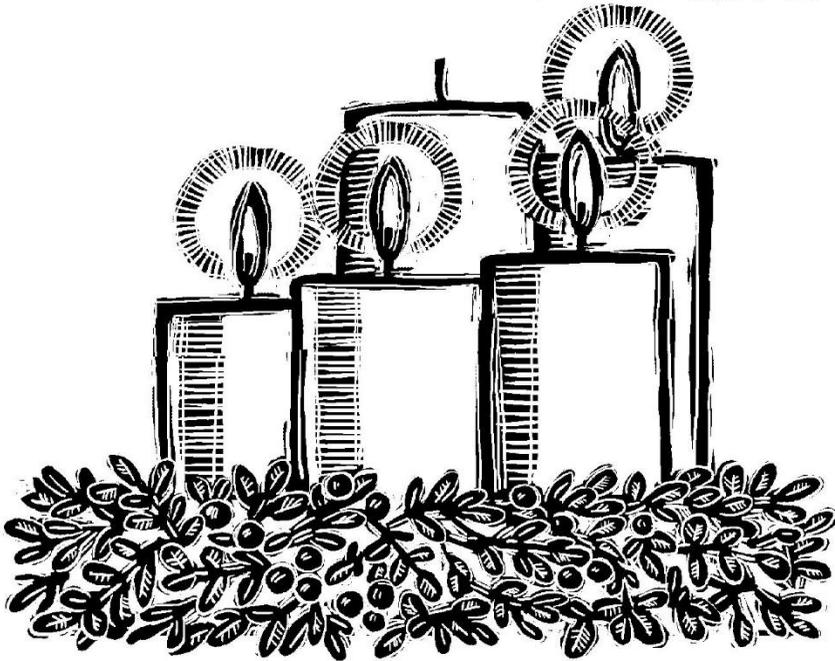


Fourth Sunday in Advent



"Helping others receive grace, purpose and direction by proclaiming Christ's love."

17 East 27th Street
Scottsbluff, NE
(308) 632-8023
calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org

Sunday Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.
December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prayer Before Worship: Mighty God, your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of your Son, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(In preparation for our worship together, you are invited to take a moment of silence to offer your own prayers of worship and praise.)

KEY: ELW = Worship hymnal (cranberry)

Congregational responses are printed in **BOLD** type.

A Warm Welcome to all as we gather as God's people to worship our Lord. We pray our worship together would strengthen your faith and desire to know and serve the One who loves us with an everlasting love as made known to us in Jesus Christ.

***Visitors**, if you are worshipping with us online today,
we are glad to have you with us. Please join us again soon!*

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

†WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS†

Candle Lighting Litany

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

May these candles be a sign of the coming light of Christ.

(Four Candles are lit.)

O house of David, come,

Let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

**Jesus comes to us at Christmas. Jesus comes to make us whole.
Jesus comes, He’s our Messiah. Jesus comes to save our souls. Chours**

Chorus: Messiah, Come and be our King. (repeat)

***Confession of Sins/Assurance of Forgiveness**

(All may make the sign of the cross ✝ the sign marked at baptism, as we begin)

Blessed be God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

Loving and forgiving God,

we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God’s endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God’s love, ✝ comforted by Christ’s peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Greeting**

Christ comes to lighten our darkness.

Come, Lord, Jesus.

May the light of God’s glory be with you always.

And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray,

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

‡GOD'S WORD SPEAKS TO US‡

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.**

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰**His mercy is for those who fear him**

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵²**He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;**
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴**He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,**
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Epistle Reading: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation:**

"Emmanuel"

W&P #36

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.**
(Repeat)

***Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

Response after the announcement of the gospel:
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him
Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God
will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob
forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this
be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age
has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.
³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of
the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Response after the gospel reading:
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

Pastor Chris

(Silence for Reflection and Meditation.)

‡WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD‡

***Song of the Day: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"**

**ELW #265
vv. 1&2**

**1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

**2. "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

***Profession of Faith: The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Prayers of the Church:**

Tune: "What Child is This"

(Sung Prayer Response)
**O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.**

***Exchange of Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

***Offertory Prayer**

Having offered ourselves and our gifts to God, let us pray.
**God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those
in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

‡HOLY COMMUNION‡

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

***Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever, and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

Distribution of Communion:

*For those interested in receiving Holy Communion, please meet the communion servers
in the parking lot for Drive-Through Communion immediately following the worship
service this morning from approximately 10:45 a.m.-11:15 a.m.*

Were You There on That Christmas Night?

Choir

***Post-Communion Blessing**

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.
In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us
and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

✠WE DEPART TO SERVE✠

*Benediction

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✠ now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sending Song:

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267
vv. 1&2

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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Scan the **QR code** to the right, go to our website:
www.calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org and click on the
Give Online button OR download the **Give+Church**
App on your smartphone. It's safe and secure.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jessica Laughlin, 12/20; Wes Sell, 12/25;
Sid Henderson, 12/26; Vicki Schmidt, 12/26

If we have missed your birthday, please let the office know. Thanks.

✝In Our Thoughts and Prayers✝

Prayers for healing: **Beth Janecek** (Treatment), **Rich** (COVID-19 recovery—brother of Barb Gorr), **Joann Pullen** (COVID-19 recovery—friend of Elnora Sell), **Chad Schmidt** (COVID-19 recovery—granddaughter's husband of Wes & Elnora Sell), **Cathy Rahrs** (hospitalized - non COVID related illness), **Gary Eskam** (pneumonia - non COVID related), **Tracy, Nancy and Bill Steele** (COVID-19 recovery), **Harlan Meyer** (Lonnie Miller's uncle), **Shelia Colson** (hospitalized—mother-in-law of Nannie Walsh's sister), **Claudia** (bedrest for pregnancy), **Amber** (fighting COVID-19), **Myron Loseke, Jerry Weekes** (recovering from a horse accident), **Reuben & Gloria Gorr** (health issues), **Alan** (recovery of vision—Kathy Randall's cousin), **Jordan Hein** (cancer treatment—former member of Calvary), **Michael Dietrich** (friend of Dave & Penny Stevens), **Julie** (cancer treatment—Travis Miller family), **Barb** (cancer—Marlene Downer's sister-in-law), **Joan** (cancer—niece of Marj Nikont), **Patty** (cancer—Jim Dorn's sister-in-law).

Prayers for thanksgiving: Congratulations to David & Rhonda Boettcher on their 50th wedding anniversary, December 20th.

Prayers for comfort and peace for: Family and friends of **Ardella Miller** (Lonnie Miller's mother), **Julius Diers** (grandfather of Nannie Walsh & great grandpa of Rayce & Merrick Walsh)

Prayers for our church, community, nation, and world: *in this time of Covid-19 and general unsettledness. For everyone in need!*

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request you would like added to the prayers of the people on Sunday morning, during the week you may notify Christy in the church office, let us know by filling out the online Attendance and Prayer Request card under the worship tab on our website or on Sunday morning, inform one of the ushers of your prayer request and they will make a list and give those to the pastor before worship begins.





CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Even though we are worshipping virtually this year, we invite you to **bring a poinsettia** to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to dedicate your poinsettia *in honor of or in memory* of a loved one, forms will be available December 1 outside the office door. The remembrances will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Please bring your poinsettia sometime the week before Christmas and then stop by to pick it up after Christmas to enjoy at home.

Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service

Online via Zoom December 21st @ 7p.m.

A service for those for whom Christmas is not joyful; for those who are confronted with the loss of loved ones, feeling isolated and alone, perhaps even feeling depressed. On this longest night of the year, we remember and place our hope in Christ.

All are welcome to attend. To join via Zoom (this will allow you to share the name of those you would wish to light a candle for), contact the church office to receive the Meeting ID and Passcode. The service will also be Livestreamed at: <https://www.facebook.com/methodistchurch.scottsbuff/videos/>

A combined service with the following churches: First Presbyterian, St. Francis Episcopal, Calvary Lutheran, Holy Apostles' Episcopal, First Christian, Henry/Lyman, Mitchell, Morrill & Scottsbuff United Methodist Churches



*Virtual
Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service
@ 5:00 p.m.*

*Communion & Candles Available,
3 to 4:30 p.m.*

Due to continued high Covid-19 numbers in our area, it is with great sadness and disappointment that we will be having *Christmas Eve Service Online Only this year via Facebook Live at 5 p.m.* As part of our Christmas Eve worship, we will also be *providing Holy Communion from 3 to 4:30 p.m. as well as providing candles and drip protectors*

for you to use at home during the traditional candle lighting part of the service. Should you wish to receive Holy Communion outside the 3 to 4:30 p.m. time frame; talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl.



How it works

- 1**  Choose your gift.
- 2**  Get a card.
- 3**  Change lives.

Give an unexpected gift this Christmas. Gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Meaningful gifts for everyone on your list. See the bulletin board next to the Fellowship Hall or visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> for your gift options.

Thank you

Thank you to all of you for your support of the Angel Tree. You are giving these special little angels a wonderful Christmas this year by purchasing gifts and donating money to purchase gifts. God Bless you all!



DECEMBER FOOD DONATIONS REQUESTED

FOOD PANTRY: packaged cookies
BACKPACKS: applesauce
 Containers are located outside Fellowship Hall.
 Thanks for your generosity.



Please watch every week for an email with the kid's sermon by Angie with fun activities for the kids to stay involved!

Due to COVID-19 concerns JAM has been suspended until further notice.



Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.



Lutheran Disaster Response

Wildfires in the West. Hurricanes in the South. Tornadoes in the Midwest. Covid-19. Throughout our nation and around the world, disaster strikes with alarming frequency and sometimes it can feel as if we are helpless in the face of it all. But whenever and

wherever disaster strikes, you are there through the work of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), not only in the immediate aftermath but also long after the disaster has faded from the headlines. Your donations to the work of LDR are critical in allowing LDR to make a difference when disaster strikes. If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response either by going to: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response> or by making a donation to Calvary specifically earmarked for Lutheran Disaster Response or if you wish you can even be more specific by writing 'wildfires', 'hurricanes', etc. in your memo line. And remember, 100% of what you donate will go for disaster response!



Connecting faith & finances for good.™

Thrivent Financial

Are you a Thrivent member? And if you are, do you know that as a Thrivent member (depending on what investments or products you have with Thrivent) you might have Thrivent Choice dollars that you can designate to a non-profit ministry of your choice including Calvary Lutheran and hundreds of other ministries every year? And that you also have at least \$250 dollars (and possibly \$500) per year that you can choose to kickstart a Thrivent Action Project that can make a difference in our church or community.

For example, this fall a member of Calvary used their \$250 to purchase the backpacks and some of the supplies that were used to fill the School Backpacks for Lutheran World Relief. To direct your Thrivent Choice dollars, start a Thrivent Action Project or simply to learn more go to: <https://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/>, talk to Pastors Chris or Sheryl or talk to your Thrivent agent.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastors Chris and Sheryl Kester Beyer

This Sunday – December 20

USHERS: Dennis & Barb Gorr

LAY READER: Susan Martin

COMMUNION ASST: Colter Burkey

POWERPOINT: Matt Payne

MEDIA: Jeff Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Abby Newsom, Maunette Loeks-Van Patten, Barb Jensen, Nannie Walsh

PIANIST: Dee Brady

Christmas Eve – December 24

LAY READER: Jack Martin

COMMUNION ASST: Dennis Gorr

POWERPOINT: Jeff Van Patten

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

SONG LEADER: Gail Bruflat

Next Sunday – December 27

USHERS: Kent & Dawn Holub

LAY READER: Chris Jensen

COMMUNION ASST: Bill Huelle

POWERPOINT: Andi Dorn

MEDIA: Maunette Loeks-Van Patten

ALTAR GUILD: Deb Brown, Vicki Howell, Tracy Steele

ORGANIST: Rhonda Boettcher

SONG LEADER: Jim Dorn

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 20

10 a.m. – Worship

10:45-11:15 a.m. – Drive Through Communion

Monday, December 21

5 p.m. – Elders

6 p.m. – Stewards

6 p.m. – Worship & Music

7 p.m. – Blue Christmas Service via Zoom

Thursday, December 24

3-4:30 p.m. – Drive Through Communion

5 p.m. – Candlelight Service on Facebook Live

Sunday, December 27

10 a.m. – Worship

DECEMBER 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



God favors the peasant girl Mary.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
Monday	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	The Lord's message to David
Tuesday	Romans 16:25-27	Paul's closing prayer
Wednesday	Luke 1:46b-55	Mary's song of praise
Thursday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Friday	John 3:11-16	For God so loved the world
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26	God's promise to David
Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Luke 1:30-31 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, just as you favored your servant Mary, grant all of us faith and trust in your power to bring salvation to all through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

With this food we receive your steadfast love, O Lord; with our mouths we proclaim your faithfulness to all generations through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:1)

A Blessing to Give:

May the love of God bless you with the good news of Jesus' birth.



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DECEMBER 20, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Wait for the Lord



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you received special attention from friends or family?
- Think of someone you have valued as a friend. In what ways do you value them?
- The angel Gabriel describes Mary as favored. What does it mean to you that God has given the world our Savior and Lord Jesus through Mary, a young peasant girl?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 1:26-38.

In verses 28 and 30 the angel Gabriel says that Mary is favored, that is, Mary experiences the undeserved kindness of God. In Luke 2:40 and 52 the child Jesus is also described as favored. Divine attention comes to a young virgin to deliver Jesus, the Son of the Most High. The beginning of the Gospel of Luke tells of Elizabeth, a barren woman who gives birth, Mary, a peasant girl who gives birth to the future King in the lineage of David, and of shepherds in the field who will be the first evangelists of the good news of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:18). The message is clear: with God all things are possible, and as with Mary, our faithful response is, "let it be with me according to your word" (v. 38). Mary is the model of the life of faith that acknowledges that God has done great things for her. As we prepare to enter the season of Jesus' birth, we are met with God's favor and blessings for us as well. How has God come to you with divine favor?
Pray: God of undeserved kindness, give us faith to trust that with you all things are possible through Christ Jesus our Lord, Son of the Most High God. Amen.

SERVICE

During this Advent season think of those who are not favored in our society. For example, the homeless are poor, hungry, and in need. In what ways can you show God's love to them through an act of kindness?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

From your nativity set, hold each piece in silence for a moment. Then place the pieces back in the scene. Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and then the wise men. Wait to place Jesus in the manger until Christmas Eve. On your Advent wreath, light the first candle of hope, the second one of peace, the third one of joy, and the fourth one of love. *Say this Bible verse:* For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)
Pray: Lord God, thank you for showing us love even when we are afraid like Mary, the mother of Jesus. Give us hope, peace, joy, and love as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to www.milestonesministry.org

For a larger printable 'Taking Faith Home' go to our website calvarylutheranscottsbluff.org