

# Deutsche Schule Ann Arbor

## Living Advent Calendar

<http://www.lebendiger-adventskalender.de>

### What is a „Living Advent Calendar?“

An Advent Calendar—a fun way to count down the 24 days until Christmas. Add in people and you have a Living Advent Calendar. At a Living Advent Calendar people have the chance to meet up each day of the Advent season leading up to Christmas. They meet in front of windows, doors, garage doors, even under car ports to sing songs, hear stories, listen to prayers and blessings, etc. Most meet at most for 20 to 30 minutes.

### Who Does This? Who Organizes Such an Event?

A Living Advent Calendar is organized locally, for example by a couple of people in a neighborhood or town, a group from the same church, a play group—anyone can organize the 24 „windows“ and 24 hosts. Most meetings are formed around a Christmas or Advent theme. The hosts invite those interested to join them at their „windows.“ Hosts could be families, school classes, clubs, church groups, choirs, fire departments, local businesses, police stations, local government, etc.—Anyone with an idea can host!

### What is a Living Advent Calendar „Window?“

The „window“ begins with a decorated area (window, door, etc.) with a number corresponding to the correct day. As guests arrive, they are greeted and the window is „opened“ in whatever fashion the host decides. This could mean a curtain is raised or lights are lit, for example. The host then entertains his or her guests for 20-30 minutes. This small party could be celebrated in any manner the host chooses. Songs, stories and a time of reflection have traditionally been part of such unique celebrations.

### Why do this?

By being a part of a Living Advent Calendar, you help bring people together in the holiday season. Guests are encouraged to simply be with one another during this often hectic time. This is an opportunity to be in community—whatever that may mean for you. Hosts offer the space, and each decides for himself or herself if he or she sings along and chats with others or simply enjoys being among those who do. You might decide to offer cookies or other refreshments, but this is not a requirement, since you never know how many might stop by!

