge to dump it, and sometimes they’ll dump it on you.



“Don’t take them seriously. Forgive them, smile, laugh them off, and move on. Don’t take their garbage and spread it to other people at home, at work, or on the streets. And pray for them.”

—Author unknown



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Harley L. Schwadron
Reprinted with permission



What is Advent?

Advent is a season of the Christian year when we focus on the coming of Christ. It's a time of waiting, hoping, and getting in touch with our need for a Savior. It's a season of preparation for Christmas, much as Lent is a season of preparation for Easter. In some Christian churches, Advent is a time of fasting and repentance.

In Advent we look back to the experience of Israelites as they yearned for God to forgive their sin and restore their nation. We put ourselves in their shoes as they hoped for the coming of the Messiah. Thus we ready our hearts to celebrate the good news of Christmas.

Yet Advent is also a time to look forward to the second coming of Christ. Though defeating sin and death through His cross and resurrection, Christ hasn't yet finished His work of renewing creation and restoring the kingdom of God. Thus we continue to experience the brokenness of this world, in violence, disease, natural disasters, and other forms of human suffering. In Advent we yearn for God's completion of the salvation begun in Christ.

What does "Advent" mean?

"Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "visit" or "coming" or "arrival." The season of Advent is a time to get ready for the two "visits" of Christ: His first coming through the Incarnation, and His second coming as the reigning Lord.

When is Advent?

All Christians who keep Advent do so immediately prior to Christmas. Western Christians (Catholics, Protestants) begin Advent four Sundays before Christmas. Because Christmas falls on various days of the week, Advent ranges from 22 to 28 days (including Christmas Eve). Technically, in most traditions, Christmas Eve is both the end of Advent and the beginning of Christmas (at sunset). This year Advent begins Sunday, November 29.

"Make us worthy, Lord, to serve those throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread; and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen."

Mother Teresa of Calcutta