

PASTORAL DESK DIARY

2026

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. (Genesis 1:14–15)

For everything
there is a season,
and a time for
every matter
under heaven.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

From the first days of creation, the Creator has given us tools to measure days, years, and even seasons. Though throughout history we have changed the way in which we mark the passing of time, the reason for doing so remains the same. No story is complete without understanding the order of events. You cannot have a story without order and time. And so for centuries, the church has used a rhythm of seasons and festivals to teach the story of Christ and order her days.

Welcome to the *2026 Pastoral Desk Diary*. This desk diary celebrates the Church Year. It features planning pages not only for Sundays but also for common festival days, the midweek services of Advent and Lent, and the principal feast days. Sanctoral dates are noted throughout; the *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)* three-year, one-year, and daily lectionaries are included. Seasonal overviews are provided at specific junctures of the Church Year to provide background and thought on how the season may influence worship as well as family and personal devotions. Civil holidays and observances are noted, and dot-matrix note pages are provided to serve as guides and encouragement for you to add personalized lists, planning, notations, and even sketches.



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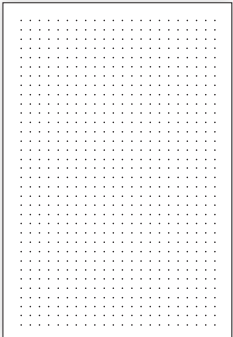
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IMPORTANT DATES IN 2026

January 1	Circumcision and Name of Jesus	June 19	Juneteenth National Independence Day
	New Year's Day		
January 6	Epiphany	June 21	Father's Day
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	June 21	Summer Begins
January 22	National Sanctity of Human Life Day	July 1	Canada Day
February 8	Super Bowl	July 4	Independence Day
February 14	Valentine's Day	September 7	Labor Day
February 16	Washington's Birthday	September 11	Patriot Day
February 18	Ash Wednesday	September 13	Grandparents Day
March 8	Daylight Saving Time Begins	September 22	Fall Begins
March 17	St. Patrick's Day	October 12	Columbus Day
March 20	Spring Begins		Thanksgiving Day (Canada)
March 29	Palm Sunday	October 17	Sweetest Day
April 1	Passover Begins	October 31	Reformation Day
April 2	Holy (Maundy) Thursday		Halloween
April 3	Good Friday	November 1	All Saints' Day
April 5	Easter		Daylight Saving Time Ends
April 15	Tax Day	November 3	Election Day
April 22	Administrative Professionals Day	November 11	Veterans Day
May 7	National Day of Prayer	November 26	Thanksgiving Day
May 10	Mother's Day	November 29	Advent Begins
May 14	Ascension Day	December 4	Hanukkah Begins
May 16	Armed Forces Day	December 21	Winter Begins
May 18	Victoria Day (Canada)	December 24	Christmas Eve
May 24	Pentecost	December 25	Christmas Day
May 25	Memorial Day	December 26	Boxing Day (Canada)
June 14	Flag Day	December 31	New Year's Eve

YEAR	ASH WEDNESDAY	EASTER	ADVENT BEGINS
2026	February 18	April 5	November 29
2027	February 10	March 28	November 28
2028	March 1	April 16	December 3
2029	February 14	April 1	December 2
2030	March 6	April 21	December 1
2031	February 26	April 13	November 30
2032	February 11	March 28	November 28
2033	March 2	April 17	November 27
2034	February 22	April 9	December 3
2035	February 7	March 25	December 2

2026 DESK DIARY INDEX



Dot-matrix pages

Dot-matrix pages are located throughout this desk diary. Use them to keep notes about projects, make lists, organize your thoughts, record goals, and capture the next great idea. On these index pages, jot titles or key words next to the blank page numbers to keep track of the locations of your notes so you can easily find them later.

3	Important Dates in 2026
6	At-a-Glance Calendars 2026–2029
10	December 2025 Monthly Planner
14	Luther’s Sacristy Prayer
18	
22	
30	
34	January 2026 Monthly Planner
42	
50	February 2026 Monthly Planner
54	
62	
66	March 2026 Monthly Planner
68	
72	
76	
80	
84	
88	
94	April 2026 Monthly Planner
110	May 2026 Monthly Planner
118	

2026 DESK DIARY INDEX

126

128 June 2026 Monthly Planner

138

140 July 2026 Monthly Planner

144

154 August 2026 Monthly Planner

164 September 2026 Monthly Planner

176 October 2026 Monthly Planner

178

188 November 2026 Monthly Planner

202

204 December 2026 Monthly Planner

208

212

216

228 2027 Advance Appointments

240 2026 Record of Pastoral Calls

246 2026 Record of Official Pastoral Acts

248 Addresses and Telephone Numbers

250

251

252

253

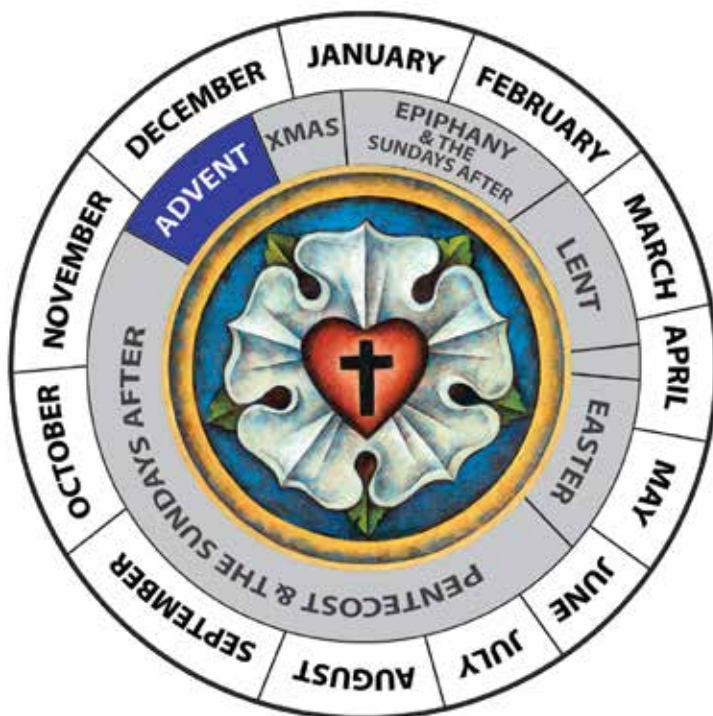
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255

256

THE TIME OF CHRISTMAS ADVENT

*Begins on the fourth Sunday before December 25,
or the Sunday closest to the Festival of St. Andrew (November 30),
and ends with midday prayer on December 24.*



The Savior's birth is second in importance only to His resurrection on Easter Sunday. During the Time of Christmas, Christians reflect on God's great and gracious gift of Himself.

The Church Year begins with Advent (from Latin *adventus*, which means "coming into"), a four-week period of preparation before Christmas. The story of Jesus during Advent is the story of hope coming into the world. When the time was just right, God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. The Advent season teaches us to prepare to receive Jesus, the hope of the world.

In Advent, we wait for our coming King.

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 11:1–2
Luke 1:26–38, 46–55

Micah 5:2

Matthew 1:18–25

ADVENT PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS

- ◆ The color for Advent is blue, which symbolizes anticipation and hope in our coming King. Violet can also be used during Advent as a symbol of our repentance in preparation for our coming King.
- ◆ We do not sing the Gloria in Excelsis in the Divine Service during Advent. This is the angels' song at Christmas, so during Advent, we pass over this traditional Hymn of Praise in silent anticipation.
- ◆ It has become common to use an Advent wreath to mark the season. This wreath has four candles—one for each week in Advent. As these candles are lit each week, our anticipation mounts as we look forward to Jesus' coming.
- ◆ We gather for midweek services. These services heighten our awareness of and anticipation for the celebration of Christ's coming in the flesh.

NOTES FOR ADVENT

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. The overall appearance is that of a clean, unused piece of stationery.

DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
30	1	2
7 Second Sunday in Advent (<i>Populus Zion</i>) Second Sunday in Advent <i>Ambrose of Milan, Pastor and Hymnwriter</i>	8	9
14 Third Sunday in Advent (<i>Gaudete</i>) Third Sunday in Advent Hanukkah Begins	15	16
21 Fourth Sunday in Advent (<i>Rorate Coeli</i>) Fourth Sunday in Advent St. Thomas, Apostle Winter Begins	22	23
28 First Sunday after Christmas (W) The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	29 <i>David</i>	30

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																		
3 Midweek of Advent 1	4 John of Damascus, Theologian and Hymnwriter	5	6 Nicholas of Myra, Pastor																																																																																																		
10 Midweek of Advent 2	11	12	13 Lucia, Martyr																																																																																																		
17 Midweek of Advent 3 Daniel the Prophet and the Three Young Men	18	19 Adam and Eve	20 Katharina von Bora Luther																																																																																																		
24 The Nativity of Our Lord— Christmas Eve (W) Christmas Eve	25 The Nativity of Our Lord— Christmas Day (W) Christmas Day	26 St. Stephen, Martyr Boxing Day (Canada)	27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist (W)																																																																																																		
31 New Year's Eve (W) New Year's Eve	1	NOVEMBER <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> JANUARY <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2 3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
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DECEMBER 2025

Monday 1

Isaiah 7:10–8:8
1 Peter 3:1–22

Tuesday 2

Isaiah 8:9–9:7
1 Peter 4:1–19

Wednesday 3

Midweek of Advent 1

Isaiah 9:8–10:11
1 Peter 5:1–14

Thursday 4

John of Damascus, Theologian and Hymnwriter

Isaiah 10:12–27a, 33–34
2 Peter 1:1–21

Friday 5

Isaiah 11:1–12:6
2 Peter 2:1–22

Saturday 6

Nicholas of Myra, Pastor

Isaiah 14:1–23
2 Peter 3:1–18

SERMON TEXT:

Midweek of Advent 1

THEME:

HYMNS:

INTERCESSIONS:

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

OFFERING \$

LUTHER'S SACRISTY PRAYER

O Lord God, dear Father in heaven, I am indeed unworthy of the office and ministry in which I am to make known Your glory and to nurture and to serve this congregation.

But since You have appointed me to be a pastor and teacher, and the people are in need of the teaching and the instruction, be my helper and let Your holy angels attend to me.

Then if You are pleased to accomplish anything through me, to Your glory and not to mine or to the praise of men, grant me, out of Your pure grace and mercy, a right understanding of Your Word and that I may also diligently perform it.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, shepherd and bishop of our souls, send Your Holy Spirit that He may work with me to will and to do through Your divine strength according to Your good pleasure. Amen.

From *Lutheran Service Book: Pastoral Care Companion*
(St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2007), p. xviii

SERMON TEXT:

Ambrose of Milan, Pastor
and Hymnwriter

LCMS—1 YEAR
Second Sunday in Advent
(*Populus Zion*)

OT Malachi 4:1–6
PS Psalm 50:1–15
EP Romans 15:4–13
GO Luke 21:25–36

THEME:

LCMS—3 YEAR
Second Sunday in Advent

OT Isaiah 11:1–10
PS Psalm 72:1–7
EP Romans 15:4–13
GO Matthew 3:1–12

HYMNS:

WELS
Second Sunday in Advent
FR Isaiah 11:1–10
PS Psalm 130
SR Romans 15:4–13
GO Matthew 3:1–12

INTERCESSIONS:

ELCA/RCL
Second Sunday of Advent
FR Isaiah 11:1–10
PS Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19
SR Romans 15:4–13
GO Matthew 3:1–12

DAILY LECTIONARY
Isaiah 24:1–13
1 John 1:1–2:14

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

OFFERING \$

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE

OFFERING \$

Monday 8

Isaiah 24:14–25:12
Obadiah 1–21
1 John 2:15–29

Tuesday 9

Isaiah 26:1–19
1 John 3:1–24

Wednesday 10

Midweek of Advent 2

Isaiah 26:20–27:13
1 John 4:1–21

Thursday 11

Isaiah 28:14–29
1 John 5:1–21
2 John 1–13
3 John 1–15

Friday 12

Isaiah 29:1–14
Jude 1–25

Saturday 13

Lucia, Martyr

Isaiah 29:15–30:14
Revelation 1:1–20

SERMON TEXT:

Midweek of Advent 2

THEME:

HYMNS:

INTERCESSIONS:

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

OFFERING \$



SERMON TEXT:

THEME:

HYMNS:

INTERCESSIONS:

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hanukkah Begins

LCMS—1 YEAR

Third Sunday in Advent
(*Gaudete*)

OT Isaiah 40:1–8 (9–11)

PS Psalm 85

EP 1 Corinthians 4:1–5

GO Matthew 11:2–10 (11)

LCMS—3 YEAR

Third Sunday in Advent

OT Isaiah 35:1–10

PS Psalm 146

EP James 5:7–11

GO Matthew 11:2–15

WELS

Third Sunday in Advent

FR Isaiah 35:1–10

PS Psalm 146

SR James 5:7–11

GO Matthew 11:2–11

ELCA/RCL

Third Sunday of Advent

FR Isaiah 35:1–10

PS Psalm 146:5–10

or Luke 1:46b–55

SR James 5:7–10

GO Matthew 11:2–11

DAILY LECTIONARY

Isaiah 30:15–26

Revelation 2:1–29

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

OFFERING \$

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE

OFFERING \$