



His Word Is Truth!

This article is written by Pastor Tom Eckstein of Concordia Lutheran Church in Jamestown. "His Word is Truth" will appear in this paper every 3rd Monday.



For many Christian congregations around the world the season of Advent officially began after St. Andrew's Day, which was November 30th of 2007. December 2nd, 2007, was the 1st Sunday in Advent. The Advent season begins a whole new church year, and helps us prepare for the celebration of Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from a Latin word and means "to enter" or "to come into." During the season of Advent Christians focus on the Son of God, our Lord and Savior,

and how He *enters* our lives in the PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE.

First we will focus on how the Son of God entered our world in the PAST. During Advent we focus on how the Old Testament is a history of sinners waiting for the advent of the promised Savior – **a male child who would be born of "the woman"** (see Genesis 3:15). God revealed that the promised Savior would enter the world through a particular family line (see Genesis 12:1-3). *Therefore, in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke we find genealogies!* Luke traces the male ancestors of Mary back to the first man, Adam (see Luke 3:23-38). Matthew starts with Abraham and goes forward to Joseph, the husband of the virgin Mary, of whom was born Jesus (see Matthew 1:1-17).

Both genealogies in Matthew and Luke have in common the fact that the Son of God took on human flesh in the womb of the virgin Mary (also see Matthew 1:20-23 and Luke 1:26-37). The

prophet Isaiah points ahead to this miracle in the words of Isaiah 7:14 where we see that the son of the virgin will be given the title "Immanuel" – *which means "God with us"* (also see Isaiah 9:6). The Apostle John makes the same point in the first chapter of his Gospel when he says that **"The Word"** (another title for the Son of God) **became flesh** (see John 1:1-3 & 14).

Throughout the history of the Old Testament we find that believers were "waiting for Jesus" in the sense that they were longing for the advent of God's promised Savior – *the male child who would be born of "the woman."* This male child would be God's own Son who was born to save us from the curse of our sins against God (see Galatians 3:6-14 and 4:4-7).

Therefore, Christmas is the time of year when Christians celebrate the **"Incarnation"** – *the miracle that occurred when the Son of God took on human flesh in the womb of the virgin*

Mary so that He could die on the cross in our place of damnation and then conquer death for us by His resurrection. The season of Advent helps us prepare to celebrate the fact that the Son of God entered our world in the PAST.

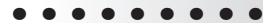
However, the season of Advent also helps us focus on how the Son of God enters our lives in the PRESENT. Jesus said that He would be with us always until He returns on the Final Day (see Matthew 28:20). **Jesus enters our lives now in the waters of Holy Baptism** (See Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 2:20 and 3:26-27). **Jesus enters our lives through the reading, preaching and teaching of His Word** (see John 5:39-47, 6:63, 8:31-32 and 17:17-20; also see Acts 2:42, 1st Corinthians 2:12-16, Colossians 3:16, 1st Thessalonians 2:13 and 2nd Timothy 3:14-17). **Jesus enters our lives when He gives us His Body and Blood in the Lord's Supper**

(see Matthew 26:26-28, John 6:53-56, 1st Corinthians 10:14-17 and 11:23-32). **This is why Christians rejoice in every opportunity they have to gather together at God's Services to receive His gifts** (see Acts 2:42 and Hebrews 10:23-25).

Finally, the season of Advent helps us to focus on how the Son of God will enter this world in the FUTURE. **We Christians are waiting for Christ's 2nd Advent!** (See Titus 2:11-14). **We look forward to the Final Day when Jesus will return in power and glory to raise the dead and give eternal life to those who were waiting for Him!** (See Acts 3:17-26, 1st Corinthians 15:51-58, Philippians 3:20-21, 1st Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, 1st Timothy 6:13-16, 2nd Timothy 4:7-8, 1st Peter 1:3-5, 2nd Peter 3:1-18 and Jude 24-25). **On the Final Day all will see the Son of God "in the flesh" (see Revelation 1:4-8). Until**

that Final Day, the Holy Spirit moves Christians to live by faith in God's Word (see 2nd Corinthians 5:7-21).

Have a blessed Advent as you prepare to celebrate the fact that your Savior entered the world in the PAST! Have a blessed Advent as you receive your Savior who comes to you in the PRESENT! Have a blessed Advent as you wait for your Savior to come again in the FUTURE!



Please read the next His Word is Truth article on Monday, January 21st! Pastor Eckstein will begin a new article series on The Lord's Prayer.

For more resources about Christian teaching and issues, go to Concordia Lutheran's webpage: www.concordiajt.org

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