

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 78 (2012)  
**Heft:** [8]

**Artikel:** Village Advent windows  
**Autor:** Blaser, Adrian  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944098>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 18.04.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# Christmas



## Advent traditions

Advent is the period beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Eve, historically seen as the preparation of the arrival of Christ.

During the 19th century in particular, this waiting period before Christmas was viewed as a way of teaching children patience before a reward - hence the development of the Advent Calendar, a calendar with 24 little flaps opening onto windows with images within a Christmas scene.

Advent Calendars are very much a part of the Swiss Christmas tradition, as is the Advent Wreath which has four candles, one for each of the Sundays in Advent (on the first Sunday, one candle is burnt, on the second, two are lit, and so on).

Source: [www.swissorg.ch](http://www.swissorg.ch)

## Village Advent windows

Many villages in Switzerland now have Advent windows. What it means is that a group is organising 24 families that all decorate one advent window. Each day one of the families then opens their window (and then they normally stay decorated and illuminated until Xmas). At a set time, i.e. 18.30 the window "opens" and it is usually followed by an offering of a hot drink (i.e. Mulled Wine, see page 13 for recipe).

It's a great way for communities to come together and meet in the lead up to Xmas. And it gets people out of their houses in the cold and blustery December month. Check individual village website for further information - for example Luetzelflueh.

By Adrian Blaser



[www.kinderfarm-of.de](http://www.kinderfarm-of.de)



[www.forums9.ch/dorfplatz/hedingen/adventsfenster04](http://www.forums9.ch/dorfplatz/hedingen/adventsfenster04)

## Advent Calendars and Wreaths

Advent Calendars and Wreaths are lovely ways by which to engage children with the forthcoming Christmas and to introduce a bit of early celebration and peace. By the way: many teenagers like Advent Calendars - it is a time of year when they quite enjoy being reminded of "young and happy times" and temporarily consider abandoning notions of independence. And even adults are not beyond enjoying them, too! Advents Wreaths, too, create special moments, the lit candles being symbolic of peace and contemplation.

**Many families create their own calendars and wreaths, and we would love to see what you will do this Christmas: Take a picture of your Advent Calendar or Wreath and send it through to us. We will do our best to show it in next year's Helvetia Christmas issue!**



*To all our  
 Helvetia Readers:  
 Merry Christmas and  
 a very happy New Year.  
 We look forward to meeting  
 you again in 2013.*

*Wouldn't life be worth the living  
 Wouldn't dreams be coming true  
 If we kept the Christmas spirit  
 All the whole year through.*

*Your Helvetia Team and  
 Swiss Society Committee*