

## ADVENT CONSPIRACY

During Advent 2020, our YouTube daily devotions will lead us through resources from THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY. Advent Conspiracy is a movement which started back in 2006. Since that time, thousands of churches have joined together to re-examine what it means to prepare our hearts and lives for Christ. Advent Conspiracy uses four themes that will help us reclaim the true meaning of Advent as a preparation for the coming of Christ.

The four themes are: WORSHIP FULLY • SPEND LESS • GIVE MORE • LOVE ALL

During Advent, we are reminded that it all begins with WORSHIP.  
Upon hearing of Jesus' birth, the shepherds came to worship the newborn King.  
Upon hearing of Jesus' birth, the Magi came to worship the newborn King.  
Our proper response to Christ's coming is praise and thanksgiving.  
Our life together as a congregation is centered in worship.

In worship, we hear the good news of God's love.  
In worship, we receive Jesus' presence.  
In worship, we are taught how to live as God's people.  
In worship, we are equipped to live for God in our daily lives.

Too often we get swept up in the busyness of the season. We give in to the pressures of our culture and to the temptations of consumerism. But we have a choice. We can take back our Advent and choose how we will spend our effort and time.

I encourage you to think about how you will structure your Advent.  
How will you spend your time?  
How will you spend your money?  
When you are planning your gift-giving this year:  
Consider buying fair trade gifts that support entrepreneurs in developing countries.  
Consider how to give more, without buying more.  
Consider giving "experiential gifts" that offer the gift of time  
Consider giving hand-made gifts that offer the gift of your own creativity and talent.  
Consider giving a monetary donation to Lutheran Disaster Relief or Lutheran World Relief in your loved one's name.

**I invite you to join me on our YouTube channel for Advent Conspiracy daily devotions beginning Monday, November 30th.**

Let us worship with our whole hearts, and souls, and minds. Let us take in the enormity of the Christmas miracle, Of Emmanuel, God with us.

Let us pray:

Gracious and Loving God, we realize that this Advent and Christmas season may look and feel different from those of the past. We know that the pandemic will limit our ability to travel and gather with family and friends. Sustain us in this approaching season by reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. Fill our hearts and homes with your love and light. Help us to find creative ways to connect with those we love. Help us to remember the poor and those who have no family. Bless them and bless us as we reach out in compassion and love. Fill us with the Light of the coming Christ. Amen

Pastor Sharon