

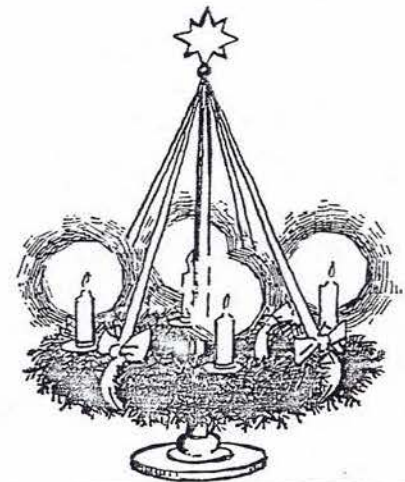
„Bei uns ist immer was los!“

ADVENT—PERIOD OF TIME BEFORE CHRISTMAS
 four Sundays of Advent / vier Sonntage in der Adventszeit:

erster Sonntag oder grüner Sonntag, den ____ . November / Dezember
 (first Sunday or green Sunday)

Advent

You can tell when the Christmas season begins because you can see Advent wreaths with four candles in homes across Germany. Every Sunday for four weeks before Christmas, someone in the family lights a candle. By Christmas day, all four candles are lit.



The beginning of **Advent** — from the fourth Sunday before Christmas until Christmas itself (**Weihnachten**) — is celebrated with special biscuits called **Lebkuchen**, rather like gingerbread biscuits. These are made with honey, almonds, and chocolate.

- 1. **Dezember - Advent** officially begins on the first Sunday after Nov. 26. Four Advent Sundays lead up to Christmas. The Adventkalender, with its 24 windows, helps children count down to Christmas Eve (**Heiligabend**), beginning **am ersten Dezember**.
- 2. **Dezember - Grüner Sonntag** ("green Sunday"), the first Sunday of Advent, is December 2, 2007. In 2008 the first Advent Sunday falls on November 30.
- **Grüner Sonntag** - This day gets its name from the green Advent wreath (**Adventskranz**) that is inaugurated on the first Sunday following November 26 (Dec. 2 in 2007). Each of the following three Advent Sundays also has a name: **Kupferner Sonntag** (copper), **Silberner Sonntag** (silver) and **Goldener Sonntag** (golden). The Advent wreath custom spread across Germany following the First World War.

The Christmas season in Germany begins with the first Sunday in December when the **Adventskranz** (advent wreath) made of fir branches is hung in the living room. The first candle of four is lit with the family singing or listening to **Weihnachtslieder** (Christmas songs).

Advent means "coming" in Latin. For one month before Christmas, Christians celebrate the "coming of Jesus Christ."

Advent starts on the first Sunday after November the 26th. This time is devoted to preparations for Christmas. After the four Advent Sundays are over, there follow Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It can happen that the fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day.