



## 2020 ADVENT CALENDAR

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- \* An Advent that Makes a Difference \***
- \* Counting Your Blessings So that You Can Bless Others \***



## How Can Counting Your Blessings Help Others?

We are blessed more than we will ever know because rarely do we pause to count the blessings. Day by day, as you follow this Advent calendar, you will be given an opportunity to count many of your blessings. But rather than leave it there, this Advent, we seek to allow our blessings to bless others. As a family, decide how much you would like to donate for each of your blessings to help the Board of World Mission provide blessings for others. You may not have some of the blessings listed for one day but be aware that you may count many blessings for other days. Find a jar to collect a penny or a nickel for each of these blessings? Perhaps you can afford to give more. If change is in short supply around your home you can use the tally card sheet found at the end of this file by making note of your blessings there. Cut the tally cards off the sheet each day, make note of your blessing, and place it in the jar. At the end of Advent, December 24, we will invite you to total up your blessing count and make that a donation to the Board of World Mission's work. We would count it a blessing to be able to share your blessings around the world.

### **Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent**

- Many people are homeless and go without shelter every day. In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Count your blessings if you have a roof over your head that keeps you dry and warm.

### **Monday, November 30**

- Jesus fed over 5,000 hungry people by multiplying what little could be found. In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me food." Count your blessings for each meal shared in your home today?

### **Tuesday, December 1**

- A comfortable bed in which to find rest is truly a blessing. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus hosted Jesus and the Disciples in their home in Bethany during Jesus' final days, giving them a place to rest. In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Count your blessings for each bed in your home. Pay double for regularly unused beds.

### **Wednesday, December 2**

- Many children in developing countries walk to school daily without shoes. Think of the difference this simple article of clothing can mean to help make life more bearable. In Matthew 25:36, Jesus said, "I was naked and you gave me clothing." Count your blessings for each pair of shoes in your home.

### **Thursday, December 3**

- Being able to get where you want to be, when you want to be there, is a blessing we often take for granted. In Luke chapter 10, Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan who found a recently attacked man on the road's side. The Samaritan bound up the man's wounds, placed him on his donkey, and took him to an Inn where he could find care. Count your blessings for each vehicle to which the drivers in your household have access. If you have more vehicles than you have drivers, pay double for each additional vehicle.

### **Friday, December 4**

- Canned food gives most of us easy access to food that can sit on our shelves for months and is ready for us to use at a moment's notice. Because of weight and shipping costs, these cans of food are not often found in developing countries. Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me food." Count your blessings for each can of food on your shelves.

### **Saturday, December 5**

- The homeless have no access to kitchen appliances, and many families in developing countries cook over an open fire. Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me food." Count your

blessings for each kitchen appliance used to cook your food (i.e., stove, oven, microwave, grill, waffle iron, crockpot, etc.).

### **Sunday, December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent**

- Education has long been a foundational part of the Moravian mission effort. In our mission areas, the school is often the first building put up after the worship space is complete. In many parts of the world, schools are not easily accessible to families keeping them trapped in a cycle of poverty. Count your blessings if the children in your neighborhood have access to schools.

### **Monday, December 7**

- Winter spells the beginning of the cold weather months here in North America. Our homeless poor are often found out in the elements 24 hours a day with little to protect them from inclement conditions. Jesus, in Luke 3:11, instructs us that if we have two coats, we should give one away. Count your blessings for every coat in your home.

### **Tuesday, December 8**

- Clean water is essential for health and hygiene and a blessing that we can easily forget to count. Jesus, in Mark 9:41, encourages us to share a cup of cold water whenever we can as an act of compassion. In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink." Count your blessings for every place in your home from which you can get clean water (i.e., faucets, showerheads, refrigerator door).

### **Wednesday, December 9**

- Jesus is a light that shines in the darkness. Our Moravian Advent stars give evidence of this when they glow from our porches or front windows on a dark night. Our world needs this light right now. Count your blessings for every light bulb in use in your home today.

### **Thursday, December 10**

- Jesus is often referred to as the great physician because of the many times he cured mental and physical illnesses in the Gospels' pages. Doctors are a vital component of the healing that we experience in our lives today. Sadly, our siblings in Christ in many corners of our Moravian world do not have easy access to a Doctor. Can you help the Board of World Mission supply medicine, medical equipment, and supplies to people who need healing? Count your blessings for the number of doctors you have seen in the last year.

### **Friday, December 11**

- While we can attest that spending power does not equal happiness, we must admit that the convenience of credit cards allows us great freedom to purchase things with ease. Many people in the world could not imagine what this convenience could offer them. Count your blessings for the number of credit cards that your household has access to.

### **Saturday, December 12**

- Think of the refugee camps that you have seen on the evening news. Have you ever seen a yard there that needed to be mowed? Now think of the money that many North American homeowners spend on keeping our yards looking neat and trimmed. Count your blessings for the number of power tools you own to care for your lawn (i.e., lawnmowers, trimmers, etc.).

### **Sunday, December 13 – The Third Sunday of Advent**

- While we claim to be busy people here in North America, the average person watches over three hours of television a day. While TVs have become more and more present in developing countries, many only have limited access to it. Count your blessings for every TV in your household.

### **Monday, December 14**

- Just 25 years ago, cell phones seemed like a dream for most of us - no longer. We have them for safety as well as convenience and entertainment. Because of wireless technology, cell phones could help to improve communication all over the world. Count your blessings for every cell phone in your home.

**Tuesday, December 15**

- During this pandemic, with the number of people working from home (including the BWM staff), computers have become an essential tool for doing work. However, many people have no hope of being able to afford either the hardware or the connectivity. Count your blessings for the number of computers in your home (i.e., notebook, iPad, laptop, or desktop).

**Wednesday, December 16**

- Healthy oral teeth and gums are an essential component for good overall health. But many people either can afford regular Dentist visits or do not have access to one. Count your blessings if you can see a dentist regularly.

**Thursday, December 17**

- Having access to affordable health insurance improves one's chances of seeing a doctor for preventative care and sick visits. Even here in North America, many people cannot afford insurance, and this is not an option in many other parts of the world. In Matthew 25:36, Jesus said, "I was sick and you took care of me." Count your blessings if you have health insurance and access to medical care.

**Friday, December 18**

- For most North Americans with transportation, access to a grocery store allows us to purchase needed food for our families easily. This is not the case for many in the developing world. The pandemic made this worse in many countries because supply lines were cut off. In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." Count your blessings if you have easy access to a grocery store.

**Saturday, December 19**

- For those who are poor and living on the margins, natural disasters can have a devastating effect. Hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, fires, and droughts can rob people of what little they have, leaving them vulnerable to sickness or death. Count your blessings if you have not been adversely impacted by a natural disaster this year.

**Sunday, December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- Video gaming systems can provide hours of entertainment for youth and adults, but they are expensive. They can also isolate us from the world around us if we let them. Count your blessings for each of the gaming systems you have in your home.

**Monday, December 21**

- Most of us in North America have more than enough room in our homes. As a matter of fact, most of us have rooms that we do not use consistently. Many people in the world have less than four rooms to count as their home. In Matthew 25:35, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Count your blessings for every room in your home.

**Tuesday, December 22**

- Indoor plumbing is not only a convenience, but it also provides for better public health. Cities and towns with sewer systems have cleaner groundwater and, therefore, better public health. Count your blessings for every bathroom in your home.

**Wednesday, December 23**

- When a guest comes to your home, welcoming them inside is the hospitable thing to do. Many homes in developing countries lack furniture for them to invite people to sit and relax. In Matthew 25:25, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Count your blessings for every chair in your home.

## Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, your family's usual Christmas Eve routine might be very different this year. Perhaps your church is modifying how services will be held, if at all. Perhaps families will not gather as they have in the past. There is, of course, a sense of loss for this and, with it, grief. Today simply take a look back over the blessings that you have noted during this Advent season. If it is by yourself or with other members of your family or community, give thanks for the gift of the Christ Child who came into a world of darkness and filled it with light. How can you bless others with that light in the days, weeks, and months that are ahead of us?

## What next?

- As you have journeyed through this Advent season counting your blessings, you should now have a jar full of change or tally cards. Take a moment to count that up. Can you make this donation to the Board of World Mission so that we can share your blessings with others? Please don't send us your change! Simply go to [www.moravian.org/give](http://www.moravian.org/give) and follow the instructions there on how best to share your gift.
- **If you wish to mail in your donations, please send them to:**

Board of World Mission  
1021 Center Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Canadian Church Members may send donations to the following address in order to receive full tax credit for your donation. They then will be sent along to the BWM:

Moravian Church in Canada  
600 Acadia Drive SE  
Calgary, AB T2J 0B8

## Advent Blessing Calendar Tally Cards



<b>Sunday, November 29</b>	<b>Monday, November 30</b>	<b>Tuesday, December 1</b>	<b>Wednesday, December 2</b>	<b>Thursday, December 3</b>
Roof over your head: _____	Meals shared in your home today: _____	Number of Beds in your home: _____	Pairs of Shoes in your home: _____	Number of vehicles you own: _____
<b>Friday, December 4</b>	<b>Saturday, December 5</b>	<b>Sunday, December 6</b>	<b>Monday, December 7</b>	<b>Tuesday, December 8</b>
Cans of food in your kitchen: _____	Number of kitchen appliances: _____	Children have access to schools: _____	Number of coats in your home: _____	Number of faucets in your home: _____
<b>Wednesday, December 9</b>	<b>Thursday, December 10</b>	<b>Friday, December 11</b>	<b>Saturday, December 12</b>	<b>Sunday, December 13</b>
Number of light bulbs in your home: _____	Number of Doctors seen in the past year: _____	Number of credit cards: _____	Number of lawn power tools: _____	Number of TVs in your home: _____
<b>Monday, December 14</b>	<b>Tuesday, December 15</b>	<b>Wednesday, December 16</b>	<b>Thursday, December 17</b>	<b>Friday, December 18</b>
Number of cell phones: _____	Number of computers: _____	Access to a Dentist: _____	Do you have health insurance? _____	Do you have access to a grocery store: _____
<b>Saturday, December 19</b>	<b>Sunday, December 20</b>	<b>Monday December 21</b>	<b>Tuesday, December 22</b>	<b>Wednesday, December 23</b>
Not been impacted by a natural disaster: _____	Number of gaming systems in your home: _____	Number of rooms in your home: _____	Number of bathrooms in your home: _____	Number chairs in your home: _____
<b>Thursday, December 24</b> Count up all of your blessings for the month _____				