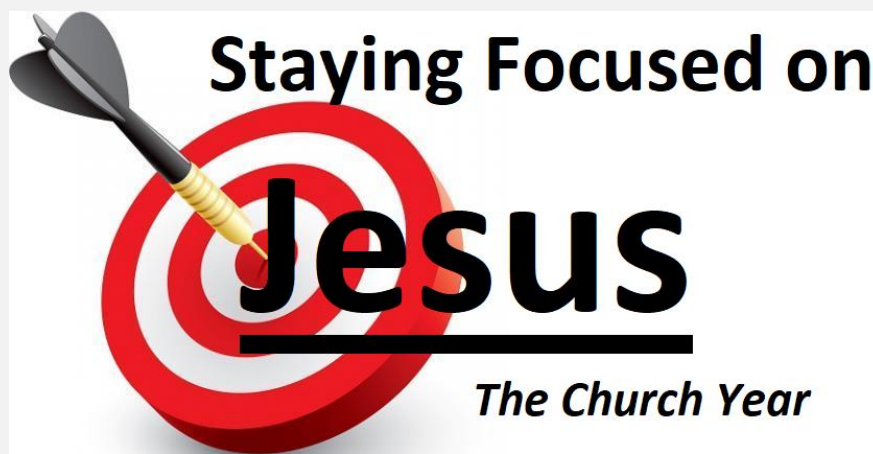


First Sunday in Advent – 2022

Saturday, 11/26 at 4:00 & Sunday, 11/27 at 9:00



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Text: Selections from the NAS 1995

Advent Wednesdays: Services at 11 & 7; Free Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today we are thinking about years, times, and seasons, *and how they point to Jesus!*

- We understand the calendar year: *January – December.*
- We understand our four weather-related seasons: *winter, spring, summer, and fall.*

Today, *on this first day of the church year*, we will take a simple look at the church year. As we move through this topic, notice how ***following the church year*** is a good way to keep us ***focused on Jesus!***

The Church Year: It's a 12-month period, *but it does NOT follow the calendar year.* To determine the beginning, find 12/25 on the calendar, then count backwards four Sundays. For 2022, those Sundays are 12/18, 12/11, 12/4, and 11/27 – *which is today.*

The Three Times: The times point to the three MAJOR themes in the church year:

1. The time of Christmas: It includes the first three seasons:
 - a. We **prepare** for Jesus' coming.
 - b. We **celebrate** Jesus' birth.
 - c. We **discover** who Jesus is.
2. The time of Easter: The next two seasons:
 - a. We **focus** on Jesus' saving work.
 - b. We **celebrate** Jesus' resurrection.
3. The time of the Church: The final season:
 - a. We **live** Christ-centered lives.

The Six Seasons: Fill in the blanks:

The Time of Christmas:

1. Advent: **Matthew 1:21** "**She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.**"
 - a. **Color:** _____
 - b. **Theme:** *Jesus is* _____!
 - c. **Statement:** *We get ready to celebrate His first coming and remain ever ready for His second coming!*
2. Christmas: **Luke 2:7** **...she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**

- a. **Color:** _____
 - b. **Theme:** *Jesus is _____!*
 - c. **Statement:** *We rejoice in Jesus who was long-ago promised, Holy Spirit conceived, and Virgin born!*
3. **Epiphany:** **Matthew 2:11** After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and **they fell to the ground and worshiped Him**. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- a. **Color:** _____/ _____
 - b. **Theme:** *Jesus is _____!*
 - c. **Statement:** *Through Jesus' miraculous birth, Magi visit, teaching with authority, miracles, and transfiguration, we know He is the promised Savior of the world!*

The Time of Easter:

4. **Lent:** **John 19:30** ...when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "**It is finished!**" And He bowed His head and **gave up His spirit**.
- a. **Color:** _____
 - b. **Theme:** *Jesus died for our _____!*
 - c. **Statement:** *Now that we know who Jesus is, He completes His mission by being arrested, beaten, and crucified, bearing our sins and our punishment, shedding His precious blood, and laying down His life!*

5. **Easter: Matthew 28:6** “He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said.”
- Color:** _____
 - Theme:** *Jesus is* _____!
 - Statement:** *God the Father raised Jesus from the dead to confirm His teachings, the completion of His saving work, and the certainty of our own resurrection!*

The Time of the Church:

6. **Pentecost / Trinity: 2 Corinthians 5:15** ...He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.
- Color:** _____
 - Theme:** *Through Jesus we* _____!
 - Statement:** *Since Jesus lived and died to save us, we now live for Him!*



The Time of Christmas:

- Advent:** We **prepare** for Jesus' coming.
- Christmas:** We **celebrate** Jesus' birth.
- Epiphany:** We **discover** who Jesus is.

The Time of Easter:

- Lent:** We **focus** on Jesus' saving work.
- Easter:** We **celebrate** Jesus' resurrection.

The Time of the Church:

- Pentecost/Trinity:** We **live** Christ-centered lives.

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Challenge: Receive and use a church year bookmark to help you **remember the church year** and **stay focused on Jesus!**

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, *we thank You for the gift of the church year! Use it in our lives to keep us focused on Jesus!*

Answers: blue, coming; white, born; green/white, God; purple, sins; white, risen; green, live

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