

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

ISAIAH 9:6-7

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Martin Luther loved the Christmas story and the way it shows how God does not just love us in general but gets to the particular. Our verse from Isaiah says that not only is a child born but it is born for us. And not only is a son given, it is given to us. As we ponder Christ's coming this Advent may we remember that he comes not only for humanity as a whole but there is also a laser-like focus on each one of us. May the peace of Christ be your own peace this holy season.

Dear Lord, make our hearts quiet chambers of Christ's mercy and love. Amen.

Mark Tranvik Professor of Reformation, History, and Theology Luther Seminary