



# HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE



[www.wittenbergcomo.com](http://www.wittenbergcomo.com)

**December 2021 / January 2022**

**An ti ci pa tion**

They ask me every year. It doesn't happen so much in campus ministry, but in the local church, lots of people ask me. It's Advent, right? So we can sing Christmas songs, can't we?

Well, we can sing Christmas songs any time, just like we can sing Advent songs any time. But, like Lent, Advent is a special time. It's a time for calling on the Lord to come and bring his blessing to the world.

"Savior of the nations, come.  
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth.  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

"Then stepped for the Lord of all  
From His pure and kingly hall:  
God of God, yet fully man.  
His heroic course began.

"From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides."  
(LSB 332, selected verses)



And there are five more verses, probably by Ambrose of Milan, in the fourth century.

There's something timeless going on here. We know that Christ comes to redeem the world from sin, death, and the devil. Let's tell the story. Year after year, we pause and consider. "The world looks pretty bad, very dark, full of sin and death. Lord, you came the first time into the world to redeem us to yourself. You are coming again. We really need you. Come, Lord Jesus."

People occasionally borrow my hymnal and write in it. It's a trip back through joyful memories when I go to sing a hymn and find a message written by a friend. In the Advent section, with #336 (Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending) I found, "This is the whole story!"

Let's sing that whole story. Let's revel in the extra opportunities to assemble as Christ's people in a time when there are normally additional church services, along with the regular cycle of Bible studies. Let's enjoy visiting with one another in homes and other places where everyone seems to have a Christmas party. And let's look forward to . . .

Christmas! Christ is born! He really has come to redeem the world. He really has come to carry my sins and to be my savior. Oh, yes. We'll sure be singing those Christmas songs then! And they celebrate who Christ is and what he was born to do. All glory be to him, now and forever.

A blessed season of Advent and Christmas to you and yours!

## **Wittenberg Door Financial Update**

Thank you for the great response, not just in the past month, but over the past several years, as we have let everyone know about our ministry finances. Some ministries have very large support networks and big budgets. Wittenberg Door doesn't. We would like to enlarge the supporter base. Frankly, there are plenty of ways we would like to bring Christ and his answers and care to our community, but we are not always able to pay for it. Over the next few years it will be necessary to increase our budget radically so as to be ready to call a full-time pastor when this pastor decides it's time to retire. Health care expenses are an increasing part of the budget. Many other budget areas are going to need to be increased, and, if you have been following Wittenberg Door for a while, you know that the ministry has not yet been in the position to pay an actual salary. However, the Lord has always provided for our needs and we have gotten by all right. As part of stewardship for the future, we would like to be able to reach the point of offering our next pastor a full time salary, as the laborer is worthy of his keep.

Your contributions to Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry mean we can continue providing face to face pastoral ministry on the college campuses in Columbia Missouri. Your monthly support of \$30-\$50 can make an eternal difference in the lives of our collegiate communities. Please continue to invite your friends and associates to consider supporting this work.

Though I'm serving a local church on a part time basis, I do have the ability to make a visit to a congregation that is thinking of providing support for this ministry. We can and will work out a visit so your congregation can hear how to be partners with us in providing the face to face pastoral care on campus that is our hallmark.

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Checks mailed to us are deposited with no commission paid to any intermediary. Most of our contributions are actually received this way, but we can receive funds sent through Paypal or Google Pay as well. Giving is easy! Simply visit our website at [www.wittenbergcomo.com](http://www.wittenbergcomo.com) and click on "about" and "support us."

## Upcoming Activities:

Thursdays at 12:30 pm – Lunch and Learn Bible discussion at the MU Student Center - restarting 2nd week of January

Mondays – Recommit! Bible study at Beta Sigma Psi after Chapter Meeting - restarting in the new semester

Wednesdays - Heidelberg Discussions – *The Spirituality of the Cross* (Second edition) 5:30 pm at The Heidelberg Restaurant on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. If you can't find us, ask the bartender where the pastor went.

Sundays - Adult Bible Class 9:00 am, Divine Service 10:00 am, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Centralia MO

Watch the calendar at [www.wittenbergcomo.com](http://www.wittenbergcomo.com), follow our Facebook page, and friend WDCM Chaplain on Facebook to see times and places where Pastor Spotts can be found around campuses in coffee shops or restaurants!

**We always have something new at the website, the blog, and the activities calendar. Please be a friend on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. If you're in Columbia, let's get together on or near campus. Go to <https://www.wittenbergcomo.com/support-us.html> to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!**