

ADVENT 2022

prepare :  
★ HIM  
room ≡

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

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START DATE

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ADVENT 2022

prepare :  
★ HIM  
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WHAT IS

# ADVENT?

The Christmas holiday season is filled with anticipation. We decorate our homes, plan travel to be with loved ones, buy gifts, and prepare meals. Long before our more modern Christmas traditions, before Jesus' birth, the Jewish people desperately awaited the arrival of the Messiah, and the Advent season is a celebration of this anticipation. Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming, arrival." Advent specifically anticipates the coming of our Savior from three perspectives: the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the reception of Christ in the heart of every believer, and the return of Christ one day.

The Christmas holiday season often prompts us to both reflect on memories of the past and to look ahead to a new year. Similarly, Advent prompts us to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to anticipate His second coming, while also reflecting on God's faithfulness throughout the Old Testament and in our lives.

This time of year can also be overwhelming, busy, and distracting. Our hope is that you use this guide to slow down, to reflect on God's faithfulness, contemplate Christ's arrival, and anticipate the fulfillment of all of God's promises when Christ returns. In the midst of the hustle and bustle, let us prepare Him room in our hearts, homes, neighborhoods, and lives. This Advent reading guide provides a 25-day journey through scripture, with questions to contemplate, expressions of art to reflect on, and ways to connect with others as you prepare to celebrate Christmas.

## HOW TO USE THIS READING GUIDE

# CONNECT

### CONNECT WITH GOD.

This reading guide is designed to help you slow down and spend time with God, connecting daily with your Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Each day has its own scripture reading and its own question to consider. Carve out time to sit in God's presence. Make time to slowly read each day's scripture reading. Pray and respond as if God were present with you (because He is!). Start an Advent journal. Reflect on questions, songs, art, and activities within this Advent reading guide. Tailor this time to connect with God in a way that works for you; make it personal as you prepare Him room this season.

### CONNECT WITH OTHERS.

Celebrating is more fun when we do it together. Use this reading guide as a tool to intentionally connect with others this season. Gather as a family for the daily scripture readings. Discuss the questions provided or other questions that you might have. Invite your neighbors over to share hot cocoa and the hope of Christmas. Share meals with friends and reflect on God's faithfulness. Bake cookies, decorate trees, sing songs, swap stories, remember and enjoy the goodness of God. Celebrate this Advent season together as you await Christ's coming.





# HOPE

Faith shows the reality of what  
we hope for; it is the evidence  
of things we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:1

## WEEK ONE

# HOPE

Christian hope is more than wishful thinking. It is expectation in action. It is trust placed in a faithful God. It is the active anticipation of the future fulfillment of God's purposes and promises. It remembers God's covenant faithfulness, the ministry of Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Advent season recalls the hope to which God's people clung as they awaited the first coming of the promised Messiah. This promise goes all the way back to the garden of Eden when God promised Adam and Eve that their descendants would "crush the head" of Satan (Genesis 3:15). Over the generations, God made a covenant with Abraham promising that through him "all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:3), and that the Messiah would come from the line of David (Isaiah 11:1). The Old Testament prophecies about Jesus were fulfilled, giving us hope that God is and will continue to be faithful to the promises God made to us. The Advent season also calls us to maintain that hope as we await the return of Christ. This year, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, consider the hope we have been given in Christ. Our hope has come.

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**Faith shows the reality of what we hope for;  
it is the evidence of things we cannot see.**

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)

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Prepare Him room. As you read this week, reflect on God's faithfulness and the hope that Christ brought into the world. Receive the hope of Christmas—Immanuel, God with us.

# Flourless Chocolate Cookies

Gluten free

Submitted by Candy Adams, Lake Hills Church member for 16 years

## INGREDIENTS:

- 3 cups of powdered sugar
- 2/3 cup Dutch processed cocoa powder,  
(can substitute regular unsweetened baking cocoa too)
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 large egg whites, unbeaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips

## PREPARATION:

1. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper and spray with nonstick spray.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together powder sugar, salt, and cocoa powder. Stir in egg whites and vanilla extract until the batter is completely moistened. It will be very thick, similar to brownie batter. Stir in the chocolate chips.
3. Spoon the batter on the sprayed parchment-lined sheets, about 1 tablespoon per scoop (Using a small cookie scoop makes this very easy!) You will end up with about 12 mounds per sheet. Let the cookie sheets rest for 30 minutes before baking, meanwhile preheat the oven to 350°F. Bake for 10-12 minutes until the tops are glossy and lightly cracked. The edges will be set and the middle slightly undercooked.
4. Let the cookies cool for 10 minutes on the baking sheet before gently transferring them to a cooling rack to finish cooling.



WEEK ONE

# HOPE

12/1 Isaiah 9:6-7

What in this passage gives you hope?

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12/2 Isaiah 11:1-5

What good news is found in these verses?

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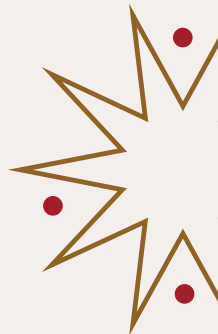
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# Nana's Sugar Cookies

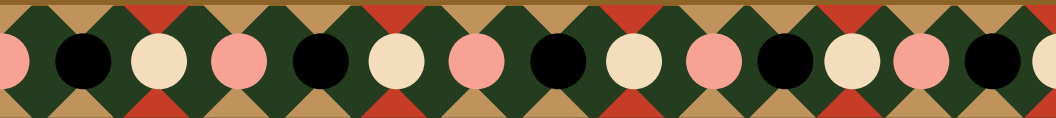
Submitted by Amanda Sutliff, Lake Hills Church member for 6 years

## RECIPE:

1 cup granulated sugar  
1 cup powdered sugar  
2 beaten eggs  
5 cups sifted flour (important)  
1 cup butter  
1 cup vegetable oil  
1 tsp cream of tartar  
1 tsp baking soda  
¼ tsp salt  
2 tsp vanilla

## PREPARATION:

1. Cream butter and sugar
2. Add eggs and oil
3. Add remaining ingredients
4. Roll into balls the size of walnuts
5. Put parchment paper on a cookie sheet and put dough balls on paper
6. Butter bottom of a drinking glass and place in a bowl of sugar
7. Flatten each ball with sugar-coated glass, keeping 2 inches apart
8. Bake at 350 for 10 minutes or until lightly brown on the bottom.



WEEK ONE

# HOPE

12/3 Luke 1:26-38

What do you learn about Jesus from Gabriel's announcement to Mary?

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## Family Activity

### Amaryllis Race



Activity submitted by Julie Richard,  
Lake Hills Church co-founder and member for 25 years

Purchase an amaryllis bulb for each child or person in your family. Plant them together and set them in the window. Amaryllis bulbs grow so fast! Check them each day to see which is growing faster. The first amaryllis to bloom is the winner!

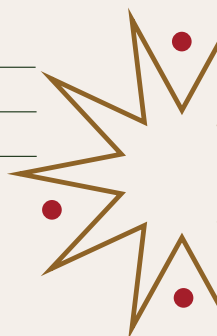
12/4 Matthew 1:18-24

The angel appeared to Joseph with unexpected news. How do you most often respond when things turn out differently than you expected? What helps you remember the promises and goodness of God?

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**THE ANNUNCIATION**  
Father Georges Saget, 1963  
Luke 1:26-38

WEEK ONE

# HOPE

**12/5 Luke 2:25-38**

Where do you see God's faithfulness in these verses?  
How does that give you hope?

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**12/6 Galatians 4:4-5**

How does this help you live out your hope as you wait today?  
What does living out hope look like for you?

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**12/7 1 Peter 1:3-10**

Verse 3 tells us we are born again to a living hope. Take a moment to consider something you are hoping for this season. Write it down as a prayer to God below.

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# PEACE

I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

John 14:27

## WEEK TWO

# PEACE

Shalom is a Hebrew word meaning peace, harmony, wholeness, and completeness. It conveys more than a lack of conflict or a sense of calm, but a building of well-being, justice, and righteousness, both personally and in the world. This is the promise of Advent: that God is restoring us and the world to peace—wholeness, completeness, shalom. It is the total restoration of creation, reconciling us to our Creator and to each other.

Peace is not the way of our chaotic and violent world, and it is definitely not something we drift into. The arrival of Jesus, his life, death, and resurrection, shows us how to live in a way that is different. Scripture tells us to seek peace and chase after it (1 Peter 3:11). To join God in the renewal of all things, we must pursue peace and work at it. We must learn and practice this new way of life in the context of relationships and the Church so that we can show and practice this way of life in the world. Establishing something new is rarely easy, but this is the purpose to which we as Christ-followers have been called. We wait and work for God's shalom, on earth as it is in heaven.

Prepare Him room. As you read this week, reflect on the peace of God available to us through the reconciliation and salvation that has come in Christ. Receive the peace of Christmas, pursue that peace, and work at it.

### 12/8 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Use your imagination. What do you think it looks like for God's peace to abound and God's glory to fill the whole earth?

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WEEK TWO

# PEACE

## Family Activity Advent Ornaments

Activity submitted by Natalie Jordan, Lake Hills Church member for 16 years

Write the different names of Jesus with the coordinating verse written on a ball or homemade ornament. Add an ornament to the tree daily and read the verse with it.

1. The Son - 1 John 4:14
2. Savior - Luke 2:11
3. Christ - John 20:31
4. The Word - John 1:1
5. Immanuel - Matthew 1:23
6. Teacher - John 3:2
7. Wonderful Counselor - Isaiah 9:6
8. The Mighty God - Isaiah 9:6
9. The Everlasting Father - Isaiah 9:6
10. The Prince of Peace - Isaiah 9:6
11. Redeemer - Isaiah 44:24
12. The Lord - Romans 10:13
13. Alpha and Omega - Revelation 1:8
14. The Lamb of God - John 1:29
15. Good Shepherd - John 10:11
16. Servant - Philippians 2:7
17. The Way, the Truth, and the Life - John 14:6
18. The Vine - John 15:5
19. The Bread of Life - John 6:35
20. The Light of the World - John 8:12
21. The Advocate - 1 John 2:1
22. The Deliverer - Romans 11:26
23. Jesus - Matthew 1:21
24. King of Kings - Revelation 17:14
25. Unspeakable Gift - 2 Corinthians 9:15



WEEK TWO

# PEACE

**12/9 Micah 5:2-5**

Think back over the last year. When has God given you peace?

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**12/10 Luke 2:10-14**

What news is delivered to the shepherds?

How would you put this news in your own words?

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**12/11 Matthew 5:9**

How do we, as peacemakers, cultivate peace in our daily lives and interactions? Give at least one specific example.

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# Spiced Tea

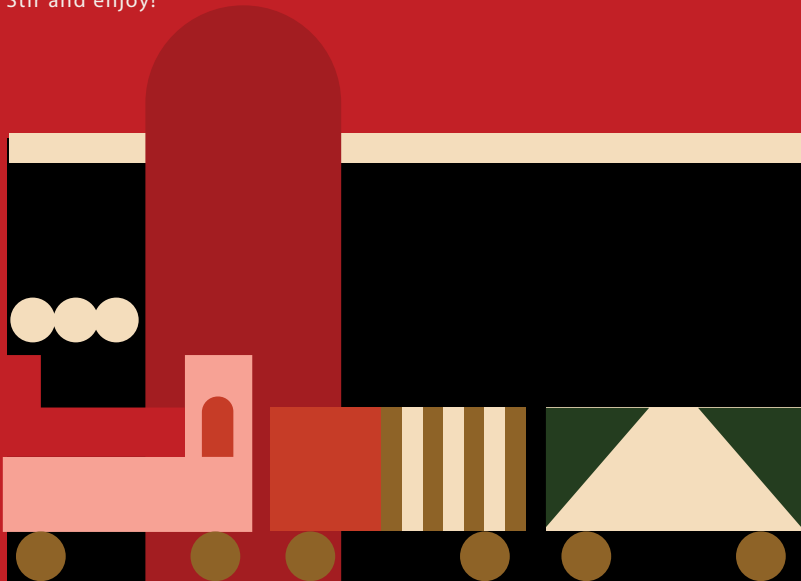
Submitted by Whitney Wiseman, her Great-Grandmother's recipe  
Lake Hills Church member for 13 years

## INGREDIENTS:

1 cup instant lemon tea  
1 cup Tang  
½ cup sugar or Splenda  
½ tsp cinnamon  
¼ tsp ground cloves

## PREPARATION:

Mix dry ingredients together.  
Add approximately 1 tbs (or to taste) to 1 cup of boiling water.  
Stir and enjoy!



WEEK TWO

# PEACE

12/12 John 14:25-27

How do you think the peace Jesus brings is different from the peace the world offers?

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12/13 Romans 5:1-5

What are some of the benefits Christ-followers gain as a result of being justified by faith?

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12/14 Revelation 21:3-4

What do you think it will be like to live without fear or suffering?  
What do you think it will be like to live in the direct presence of God?

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# HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2. Christ, by high - est Heav'n a - dored; Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3. Hail the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!  
4. Come, De - sire of na - tions, come, Fix in us Thy hum - ble home;  
5. Ad - am's like - ness, Lord, ef - face, Stamp Thine im - age in its place;

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"  
Late in time, be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb,  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings,  
Rise, the wo - man's con - qu'ring Seed, Bruise in us the ser - pent's head,  
Se - cond Ad - am from a - bove, Re - in - state us in Thy love.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,  
Now dis - play Thy sav - ing po - wer, Ruin - ed na - ture now re - store;  
Let us Thee, though lost, re - gain, Thee, the Life, the in - ner man:

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus our Em - man - u - el,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them se - cond birth,  
Now in my - stic un - ion join Thine to ours, and ours to Thine,  
O, to all Thy - self im - part, Formed in each be - liev - ing heart.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

# Prayer of Peace

Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.



# JOY

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

Luke 2:10

WEEK THREE

# JOY

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people” (Luke 2:10).

This is the moment God’s people had been waiting for—the arrival of their Savior, the long-awaited Messiah. God’s people had spent generations waiting and hoping for God’s promise to be fulfilled. Can you imagine what they must have been feeling at this moment? Can you imagine the joy of finally seeing what you have hoped and longed for become a reality?

The Christmas season is a joyous time of year! It’s hard to be miserable when surrounded by twinkling lights and warm Christmas cookies! But no one is exempt from the difficulties of life; therefore, it is also important to remember that our joy is not seasonal or situational. Even in hard times, our joy comes from knowing God and experiencing God’s love in Christ. Our joy is a response to what God has done and continues to do in and for us. Our joy is rooted in gratitude and hope. We can delight in God’s word, in knowing the story of God. The joy of knowing Jesus gives us strength, even in times of trouble or temptation. Jesus came so that we might have life to the full (John 10:10), so this Christmas let us be filled with the joy of a life restored by the fullness of God’s love revealed in Christ.

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**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid.  
I bring you good news that will cause great joy  
for all the people.”**

Luke 2:10 (NIV)

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# Christmas Soup

Submitted by Deborah Meyer, Lake Hills Church member for 12 years

## INGREDIENTS:

1 jar, 28 oz Rao's marinara sauce (or your preference of sauce)  
14 oz. chicken bone broth or chicken stock  
1 14.5 oz can diced tomatoes  
1/4 onion diced  
1 zucchini diced  
1 squash diced  
Chopped spinach and /or chopped cabbage  
Salt, pepper, garlic, dried basil to taste  
1-1 1/2 lb cooked meat

## PREPARATION:

1. Simmer on stove until veggies are tender or pressure cook in instantpot for 10 minutes
2. Add cooked shredded chicken, cooked ground beef or cooked ground turkey
3. Thin with chicken or veggie broth (if needed)
4. Simmer for a while and serve!
5. Garnish with chopped fresh basil and parmesan cheese





WEEK THREE

# JOY

Prepare Him room. As you read this week, experience the joy of our Savior's arrival. Receive the joy of Christmas and rejoice that our God came to be with us, took on our sins, and restored our relationship with God.

**12/15 Deuteronomy 26:8-11**

What are some good things the Lord your God has given to you this year?

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## Family Activity

### Love Thy Neighbor



Share "good news of great joy" with your friends, family, neighbors, or those in need! Brainstorm ways you can share the joy of Christmas with others and pick one idea you can do together. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Sing Christmas carols around your neighborhood or at an assisted living center.
- Bake cookies and drop them off on a neighbor's porch.
- Donate blankets, coats, or warm clothes to Mobile Loaves & Fishes at Lake Hills Church or a local shelter.
- Invite friends over to share a meal, talk about Christmas memories and about the good news of Christmas!
- Whom can you invite to celebrate the joy of Christmas this year? Pray for that person and make a plan to invite them to a Believe Christmas service at Lake Hills Church.





# JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth re - ceive her King.  
Joy to the earth! The Sav - iour reigns. Let men their songs em - ploy  
He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the na - tions prove

Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room, and  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains re -  
the glo - ries of His right - eous - ness and

heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
won - ders of His love, and won - ders of His

and heav'n and na - ture sing and  
re - peat the sound - ing joy re -  
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sing, and hea - ven and hea - ven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heav'n and na - ture sing  
peat the sound - ing joy  
won - ders of His love.

WEEK THREE

# JOY

**12/16 Nehemiah 8:9-10**

What are some of your favorite ways to celebrate? How can you joyfully celebrate the goodness of God while serving others?

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**12/17 Psalm 96:11-13**

How can your joy point others to the Lord?

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**12/18 Luke 1:39-45**

Elizabeth's son, John, was the one who would prepare the way for Jesus. According to verse 44, why does John leap in Elizabeth's womb? How was he already doing his job of helping people get ready for the Messiah?

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**MAGNIFICAT ON SILK**  
Frank Wesley, 1923-2002  
**Luke 1:46-55**

WEEK THREE

# JOY

12/19 Luke 1:46-55

How does Mary express joy in her response?

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12/20 John 16:17-24

What is Jesus referring to in these verses? How was the world's joy different from the disciples' joy?

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# LOVE

This is how we know what love is:  
Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.  
And we ought to lay down our lives  
for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:16

## WEEK FOUR

# LOVE

As Christmas quickly approaches, we reflect on God's great love for us, a love that knows no bounds. 1 John tells us that God is the source of love. In Jesus, God personifies love, and that very love redeems our brokenness and restores our relationship with God (1 John 4:7-12). Considering God's great love for us during Advent helps us understand the significance of the first Christmas and the arrival of our Savior. God's love came down to us in the form of a baby who would save us through the gift of His life because of His love.

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**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.**

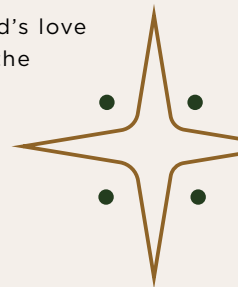
1 John 3:16 (NIV)

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As we look back at that first Christmas, we see how God's love was personified, promises were fulfilled, and how the Kingdom of God began to unfold. But what do we do while we wait for Christ's return and the fullness of the Kingdom of God to be manifested? We take our cues from Jesus, who instructed us to love God and love our neighbor (Matthew 22:37-39). As we celebrate this season, let us love God and others in the same way that God loves us: in action.

Prepare Him room. As you read this week, reflect on God's love and the gift of a Savior. Receive the love of Christmas: the fullness of God, wrapped in flesh and laid in a manger.



# Cornbread Dressing

Gluten Free

Submitted by Gina Reese, Lake Hills Church member for 21 years

## INGREDIENTS:

4-6 cups crumbled gluten free cornbread\*

8 slices crumbled day old gluten free bread\*\*

4 eggs

1 cup chopped celery

1 med chopped onion

1 1/2 tablespoons poultry seasoning

1/2 teaspoon black pepper

2 -11 oz boxes condensed cream of chicken soup\*\*\* (recipe calls for 21 oz so I leave a little in one box)

21 oz chicken or turkey broth (I add last and use just enough to moisten the mix well depending on the amount of bread used)

2 tablespoons butter

Salt

## PREPARATION:

1. Lay your breads out on the counter the day before you prepare your dressing so that it will dry out.
2. Crumble the breads.
3. Add all other ingredients except butter. Salt to taste.
4. Pour into (a) oil sprayed crock pot (cover and cook on high for at least 2 hours or low at least 4 hours) OR (b) 9x13 baking pan (bake at 350 for 45 min-1 hr)
5. Dot with butter before cooking!

\*I make my own cornbread using the recipe on cornmeal container using a Cup for Cup gluten free flour. You can also use a box of gluten free cornbread mix.

\*\*I use a combination of types of gluten free sandwich bread and hamburger buns and like to use the crusts at a higher ratio than the middle.

\*\*\*HEB Organics makes a gluten free cream of chicken condensed soup in a small yellow carton. Or Pacific Foods makes the same size box condensed soup.





WEEK FOUR

# LOVE

**12/21 Isaiah 7:14**

Immanuel means “God is with us.” When was a time that you knew God was with you?

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**12/22 1 John 4:7-12**

When was a time in your life when you felt loved by God?

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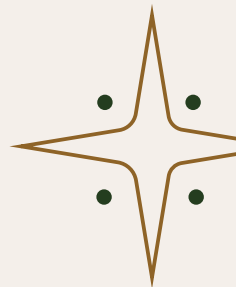
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# Apple Crisp Pie

Submitted by DeAnn Wilson, Lake Hills Church member for 21 years

## INGREDIENTS FOR PIE FILLING:

1 pie crust  
½ cup sugar  
3 tbs all-purpose flour  
1 tsp ground cinnamon  
1/8 tsp salt  
6 cups thinly sliced peeled Granny Smith apples

## PREPARATION:

Stir in sugar, flour, cinnamon and salt. Add slices of apples and gently toss where all are coated. Pour into pie shell. Sprinkle crumb topping over apple mixture. Place pie on cookie sheet. Cover edge of crust with tin foil. Place in oven and bake for 25 minutes @ 375. Remove foil and bake another 25-30 minutes. While hot, sprinkle pecans over pie and then drizzle caramel over top.

## INGREDIENTS FOR CRUMB TOPPING:

1/2 cup chopped pecans  
¼ cup caramel topping  
1 cup packed brown sugar  
½ cup all purpose flour  
½ cup quick cooking rolled oats  
½ cup butter

Stir together brown sugar, flour and rolled oats. Take butter (straight out of fridge) and cut into little squares and mix with hands the brown sugar, flour and rolled oats.



WEEK FOUR

# LOVE

**12/23 Matthew 22:37-39**

How do you express your love to God?

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**12/24 1 Corinthians 13:1-7**

What are a few specific and tangible ways you can love others?

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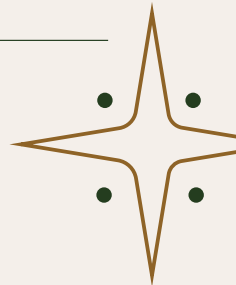
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## NATIVITY

Stained Glass, composition by J. Le Breton, 1933

Luke 2:1-20

WEEK FOUR

# LOVE

12/25 Luke 2:1-20

How does it make you feel that in God's great love for us God sent Jesus to us? Is there anyone that comes to mind that needs to hear the great message of Christmas and know the love of God?

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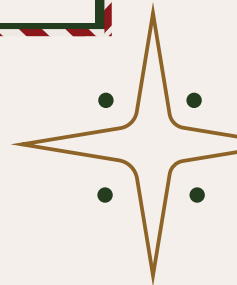


## Family Activity Christmas Charades



Activity submitted by Patsy Cadwell, Lake Hills Church member for 14 years

Play charades with the story of Christmas and Christmas characters by selecting a character or scene. Choose a player to start. The player thinks of a scene or a person from the Christmas story that the others should be familiar with. The player then acts out the word or phrase they've chosen in front of the other players. The first person to guess the word or phrase gets a point. Use costumes and props, or work in teams for added fun!



MY PRAYER FOR

# 2023

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