



Redeemer Lutheran Church



Voice of Redeemer

Volume 54 Number 12

December 2025



“A Christmas Farewell”

Dear Beloved Members and Friends of Redeemer,

As we enter the holy season of Advent and Christmas, I find myself anticipating these familiar celebrations in a different way. After more than twenty years serving as your pastor, this December marks my final month among you in this role. Writing these words brings a mixture of gratitude, humility, and bittersweet joy.

Christmastime has always held a special place in our life together. I think of all the candlelit hymns we’ve sung, the children’s Christmas programs that brought both laughter and tears, the trees decorated by so many caring hands, and the countless ways we have proclaimed together that *Christ is born for us*. These memories will remain among the great treasures of my ministry.

This year, as I prepare to retire, the message of Christmas feels especially profound. The birth of Jesus reminds us that God is always doing something new—often quietly, often in ways we do not fully understand at first, but always for our good. The manger teaches us that God enters our lives not only in moments of stability, but also in times of transition, uncertainty, and change. Emmanuel—God with us—is the promise that holds steady when everything else feels in motion.

I want to say thank you. Thank you for the privilege of walking with you through life’s holiest moments—baptisms and confirmations, weddings and funerals, joys and sorrows. Thank you for the trust you placed in me, for your prayers, your patience, your honesty, your humor, your partnership in ministry, and your love. Serving as your pastor has shaped me in ways I will carry for the rest of my life.

Though I am stepping away from pastoral leadership at Redeemer, I believe wholeheartedly that God has already prepared the path ahead—for you and for me. This congregation is strong, faithful, resilient, and filled with gifts. The Holy Spirit will continue to guide you as you discern new leadership and move into the next chapter of your ministry. I will be cheering you on, praying for you, and trusting, as always, that Christ is at work in your midst.

My final worship service with you will be on December 21. I hope we can share that day together—giving thanks for the past, celebrating the present, and entrusting the future to God’s care.

In this season when angels declare “Do not be afraid,” may those words settle deeply into your hearts. Christ has come. Christ is with us. Christ is leading us forward.

With deep affection, abiding gratitude, and Christmas blessings,

Pastor Jon Christenson





Applying Bible Principles

As we move through the season of Advent and approach the joy of Christmas, we are surrounded once again by a familiar message: *“For God so loved the world that he gave...”* At its heart, Christmas is a story of divine generosity. God gives Himself—vulnerable, small, wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger. Every gift we exchange in this season echoes that first and greatest gift: God’s love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

Because of this, Christmas is naturally a time to reflect on stewardship. We often think of stewardship as budgets, pledge cards, and committee meetings. But at its core, stewardship is simply our response to God’s grace. It is the daily practice of using all that God entrusts to us—our time, our abilities, our possessions—for God’s purposes in the world.

Christmas invites us to examine our relationship with giving from a place of gratitude rather than obligation. The shepherds leave their flocks to witness the miracle. The magi travel far and offer gifts that honor the Christ child. Mary and Joseph offer their trust and obedience. Each gives from what they have, and each gift reveals a heart tuned toward God.

Stewardship during the Christmas season is not primarily about how much we can give, but how faithfully we can reflect the generosity God has already shown us. When we give generously, we are participating in God’s work of bringing hope, mercy, and renewal into the world. When we serve, volunteer, or simply share kindness with someone who feels forgotten, we are practicing the very stewardship the gospel calls us to.

This season also asks us to remember that faithful stewardship happens not just in December, but throughout the year. The needs of the church continue after the last carol is sung. Ministry goes on long after the candles in the windows are packed away. As we reflect on God’s abundant blessings this Christmas, we can make commitments for the coming year—commitments to serve with joy, to give with purpose, and to grow in our discipleship.

The miracle of Christmas is that God meets us where we are and gives us more than we could ever earn or imagine. Our stewardship is simply the grateful response of hearts touched by that grace. May this season renew in us the desire to give generously, live faithfully, and shine the light of Christ in all we do.

Merry Christmas, and may God’s gifts of peace and joy be with you richly.



October. 26, 2025

November 29, 2025

Maddy

Melinda & Baby

Lori Hughes

Anita

Laura & family

Linda

Please know how much your prayers and concerns are appreciated.

GOD SPEED—FAREWELL—ADIOS

As 2025 comes to a close, Redeemer faces new challenges, albeit with mixed feelings—happy for Pastor Jon, who is retiring, after a long run at Redeemer, remorse that we will no longer have him in our church, and anticipation for what God has in store for us. As we face this new phase, know one thing — as we continue to ask for God's blessings and guidance, with work and determination, we will survive.

We wish the best for you, Pastor Jon in your retirement and are thankful for your years of service to Redeemer.

Redeemer Church Council

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 3; 10; 17—Advent vespers after soup supper @ 6 pm

DECEMBER 14: Bishop Bos will be with us for Worship, pot-luck lunch, visit with Bishop Bos.

DECEMBER 15: Farewell dinner for Pastor Jon—6 pm

DECEMBER 21: Christmas program by the Sunday School ; Baptism

DECEMBER 24: Candle light service 6 pm—Pastor Bryan

POTLUCK DECEMBER 14

Bishop Brenda Bos will be with us for worship on Sunday, December 14. We will have a potluck lunch following services, a time to visit with her and ask questions if you wish. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex.

Gathering in Advent

We will gather for soup suppers and a simple worship service during Advent, in preparation for Christmas. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, December 3rd, the 10th, and the 17th.

Our Three-Week Midweek Advent Series will be, **"Behold, Your Promise Comes"** This series traces three Advent promises—**Hope, Peace, and Joy**—each rooted in Scripture and oriented toward the coming of Christ.



Pastor Bryan Woken will lead us at our annual Christmas Eve Candle light worship, Dec. 24 at 6 pm.

We are thankful the we have Pastor Bryan, who willingly made sure that we have Christmas Eve and Sunday, December 28, worship! Thank you, Pastor Bryan.



December Happenings



LUNCH BUNCH: is Wednesday 12/3/25 - 11 am, at Mom's House, 2681 Calloway Drive. Please make reservations with Judy.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY & QUILTING will meet on Wednesday, 12/10/25; 9 am-3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us for knitting/crocheting prayer shawls, blankets or quilts. Snacks will be provided by Phyllis. Please bring your own sack lunch.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE is Wednesday 12/17/25 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will discuss Generosity from 2 Corinthians 9:7 & *Gather* magazine. Please bring a holiday snack to share. All ladies are invited.

WINE & DINE will resume 1/22/26, @ 6pm

SENIOR GAME DAY will resume January 28, 2026. Bring lunch at 12, games start @ 12:30



Sunday, Dec. 07—11am
Church Council

Worship & Music
Dec. 12—10 am

Farewell dinner for Pastor
Dec. 15—6 pm



December
BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Jaxx Spillers	01
Rick Grove	01
Guy Hairfield	02
Ricki Grove	03
Anthony Almeida	10
Leith Coomer	10
Jan Lemley	13
Greg Eakes	15
Dominik Schindler	15
Mary Ellen Saldana	22
Sarah Garb-Olson	23
Alexander Hunter	25
AnnaMarie Truax	25
Bill Saltzman	27
Ryan Spillers	29
Lucy Saltzman	31

DECEMBER CHARITY



Make checks out to Redeemer with a note "Mercy Ships".



ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS

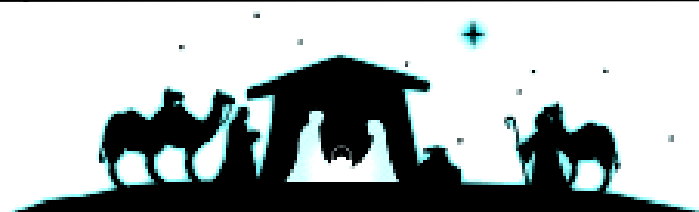
Soup suppers will begin Wednesday, December 3, at 6 pm, with Advent Worship @ 6:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Join us for food, fellowship and Advent worship.



POINSETTIAS

We will be decorating our church with poinsettias again this year. Sign up

sheets are in your bulletins. Cost is: \$12.00. You can take them home after worship, Sunday, December 28th.





The
Season
of

Advent

READING PLAN

Hope

- ◇ Day 1: Jeremiah 29:10-14
- ◇ Day 2: Romans 15:8-13
- ◇ Day 3: 1 Peter 1:3-12
- ◇ Day 4: Hebrews 10:19-39
- ◇ Day 5: Psalm 33
- ◇ Day 6: Titus 2:11– 3:8

Joy

- ◇ Day 13: Philippians 4:4-9
- ◇ Day 14: Psalm 16
- ◇ Day 15: James 1:2-18
- ◇ Day 16: Psalm 30
- ◇ Day 17: Luke 2:8-20
- ◇ Day 18: John 15:1-11

Peace

- ◇ Day 7: Isaiah 9:1-7
- ◇ Day 8: John 14:1-7, 25-31
- ◇ Day 9: John 16:25-33
- ◇ Day 10: Romans 5:1-11
- ◇ Day 11: Ephesians 2:11-22
- ◇ Day 12: Colossians 3:1-17

Love

- ◇ Day 19: Micah 7:18-20
- ◇ Day 20: Romans 8:31-39
- ◇ Day 21: John 3:16-21
- ◇ Day 22: 1 John 4:7-21
- ◇ Day 23: Philippians 2:1-11
- ◇ Day 24: 2 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:5
- ◇ Day 25: Ephesians 2:1-10



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CHRISTMAS STORIES

○ X C T S R K M B Y C ○

Y T M T W M J O Y R

○ V A A P N A E G C P * ○

I Z G G V R S O A K

○ L K I E L Y U L R C ○

Y R F W A G S D O U

* G G I F T S A U L R ○

W R U S X E L F O R

○ C F Q M D B A B Y E ○

A N G E L W W K E M ○



WORD LIST

ANGEL
BABY
CAROL
ELF
GIFTS

GOLD
JESUS
JOY
MAGI
MARY

The Greatest Gift

Happy
Holidays!



WORSHIP HELPERS				
AREA OF SERVICE	DEC. 7	DEC. 14	DEC. 21	DEC. 28
ASSISTANT:	Jan Lemley			
ACOLYTE:	Leo	Maia	Darynne	Leith
ALTAR GUILD:	Becky			
LECTOR:	Nate	Karen	Judy	Louise
FLOWERS:	Linda	Lemley	Poinsettias	Smith family
GREETER:				
COFFEE HOUR:	Nate	Potluck	Julie	Louise

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

January February March April May June July August September October Total

Receipts	31,956.00	15,890.50	19,084.00	9,335.80	18,360.50	17,167.00	15,757.00	15,424.45	15,022.00	15,465.00	173,462.25
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	160,691.70
Differ- ence	15,886.83	(178.67)	3,014.83	(6,733.37)	2,291.33	1,097.83	(312.17)	(644.72)	(1,047.17)	(604.17)	12,770.55

Expenses	22,802.93	18,314.52	13,447.73	13,494.11	12,976.48	15,559.09	16,480.98	18,563.09	12,885.52	15,845.99	160,370.44
Budget	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	16,069.17	160,691.70
Differ- ence	(6,733.76)	(2,245.35)	2,621.44	2,575.06	3,092.69	510.08	(411.81)	(2,493.92)	3,183.65	223.18	321.26

Total	9,153.07	(2,424.02)	5,636.27	(4,158.31)	5,384.02	1,607.91	(723.98)	(3,138.64)	2,136.48	(380.99)	13,091.81
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Compared to Budget

Loan Re- ceipts	1,550.00	1,575.00	1,575.00	1,725.00	1,500.00	1,450.00	1,400.00	1,600.00	1,200.00	1,230.00	14,805.00
Loan Pay- ments	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	10,850.00
Differ- ence	465.00	490.00	490.00	640.00	415.00	365.00	315.00	515.00	115.00	145.00	3,955.00

Total All	9,618.07	(1,934.02)	6,126.27	(3,518.31)	5,799.02	1,972.91	(408.98)	(2,623.64)	2,251.48	(235.99)	17,046.81
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Bible Scavenger Hunt

FOR ADVENT

Prepare for Christmas with this Bible-based Advent activity. Each day in December, look up the answer to one question.



1 What will God's Son be called?
(Isaiah 7:14)

2 Where will Jesus reign?
(Isaiah 9:7)

3 Where will Jesus be born?
(Micah 5:2)

How many generations are between Abraham and the Christ?
(Matthew 1:17)

5 Who tells Mary she is having a baby?
(Luke 1:26-31)

Who issues the decree about a census?
(Luke 2:1)

9 What does Jesus' name mean?
(Matthew 1:21)

Until his son John the Baptist is born, what can Zechariah not do?
(Luke 1:20, 64)

4 What does Mary say that God has done for her?
(Luke 1:49)

6 Which relative of Mary is also having a baby?
(Luke 1:41)

10 From where do Joseph and Mary start their journey to Bethlehem?
(Luke 2:4)

What does Mary use to wrap up baby Jesus?
(Luke 2:7)

13 What serves as Jesus' first bed?
(Luke 2:7)

7 Who tells the shepherds the good news about Jesus' birth?
(Luke 2:8-12)

15 When the shepherds tell others about Jesus, how do people react?
(Luke 2:8-12)



11 Where does Joseph flee with his family for safety?
(Matthew 2:14)

12 What three gifts does Jesus receive from the wise men?
(Matthew 2:11)

18 Who is upset to hear about a newborn King?
(Matthew 2:3)

14 From what direction do the wise men (or Magi) come to worship Jesus?
(Matthew 2:1-2)

16 On what day is Jesus presented in the temple?
(Luke 2:21)

20 When does Jesus' family return to Israel?
(Matthew 2:19-21)

21 In what district does Jesus grow up?
(Matthew 2:22)

22 What free gift does God give us through Jesus, his Son?
(1 John 5:11)

17 Where do all our gifts come from?
(James 1:17)

23 How should we respond to our gifts?
(2 Corinthians 9:15)



Answers: 1. Immanuel 2. On David's throne 3. Bethlehem 4. 42 5. The angel Gabriel 6. Elizabeth 7. Great things 8. Speak 9. He will save his people from their sins 10. Caesar Augustus 11. Nazareth, in Galilee 12. Cloths, or swaddling clothes 13. A manger 14. An angel of the Lord 15. They are amazed, or in wonder 16. The eighth 17. The east 18. Herod 19. Gold, frankincense and myrrh 20. Egypt 21. After Herod dies 22. Galilee 23. Emmanuel 24. From above, from the Father of lights 25. Give thanks to God!

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December 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><i>The Greatest Gift</i></p>	1	2 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	3 Lunch Bunch 11 Pacifica 10 am Soup Supper 6 Advent Vespers 6:456	4	5	6 German Club 11am-4pm
7 ADVENT 2 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 children	8	9 Al-Anon 6:30 -7:30	10 Prayer shawl 9am -2pm Soup Supper 6 pm Advent Vespers 6:45	11	12	13 Work Day German Club
14 ADVENT 3 Worship 9:30 Bishop Bos Pot Luck lunch 10:30 Sunday School	15	16 Al-Anon 6:30 -7:30	17 Afternoon Bible Study Soup Supper 6 pm Advent Vespers 6:45	18	19	20 Garden Club 9am—noon
21 ADVENT 4 Worship 9:30 Sunday School program , Baptism 	22	23	24 	25 	26	27 Glass Club 11 to 2 p.m.
28 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00-11:25	29 Office closed	30 New Years Eve Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	31	JANUARY 1 		

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE ALWAYS IN THE NARTHEX — WE NEED YOUR HELP!