

**Weekly Advent Activities  
for Your Family**



**GOD**  
*With Us*



**from Trinity Lutheran  
Church and School**



Dear Trinity Lutheran Church and School families:

As we head into the season of Advent it can be important to take time to focus on the importance of the season. The word "advent" is from the Latin word for "coming," and as such, describes the "coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh.

Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus' earthly life began - in the Old Testament prophecies of His incarnation. Advent specifically focuses on Christ's "coming."

The traditional use of Advent candles, often in a wreath, originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of the 20th century, it involved three purple candles and one pink candle.

The purple candles matched the purple paraments on the altar (purple for the royalty of the coming King). The pink candle - representing joy - is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent. Modern Advent wreaths often include a white "Christ candle" in the center - to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas, from December 25 through January 5.

Blessings on your Advent season as you wait to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas.

Blessings in Christ,

***Trinity Lutheran Church and School***

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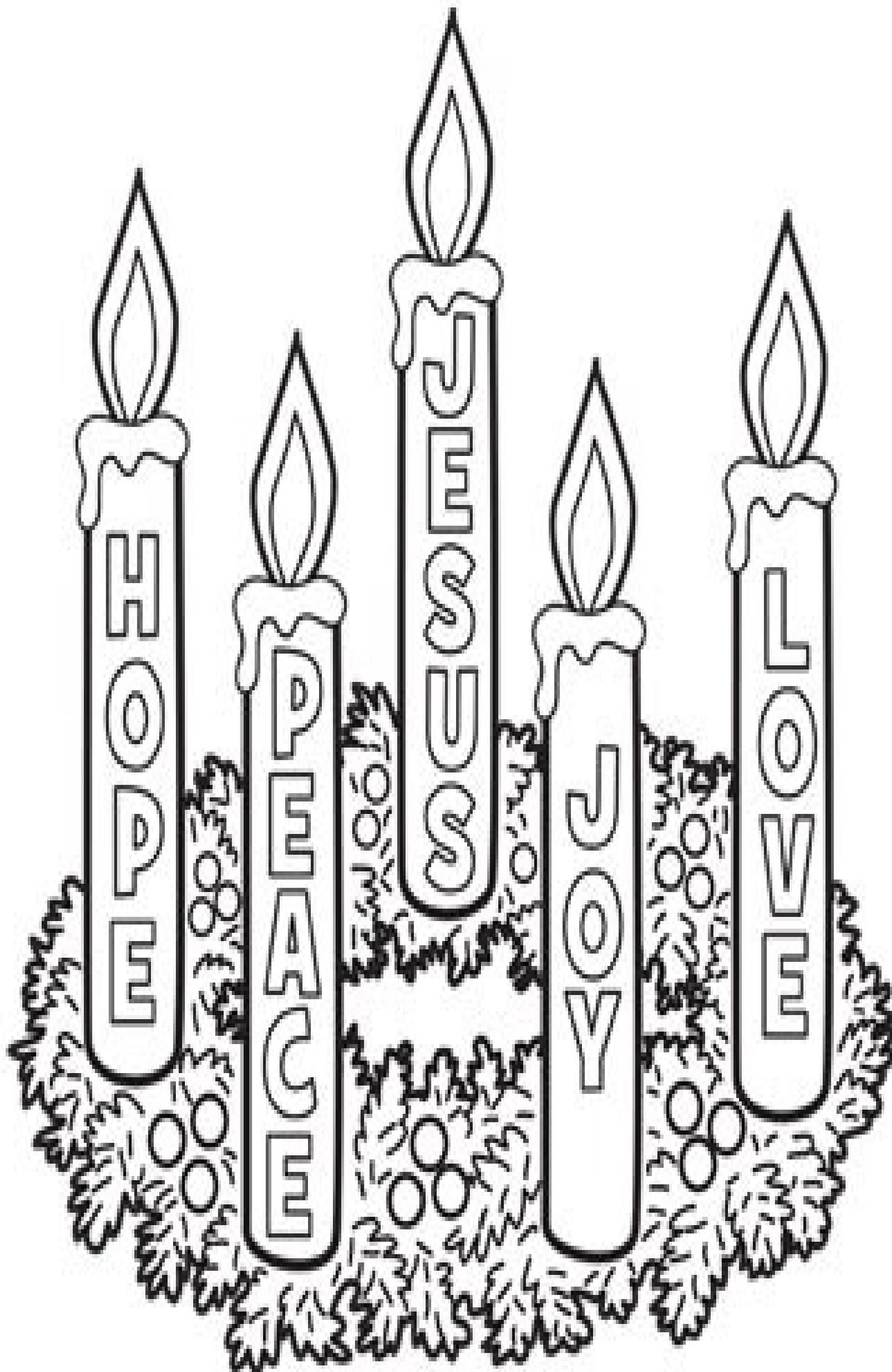
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PEACE

HAPPY

SUNSHINE

JOY

LOVE

## **Family Advent Conversation**

Questions to discuss as a family:

1. Have you ever made a Christmas gift for someone? What did you make?
2. God made each member of your family. What special talents or abilities did he give to each person in your family?
3. How can you use your talents or abilities to serve God and help other people, now during Advent and all through the year?

**Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 64:8-9

**Gospel Reading**, John 15:16-17

## **Family Advent Devotion**

Have you ever used play-doh or modeling clay? You can make all kinds of things - a cup, a bowl, a dog or a horse or a Christmas decoration. What do you like to make?

*(Let children make suggestions)*

With my clay I can make whatever I want to make. Our Bible reading said, "O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand." A potter is a person who makes all kinds of useful things out of clay, things like bowls, cups, plates or flower vases. We are like clay, and God is the Potter. God made you and me. He formed and shaped each one of us just how He wants us to be. He created us to love each other and to bring Him glory. Sometimes, when we make things from clay, the clay doesn't cooperate. It doesn't turn out the way we want it to look.

We are like that clay. We do not always do what God wants us to do. We do not love people like we should. We do not always follow the Ten Commandments. When we do not do what God wants us to do, what is that called?

*(Let children respond)*

When we do not do what God wants us to do, when the clay does not do what the Potter shaped it to do, that is called sin. But God loves us. He does not just throw out the bent and broken clay. God sent his Son Jesus to make us right again. Jesus came and took all of our sin and brokenness onto himself. He died on the cross for us and rose from the dead. Because of Jesus, God forgives our sins. God our Potter shapes us into new people in Jesus.

Now we are forgiven and made new in Jesus. God shapes us in His love so that we can love and help others. We can tell others that God loves them too and sent Jesus to be their Savior and shape them into His own new people. We can bring glory to God, who gave us the best Christmas gift of all, His Son Jesus, our Savior!

Now we are going to use clay to make Christmas ornaments. You can hang your ornament on your Christmas tree, or you can use it as a gift for someone. When you make your ornament, remember that God is the Potter who shapes you in His love.

### **Family Advent Craft: Clay Christmas Ornament**

Needed:

- salt dough clay (recipe below)
- straws to poke holes in finished ornaments
- various Christmas cookie cutters (star, tree or simple circle shapes)
- plastic utensils to help in trimming or shaping ornaments
- waxed paper or parchment baking paper
- rolling pins
- Acrylic (water-based) paint
- Ribbon or yarn

#### **Salt Dough Recipe**

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup table salt
- 1 cup cold tap water

Mix salt and flour; gradually add water to the mix until it reaches the desired consistency; knead the dough, adding more water if needed. If made ahead of time, store the finished dough in a sealed container in the refrigerator. Each recipe makes enough dough for about 10 ornaments.

Directions:

- Use a rolling pin or drinking glass to roll out a small piece of the prepared dough on waxed paper or parchment paper (have extra flour available to prevent dough and cookie cutters from sticking). Flatten the dough until it is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch thick.
- Use the cookie cutters to make an ornament. Use a straw to poke a hole at the top of the wet ornament.
- After the clay ornament is air-dried (which takes several days), it can be painted with acrylic (water-based) paint and decorated with glue, glitter, sequins or small buttons. String a ribbon or piece of yarn through the hole to hang the ornament on the Christmas tree.

## Family Advent Conversation

Questions to discuss as a family:

1. What did the shepherds do in the Christmas story? What Christmas songs mention shepherds?
2. Jesus our Shepherd cares for us. What did He do to show His love for us?
3. What can you do this week to live like one of Jesus' sheep?

**Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 40:10-11

**Gospel Reading**, John 10:14-15

## Family Advent Devotion

What things are the same in these two pictures?



Both of these show shepherds and sheep. At Christmas some of our cards and decorations are about shepherds. When Jesus was born, an angel came to tell the good news to shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem. At first the shepherds were afraid of the bright light, but then the angel told them the good news: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." They could find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in manger. The angels praised God. What did the shepherds do after that?

*(Let children respond)*

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem! They found the baby Jesus in the manger and they told people what the angel had said about Him. That

newborn baby was God Himself, right there in the manger! Our Bible reading said that when God came to earth to live with us, He would be like a shepherd taking care of his sheep. What does a shepherd do to take care of his sheep?

*(Let children respond)*

Those are all good ideas. A shepherd makes sure that His sheep have good food and water. He protects them from wolves and other dangers. He finds them if they get lost. The shepherd leads His sheep home and keeps them safe in the sheep pen.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Shepherds came to see Him. When Jesus grew up, He said, "I am the good shepherd." Jesus takes care of us like a shepherd takes care of his sheep. He watches over us. He feeds us with all the things we learn in the Bible. He is the Good Shepherd. He is good because of what He did to save his sheep from danger. Jesus died to save us from sin, death and the devil. Then He did something no other shepherd has ever done, something no other shepherd could ever do. What happened on the third day after Jesus died on the cross, on the first Easter morning?

*(Let children respond)*

Jesus came alive again! No other shepherd could do that for His sheep, but that is what Jesus did for us! He is our Good Shepherd. He died on the cross to take away our sins. Then He rose from the dead. We believe that Jesus is our Savior and we will live with Him forever. Jesus our Good Shepherd takes care of us now and always.

In your Advent craft project you are going to make sheep that you can have on your Christmas tree as a reminder that Jesus is our Good Shepherd and we are His sheep.

### **Family Advent Craft: Cotton Ball Sheep**

Needed:

- paper sheep pattern (in back of this booklet)
- white cardstock or cardboard
- scissors
- marker or crayon
- glue
- cotton balls
- hole punch
- ribbon or yarn

Directions:

- Trace sheep pattern on cardstock or cardboard and cut out.
- Cut out the sheep and fold the sheep so it stands upright.
- Draw a face on one side of sheep.
- Glue cotton balls to both sides of sheep (don't cover the face).
- Punch a hole near top of the sheep and use ribbon to hang.

### **Family Advent Conversation**

Questions to discuss as a family:

1. What kind of care does a growing plant need?
2. What did Jesus, the true Vine, do for us to give us life?
3. What can your family do together to keep growing in Jesus?

**Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 11:1-2

**Gospel Reading**, John 15:4-5

### **Family Advent Devotion**

*(Show a small, living, potted Christmas tree, or another potted plant)*

This little Christmas tree (or plant) is living and growing. It needs water and sunlight to keep on growing. After Christmas I could even plant this little tree in the ground outside so it could grow tall. Maybe in a few years it could be big enough to be an outdoor Christmas tree. This tree has a main trunk or stem, and the branches and leaves or needles grow out from that main stem. The trunk of the tree brings food and water from the roots to the branches so that they keep growing. The branches stay strong and healthy only when they are connected to the main stem.

*(Break or cut off a small branch)*

I've broken off one of the branches. What will happen to this branch now that it is no longer connected to the tree?

*(Let children respond)*

The broken branch cannot live unless it is joined to the stem. Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches." In Baptism, we were connected to Jesus, joined to Him by faith like branches to a living stem or trunk. As we learn from Jesus' Word, we grow stronger in faith. Jesus wants us, as living branches, to grow fruit. That means He will help us grow love and joy and peace and kindness in our lives.

An apple tree will grow apples or an orange tree will grow oranges. That is what living trees do. They grow and they grow fruit. As we are connected by faith to the love of Jesus, His love grows in our lives. We can share His love, in our words and actions, with others, so they can learn about Jesus, the true Vine and their Savior.

For our project we are going to help some seeds grow. After a few weeks the seeds will grow into a little green field, like the fields of Bethlehem when Jesus was born. You can even make little sheep to stand in your Bethlehem field.

## Family Advent Craft: Growing a Bethlehem Field from Grass Seed

### Needed:

- clear hard plastic cups (9 oz. size)
- potting soil
- grass seed
- plastic spoons (your shovel)
- white cardstock or cardboard
- small sheep pattern (in back of this booklet)
- small sticks or cut short straws
- tape
- scissors

### Directions:

- Trace sheep pattern on cardstock or cardboard and cut out.
- Tape small sheep to sticks or straws.
- Fill each cup  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with potting soil.
- Sprinkle grass seed on top of the soil.
- Cover the seed with a small amount of soil.
- Place cup near a well-lighted window.
- Water very lightly every few days or when soil looks dry.
- When grass has sprouted, place the small sheep in your “Bethlehem field.”



### **Family Advent Conversation**

Questions to discuss as a family:

1. What is your favorite part in the story of Jesus' birth?
2. What is your favorite Bible verse or story?
3. What can we do together to learn more about God's Word?

**Old Testament Reading**, Isaiah 2:3, 5

**Gospel Reading**, John 14:3-6

### **Family Advent Devotion**

*(Needed: a map, smartphone, cross - can be pointed to, a Bible)*

Have you ever felt lost? Maybe you have wandered away from in a store and could not see any of the family. Adults might be driving and take a wrong turn on a highway in an unfamiliar place. They have to stop and get directions to find their way back. For children or adults, it's scary to be lost. Do you want to share a time when you felt lost?

*(Allow time for sharing—then show a map and a smartphone)*

If I get lost when I am driving, I can use the GPS on my phone or a map to find my way again. But when people are lost in sin, no GPS or map can help them. When someone is lost in sin, it means that they cannot find their way back to God. They cannot find their way back to being friends with God. They do not know the way to heaven. There is nothing they can do to find their way. That's what it means to be lost in sin.

God sent Jesus to be our Guide, but Jesus did not just come to show us the way. Jesus is the Way. He is the Way back to God, the Way to eternal life.

Jesus told His disciples that He was going away to heaven to prepare a place for them. He said, "You know the way to where I am going." But the disciples said, "We don't know where You are going! How can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

*(Show or point out a cross)*

Jesus is the only one who can help us when we are lost in sin. He died on the cross and rose from the dead so that He could be the Way home to God. We believe that Jesus died for us and we know that, because of Jesus, our sins are forgiven. We are not lost anymore! Because of Jesus, God is with us and we are with God. We will live with Him forever.

(Show a Bible)

When we read the Bible and listen to its teachings, we are learning more about Jesus, the Way to God. God gave us His Word to teach us about Jesus and to guide us as we live as His people. God, in Jesus, came to live among us as our Guide, and He is our Way home!

Now we are going to make bookmarks to use in your Bibles. You can keep your finished bookmark or you can give it to a friend and tell them that Jesus is the Way home.

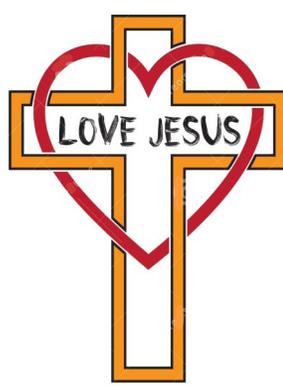
### **Family Advent Craft: Bible Bookmark**

Needed:

- bookmark template (in back of this booklet)
- cardstock or cardboard
- scissors
- glue
- hole punch
- ribbon or yarn
- markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Bible

Directions:

- Trace template onto cardstock or cardboard or cut up template and glue bookmark strips onto cardstock or cardboard.
- Decorate or color as desired using the printed affirmations or Bible verses.
- Punch a hole at the top of the finished bookmark.
- Thread yarn or ribbon through the hole and tie to secure.



No Bible handy? Visit [www.BibleGateway.com](http://www.BibleGateway.com).

Join Trinity Lutheran Church for socially distanced in-person services  
**SUNDAY MORNINGS at 9 and 10:30 a.m.**

**MONDAY EVENING at 7 p.m.**

***Livestream services are at 9 a.m. (Central) Sunday morning  
at Facebook @TrinityLombard and at TrinityLombard.org***

**2020 Thanksgiving services:**

*Thanksgiving Eve service*, Wednesday, November 25, at 7 p.m.  
(also livestreamed)

*Thanksgiving Day service*, Thursday, November 26, at 10 a.m.

**2020 Advent services:**

Wednesday, December 2, at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9, at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16, at 1 p.m.

(all are also livestreamed)

**2020 Christmas services:**

*Christmas Eve Family service*, Thursday, December 24, at 3 p.m.

*Christmas Eve Candlelight service*, Thursday, December 24, at 9 p.m.  
(also livestreamed)

*Christmas Day service*, Friday, December 25, at 10 a.m.

All of Trinity's in-person services require face masks to be worn.  
Temperatures are scanned prior to entering the building and seating is  
relegated to alternating rows.

Find family Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas activities online  
at <https://www.trinitylombard.org/sunday-school-activities>

There will no ONLINE BIBLE CLASS on November 25, but Bible study  
will return of WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, at 6 p.m. (Central)  
livestreaming at Facebook @TrinityLombard and  
TrinityLombard.org.

Trinity's recent services, sermons, Bible studies and devotions are ar-  
chived at: TrinityLombard.org/sermons

"For where two or three are gathered in my name,  
there am I among them." Matthew 18:20

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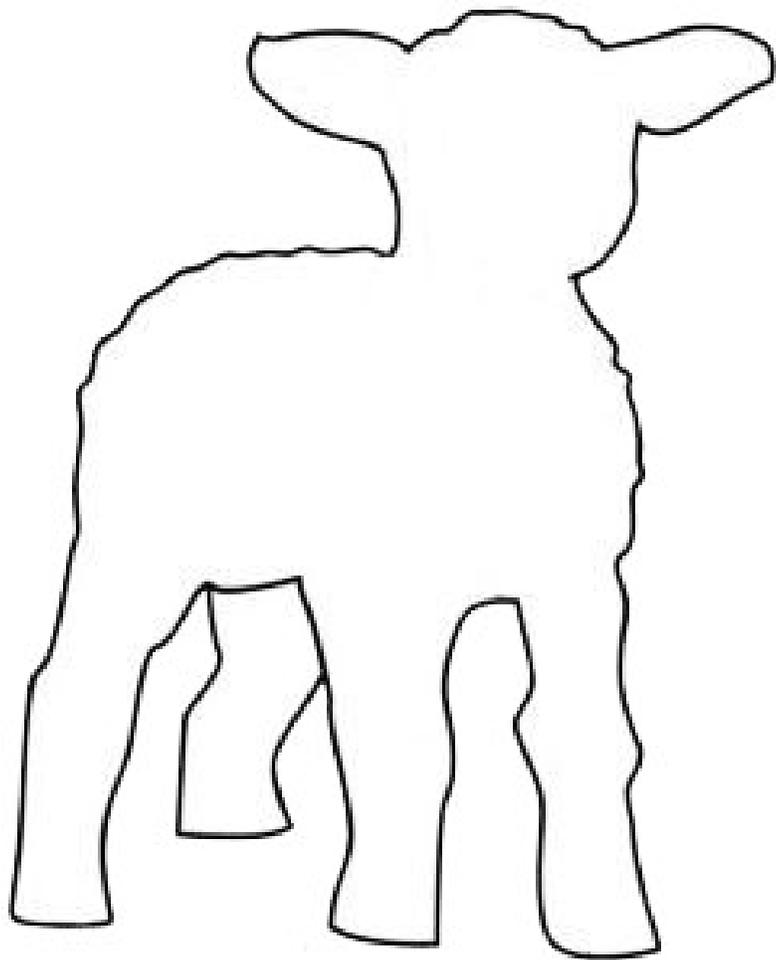
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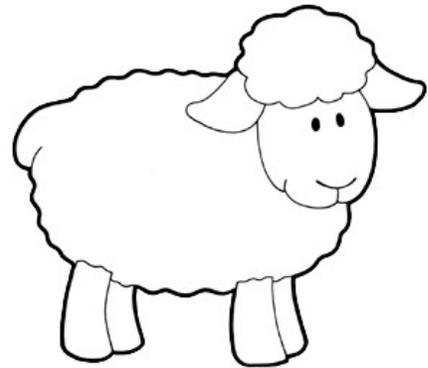
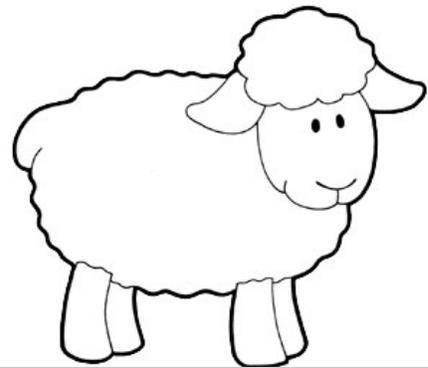
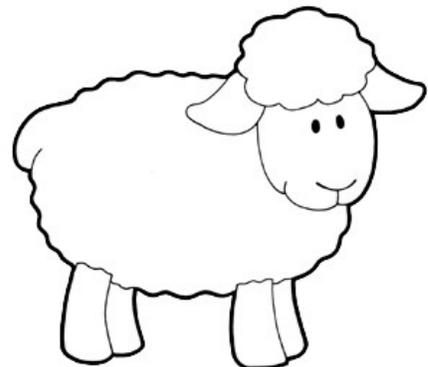
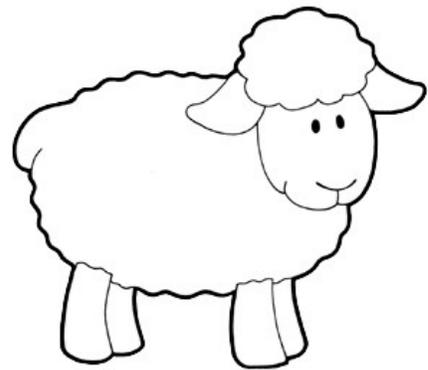
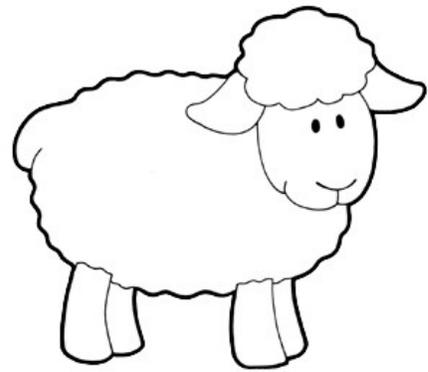
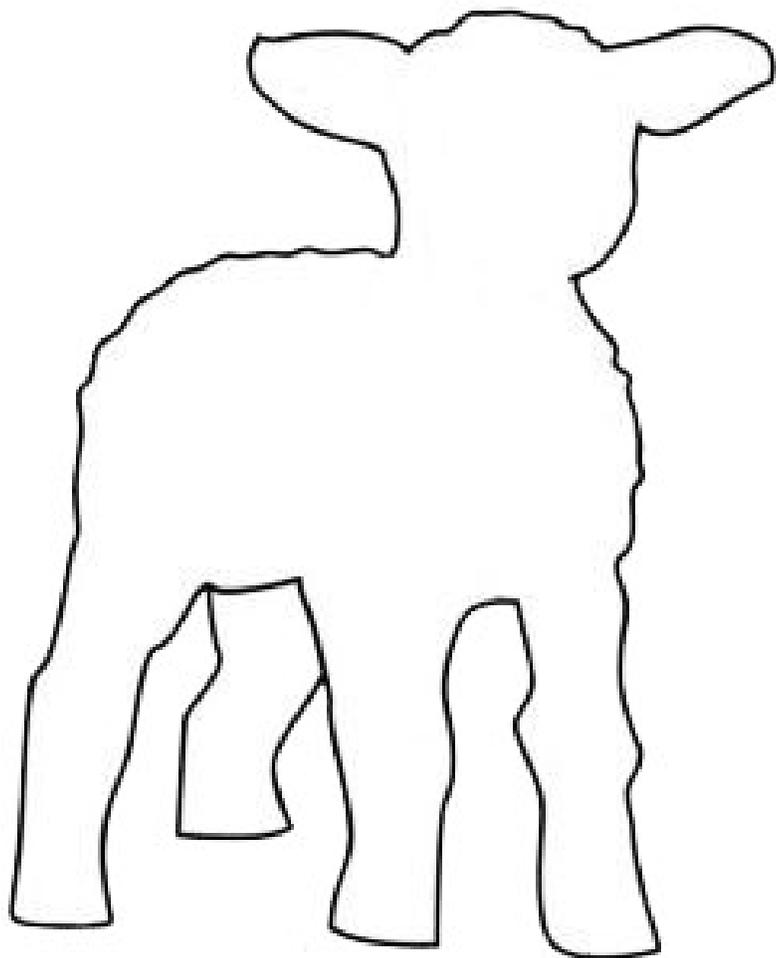
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**sheep patterns for Week 2**



**sheep patterns for Week 3**



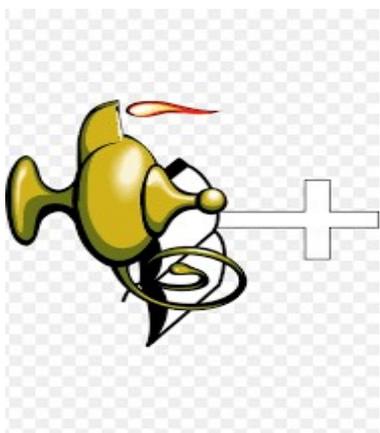
**GOD**  
**WITH**  
**US**

**ЖРД**

**ИФ РИУ**

**ЗИКДЕ**

**(God is our Guide)**



**YOUR**  
**WORD**  
**IS A**  
**LAMP**

**JESUS**  
**LOVES**  
**ME**

