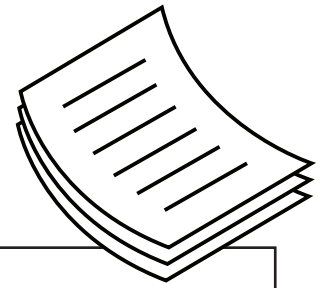


Family Letter



Dear Families,

Welcome to the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany! We are looking forward to exploring these seasons and their scripture readings together with the children. We recognize that this is probably a very busy time for your family, but we hope that you and your children will be able to take some time to experience the religious significance of these seasons. In order to help you, we have provided two resources, "[Advent at Home](#)" and "[The Twelve Days of Christmas](#)." We encourage you to choose some of these activities to share the spirit of Christmas with family and friends.

During Advent the group will be exploring readings from the prophet Isaiah and the Psalms, and the story of Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel in the first chapter of Luke. These readings will help us reflect on the themes of longing, comfort, and hope.

During the weeks of the Season after the Epiphany (referred to as "ordinary time" in the church year) most of the focus scripture readings come from the gospel of Mark. Children will have an opportunity to explore stories of Jesus' baptism, the call of the fishers, and the beginning of his ministry. The stories of healing and teaching will help children learn more about who Jesus is and discover the ways in which they too are called to share God's light and love in the world.

On February 14, the last Sunday of the season, we celebrate the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. Children will have a chance to ponder the mystery and wonder of this story and reflect on their own experiences of God's presence in those "thin places," where the dividing line between the holy and the ordinary is very thin.

During these seasons we will be praying for each child in our group, and we ask that your family also include us in your prayers. You are welcome to visit our meeting area any time. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions about the church school program, please feel free to contact us. We are always happy to hear what is working well and what could be changed.

Sincerely,

Suggested resources: The *Family Story Bible* and *Family Story Bible Colouring Book*, illustrated by Margaret Kyle, or *The Lectionary Story Bible, Year B*. For older children, *Read, Wonder, Listen: Stories from the Bible for Young Readers*. Both are available from the publisher of *Seasons of the Spirit* at www.woodlakebooks.com.

