

### **“So Busy”?**

It’s a busy season, to be sure. Not long after Election Day, we’ll be plunged into Wisconsin’s “Holy Week” (deer hunting season). In the midst of that comes Turkey Day, followed by Black Friday (that now begins on Thursday night). And when all that’s done we resume our preparations for Christmas.

Even the Church’s year is busy. On the first Sunday of November, we celebrate All Saints Day, remembering our fellow believers who have died and are now at rest with the Lord. The following week, as part of our *Reformation 500* celebrations, we mark Martin Luther’s birthday (he was born November 10, 1483). We close out the Church Year the following Sunday, and then give thanks to the Lord on our National Day of Thanksgiving. On the last week of the month, a new Church year begins with the first Sunday in Advent, and our first Advent midweek service will be on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Yes, it’s a busy time, and it can be tempting to let ourselves get “so busy.” How does that happen? Perhaps we take on more than anyone can actually get done in the allotted time. Perhaps we don’t ask for help to get things done. Or, perhaps, we just don’t say “no” as often as we should.

“Say ‘no’?” you might ask. “How could I possibly say ‘no’ to all the important things that need to get done during the holidays? It just wouldn’t be right if we didn’t do [fill in the blank] like we always do!” So you avoid saying “no,” and plunge ahead. Traditions and routines have made it easier to get things done, and you quickly become immersed in familiar patterns of holiday labors.

But just because you *can* do it all, does that mean you *should*? Or have you unwittingly fallen into a trap?

Have you become “so busy” that you don’t take time to pray? Have you become “so busy” that you don’t bother pausing each day to read from God’s Word? Have you become “so busy” that you feel it necessary to skip church on Sunday, and completely ignore the special opportunities you have in midweek services? Have you become “so busy” that you don’t even think about God and all that He has so graciously done for you?

If you’re *that* busy, you’re not *so* busy. You’re *too* busy. It’s time to rethink your holiday preparations. It’s time to trade off some of those traditions and routines for—dare I say it?—more important things. It’s time to plan time for God.

After all, when you think about Thanksgiving, and Advent, and Christmas, didn’t God plan time for you?

### **Have We Forgotten?**

With all the political conversation that has been swirling around the subject of ‘illegal’ immigrants, some have tried to point to the positive contributions that have been made to this country by ‘legal’ immigrants. Something lost in that conversation, however, has been a recollection of the reasons many of those immigrants left their homelands in the first place.