

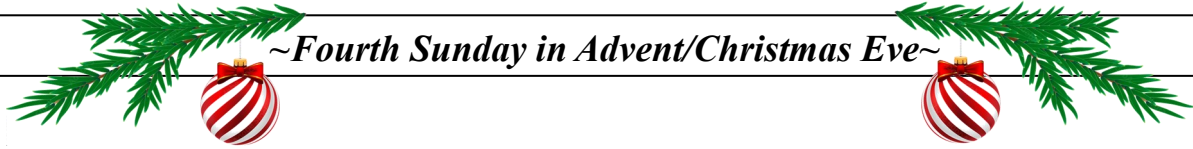


First Avenue and Court Street
 Iowa City, IA 52245
 Phone: 319-338-5626
 Email: redeemer@ourredeemer.org
www.ourredeemer.org

Reflections



Weekly Newsletter - December 23/24, 2023



~Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve~



Christmas worship services require many ushers. Please sign up on the welcome counter or contact consultant@ourredeemer.org to sign up for those services where you can be of assistance. Everyone is needed to help cover services.

CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTHDAY WITH POINSETTIAS!



Help beautify our sanctuary for Christmas. Purchase poinsettias of your choice— all sizes and colors are welcome. Bring them to church by Friday, December 22 (it is best not to bring them too early as care may not be consistent) so that they can be placed in the sanctuary Saturday morning. Poinsettias can be placed on the tables in the board room if you bring them early. You may bring them and place them on the counter in the Gathering Place.

Poinsettias will be arranged Saturday, December 23 at 9:00 am.
 Volunteers to help are much appreciated!

2023 Advent/Christmas/New Year Schedule

December 23	5:30pm	Worship Service
December 24**	9:30am & 4:30pm	Christmas Eve Family Worship
	6:30pm & 11:30pm	Christmas Eve Communion Worship
December 25	9:30am	Christmas Day Communion Worship
December 30	5:30pm	Worship Service
December 31**	9:30am	Worship Service
	6:30pm	New Year's Eve Communion Worship

*No Midweek Classes December 27 or January 3

**No Sunday School or Adult Bible Class December 24 & 31



Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, our God, nothing is impossible with You. Grant us faith to believe Your Word and follow the example of Your servant Mary, to receive the miraculous gift of Your Son, our Immanuel. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, let Your favor rest upon all pregnant women and mothers of young children, that they may rejoice in the blessing of new life You give. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of lords, by the reign of Your Son You govern all things in heaven and earth. Raise up true Davids among us to govern our land in faithfulness and in humble strength to do Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

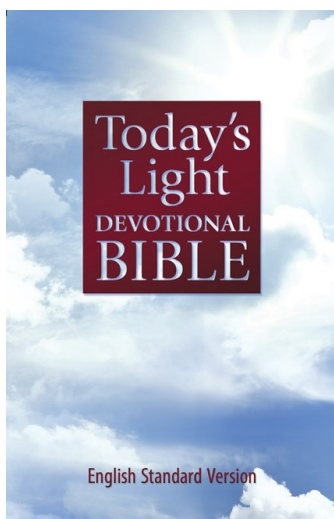
O Lord, our God, uphold , [*especially **Dorothy Blume** (Carol Schuldt's sister), **David Caplin** (Lillian Moyer's son-in-law), **Loren Deetz**, **Clint Fult** (nephew of Robert Siems), **Titus Hanneman** (nephew of Kate Ramsey), **Beth Hargens**, **Emma Haugen** (Friend of Gwen Enokian), **Patsy Heinitz**, **Gabe Hundley** (grandson of Karen Abernathy), **Dora Jacobson** (granddaughter of George and Carol Schuldt), **Hazel Jones** (Granddaughter of Danny Fuhrmeister), **Todd Jones** (Barb & Ron Jones' son), **Marcia Osborn**, **Dolores McNatt** (Gwen Enokian's mother), **Norma Miller** (Twyla Freeman's aunt), **Julie Pratt-Mullenkamp** (Cousin of Ruth Varney), **Aaron Raschke** (brother of Ruth Varney), **John Robinson**, **Reece Ullerich**, **Karen Warner**, **Mark Wilson**, **Beth Wu**, and (Schuldt's relative) and] all who suffer in mind or body. Give them the knowledge of Christ, their Immanuel, who is with them in their trials. Grant them health and healing in accord with Your perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

O Lord, our God, give us joy that as surely as Your Son was conceived in blessed Mary at Your Word, so He comes to abide in us also at Your Word in the blessed Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, Your Word says to come to you in prayer. Let us silently pray:

[*silent prayer*]

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for You have written THE STORY OF EVERYTHING – from Genesis to the Last Day that we may know Your Son, who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**



The Bibles have arrived!

Pastor will be blessing them at the December 30/31 services. They will then be distributed to those who have ordered theirs. For those who ordered them they are \$30. See Lorrie or Laurel to receive your Bible next weekend and make payment.

BIRTHDAYS

Sun. 12/24	James Haack
Mon. 12/25	Zettie James, Duane Miller, Alvin Wagner
Tues. 12/26	Garrett Sexton
Wed. 12/27	LaShelle Morrison, Ellen Wardenburg
Thurs. 12/28	Cheryll Davisson, Justin Ellyson, Rachel Matel, Peter Mickelson, Megan Miller, Eunice Scheer, Marnie Schrader, Jerry Wear, Beau Zeman
Fri. 12/29	Michelle Hintze, Kevin Lake, Jim Thurston
Sat. 12/30	Dylan Feuerbach, Jennifer Waddilove, David Yanksy

STEWARDSHIP December 16/17, 2023

TIME		TREASURES	
Worship-In Person/Live Stream 12/16—5:30pm	52	Contributions	\$26,653.40
Worship-In Person/Live Stream 12/17—8:00am	115	Monthly needs for budget	\$67,240.58
Worship-In Person/Live Stream 12/17—10:30am	191	Advent Service 12/13—1:00pm	28
Recorded Services 12/16	72	Advent Service 12/13—6:10pm (recorded 32)	188
Total Saturday/Sunday Worship	430	Adult Bible Class/Sunday School (6 th -8 th N/A)	74/19

This Week at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, December 24—31, 2023

<u>Sunday, 12/24—Christmas Eve</u>		<u>Thursday, 12/28</u>	
Christmas Eve Family Worship	9:30am	Comfort Tiers	9:00am
Choir Rehearsal	3:45pm	Al-Anon	7:30pm
Christmas Eve Family Worship	4:30pm		
Christmas Eve Communion Worship	6:30pm	<u>Friday, 12/29</u>	
Christmas Eve Communion Worship	11:30pm	***	
<u>Monday, 12/25</u>		<u>Saturday, 12/30</u>	
Christmas Day Communion	9:30am	Worship-In Person/Live Stream	5:30pm
Sunlight AA Group	6:00pm		
		<u>Sunday, 12/31—New Years Eve</u>	
		New Years Eve Worship Service	9:30am
Al-Anon	7:00pm	IC Inter AA New Years Eve Party	5:00pm
		New Years Eve Worship Service	6:30pm
<u>Wednesday, 12/27</u>			
TOPS	8:00am		
Emerson Point	2:00pm		



Building Healthy Families: How has the fact that Jesus was born over 2000 years ago changed your life today? How would your life be different today if Jesus hadn't come? As a family, take time to read aloud the Christmas story (Luke 2) and engage them all in a discussion around these two questions. From the silly answer of a preschooler, to the shoulder shrug of a teenager, to the wise words shared by an older person, it will be interesting to see how each individual family member answers. Remember, even those who don't answer are still listening, and may remember this conversation for years to come! *Extra points for anyone who has a Bible verse to support their answer!* (...think John 12:46; John 18:37; 1 Timothy 1:15...) A Blessed Celebration of Jesus' Birth from your friends at **Lutheran Family Service!** www.LutheranFamilyService.org



Tis the Season for Giving!

The children of our community need our help! Many of the local children are missing a basic comfort that we often take for granted, warmth. So many students walk to school and/or are unable to participate in daily outdoor recess at school with parents who cannot provide mittens, boots, or gear to keep them warm. Many of these children are the same families serviced by the area shelters and very much in need. The Human Care Committee is currently collecting the following items beginning December 1st until January 2nd and would really appreciate your help with a donation.

They are seeking new:

- **Snow Pants**
- **Hats**
- **Boots**
- **Mittens**
- **Scarves**

Any donations can be left at the Mitten Tree which is located near the Welcome Counter. On January 3rd the Human Care Committee will gather the items for delivery to the Iowa City School District Administration Office for distribution to children in need when classes resume.

Please feel free to direct any questions to Tracy Nelson, Human Care Committee Chair, at tracy-nelson@uiowa.edu. Thank you in advance for your kindness!

Thank you to all who purchased gifts or helped deliver the gifts!!



*Dear Lord,
Thank you for
blessing the
children. Amen.*

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ to hurting families in our community who have a loved one in prison. Through your gifts, 28 children in 13 families were connected with their parent/family member who cannot physically be there with them this Christmas. They were reminded they are loved and never forgotten. They received not only a present, but also the Gospel message, and a personal message of love from their incarcerated parent. Thank you!! The Outreach Committee

Here are some comments from the gift deliverers:

-It was just like visiting my own family! As soon as we came in the house, the kids ran over to us and hugged us!

-Both families were very thankful with BIG smiles!

-It went great! I met the kids and the aunt that is caring for them. She actually called after I left and sounded teary. She found the gift cards and said she was wondering how to pull off a Christmas meal and was sooo thankful. I responded God is Good and she said "Yes, He is".

Here are some comments from the parents/caregivers of the children:

-I can't wait for (my son) to open these presents from (my incarcerated husband) during our video visit together on Christmas! Thank you!

-I would not have had anything to give my daughter this Christmas. I have no job, no money, I'm living in a shelter, I just got out of prison, my husband is in prison.... But I've been drug free for four months. I know God has a plan for me, and that's what I am holding on to. Thank you for coming to spend some time with us. I really appreciate it.



Preschool Newsletter

Our Redeemer Preschool where children play, learn, and grow in Jesus!

December 18—22, 2023

Director/Teacher: Kaja Mueller M-F
Preschool Phone: 319-338-3949 Fax: 319-338-9171

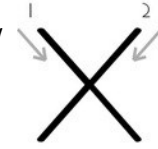
Assistants: Christie Cherian M/W/F, Sara Cross T/TH
www.ourredeemerpreschool.org preschool@ourredeemer.org



This Week

CIRCLE TIMES

- Daily nativity question
- Math equation
- Letter X—recognize, write, and make the sound
- Color Song
- Bible: The angels announce to the shepherds
- Our Christmas songs
- Nativity books
- Stain glass nativity craft
- Wreath craft if we have time
- Johnson County
- Conservationist visit—a live turtle named Dolly and a snake!
- Christmas party with games, songs, and cookie decorating



Big line
Big line



Future Dates

- Dec. 25-Jan. 5—No preschool
- Jan. 8/9—Preschool begins
- Jan. 15—No preschool

Home Question

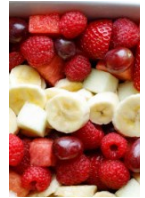
Whose birthday do we celebrate at Christmas? Why?

Snacks in January

You get to bring snacks and be our line leader.
M/W/F = 18 students;

T/TH = 13 students

- Monday: Krish
- Tuesday: Britta
- Wednesday: Maeve
- Thursday: Lucia
- Friday: Emersyn



XX (To: Camptown Races)



Xavier was an alien, extraterrestrial. He was born on Planet X, extremely far from Earth. He had two pointy heads; his vision was x-ray. He saw exactly everything in an alien way.



Preschool Singing Christmas Songs

It was so wonderful to have the preschoolers sing for the church congregation last week! The preschoolers have worked on singing and memorizing our songs and chants. Thank you parents for helping them!

Preschool Christmas Wish List



Thank you to all who have gifted or given money to our preschool Christmas Wish List! I am thankful to God everyday that we have such wonderful support for our preschool students. I cannot express my thanks enough! Merry Christmas and God bless us all in the New Year. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*



Children's Ministry

Birth—5th Grade

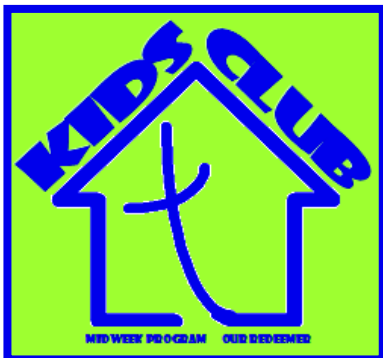


Children's Sunday School
PreK3—5th grade

Sunday School will resume on January 7th



O Come
Let Us Adore Him



Merry Christmas! Christ is Born!
Kid's Club will resume meeting at 6:45pm
January 10th

Youth

6th —12th Grade

Youth Coordinator Kara Hartwig

youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org (319) 855-2728

Confirmation (6th—8th Grade)

Wednesday, January 10th at 6:45 pm

6th Grade—Lecture

Unit 2: God's Grace to His People Israel

The Divided Kingdom—the united kingdom of Israel divides into 2 separate kingdoms after Solomon's death.

- North / South
- Israel 10 tribes/
Judah 2 tribes
- 19 Kings of
Israel / 20 Kings
of Judah
- 0 Good Kings in
Israel / 8 Good
Kings in Judah



7th Grade—Lecture

Third, Fourth, and Fifth Petitions
of the Lord's Prayer



8th Grade—Small Group

Unit 2: Apostle's Creed

Article 3: *I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*



Christ is Born!!!



WINTER Retreat

Confirmation Winter Retreat

Friday, February 9—Saturday, February 10, 2024

Location will be a local area hotel

For all 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Confirmation students

PARENTS: We need several parents to chaperone this overnight event. Parents attend free. Email Kara at youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org to register as a chaperone.

**Registration form & payment DUE:
Wednesday, January 24th**

Winter Break Calendar Dates for Confirmation Classes & High School Midweek

Wednesday, December 27th

No Confirmation or HS Midweek Classes

Wednesday, January 3rd

No Confirmation or HS Midweek Classes

Wednesday, January 10th

RESUME NORMAL SCHEDULE

6:00 pm Midweek Meal (8th Grade helps)

6:45 pm Confirmation Classes & Midweek

8:00 pm Parents Meeting Winter Retreat

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>
Rev. Dr. Brent Hartwig, Senior Pastor bhartwig@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 337-2403 (home)	Kaja Mueller, Preschool Director preschool@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)
Ethan Boester, Vicar vicar@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Lorrie Bailey, Office Coordinator redeemer@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Christie Cherian, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)	Sara Cross, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool)
Sarah Gabel, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Kara Hartwig, Youth Coordinator youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Denise Holida, Adult Coordinator smallgroups@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 930-0165 (cell)	Louise Klopp, Director Choirs/ Properties choirdirector@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Marilyn Paetz, Organist organist@ourredeemer.org	351-4262 (home)	Kevin Sellers Director of Technology technology@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 ext. 18 631-8924 (cell)
Laurel Sellers, Consultant consultant@ourredeemer.org	319-331-3242 (cell) 338-5626 ext. 21		

2023 Board of Elders

Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Dave Bohnsack	319-430-2054
Tim Eick	248-514-2881
Rick Gienapp	319-331-7425
Ryan Haack	319-325-7915
Skip Kempnich	319-351-5297
Eric Kooker	319-339-0175
Chad Pence (Chair)	319-321-5686
Art Schwarting	319-325-6152

2023 Board of Directors

President	Arlan Thompson	319-338-2938
Vice President	Ben Weis	319-936-6850
Secretary	Barb Schanbacher	319-351-3998
Treasurer	Kari Kibby	319-573-4127
Board of Elders	Chad Pence	319-321-5686
Properties	Dave Yansky	319-621-7694
At Large	Jeff Kucera	563-316-1088
	Marilyn Albright	319-430-8129
	Steve Scott	563-889-0990

DEADLINES

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

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

RADIO

Lutheran Hour Ministries on Radio—WMT 600 AM Radio on Sunday mornings at 6:30 am, and KXEL 1540 AM Radio on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. For more information on Lutheran Hour Ministries go to www.LHM.org.

VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND SCREENING

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has a strong, caring ministry with children and youth. To promote the safest and most secure environment possible all employees and volunteers, both new and existing, undergo a background screening before working with younger members. Performing background checks provides safeguards and peace of mind to our staff, volunteers, parents, youth, and children.