

Advent Begins December 2

The earliest references to Advent began to appear about 300 years after the birth of Jesus. In 490, the Bishop of Tours called for Christians to observe a time of preparation from St. Martin's Day (November 11) to Epiphany (January 6).

The word "Advent" means "coming" as we prepare for the coming of Christ. This is a two fold preparation: we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior and we live in preparation for Christ's return.

The Advent Wreath may have been invented by a Lutheran pastor, using a wagon wheel with 20 red candles and four (4) white candles. Chrismons—ornaments made from Christian symbols were first used in 1957 on the Christmas tree at Ascension Lutheran Church, Danville, VA. They were designed by Mrs. Frances Spencer, a member of the congregation.

If we're not careful we can be overcome with busyness in Advent and arrive at Christmas exhausted. So enjoy the days of Advent, so that the presence of Christ can surround you.

*Your Interim in Christ,
Pastor Newell Embley*