

Advent and Christmas at Central Lutheran: Photos and Scriptures for Devotional Reflection



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About this devotional booklet

This devotional of photos and Scriptures of Christmas at Central is made to enrich your prayer and devotional life during the season of Advent and Christmas.

Every photo in this devotional has been taken at Central Lutheran during the seasons of Advent and Christmas to show our beloved traditions throughout these sacred seasons. They have been selected to remind ourselves of the sacred spaces within Central Lutheran that hold deep meaning for Central's members and friends. This is particularly created for those, who for various reasons, are not able to be physically at Central regularly. This booklet therefore brings some of the visuals of Central at Advent and Christmas to you.

Below each photo is a short passage of Scripture. We invite you to look at the picture and then read the verse. After reading the verse, look back at the picture and meditate upon it. Every verse and photo has been selected to aid us all as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas and resound with all the angels in joy shouting, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" May that joy enter into your hearts this day as you use this devotional to God's glory.

May the peace of the Christ Child be with you in this and every season!

Pastor Laurie Jones & Pastor Ben Nickodemus



*A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'* Isaiah 40:3-5



A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. Isaiah 11:1-2



And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14



The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.'
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! Revelation 22:20



The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.' Luke 1:35



For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39



And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!' Luke 2:13-14



She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’
Matthew 1:22-23



Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:4-7



When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Luke 2:15-20



On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. John 1:1-5

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We give thanks to God for all of the saints who have been part of Central's rich history these past 120 years – including each one of you. Together we are blessed – blessed to be a blessing!