

Keeping Advent at Home

Keep the tradition of lighting the Advent wreath candles in your home this year.

The Advent wreath began as a German Lutheran tradition but is now kept by Christians across the globe. It is a way of marking the four weeks of Advent, the season leading up to the birth of Christ. What do the parts of the Advent wreath represent?

Wreath: An unending circle, like the love of God for us.

Color Green: Representing eternal life.

Candles: One for each week in Advent, representing the light of God that will break into the world through the birth of Jesus. Usually the candles are purple or blue, the main colors of the season, and sometimes with one pink candle to honor Mary. A white candle is placed in the center of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve to represent Jesus, the light of the world, being born.



Make a Wreath

If you have older children and youth, use a metal or grapevine wreath form, greenery and five candles as described above. Insert the greenery into the form along with any other decorations you wish to add. Space the four candles evenly around the wreath and secure. Place a white candle in the middle of the wreath.

For younger children, make a simple, kid-friendly version using green, pink, and purple construction paper, a paper plate, and yellow or orange tissue paper. Have all family members trace both hands on green construction paper. Cut out and glue them overlapping on a paper plate or other solid surface. Cover cardboard tubes with purple and pink paper to create candles. Tape the candles to your handprint wreath. “Light” the candles by making flames of yellow or orange tissue paper and placing the flames inside the tops of the tubes.



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