

Te Deum

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What is the Season of Advent?

Advent, from the Latin *adventus* ("coming"), marks the beginning of the Church year (the Christian calendar), comprising the four weeks before Christmas. In recent years, Advent has been viewed as forming the first part of the three-part season of Christmas: (1) Advent; (2) Christmas; (3) Epiphany.

The season of Advent appears to have originated in Gaul (modern day France), in the second half of the Fourth Century A.D. At this time it was a three week fast before Christmas. We do not find the first mention of Advent in Rome, however, until the late Sixth Century.

From the beginning, Advent has been a season of preparation for Christ's coming. When Advent observances first began, Christians living in the West (the western part of the Roman

Empire) emphasized preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. Christians in the East stressed preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth. Today, our Scripture readings focus on three comings of Christ in reversed chronological order:

- (1) His Second Coming at the end of time;
- (2) His Messianic Coming, as announced by John the Baptist, to begin His official work as Messiah;
- (3) His First Coming in Bethlehem, as our newborn King.

Featured in each of these three comings is a very important fourth coming, of course, the coming of Christ to each believer. If Christ hasn't come to you through baptism and faith, none of His other comings will benefit you!

For many centuries Advent's overall



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Don't miss the Church Retreat on November 13 and Walk Thru the Old Testament*
- *Stop by the membership photo boards and view our current members*
- *Our very own, Eva Bellamy, makes the local newspaper*

Lines from LWML

The LWML of Our Redeemer includes all of the women in the congregation. You can come to any meeting, or none. You can join in any of the activities—and each of you do when participating in the Advent and Lenten meals, various potluck dinners and Thursday morning Bible study. And you do have the opportunity to read the LWML Quarterly magazine.

We enjoyed Allison's craft of stamping, and made a goodly number of

greeting cards in October. Our meeting on November 9th will be a Bible study led by Ruth Johnson. Please bring your Fall Quarterly as she will be using one of the studies from that.

Mark your calendars now for December 12th. Following worship, the Christmas tree will be trimmed (we can use the help of men too), and the bags for the children in the Christmas programs will be filled. Very social afternoon. ✝

Advent

For many centuries Advent's overall tone was one of sorrow for sin and penance. But in keeping with the tone of the Scripture readings for the season, in our day the tone of Advent is one of anticipation and hope, as well as one of repentance.

Advent is a marvelous opportunity for spiritual growth. Lutheran congregations offer mid-week Advent Services which, through their hymns, readings, and sermons, highlight the main Scriptural teachings of the season. Many congregations provide devotional booklets with Scripture readings and meditations for each day in Advent. Additional

customs, such as the Advent wreath, also add to the richness of this season.

Sources: Crim, Keith, gen. ed. *Abingdon Dictionary of Living Religions*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1981. Lueker, Erwin L., ed., *Lutheran Cyclopedia*, 2nd ed. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1975. Maxwell, Lee A. *The Altar Guild Manual*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1996. Precht, Fred L., ed. *Lutheran Worship: History and Practice*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1993. Wegman, Herman A. J. *Christian Worship in East and West*. Translated by Gordon W. Lathrop. New York: Pueblo Publishing Company, 1985.



Becoming a Generous Giver, Part III

Taken from "Becoming Money Wise", Stewardship Advisors, Inc.

"God has given us two hands—one to receive with and the other to give with" (Billy Graham). As nice as it is to receive gifts, it is even more meaningful to give them. When we give, we quickly discover true joy. In Acts 20:35 Jesus says, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" Sometimes joy results from the gratitude of those who are blessed by your giving. Sincere appreciation from others leads you to want to continue giving. Conversely, their lack of gratitude may have an adverse effect on your desire to give. However, your focus should be on Christ and on pleasing Him, not others, by giving as He did—unconditionally, and independent of the response of those who are the recipients of your gifts.

What you do with God's money demonstrates your spiritual maturity. Some people share sacrificially with God and others, others give proportionately from their incomes, and still others hoard what they receive. Those who do not share, but hoard, become possessive and greedy, and they put their security

in money and possessions. They get no satisfaction except for fleeting happiness in using the things of this world. Those who do not share will never experience the joy of giving. Remember the Rich Fool who amassed great wealth strictly for his own pleasure. He died before he had time to enjoy the

products of his labor. All he left behind was his wealth for others to use. He never experienced the fulfillment of helping others nor the joy of being a channel of God's blessings. His memory lives on, not as a gracious benefactor, but as a selfish fool, a hoarder of God's gifts. You will find lasting happiness and contentment from employing your life and possessions in service to God and others. "*God loves a cheerful giver*" (2 Corinthians 9:7), and promises to reward him: "*...if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday*" (Isaiah 58:10).

"God loves a cheerful giver"
2 Corinthians 9:7



As a side note from the above article, (in my opinion) we already have a very, very, very generous congregation. We saw this from the Harvest Festival Playground fundraiser. We raised \$1200 and with matching funds from Thrivent, we will have \$2000 to go toward the larger playground. I just want to thank everyone for their time, items to sell, and donations. Keep up the generous giving ORLC!

Focus on the Family

Taken from the Lexington Herald-Leader, October 20, 2004



Even in Retirement, She is Back at the Office

The year Eva Bellamy went to work at what is now the Practical Nursing Program at Central Kentucky Technical College, Harry Truman was president and the Korean War entered its third year.

Fifty-two years and 2,071 nursing graduates later, Bellamy celebrated her retirement with family and friends who packed the technical college's student center.

At 77, Bellamy's not quite ready for her going-away present -- a padded white rocking chair. The very next day, she was back at the college, at her desk, on her own time, helping her successor settle in. She was there the next day, too, and the day after that.

"She has uncontested devotion," said Sandra Mullins, associate dean and Bellamy's boss for 13 years. "She's here because she feels like it's her

job."

Bellamy's job began in February 1952 as secretary at the Appalachian School of Practical Nursing, established the previous year by Herbert Faber, co-inventor of Formica.

Faber established the Appalachian Fund with a \$1 million endowment. The nursing school grew out of the fund to provide health care workers to underserved areas of Eastern Kentucky.

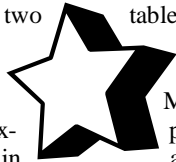
In 1956, the nursing school joined Lafayette Vocational School but kept its name. The vocational school became Central Kentucky State Vocational-Technical School.

In 1984, the school was renamed Central Kentucky Vocational-Technical School of Practical Nursing. The vocational-technical school became Central Kentucky Technical School, which later earned the distinction of Central Kentucky Technical College. Through all the changes, Bellamy maintained a steadfast devotion to students, attending most graduations and keeping track of the students after they left school and progressed through their careers.



Our Stars of Tomorrow

Our Redeemer has supported Birthright for many years financially and with ingatherings. This year we would like to get a group together to attend their Bid & Buy 2004 auction. We have room for 8 more couples at our two tables. We're asking that each couple donate \$20 toward this event and the Board of Human Ministries will pay the additional expenses. If you would be interested in attending, please see Beverly Jacobson or Donna Granderson. These tables will be filled on a first come basis.



Board of Human Ministries

Bid & Buy 2004
Kentucky Horse Park Grand Pavilion
Saturday, November 20

Buffet Dinner catered by Lundy's
Music by The Larry Nelson Trio

Silent Auction: 5:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Live Auction: 8:30 p.m.

RSVP by November 5th



November 2 — Vote for your next President of the United States
November 14 — Vote for your next President of the Fayette Co. Chapter of Thrivent



All Thrivent members are asked to stop by the Adult Bible classroom and vote for your next officers for Fayette Co. chapter of Thrivent. Come on over and support our very own Christine Vanderhoof who is running for Congregational Service Team Director!

Protect Retirement Assets Against the Unexpected

You've got the perfect retirement plan in place. Your job provides a steady, comfortable income. You faithfully contribute to your 401(k) and to several IRAs. You follow the markets and make smart investment decisions. Your retirement nest egg is growing bigger every year. In a few years, your retirement assets will enable you to enjoy the retirement of your dreams. Or will they?

Too often, people make all the right moves in building their retirement assets but fail to protect them against life's possible misfortunes like injuries, chronic illnesses or death. Without proper protection, unfortunate events can devastate even the best-intentioned retirement plan. For this reason, one needs to consider appropriate disability income insurance, long-term care insurance and life insurance protection.

Statistics show that one in four U.S. citizens dies before he or she retires. Such premature death can undermine a family's retirement assets because new contributions are effectively shut down. Death cuts off the funding that was going into 401(k) plans, company pension plans, personal retirement savings and investments. The impact of this disruption has significant consequences for the surviving spouse, especially if the spouse is years from retirement.

The death of an employee before his or her retirement may automatically reduce the size of pension assets going to the deceased's spouse. In addition, if the deceased employee was not vested in his or her employer's pension plan, the surviving spouse may not receive anything at all. In some employer-sponsored retirement plans, the surviving spouse must reinvest the pension dollars he or she receives in another tax-qualified plan or face unexpected income taxes. Having adequate life insurance coverage can help you maximize your family's retirement income while having the security of knowing that income lost upon your or your spouse's untimely death may be replaced.

Like death, disabilities can create major problems for retirement plans. Unfortunately, disabilities are more common than one might think. If you're 25 years old, you have a one in four chance that before age 65 you will experience a long-term loss of earned income due to a disability.

Whatever the cause of the disability, disrupting one's



income is certain to disrupt the funding of one's retirement plans. In addition, disabilities often carry the need for income to meet the needs generated by the disability, including medications, physical therapy, counseling, special transportation needs, and aids to assist the disabled person during their recovery or moving forward with their limitations. In short, a disability can quickly deplete one's savings.

Fortunately, disability income insurance protects individuals against this. If you are unable to work due to a qualifying illness or accident, this vital coverage can help cover all, or a portion of, your monthly obligations up to the amount of coverage you purchased. By avoiding the need to deplete savings, you help protect your retirement plan.

Long-term care is yet another misfortune that can quickly wipe out retirement assets. According to the National Governors Association, in 2002 the average annual cost for a semi-private nursing home room was \$52,000, and the average stay in a nursing home lasted 2.3 years. To qualify for governmental Medicaid assistance, families must drastically "spend down" their assets first.

Many people think the need for long-term care is remote. Yet, statistics show that half of women age 65 and older and one-third of men age 65 and older will spend some time in a nursing home.

Planning ahead can help you protect not only your retirement assets, but also your freedom to make choices about the kind of long-term care you or your loved one receives. Long-term care insurance helps protect your assets and income from the high costs associated with long-term care. The benefits may also be extended to care received in nursing homes or nursing facilities, assisted-living facilities, residential care facilities, at-home health care, adult day health care centers, community-based residential facilities or adult foster homes.

A qualified financial professional can help you evaluate your need to protect your retirement assets against the unexpected costs connected with death, disability and long-term care. He or she can assist you with retirement strategies appropriate to your needs.

You can achieve the retirement of your dreams. Protecting yourself against potential obstacles that could wreak havoc with your retirement is a necessary step in ensuring your retirement goals are met.



Walk Thru the Old Testament Seminar



Join us for an exciting Walk Thru the Old Testament, Saturday *November 13*, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Our Redeemer.

During the Walk Thru the Old Testament Seminar, you'll travel through time and history, gaining more Bible knowledge than you ever thought possible. In five action packed hours, you'll learn more about the Bible than you have in years—some say even a lifetime!



A creative way to learn about the Old Testament

- The day begins by turning the entire meeting room into one gigantic map. All of a sudden you are transported to the Fertile Crescent. A teenager becomes Mt. Sinai and the lady in the red sweater finds she is in the middle of the Red Sea.
- Your imagination hums. You are soaking in stories about the main *People—Places—and Events* of the Old Testament. You'll learn



where to find these stories.

- Using hand motions, group review, and catchy phrases, you'll gain vast amounts of Bible knowledge—and have more fun than you ever thought possible. You'll be able to walk thru the events of the Old Testament in 77 easy-to-remember steps...in less than 3 minutes! You'll discover which 11 books contain the entire story of the Old Testament. You might even do the "Prophets' Shuffle!"



We encourage everyone to attend this exciting event. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 Adults, \$10 Students (10 and older) and \$20 walk-ins. The registration fee includes a workbook and lunch.



Presented by Lutheran Bible Ministries
3718 Macalaster Drive NE
Minneapolis, MN 55421
1-800-778-7616
Email: info@lbn-mn.com
Web: www.lbn-mn.com

Giving Thanks Through LCEF...

By investing your financial blessings from the Lord, you are actively giving thanks AND giving back. While your funds earn you competitive interest, they also help churches and schools provides space and place for the preaching of the Good News. Interest in *Gift Planning?* LCEF also offers Gift Planning services to assist you in supporting LCMS ministries close to your heart. Call 1-800-843-5233 or visit www.lcef.org for more information.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth with the first fruits of all your crops." Proverbs 3:9.

(This does not constitute an offer to sell or a request to buy. The offering is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular.)



Volunteers Needed

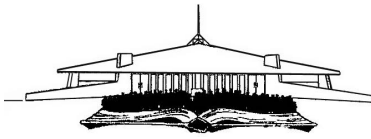
From the Fayette County Chapter of Thrivent:



The American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery Program is in need of drivers in the Lexington area to provide transportation to and from local treatment centers on weekdays for cancer patients re-

ceiving chemo or radiation therapy on an outpatient basis. All that is required is a safe driving record, a dependable vehicle, and 2 to 3 hours of time every week or so. Scheduling is done on a weekly basis and is flexible. For further information, call Michele at 260-8281.





2255 Eastland Parkway
Lexington, KY 40505

Phone: 859-299-9615
Fax: 859-299-9615
Email: churchoffice@orlutheran.com
Website: www.orlutheran.com

Rev. Dr. Richard P. Bucher, ThD
Pastor
rbucher@insightbb.com

Sunday School9:00 a.m.

Divine Service10:15 a.m.

Wednesday Service7:00 p.m.

Missouri Synod

We're on the web!
www.orlutheran.com



Please note that the church of-
fice has a new email address -
update your address books!
churchoffice@orlutheran.com

ORLC Upcoming Events

- November 6, 9:00 a.m.Officer's Retreat
- November 13, 9–3:30 p.m.Retreat at ORLC
- November 14Fayette Co. Chapter of Thrivent Elections
- November 20, 5:00 p.m.Birthright Bid & Buy Event
- December 17, 7:00 p.m.....Children's Christmas Program

Funnies

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark...

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the chee-tahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.