

What Do You Do in Advent?

These are the ideas generated at our intergenerational conversation on Sunday, November 26. Highlighted text will take you to a link for more information. Some ideas are attributed to certain people, others were the result of larger discussion.

Christmas Tree – Wait until Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to put up the tree and leave it up through Epiphany. This marks Christmas separate from Advent (Jennifer W)

[Jesse Tree](#) – Throughout Advent you add a new ornament each day to follow the history of Jesus' ancestral line. (Jennifer W)

Sappy Hallmark Movies

Creche – Set it up so that Mary and Joseph (and perhaps others) start far away from the manger and move closer each day.

Creche - Have a creche scene that kids can play with and encourage them to act out the story.

Light – Jesus is the Light of the World. Use candles and other special lights throughout Advent. (Ann J.)

Experience Other Cultural Traditions – Hmong New Year (Holy Apostles in St. Paul), Hannukah, Kwanzaa, etc.

Special Services – Lessons and Carols (Dec 17 at St. Christopher's), Blue Christmas, etc.

Theater/Arts – Attend a special performance like A Christmas Carol ([Guthrie](#), [Ashland Productions](#)), It's a Wonderful Life ([St. Paul Hotel](#)), Nutcracker ([Orpheum](#), [Fitzgerald](#), [O'Shaughnessy](#), [Ames Center](#), [State Theater](#)), etc.

Light Shows – Experience light shows like [Bentleyville](#) in Duluth, [Sam's Christmas Village](#) in Somerset, WI, [GLOW](#) in St. Paul, or just drive around and enjoy the holiday lights.

Caroling

Greening of the Church – December 23 at 1PM at St. Christopher's (Christopher H)

Collections – Santas, Nutcrackers, etc (Erin B)

Christmas Markets – [European Christmas Market](#), St. Paul; [Minnesota Christmas Markets](#), pop ups in several locations; You can find others [here](#).

Baking – learn how to make something that is a family tradition (Kattelmans)

2 Christmas Trees – one for the family and one for the kids with their own ornaments – gifts or handmade (Bowmans)

[St. Nicholas](#) on December 6th.

12 Days of Christmas – Spread presents out by opening 1 gift each day from Christmas to Epiphany. (Jennifer W)

Contemplative Time – Set aside time or attend a special service that makes space for difficult emotions – loss, world affairs, etc. (Becky L)

Little Drummer Boy Challenge – Do this with friends – see who can go the longest without hearing The Little Drummer Boy. Could work with any song. (Jennifer W)

Christmas Cards – At dinner, or another specific time, go through the Christmas cards that were received that day and talk about the people who sent them. Then include those people in your prayers that day. (Lawyers)

Decorating – Helping family members decorate for the holidays. This can get overwhelming for older relatives.

Advent Calendars – Becky L used to gift a new Lego piece each day that could be added to create a scene. Lego has caught on and now offers a Lego Calendar Set. One of the churches in the Diocese of Arkansas has created [prayers](#) to go with the [Lego City Advent Calendar](#).

Advent Calendars – There are many Advent Calendars in the resource document at the end of this list.

Advent Conspiracy – Each day think about something that you can do to avoid the “buy everything” mentality that is so prevalent during this time of year. (Marilyn B)

Adopt a Family – Adopt a family with similar age demographics to yours and engage everyone in buying items for that family.

Heifer Project – Decide on a dollar amount and then let the family look through the [catalog](#) and decide how to spend it.

[Website Resources](#) – The St. Christopher’s website has many Advent Resources. Most of the ones that were available at our discussion on November 26 are available for download there.