**Our Redeemer News**

**Web Page:** [**www.ourredeemer-lcms.org**](http://www.ourredeemer-lcms.org)

**Telephone: (586) 781-5567**

**Volume 25, Issue 12 December 2022**

**SERMON and SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER**



**Dec. 3/4: UNTO US IS BORN… “Hope”**

**(Isaiah 9:6)**

**Dec. 7: MIDWEEK ADVENT II**

**CHRISTMAS PEACE?**

**“But Have You Met MY Family?!”**

**(Romans 12:18)**

**Dec. 10/11: CHILDREN’S PAGEANT**

**UNTO TO US IS BORN… “Peace”**

**(John 14:27)**

**Dec. 14: MIDWEEK ADVENT III**

**CHRISTMAS PEACE? “When?”**

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**(Matthew 1:20-23)**

**Dec. 17/18: UNTO US IS BORN… “Christmas”**

**(Psalm 46:10)**

**Dec 21: MIDWEEK ADVENT IV**

**Christmas Peace? “How?”**

**(Luke 2:10-12**

**Dec 24: CHRISTMAS EVE**

**5PM Family Worship(no C)**

**11PM Candlelight Worship (C)**

**UNTO US IS BORN… “God”**

**(Matthew 2:1-12”)**

**Dec 25: CHRISTMAS DAY (10:30 ONLY)**

**“Behold – The Gift of Christmas”**

**(Luke 2:10)**

**Dec 31/1: NEW YEAR’S (6:30 PM & 10:30 ONLY)**

**“Rejoicing in the Lord… ALWAYS!”**

**(Philippians 4: 4)**

**~PAGE 2~**

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**QUEST FOR CHRIST**

**The Celebration of Christmas**

During the holiday season, busyness can drown out the meaning of the season. We become so consumed with buying presents and throwing parties that we forget simply to celebrate the birth of the most amazing person the world has ever known.

It is evident throughout Scripture that God likes communication. He likes to mark significant events with a monument. He likes to memorialize His incredible saving power with feasts. He even promises a feast when we get to heaven. Why is it important to have such observances? Because God wants us to remember who He is and what He has done.

In ancient Israel, the Passover feast was established to celebrate the grace God extended to the Hebrews. At Christmas, believers have the opportunity to celebrate the most remarkable act of God’s grace: sending Jesus into the world to become a sacrifice for our sins.

The shepherds tending their flocks on a hillside in Bethlehem found reason to celebrate. (Luke 2:20). We know even more about Him than the shepherds then did—we certainly should not let Him get lost in the festivities.

Family and friends are important, and it is good to spend time visiting with them during the holidays. It’s also not wrong to give gifts or have parties. But be certain to celebrate with your loved ones the marvelous birth of Jesus. It’s because of Him that we have a reason to celebrate and rejoice: the amazing gift of eternal life!



***"*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (**[**John 1:14**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/john/1-14.html)**)**

**As I get older everything my parents told me is become more and more clear.  When we were kids, Christmas was so unimaginably exciting because we would be getting STUFF!  Lots and lots of presents!  What could be better?  But Mom and Dad always reminded us, the true gift of Christmas is not something we unwrap, it is that special relationship God calls us to through His Son, the Babe of Bethlehem.**

**As our families get older and we are forced to start  saying “good bye” to our friends and loved ones, sometimes Christmas brings a certain sadness.  We are no longer all together to celebrate.  After all, isn’t that what Christmas is about?  Being together?  But Christmas is even greater than that.  It is about the special relationship God has for us through His Son, the Babe of Bethlehem.  We become a part of the Family of God.  That is the Family in which we never need say, “good bye.”**

**Christian writer, Ann Voskamp, wrote about Christmas, “So God throws open the door of this world—and enters as a baby. As the most vulnerable imaginable. Because He wants unimaginable intimacy with you. What religion ever had a god that wanted such intimacy with us that He came with such vulnerability to us? What God ever came so tender we could touch Him? So fragile that we could break Him? So vulnerable that His bare, beating heart could be hurt? Only the One who loves you to death.”**

**My prayer for you this Christmas is the experience of the intimacy of God’s love for you through His Son.  A Baby born for you in Bethlehem.  A Savior who died for you on the cross.  A Lord who watches over and will one day return that you might forever live in His glory as His chosen child.  I pray you have a Merry, Blessed, Christmas.**

***In Him I am, faithfully yours, Pastor Draeger***

*In Him I am faithfully yours,*

*Pastor Draeger*



*In Him I am, Faithfully yours,*

*Pastor Draeger*

**~PAGE 3~**



Greetings!

One of my favorite movies is *It’s a Wonderful Life.* You’re probably familiar with it. Loveable George Bailey wants to travel the world, but instead he is trapped by circumstances in the small town where he grew up. But he marries a great girl, has a great family, and serves the town by operating the Building and Loan. Even so, he eventually finds himself broke and about to lose everything, facing bankruptcy and scandal. George thinks his family and friends would be better off without him; he’s about to end it all when his guardian angel, Clarence, shows up. To bring him around, Clarence causes George to see the world as it would be if he’d never been born. One painful confrontation follows another until he eventually finds his mother, and then his wife, but neither one recognizes him. His own mother slams the door in his face, and his wife screams and tries to run away. The pain is too great, and George begs Clarence to restore him to life as it was before.

Don’t misunderstand; I’m not recommending *It’s a Wonderful Life* as a great example of Christian theology. But this is a great picture of what Jesus endured for us. Jesus was rejected by the very people he came to save. But there was an even greater rejection that he endured. On the cross, he cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.” Jesus was rejected *by his own Father*. It was bad enough to be rejected by Israel, by the very people who should have known him and hailed him as King. But after all, they were only flawed sinful people. If it were me, I might have walked away saying, “Well, I might have known these fools would reject me, but at least I know my Dad still loves me.” But this same Father, with whom Jesus had shared glory in heaven for eternity, turned his back on Jesus as he hung on the cross. No wonder he died in a few hours; the pain must have been unbearable.

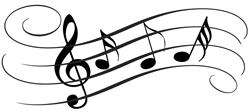
Without Christ, the Father would turn his back on us as well, and we would be lost. Jesus endured such agony in our place, so that we wouldn’t have to. We have God’s promise, spoken through Isaiah, “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion for the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.” (Isaiah 49:15-16a) Now, there’s a comforting thought; God has engraved us on the palms of his hands. In Christ, our destiny is not rejection, but acceptance, adoption, and joy.

The writer of Hebrews tells us, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2) Part of his joy was the restoration of his bond with the Father. But his joy also included bringing the ones he had come to save (us!) with him. The night before His crucifixion he prayed “And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.” (John 17:5) But he also prayed, “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.” (John 17:24) Jesus went through hell to save us. Too often we think he did it grudgingly, but that’s not the case at all. It was for the *joy* set before him, and part of that joy is to have us with him in heaven with the Father. He told his Father that he wanted us to see his glory. Why the Lord of all creation would care that one such as I would see his glory is beyond me. And that it would give him joy is even more unfathomable. Far be it from me to deprive the Lord of his joy.

*Until next month,*

*Roger Hackelberg,*

*Director of Worship and Music*



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**LWML NEWS. . . . .**

Hello everyone, hope you all had a blessed and safe Thanksgiving.

At our meeting we packed 20 boxes for Pastor to pass out to the shut-ins this Christmas. Thank you, Pastor!

We were able to give to thirteen charities this year, for Christmas. Also, our free will offering will be going to Lutheran LCMS Disaster Relief Fund. Thanks to your continued and generous support of the LWML.

We will be collecting for Elli’s House, a non-profit organization committed to helping the young girls and women of Detroit who have run away from home or found themselves involved in human trafficking. Elli’s House provides support and help to reunite with family. We will collect through the month of December. They are asking for blankets (any size) and women’s leggings (all sizes). A basket will be in the narthex.

We sold Christmas wreaths, thank you all who purchased one. Hope they will remind you of the beauty and meaning of Christmas.

Mom2 Mom sale is January 14, 2023. If you know anyone who would like a table, please let me know and I will send them the information. [Joycemason7480@att.n](mailto:Joycemason7480@att.n)

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Woman of the year for 2022, is Nancy Abraham. Congratulations Nancy. We will hold a luncheon in the spring for Nancy.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Mason, LWML Secretary

Thank you again for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Mason LWML, Secretary

MOMS NEEDED!

Mom2Mom sale

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, hosted by the LWML

Saturday, January 14, 2023; 8:00 am – Noon.

35 table spaces available, big-ticket room

For more information, please contact me at [joycemason7480@att.net](mailto:joycemason7480@att.net)

Joyce Mason

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LWML Mites Working Hard

$65,000 of **National LWML** mites will go to **Propelling the Gospel** through Lutheran Association of Missionary Pilots (LAMP) Ministry has been using small aircraft to take the Gospel to Indigenous people in the most remote areas in northern Canada. Each year, hundreds of volunteer missionaries travel there to teach vacation Bible school to thousands of children. Upgrades to the aircraft must be made to ensure safety for everyone.

$25,000 of **Michigan District** mites will go to **Providing Hope for Children with Learning Needs.** This grant will go to Lutheran Special Education ministries as they reach out to students, families, and schools with special needs to provide needed resources in Michigan and nationally.

Everyone is encouraged to give their sacrificial gifts to these special missions. Simply put it in an envelope for LWML Mites and drop it off in the office or the office box in the narthex.

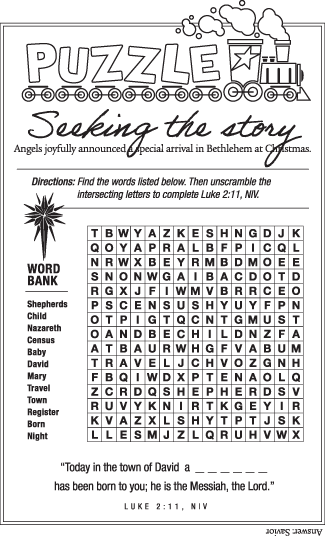
Thank you.

*Our Redeemer LWML Ministry*

Thank you.

*Our Redeemer LWML Ministry*

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Here we are at this Holy Season for 2022!

Sonshine Kids continues with GREAT Kids, GREAT Teachers and most importantly GREAT lessons of our New Born King!

Hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving.

Students are in full swing with rehearsal for their Christmas presentation lead by Ms. Margo.

Upcoming Events:

December 4…. Sonshine Kids Staff Meeting following 10:30am service

11… Special Christmas Craft

18… HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS CELEBRATION

25… NO SONSHINE KIDS

I Would like to wish everyone a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS. With heartfelt gratitude for allowing us to share the message and the love of this most Holy Season with your children. And May God Bless your 2023

Respectfully,

Linda Martin

Director Sonshine Kids

Linda Martin, SONshine Kids Director

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****Proposal 3 - What Now?****

November’s midterm elections certainly did not bring the results that the pro-life community was praying for. Not only did Proposal 3 pass (allowing abortion up through birth, among other concerns), but pro-choice leaders who support this proposal were also re-elected. While it may be tempting to wallow in our disappointment, that is certainly not what God calls us to do. James 1:2-4 says, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” We are facing a major trial today, but that is nothing new for our sinful human race. Going all the way back to Biblical times, there are countless instances in our history where certain groups of people were grossly mistreated. Examples include sacrificing infants, ordering baby boys to be murdered, persecuting others based on race, beliefs, or gender, and so on. The unborn are the unfortunate victims of today’s most prominent form of persecution. Their lives are devalued, and their right to life is being stripped away. The murder of these victims is not only being legalized, it is being celebrated.

What can we do? It is easy to feel angry, disgusted, and hopeless about the situation here in Michigan. But those feelings, turned into actions, can help motivate us to work even harder to save lives. While the passing of Proposal 3 is certainly a setback, the fight is not over. There are still unborn human beings (current and future) who depend on our prayers, our financial support, and our ability to speak up. We must persevere with faith and with the full armor of God, and we must continue to do everything in our power to fight for the unborn. Here are some specific ways to do that:

* First and foremost, we need to be in prayer. Pray for the unborn, and pray for their parents. Pray for our leaders. Pray for pro-life resource centers to stay strong and to continue their work. Pray for the human race itself to see the value of every life, and to recognize every life as a gift from God.
* Support organizations like Compassion Pregnancy Center. Now, more than ever, their work is critical. Women facing unplanned pregnancy need to know that abortion is not their only option. Consider making a gift this Christmas to Lutherans for Life or Compassion Pregnancy Center.
* We have a huge responsibility to teach today’s children that every life has value. Whether it’s your own children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews, or even the way you model pro-life behaviors and comments in public, we need to do better teaching the leaders and voters of the future that every life is precious.
* Get involved in our Life Team! If you would like to be part of our team or if you have suggestions or ideas for our Life Ministry here at Our Redeemer, contact Mandi Wesley at mlwesley44@gmail.com. Watch for more news next month as we look to resume in-person meetings.

As Christmas approaches, may you all be blessed with the hope, peace, joy, and love of our Savior, and may those blessings sustain and inspire you to continue to stand up for life!

Christmas Blessings,

Mandi Wesley

Life Team

**~PAGE 7~**

Contact: James M. Riske, CFP®, RICP®, CKA®, MSF

E-mail: [james.riske@thrivent.com](mailto:james.riske@thrivent.com)

Phone: (586) 726-8899 ext. 227



Financial Column

**Making a difference from a distance**

As we get used to social distancing and staying at home during this challenging time, we’re also seeing many of our neighbors and communities in need and wondering: What can we do to help?

While being generous is certainly more fun when we can come together, there are ways to make a positive difference, even from afar. Here are a few ideas on how to spread joy:

* **Check-in with your network**: We live in a time when technology allows us to connect with each other virtually, so let’s use it! Call, text or e-mail your friends, family and neighbors. Providing them with support is invaluable when emotions are running high.
* **Be a pen pal**: Let people know you’re thinking of them. Drop a note to people in care facilities who may not be allowed visitors or send thank you notes to first responders, teachers or healthcare workers.
* **Help limit food insecurities:** Offer to shop for the vulnerable in your community or be a neighborhood drop point for others to leave pantry items outside your door. Gather supplies, sanitize them and then deliver to your local food shelf.
* **Create a plan:** Use Facebook or Zoom to organize a virtual meeting with friends and

family and brainstorm volunteer ideas. Get creative!

* **Share your expertise:** Use this time to share your gifts with others on social media. Think about art, budgeting, cooking, yoga or nutrition – these are timeless and relevant topics.
* **If you’re a Thrivent member, lead a Thrivent Action Team or direct Thrivent Choice Dollars®:** Lead a virtual Thrivent Action Team or donate to one of the 40,000 organizations enrolled in Thrivent Choice. More information can be found [here](https://www.livegenerously.com/inspiring-stories/offers/national-volunteer-week.html).

Social distancing doesn’t mean we have to stop giving. We can still nurture important relationships, offer care and support to people in need, and make tangible donations to help strengthen our community. Remember to share your stories of generosity with others – it may inspire them to do good where they live!

Plenty of financial information is out there, so the more Americans can learn, the better. Building financial knowledge, getting started early and seeking help when needed will help make personal money management possible and position individuals for long-term success.

This article was prepared by Thrivent Financial for use by local area FR James Riske. He has offices at 48639 Hayes Rd, Office 2, in Shelby Township, and can also be reached at (586) 981-5333.

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### **PANTRY NEEDS**

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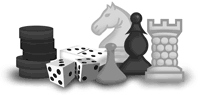
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**New Life In Heaven**

Harry Diener

Margaret “Ann” Schurig



Our Christmas Game Day will be Thursday, December 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Old Sanctuary. Please bring hors d’ oeuvres or a simple dessert to share if possible and your own drink. You may bring a game to teach us. We will also play a special Christmas tree dice game. Invite a friend or two! We can’t wait to celebrate with you!

Thank you,

Linda Sasse

Linda Sasse.



Hello everyone, I hope you had a blessed and happy Thanksgiving.

Our November outing to Ike’s in Sterling Heights was a lot of fun. There were only a few of us but we had a good time and lots of laughs!

For December our group has been asked to host one of the Advent dinners. So, I accepted, and we will be hosting on Wednesday, December 7th. We will be setting up, serving, and cleaning up after dinner.

If you can help me with this, please call or text me at 586-746-7547.

Thanks so much, Joyce Mason

Have a safe and happy Christmas!

Joyce Mason



Mission Life Fellowship:

Mission Life!

Merry Christmas everyone!

In the month of December, class will be from 4:30- 5:45. Dinner will follow until 6:30 when we have Advent service.  There will be no class on the 21st, and the 28th.

I am looking for someone to acolyte on Christmas day, and New Year’s Day. If your child is interested, please let me know as soon as you can.

Thank you! I Hope you all have a blessed Christmas & Happy New Year!

Acolyte schedule:

12/4- Molly Addis

12/11- Kendall Lee

12/18- Will Newell

12/25- none

Kathy Sowers

MLF coordinator

*~Kathy Sowers, MLF coordinator*

Acolyte Schedule for November

Acolytes for November:

6th - Aubrey Hanson

13th - Izabell Tomasino

20th - Max Lee

27th - Alyssa Smiley



Hi everyone!

NEW MEMBERS, MINISTRY LEADERS, BOARD MEMBERS:

**SAVE THE DATE:**

New Member Luncheon at Noon on January 22, 2023!

This will be our first New Member Luncheon since before COVID!

Hope to see you there!

Kathy Sowers

Assimilation Director

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**YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

·  Mark your calendars for **Our Redeemer Lutheran Youth Christmas Party** on Sunday, December 11, from 6pm-8pm. Potluck finger foods and desserts, silly sock gift exchange and minute to win games. We hope to see you there.

·  A Late Night Party will be hosted at Peace Lutheran in January. Stay tuned for more information.



**Christmas Program Performance**

Saturday, December 10 at 6:30 pm service

Sunday, December 11 at 10:30 am service

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: “The Birth of Jesus”

Cast:

Narrator 1: Izabell Tomasino

Narrator 2: Max Lee

Innkeeper:  Scarlett Wigley

Mary:  Lydia Sosnowski

Joseph: Kamden Winter

Main Angel:  Jocelyn Winter

Shepherds: Caleb Sosnowski, Brennan Veres, Carter Veres

Sheep: Eli Wesley

Angels: Penelope Tomasino, Stella Tomasino, Ellie Wesley

Wisemen: Caleb Sosnowski, Brennan Veres, Carter Veres

Star Holder: Scarlett Wigley

Stars: Penelope Tomasino, Stella Tomasino, Ellie Wesley

Sunday, Dec. 3: Practice after 10:30am service

Tuesday, Dec. 6: Dress Rehearsal 5pm



**Ladies Advent Dinner**

**Friday, December 2 @ 6:30pm**

**Advent season is quickly approaching. Before beginning our busy Christmas preparations, let us join together and prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. You are cordially invited to enjoy a complimentary catered meal followed by a short program. Please sign up on the Advent Dinner sheet in the Narthex by Sunday, November 27th.**

**Christmas**

**Tidings**

A concert presented by

**The Michigan-Ohio Chorale**

under the direction of

Erwin Aufdemberge

with

Organ and Flutes

22915 Greater Mack Avenue

St. Clair Shores

St. Paul Lutheran Church

#### **December 18, 2022**

#### **3:00 pm**

Refreshments following concert,

Free will Offering

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**Barb Pellegrino** *(Muellers’ friend; cancer)*

**Frank Cody** *(Margo Schuch’s brother)*

**Mona Pfent** *(Christin Peyerk’s mom; cancer)*

**Tina Hayden** *(Haydens’ daughter-in-law; cancer)*

**Grace Angela Beachnau** *(Mueller’s granddaughter)*

**Todd Bailey** *(Brenneckes’ friend; cancer)*

**Nancy Mikolowski** *(mother of Judy Laurie-health concerns)*

**Emily Vandamme** *(George**Rang, Sr.’s granddaughter-cancer recovery)*

**Beth Walter** *(Betty Walter’s niece-cancer)*

**Adam Bettcher** *(MS)* **Ray Denewith** *(strength)*

**Dave Wesley** *(cancer treatment recovery)*

**Dana Primeau** *(stage 4 colon cancer)* **Al Jensen**

**Andy Walgenbach** *(bone cancer treatment)*

**Amy Beth Petersen** *(Reinhardt’s daughter-back surgery)*

**Connie Sweet Sal Cusumano** *(open heart surgery recovery)*

**Len Thaens** *(surgery)* **John Fisk** *(surgery)* **Nic North**

**Lillian Dodson** *(Sandy Huyck’s mom)*

**Mary Reinhardt** *(Jim Reinhardt’s mom)*

**Becky Maciejewski** *(Broken hip/femur; prayers for quick recovery)*

***Gary Novak*** *(Richard & Carol’s son-waiting for a heart transplant)*

***Linda Sasse*** *(Hernia surgery; prayers for a quick recovery)*

***Esther Diener*** *(Brain aneurysm)*

***Earl Lambert*** *(knee surgery recovery)*

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***OUR FRIENDS & FAMILY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES:***

**Jim Pfahlert** *(Shaver Family)*

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**Brad Morris**

**Sean Duggan** *(Bridget Felax’s brother)*

**Nathan Kavanaugh** *(friend of the Kirsh family)*

**Austin Simpson** *(friend of Mary Jane)*