This calendar will serve as a convenient reminder of the appropriate color for each day of the year. You will find an explanation of the background and significance of the liturgical colors on the back of the calendar.
COLORS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

The Christian year contains two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized by the color green. Thus there is a sequence of seasons using purple, white and green in that order twice each year.

**PURPLE** is a color both penitence and royalty use during preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent. Blue, a color of hope, may also be used during Advent.

**WHITE** and **GOLD** are joyous and festive colors used during the Christmas and Easter Seasons (except on the Day of Pentecost) and in other seasons on festive days such Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration, Trinity, All Saints, and Christ the King. White may also be used at weddings and at services of death and resurrection because it symbolizes both death and resurrection. White is also used on the following civil holidays Independence Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving. At the Service of Holy Communion white linens on top of the Lord’s table are customary, but the paraments hanging over the front or side of the table and the other visuals should reflect the day or season of the year.

**GREEN** is a color of growth, used in the Seasons after the Epiphany and after Pentecost, except when special days call for white or red.

**RED** is a color of fire, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Days of Pentecost and at other times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. Red is also the color of blood—the blood of Christ and the blood of martyrs. Because of its intensity, red is most effective when used occasionally rather than continuously for a whole season. It is appropriate for evangelistic services, for ordination and consecration, for church anniversaries and homecomings, and for civil observances such as Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Memorial Day. It may be used during Holy Week, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday, to symbolize the blood of Christ.

Although use of these colors is based on broad ecumenical tradition, other colors have been and are being used in Christian churches. Creativity with colors and other signs for days and seasons is encouraged.

*On Good Friday and the following Saturday the Altar and Chancel areas are meant to be left unadorned.*