



**Outreach Ideas**  
English District  
Evangelism Team  
Newsletter

December 2023

## Come and See, Go and Tell

Best-selling author John Grisham is best known for his legal thrillers. Many of his novels have gone on to become blockbuster movies, like *The Firm* starring Tom Cruise, *The Pelican Brief* with actors Juila Roberts and Denzel Washington, *Runaway Jury* with Gene Hackman, and more. So it comes as a surprise to many to learn that he also wrote a holiday novel called, *Skipping Christmas*. It was later made into the movie, *Christmas With The Kranks*, starring Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis. It's about a plan to skip Christmas.

There was an [article](#) last year titled, “*Tragically Ironic*”—*Pastors Debate Whether or Not To Hold a Christmas Day Service This Year.*” It describes the trend in some large church bodies to *skip Christmas* services. You may have noticed this trend among some congregations in your community. Surprisingly, one of the reasons given for this is that “Christmas is an important time for families to be together.” However, that’s exactly why it’s an opportunity that’s too good to miss.

It’s been [noted](#) that “Christmas Eve is the #1 worship service that unchurched and dechurched

people are willing to attend.” As a result, many families, including my own, work carefully to invite our unchurched friends, loved ones and neighbors to join us in worship at this time. Many of those unfamiliar faces seated beside the regulars actually represent the culmination of a lot of prayers.



After an already hectic Advent schedule, increased hospital visits at this time of the year, and your own family preparations, it can be tempting to forego writing a full sermon. It may seem attractive to replace it with short readings and a hymn-sing, a dramatic reading, or a choral presentation to impress the crowd. However, here’s a golden opportunity for a joyful Lutheran sermon which reveals why our loving God sent His Son into the flesh to rescue us from our sins and restore us to Himself.

Many have heard Christmas “messages” in other places which may have missed the point completely. This may be the first opportunity for them to hear it clearly and understand what it’s all about. Hearing God’s Word and your proclamation of our Lord’s incarnation will be the very best present your guests will receive.



As December is a busy month, and it's unlikely you have time to pour over a newsletter, this issue comes to you simply as a greeting. It also comes with tremendous gratitude for all your work in sharing our Savior with a world in darkness and in need of His rescue. God bless you as you share the best news in the world!



As your church is filled with children bubbling with excitement, filled with sugar and bursting with energy, here are some handy *free* resources for parents and kids.



The LWML has free Christmas bookmarks and note cards to color.

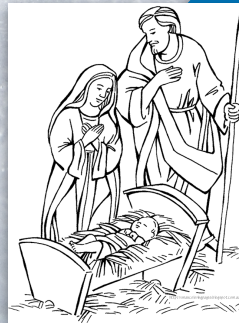
(These bookmarks and note cards are also available in Spanish.)



Concordia Publishing House also has a free Christmas Hymn Coloring Page which you can print.



LCMS Worship has a Christmas themed edition of "Kids In the Divine Service," which you can print for parents to share with the kids.



Check out the ClipArt Library for a large variety of free Christmas Nativity coloring pages. (Please note: A few have personal use restrictions that are noted on them.)

Please contact [Pastor David Tannahill](#) of our Evangelism Team with your ideas and input.

Upcoming issues in the next year will include Reaching Out In Different Languages, Podcasting, Easy and Cheap ... and more.

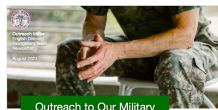
Click on the links below if you missed any recent issues.



Outstanding In Your Field



Fall Festivals, Street Fairs and Parades



Outreach to Our Military



The Importance of a Website



The Importance of a Website Part 2



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