



Redeemer Lutheran Church



Voice of Redeemer

Volume 52 Number 12

December 2023



Happy Holidays! The word "holiday" has its roots in the Old English word "haligdæg," which was a combination of "hālig," meaning holy, and "dæg," meaning day. In Middle English, it evolved into "holidaī" and later "holiday." Originally, the term referred to religious festivals or holy days, such as Christmas, Easter, and other Christian observances.

So, whether they know it or not, when someone wishes you "happy holidays," it's an appropriate term for all the holy days we celebrate in December and into the new year.

"Happy Holiday (Happy Holiday)
Happy Holiday (Happy Holiday)
While the merry bells keep ringing
Happy Holidays to you...."

The word Advent comes from the Latin word, "advenire", conjugated as "adventus" which is a combination word of "ad" meaning, "to" or "toward" and "venire", "come" which is conjugated as ventus, which means more specifically, "coming". Combining them gets us literally, "toward the coming." The Latin definition is, "(a thing) about to happen." Expectation would be an appropriate synonym here.

We will celebrate the season of Advent, looking for the arrival of the King, on both Sundays and Wednesday evening. We will have soup suppers and a simple worship service in the Fellowship Hall Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm on the 6th, 13th, and 20th. On those nights we will remember some holy people, like Nicholas and Lucia, with crafts, songs, and prayers. It will be fun for all ages.

In church we will keep watch with great expectation. On December 17th we will hold our Sunday School Christmas pageant, which is always a delight. On Sunday, December 24th we will only have ONE service at 5:00 pm. It will be our traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service with carols. Please note that it is a bit earlier this year and that we will not worship Sunday morning. Please invite friends and family to this holy night.

On the 31st we will continue to sing Christmas carols and rejoice in the anticipation of the New Year. As you can see, we have many holy days to remember how deeply God loves us.

It is a privilege to serve Redeemer Lutheran as pastor, and I would like to wish all of you Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

Pastor Jon Christenson





Applying Bible Principles

Someone once said, "Experience is a good teacher, but she gives the test first and then the lesson." That's certainly true, and based on many of life's experiences, we frequently fail the test before we can benefit from the lesson.

The formula "e equals mc²" is known by college students but understood by very few people. Most of us know it had something to do with Einstein and was the formula that led to the release of enormous power and to the nuclear age. Similarly, in funding the local church, "e" might stand for every, "m" for member, "c" for commitment, and the "2" for the effort multiplied by itself. The fruit of that kind of effort is much more powerful than what Einstein discovered, even as Jesus described it in Matthew 21:22, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Right now, as we consider the opportunity to support the ministries here at Redeemer Lutheran Church, God is putting us to the test. As Gordon Moyes stated, "Responsible giving or stewardship is not man's way of raising money, but God's way of raising people. . . . The church's budget is not a list of its expenses, but a record of its vision. It is not a list of bills to be met, but a program of ministry to be achieved."

As each of us prayerfully considers what God would have us give, and as we obey what God asks of us, we can trust him to provide the resources. That's a test. A test of where we are spiritually much more than where we are financially. It's a test of us as individuals and of us as a church. The question is whether or not we really believe that God has the power and ability to bless our obedience "much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of" (Eph. 3:20).

How are you doing concerning God's tests regarding money in your life? If God's provision in your life in the days ahead depends on how you obey God's leading now concerning your giving, what will the future be like for you?



PHOTO GALLERY



Bazaar items for sale. Tammy's daughter, Ashley makes freeze dried candy—big hit!

Gently used Christmas decorations, also good sales items.



Dakota is learning how to use the knitting machines and is so proud of her accomplishments. Way to go, Dakota!

Interested? Talk to Karen, she will be delighted to have you join of group—Prayer Shawl Ministries.



BUNCO PARTY! FUN FOR ALL. JOIN US 12/1, 5:30 FOOD, PRIZES, FUN!

December Happenings



LUNCH BUNCH: is Wednesday 12/6/23 - 11 am @ Rosemary's Creamery, 2733 F Street. Please make reservations with Judy.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY & QUILTING will meet on Wednesday, 12/13/23; 9 am – 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us for knitting/crocheting prayer shawls, blankets or quilts. Snacks will be provided by Karen. Please bring your own sack lunch.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE is Wednesday 12/20/23 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will share an Advent devotional Topsy-turvy from Luke 1:46-55 & Gather magazine Please bring a holiday snack to share. All ladies are invited

Wine & Dine will resume 1/25/24, @ 6pm at P F Chang's, 10700 Stockdale Highway. Please make reservations with George Stilwill.

Knitting machine lessons, 12/27/23- 9-11 a.m .

Senior game day will resume January 25, 2024

DECEMBER CHARITY



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



ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS

will start Wednesday, December 6, at 6 pm, with Advent Worship @ 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Join us for food, fellowship and Advent worship.

Wednesday night Bible study will resume in January.



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 Christmas Eve worship, Sunday, December 24. \ at 5 p.m.



Sat. Dec.9th. 9 a.m.
Church workday

Worship & Music Dec. 11 @10:00 am.

Thurs., Dec.21—6 pm
Church Council

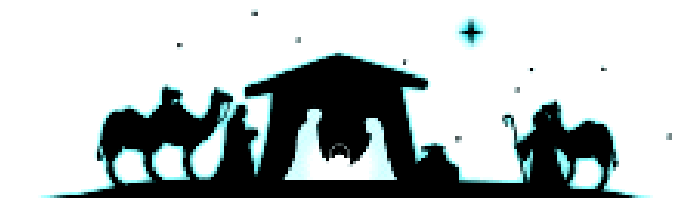


December

BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Jaxx Spillers	01
Rick Grove	01
Guy Hairfield	02
Ricki Grove	03
Anthony Almeida	10
Shirley Petersen	12
Jan Lemley	13
Leif Commer	15
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

Russell & Caroline Schonewise 29





*'Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by **the light** of God made man.'* Pope Francis

During Advent, we prepare for His coming – He who brought Light into the darkness – for four weeks, represented by the four candles around the Advent wreath.

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin word “*adventus*,” which means “a coming, approach, arrival.” When we expect guests to arrive at our homes, we turn the lights on; we anticipate their arrival and welcome them with joy. In Advent, we prepare our homes and churches as we joyfully anticipate His arrival, and the light also gets brighter as we near Christmas day, the day on which the *Light of the World* was born. St. Gregory of Nyssa wrote,

“Today, the darkness begins to grow shorter and the light to lengthen, as the hours of light become fewer. [...] Do you see that the beams of light are more intense and the sun higher than it has been? Realize that the true light is now here and, through the rays of the Gospel, is illuminating the whole earth.”

Advent wreaths and candles are commonly seen in churches during the liturgical season. Many people also display Advent wreaths in their homes and light a candle each Sunday as families.

The origin of the Advent wreath has been traced back to Germany, though the exact dates are unknown. Historians have suggested that pre-Christian Germanic peoples would light candles around wreaths in the dark winter months in anticipation of the warmer, lighter months in springtime. This tradition likely evolved into an “Advent wreath” at some point during the Middle Ages. Rev. William Saunders explained that “By 1600, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.” Ultimately, the Advent wreath tradition spread beyond Germany and into other areas of the world, namely throughout the western Church.

The circular shape of the Advent wreath symbolizes God’s infinite love for us – it is never-ending, just like the true Light of the World, Jesus, who leads us into eternal life with Him. The materials of the Advent wreath similarly lead us to reflect on the everlasting nature of God; traditionally, Advent wreaths have been made of evergreen leaves, such as pine or fir, which maintain their green color beyond the season in which they are collected. Nowadays, there are many modern interpretations of Advent wreaths that still help us celebrate the traditional meaning of the wreath: preparing the way for the Light of the World, Jesus.

The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the “Prophet’s Candle.” The prophets of the Old Testament waited in hope for the Messiah’s arrival. The purple color symbolizes royalty, and repentance.

The **second candle** represents **faith**. Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the birthplace of King David. Also purple, it symbolize preparation for the coming king.

The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** known as the “Shepherd’s Candle. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.

- The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the “Angel’s Candle.” The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. This color is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.

The (optional) **fifth candle** represents **light and purity** and is called “Christ’s candle.” It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day. This candle is white to represent pure light and victory.



October. 26, 2023

November 27, 2023

Greg Brown
 Lea Dawson
 Sharon Vieyra
 Lisa Bennink
 Ron Gregory
 Jamie Sharmann
 Chris Martinez &
 Family
 Rosie Baker and
 Carmen
 Christa Schroeder
 Texas
 Bruce's friend & family
 Ceylon (Bruce)
 Nathan Olson (Jan)
 James Baggs



CHRIST *the savior*
 is **BORN**



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WORSHIP HELPERS

AREA OF SERVICE	DEC. 3	DEC. 10	DEC. 17	DEC. 24	DEC. 31
ASSISTANT:	Jan Lemley	_____	_____	_____	_____
ACOLYTE:	Darynne	Maia	Darynne	Maia	Darynne
ALTAR GUILD:	Lyda & Vernon	_____	_____	_____	_____
LECTOR:	Karen	Judy	Nate	Jan	_____
FLOWERS:	Phyllis	Lemley family	_____	Poinsettias	_____
GREETER:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
COFFEE HOUR:	Phyllis	Karen	Tammy & Mark	_____	Phyllis
COUNTER	Linda	_____	_____	_____	_____

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



**ARE YOU READY FOR SOME
BUNCO???**



**Join Us Friday, December 5th,
\$15—includes sandwiches, drinks,
snacks, dessert and BUNCO!**

Raffle tickets 6 for \$5.00

\$1.00 each

Game prizes

REDEEM- ER LU- THERAN CHURCH	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Total
2023 FI- NANCIAL REPORT											
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	158,012.35
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	185,391.67
Differ- ence	(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	(27,379.32)
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	166,751.32
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	222,470.00
Differ- ence	(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	(18,640.35)
Loan Re- ceipts	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	12,355.00
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	170.00	(610.00)	(695.00)	1,245.00	750.00	(140.00)	595.00	115.00	265.00	(190.00)	1,505.00



December 2023



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 Dec. 24 @5pm					1 Bunco 5:30	2 SCA 9am-8 pm
3 ADVENT 1 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Adult S.S. 11:00- 11:25	4	5 Al-Anon 6:30 -7:30	6 Lunch Bunch 11 Pacifica 10 am Soup Supper 6 pm Advent Vespers 7:00	7	8	9 Work Day 9 am German Club noon- 4pm A.A. 5:30 -
10 ADVENT 2 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11:00-11:25	11 Ruth Circle 6:30 Worship & Music 10 am	12 Al-Anon 6:30 -7:30	13 Prayer shawl 9am -2pm Soup Supper 6 pm Advent Vespers 7:00	14	15	16 Garden Club 9am—noon A.A. 5:30 - 6:30
17 ADVENT 3 Worship 9:30 Sunday School program	18	19 Al-Anon 6:30 -7:30	20 Afternoon Circle 1:30 pm Pacifica 10 am Soup Supper 6 pm Advent Vespers 7 pm	21 Council 6 pm Winter begins 	22	23 A.A. 5:30 - 6:30
24 ADVENT 4 Candlelight Service of Holy Communion 5 pm Worship 9:30 31 Happy New Year!	25  Christmas DAY Office closed	26 Al-Anon 6:30 -7:30 Office closed	27 Senior Game Day 12:00 for sack lunch, 12:30 let the games begin!	28	29	30 A.A. 5:30 - 6:30