



We are in Advent – what does this mean? There is understanding that Advent is focussing on expectation and an anticipation of Christ’s birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there’s more to Advent.

The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming,” which is a translation of the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God’s incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus ([Matthew 2:1](#)), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist ([John 1:29](#)), and his first miracle at Cana ([John 2:1](#)). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in repentance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the “coming” they had in mind was not Christ’s first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ’s first coming at Christmas.

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these “last days” ([Acts 2:17](#), [Hebrews 1:2](#)), as God’s people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God’s past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again

to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people (Excerpt from Christianity.com.au). So we enter a season of Advent based on hope which is beyond our expectations. Bless you all during this season as you engage with our Advent studies, worship experiences, personal devotions and meditation. May you/we take time to refocus on God and find hope in Christ Jesus.

Rev Catherine Solomon

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Outside Blooms The Chemist at The Pines, you will find a large collection box.

The Lutheran Church and '60 & Better' are combining to help local people in need. Just drop in a donation of any non-perishable new items – toys, food, etc – and a team of volunteers will arrange for a bag of goodies to be given to local families. Know anyone doing it tough? Why not nominate them for a Pines Advent gift bag. Ends 15th December.

Email marketing@thepineselanora.com.au with your name, contact number, nominated family and their address.



**THE PINES ELANORA
PAY IT FORWARD ADVENT**

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Adult Fellowship will hold their last meeting for 2019 at the church at 9:30am on Monday 2nd December, to be followed by Christmas lunch at the Palm Beach Sports Club, Salk Oval at 12pm



If you have any contributions for our weekly Newsletter, please ensure that they are received by the office by 9am Tuesday.

If emailing, cc to janine.storr@optusnet.com.au is appreciated.

Suggestions for content always welcome. Janine Kinnear

SUNDAY 1/12

Worship Elanora 9am
Currumbin Valley 5pm
Advent Bible Study @ church 5pm

MONDAY 2/12

Cooinda 9am – 1pm
Adult Fellowship 9:30am (see page 2)
Meditation, Currumbin Valley 9am
Bible Study Isaiah @ Roach 1:30pm
Advent Bible Study @ Boyd 7pm

TUESDAY 3/12

Carpenter's Workshop 8am – 12 noon
Cooinda 9am – 1pm
Advent Bible Study @ meeting room 10am
Advent Bible Study @ Thorpe 7pm

WEDNESDAY 4/12

Carpenter's Workshop 8am – 12 noon
Cooinda 9am – 1pm
Leisuretime 9am – 12 noon
Advent Bible Study @ Flynn 9:30am*

THURSDAY 5/12

Prayer Group @ church 8:30am
Cooinda 9am – 1pm

FRIDAY 6/12

Carpenter's Workshop 8am – 12noon
Cooinda 9am – 1pm

SATURDAY 7/12

SUNDAY 8/12

Elanora 9am
Christmas on the Creek 3pm

CHURCH COUNCIL: Rev Catherine Solomon, Rhonda Coleman, Mervyn Head, Liz Mahon, Lorraine McRae, Michele Lake, Pam Ganderton, Greg Malimonenko, Shirley Lord, Victoria Kirk-Lamburd, Alan French



Are you looking for a home-made Christmas cake? Cooinda has a wide range of sizes (and prices).



FAIR TRADE FAIR REVIEW
All interested people are invited to attend a debrief meeting with Rev John Martin after church on 15th December.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Office: 5534 5817
(9-12 weekdays)
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church@elanorauniting.com.au
Minister: Rev Catherine Solomon
minister@elanorauniting.com.au
0438 557 677



Cross & Crown is a Christian church that meets at Elanora State School every Sunday morning.

70 years of the Christmas Bowl

The tradition started by Rev Frank Byatt continues today – sharing God’s love with our brothers and sisters in urgent need around the world. If you are able, please make your donation to this ANZ account:

Account Name: Act for Peace Ltd

BSB 012 332

Account Number: 2323 75215

Alternatively, take an envelope home today to pay by cheque, cash, or credit card.



**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
@ Elanora 9am service
November, 2019**

**ADULTS: 83
CHILDREN: 2**



CHRISTMAS at ELANORA & CURRUMBIN VALLEY UNITING CHURCHES



‘BLUE CHRISTMAS’

7^{pm} Monday 23rd December

A quiet, reflective service for those missing someone at the dinner table this year – because of distance, death, separation/divorce, ill health, or for any other reason. In the Elanora church.

‘CAROLS at CURRUMBIN VALLEY SCHOOL’

1233 Currumbin Creek Road, Currumbin Valley

7^{pm} Tuesday 24th December

A traditional gathering of the local community.

Enjoy the children’s Nativity play.

Join in the carol singing. ALL WELCOME

‘FAMILY CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE’

8^{am} Wednesday 25th December

Join with the community at Elanora Uniting Church as we rejoice in the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ



Elanora Uniting Church – 5534 5817

<https://elanorauniting.com.au>