

journey to the Manger



Kids Can @ Christmas Time!

An Advent Celebration of 31 Crafts,
Recipes and Daily Scripture Readings.

Ages 5 and Up



Journey To The Manger

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**d.b.a. Sarah Keith of Creative Imaginations
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Kindergarten - 5th Grade

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KIDS CAN @ CHRISTMAS TIME™

"An Advent Celebration Of Crafts, Recipes And Daily Scripture Readings"
By Sarah A. Keith

"Journey to the Manger," is a great way to celebrate the Advent season with easy-to-do crafts, recipes, and Scripture readings. There is an activity for each day in December leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Day celebrate Jesus' birthday by eating the "Crown Him King Birthday Cake"! Children and adults will be reminded of the real reason we celebrate this special day!

The Scripture readings and activities are formatted into a daily calendar to accompany the lighting of your Advent Candles, the first project on the calendar. (Each night during Advent my family lights our Advent candle or candles, reads the Scripture for the day, sings one or two of our favorite Christmas songs, and finish in prayer.)

Some of the craft or recipe ideas in this book are simple to make, and are perfect for the youngest of kids. Some are more challenging for older kids. Have fun doing an activity every day, or just one a week. Either way, you will be making special memories for years to come!

I hope "Journey to the Manger," will be a blessing to you this year!

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Sarah A. Keith <><



Journey To The Manger

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|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1 Advent Candles Light first candle. Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7, and Micah 5:2 | 2 3-D Christmas Cookie Tree  Luke 1:26-38 | 3 Chrismon Crown Tree Topper Luke 1:39-56 | 4 Paper Lace Butterfly Luke 2:1-7 | 5 Nativity Mobile or Windsock Luke 2:8-20 | 6 Cookie Jar Recipe Gift  Luke 2:21-32 | 7 Angel & Star Garlands Luke 2:33-40 |
| 8 Light second candle. Window Wreath Matthew 1:18-24 | 9 Church Window Cookies  Matthew 2:1-6 | 10 Epiphany Ornament Matthew 2:7-12 | 11 Ribbon Stars Matthew 2:13-18 | 12 Chrismon Butterfly Snowflake Matthew 2:19-23 | 13 Gold Leaf Sand Dollar Ornament John 1:1-5, 14 | 14 Paper Plate Nativity Galatians 4:4-7 |
| 15 Light third candle. Stained Glass Angel Matthew 28:19-20 | 16 Photo Frames Ephesians 2:8-10 | 17 Paper Lace Angel John 7:37-38, 14:6 | 18 Jesus In The Manger Cupcake  John 3:16-18 | 19 Chrismon Cross Psalm 103 | 20 Clay Nativity or Edible Nativity  Psalm 95:1-7 | 21 Mini Gift Basket Matthew 5:14-16 |
| 22 Light fourth candle. Candy Cane Door Hanger Colossians 3:16-17 | 23 Paper Lace Luminary John 8:12 | 24 Crown Him King Birthday Cake  Revelation 1:1-8 | 25 Light the Jesus' candle. Celebrate! Read Psalm 100 | | | |

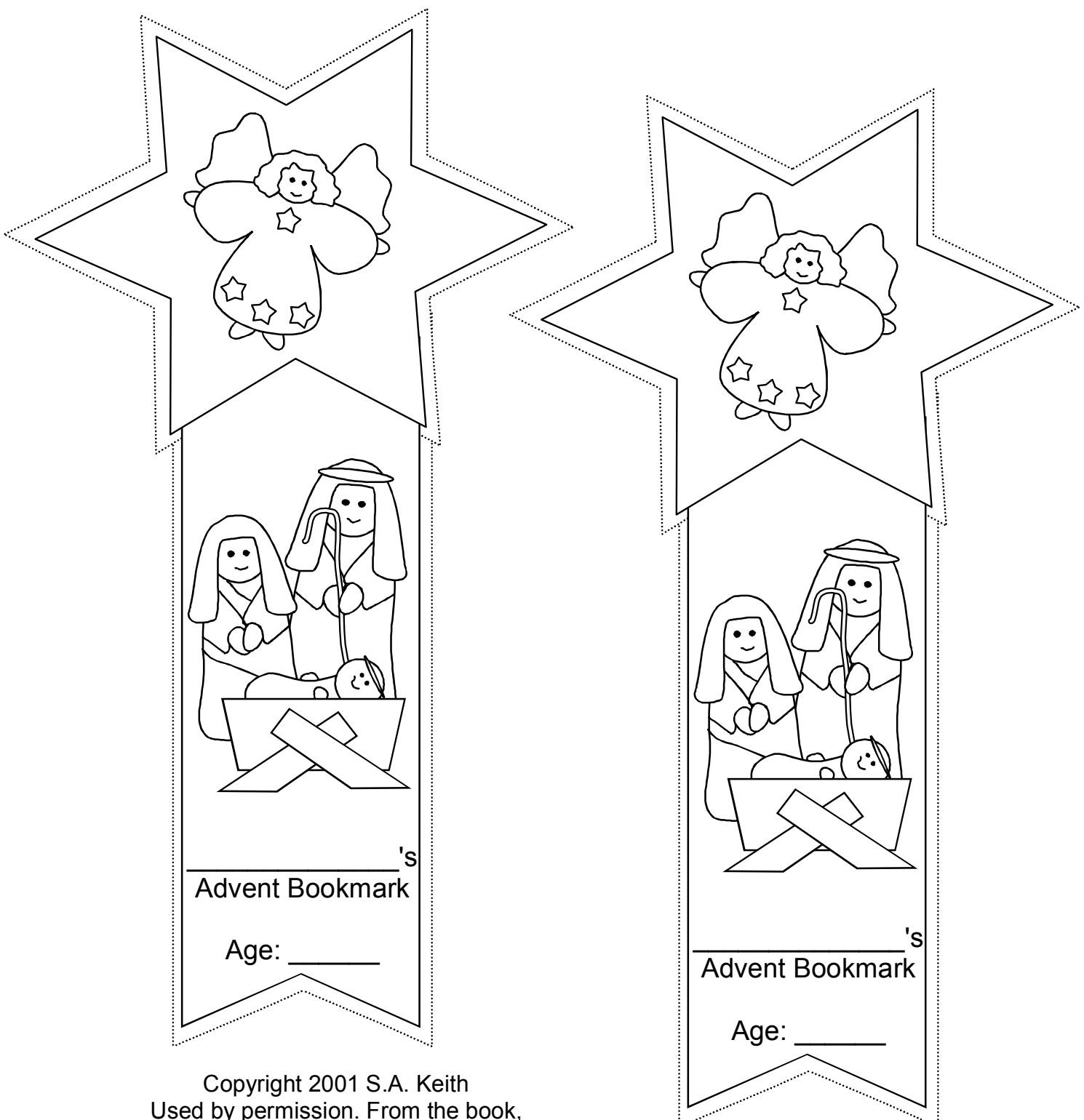


The spoon indicates a recipe for a Christmas treat. The projects on the calendar are intended only as a guide to prepare your heart for Christmas. Make the crafts and recipes on any day you wish!

NATIVITY BOOKMARK

What you need: crayons, scissors.

What you do: Copy patterns onto white cardstock paper. Color the bookmark, write child's name and age, then cut along the dotted lines. Use it for your daily Advent readings.



ADVENT CANDLES

Advent means "coming". It is a time of preparation to ready our hearts for the coming of the day we celebrate our LORD's birth. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. Setting aside a few minutes each day during Advent to light the candle(s) and worship will help everyone in the family to get ready for Jesus' birthday celebration! On the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day burn the first candle, read the Scripture references, sing a carol and pray. On the next Sunday, you will burn the first and second candle. Continue in this manner until the Sunday before Christmas, when you burn all four candles. Then on Christmas Day you burn the 'Christ Candle', signifying that Jesus has come!

1st CANDLE- (purple) "CANDLE OF HOPE"

We can have hope because God is faithful. He will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE- (purple) "CANDLE OF PREPARATION"

Preparation means to 'get ready'. "Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD!" (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE- (pink) "CANDLE OF JOY"

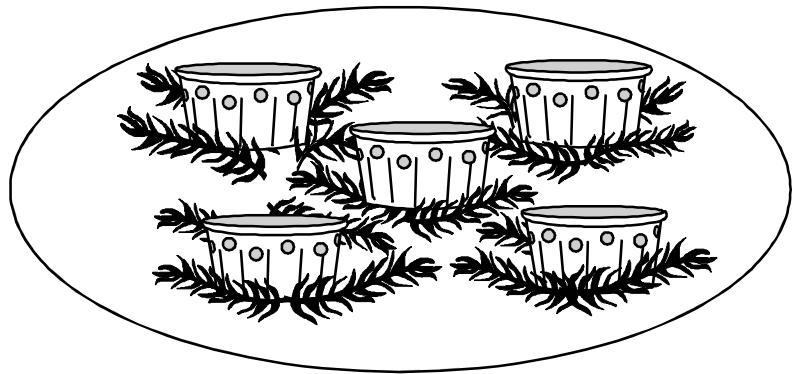
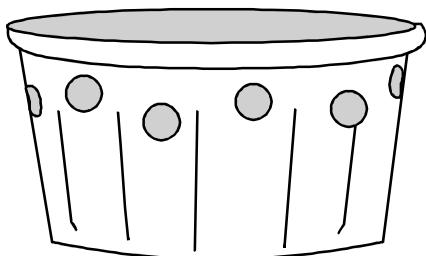
The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE- (purple) "CANDLE OF LOVE"

God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE - (white) "CHRIST CANDLE"

The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29 and John 3:1-8)



What you need: 5 tinfoil muffin tins, 5 votive candles (3 purple, 1 pink, 1 white), a hole punch, real or silk Christmas greenery. Another option is to place red and green candles into your tins and give them away as gifts.

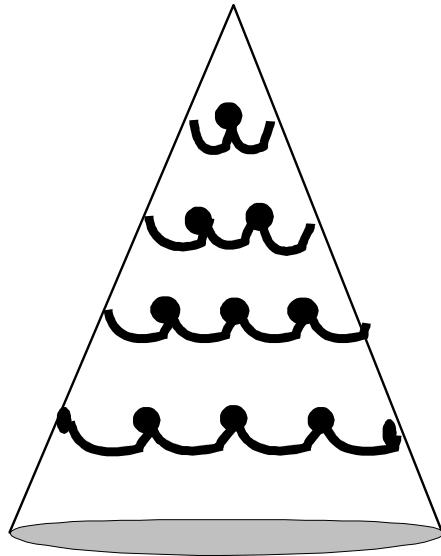
What you do: Punch holes near the top of the rim. Place candles into each one. Arrange them on a table with the white candle at the center and the greenery around the candles. When you light your candles the light flickers through the holes and is a beautiful site.

For ideas on making an Advent Wreath, click on the Crafts section at ChristianCrafters.Com.

3-D CHRISTMAS COOKIE TREE

What you need: A box of icecream sugar cones, green frosting, white frosting, and small red candies or red frosting. (To make it easy on yourself, buy the ready-to-use white frosting in a can and color it with green food color, then buy the white decorator frosting in the tubes.)

What you do: Turn the sugar cones upside down and spread the green frosting over the outside of the cones. Apply the white frosting like a garland. Place the red candies on the trees for the ornaments. (Or make dots with red frosting.) Enjoy!



The History of the Christmas Tree

The tradition of decorating the Paradeisbaum, or Paradise trees, originated in Europe. Christians would celebrate the holiday on Christmas Eve by acting out important events in Scripture. One of the skits that was performed was the "The Garden of Eden" scene. Since it was the wintertime in Europe it was not possible to find an apple tree with apples, so an evergreen tree would be substituted. The actors first hung apples on their "Paradise Trees", later adding other adornments such as dried fruits and nuts.

The increase in popularity of the Paradeisbaum is attributed to Martin Luther. It is believed that he first added lighted candles to his Paradise Tree after walking home through the woods one winter evening. He was in the midst of composing a sermon and was awestruck by the brilliance of the millions of twinkling stars above the evergreens. So inspired by the beauty of God's creation, he cut down an evergreen and brought it home to his family, then wired lighted candles to the tree to recreate the starlit scene.

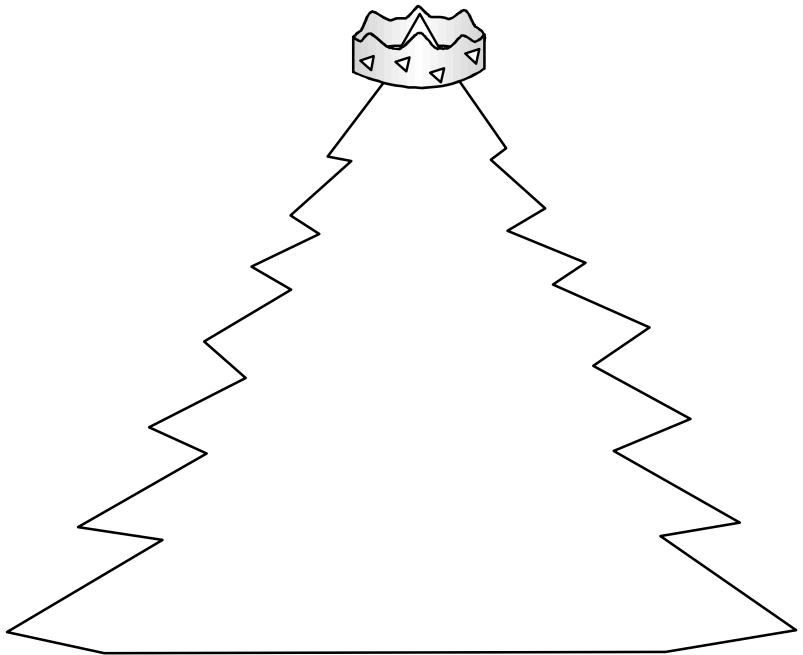
Paradise trees eventually became known as "Christ Trees", then Christmas Trees. It is believed that Christmas trees were brought to America by Germans that immigrated to Pennsylvania. The diary of Matthew Zahm of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, records the introduction of the Christmas tree being brought to the New World December 20, 1821.

CHRISMON CROWN TREE TOPPER

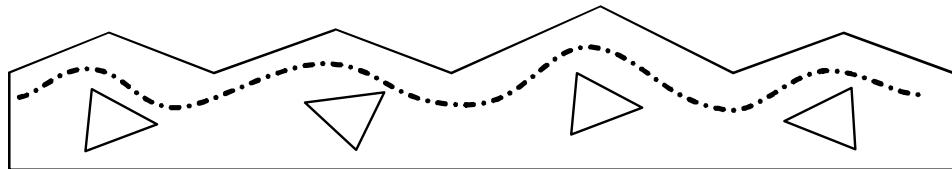
They lay their crowns before
the throne and say:

"You are worthy, our Lord
and God,
to receive glory and honor
and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were
created
and have their being."

Revelation 4:10-11



What you need: White craft foam(18" in length and 7" in width), scissors, stapler, gold decorations such as gold glitter paint, gold glass jewels, gold bric-a-brac, etc.



What you do: Cut triangle shapes on one side of the craft foam, lengthwise. Apply gold decorations, staple the ends together. Allow to dry. Place on the top of your tree. (Attaching a criss-cross of white florist wire to the inside bottom of the crown will help keep it straight on your tree. The wire will poke through the craft foam easily.)

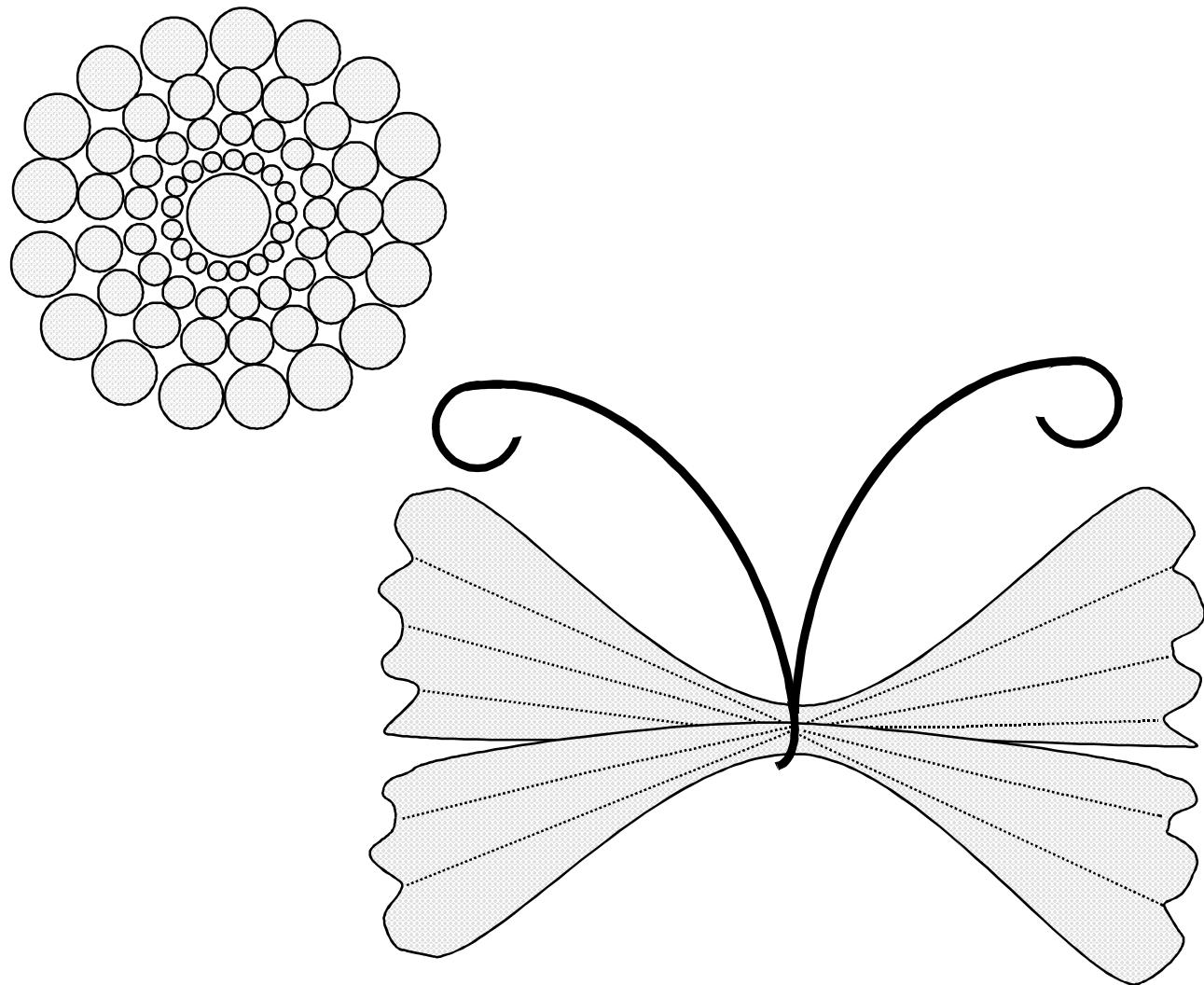
To see a color picture of a Chrismon Crown on a Chrismon tree, go to ChristianCrafters.Com and click on the Chrismon link from the home page.

PAPER LACE BUTTERFLY

What you need: two 6" or 8" round medallion paper lace doilies, 12" gold pipe cleaner.

What you do:

Fan fold two 6" or 8" medallion paper lace doilies. Make the folds about an inch wide. Grasp the doilies at the center, and place them on top of each other. Fold the gold pipe cleaner in half and wrap around both doilies. Twist to secure. See illustration. Bring the ends up to form the antennae. Roll the ends to finish the look. Spread the wings and place it on your tree to enjoy!



NATIVITY MOBILE

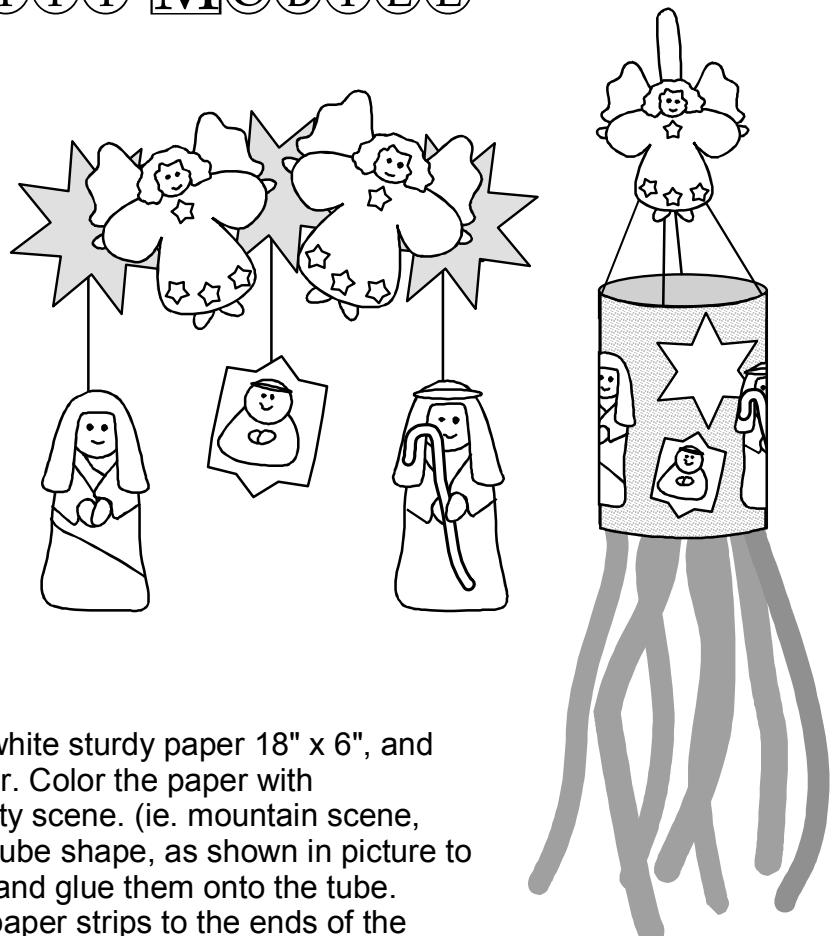
Make a Nativity Mobile or Windsock.

What you need: paper plate, crayons, scissors, glue stick, gold metallic string.

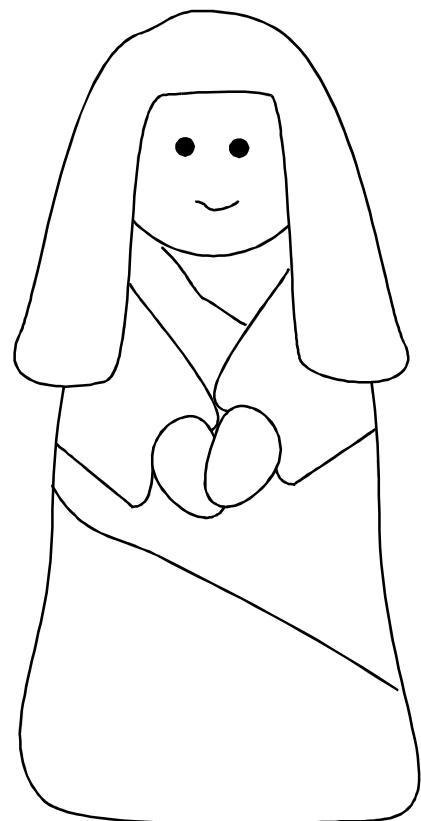
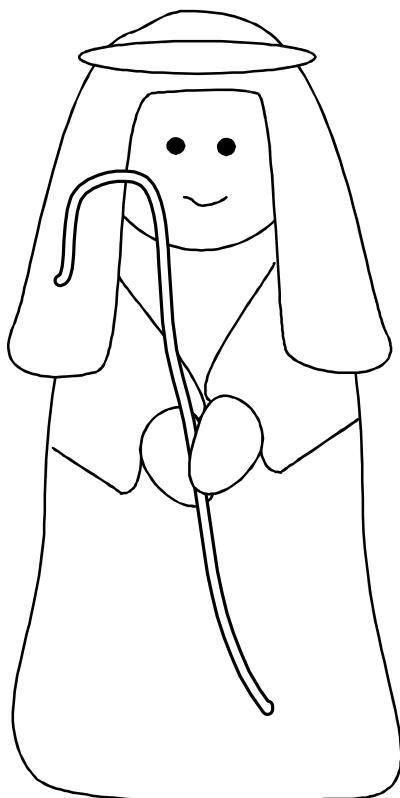
What you do:

To make the mobile, copy the Nativity figures on this page, and the angels and stars on the next page, onto white card stock paper. Color and cut them out.

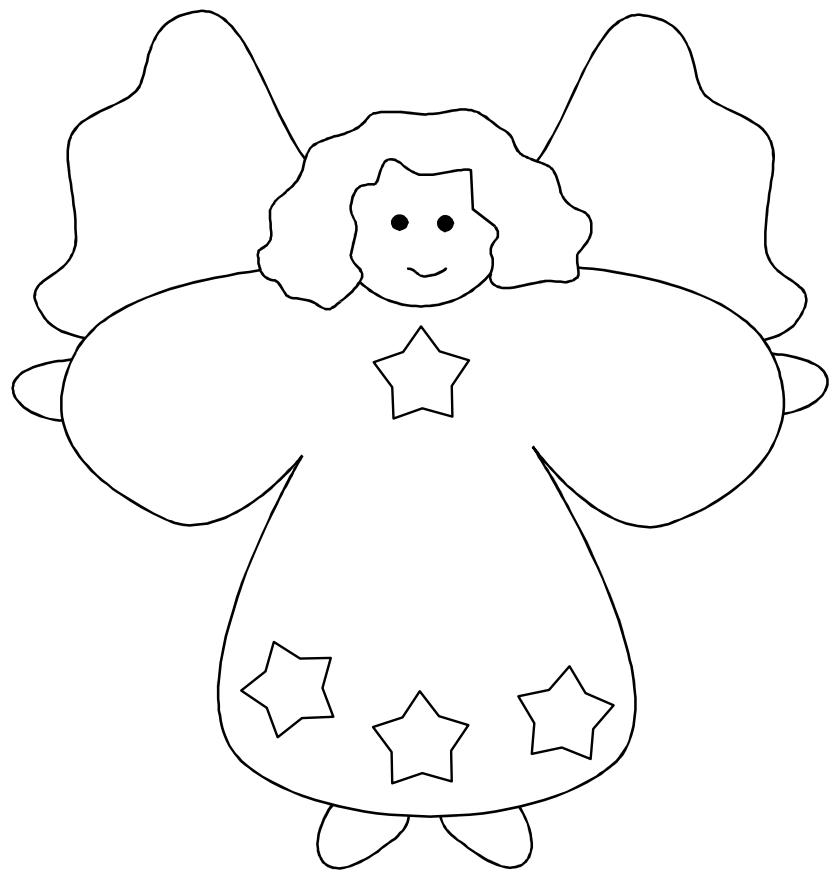
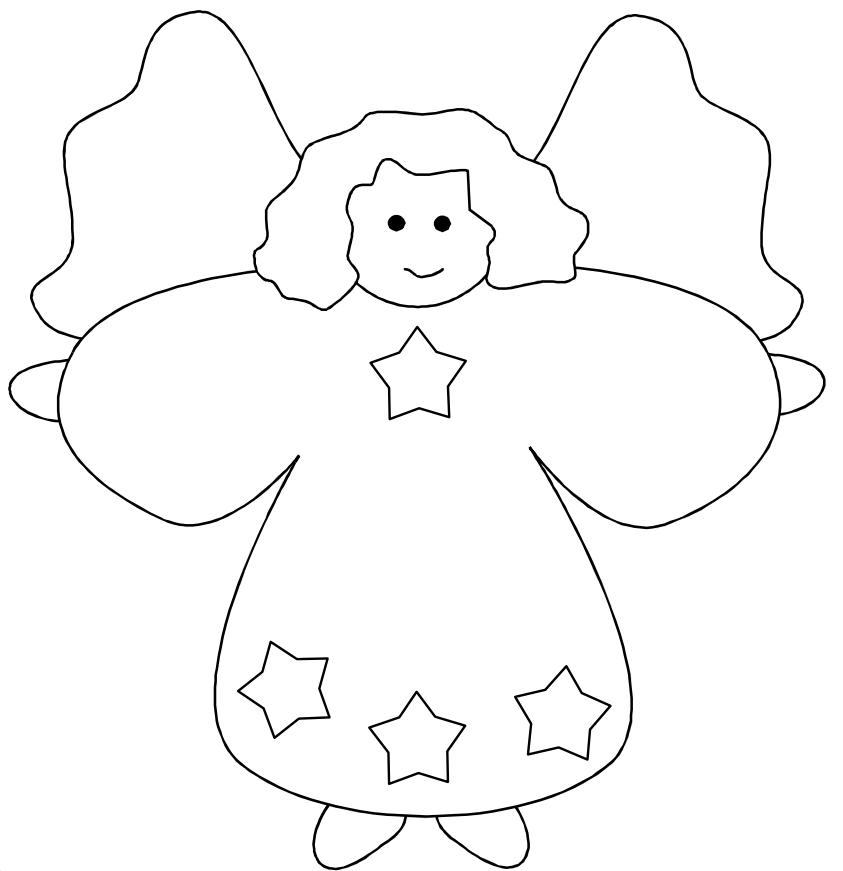
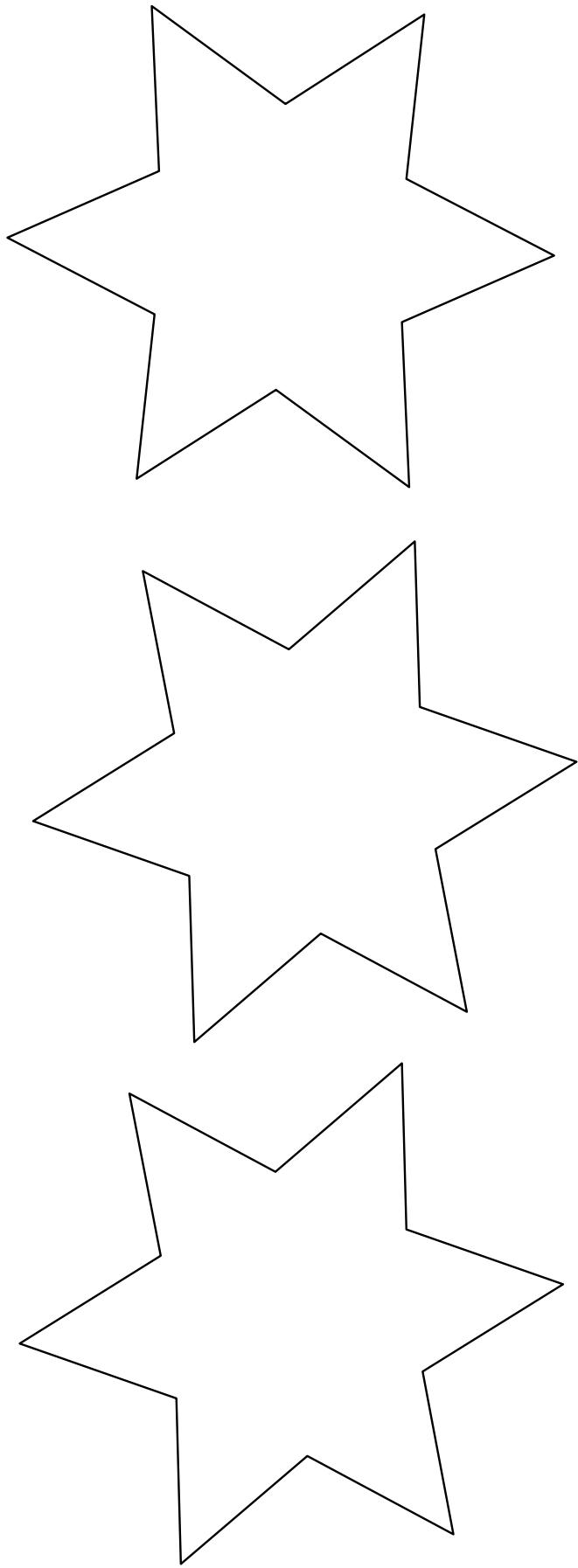
Cut the top rim of a paper plate off, or use a piece of card board to glue the angels and stars onto. Attach the Nativity figures with gold metallic string using tape or punch holes in plate to tie them on.



To make the windsock, you'll need a piece of white sturdy paper 18" x 6", and long strips of red, green, and white crepe paper. Color the paper with background pictures to compliment your Nativity scene. (ie. mountain scene, stable scene, trees and sky) Roll paper into a tube shape, as shown in picture to the right. Staple ends shut. Color the patterns and glue them onto the tube. (Keep the angels separate.) Staple the crepe paper strips to the ends of the tube. String with gold thread from tube top. Tie a loop of string to the four strands to hang the windsock. Glue the angels back to back overlapping the loop of string. Hang in a breezy window.



Nativity Mobile or Windsock



COOKIE JAR RECIPE

Make Cookie Jar Recipes to give away as a gift!

Place the following four levels of dry ingredients into a one quart mason jar, or into a clean, one quart mayonnaise jar.

As you fill the jar, pack each layer down.

1 cup all-purpose flour sifted with
3/4 teaspoon soda, 1/2 teaspoon salt,
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, and 1 teaspoon nutmeg,

1 (6-ounce) package semisweet chocolate chips

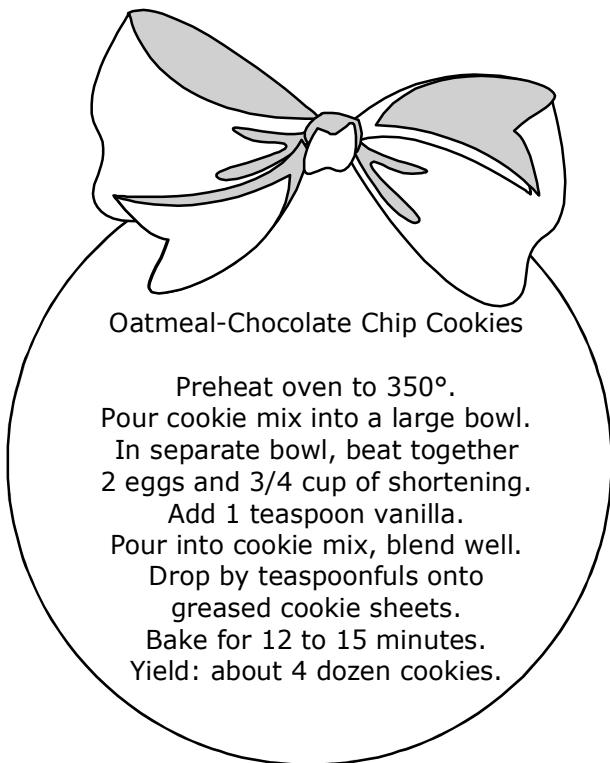
2 cups regular oats, uncooked,

1 1/3 cups firmly packed brown sugar.



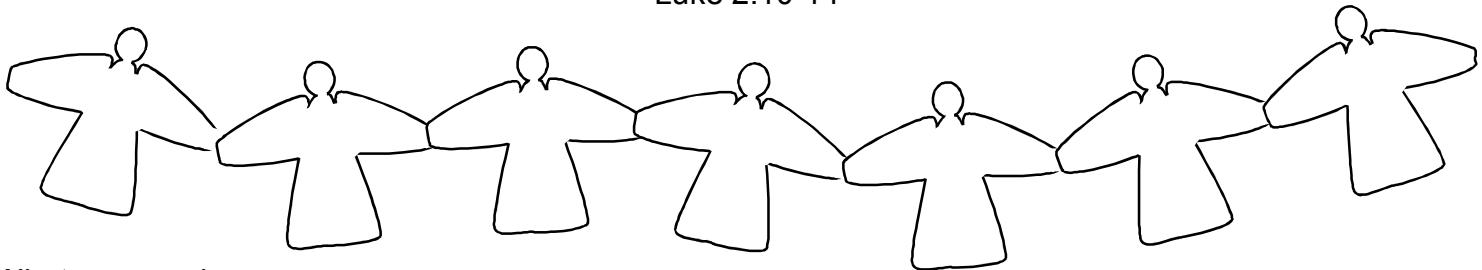
Copy the recipe ornament onto white cardstock paper. Cover the lid with a piece of Christmas cloth. Color the bow and punch a hole at the top of the recipe card, then secure card and cloth with an elastic gold cord.

For more Cookie Jar Recipes, search the Archives List at ChristianCrafters.Com



ANGEL AND STAR GARLAND

Luke 2:10-14



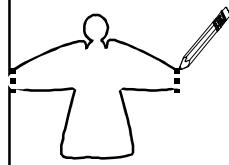
What you need:

Copies of the angel or star patterns on the next page, long strips of white or gold paper (4" x 38"), scissors.

What you do:

Cut out the angel or star pattern. Cut long strips of white paper, such as butcher paper, or gold wrapping paper at least 4" wide by however long you want your chain to be. I suggest a length of 38". If you want it longer, you can glue or tape your garland chains together. If the strips are much longer than 38" it is difficult to cut. Starting at one end of the strip of paper, place your angel or star pattern onto the paper and trace. See illustration A. Begin fan folding the paper, carefully making sure your folds are the same width as the traced pattern. See illustration B. Cut out the angel or star. Do not cut along the dotted edges of the patterns, this is where each angel and star connects on your garland chain. Unfold carefully, hang your garland on your tree and enjoy!

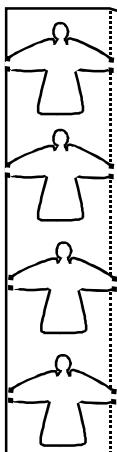
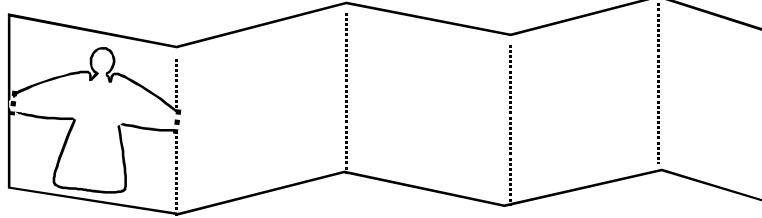
Illustration A



Trace pattern onto one end of the strip of paper.

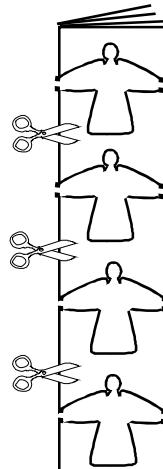
Illustration B

Fan fold the paper and cut out the angel or star.
Do not cut the edges of the pattern along the folds.

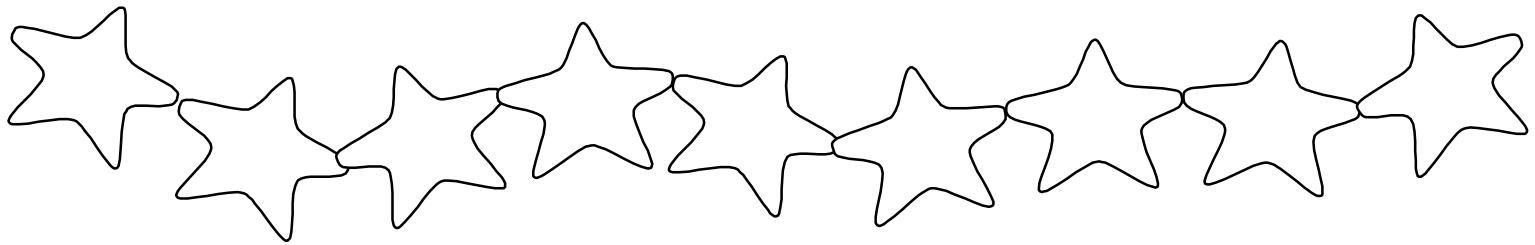


To fold a lot of garlands at one time, trace multiple angel or star patterns onto the edge of a large sheet of paper, then carefully fan fold the entire sheet of paper.

Once the large sheet has been carefully fan folded, cut the individual angels or stars out.

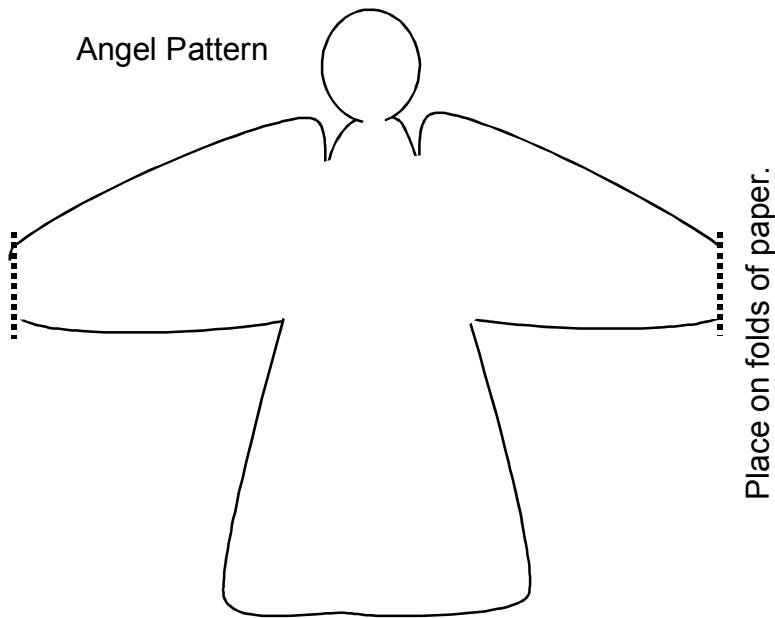


A N G E L A N D S T A R G A R L A N D



Place on folds of paper.

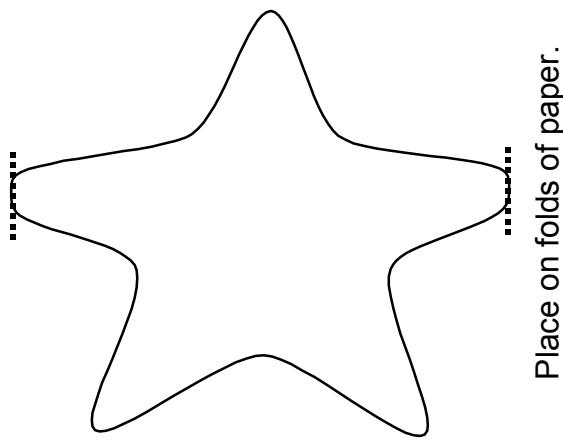
Angel Pattern



Place on folds of paper.

Star Pattern

Place on folds of paper.



Place on folds of paper.

WINDOW WREATH

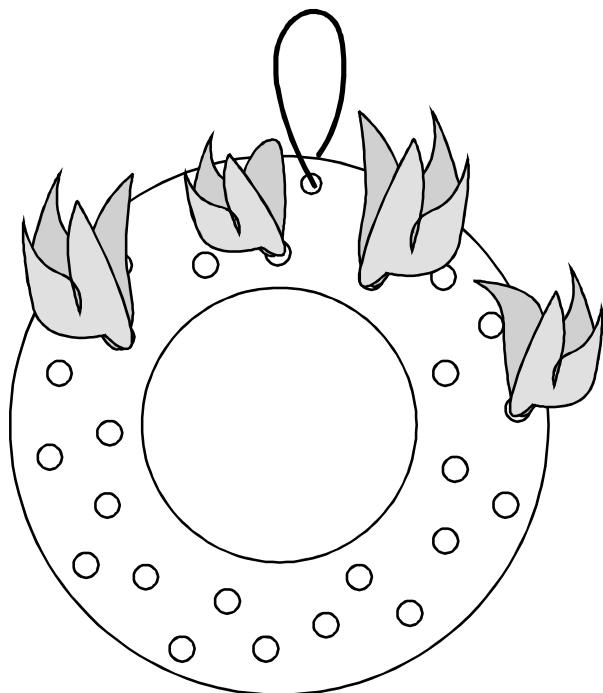
What you need:

Various colors of green tissue paper, red tissue paper, paper plate, hole punch, scissors.

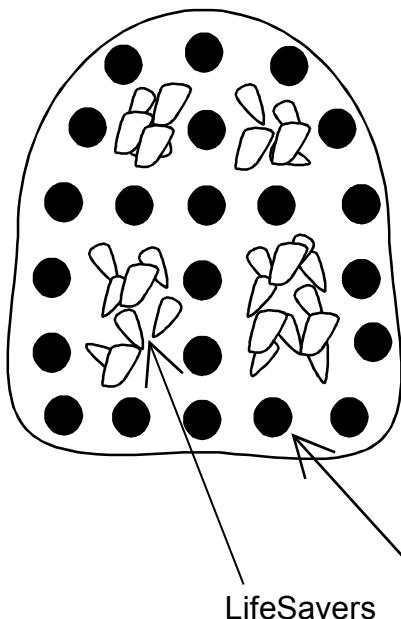
What you do:

Cut or tear the the tissue paper into 5" squares. Cut the center of a paper plate out. Punch holes randomly into the rim of the paper plate spacing them approximately one to two inches apart. Twist the ends of the tissue paper and pull through the holes. Fan out the paper on both sides of the wreath. Most of the holes are for the various colors of green tissue paper. Leave a few holes open for the red tissue paper.

The wreath is decorated on both sides. Hang with a ribbon and place it in a window for everyone inside, or out, to enjoy!



CHURCH WINDOW COOKIES



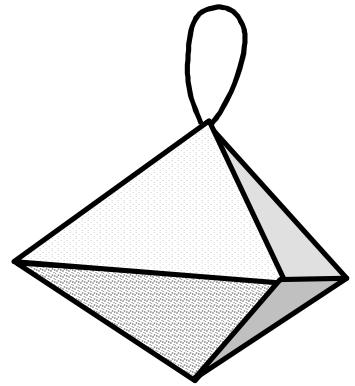
What you need: Premade sugar or butter cookie dough, chocolate chips, multicolored Lifesavers.

What you do:

Cut your cookie dough and place on cookie sheet. (Optional, shape the dough like the illustration to the left.) Using your chocolate chips, make a cross design in the center of the cookie and a line of chips around the edge. Now for the fun part, place the Lifesaver candies into a plastic bag, use a mallet to crush them in halves and quarters. Place chopped up pieces of Lifesavers between the cross arms. Bake according to the cookie directions. (Make sure you use plenty of green, orange and yellow. The red Lifesavers overpower the other colors.)

THREE KINGS ORNAMENT

The people of the orient make a unique ornament called a 'Koma'. Komas are made by folding paper in a special way to form a six-sided pyramid shape, then intricately wrapping it with thin colored strips of ribbon. I have simplified the technique of making Komas and wanted to share it with you. I call my ornaments, Epiphany Ornaments, to remind us of the Wise Men, the oriental kings, that brought Jesus gifts to honor and worship him. May it be your prayer this Advent season to seek the King of Kings; to worship him, and to present your life as a gift to him! (See Matthew 2:1-12 and Romans 12:1)

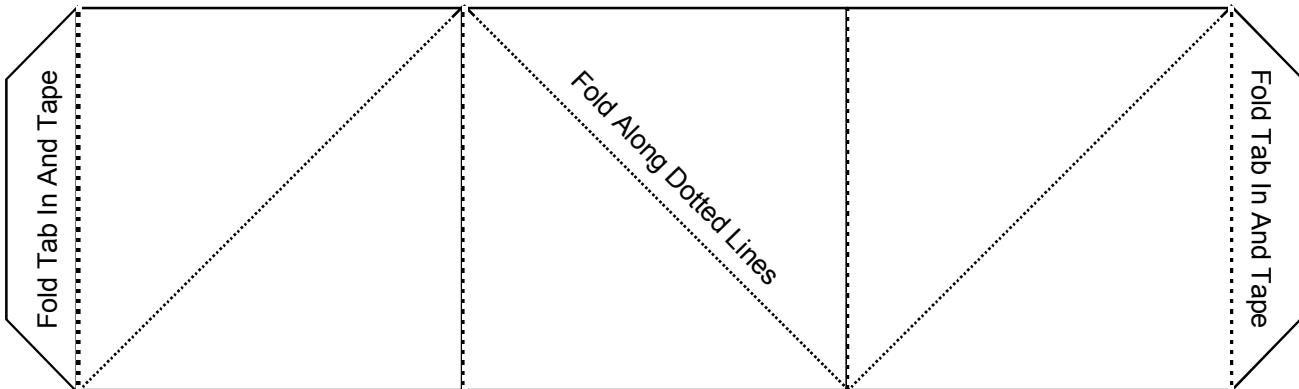


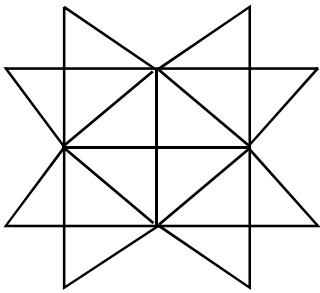
What you need:

The pattern below, an old or new Christmas card (I like using Christmas family photo cards which I receive from my friends, then I give the card-ornament back to them as a keepsake. They love it!) a pencil, scissors, straight edge ruler, gold cord to hang your ornament, tape, and glue stick.

What you do:

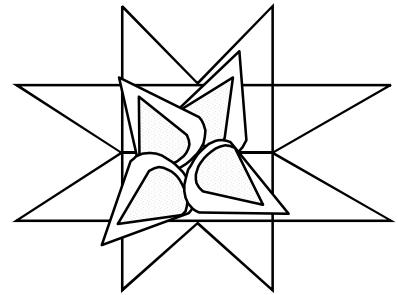
- 1) Cut out the pattern. Center the pattern over the main design on the Christmas card. Trace the pattern onto the card. Cut it out.
- 2) Mark the dotted lines onto the back of the card design using the pattern as your guide. Score the dotted lines using a straight edge and tip of a scissor.
- 3) Fold along the dotted lines to form a six-sided pyramid shape. Using the glue stick, close one end tab shut. Place a small piece of tape to the inside to hold it in place. Leave the other end open.
- 4) Before you close the second tab, tape the ends of the string inside so you can hang your ornament. Allow the string to come out at one of the pointed ends of the ornament. Glue the second tab shut and place a piece of tape to hold it or don't seal it shut, just tuck in the tab and you can place a note or other small goody inside to give with your gift ornament!
- 5) Hang your Epiphany Ornament on your tree or give it to a friend. Enjoy!





Flat Ribbon Star

RIBBON STARS



3-D Ribbon Star

Ribbon Stars, also known as German or Swedish stars, are usually made with strips of white paper and have been used to decorate Christmas trees for hundreds of years. There are two ways to make these stars, you can opt for the flat design, which I think are beautiful and easier to make. Or, you can make the three dimensional design which are equally beautiful, but slightly more difficult to make.

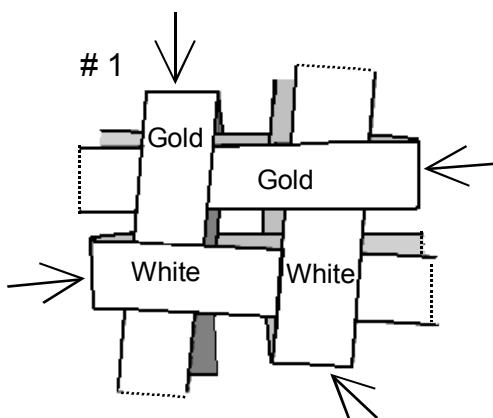
What you need:

To make one star, you'll need 2 strips of white ribbon, 3/4" to 1" width and 30" long, and 2 strips of gold ribbon 3/4" to 1" width and 30" long, (I use the cloth acetate ribbon), and gold thread for hanging. If you can find white ribbon with gold designs embossed on it, try it for a unique effect! (You'll only need to use 20" strips of ribbon to make the flat ribbon stars.)

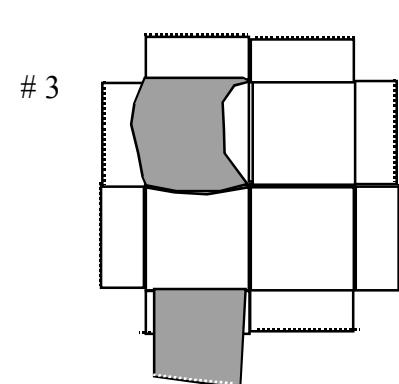
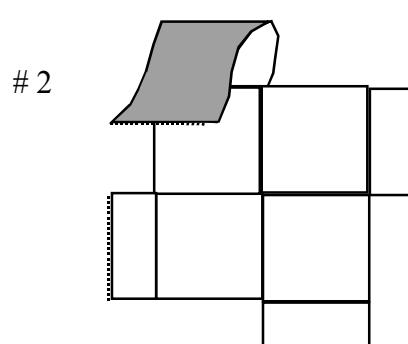
What you do:

Step 1: Fold the 4 strips of ribbon in half and cut the ends at an angle. Weave together as shown in drawing #1. (The dotted lines on the drawing indicates continuation of the ribbon.) Tighten so the ribbons lock together in a basket weave. Turn over.

Step 2: Fold down top, upper left strip. See drawing #2. Turn clockwise and continue to fold down top, upper left strip on the next three strips, to form a second basket weave. On the fourth strip, weave it through the bottom left basket weave as in drawing #3.

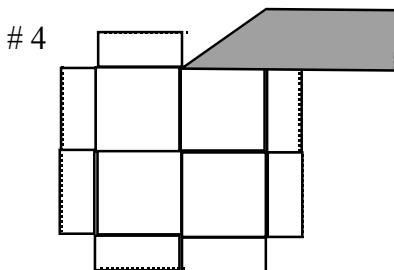


Ribbons are woven over, then in. (See ribbon folds, top left and moving clockwise.)

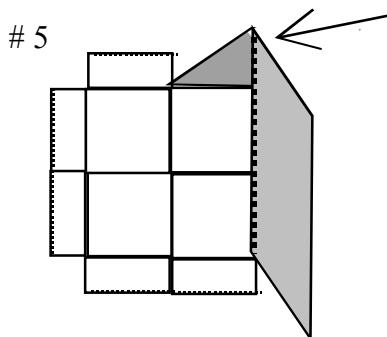


RIBBON STARS (con't.)

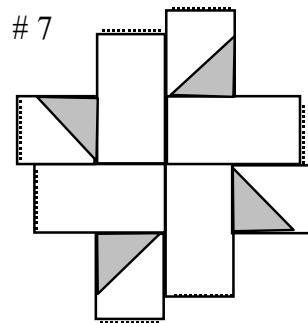
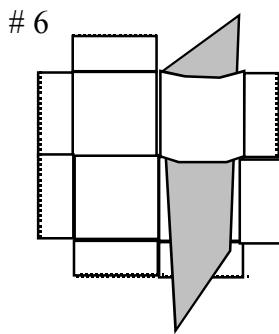
Step 3: Fold upper right strip away from you to make a right angle fold, see drawing #4.



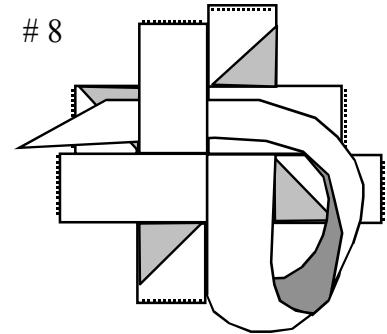
Step #4: Fold strip toward you and down to form a triangle on top, as in drawing #5.



Step #5: Fold strip to the left and weave the end of the ribbon through the first upper right basket weave to form a point, see drawing #6. Turn clockwise and fold as before to make the three remaining points. Turn star over and repeat steps 3-5. Your star will now look like the picture in drawing #7. To make the flat star, trim excess ribbon up to the basket weave. Cut the ribbon with a diagonal cut to enhance the design. Hang with a gold thread. Enjoy!



Step 6: To make the three dimensional star, take the end of the lower right strip of ribbon, and keeping the top side up, loop it around and push the end through the upper left basket weave as in drawing #8. Pull strip tight to form a point. Turn star clockwise and repeat for the three remaining points. On the fourth strip, you'll have to push the end of the ribbon through the upper left point in order to go under the basket weave. Turn star over and repeat step 6. Trim the ends of the ribbon. Hang and enjoy!

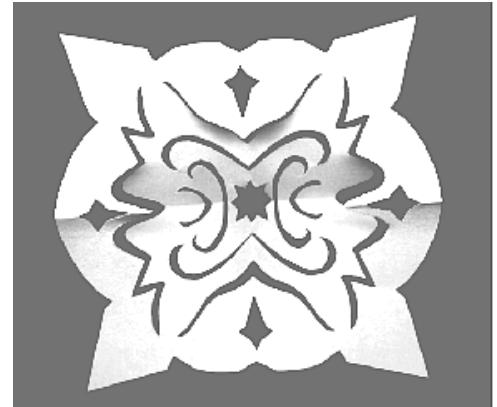


CHRISMON SNOWFLAKE BUTTERFLY

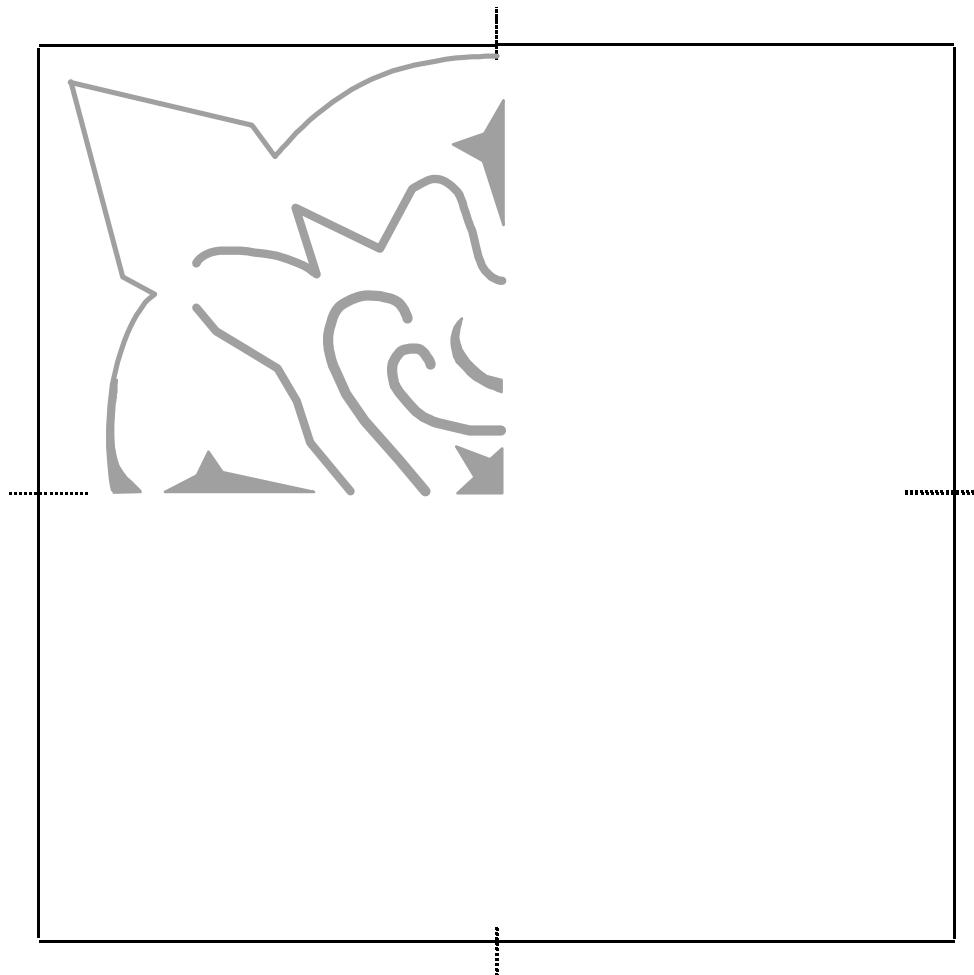
Did you know that the word "Chrismon" is an ancient Latin word which means a symbol of Christ or Christianity? The butterfly is a symbol of new life. As Christians, we have new life in Jesus!

What you need: scissors.

What you do: Copy the pattern onto white linen paper. Using a small sharp pointed scissors, cut out the large square pattern, below. With design facing up, fold the square pattern in half, then in quarters. Cut along the black lines. Carefully cut out the shaded areas. Unfold carefully. There will be an inner design and an outer design. With pattern lines facing away, push the inner design away from you and press the folds to conform. Now pull the outer design towards you and press the folds to conform. This will give your ornament its three dimensional look. You can spray it with a white pearlescent spray to make it more durable. Or, gold leaf it for a unique effect! Lightly spray with clear coat when completed. No need to attach a string, simply hang it on your tree.



2 Corinthians 5:17



GOLD LEAF SAND DOLLAR

Legend of the Sand Dollar

There's a lovely little legend
that I would like to tell,
Of the birth and death of Jesus
found in this lowly shell.

If you examine closely,
you'll see that you find here
four nail holes and another,
one made by a Roman's spear.

One side shows the Easter lily
with its center as the star.
It shined brightly for the shepherds
as they traveled from afar.

The Christmas Poinsettia
etched on the other side,
tells us Christ was born,
and for our lives he died.

Now break the center open
and here you will release
the five white doves awaiting
to spread good will and peace.

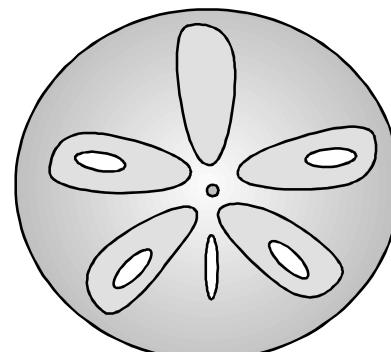
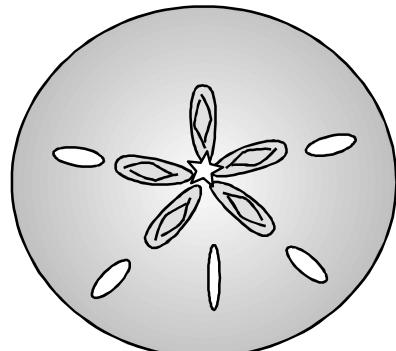
This simple little shell
Christ left for you and me,
reminds us of his gospel
to save humanity.

(Original author unknown)

"Let heaven and earth praise him,
the seas and all that move in them..."
Psalm 69:34

"For since the creation of the world God's
invisible qualities-his eternal power and
divine nature-have been clearly seen,
being understood from what has been
made, so that men are without excuse."

Romans 1:20



What you need:

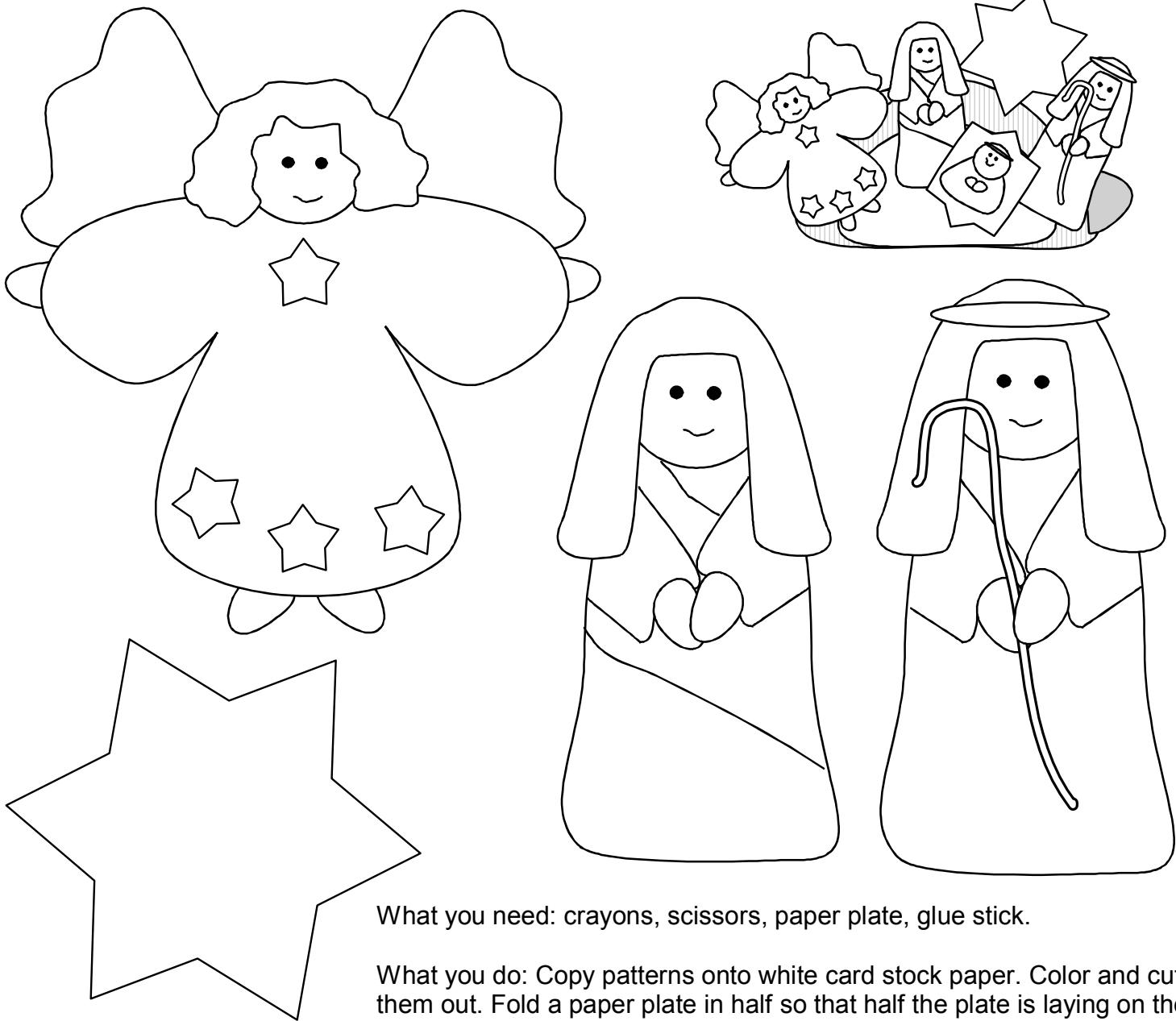
2 Sand dollars (one to decorate, the other to break open), gold foil leaf, foil leaf adhesive, paint brush, clear coat spray paint, gold thread.

What you do:

Spray the sand dollar with clear coat to seal the pores. After it's dry, brush on the foil leaf adhesive. Wait till it dries and recoat. When dry, press the gold foil onto the sand dollar. Attach a gold thread through one of the holes and hang on your tree. The gold represents the glory and majesty of Jesus.

Alternative technique: spray the sand dollar with gold glitter spray. The white reminds us of the purity of Jesus, the gold for his glory and majesty.

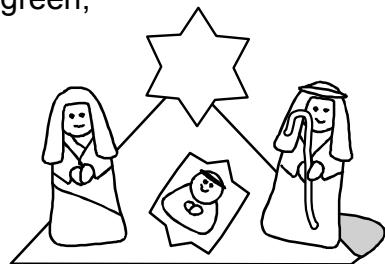
PAPER PLATE NATIVITY



What you need: crayons, scissors, paper plate, glue stick.

What you do: Copy patterns onto white card stock paper. Color and cut them out. Fold a paper plate in half so that half the plate is laying on the table and the other half is sticking up. Using a glue stick, glue the figures onto the plate as shown in picture above. For a special effect, place a votive candle behind the nativity. Make sure the flame is not able to jump out of the candle holder and burn the plate.

Another way to display your nativity is to fold a paper plate so that 1/3 of the plate is laying flat and 2/3 is standing up. The part that stands up is then cut into a triangle shape and colored green, to look like a Christmas tree. Arrange the pictures as shown below.



STAINED GLASS ANGEL

If you're using paint, suggested colors:

Robe: purple, pink or blue

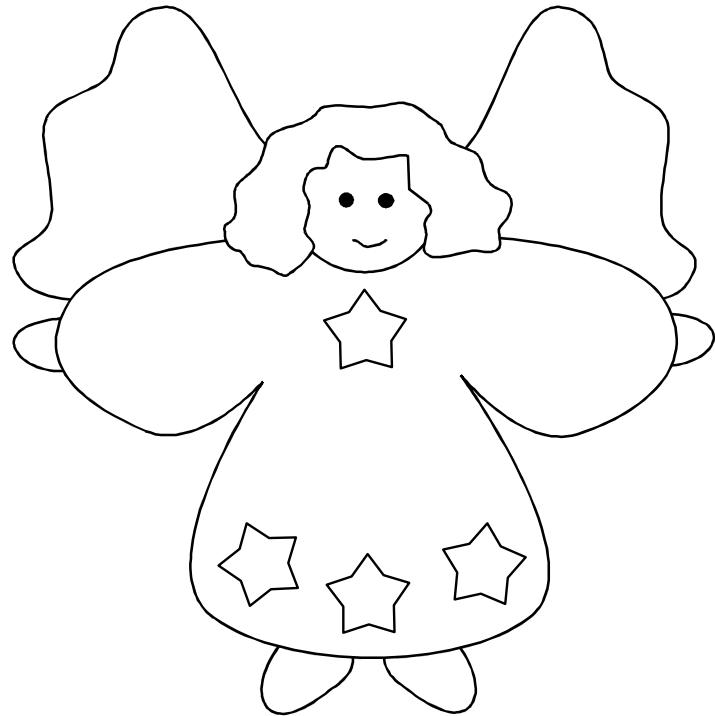
Hair: yellow or brown

Stars: yellow

Face/Hands: skin tones

Wings: pearl white

Lines: black



What you need:

Two options for supplies:

1) Stained glass paint, (see suggested colors above) flat lid of a clear plastic deli container.
OR-

2) Black permanent marker, multi-colored tissue paper in small torn pieces, (1/2" to 3/4" in size), glitter glaze, Modge-Podge, small paint brush. (If you can't find glitter glaze, mix some glitter into your Modge-Podge.)

What you do:

Place the flat part of the plastic lid over the angel pattern. Using the black permanent marker, or black stained glass paint, trace the design onto the plastic. (If you're using the paint, apply it to the design according to the manufacturers directions.)

If you are using the tissue paper, turn the design over, paint the back with a thin coat of Modge-Podge. Apply it so that the Modge-Podge overlaps the lines. Lay the bits of tissue paper onto the design until it is fully covered. Apply another thin coat of Modge-Podge. Allow to dry. Apply a thin coat of glitter glaze to both sides.

Once the angel is dry, cut the plastic around the outer edge of the angel. Punch a hole at the top and hang it on your tree with a gold thread, or attach it to a gift!

WREATH PHOTO FRAME

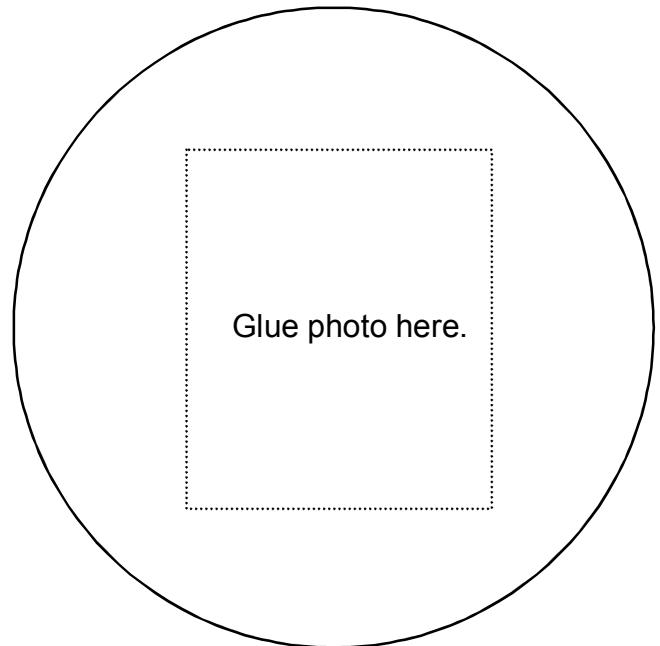
What you need: small photo (1-1/2" x 2"), card board, glue stick, green and red tissue paper.

What you do:

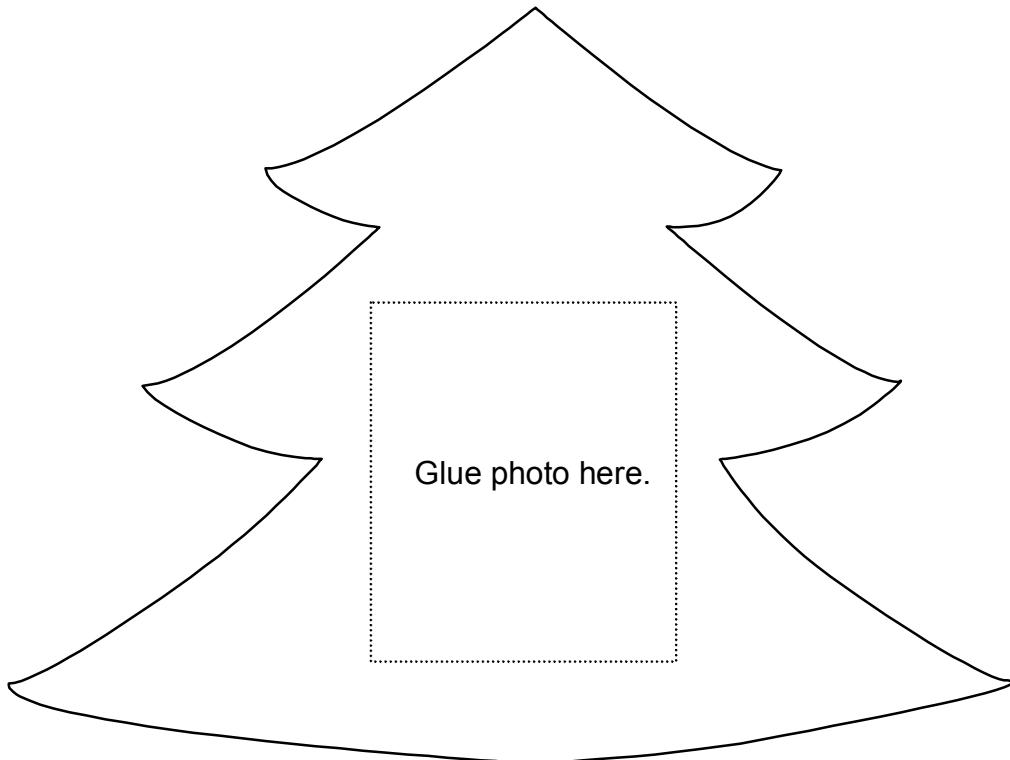
Copy the patterns onto card board. Glue stick a small photo at the center.

Scrnch green tissue paper into quarter to one-half inch balls. Glue tissue balls onto cardboard. Cover the cardboard and the sides of the photo. Place a few balls of red tissue paper onto wreath or tree frame.

Punch a hole at the top and hang with a thread. Or, glue a magnet to the back.



TREE PHOTO FRAME



PAPER LACE ANGEL

What you need: A white lace paper placemat (9 3/4" x 14 1/2"), 6" gold pipe cleaner, 1 white pearl bead 16mm in diameter, glue stick.

What you do:

Copy the angel patterns on the next page. Center the wing pattern along the scalloped edge of the lace paper placemat lengthwise. (Cut two.) Center the body pattern over the side edge of the placemat widthwise. Fan fold lengthwise all three strips of paper, making your folds about a half inch wide. (See illustration A.) The two smaller strips will be for the wings, the longer strip of paper is the angel's body. Fold the wings in half and pinch them together. (See illustration B.) Pinch together the longer strip of paper on one end for the angel's neck. The scalloped edge of the body will be the bottom of the angel's skirt. (See illustration C.) Attach the bottom of the wings with glue stick to either side of the top of the body where it is pinched together. Make sure you place the paper so that the 'pretty' side of the paper will be facing out. Wrap the end of the pipe cleaner around the middle of the wings and around the body. Twist to secure in back. Bring the pipe cleaner up to the top of the body and center over the 'shoulders'. Slide the bead onto the pipe cleaner to form the angel's head. (See illustration D.) Loop the pipe cleaner to form the halo. Spread out the wings and body. Attach a gold thread to the halo and hang it on your tree to enjoy. It makes a great gift ornament too!

Illustration A
Fan fold two wings,
and one body.

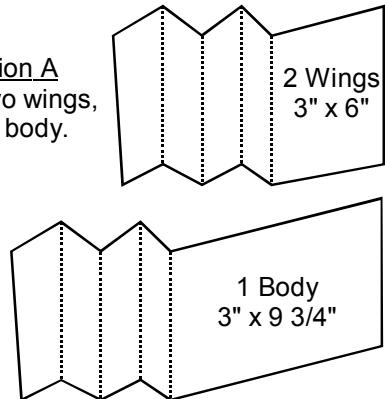


Illustration B
Fold wing
in half.

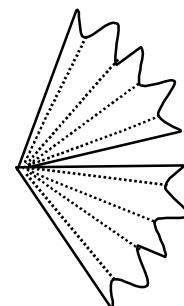


Illustration C
Pinch one end of the body together.
Make sure the scalloped edge is at the bottom.
Apply glue stick to both sides of the top of the
body to attach the wings.

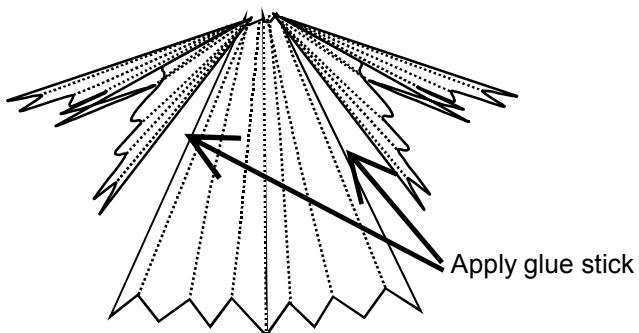
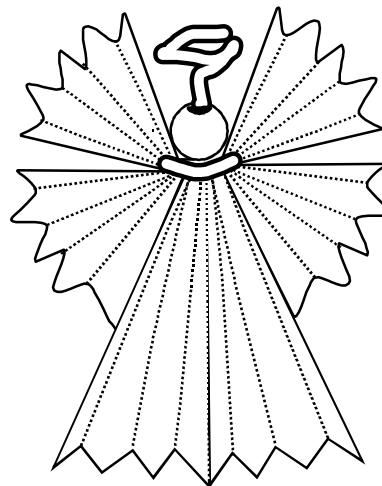
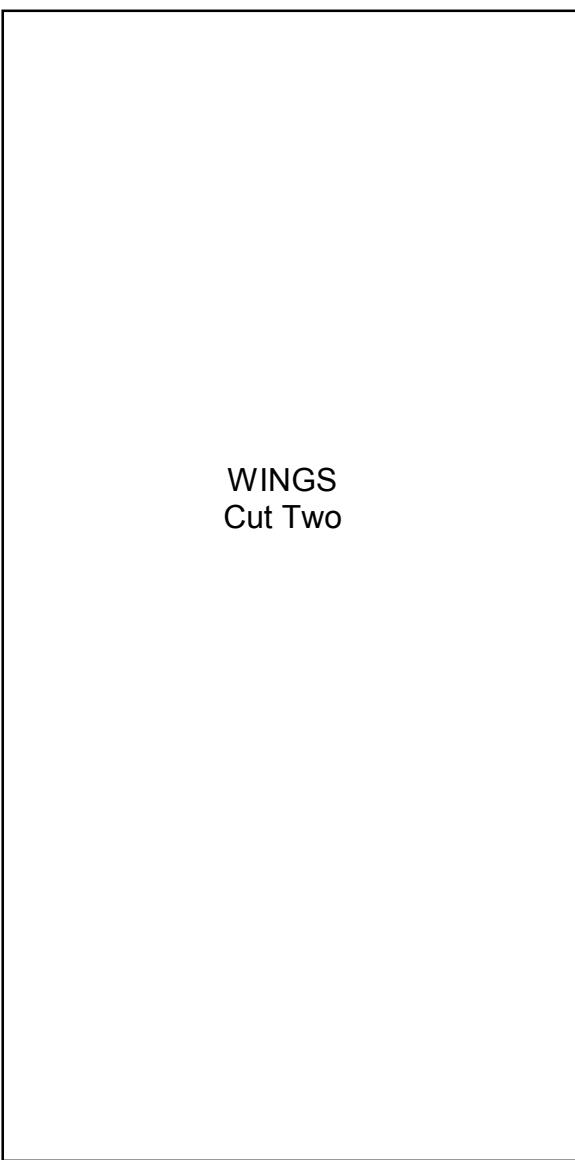


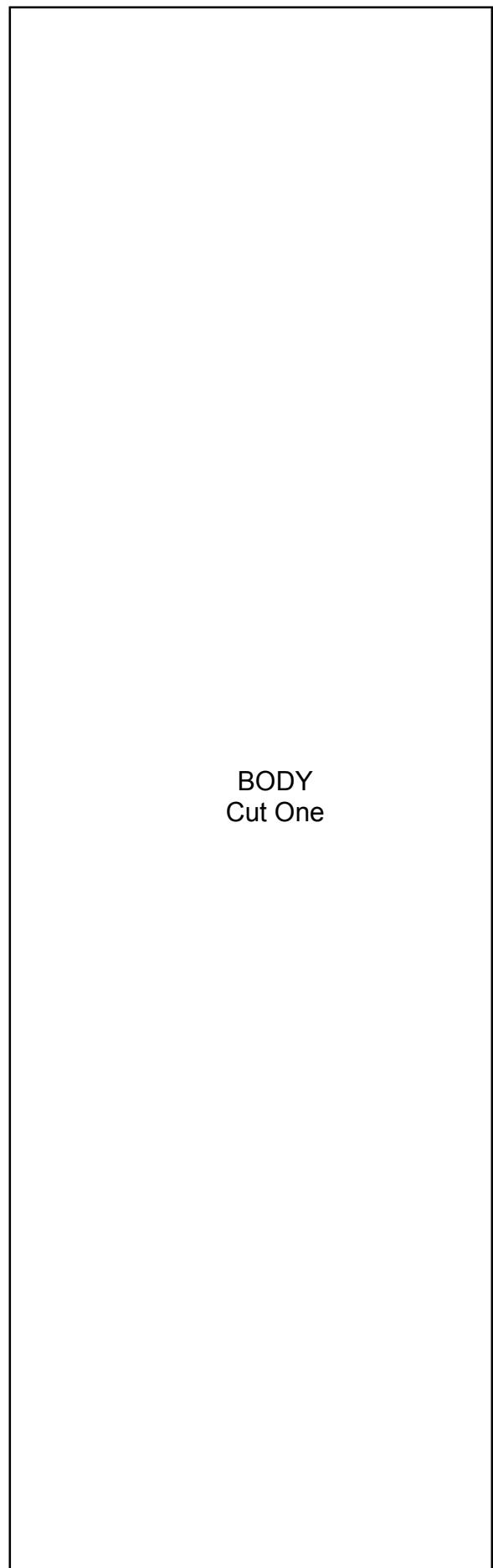
Illustration D



Paper Lace Angel Patterns

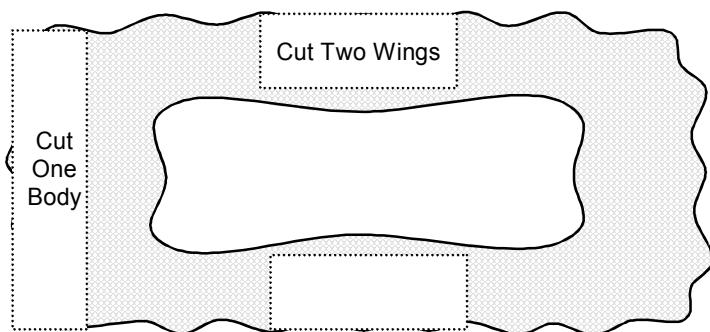


WINGS
Cut Two



BODY
Cut One

Arrange patterns onto the white paper lace placemat as shown in the illustration below. The scalloped edges of the placemat do not get cut off.

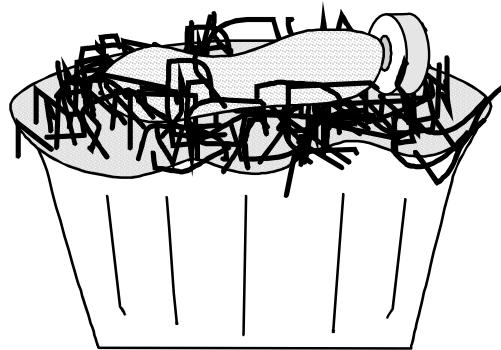


9 3/4" x 14 1/2" White Lace Placemat

JESUS IN THE MANGER CUPCAKES

What you need:

Premade cupcakes with chocolate or vanilla icing, or bake your own and frost the top, shredded toasted coconut, Circus Peanuts, (peanut-shaped marshmallow candy) to represent the baby Jesus, yellow Lifesavers.



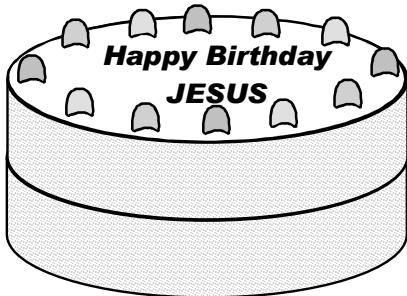
What you do:

Place a thin layer of coconut onto a sheet of tinfoil. Toast in the toaster oven until lightly browned. Allow to cool. Top the cupcakes with the coconut to make a 'bed of hay'. Place the peanut candy on top. Place a Lifesaver over the top of the peanut to represent a halo over the 'Christ-child'.

CROWN HIM KING BIRTHDAY CAKE

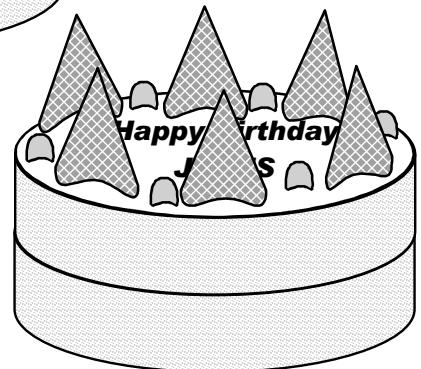
What you need:

Round, white frosted cake, preferably 2-3 layers, multi-colored gumdrops, gold edible beads, or colored sprinkles, edible letters to spell out 'Happy Birthday JESUS'. Optional, icecream sugar cones.



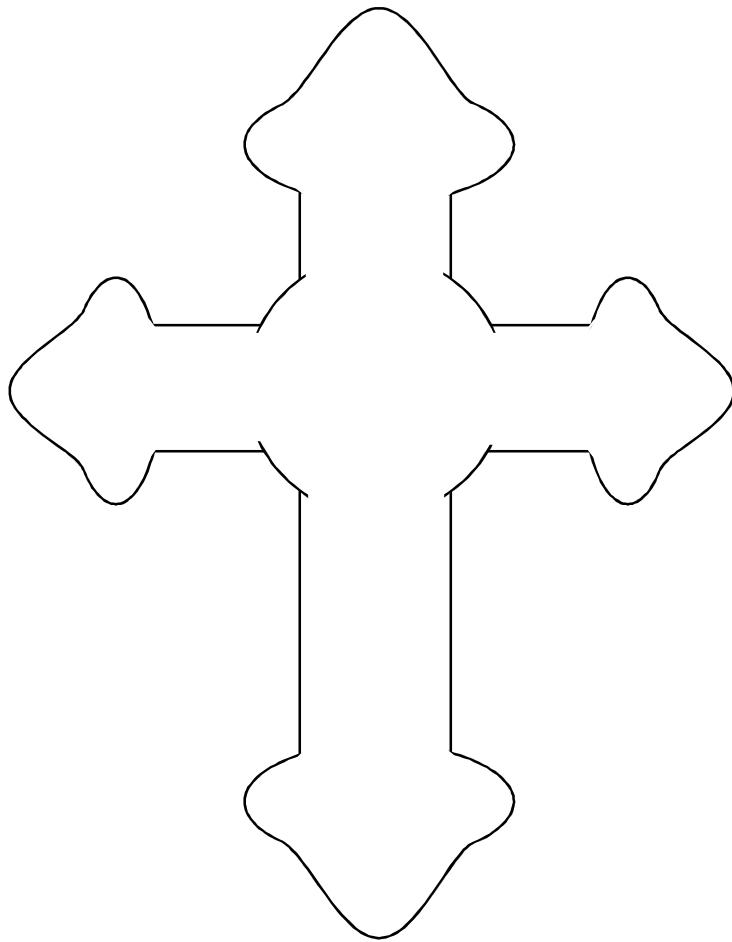
What you do:

Coat the sides of the cake with the beads or sprinkles. Arrange the gumdrops onto the top of the cake to look like jewels or frost icecream cones and roll in sprinkles. Place cones upside down on cake to look like the points on a crown. Place the letters on top.



For an extra special presentation, place an Edible Nativity set on top.
See the Clay Nativity project for instructions.

CHRISMON CROSS



She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

The word Chrismon means "**Christ-Monogram**" or a symbol of Christ or Christianity. A Chrismon ornament reminds us of the true *reason for the season* during Christmas. A Chrismon ornament is always white, gold, or white and gold combined. White represents God's purity, gold symbolizes his majesty and glory. The cross reminds us that Jesus' birth was for *his* death, and *his* death was for *our* birth! The Chrismon Cross above, has three prongs on the ends of each arm to represent the triune nature of God.

What you need: white craft foam, gold leaf foil, foil adhesive, or gold paint, paint brush, or sponge.

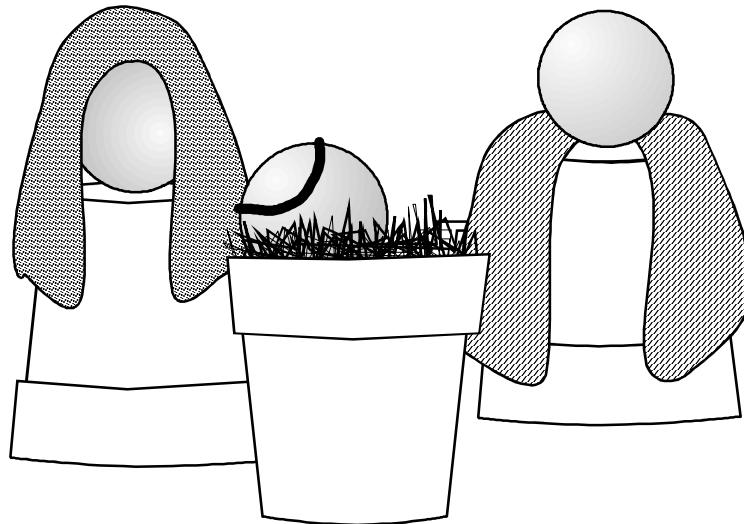
What you do:

Copy the pattern and tape it to white craft foam. Using the pattern as your guide, cut the foam out. Apply gold foil leaf according to the manufacturer's directions. Or, sponge paint with acrylic, metallic gold paint. Optional, glue a circle of white paper lace doily to the center of the cross. Punch a hole at the top and string with a gold cord.

To purchase more patterns like this, get "Chrismon-Kids" from ChristianCrafters.Com.

CLAY NATIVITY

Make an Edible Nativity set too. See below!



The Clay Nativity makes for a great gift and is easy to make!

What you need: 3 mini clay pots (2"), 3 large wooden beads, straw or moss, a gold cord, strips of fabric, and tacky glue.

What you do:

Turn two pots upside down and glue a bead on top of each one for the heads, (representing Mary and Joseph). Place one of the fabric strips over Mary's head, the other around Joseph's shoulders. Place straw into the third pot, (represents the manger). Place the third bead (represents Jesus' head) into the straw, then place the gold cord around the head of Jesus to represent a crown.

Make an Edible Nativity

What you need:

Substitute ice-cream cones instead of clay pots, donut holes instead of beads, icing instead of glue, toasted coconut instead of straw, Air-Heads candy instead of cloth. To toast shredded coconut, place a thin layer onto tinfoil and toast in your toaster oven. Watch carefully, it toasts quickly.

You might try using vanilla, coffee, or chocolate ice-cream in place of the donut holes. Use a small ice-cream scoop and place the ice-cream balls into the freezer until you're ready to build your nativity. You can even dip the 'chin' of Joseph into chocolate sprinkles to form his beard. Eat before it melts!

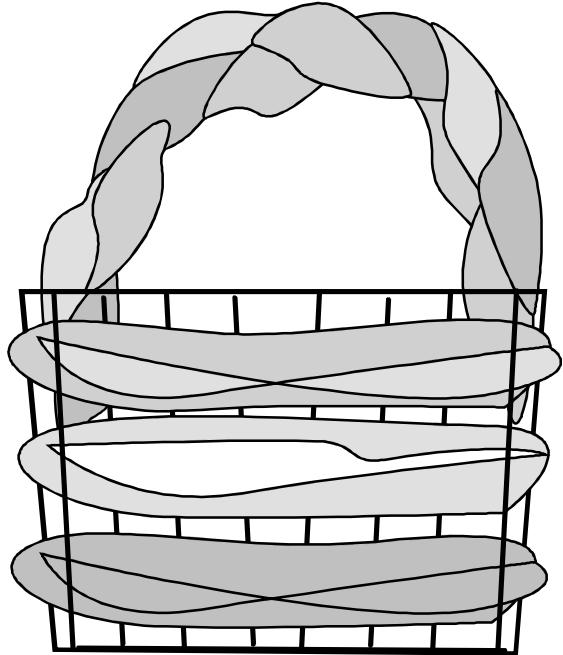
What you do:

Follow the instructions above, substitute the following ingredients: For the manger, place a donut hole, or half of one, into the bottom of the cone to fill it. Place the toasted coconut on top. Once you have your "bed of hay" place another donut hole on top to represent Jesus' head. The Air-Heads candy is very pliable and can be stretched if you warm it between your hands for a few minutes. Place one strip of Air-Heads candy onto Mary's head for her veil, and one around Joseph's shoulders for his shawl. Slice a small strip of the Air-Heads candy to make a halo for Jesus. Sprinkle toasted coconut (hay) around the nativity set. You can use your "Edible Nativity" to decorate the "Crown Him King Birthday Cake". If you choose to do so, place animal crackers into the cake and arrange them around the nativity.

MINI GIFT BASKETS

Have you ever wondered why red, green, and white are such popular Christmas colors? These colors tell an important story of God's free gift. Red reminds us of the blood that Jesus shed. White is for his purity and his death to make our hearts clean. Green is for the new life that Jesus gives. This gift is available to anyone that invites Jesus into their life.

Read: Romans 10:9-10.



What you need:

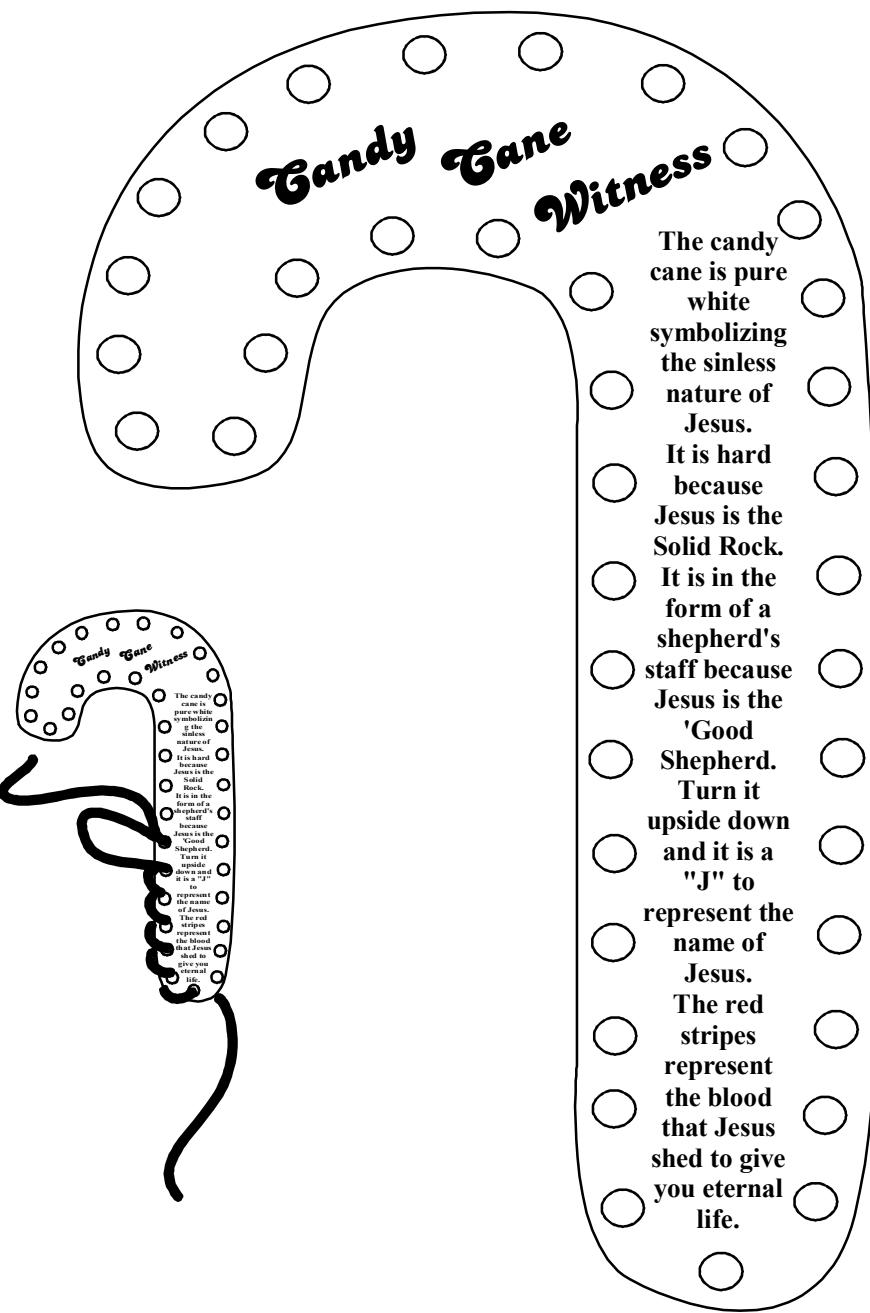
Plastic strawberry or tomato baskets with three rows of slats (approximately 3" high), red, green, and beige paper twist ribbon, or cloth or acetate ribbon.

What you do:

For twist ribbon, cut three strips 18" in length. Open the twist paper up, then push back together so that the paper is thin enough to be woven through the basket slats. The paper is wrapped around the basket and only woven through the slats at the corners. The paper overlaps at the end.

To make the handle, untwist three 18" strips of paper ribbon and push back together. Tape the three ends together on one end. Tightly braid the paper ribbon. Tape the other end and push into the inner sides of the basket. Fill with candy treats and give as a gift!

CANDY CANE DOOR HANGER



What you need: 4 feet of red ribbon (1/8" width) or red yarn, scissors, hole punch.

What you do:

Copy candy cane onto white card stock paper. Cut it out. Punch holes with a paper punch. Starting at the bottom, pull ribbon through so that one foot of the length is left hanging at the bottom. Lace through the holes as shown in picture above. Tie off with a bow at the bottom. Hang it on a door knob, use it as a bookmark, or give it away as a gift.

Optional, copy onto red card stock paper and lace with white ribbon.

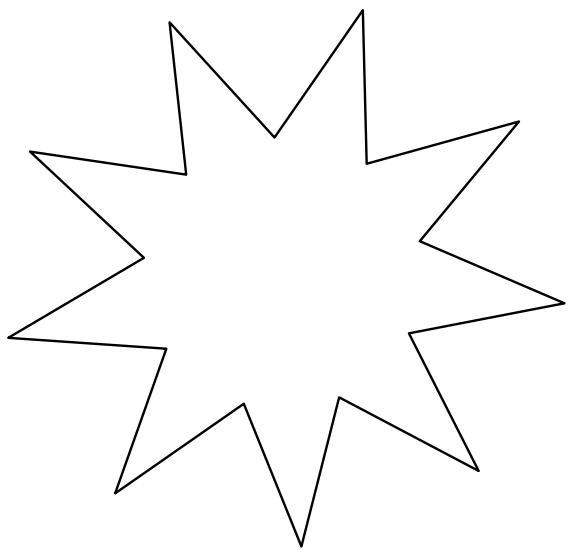
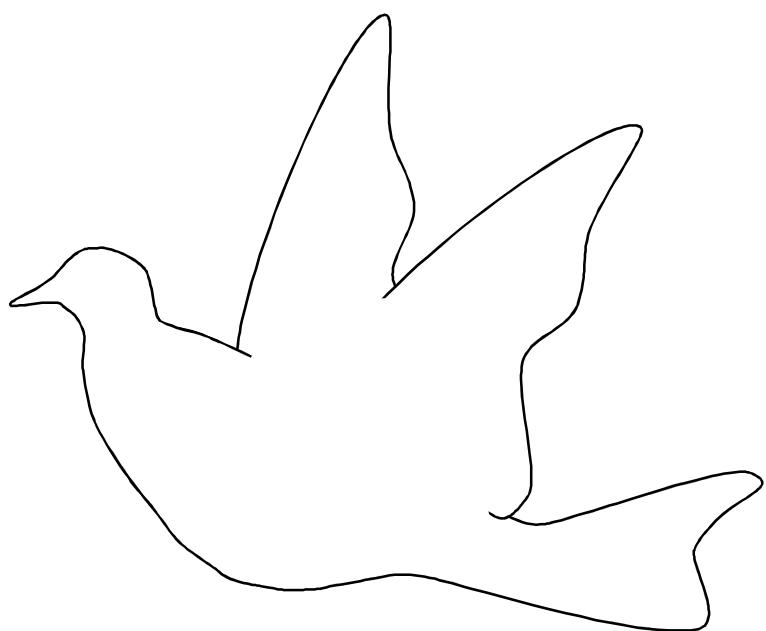
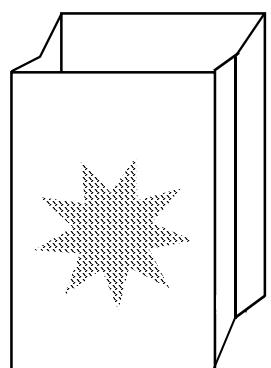
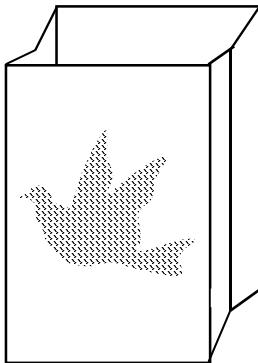
PAPER LACE LUMINARIES

What you need: small, white or brown paper lunch bag, paper lace doily, double stick tape, sand, votive candle.

What you do:

Using one of the patterns below, trace a star or dove onto the side of the bag, near the top, then cut it out. Tape a white paper doyle onto the inside of the bag. Fill the bottom of the bag with sand and place a votive candle in the sand. Light the candle and watch it glow!

Designer's note: In a nearby neighborhood the people line their streets with paper luminaries on Christmas Eve. It is absolutely beautiful to drive by and see this "heavenly" site!





Journey To The Manger

Celebrate the Advent season with easy-to-do crafts, recipes, and daily Scripture readings. There is an activity for each day in December leading up to Christmas day.

Children and adults will be reminded of the real reason we celebrate this special day!

For Ages 5 and up.

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