

## Celebrating the First Week of Advent With Your Children

Most of our local churches celebrated the first week of Advent this past Sunday. By lighting candles and reading Bible verses, we are reminded about the meaning of Christ's birth and become more excited about his coming in the past, in the future, and in our own lives. Advent is a word that means "coming" or "visit". In the Christian season of Advent, we prepare for the "advent" of Christ at Christmas. Our preparation includes many things: we remember Israel's hope for the coming of God's Messiah to save, to forgive, and to restore; we remember our hope for the second coming of Jesus; we remember our need for a Savior to save us from our sins; and we prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas into our world . . . and into our hearts. By lighting one candle each week of Advent, we help ourselves get ready for the birth of Jesus. The candles have different meanings, each based upon the Bible. These meanings help us understand how special the birth of Jesus is for us.

This week we focus on the coming of Christ as our Shepherd. The following Scripture readings focus on the Shepherd. Parents, you may wish to abbreviate or eliminate certain readings depending on the age(s) of your child(ren). You may also want to read these selections out of a Children's Bible. (1) Psalm 80:1-7, In this Psalm, we join the people of Israel as they invite God their Shepherd to save and to restore them. (2) Isaiah 40:1-11, This passage looks ahead to the coming of the Lord, who will care for his people like a shepherd. (3) Revelation 7:9-17, Like God's people before the coming of Christ, we also look ahead to the time when Christ, who is both the Lamb and our Shepherd, will finish his work and "God will wipe away every tear" from our eyes. Take some time to reflect on the Advent season with your child(ren) by reading these verses and talking about the meaning of Advent. (Advent Devotional Guide, Mark D. Roberts)

Kerry



**Hot Lunch:** This week Wednesday, November 30, will be chicken nuggets.

**CSC:** Ripon Christian School Circle invites you to attend their December 2 meeting, at Almond Valley CRC's fellowship hall. Coffee and refreshment time will begin at 8:20 to be followed by a brief business meeting. Nursery is provided. Don't forget about the TRIP drawing for those attending the meeting. Decisions will be made in allocating the fall funds raised.



**Yard Duty:** Mrs. Segaar will be making up a new yard duty schedule for the next semester. If you would like your name either added or deleted from the schedule please let her know.



**The Ripon Christian Boosters Club** is selling spiral cut hams for \$30. An order form was sent home today with your elementary student.

**Ripon Christian Fall Fund Drive:** Ripon Christian's annual fall drive is underway. If you have already sent your gift, we thank you. If not, would you please consider a gift to the school? The money raised on this drive will help with the continuing efforts to keep tuition costs down and hopefully allow us to start construction on the new middle school library/classroom building. As always, we thank you for your continued support of Ripon Christian.

## Welcome Back!

The staff at Ripon Christian hopes that you had a restful Thanksgiving holiday. Christmas vacation and the end of the first semester is just a few weeks away, and we would appreciate your help in keeping your children focused on their schoolwork until the next round of holidays arrive.

**TRIP:** Christmas is rapidly approaching so please consider buying TRIP for your Christmas purchases.



### Yard Duty Volunteers

**Tues.** – R. Alger, B. Spicer  
**Wed.** – F. Larson, B. Harrewyn, J. Dingman  
**Thurs.** – T. O'Connor, T. Van Vliet, J. Estrella  
**Fri.** – R. Nelson, L. Hicks, A. Henderson  
**Mon.** – G. Ruther, R. Booth, B. Salie, J. Zuidervaart



### Middle School Sports

12/1 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> gr. girls' BB @ home – 3:30 p.m.  
11/28 6<sup>th</sup> gr. girls' BB @ CVCA – 3:45 p.m.



### December Calendar

12/13 H.S. Christmas Concert  
- 7:00 p.m. – PAC  
12/15 5-8 Christmas Concert  
- 7:00 p.m. – PAC  
12/21 K-12 Noon dismissal  
12/22 – 1/4 – Christmas Break