***The Mission Central Meyer Minute***

If you think THIS is Advent, just wait!

Diane and I have a small cabin in the Ozarks. When we bought it, the TV serviceman asked if we wanted surround sound. “Sure, why not?” Wow, we discovered that surround sound can be overwhelming! Think about the Christmas “surround sound” this month, how it can overwhelm the true meaning of Advent. Christmas decorations go up in homes and on city streets, holiday gatherings are held with friends, family, and co-workers, Christmas cards are bought and sent, some even have religious messages. All-in-all, capitalism’s Christmas is in full swing. Churches participate too, chancels decorated, midweek Advent services, children’s programs, all geared toward the 24th and 25th. Come December 26th, it all goes away, a sigh of relief, Jesus’ birthday party is over. Jesus’ birthday party? Yes, but Advent is about WAY MORE than celebrating Jesus’ birth.

It’s also celebrating that His Spirit is really coming to us now. That’s why our Bible hearing and reading, our devotion is so eternally important. Ruling all things for the good of His people, Jesus is right now giving us all the grace we need on our heaven-ward journey. Every honest person will say, “I need God’s help.” And one day Jesus will appear in plain sight for all to see. That will be the day of His second Advent. For me, that’s the biggee. He’s going to appear suddenly in glory and make everything in this screwed-up world right. God’s purpose for our world is slow but steady. In his mysterious way, God is moving toward that day when we see Jesus in glory and all things will be made good and just and right. Advent isn’t Ho-Hum. It’s an adventure, the adventure of our journey to glory.

A new book, “Confessing the Gospel,” puts it this way. “Christ also exercises authority as the king of all things in heaven and on earth and as the Lord of the church. … The world, however, does not know Jesus as that unique king.” That’s why we support Mission Central by learning about missions, with our prayers, with our gifts. Turn down the Christmas surround sound! “Soon, and very soon, we are going to see the King.”