

MINNEKIRKEN'S REVERSE ADVENT
MISSION BACKPACK DEVOTIONAL GUIDE 2018



Kids use school supplies in order to do their best in their school work. Those same supplies that are used for Math, English, and Spelling, can be reminders of our faith this Advent season

As we begin to put together our **Mission: Backpacks** this year—full of the following supplies—let's pray and reflect on how each item speaks to God's mercy and wisdom. Our 2018 **Mission: Backpacks** proved that God can use us to do remarkable things. It would be silly to sharpen a pencil and set it aside, but when we use it, the purpose of the lead is fulfilled. We need to continue sharpening a pencil in order to keep using it. In the same way, we must continually return to the Bible and to prayer, so that we can remain "sharp" and usable as Christians.

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ~John 15:9-11

So, what's in your backpack?

December 1—Backpack: You can carry God's Word with you.

"Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You." ~Psalm 119:11

December 2—Box of Markers: Like the many colors of delicious fresh fruit, may we long to be filled with the Fruit of God's Spirit this Advent!

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord."

~Ephesians 5:8, 9

December 3—Pencil & Paper: You can write out Bible verses to remind you of God's love.

"Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart." ~Proverbs 7:3

December 4—Eraser: God's forgiveness erases my mistakes.

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

~Ephesians 4:32

December 5—Crayons: God created this wonderful world in color for us to enjoy. He also gave us the rainbow to remind us of His promise to us.

"When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." Genesis 9:16

December 6—Tape: Tape helps to bind a ripped page just like we as the Word of God can bind hurts.

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound." ~Isaiah 61:1

December 7—Water Bottle: Water is refreshing can quenches your thirst. Jesus is the living water that is eternal.

“Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.” ~John 4:13-14

December 8—Books: The Bible is THE most important book we have. Math and English are important, but God wants us to know His eternal Word.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” ~2 Timothy 3:16-17

December 9—Teacher: Teachers guide our learning. Teachers at church (Sunday School teachers, preachers, etc.) guide our understanding of what the Bible says.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.” ~Proverbs 22:6

December 10—Lunchbox: A lunchbox carries our lunch. It can remind us being nourished in our souls and our bodies.

“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” ~1 Peter 2:1-3

December 11—Clothes: Getting new school clothes is an exciting time for most kids. Toys may be preferred for Christmas, but above all we need to clothe ourselves with Christ.

“Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.” ~Romans 13:14

December 12—Pens: Pens are used to make notes when the teacher speaks. Being a good friend means listening, not speaking, and really hearing what someone else needs to say. Christmas time is a time for celebrating friendship. True friendships are indelible!

“Be slow to speak, quick to listen.” ~James 1:19-20.

December 13—Notebook: We use notebooks to help us remember things. We need to remember to be unselfish and think of others ahead of ourselves.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” ~Philippians 2:3, 4

December 14—Folder: Having a folder helps us keep track of all that we've finished. We can remember to trust God when we look back at all the things He has done for us. Joshua's farewell speech to the Israelites.

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.” ~Joshua 1: 7

December 15—Ruler: Just like a ruler gives you a guide in centimeters or inches, the Bible gives you a guide for knowing God. A ruler lets you make a straight line. The Bible helps you live your life down a straight path.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” ~Proverbs 3:5-6

December 16—Glue: Although we can't see God's Holy Spirit, the Spirit is with us and strengthening us so we do not have to be afraid or alone. The Spirit binds God and the Church together as one.

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." ~Ephesians 4:3-6

December 17—Colored Markers: Markers spread our colors far and wide. Today they remind us of the wideness of God's mercy in Christ.

"[May] Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." ~Ephesians 3:18-19

December 18—Band-Aids: School can be a tough place and kids aren't always kind. May we be like Jesus and be kind to everyone—even the bullies!

"For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy." ~Titus 3:3-5a

December 20—A Dry Erase Board: What's on a dry erase board can be wiped away. May we think of God's forgiveness toward us in Christ, when we meditate on this school supply for Advent.

"I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins." ~Isaiah 43:25

December 21—Hand-weight: Exercising your faith by actions and trust God to make your faith stronger.

"Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." ~1 John 4:18

December 22—Cell Phone: While this might be a new concept to many of us—personal phones in school, that is—they are a reality. May they remind us of the constant connection we have to God through prayer. "For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you."

~Psalm 85:6

December 23—Scissors: Our final Advent preparations to receive Christ as Savior, must include a desire to cut away everything that binds our hearts and blocks our minds from more fully knowing Jesus.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." ~John 15:1, 2

December 24—Bookmark: It's Christmas Eve. Mark this day well. In the Bible we read that it is the day that all of God's creation was waiting for and a day that still promises that the best is yet to come in Christ.

"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!'" ~Luke 2:10-14

December 25—Glasses: Many kids first realize that they need to wear glasses when they go to school. Perhaps they can't read well or don't see things that the other kids are seeing. May God open the eyes of our hearts this Christmas Day to see His will for our lives today and everyday.

'[I pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might.'" ~Ephesians 1:17-19

Mission: Backpack Reverse Advent Giving Guide...

- Colored Folders (with or without metal tabs)
- Boxes of 24 Count Crayons
- Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Wide or Fine Colored Marker Sets
- Multi-colored Wide and College-ruled Spiral Notebooks
- Rulers
- Pointed Scissors
- Red, Blue or Black Pens
- Highlighters
- Colored Pencil Sets
- Money for Backpacks and other accessories.
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Minnekirken will be collecting these items now through the summer of 2019. For more info, please connect via our [website](#), [Facebook](#), email (office.nlmc@gmail.com), or by calling 773-252-7335.

