

## Questions and Answers about Faith at Advent Lutheran Church

Q: Is Advent a Protestant or Catholic church?

A: Advent is a Protestant church with a very positive relationship with the Roman Catholic Church. In Germany in the early 1500's, a monk named Martin Luther "protested" some of the practices and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Some of the congregations that joined in this protest came to be called the Lutherans. Most of the Christian churches today were born out of that time period and share many of Luther's thoughts. Yet over time, Lutherans and Catholics have healed that rift and share a strong friendship.

Q: Does Advent baptize babies?

A: Advent will baptize babies whose parents make a serious commitment to raise them in the church so that they can later make a personal decision of faith and to follow Jesus Christ. Advent also baptizes believing adults. We believe in only one baptism in a life time.

Q: What does Advent believe about Holy Communion?

A: While we don't believe that the bread and wine become the actual flesh and blood of Jesus, we also don't think it's just a reenactment of the last supper Jesus had with his disciples. We believe that through the Holy Spirit, Jesus really does come to us in this meal to bless us.

Q: What does Advent teach about the Bible?

A: Advent teaches that the Bible is the authority for our Christian faith and life. While there may be different interpretations of what the Bible says about certain issues, we do not accept teachings that clearly contradict it. We teach that everyone should read it and that the Holy Spirit will help us all understand it together.

Q: What does Advent teach about moral issues today?

A: Advent recognizes that although the Bible can be very helpful as a guide for many moral issues today, we may not all come to the same conclusions about them. There are many issues that we leave up to the individual believer to decide. It is the responsibility of all believers to seek to conduct themselves as they believe God would want them to. In our preaching and teaching ministry at Advent we offer guidance and support for our members as they seek God's will.

Q: Is Advent liberal or conservative?

A: Advent is liberal when it comes to sharing the love of Christ and conservative when it comes to keeping the faith even when it is not the popular thing to do. But as for alignment with political movements, Advent is careful to avoid partisan politics even as it often addresses very political issues.