



*Redeemer Lutheran Church*



# *Voice of Redeemer*

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## *New Year's Message* FROM THE PASTOR

As the clock strikes midnight on December 31<sup>st</sup>, a sense of anticipation and renewal fills the air, marking the beginning of a new chapter in the book of time. There's something special about a blank page when we can start all over again. January is the gateway to a new year, and is filled with significance, resolutions, and the promise of fresh starts.

January derives its name from Janus, the ancient Roman god with two faces – one looking to the past and the other to the future. As December comes to a close, we recall our past, inviting introspection and reflection, while at the same time we set aspirations for the future.



One of the distinctive features of January is the tradition of making New Year resolutions. People around the world take this opportunity to assess their lives, identify areas for improvement, and set goals for personal and professional growth. We often list healthier habits, or pursuing new interests, but adding spiritual goals can be neglected. In addition to the weight loss, gym time, and less television, here are some spiritual goals to consider:

1. Read your Bible on a daily basis. We provide the little devotional book, "Christ in Our Home" to each member, which makes daily Bible reading an easy habit.
2. Pray every day. Sometimes, devotional materials can be a real aid.
3. Memorize a Bible Verse daily or weekly.
4. Assess your spiritual progress every quarter. Maybe have a prayer partner you can confide in.
5. Get active and minister to others through our congregation.

If I can help in any way, please let me know.

In the tapestry of time, January stands as a month encouraging us to reflect on the past and envision a brighter future. Let us prayerfully step into the New Year with faith, hope, and determination that the months ahead hold possibilities for change and fulfillment.

Pastor Jon Christenson



## Applying Bible Principles

### OUR GIVING TO GOD IS TO BE DONE VOLUNTARILY.

*"Each one should give, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty; for God loves the one who gives gladly" (2 Cor. 9:7).*

General Norman Schwarzkopf once recalled when he was the Assistant Commander for Personnel at the Pentagon. He had been in this assignment for two weeks when his superior left for an eight-week trip to the Orient. General Schwarzkopf expressed concern about his ability, even as a major general, to handle this new responsibility. His superior told him to follow "Rule 13." When Schwarzkopf asked what "Rule 13" was, his superior told him, "When given command, take charge." "But what if I don't know what to do?" asked Schwarzkopf. The reply was that he should follow "Rule 14 - Do what is right."

Sometimes Christians are in a similar predicament, especially concerning actions based on feelings. We do many things in the Christian life because they are "right," not because we necessarily want to do them or feel like doing them. Nowhere is this more true than concerning our giving. Even when perhaps we do not feel like giving, mature Christians give because doing so is "right" and because God has motivated our hearts to give.

Unfortunately, some people follow the life principle of giving only when they feel like it. The problem is that they seldom feel like it. Oh, they might give to a special project now and then or respond to a special need that appeals to them. Otherwise, though, they usually fail to give unless they happen to feel like it.

In some ways, such individuals who give only when they feel like it fit Abraham Lincoln's description of those who achieve financial success but little else in life. "Financial success," he once said, "is purely metallic. The person who gains it has four metallic attributes: gold in his palm, silver on his tongue, brass in his face, and iron in his heart."

"In contrast," writes Randy Alcorn, "the Macedonian believers earnestly 'begged us and pleaded for the privilege of having a part in helping God's people' (2 Cor. 8:4). When we catch a vision of God's grace, we will give according to our duty, yes, but far more, we will give beyond our duty, voluntarily captivated by the grace of our ever-giving Lord."

Happy New Year ♥ Happy New Year ♥ Happy New Year



# JANUARY ACTIVITIES

You're invited to Lunch Bunch!



**LUNCH BUNCH** is Wednesday, 1/3/24 - 11 am at *Village Grill*, 2805 F St. Make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson if you plan to attend.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 10th from 9 am to 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us for knitting/crocheting prayer shawls, blankets or quilts. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy fellowship with friends. Judy will provide snacks.

**AFTERNOON CIRCLE** is Wednesday 1/17/24 @1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Scripture & Nature: Teachers of Faith from *Gather* magazine. Judy will furnish refreshments. All ladies are invited.



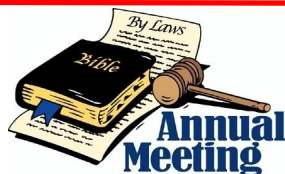
**KNITTING MACHINE** lessons, Tuesday, 1/23/24@9 am. If you are interested in learning how to knit on a machine, join us.



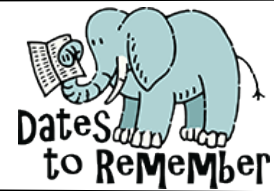
**SENIORS GAME DAY** is Wednesday, January 24/24 @ 12:00 if you want to bring your own lunch or 12:30 if you just want to join in the games. Bring a friend.



**WINE & DINE** is Thursday 1/25/24, at P.F. Chang's, 10,700 Stockdale Hwy. @6 pm. Please make reservations with George Stilwill.



**SUNDAY JANUARY 28**  
**AFTER 9:30 WORSHIP**  
**PLAN TO ATTEND**  
Sandwiches will be furnished by the Fellowship Committee  
Please sign-up for side dishes .



Dates to Remember



Sat. January 13  
9 am



WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM

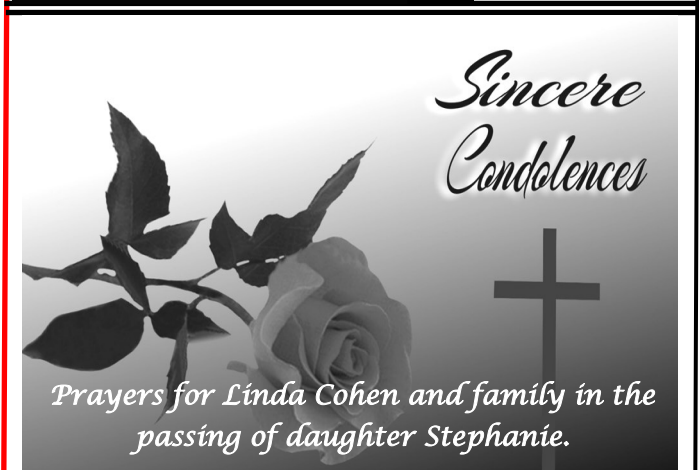
Monday, January 8@10 am. Everyone is welcome.



- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Gladys Johnson</b>      | <b>05</b> |
| <b>James Spillers, Jr.</b> | <b>07</b> |
| <b>Jerry McKnight</b>      | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Richard Rivers</b>      | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Kathy Allen</b>         | <b>24</b> |
| <b>Mark Rice</b>           | <b>27</b> |
| <b>Gracelynn Uecker</b>    | <b>29</b> |
| <b>Judy Cantrell</b>       | <b>31</b> |



**Rodney & Suzie Bruce** **17**



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Total
Receipts	17,060.00	11,595.00	10,544.00	23,788.00	16,172.10	12,260.25	17,675.00	10,209.00	20,121.00	18,588.00	14,094.05	172,106.40
Budget	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	203,930.83
Difference	(1,479.17)	(6,944.17)	(7,995.17)	5,248.83	(2,367.07)	(6,278.92)	(864.17)	(8,330.17)	1,581.83	48.83	(4,445.12)	(31,824.43)
Expenses	14,153.87	16,614.24	12,639.58	14,895.63	16,540.08	10,536.15	19,660.15	14,775.40	25,559.78	21,376.44	18,625.82	185,377.14
Budget	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	18,539.17	203,930.83
Difference	(4,385.30)	(1,924.93)	(5,899.59)	(3,643.54)	(1,999.09)	(8,003.02)	1,120.98	(3,763.77)	7,020.61	2,837.27	86.65	(18,553.69)
Loan Receipts	1,255.00	475.00	390.00	2,330.00	1,835.00	945.00	1,680.00	1,200.00	1,350.00	895.00	1,510.00	13,865.00
Loan Payments	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	1,085.00	11,935.00
Difference	170.00	(610.00)	(695.00)	1,245.00	750.00	(140.00)	595.00	115.00	265.00	(190.00)	425.00	1,930.00



**NEW YEAR - NEW OPPORTUNITIES**  
**Please stop by the sign-up table**  
**in the Narthex to select areas where you can**  
**offer your talents for the coming year .**



# CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PICTURES

Our thanks to Karen for all her work to make this a delightful Christmas story acted out by our little ones (assisted by a few adults.)



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CHARACTERS  
 Narrator...Pastor Jon Christenson  
 Mary/baby Jesus... Maia Olson  
 Joseph/donkey...Leo Olson  
 Angel...Penelope Griffith  
 Inn Keeper...Jersey Zimmerman

Shephard/2 lambs...Jaxx Spillers  
 Star...Drew Zimmerman  
 #1 Wiseman...Jethro Griffith - Frankin-  
 cense  
 #2 Wiseman...Daniel Griffith - Myrrh  
 #3 Wiseman...Marlana Lemley - Gold

Townsmen...John Lemley  
 A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO  
 HELPED WITH PRODUCTION—WE LOOK  
 FORWARD TO THE NEXT PAGEANT!  
 MERRY CHRISTMAS



# IN HIS SERVICE

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGNUP FOR VARIOUS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES SIGN UP SHEETS ARE IN THE NARTHEX. WE NEED YOUR HELP**



Area of Service	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
Altar Guild	Phyllis	_____	_____→	
Flowers	Sue Morton	Dakota Warren	Judy Peterson	Becky Grove
Assistant Minister	Louise Juracek	_____	_____→	
Lector	Sue Morton	Laura Haywood	Dakota Warren	Karen Musgrove
Greeter	Karen Musgrove	_____	_____→	
Coffee Hour	Nate Olson	Phyllis & Jan	Dakota Warten	Fellowship .
Acolyte	Darynne	Maia	Darynne	Maia
Counters (3)	Dakota Warren, Louise			

**PLEASE NOTE THIS SCHEDULE DOES NOT REFLECT CHANGES MADE AFTER DECEMBER 29**



## WHAT IS EPIPHANY?

Epiphany is a Christian holiday primarily commemorating the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus and the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. Eastern traditions, which usually call the holiday Theophany, focus on Jesus' baptism, seen as the manifestation of Christ as both fully human and fully divine. Western traditions focus on the Magi's visit, seen as the first manifestation of Christ as saviour of Gentiles as well as Jews. Epiphany is among the church's oldest and most important feasts.

Britannia Encyclopedia

November 27, 2023



December 26, 2023

Following is a list of our friends who have been lifted up in prayer by our faithful Prayer Warriors.

Mark Rice

Bill Silveira

Pastor Anderson

Miki King

Sara Gelhaus' mother

Linda Cohen and family

Jamie Schartmann

Pastor Will

Please know that your prayers are so very much appreciated. Thanks and Blessings to all!

## REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

2525 BELLE TERRACE, P O BOX 13132-93389, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304

**Pastor: Rev. Jon Christenson ..... 832-7881 ..... Secretary: Phyllis Elrod**

**E-mail address: rlcbakersfield@gmail.com**

**Web site address: www.bakersfieldlutheran.org**



# January 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> *  <b>EPIPHANY</b>	<b>3</b> Lunch Bunch 11 am  Pacifica 10 am	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  A.A. 5:30-6:30
<b>7</b> Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30	<b>8</b> Worship & Music 10 am	<b>9</b>  Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	<b>10</b> Prayer Shawl & Quilting 9-2	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>   9 am A.A. 5:30-6:30
<b>14</b> Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11	<b>15</b>  Martin Luther King Jr. -DAY-	<b>16</b> Council 6 pm  Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	<b>17</b> Afternoon Circle 1:30 pm  Pacifica 10 am	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Garden Club 9-noon  A.A. 5:30-6:30
<b>21</b> Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Knitting machine Lessons 9 am  Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	<b>24</b> 5:30 B.Y.O.S. Bible study 6	<b>25</b>  Wine & Dine 6:00	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  A.A. 5:30-6:30
<b>28</b> Worship 9:30 am Pot-luck lunch <b>Annual meeting</b> <b>10:30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	<b>31</b> Sr. Games 12 noon  5:30 B.Y.O.S. Bible study 6			