



The Parish Beacon

Volume 36 – No. 11

December 2015

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

We are now entering the Advent season, which is the beginning of the Christian church year. During Advent, Christians wait and sing with joy and anticipation of Emmanuel's ("God with us") second coming as judge of the world on the Last Day.

Throughout the Advent season, we celebrate Jesus Christ's first coming with His Incarnation in Bethlehem. At the same time, Christians throughout the world are waiting with anticipation of Jesus Christ's second coming.

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let every hill and valley a level road appear! Then greet the King of Glory foretold in sacred story: Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word! (LSB 343, v. 1)

Advent is a time of pure joy and prepares us for the four advents or comings of our Lord: the prophetic coming that pointed to Christ's birth, the incarnate coming of Christ in Bethlehem, the sacramental coming of Christ in Word and Sacraments, and the eschatological coming (Second Coming) of Christ at the end of the world. These four advents are celebrated each week with the lighting of the Advent wreath.

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray; Come quickly, King of kings! (LSB 348, v. 4)

As you are reading this, you have probably begun hearing Christmas music being played on the radio in your car or over the speakers at a department store. This is a great season of hope and joy. But for some reason, the day after Christmas all this joy suddenly comes to a halt. The joy should continue through the season of Christmas, which begins on December 25 and not immediately after Santa makes his way through the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade route. December 25 is just the beginning of the celebration of Christ's Incarnation in Bethlehem. We should continue celebrating Christ's Incarnation during the 12 days of Christmas, then through the season of Epiphany and throughout the entire year. At the same time, we can't overlook what that baby Jesus did for us as an adult upon the Cross at Calvary and Resurrecting from the dead on that Easter morning. He alone gives us the grace of God through His death and resurrection that is beyond all understanding, which is forgiveness, life and salvation!

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long; Let every heart prepare a throne and every voice a song. (LSB 349, v. 1)

Alleluia! Christ is Incarnate! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Happy Advent, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Vicar Adelsen



OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

2301 East Court Street Iowa City, IA 52245

Phone: 319-338-5626

Email: redeemer@ourredeemer.org

www.ourredeemer.org

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

- 1 Women's Beth Moore 10:00am
Youth Committee Meeting 7:00pm
- 2 Bible Study 11:00am
Lunch Bunch 12:00pm
Advent Service 1:00pm
Advent Meal served by Human Care 5:10pm
Sing-a-long with Marilyn 6:00pm
Advent Service 6:10pm
Properties Committee 7:00pm
Midweek Classes 7:00pm
- 3 Theology 101
- 5 GGG-Iowa City Hy-Vee 1st Avenue 7:30am
Children's Program Practice 9am speaking parts
Children's Program Practice 9:45am everyone
Cookie Walk 9:00am
- 6 Sunday School 9:15am/Bible Study 9:30am
Board of Elders Dinner 6:00pm Blackstone
- 7 Education Committee 7:00pm
Mission Guild Board 7:00pm
- 8 Stephen Ministry Peers-Skip/Marcia 6:30pm
- 9 Advent Service 1:00pm
Advent Meal served by LYF 5:10pm
Sing-a-long with Marilyn 6:00pm
Advent Service 6:10pm
Midweek Classes 7:00pm
- 10 Women's Beth Moore 7:00pm
Board of Directors 7:00pm
- 12 Men's Bible Study 8:00am
Children's Program Practice 9am speaking parts
Children's Program Practice 9:45am everyone
- 13 Sunday School 9:15am/Bible Study 9:30am
Pre-program Music 11:45am
Children's Program with lunch following 12:00pm
Live Nativity 4:00pm
- 14 Outreach Committee 6:30pm
LWML Mission Guild (66 Barrington Pl) 7:00pm

- 15 Women's Beth Moore 10:00am
Assimilation Committee 7:00pm
- 16 Bible Study 11:00am
Lunch Bunch 12:00pm
Advent Service 1:00pm
Advent Meal served by LWML 5:10pm
Sing-a-long with Marilyn 6:00pm
Advent Service 6:10pm
Midweek Classes 7:00pm
- 18 Christmas & Cookies 6:00pm
- 19/20 All services **Christmas & Carols**
- 20 Sunday School 9:15am/Bible Study 9:30am
512 1st Avenue Open House 3:00-4:30pm
- 24 Family Christmas Eve Worship 4:30pm
Christmas Eve Communion Worship 6:30pm
Christmas Midnight Service 11:30pm
- 25 Christmas Day Worship 10:00am
- 27 **No Sunday School or Bible Study**
- 31 New Year's Eve Worship 7:00pm

Watch for the Angel Tree
Details in Reflections



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30pm Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Comfort-Tiers meet Thursdays at 9:00am
Need more tiers anytime between 9:00 am to noon
No expertise or materials required-Coffee provided

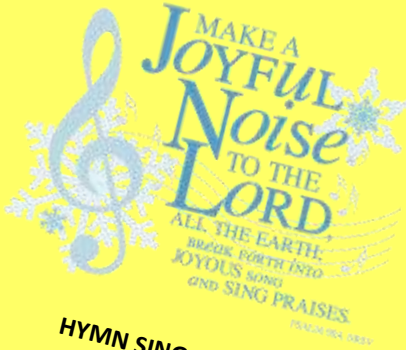
Choir rehearsal December Wednesdays at 7:00pm
No practice December 23 or 30

Praise Team Practice schedule varies—
Contact Myrl Holida myrl-holida@uiowa.edu or
Louise Klopp choirdirector@ourredeemer.org

Watch *Reflections* for information on:



Saturday, December 5
9:00am
Fellowship Hall



HYMN SING-A-LONG
December 2, 9, & 16
6:00-6:10pm
Sanctuary



The Christmas story in song and scripture
Saturday, December 19 at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 20 at
8:00 am & 10:30am



Toddlin' through High School
November 29
9:30am
Fellowship Hall

Adult Bible Study
Sanctuary



December 13
11:45am Pre-program Music
12:00pm Children's Program
Sanctuary
Lunch following program in
the fellowship hall



December 13
4:00-6:00pm



December 3
7:00pm
Board Room



Christmas Party
Missionary Speaker
Monday, December 14
7:00pm
66 Barrington Place



Fun for all!
Friday, December 18
6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall



512 1st Avenue
December 20
3:00-4:30pm

BAPTISM THIS WEEK



**ONE LORD
ONE FAITH
ONE BAPTISM**

Ethan Jonathan McClure
5:30 pm, November 28

Parents
Jonathan Thomas McClure
Shana Lynn Williams McClure

Sponsors
Peggy & Bill Swick

*Complete Advent/Christmas/New Year Schedule on page 4
NOTE: New Christmas Eve worship times
NO Sunday School or Bible Class December 27*

2015 SCHEDULE

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

December 2	1:00pm 5:10pm	Advent Service Advent Meal
December 5	6:00/6:10pm 9:00am 9:00am-9:45am 9:45am-11:45pm 5:30pm	Sing-a-long/Advent Service LWML Cookie Walk Children's Program Practice -speaking parts Children's Program Practice -everyone
December 6	8:00am & 10:30am	Saturday Communion Service
December 9	1:00pm 5:10pm	Sunday Communion Service Advent Service Advent Meal
December 12	6:00/6:10pm 9:00am-9:45am 9:45am-12:00pm 5:30pm	Sing-a-long/Advent Service Children's Program Practice -speaking parts Children's Program Practice -everyone
December 13	8:00am & 10:30am 11:45am 12:00pm 1:00pm 4:00-6:00pm	Saturday Service Sunday Service Children's Pre -program Music Children's Christmas Program Lunch
December 14	7:00pm	Live Nativity
December 16	1:00pm 5:10pm	Christmas Meeting LWML Advent Service Advent Meal
December 18	6:00/6:10pm	Sing-a-long/Advent Service
December 19	6:00pm	Christmas & Cookies
December 20	5:30pm	Service of Christmas & Carols
December 24	8:00am & 10:30am 4:30pm 6:30pm 11:30pm	Service of Christmas & Carols Christmas Eve Family Worship Christmas Eve Communion Worship Midnight Communion Worship
December 25	10:00am	Christmas Communion Worship
December 26	5:30pm	Saturday Communion Service
December 27	8:00am & 10:30am	Sunday Communion Service
December 31	7:00pm	New Year's Eve Communion Worship



Midweek Classes December 2, 9 and 16 at 7:00pm
No Midweek Classes December 23 or 30

A VERY BIG THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL MISSION AUCTION!

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone for their participation, contributions, help, and most importantly, prayers for the mission auction held on November 22, 2015. Through your generosity, we raised nearly **\$4,300.00!!!!** The money will help to support a mission team from Our Redeemer to travel to Swaziland in June, 2016 as well as future mission trips.



We hope you enjoy the photos and thank you again for your support!

Mission Committee Members: Miriam Meyer, Bob Powers, Mike Applegarth, Denise Holida, Anita Nicholson



Pictures courtesy of
Denise Holida
&
Bob Powers





Stephen Ministry

We care, Christ cures.

It's about "Equipping disciples to make disciples for Jesus!"

They are among us. No, we're not talking about angels or aliens. We're talking about individuals who care about others. The Scriptures describe their service well: "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3). If you or someone you know wants to do more as a Christian caregiver, consider Stephen Ministry. This is our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry.

"So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer" (Ezra 8:23).

Finding additional Stephen Ministers is the next step for our congregation's Stephen Ministry. Right now we are praying for the individuals God is calling to serve as caregivers. Please include this need in your prayers. God answers our prayers because He is faithful.

Maybe you could be an answer to someone's prayers for caring. When was the last time someone really listened to you? We're talking about that undistracted, full-attention kind of listening? That's one of the ways Stephen Ministers care for others. They bring distinctively Christian care to those in need. They use both words and deeds to express Christ's care for others—listening and comforting, calling on the training they have received and employing the tools of faith. Those who are interested in serving are matched with the best job for them. Those who need care are matched with the best caregiver for them. If this job description fits your personal goals for ministry, consider becoming a Stephen Minister.

Training is important whenever anyone learns a new skill. Training is important to Stephen Ministry too. Before Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers begin their work, they go through a lot of training. When they start their official ministry, they're ready. A new training class for Stephen Ministry is starting in January, meeting Tuesday nights from 6:45-9:15pm. For more information contact Pastor Hartwig at 338-5626 or bhartwig@ourredeemer.org today. Applications are available in the church office.



MISSION	NOVEMBER PAYMENT
Crisis Center(Balance Sheet)	\$220.00
Hospice	\$375.00
Iowa District/Synod Budget)	\$4166.66
UIHC Chaplain Endowment Fund (Budget)	\$416.66
Dr. Lutz/ New Guinea	\$500.00
Peace Officer Ministry	\$250.00
TOTAL	\$5,928.32



71 r0b0t00



Thanks to all the donors, quilters, and those providing transportation



It required 5 vehicles to transport 152 boxes to Cedar Rapids for the LWR pickup

The boxes contained 581 quilts, 88 school kits, 26 personal care kits, and 5 sewing kits!



Photos provided by Sandy Wagner





NEWS—Anita Nicholson

MUMPS

Mumps is an infection caused by the mumps virus. There have been numerous cases of mumps in Johnson County, and several on the University of Iowa campus.

Mumps vaccination is an important prevention strategy. The vaccine is delivered in a 2-dose series administered at ages 12-15 months and at 4-6 years old; second doses can be given in adolescence/adulthood if both doses were not given during childhood. This vaccine provides the highest protection from the disease.

It is important to know the early signs of mumps, as it is a contagious viral infection.

Signs and symptoms of mumps:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Swollen and tender salivary glands, under the ears on one or both sides (parotid glands)

Mumps is spread through contact with saliva or mucous from the mouth, nose or throat.

An infected person can spread the virus by:

- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Talking
- Sharing drinks or utensils
- Touching objects with unwashed hands

The period of contagiousness starts about 3 days BEFORE the development of jaw or facial swelling. The time from exposure to the development of symptoms is usually 16-18 days, but can be anywhere from 12-25 days.

If you are ill with the symptoms listed above, **STAY HOME** and away from others and **WASH** your hands frequently. You need to isolate yourself from others. Call your local primary care provider, to receive information on the best actions to take in regards to your health and protecting others. It is recommended that you be tested for the mumps virus. If you have mumps it is important to isolate yourself for 5 days after symptoms began or until you are well whichever is longer.

Information obtained from: <http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/about/>

For more information on mumps follow the CDC website links:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/index.html> or <http://www.cdc.gov/mumps/outbreaks/outbreak-patient-qa.html>



17 youth and 10 adults made 122 pies in a little over 3 hours.

Money raised from the pie sale will go directly to each youth's prize account based on hours worked. Prize account funds can be used towards the individual portion of the NYG 2016 costs. (NOTE: The total cost to attend NYG 2016 is divided into 3 parts: the church pays 1/3, the peach sale fundraiser pays for 1/3 and the individual pays for 1/3.)



Thank you for your generous support of our youth!





Youth SERVICE



Pictures courtesy of Kara Hartwig

51/41 r05302

Membership Changes & Official Acts

<u>Removed</u>	
Justin Strom	11-6-2015
Tyler Hildreth, Brandy Smith, Andre Jones, Brooke & Zoey Hildreth	11-6-2015
Annalise Hasler	11-13-2015
<u>Affirmation of Faith</u>	
Scott Michael Jones	11-18-2015
<u>Transfer Out</u>	
Megan Finnegan, Piper, Evelyn, Bristol	11-19-2015
<u>Transfer In</u>	
Roger Folkmann	11-9-2015
<u>Death</u>	
Josephine Fulton	11-3-2015



THEY ARE HERE!

This year's shipment of Christmas cards are ready to go. Over the last three years, the LWML Card Shop has sold an average of 36 boxes and countless singles each year. The LWML strives to bring the Christian message of hope for you to share.

Shop at your leisure. Payment may be left in the black box on the wall.

Children's Dinner Theater



NOVEMBER 8



Pictures courtesy of Denise Schwarting



NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Treasurer's Report: Alan Cross/Larry Freeman

- Total income of \$56,726.43
- Expenses \$47,132.53
- YTD income is \$510,775.81 with expenses of \$535,736.07 with negative cash flow of \$24,960.26 compared with last year's negative cash flow of \$46,013.63
- Larry Freeman as Bookkeeper after Ron Behrens' resignation

Elder's Report: Ryan Haack

- In January the switch to QuickBooks for bookkeeping will be made and Our Redeemer will use a temp agency for accounting

At-Large Reports:

Health Ministries: Barb Schanbacher

- Health Ministries is exploring options for the Parish Nurse position

Outreach: Dave Johnson

- Money has been committed for a banner for Coralville Independence Day Parade

Church Properties Report: Mike Applegarth

- Outside cross is in need of significant repair next year; inspection will reveal whether it has a metal core or not
- Parking lots improved with asphalt-sealing and striping
- Eaves-troughs cleared of summer spoilage & autumn leaves
- Renovation continues on new parsonage: plumbing, electrical, footings, etc.
- Sanctuary dehumidifier for summer humidity has been successfully installed; winter humidification now a concern to keep organ, piano, pews, and woodwork in good condition. \$20,000 estimate

Discussion items:

- Vision 2020: Dave Johnson will meet with architect and contractor to share ideas and fashion a new design for narthex/chapel reconstruction and a workable addition of \$6,000 square feet needed for adult and youth ministries. An early 2016 Feasibility Study and congregational Forums followed by a capital campaign in late 2016 is expected

VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES

Treasurer's Report: Alan Cross

- Report as in the Board Meeting
- 2016 budget passed that assumes a 2% increase in contribution with expected income of \$711,910; Minor increase in basics and salaries plus costs associated with the recent property purchase gives total expenses of \$711,867
- Questions discussed on insurance, pension amounts, property insurance clarified by Alan Cross; Concern expressed on whether the church supports the Youth Program adequately-details shared about NYG, VBS, prize accounts and fund-raising projects

Elder's Report: Ryan Haack

- New Service times on Christmas Eve 4:30pm, 6:30pm (Communion) and 11:30pm (Communion-different than first two services)
- Christmas Day 10:00am (Communion) will be led by Vicar Adelsen

Church Properties Report:

Mike Applegarth

- Thanked the many volunteers for ideas, feedback, skills and hours associated with this year's church improvement
- Also report as from Board Meeting

Discussion items:

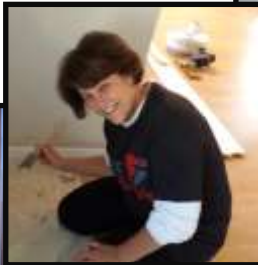
- Humidity as discussed at the Board Meeting. Financing not a part of the 2016 budget
- Vision 2020 update as in Board Meeting



THANKS TO
ALL OUR
VOLUNTEER
PAINTERS



Photos courtesy of
Brenda Johnson



KUDOS

Our Redeemer's
Board of Directors
recognizes

- BRENDA JOHNSON, COORDINATOR
- BECKY BEHRENS
- BETH & BILL BENSON
- CRAIG DAVIS
- CHERYLL & VAUGHN DAVISSON
- KATHY & JIM EICK
- KATHY FOLKMANN
- CYNTHIA FRUENDT
- BETH & DEAN HARGENS
- SHARON & DAVE HINTZE
- MARCIA HULSE
- DENISE JOHNSON
- RITA & GARY JOHNSON
- STEVE RUDIN
- CORY STRUMPEL
- SANDY & TOM WAGNER
- LINDA & ROB WEST
- PAM WILSON

For all the painting in the
church and parsonages

VERNE FOLKMANN

For handling the purchase of
512 1st Avenue and returning his
commission fees to the church

Thank you all!

Turkey Tidbits

“News and Views
from the country
of Turkey”

Enoch Peterson, missionary, Karen Redus memorial money support



St. Sophia or Hagia Sophia



The Comnenos Mosaic



The Deesis Mosaic

Built in the 5th Century, the Church of Divine Wisdom-Hagia Sophia has had a turbulent history. It has suffered two fires, (one in the year 404 AD and the other in 532 AD), at least four earthquakes between the years 533 and 889, and a Latin invasion in the year 1204 when it was stripped of its ornaments and greatly damaged. Again in 1346, the church suffered another earthquake and was restored in 1354. Mehmet the Conqueror had the church converted to a mosque during the conquest of Istanbul in approximately 1453, when he brought an end to the Byzantine Empire. More recently, during the period of the early Turkish Republic, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk had the church converted into a museum. Despite its tumultuous history, exquisite Christian mosaics created in the 12th century, still adorn the walls of the Hagia Sophia. The Comnenos (top left) shows the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus and the Deesis Mosaic is the image of Christ created in gold, silver, stone, marble, granite, limestone and terra cotta tiles. As recently as 2007, there was an international push to turn the St. Sophia back into a church and more recently there has been discussion of returning it to a mosque but to date neither has happened. It continues as a museum visited by over a million people each year.

Cappadocia – The Underground Cities

Early this summer, Enoch and I were able to visit one of the underground cities in the region of Cappadocia. This area; thought to have been originally built to protect against wild animals and harsh winter conditions, was later used by early Christians for protection from the continual attacks of Roman soldiers. In some areas the cities go down 4 or 5 stories underground. Livestock was brought down and lived with the people in special “barn” areas. We found an area marked as a baptistery and another marked as a school! The picture at the top shows a large round stone on a lever system that could be rolled to cover the entrance in case of attack. Special secret shafts were also built throughout the tunnels to allow for exchange of air.

One thing I learned from this experience; I’m claustrophobic! The tunnels are only wide enough for one person to travel through and you cannot stand fully upright in any area. I started to imagine scenarios where I would have to be knocked unconscious and drug out of the tunnels as I started to get more and more nervous about getting trapped in the narrow stair passages. Obviously, I survived but I am certain my ventures into narrow underground spaces are over!





2016-2017 Preschool Enrollment Information

In February, we will open enrollment for all church members and current preschool families. There are discounts for being a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, for having multiple children in our preschool, or for referring a new family who enrolls.

Contact information: <http://ourredeemer.org/preschool/> or 319-338-3949



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

Proverbs 22:6



Christmas Bible Quiz: 20 Good Questions

By David Peach

1. Who told Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?
2. True or False: Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus because they were following a star.
3. What form of transportation did Mary and Joseph use to get to Bethlehem? The answer is not a taxi cab.
4. Which Old Testament prophet had the most to say about the birth of Christ?
5. In the accounts announcing the birth of Christ (Matthew 1 and Luke 1 and 2) how many times did an angel or angels appear?
6. Who told Joseph the baby's name was to be Jesus?
7. Can you list 5 names of Jesus found in the Bible? Some on my list are from Old Testament prophecies.
8. What are the meanings of the names Jesus and Emmanuel?
9. The shepherds and the wise men went to see Jesus. Which group followed a star and which group went to find the baby because an angel told them where to look?
10. What did the angels sing to the shepherds?
11. When the shepherds went looking for Jesus, what was the sign they were to look for?
12. How many wise men or kings or magi came to see Jesus?
13. Matthew 2:8 says that Herod asked the wise men to inform him where the baby Jesus was. Why does this verse say he wanted to know?
14. How old was Jesus when the wise men found him?
15. What are the three gifts which are mentioned being given by the wise men?
16. Which emperor ordered all the young children be killed?
17. What animals does the Bible say were present at the birth of Jesus?
18. What was the name of the unkind innkeeper who would not allow the pregnant Mary to lodge in his inn?
19. What is the name of the priest who was told he would not die until he saw the Savior?
20. Two of the four Gospels do not mention the birth of Christ. Which two?



Read more: <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/christmas-bible-quiz-20-good-questions/#ixzz3r7dPvDYN>
Answers page 17

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUIZ:

- 1 Caesar Augustus. He ordered the people to go back to the city of their forefathers. Joseph's family was from Bethlehem. Luke 2:1.
- 2 False. As in the previous answer, they went not because an angel told them or because a star led them. They were obedient to the established governmental authority.
- 3 The Bible does not say how they went from Galilee to Bethlehem. It was an 80 mile trip for them. It is likely that they rode some type of animal, but the Bible gives no details. It is commonly depicted that Mary rode a donkey while Joseph walked along side. But that is simply an artistic depiction. We don't really know.
- 4 The book of Isaiah has much to say about the birth of the Savior. If you have ever heard the oratorio by George Handel called The Messiah, you have heard many direct quotes from the book of Isaiah concerning the birth of Christ.
- 5 At least 3 angelic announcements for the birth of Christ and 1 for the birth of John. For Christ an angel appeared before Mary and Joseph individually and a multitude of angels spoke to the shepherds. For John's birth announcement in Luke 1 Gabriel appeared before John's father to announce the birth of John the Baptist. Matthew 1:20-24; Luke 1:11-20; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 2:9-15.
- 6 An angel in Matthew 1:21. The Bible does not say that this was Gabriel; however, it is assumed to be him since he was the one specifically mentioned as the messenger to Mary and Zacharias in Luke 1.
- 7 Jesus, Emmanuel, the Christ, Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:21, 23.
- 8 Jesus means Savior and Emmanuel means God with us. Jesus is the same name as the Old Testament name Joshua which also means Savior. Matthew 1:21, 23.
- 9 The shepherds followed the instructions of the angels in Luke 2:9-15. The wise men followed the star to find the place where Jesus was. Matthew 2:1, 2.
- 10 Technically angels are never said to "sing" in the Bible. Each time they appear they only speak. However, to answer the question, the angels praised God with these words: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.
- 11 A baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Luke 2:12.
- 12 The Bible does not say how many wise men there were. Tradition says there were three because of the three gifts. There are even names given to the three wise men in different countries and cultures, but we don't really know their names. It is also very likely there were many more than just three.
- 13 So that he could worship the child. But we know that his intentions were far from worship. Matthew 2:11-18.
- 14 It is certain that Jesus was somewhere between a month old and a couple of years old. The wise men saw His star at his birth and began following it. If the journey was 500 miles from Persia and Mesopotamia (around modern day Iraq) then it would have taken at least a month. By the time they arrived Jesus and His family had moved into a house. Later in the story Herod ordered all the children aged 2 years and younger to be killed. Therefore, Jesus was at least a month old and not yet 2 years old. Matthew 2:9-18.
- 15 Gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matthew 2:11.
- 16 This was Herod. He ordered all the children in Bethlehem and the outlying areas who were 2 years old and younger to be killed. However, Jesus and His family had already moved to Egypt (Matthew 2:13).
- 17 In the New Testament accounts of Christ's birth there is no mention of any animals. However, Isaiah 1:3 could be a prophecy talking about at least a donkey seeing the crib of his Master (God). It could allude to the fact that an ox was there too. If a bunch of shepherds were there, one would assume sheep would have been present. But there is no definite list of animals mentioned in the Bible.
- 18 The Bible does not say. Nor does it even say that they were inhospitably turned away from an inn. It just says there was not room in the inn at Bethlehem. There may have been many hundreds of people camping in the streets and countryside during the mandatory census. Luke 2:7.
- 19 Simeon. Luke 2:25, 26.
- 20 Neither Mark or John tell the story of the birth of Christ.



Looking Ahead...

December

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

- 5 Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal
Preschool through Confirmation 9 am Speaking parts
9:45 am—11 pm all students
- 12 Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal
Preschool through Confirmation 9 am Speaking parts
9:45 am—12 pm all students

- 13 Pre-program Music 11:45 am
Children's Christmas Program 12:00pm
Lunch follows
Preschool through Confirmation
- 13 Live Nativity and Christmas Party 3-7 pm
High School
- 16 TEST: Ten Commandments 7-8 pm
7th Grade Confirmation
- 18 Christmas & Cookies 6-8 pm
Confirmation & High School Youth and their families
- 25 **Merry Christmas!
Christ is born!**

WORLD VISION'S 30 HOUR FAMINE

During their fast, the youth learned facts about hunger:

- ⇒ worldwide, 842 million people are hungry—that's about 1 in 8 people
- ⇒ hunger causes a wide variety of other health problems
- ⇒ poverty is the main reason for hunger, and education is the most effective way of overcoming poverty
- ⇒ unfortunately, poverty is the very thing that keeps millions of kids from getting a basic education
- ⇒ World Vision doesn't just give handouts; they help families become self-sufficient



Pastor led in a candlelight Opening Worship service.

- The message was about Thanksgiving.
- The text was Luke 17:11-19 about the ten lepers who were cleansed, and yet only one gave thanks.
- **“Give Thanks” was sung together by candlelight** and then candles were extinguished one by one every 10 seconds as a reminder that every 10 seconds a child dies from hunger-related causes in this world.

OUR REDEEMER OFFICE DIRECTORY

Office: 338-5626 Fax: 338-9171 Website: <http://www.ourredeemer.org> Preschool: 338-3949
 Prayer Chain: 351-5297 or prayerchain@ourredeemer.org Special Announcements Line: 338-3505

<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
Brent Hartwig, Senior Pastor bhartwig@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 337-2403 (home)	Kaja Mueller, Director of Christian Ed. dce@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 541-4827 (cell)
Peter Adelsen, Vicar vicar@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Kaja Mueller, Preschool Director Kate Ramsey, Assistant preschool@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)
Larry Freeman, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Kara Hartwig, Youth Coordinator youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Denise Holida Director of Small Group Ministry smallgroups@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 930-0165 (cell)	Louise Klopp, Director of Choirs choirdirector@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Marilyn Paetz, Organist organist@ourredeemer.org	351-4262 (home)	Kate Ramsey, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)
Kevin Sellers, Director of Technology technology@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 631-8924	Laurel Sellers, Office Coordinator redemer@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)

2015 Board of Elders Congregational Assignments

Ryan Haack, Chairman 688-9513

Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Vaughn Davisson	319-648-4660
Ryan Haack	688-9513
Myrl Holida	351-4301
Skip Kempnich	351-5297
Jeff Kucera	512-6789
Denny Schrader	530-1562
Arlan Thompson	338-2938
Marty Wenck	330-2761

Each family of the Our Redeemer flock is assigned alphabetically by last name to an elder to insure each family is prayed for and feels they "have an elder". It is the sincere feeling of the Board of Elders that we are to love and be of service equally to the entire body of believers. We encourage any one of you to contact any one of us so we can share your spiritual journey, ideas or concerns.

DEADLINES

Reflections (printed weekly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) each Wednesday by 5:00 p.m.

Beacon Newsletter & Church Activities Calendar (printed monthly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) by noon on the 20th of each month.

TELEVISION ~ RADIO

Our Redeemer Worship Service on Public Access TV Channel 18 every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.

The Lutheran Hour Television Ministries talk show "On Main Street" is shown on **Public Access Television Channel 18** on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. and Sundays at 10:00 p.m.

Lutheran Hour Ministries on Radio—**WMT 600 AM Radio** on Sunday mornings at 6:30 a.m., and **KXEL 1540 AM Radio** on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND SCREENING

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has been in ministry with children and youth for over 55 years. Our insurance carrier, Church Mutual, strongly encourages us to promote the safest and most secure environment possible by screening all employees and volunteers, both new and existing, especially those who interact with children. Performing background checks will provide safeguards and peace of mind to our staff, volunteers, parents, youth and children. Additional details will be forthcoming as we put this screening process in motion.

Joseph, Oh

Matthew 1:18-21, 2:13-15, 19-23

Joseph, oh, what is this you say?
Tell me again of your dream
Of an angel coming to you,
That some meaning we might glean.

Tell me again of your angel,
And I shall tell you of mine.
We are to marry after all?
For you I'll never need pine?

(And it came to pass...)

Joseph, oh, what is this you say?
Tell me again of your dream
Of an angel coming to you,
That some meaning we might glean.

Tell me again of your angel,
That to Egypt we must flee
To escape the wrath of King Herod,
Saving our fam'ly of three.

Joseph, oh, what is this you say?
Tell me again of your dream
Of an angel coming to you,
That some meaning we might glean.

You tell me King Herod is dead?
You are certain this is true?
We shall follow where ere you go;
We will not abandon you.

We are not to go to Judea
But instead to Galilee?
Joseph, oh, we follow your lead
So that we might remain free.

Joseph, oh, what is this you say?
Tell me again of your dream
Of an angel coming to you,
That some meaning we might glean.



Carol Schuldt