

# Weekly News & Notes

Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH

December 7, 2014

## Once Upon a Time

**In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Luke 3:1-3)**

Many stories begin with the familiar words, “once upon a time.” Usually they introduce a fanciful fable or tall tale whose reality could be questioned. Whether they are factual or not, they are entertaining.

There are some who believe that this is the way the Bible should be considered. They claim that it is nothing more than a story book, a collection of fables, or a good yarn spun and embellished over time. So, should I believe what the

Bible says?

Before I can answer this question, I need to consider a few things. When Luke introduces the beginning of John’s ministry, the words are significant. Once upon a time is not even mentioned. What is recorded is an accurate account of real people who actually lived at a specific time and place in history. To question this account is to accuse history of deception, or worse. The testimony of history does not lie. Neither does God. Consequently, what God has caused to be recorded is true. It is even substantiated by history. God’s Word is factual, and it is trustworthy.

In spite of what the critics say, God’s Word and what it declares can be trusted. God’s invitation to repent, confident there is full and free forgiveness, can be trusted. God’s gracious gift of baptism and its power to deliver from death and the devil can be trusted. God’s promise of heaven secured through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ can be trusted.



So, should I believe what the Bible says? There is only one answer, and that is a resounding, yes! I can trust what the Bible says because it is God’s Word. I can also trust what the Bible says regarding my rescue because it is secured by Jesus and recorded in history.

Once upon a time – it offers a nice start to a fable or child’s tale. However, when I need the truth that saves, I need more than that. I need to turn to God’s Word. Here is my confidence. Here is my hope. Here is the truth on which I can depend.

*Prayer: O gracious Lord, you have blessed me with your holy Word. Give me the confidence I need to trust that it is true, and that it is the truth that gives me eternal life. Amen!*

Devotion from  
[www.WhatAboutJesus.com](http://www.WhatAboutJesus.com)

## Contact Information

- **Church Office—**  
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## This Week at Lamb of God (December 8-14)

### Serving Our Lord

- Cleaning: Hensler Family
- Bulletins: Elisabeth Wagner
- Accompanist: Destinee Fiecko
- Ushers: Steve Flunker and Scott Franks

### Events

- **Tuesday, December 9**  
7:00 pm—Church Council Meeting
- **Wednesday, December 10**  
7:00 pm—WELS Columbus Advent Service (Shepherd of Peace, Powell)
- **Saturday, December 13**  
10:00 am—Ladies’ Bible & Brunch
- **Sunday, December 14**  
8:00 am—Youth Confirmation Class  
9:15 am—Sunday School and Bible Study  
10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion  
12:00 pm—Church Christmas Decorating

## Mission Prayer: Pastoral Studies Institute

Dear Lord, it feels like the world around us is shrinking as travel and technology bring cultures around the globe into our lives. Thank you for being with us as we reach out with your Word to people of cultures different from our own. And thank you for being with men of



other cultures who are working toward becoming pastors in our fellowship through Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's Pastoral Studies Institute. Help us all to continue working together to share the Good News of salvation with the world. Amen.

## WELS Columbus Advent Service

The Advent names of Jesus bring perfect comfort, hope, and joy to sinners living in a sin-filled world. Come, ponder the name that is above every name in our WELS Columbus Advent Service, this Wednesday, December 10, at 7:00 pm at



Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church, 520 Village Park Dr, Powell. The service will feature the choirs from all four congregations. Refreshments will be served after the service. Contact Pastor Wagner if you need help finding a ride.

## Offering Envelopes

With your 2015 offering envelopes, you will find a letter and offering planning worksheet from the church council. The worksheet is for your

planning and does not need to be returned. Contact Pastor Wagner or a church council member with any questions.

## Christmas Concerts Online

Hear the Christmas message in song in these online concerts:

- **Martin Luther College:** today at 5:00 pm ([mlc-wels.edu/streams](http://mlc-wels.edu/streams))
- **Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary:** December 14 at 4:00 pm ([www.wels.net/streams](http://www.wels.net/streams))
- **Luther Preparatory School:** December 14 at 4:00 pm and December 18 at 11:00 am ([lps.wels.net/page/lps-livestream](http://lps.wels.net/page/lps-livestream))

## Christmas Worship Opportunities

Join us at the manger, as we celebrate our Savior's birth:

- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
Wednesday, December 24 – 7:00 pm
- **Christmas Day Festival Service**  
Thursday, December 25 – 9:00 am

## Deck the Halls

Stay after worship on December 14 to help decorate our church for Christmas. Bring a snack or drink to share, if you wish.

## Food for the Needy

As the weather gets colder, requests for help increase. Bring non-perishable food items anytime to stock our shelves to help those in need.

If you have news, upcoming events, or prayer requests that you would like published in the weekly newsletter, contact Katie Chen ([katiesl@hotmail.com](mailto:katiesl@hotmail.com)).

## Prayer Requests

Please keep in your prayers this week:

- Our shut-ins (Kitty, Dot, Julie, Betty, Monty, Dick, Mike)
- Dick Ritter, whose health continues to decline
- Church Council, meeting this week

*Request prayers of your pastor and/or your fellow Christians using a prayer request form by the mailboxes or online at [LambofGodColumbus.org/prayers](http://LambofGodColumbus.org/prayers)*

## Give Thanks to the Lord!

### Attendance:

Worship (11/26):	30
Worship (11/30):	45
Sunday School (w/teachers):	10
Sunday Bible Study:	12

### Offerings:

General Fund (11/26):	\$796.00
General Fund (11/30):	\$1063.04
Year-to-Date Average:	\$1928.43
Weekly Budgeted Ministry:	\$2217.52
Sunday School:	\$10.00

