



Canvas Chartres Labyrinth

Credits:

The Laughing Flower Labyrinth & Landscape Co.

Start Advent with a labyrinth walk

All are welcome to a *FREE* labyrinth walk in Bellingham to mark the beginning of Advent.

Faith Lutheran Church will host an Open Labyrinth Walk and Baby Food Drive on Monday, November 28, 2011, from 4:00-8:00pm at 2750 McLeod Rd., just off I-5/Northwest Exit in Bellingham, WA. The public is invited to attend, and all are welcome to bring a donation of nonperishable baby food to place on the perimeter of the labyrinth during the walk. The walk has an "open house" format. Visitors are welcome to come early or late at their convenience.

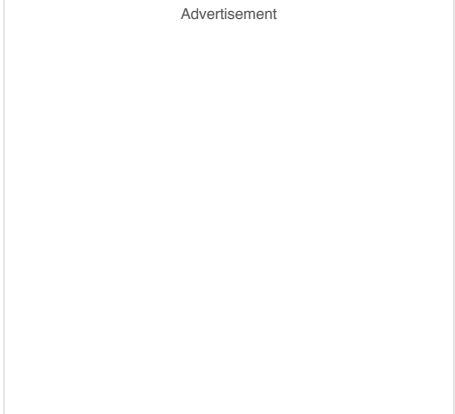
An 11-circuit Chartres labyrinth, provided by [The Laughing Flower Labyrinth Company](#), will be available, along with guidelines for walking, information about labyrinths, and an optional prayer starter.

"Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts. Since it comes at winter time, fire is a fitting sign to help us celebrate Advent...If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Our worship and devotion will have to stoke the kind of fire in our souls that can truly change our hearts. Ours is a great responsibility not to waste this Advent time." - Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*

Advent is a [season](#) observed in many Western [Christian churches](#), a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the [birth of Jesus](#) at [Christmas](#). It is the beginning of the Western [liturgical year](#) and commences on [Advent Sunday](#).

The progression of the season may be marked with an [Advent calendar](#), a practice introduced by German Lutherans. In the [Roman Catholic](#), [Anglican](#), [Lutheran](#) and [Methodist](#) calendars, Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before December 25. This year, Advent begins on November 27, 2011.

This is the second collaboration between Faith Lutheran Church and The Laughing Flower for a labyrinth event. The Laughing Flower's 11-circuit Chartres canvas labyrinth was also available this spring for a Lenten Holy Week walk. For information about these and other upcoming labyrinth events, visit www.laughingflowerlabyrinth.com/events.



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Myra Smith, Seattle Christian Spirituality Examiner

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