



# HERALD

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missouri synod  
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## DECEMBER 2016

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## MERRY CHRISTMAS !

It seems that December and the whole Christmas season is centered around busyness. We are busy running from one Christmas program to another; from one party to another; from one store to another. Therefore, we have a built in excuse if someone requests something of us, "No, sorry I cannot help you. I just don't have the time. I am already so busy." During other times of the year, we often have to be more "creative" in coming up with excuses for getting out of things.

Now before you start rolling your eyes and thinking that, "Pastor is going to go off on us for not slowing down and remembering the reason for the season." I am not. That is not my point, so bear with me.

The point is, it is easy to hide behind busyness. And believe me that temptation is even greater for a pastor. A pastor is already perceived to be busy. What with all those shut-in calls, hospital visits, services, and meetings. The parishioner's first thought is, "Pastor is too busy for me. Other people are worse off than me and he needs to focus on them."

Again, it is very easy for a pastor to hide behind that aura of busyness whether it is real or not. I know it may seem to be a paradox, but a pastor who relies on the excuse that he is "too busy" is actually lazy.

Sure there will be times that I have a lot to do, but do not think for a second that I am unapproachable or unavailable for you. Don't even give me the opportunity to use the "busy" excuse. First and foremost I want you to know that I am available to you.

Whether that means stopping by my office and shooting the breeze, calling me on the phone with a question, or pulling me aside and talking with me. Again, I am not here to serve myself, I am here to walk with you.

So, a rule of thumb: Feel free to call me. If I am visiting with others or am otherwise occupied, I will not answer. If I do answer the phone, that means I am available and you have my undivided attention. Also, do not assume I am too busy for you.

The Lord bless you this Advent and Christmas Season....and oh yeah.....slow down and remember the reason for the season.

Pastor Peck

Also, here is my book list for this last month:

1. "On the Sacraments" by St Cyril of Jerusalem
2. "Grace Upon Grace" by John Klenig
3. "The Theban Plays" - Sophocles
4. "The Qu'ran"
5. "The Christian Life Cross or Glory" - Steve Hein
6. "Anatomy of an Epidemic" - Robert Whitaker
7. "Broken: 7 Christian Rules That Every Christian Ought to Break" by Rev. Jonathan Fisk



# The ADVENT



## Looking ahead to January and Bacon!

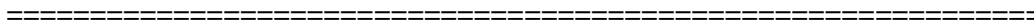
The four weeks before Christmas mark the season of Advent, from a Latin word for “coming” or “arrival.” We are preparing to celebrate the arrival of God Himself, who took on human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. Advent is a busy time filled with special church services, concerts, parties, cleaning, decorating. It is busy but exciting!

During Advent we also remember that our crucified and risen Lord will come again on the Last Day. We celebrate His birth at Christmas and remember the events of His life- especially death and resurrection- in our worship and daily devotions. Daily we welcome Him into our hearts with repentance and prayer. On a great day yet to come, Jesus will return in glory as our King, raise up and welcome us into His eternal presence.

### Get ready- your King

We will again have an Epiphany Service on Friday Jan 6, 2017 at 6:30 pm. The day of Epiphany is often called the Gentile Christmas since it is the day that the Magi, Gentiles, came to worship Jesus and give their gifts. Thus revealing that this Jesus was born to redeem all mankind. In celebration of this Gentile Christmas we are going to have a Gentile dinner before the service starting at 5:30 pm. It will be a potluck dinner and the one qualification is that you have to have pork in it somehow. I strongly suggest bacon. If you want to make a dessert and adding bacon causes you to be triggered, then just bring a regular dessert and we will find you a safe space.

**STEWARDSHIP TODAY:** This is one facet of stewardship we often forget: the blessing it is *to us* to be of service in the Lord's kingdom. What honor the Lord bestows upon us by using our gifts for His goals! *“If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them, and he will send them at once.'”* (Matthew 21:3) Let us then give thanks in all these ways, not in one way or the other. But rather in all things, everything that we do say, whether it be in word or deed, in prayer and praise, in teaching and giving, let us give thanks to God for He is good. (from: Stewardship Ministry – LCMS)



### *The Poinsettia*

“The Flower of the Holy Night” with its lovely red color and green leaves always add to the beauty of Christmas celebrations. They will again decorate the church this Christmas and are available to you by placing \$10.00 in an envelope with your name. Place it in the offering plate or church office as soon as possible. Plants may be taken home following the worship service on Christmas Day.



## Lutheran Women In Mission



Serve the Lord with Gladness...Psalm 100:2

Welcome to all women of the congregation!

As believers in Christ we are Made Holy through baptism and have been given eternal life.

**“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ”.**

Galatians 3:27

Lutheran Women in Mission is for all women. We focus on our mission to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God.

### BIG NEWS!!

Now that the various Zone Fall Rallies are over, the next emphasis is the **NATIONAL LWML CONVENTION**. LWML Rocky Mountain District is pleased to be one of the host districts for the June 2017 LWML Convention in Albuquerque, NM, along with the Montana, Utah-Idaho, and Wyoming districts. There are a lot of volunteer opportunities available. On the [www.lwmlrmd.org](http://www.lwmlrmd.org) website are forms to complete for a variety of opportunities to sign up for to help out. PLEASE consider one of these ways to serve.

On the above website Facebook page are many announcements about all things being planned for this big event. Before and after the Convention, side trips in the Albuquerque area are being set up to make it a special “stay-cation” for those traveling to New Mexico for perhaps the first time! There’s Santa Fe exploring, Sandia Park Tramway, hot air ballooning, and so much more.

Husbands are also urged to attend, to help pick up attendees from the airport, as well as other transportation needs, setting up various activities—like the Servant Events, golf meet, walk-a-thon, ushering, etc. So be sure to sign up online as soon as possible!

### SWEET DREAMS IN A BAG

LWML is again sponsoring the ANGEL TREE. This project was started by Sue and Wayne Fox when they saw the need of children sleeping on dirty sheets or not sheets at all. Sweet Dreams in a Bag’s mission is to provide a gift of new bedding to children in poverty, abused situations, and difficult circumstances they did not choose to be in. They also give acceptance, love, encouragement and hope to the entire family.

Please choose an Angel from the Angel Tree, purchase that item and bring it back to place under the tree. Please don’t wrap the gift, but put the Angel ornament with the gift. A gift bag would be appreciated.

Thank you for your giving to these needy children/families.

### CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK



The LWML’s Annual Cookie Walk will be after the Worship Service on Sunday, December 11th.

As the tradition goes: The members of the congregation bring 3-4 dozen of their favorite cookies or candies to the church as a donation for the cookie walk, by Saturday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm.

On Sunday, December 11th, after the Worship Service, we have a “COOKIE WALK” where each member purchases a tin or a bag and fills it with a variety of cookies and candies to take home and enjoy! This event has been an amazing fund raiser for the projects of the WRLWML for many years.

Come and Join in the Fun and get a delicious assortment of cookies and candies for your Christmas Celebrations!

### DATES TO REMEMBER

December 11<sup>th</sup>  
LWML 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Cookie Walk

December 18<sup>th</sup>  
LWML Mite Sunday

January 14<sup>th</sup>  
Regular meeting at 9 am





## SAVE THE DATE!

The ACTS (Addults, Children, Teens, and Seniors) group will be hosting its second Lutheran Lay Conference at Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church on **Saturday, April 29, 2017.**

2017 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation! In celebration of this milestone our theme for the Conference will be “Reformation In The Home.” Luther created the Small Catechism to be used for instruction in the home. Many times after confirmation this book finds its place on the shelf collecting dust never to be opened again. Rev. John Pless will be presenting on how we can use Luther’s Small Catechism for our family devotions and return us to the riches of this treasure.

Rev. John Pless is assistant professor of pastoral ministry and missions at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is also one of the most sought-after speakers and teachers, not just in the US, but overseas, as well. Please mark your calendars now for this incredible event. (More details to follow in the months leading up to the event!)

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### Wednesdays in Advent

**NOVEMBER 30 - Advent by Candlelight** ==The Ladies of the LWML invite the entire congregation to enjoy a Dessert Social “Advent By Candlelight” along with the Gospel Messages for the First Advent Celebration Event on Wednesday, November 30th at 6:30 pm.

**DECEMBER 7** - Please come to enjoy the musical talents of our Adult, Youth, and Mini Choirs to share the Christmas message on Wednesday, December 7 at 6:30 pm.

**DECEMBER 14** - Christmas Caroling in the Neighborhood! Please plan to join us as we share the Christmas story with caroling to our Wheat Ridge neighbors. Song books will be available. Bring a flashlight. Let’s get organized at 6:30 pm. Then return to the church for hot soup and hot cocoa! (All weather permitting, of course!)



A big thank you to all who entered their best chili recipe in the Annual Chili Cook off! There were over 20 entries and definitely some favorites!

The 2016 winners were:

**Best Red chili:** Brooke Lundin

**Best White/Green/Other Chili:** Joe Broscheit

**Best Spicy Chili:** James Broscheit

Also, a big thank you to all those who came out and enjoyed the chili and voted on your favorites! There was a great turn-out and fun was had by all! Thank you!



Meet Johann Tetzel, a Dominican monk who specialized in the selling of indulgences, which are cancellations of all or part of punishments for sins. Though not the only one selling them, he particularly drew the ire of Martin Luther, and when the pope only condoned and defended the practice, that propelled Luther to fight against the root of this behavior.

Johann Tetzel was born in 1465 in Saxony, Germany, and died Aug. 11, 1519 in Leipzig, Germany.

It's a complicated story of money and power, and Johann Tetzel played a big part. Tetzel was a Dominican monk who specialized in preaching indulgences. Indulgences were pardons from the penalties of sin imparted by the Church. They originated as an inducement for men to fight in the Crusades. The business of selling indulgences expanded to raise money for other good purposes like building churches. Unscrupulous churchmen also used them to buy church offices. Enter Albrecht, brother to the elector of Brandenburg. Although Albrecht was the archbishop of Magdeburg, he coveted the archbishopric of Mainz. But this appointment cost money, especially since the pope was building a new St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The two churchmen made a deal: Tetzel would go into Albrecht's territories and raise funds through the sale of indulgences to meet both of these needs. Tetzel may have started as the target of Luther's ire, but soon a clearer picture emerged wherein Tetzel was seen as a greasy cog in a corrupt machine.