



LIFE THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN
Devotions for Real Life

Advent Paper Chain 2023

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Tuesday, December 5

Do you like to eat candy canes? You may have noticed that the cane looks a little like a shepherd's staff. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11 NIV). Did you know that the colors of the candy cane can also remind you of God's love for you? Jesus shed His blood (red) for us on the cross, He washed our sins (white) away in Holy Baptism, and through faith in Him we have new life (green).

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Sunday, December 10

Take a look at the nativity scene at church and see if you can spot a manger filled with hay. A manger is actually a feed box for animals. It was usually filled with hay. Since Jesus was born in a stable, there was no crib. This was the bed for baby Jesus on the night He was born. Here's why we sing "*Away In A Manger.*"

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Friday, December 15

As Christmas approaches we celebrate peace on earth. This is the peace which we have with God who sent His Son, Jesus, to take away our sins. In the Bible we hear, "Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1 NIV). We have this peace through faith, even in parts of the world where there is war. Let's all pray that God would bless and protect our soldiers and keep them safe.

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Wednesday, December 20

Watch the enjoyable animated TV special, "The City That Forgot About Christmas." Benji thinks the hustle and bustle of Christmas only makes people more grouchy, but Grandfather shares a story about a town which almost forgot what it's all about. You can watch it on our website at: www.LifeThisSideOfHeaven.org/classic-christmas-specials

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Christmas Day Monday, December 25

This morning we sing, "Rejoice, rejoice, this happy morn, A Savior unto us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glory! His lowly birth at Bethlehem the angels from on high proclaim and sing redemption's story! My soul, extol God's great favor, bless Him ever for salvation, give Him praise and adoration!" (LSB Hymn #391). God bless you as we praise the newborn King!

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