



Redeemer Lutheran Church



Voice of Redeemer

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EPIPHANY: A SEASON OF LIGHT AND REVELATION

As we step into the new year, the church calendar brings us to the season of Epiphany, a time filled with wonder, reflection, and revelation. Beginning on January 6, Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child, symbolizing the manifestation of Jesus as the Savior of the world. (We will celebrate Epiphany Eve on January 5th.)

The word "Epiphany" means "appearance" or "manifestation," and during this season, we are invited to reflect on how God reveals himself to us. The story of the Magi reminds us that God's love extends beyond boundaries, calling people of every nation and background to the light of Christ. The star that led the wise men to Bethlehem serves as a powerful symbol of this divine guidance, urging us to seek and follow God's presence in our own lives.

Epiphany is also a time to celebrate light. In the darkness of winter, the season shines as a reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World, bringing hope, joy, and peace. Many traditions mark this time with candle-light, star processions, and blessings of homes to reflect this theme of illumination and divine revelation. How can we live out the spirit of Epiphany in our daily lives? Here are a few ideas:

Seek God's Light: Take time for prayer, Scripture reading, and meditation to attune your heart to God's guidance.

Be a Light to Others: Perform acts of kindness and generosity, reflecting God's love to those around you.

Embrace Revelation: Stay open to new ways God may be speaking to you, whether through worship, relationships, or moments of quiet reflection.

As we journey through this beautiful season, may the light of Christ shine brightly in our hearts and lives, leading us to deeper faith and love. Let us follow the example of the Magi, who, with open hearts and eager spirits, sought and celebrated the presence of our Savior.

Wishing you a blessed and illuminating Epiphany season!

Pastor Jon Christenson





Applying Bible Principles

"When anyone is joined to Christ, he is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17). Christians should have a different outlook on life, including money and material possessions. They realize that they own nothing, that everything they have belongs to God, and that they are only managers and stewards of what God has entrusted to them. Because of that, Christians should have a different attitude towards "things."

That attitude demonstrates itself in many different ways. For example, Christians show mercy and give, in contrast to the those who borrow and do not repay (Psalm 37:21). Christians should hold possessions with an open hand, and "refresh" others with their bounty (Proverbs 11:24-25). They are honest and demonstrate their faith by their work and integrity (1 Thes.4:11-12). They give to those in need and thereby demonstrate to a watching world the love of God (1 John 3:17).

When this kind of lifestyle is present in our lives, Jesus said that people will see our good works, our different attitude and perspective, and will glorify our heavenly Father (Matt. 5:16). And as we seek His kingdom first and foremost, we have His promise that He will provide what we need (Matt. 6:33).

As others observe you and your lifestyle, do they see any difference because of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? As they observe your relationship to "things," especially to money, do they realize you are a manager, a steward, and not an owner? Or stated another way, is the manner in which you handle money and material possessions a testimony to your faith in Christ?



Your Church Council asked for your help throughout the year to share our gifts with those needing help, and you folk always step up to the plate! Some of these gifts are shared locally, some goes to Lutheran World Relief, some to Mercy Ships which serves the medical needs of children in Africa, to name a few. We, as members of your council appreciate your contributions. God's richest blessing to you and wish for you a very rewarding new year!



Pastor will be starting Wednesday night Bible Study soon. Watch the bulletin for more information and plan to attend probably in a couple of weeks.

ANNUAL MEETING

DON'T FORGET—SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
POT LUCK LUNCH—SIGN UP FOR FOOD



JANUARY ACTIVITIES

You're invited to Lunch Bunch!



LUNCH BUNCH is Thursday, 1/2/25 - 11 am at *IHOP*, 9220 Rosedale Hwy. Make reservations with Judy Olson-Peterson if you plan to attend.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 8th 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.



KNITTING MACHINE : Karen and her daughter Liz, will give lessons, Wednesday, 1/8/25@12:30. If you are interested in learning how to knit on a machine, join us.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE is Wednesday 1/15/25 @1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall . We will continue our discussion of Grace from Ephesians 4-6. Refreshments will be provided. All ladies are invited! Judy will furnish refreshments. All ladies are invited.



SENIORS GAME DAY is Wednesday, January 23/25 @ 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 1/23/25, at the Red Lobster, 8180 Rosedale Hwy.. @ 6 pm. Please make reservations with Judy

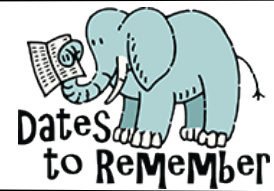


ANNUAL MEETING

**SUNDAY JANUARY 19
AFTER 9:30 WORSHIP**

PLAN TO ATTEND

**Potluck lunch before meeting
Please sign-up in the Narthex .**



Dates to Remember



Sat. January 11
9 am



WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM
Thursday, January 9@10 am.
Everyone is welcome.



- Gladys Johnson** 05
- Wyatt Griffith** 06
- James Spillers, Jr.** 07
- Jerry McKnight** 15
- Richard Rivers** 15
- Kathy Allen** 24
- Mark Rice** 27
- Gracelynn Uecker** 29
- Jethro Griffith** 31
- Judy Cantrell** 31



Rodney & Suzie Bruce 17



Thanks to Judy for delivering 15 shawls to residents of the Rehabilitation Center of Bakersfield. And thanks to the Prayer Shaw members for making them. Several of the shawls were made on the knitting machines given to us by the Saltzman family.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

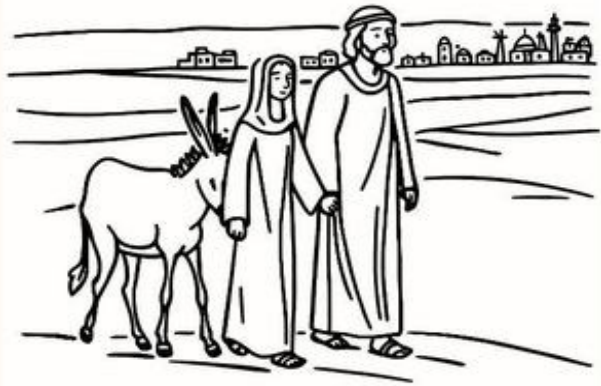
2024 Financial Report

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Receipts	21,416.00	13,162.00	25,963.05	13,619.00	20,898.05	20,465.00	12,980.90	12,681.92	29,257.57	13,155.29	15,321.00	15,321.00	198,919.78
Budget	16,750.83	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	184,259.23
Difference	4,665.17	(3,588.84)	9,212.21	(3,131.84)	4,147.21	3,714.16	(3,769.94)	(4,068.92)	12,506.73	(3,595.55)	(1,429.84)	0.00	14,660.55
Expenses	11,832.90	12,631.49	13,829.76	13,354.43	17,436.20	21,502.85	14,836.74	18,459.65	14,968.27	24,341.25	19,297.16	19,297.16	182,490.70
Budget	16,750.83	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	16,750.84	184,259.23
Difference	(4,917.93)	(4,119.35)	(2,921.08)	(3,396.41)	685.36	4,752.01	(1,914.10)	1,708.81	(1,782.57)	7,590.41	2,546.32	0.00	(1,768.53)
Loan Receipts	1,250.00	950.00	1,725.00	900.00	2,800.00	925.00	1,325.00	775.00	925.00	1,325.00	400.00	400.00	13,300.00
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	1,085.00	11,935.00
Difference	165.00	(135.00)	640.00	(185.00)	1,715.00	(160.00)	240.00	(310.00)	(160.00)	240.00	(685.00)	0.00	1,365.00

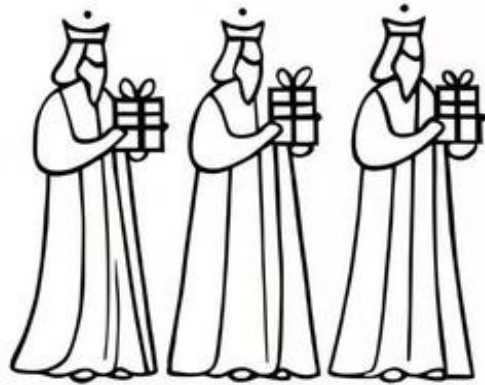


NEW YEAR - NEW OPPORTUNITIES
Please stop by the sign-up table
in the Narthex to select areas where you can
offer you talents for the coming year .





The story of Jesus' birth





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 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Altar Guild	Vern & Lyda			
Flowers	Julie	Lyda & Vern	Linda	Julie
Assistant Minister	Louise Juracek	Jan	Louise	Louise
Lector	Judy	Nate	Jan	Laura
Greeter	Karen Musgrove			
Coffee Hour	Nate Olson	Judy	Pot luck	Linda.
Acolyte	Maia	Leo	Darynne	Lieth
Counters (3)	Laura		Linda	Jan

PLEASE NOTE THIS SCHEDULE DOES NOT REFLECT CHANGES MADE AFTER DECEMBER 30



Because of your kindness and generosity, Dakota delivered a car full of gifts to the Jamison Center. The residents were overjoyed and your gifts gave them a very Merry Christmas! And a special thanks to Dakota for playing Santa!



November 27, 2024

December 28, 2024

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

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Stephanie Sutton | Caroline Reid | Elizabeth | Fire victims S.CA |
| Bobby McKay | Pam & Frank | Judy | Stevan Saldana -thanks |
| Dorothy | Dylan | Lois | |

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 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 	2 Lunch Bunch 11 am	3	4 A.A. 5:30-6:30
5 Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 	6 Epiphany	7 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	8 Prayer Shawl & Quilting 9-2	9	10	11  9 am A.A. 5:30-6:30
12 Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 11	13	14 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	15 Afternoon Circle 1:30 pm Pacifica 10 am	16	17	18 A.A. 5:30-6:30
19 Worship 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 Annual meeting 10:30	20 	21 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	22 5:30 B.Y.O.S. Bible study 6	23 Wine & Dine 6:00	24	25 A.A. 5:30-6:30
26 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School	27	28 Al-Anon 6:30-7:30	29 Sr. Games 12 noon 5:30 B.Y.O.S. Bible study 6	30		