



LIFE THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN
Devotions for Real Life

Advent Paper Chain 2024

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Tuesday, December 3

Getting ready for Christmas is all about preparing and waiting. Mary, a young woman in Nazareth awaiting her marriage, was told that she would give birth to our Savior. The angel Gabriel told Mary, “You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus” (Luke 1:31 NIV). God’s people waited many centuries for the birth of our Savior. Now He has come!



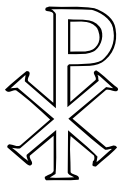
Sunday, December 8 (Second Sunday in Advent)

What a blessing it is to hear the Good News about Christmas recorded for us in God’s Word, the Bible. In Luke 2 you can read about Jesus’ birth. In Matthew, chapter one, you can hear about the angel’s message to Joseph. Be sure to take time out from the rush of the holiday season to hear the message of God’s love in His Word at home and together in worship. Take a look around the church today and see if you can spot any pictures of angels.



Friday, December 13

The practice of caroling, or singing songs in preparation for Christmas, has a long history. Many of our churches use the opportunity to reach out and bring joyful music to the older, shut-in members who are no longer physically able to come out to church for worship. Your Mom and Dad can find out more about Christmas carols at www.LifeThisSideOfHeaven.org/free-topical-booklets Our featured LHM booklet this month is “Glad Tidings” and it describes the heritage of ten classic carols.



Wednesday, December 18

Take a look today at all of the special decorations that adorn the Christmas tree at church. You may have some that are called *Chrismons*. Each hand-made ornament is based on a symbol taken from the Bible. For example, the symbol to the left is called a “chi-rho” (pronounced “k-eye-row”) It’s made from the first two letters of the Greek word *Christ*: **Χριστός**



Monday, December 23

The shepherds outside of Bethlehem were the first to hear the Good News of Jesus' birth. They went and saw the baby Jesus in the stable and they worshipped Him. And then we hear, “When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them” (Luke 2:17-18 NIV). You can tell others about Jesus, too. Print out a free Christmas card from our site at www.LifeThisSideOfHeaven.org/christmas-cards

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