

2009 Summer Camp Curriculum
All Saints Camp & Conference Center

“You Are Here”



(The Church Year in a Week!)

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Overview: A review of the structure of the liturgical year and its meaning in our lives.

Goal: To encourage and empower campers to live out their Christian faith as they live out the Christian year.

The Church Year: Framework for Christian Living (*from The Prayer Book Guide to Christian Education*): "We live by many calendars - social, seasonal, civil, personal. The rhythm of our experiences and commitments shapes each of us and provides a context in which we can search for meaning in our personal lives, in our relationships with God and others, in work and play, in joy and pain, in our very living and dying. The Church Year gives us as Christians this same opportunity. At every point the focus is upon what God has done in Christ for all people in all ages, including us in our own day. In remembering and celebrating our Christian heritage we are drawn into the salvation story, to encounter and ponder, to proclaim and show forth Jesus Christ, who is "the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

"Season by season, feast or ordinary day, the Church Year is like a bright jewel turning in the sunlight, whose facets reflect light and hold it for a time so that we may see more clearly within the unity the many splendors, joyful and contemplative, of what it means to share Christ's life on earth. Each repetition of season and feast holds the possibility of our seeing something new, a fresh surprise, which can illuminate our understanding and bring us to deeper faith and commitment. The Church Year gives us, as it has given Christian people throughout the ages, a way to live with Christ so that every year becomes The Year of Our Lord. So we mark our calendars *Anno Domini*, and with "those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored" we "pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day." (BCP page 386)"

(Ed. note: The image of little footprints on a map kept coming to mind, which led us to begin thinking of how feet might figure in to our theme ---- so we've borrowed some chapter titles from a favorite book of Pam's by Macrina Wiederkehr, Seasons of Your Heart, that were "feety" as sub-titles for each season.)

Sunday Evening - ADVENT - "Taking Off Your Shoes: The Season of Wonder"

The liturgical colors for this season are blue or purple.

"Advent" means "coming" in Latin. It is the first season of the Church Year. It has four Sundays; the first is the Sunday closest to St. Andrew's Day, November 30. The last day of Advent is always December 24.

A season of preparation - to prepare the way of the Lord.

A season of waiting/promise - The Jews were awaiting a Messiah.

A season of anticipation - The long expected Jesus was coming.

A season of Hope - Jesus was the hope of the world.

Characters of the Advent season are prophets, Zachariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, and Messengers (Angels)

Advent Symbols and Words are Promise, Prophet, Hope, Waiting, Preparation, Longing, Reconciliation, Light, candles, wreaths, evergreens

Scriptures: The Lord's Sign to the House of David - Isaiah 7:13-14

The Peaceable Kingdom - Isaiah 11:6-9

A light to the Gentiles - Isaiah 40:9-17

The Annunciation - Luke 1:26-56

Mary visited Elizabeth - Luke 1: 39-56

Joseph's Dream - Matthew 1:18-25

Activity suggestions:

-Introduce map of Church Year

-End introduction with the Christmas Eve service

-Students could put their shoes out in the foyer of their cabins before they go to bed, without being told why, so the counselors can fill them with goodies for "Christmas Morning"

Monday - CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY - "Standing on Tiptoe: The Season of Hope"

The liturgical color for Christmas is white for festival and joy.

The word Christmas comes from the old English "christmasse" or Christ's Mass. In the ancient calendars it was set close to the winter solstice when the sun returned light to the world. This season is twelve days long.

Characters for Christmas are shepherds, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus,

Symbols and words for Christmas are angels, candles, Chrismons, creches (manger scenes), sheep and shepherds, stars, St. Nicholas', Incarnation, Fulfillment, Nativity, Redeemer, Savior

Scriptures: Luke 2 -The birth and childhood of Jesus
The flight into Egypt - Matthew 2:1-15

The Epiphany or Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles is observed on January 6. The eve of the Feast of the Epiphany (Twelfth Night) marks the end of the Christmas Season. This season is variable in length. It depends on the date of Easter and may include as many as nine Sundays or as few as four. The liturgical color for Epiphany is white for the Feast of the Epiphany and the days up to and including the next Sunday, which is the Baptism of Our Lord. Green for the rest of the season, the color of the ongoing life of the Church.

The word Epiphany comes from a Greek word meaning "showing forth", "appearance", "manifestation", "revelation". Jesus is the manifestation of God.

Characters for Epiphany are John and the Wise men

Symbols and words for Epiphany are stars, gold, frankincense, myrrh, water, wine, baptism, calling, sign, light, ministry, magi

Scriptures: The Visit of the Magi - Matthew 2:1-3, 9-11
Presentation of Jesus in the Temple - Luke 2:22-39
The Baptism of Jesus - Mark 1:9-13
The Wedding in Cana - John 2:1-11
Calling of the Disciples - Mark 1:16-20; Luke 6:12-16, etc.

Activity suggestions:

- do the "no rehearsal Christmas Pageant" or the "Backwards Christmas Pageant"
- What is Christmas "Presence"?
- King's Cake!
- Baptism

Tuesday - LENT - "Traveling Dusty Roads: The Season of Prayer"

The liturgical color for Lent is purple. for penitence and royalty; or the Lenten Array: cream, tan, or white - unbleached, raw, plain, and austere, to reflect the mood of Lent (based on the sackcloth of Old Testament mourning). The word Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon "lencten" - the time of year when the days grow long. This season begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter (Holy Saturday), covering 40 day. Since every Sunday is a "little Easter" celebrating the Resurrection, Sunday remain as feast days, even during the solemn Lenten Season. Five Lenten Sundays are followed by the Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday, which begins Holy Week. Symbols and words for Lent are fasting, reflection, contemplation, ashes, pilgrimage, atonement, contrition, humility, reconciliation, penitence, cross

Scriptures: The Story of Creation and Fall - Genesis 2 & 3

God's Promise to Noah - Genesis 6-9

The Testing of Abraham - Genesis 11:1-19

The Story of Joseph - Genesis 30-50

The Temptations of Jesus - Matthew 4:1-11. Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13

Parable of the Prodigal Son - Luke 19:1-10

- Mardi Gras Breakfast - Pancakes!!
- Burying the Alleluia
- Ash Wednesday
- Lent for the rest of the Day
- Stations of the Cross
- pieces of real sackcloth

Wednesday - HOLY WEEK & TRIDUUM - "Washing Feet: The Season of Love"

The liturgical color for Holy Week is crimson red, or oxblood red, or purple. This is the week in which we as the Church dramatize the events which led up to and include the suffering and death of Jesus on the Cross. Holy Week begins with the Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday, and the joyous triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and ends with the somberness of crucifixion and death. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday make up the Triduum and their three liturgies can be seen as three parts of one liturgy. The word maundy is from the Latin *mandatum* or "command" from the two commands Jesus gave His disciples at the Last Supper: to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and to love and serve one another as he had loved and served them. Good Friday is known as "good" because of the new life brought about by His victory of the Cross.

Symbols and words for Holy Week are broken bread, cross, Last Supper, tomb, the Watch, Gethsemane, Golgotha, palms, crown of thorns, rooster, lamb, donkey

Scriptures: The Anointing at Bethany - Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9;
John 12:1-8

Cleansing of the Temple - Mark 11:15-19, Luke 19:47-48

The Footwashing - John 13:3-17, 34-35

Peter's Denial - Matthew 26:30-35, 57-75; and the other gospels

The Easter narratives in all four Gospels

Activity suggestions:

- Palm Sunday Procession to Breakfast
- Foot washing & Seder for Dinner
- Vigil in the evening

Thursday - EASTER & THE GREAT 50 DAYS - "Racing to the Tomb: The Season of Mystery"

The liturgical color is white for festival and joy. The first day of this season is Easter Day. It begins after sundown on Holy Saturday and is 50 days long, including the events of Christ's resurrection and ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Whitsunday).

The word Easter comes from Eostre, a Teutonic goddess whose name is associated with springtime, growth and fertility. In most languages the name of the day is "Pascha" which means passover.

Symbols and words for Easter are empty tomb, new life, hope, joy, alleuia, love, victory, the paschal candle, butterfly, empty cross

Scriptures: The Easter narrative in all four Gospels

Parables of the Kingdom

Lost Sheep - Luke 15: 1-7

Lost Coin - Luke 15: 8-10

The Grain of Wheat - John 12:23-26

Post Resurrection Appearances of Jesus

Road to Emmaus - Luke 24: 13-15

Thomas the Doubter - John 20:24-29

Breakfast on the Beach

The Ascension - Acts 1:6-11

Activity suggestions:

-Breakfast in Galilee (Fish sticks???)

-Walk to Emmaus hike

-The Ascension in the evening

Friday - PENTECOST - "Learning to Dance: The Season of Growth"

The liturgical color for Pentecost is red, for the tongues of fire that symbolize the Holy Spirit. The word Pentecost is from the Greek meaning "fiftieth day" which was the Greek name for the Hebrew Feast of Weeks which fell on the fiftieth day after Passover.

Symbols and words for Pentecost are dove, fire, wind, indwelling, witnesses, evangelism, gifts of the Spirit, fruits of the Spirit

Scriptures: Tower of Babel - Genesis 1:1-9

The Pentecost Experience - Acts 2

Activity suggestions:

- Red foods
- Acts & Paul
- Deacons
- The Church
- Gifts discernment activity
- Talent Show in the evening - sharing our gifts

Saturday - THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST - "Walking with Strangers: The Season of Faith"

The first Sunday after Pentecost is Trinity Sunday, a commemoration of the doctrine of the Trinity. The liturgical color for Trinity Sunday is white, the color of joy.

The color for the rest of the Season After Pentecost is green, the color of the ongoing life of the church. While the first half of the Church Year, including Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter is about the Life of Jesus, this second half is about our response to His life.

Scriptures: The spread of the Church in the world - Acts 1:7

-Being sent out to live extraordinary lives in Ordinary time.

-Closing Mass with Commissioning and Celebration of New Ministries (could the students actually share aloud what they are feeling called to? e.g.. more involvement in feeding the hungry, serving in the choir or altar guild or ushers or lectors, organizing outreach at their church, evangelism projects, etc. I picture this a something they'd like to try ... maybe they can write letters of encouragement to themselves that we could mail later in the summer.)

Further Notes;

- suggested specific times for worship are:

Christmas Eve on Sunday night

Ash Wednesday on Tuesday Morning

Easter Vigil on Wednesday night (maybe just focus on the reading from Salvation History)

Easter Morning on Thursday morning (Sunrise?)

Commissioning & Celebration of New Ministries on Saturday morning

Suggested Books:

The Prayer Book Guide to Christian Education, The Episcopal Church, Seabury Press, 1983, ISBN 0-8164-2422-5

Come Worship With Me: A Journey Through the Church Year, by Ruth Boling, Geneva Press, 2001, ISBN 13-978-0-664-550045-0

Prayers for the Breaking of Bread: Meditations on the Collects of the Church Year, by Herbert O'Driscoll, Cowley Publications, 1991, ISBN 1-56101-045-6

Seasons of Faith: Teaching the Church Year, by Marcia Joslin Stoner, Abingdon Press, 2003, ISBN 978-0-687-037360