

# The Ringer

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 12



Contemplative Advent, Blessed St. Nick Day, Merry Lucie Day, Happy Chanukah, and Merry Christmas, St. Stephen, and many others.

December is such a festive month, so many Holy-Days...that remind us of our community in Christ and our worship of our God. I preached last Sunday a bit about certain news outlets saying that “Christmas was in danger this year!” based on their reporting of the transportation/delivery backups from ports on our coasts with merchandise. I could only laugh, just like I chuckle when people say there is either a “war on Christmas” or “I can’t say Merry Christmas”. The only war on Christmas in this country took place when those we celebrate during Thanksgiving, the Puritans/Pilgrims, declared the celebration of Christmas illegal and held it with disdain through a good portion of the 1700s.

Many of us have been lamenting the commercialization of the holiday for decades, and that is what made me laugh when I heard a reporter say the holiday was in danger because we could not get this or that electronic or this or that toy. The church calendar, though, tries to draw us into an understanding of the holiday that focuses on the gift of Christ born of Mary named Jesus as a sign that through him God Saves! In God’s saving the world learn through the holidays of December: Make straight the way! (Advent), we remember a Bishop of Myra who had concern for children, even giving secretly (through a window) three sack of gold to a father so he could afford dowries for his three daughters, we celebrate St. Lucie (or at least the Swedes do) remembering a woman who stood by her faith even when denounced by her betrothed who was upset that she had given her dowry to the poor, we remember our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrating Chanukah, the celebration of light and the rededication of the Temple after being defiled by the Greeks, a holiday the Jesus himself celebrated, we of course have Christmas, we will gather as a church to sing hymns, many of us will have family and friends nearby, St. Stephen’s day is the day after Christmas to remind us that again declaring our faith can lead not just to inconvenience but martyrdom. So it is a month of Holy-Days that the church commemorates to further tell the story that God loves us, guides us, and saves us through Christ our Lord.

**Happy Holy-Days**

**In Christ**

**Pastor David.**

## Council News

### Council Highlights for November

The council met on November 18th to discuss organization of the annual meeting and to finalize the budget, which will be presented to the congregation at the annual budget meeting on December 12th.



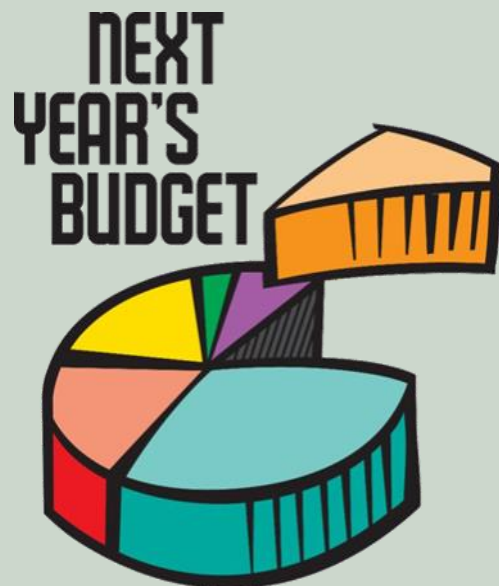
*Council Meetings are the 2nd Thursday  
of the month beginning at 7 pm.*

## Annual Meeting

The Council will be hosting fellowship on Sunday, December 12th, between the first and second services at 9:15 AM. ***Please plan to attend this important meeting.***

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, and a shortened work week, the Treasurer's Report will be issued as an addendum next week.

Thank you all for your patience.



# New Hymn for Advent

We will be singing a new hymn for Advent, “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper” from the new hymnal supplement *All Creation Sings*. The melody is a Welsh lullaby called *Suo Gan*, and it might sound familiar to some of you from the movie *Empire of the Sun*. The words by Dr. Mary Louise Bringle, a professor of philosophy and religion in North Carolina, talk about our longing for light in the growing darkness of winter as a metaphor for awaiting the Christ Child during Advent. A good video of the hymn is on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/dOJMRgFoBC8>

Ruth Mirtz

[ruthmirtz@gmail.com](mailto:ruthmirtz@gmail.com)

## Now the Heavens Start to Whisper



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:  
 Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.  
 come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
 Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.  
 In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.  
 Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.  
 Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody

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# Holiday Concerts

## **A Christmas Handbell Hymnfest**

**December 5  
4PM**

Presser Hall Auditorium



THE BETHANY  
COLLEGE DEPT. OF  
MUSIC PRESENTS  
ITS 2021 HOLIDAY  
MUSIC OFFERINGS

## **Bethany Band & Bethany Jazz Band**

**December 9  
7:30PM**

Presser Hall Auditorium



# *Comfort & Joy*

## **A Bethany Choir Christmas**

**December 12  
4PM**

Presser Hall Auditorium



Free and open to  
the public



**Keeping  
Bethany  
Safe**

Masks required regardless of  
vaccination status

# Redeemer News



Pageturners meets the  
3rd Tuesday of the Month  
at 4:00

Tuesday, December 21  
*Choosing Next Year's Books*  
Host & Leader: Lana Jordan

*Come join us!*

Come celebrate the birth of  
Baby Jesus with us on Saturday,  
December 11th at 11 AM.

*Rejoicing Spirits* is a worship  
program for individuals of all  
abilities. Bring the whole family  
and find new friends!

Food & Fun & Fellowship





# Redeemer News

Jim and Vivian Cook will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary on Thursday, December 23rd, and have requested a card shower from their friends and family. Address your cards to them at 103 S. Skyline Drive, Salina 67401. They invite you to join them after second service on December 19th for cake.

*Happy Fiftieth Anniversary, Jim & Viv!*



Dear Members,

If you order flowers for the church service and wish to keep them, please transfer them to one of the glass vases in the bottom cupboard next to the refrigerator in the sacristy. If it is already in a glass vase, just take them with you. Please DON'T take any gold or black vases home with you. Thanks so much.

Sincerely,

***The Altar Guild***

Please note that Altar Flowers are now \$27 and what the florist has on hand. Special orders will be an extra charge. A new chart will be up soon in the fellowship hall for this year.

Thank you,  
Cheryl Itschner

*A new flower chart for 2022 is in the works and will go up sometime in December for your convenience.*



*Floral Notes*



It's the time of year again when we like to show our thanks and gratitude to the Redeemer staff. We are collecting monetary donations to go towards the employee Christmas bonus fund. If you would like to contribute this year, drop off your donation to the church office or place in a marked offering envelope. We are blessed to have such a talented & caring staff.

***Kris Neff***



*5:30 p.m.*

*All are welcome!*

# Lectionary for December

## December 5 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

[Malachi 3:1-4](#)  
[Luke 1:68-79](#)  
[Philippians 1:3-11](#)  
[Luke 3:1-6](#)

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
 make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled,  
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
 and the crooked shall be made straight,  
 and the rough ways made smooth;  
<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "



## December 12 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

[Zephaniah 3:14-20](#)  
[Isaiah 12:2-6](#)  
[Philippians 4:4-7](#)  
[Luke 3:7-18](#)

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed



for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

## December 19 — 4th Sunday of Advent

[Micah 5:2-5a](#)  
[Luke 1:46b-55](#)  
[Hebrews 10:5-10](#)  
[Luke 1:39-45](#)

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,  
 "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,



# Lectionary for December cont'd

## December 24 — Nativity of Our Lord

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

[Psalm 96:11](#)

[Titus 2:11-14](#)

[Luke 2:1-14 \[15-20\]](#)

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14a</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom  
he favors!"

[<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these

words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

## December 26 — 1st Sunday of Christmas

[1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26](#)

[Psalm 148:13](#)

[Colossians 3:12-17](#)

[Luke 2:41-52](#)

<sup>41</sup>Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.





# Partners in Ministry

ALTAR GUILD: Vivian Cook

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY 8:00 SERVICE

5:30 PM

	December 5	December 12	December 19	December 24	December 26
<b>Greeters</b>	Mary Shaffer	Diane Conover	Gary & Sue Mettlen	Marty Holmquist	<b>9:30 ONE SERVICE FOR 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS</b>
<b>Com-munion</b>	Mary Shaffer	Diane Conover	Gary & Sue Mettlen	Charlotte Herrman	
<b>Lector</b>	Denise Dusin	Charlotte Herrman	Jan Jackson	Mary Shaffer	
<b>Sound</b>	Perry Jurgensen	Perry Jurgensen	Perry Jurgensen	Perry Jurgensen	

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY 10:30 SERVICE

9:30 AM

<b>Greeters</b>	Alan English & Dan Metcalfe	Arlene Keil & Marilee Vancil	Joe Plumer & Mike Ramage	<b>5:30 ONE SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	Grant & Kris Johanson
<b>Ushers</b>	Chad & Christine Curl	Joe & Kathy Heinrich	Ray & Debbie Beckman		Phil & Jean Sedo
<b>Com-munion</b>	Mary Mertz	LaNita Pratt	Lana Jordan		Jean Sedo
<b>Lector</b>	Alan English	Joe Heinrich	Debbie Beckman		Alan English
<b>Sound</b>	Britney English	Kris Neff	Ray Beckman		Britney English
<b>Fellowship</b>	Johanson	The Council for Annual Meeting	Jim & Viv Cook for their 50th		TBD



## The Nativity & the Friendly Beasts

by Mary Mertz

Join us December 15<sup>th</sup> as the Godly Play kids and the Confirmation Class present "The Nativity and the Friendly Beasts". The program will start at 6:30 with a reception following. You are invited to join us for pizza before time starting at 5:30. If you would like to come for pizza and don't normally come on Wednesday nights, we ask that you let the church office know by December 8<sup>th</sup> that you are coming so we make sure we have plenty of pizza.

Come support our church kids and other kids that come to our Godly Play program on Wed. Dec 15.

# Redeemer Celebrations



- 7 Jay & Jackie Aurand
- 10 Kenny & Mary Bridges
- 11 Harold & Becky Klaege
- 11 Earl & Marge Hansen
- 17 Rod & Rosemary Anderson
- 22 Chuck & Karen Levin
- 23 Craig & Sheila Alstatt
- 23 Jim & Vivian Cook
- 28 Matthew & Rita Shaffer

- 1 Verle Simpson
- 2 Tom Mertz
- 2 Mary Bridges
- 4 Loren Harris
- 10 Kathy Hartley
- 13 Tom Drown
- 15 Charlie Weiss
- 20 Cheryl Itschner
- 21 Kathy Lowman
- 21 Lilium Budreau
- 22 Marge Hansen

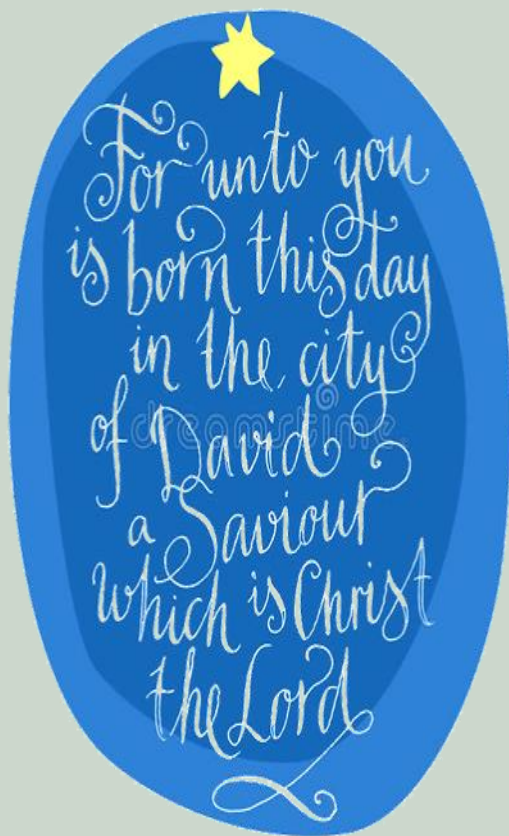


Content of the Ringer depends on you, the members of this church, for articles, photos, important dates, etc. ***The January newsletter deadline is December 27th at 12:00 pm.*** Information turned in after this date might not be included. The newsletter is available by email, mail or at



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 1000 Bible Study 530 Godly Play 715 Choir practice	2	3	4
5 800 Worship 1030 Worship 1130 Fellowship	6	7 515 Education 545 Worship & Music	8 1000 Bible Study 530 Godly Play 715 Choir practice	9 700 Council Meeting	10	11 1100 Rejoicing Spirits 
12 800 Worship 9:15 Annual Budget Meeting 1030 Worship	13	14 630 GUYS	15 1000 Bible Study 530 Godly Play 715 Choir practice	16 930 Silver Needles Sew-In	17	18
19 800 Worship 1030 Worship 1130 Fellowship	20 600 Silver Needles	21 130 Healing Hope 400 Page Turners	22 1000 Bible Study 530 Godly Play 715 Choir practice	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE service 530 OFFICE CLOSED	25 CHRISTMAS 
26 800 Worship 1030 Worship 1130 Fellowship	27 1200 Newsletter Deadline	28	29 1000 Bible Study 530 Godly Play	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	
<div><div></div><div>for worship services always available!</div></div>						





## REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

743 East Magnolia Road  
Salina, KS 67401-6912  
redeemer@redeemer-elca.org

Phone: 785-827-8195 ext. 101  
Office Hours: 9:00-2:00 Monday-Friday  
Becky Shulda, Administrative Assistant



*"Chosen by God...to love one another."*



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Facebook!**



Find us on the web  
[www: redeemer-elca.org](http://www.redeemer-elca.org)

Sunday Sermons can now be heard on  
the Redeemer Website and on Facebook



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's Work. Our Hands.



**Pastor David Strommen**

743 East Magnolia Road

Salina, KS 67401-6912

785-827-8195 ext. 102

[dstrommen@redeemer-elca.org](mailto:dstrommen@redeemer-elca.org)

### Weekly Church Events

#### Sunday Worship beginning September 19

8:00 Worship  
10:30 Worship  
Fellowship after second service

#### Wednesday morning

9:00 Bible Study

**Organist:** Ruth Mirtz

**Choir Director:** Ann Metcalfe

**Bell Director and  
Worship Accompanist:**  
Britney English

### 2021 Council

Alan English, President	643-4078
Kris Neff, Vice President	404-7991
Kris Johanson, Secretary	402-759-2255
Ray Beckman	825-6551
Jody Biegert	819-4479
Charlotte Herrman	643-9445
Dan Metcalfe	342-9513
KC Potter	456-4322
Jean Sedo	404-6222

Treasurer: Jan Jackson

Financial Secretaries: Mike Ramage and Joe Plumer

# Save for Jan, Treasurer info