**Advent by Candlelight Introductory Notes**

Thank you for your interest in this Advent by Candlelight program! Whether you’ve held Advent by Candlelight for many years or are putting on your very first event, we pray that this program will be a blessing to you. Advent by Candlelight looks different at every church, and therefore it is not possible to write a “one-size-fits-all” program. Below are a few details and considerations to assist you with planning Advent by Candlelight in your own distinctive way.

* This program runs approximately 70-75 minutes (including music). If you want a shorter program, we recommend omitting Scenes 3 and/or 4.
* An accompanying PowerPoint presentation is included with the WELS C20 resources. A service folder (bulletin) template is also available.
* Suggested musical selections have been included. These are only suggestions, and there are certainly many more songs which would also be appropriate. Please remember to check copyright permissions if you print the lyrics of any songs suggested. The inclusion of song suggestions in the program does not guarantee the right to print the music or lyrics.
* If you have not held an Advent by Candlelight event before, we encourage you to peruse the resources on the WELS Women’s Ministry website (<https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/womens-ministry/advent-by-candlelight/>). A complete planning guide is available that walks you through the process—from start to finish—of planning Advent by Candlelight. Sample invitations, promotional blurbs, and hostess resources are also available.
* Advent by Candlelight programs are wonderful opportunities to invite women who might not otherwise be comfortable attending a church-related event. To that end, this program has specifically been written to not assume any sort of faith background from participants. There may be places where you wish the wording was stronger or “more Lutheran.” Please know that the program was to intentionally tell the story of salvation but also be accessible to those who might not have the same familiarity with that story.

We pray that God will bless your event from the very beginning stages to the final execution in Advent. May you be reminded of the greatest gift ever given—a Savior who came down to earth *for you*—and may you look forward to the sure and certain hope of an eternity in heave to give thanks for this greatest gift!