



Teach | Equip | Serve

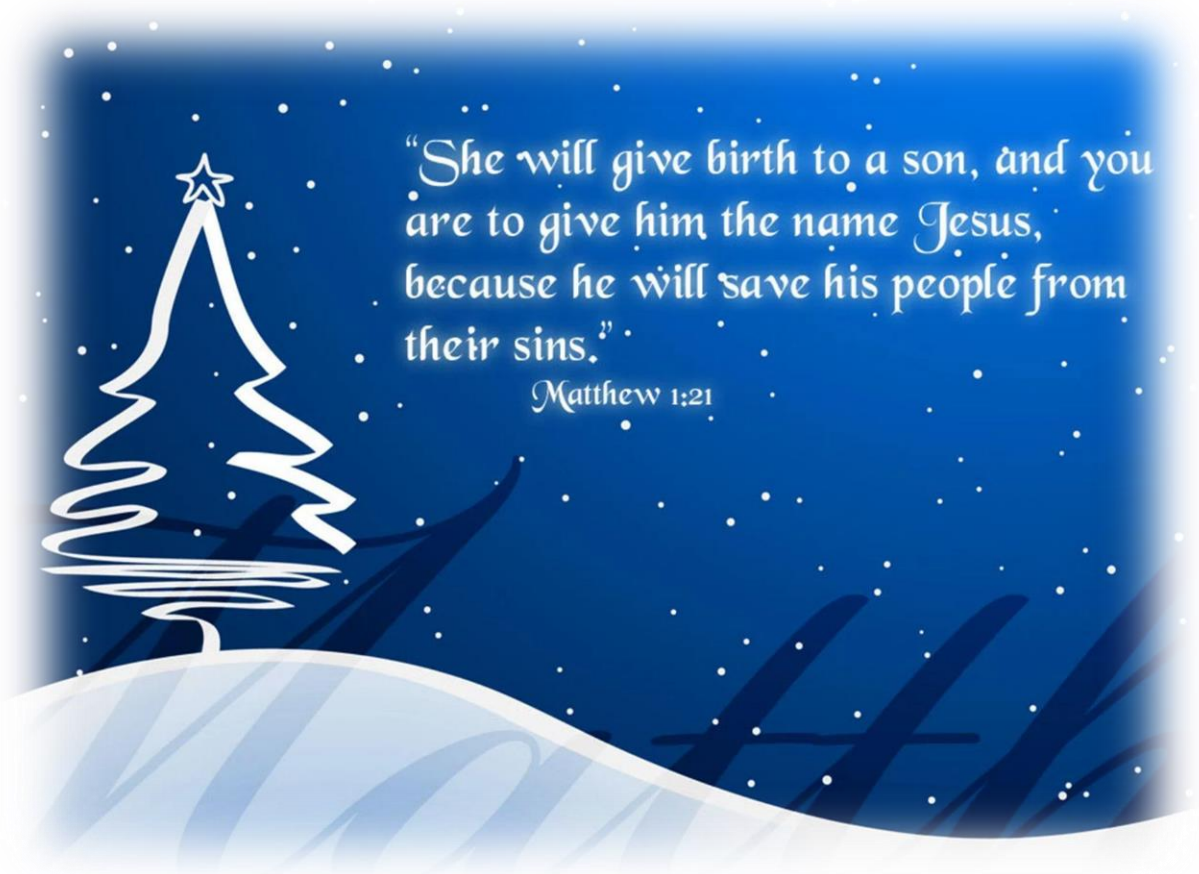
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DECEMBER



NEWSLETTER

SENT TO TELL THE GOOD NEWS

The season of Advent has provided opportunity for us to reflect on God's great love for us fallen sinners that has caused Him to send His very own Son Who came for the ungodly, even for those who will never acknowledge His sacrifice and who reject His free gift of salvation. Along with the joy that we have in our Savior, especially at this time of the celebration of Jesus' birth, the knowledge that not all experience this joy brings a sorrow to us as it does to the heart of our Lord.

Just as God in His love sent His Son into this world to save the lost, so we are now sent to tell others of that love. The shepherds at Jesus' birth did not hesitate to tell others. *"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen..."* (Luke 2:20). Like the shepherds, our joy and mission are to share the good news with all people that Jesus came *"to seek and to save the lost"* (Luke 19:10). By grace, we are invited to be participants who declare to the world how God has reconciled us to Himself through His Son. God makes His appeal to unbelievers through us, and, therefore, it is imperative that we share the Gospel, which is the life-giving truth. We are to preach and teach the Word of God.

God calls us to share our faith and to let His light shine brightly. You and I have something to share that is needed by others, and that is the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, Who came to us as a babe in a manger. In light of what Christ has done for us, we respond with a desire to serve and glorify Him. We are equipped and enabled by the Holy Spirit through His Word and Sacraments (2 Timothy 3:16-17) to be participants in His mission. We are the feet, eyes, ears, mouths, and hands who carry the message, who see the needs, who listen to the cries of those in need, who bring help to them, who tell them the message of reconciliation.

God's Word challenges us to use our resources, so we can make an eternal difference in the lives of others. Because God is always with us, we can be faithful in our purpose to be God's participants in His mission to save all people.

May we all keep Christ as the heart of our Christmas and see Jesus as the reason for our joy. God's blessings on your Christmas worship and celebration with loved ones.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Pastor Todd

New Christmas Tradition

**Beginning December 1st
read one chapter of
the book of Luke
in the Bible each evening.**

There are 24 chapters.

**On Christmas Eve
you will have read
an entire account of
Jesus's life and wake up
Christmas morning knowing
WHO and WHY we celebrate.**



December Event Schedule

Midweek Advent Worship

Dec. 6, 13, 20 | Noon & 7pm - Soup Suppers - 6p

Lydia Guild Christmas Activity

Saturday, Dec. 9a - 1-3p

Christmas Caroling & Church Dinner

Saturday, Dec. 16 (Caroling 3p)

(Church Dinner - 5p)

Kid's Program & Christmas Choral Service

Sunday, Dec. 17 - 9a.

Christmas Eve Morning Service

Sunday, Dec. 24 - 9a (No Education Hour)

Hymn Sing Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Sunday, Dec. 24 - 6p & 8p

Service of Lessons & Carols

** Both Services are identical **

Christmas Day Worship Service

Monday, Dec. 25 - 10a (with communion)

New Year's Eve Morning Service

Sunday, Dec. 31 - 9a (with communion)

ELDERS CORNER – DECEMBER 2023

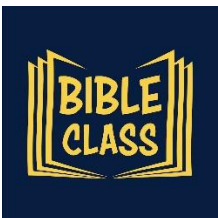
"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace, there will be no end..." Isaiah 9: 6-7

The Advent season has begun. Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means arrival or coming, as in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ as a baby born in Bethlehem. Advent is the beginning of the church year and following Advent is Christmas.

This year, retailers began selling Christmas gifts in October, some advertising "Black Friday" type sales. Each year it seems that the world attempts to take Christ out of Christmas, but no matter how early they start, they cannot diminish the significance of the birth of a Child in a stable on that special night in Bethlehem, over 2,000 years ago. "...The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (*Isaiah 7:14*) "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means God with us)" (*Matthew 1:23*) Isn't it comforting that we can always say that God is with us. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you (God) are with me." (*Psalms 23:4*) "If God is with us, who can be against us?" (*Romans 8:31*) Thank God for being with you, even if it has not been a good day, week, month, or year. He gave His life for us all and is waiting to welcome us to come home. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (*Philippians 4:7*)

Blessed Christmas to All!

Redeemer Elders.

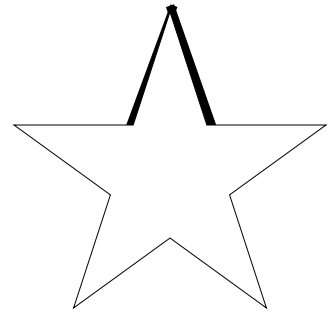


Due to the many activities happening on Sunday mornings in December, the adult bible class will meet on Dec. 3 ONLY. After that, no class until January.

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1: LOOK UP! THE STAR OF PEACE DRAWS NEAR

We begin our Advent journey with the most common way to seek peace: possessions. This is the top of our star, the most obvious pursuit of peace, shooting upward without an end in sight. The Advent season knows all about seeking more things. Shopping is in full swing and the promise is that if only we had all the right things, then we would be complete and at peace.

To counter that pursuit of peace by gathering more and more, God intersects us with the words of contentment from Paul. "Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content." (1 Timothy 6:6-8) Join all who have heard His invitation and have followed His star. In Him we have a lasting peace.

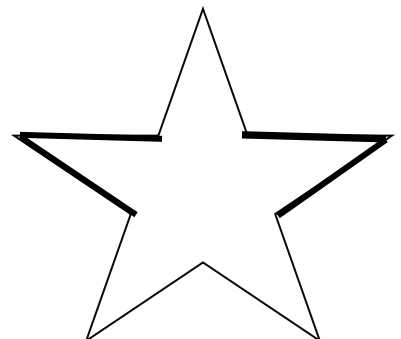


MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2: PEACE TO ALL, NEAR AND FAR

In week 2 of Advent, we have two contrasting pursuits of peace. These two make the two middle points of the star. First, Peace is a place a long way away. Peace is leaving it all behind. Peace is that perfectly calm lake. But God's true peace comes in the middle of the storm when the Savior is in the boat with us.

Second, we might also seek Peace as the past—if only we could erase it. If we could rearrange all the pieces of our past, putting some pieces far away, we imagine the peace we seek might finally come.

But God comes to us where we are and says, "Peace be to you." God "makes peace by the blood of his cross." (Colossians 1:20) Peace comes at the cross where we are completely forgiven. We find peace in God's telling of His Son's story, His death and His resurrection. In that story, we are not just better. In that story, we're forgiven and at peace.

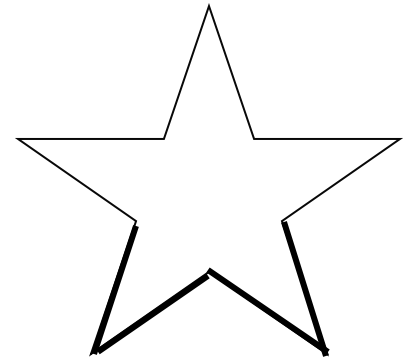


MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3: OUR PEACE RESTS ON HIM ALONE

In Advent week 3, we finish the star with the two points at the bottom of the star. First, *Peace is with people when they follow your directions.* If everyone would only listen to us and do what we say, there would be peace.

We think of Jesus as the Messiah, the Prince of Peace. And yet, Jesus says in Matthew 10 that He has come to bring not peace but a sword to divide the world. What brings peace finally to the world? Jesus brings peace by stepping into the center of our troubled world, letting Himself be the focus of the world's anger.

Therefore, *Peace is finding our Purpose.* All this work to get ready for Christmas—why bother? What will bring us peace when so much is still undone? We find our peace rests not in our work but in following Him, the Prince of Peace. He filled the manger and the cross and there we find our peace.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

During advent as we prepare our minds and hearts for the birth of Jesus, we are reminded of how John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of Christ. John the Baptist, who lived during the time of Jesus, was God's special messenger. When people were questioning who he was, he said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'" (John 1:23). In his ministry, John the Baptist warned people about being greedy. Greed will keep us from sharing our clothes, food, and money with people in need. Jesus shared the same message when He said, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions" (Luke 12:15).



We wish everyone in our church family a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year. *God Bless – Chuck and Hermine Fordham.*

MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST will meet Saturday, December 9 at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall. All men of Redeemer and Emmaus-Pasco are invited to enjoy food, fellowship, devotion.



LYDIA GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY

All ladies of Redeemer are invited to the Lydia Guild Christmas party on Saturday, December 9 from 1:00-3:00pm. Come and meet other women of Redeemer and enjoy the fun, food (sandwiches and cookies), fellowship and games. Donations of coffee, tea, and cocoa for the Union Gospel Mission will be collected.

VOTERS' MEETING - Please plan to attend the Voters' meeting on Sunday, Dec. 10 immediately following service. The main item on the agenda is approval of the 2024 budget.



SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP GOODIES - Many enjoy coffee, goodies and fellowship following service on Sunday morning. Perhaps while you are doing your holiday baking, you could make an extra dozen for Redeemer. They can be put in the freezer for future Sundays.

CAROLING AND CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

Join us for an afternoon of caroling to our Redeemer members on Saturday, December 16. Meet at the church at 3pm to split into groups and return for a congregational dinner at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come to both the caroling and the dinner or one or the other. All are invited. The more people we have to go caroling, the more members we can visit. Please sign up to carol; no need to sign up for the dinner. Contact Denise Rogers @ 509-735-7700 with questions.



COMPASSION KITCHEN



Free lunches will continue to be served each Tuesday, **even Dec. 26**. Take a break from all the Christmas cooking and join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall each week on Tuesday at noon. Invite your family, friends and neighbors.

CHORAL SERVICE/CHILDREN'S PROGRAM - Please join us on Sunday, December 17 at 9 am for the Annual Choral Service/Children's Christmas program. The children will be discovering the meaning of some of the symbols of Christmas. Bells, angels, and stars will be hung upon our tree as each is a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas. The first practice is Sunday, Dec. 3 during the Sunday School hour (10:15a – 11:30a). All children are invited to participate.



"She seeketh wool and flax worketh willingly with her hands."

Proverbs 31:13

QUILTING/KNITTING GROUP - Are you looking for an outlet for your creativity? Service organizations are always in need of lap quilts, prayer shawls, and port protectors for cancer patients etc.

Join our quilting/knitting group on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 9:30a to 11:30a. We will start January 3, 2024. Meet in the Sunday school room across from the library. Questions call Terri Lahti @ 509-539-3560.



Altar Flowers

2024 Flower chart is posted in the Narthex. If you wish to place flowers on the altar for any given Sunday, please sign up and indicate the occasion. If you have questions, please contact Ronda in the office.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- Psalm 117, before Psalm 118, is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
- Psalm 119, after Psalm 118, is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118?
- If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get a total of 1188 chapters?
- 1188 or Psalm 118 verse 8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible?
- Should the central verse not have an important message? *"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man." Psalm 118:8.*



NEHLM UPDATE

A Blessed Advent Season to You All!

Peace has come down to us in the Prince of Peace Jesus Christ and His established ministry. Praise God!

Rev. Paul reported that his wife Cliney continues to recover from her shoulder injury sustained in the fall that she had, as I shared in the previous update. He said, "She is doing a little better, but there is still some pain." We pray with thanksgiving for the recovery that she has had and continue to pray for further healing.

Happy news is that Wilson is graduating with an agriculture degree from a university in Les Ceyes, Haiti, on December 16, 2023, (Les Ceyes is on the southern peninsula of Haiti). Wilson is a young man who grew up in La Maison des Agneaux de Dieu Orphelinat (MADO-The House of the Lambs of God Orphanage). We celebrate this milestone with Wilson, the ministry, and the people who will benefit from his agricultural work. He desires Rev. Paul and Cliney to go to his graduation, but Rev. Paul said, "Port au Prince is very dangerous to travel through right now. It is doubtful we will be able to be with him as he graduates." I encouraged this caution and asked that he let Wilson know our delight for this good news of his diligent work that led to this graduation.

The tensions continue on the border of Haiti with the Dominican Republic. The borders had been open partially for a while but have been closed again. Rev. Paul reported, "There are meetings every day trying to find a solution. It is very difficult, but they are working at it." This border closure has had much impact on the resources and economy of the border towns (Dajabon, DR, and Ouanaminthe, Haiti), causing further struggles for these communities.

God's peace,

Rev. Samuel Wiseman, NEHLM Pastoral Adviser

Where can I listen to past sermons?



CHURCH WEBSITE

richlandredeemer.org

On homepage click on "News & Media". From drop down list select "Live Stream & Audio Archives."



SPOTIFY

Open the camera app on your phone. Hold your phone so that the QR code appears in view. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.



APPLE PODCASTS

Open the camera app on your phone. Hold your phone so that the QR code appears in view. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE

PROGRESS REPORT



Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them!"
Matthew 19:14

The Redeemer Lutheran School Exploratory Committee made good progress in November, as they continued to pull together the information needed to determine the viability of opening a school.

In early November, the committee met with and received guidance from LCMS Northwest District Director of Schools Jim Scrivens, who was visiting Bethlehem Lutheran School.

In mid-November, PBS Engineering and Environmental inspected the Parsonage for asbestos-containing materials, lead-containing paint, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-containing light ballasts, and mercury-containing fluorescent lamps. When observed, suspect materials were sampled. PBS visually inspected accessible areas of the interior of the building also for fungal propagation (i.e., mold). Confirmatory sampling is yet to be completed, but it appears there are very few hazardous substances and no mold in the top floor of the building where the classrooms would be located. PBS offered to gather abatement contractor proposals for Redeemer, at no extra cost. Redeemer must abate hazardous substances found in the Parsonage, before the building can be removed or remodeled for a school.

Also in mid-November, Archibald & Company Architects provided the school committee with an affordable proposal for a Preliminary Design plan. The company is happy to support those who are advancing God's kingdom. The Preliminary Design Plan would include:

- Site plan options showing building, parking areas, landscaping, and more
- Floor plan options showing maximum occupancy configurations
- Building, ADA, and zoning code reviews
- Preliminary construction cost estimates
- Schematic exterior 3-D views



Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. *Proverbs 22:6*

The school committee has begun writing its business plan.

If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.

December Birthdays

- 2 Deb Werner
- 3 Kevin Einspahr
- 5 Cheryl Evenson
- 6 Cindy Norberg
- 10 Kaylee Sorensen (Kroll)
- 13 Ken Sump, Elizabeth Uhrich
- 14 Duane Frank, Linka Compton
- 15 John Rohlfing
- 16 Kathy Breese, Chloe Julson
- 17 Angela Julson, Jerry Weldon
- 18 Jeff Mauth
- 20 Katherine Gibson
- 22 LaVada Mundt
- 23 Becky Bond, Melba Niemuth
- 24 Roxy Grall
- 29 Dorothy Thieme
- 30 Tom Valenti



December Anniversaries

- 2 Andy & Sally Grego
- 12 Karl & LaVada Mundt
- 22 Andy & Donna Sutherland
- 28 Jeff & Dian Mauth

January Birthdays

- 1 Liesl Batdorf, Rick Gartner
- 6 Sean Strege
- 7 Sash Eirich, Taylor Kroll
- 10 Misty Lyon
- 13 Donna Sutherland
- 14 Kelsey Yarbrough
- 16 Jesse Ingle
- 17 Joy Ledgerwood
- 20 Bob Littlejohn
- 23 Joey Riordan
- 24 Daniel Engelmann
- 25 Colton Lyon
- 26 Rev. Laurence Meyer
- 29 Dee McDorman
- 30 Morgan Strege



January Anniversaries

- 9 Bob & Jan Spencer
- 14 Bob & Cheryl Evenson
- 24 Ken Dobbin & Nancy Petrowicz
- 28 Nate & Ariel Gruzs

PRAYERS – Please let the office know of any changes to the prayer page by calling 943-4967 or emailing office@richlandredeemer.org. *Indicates friends/family.

HOMEBOUND:

Pearl Raabe
Ruth Shook
Reta Siefken
Bernie Simpkins
Eileen Stixrud

CANCER:

Bob Littlejohn
John Schug
Beth* (neighbor of Linda Einspahr)
Barbara Connell* (sister-in-law of Sandy Guymon)
Rev. James & Ann Gier* (son & daughter-in-law of Marlene Paris-Ufkes)
Kevin Raabe* (son of Pearl Raabe)
Sandi Sheeley* (sister of Karin Nickola)
Deanna Snider*

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Ray Boecker
Bob & Cheryl Evenson
Steve Gano
Sally Grego
Elaine Kutrowski
Pearl Raabe
Ruth Shook
Reta Siefken
Bernie Simpkins
Eileen Stixrud
Bobbie Van Buren
Bev Wetzler
Gregg Lee* (son of Barbara Lee)
Jody Schug* (wife of John Schug)
Phillip Turner*

MILITARY:

Sam Willhoite
Darion Woodall
Brandin Bunch*
Jacob Cagle*
Brandon Gano*
Byron Gano*
Matthew Gano*
James Hare*
Sean Williams*

