

# REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATING 119 YEARS OF MINISTRY



## Redeemer Lutheran Church

### **Church Address**

246 Hulmeville Ave.  
Penndel, PA 19047

### **Mailing Address**

239 Fairview Avenue  
Penndel, PA 19047

Parish Office: (215) 757-2724

Fax: (215) 757-7199

Website: [redeemerlutheranpenndel.org](http://redeemerlutheranpenndel.org)

Email: [redemerlutheranchurchpenndel@verizon.net](mailto:redemerlutheranchurchpenndel@verizon.net)

Rev. Heeralal Mukesh Cheedie

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

Phone: 215-757-2724 Fax: 215-757-7199

Handicapped Accessible Via a Lift

## Redeemer Herald Newsletter For December 2023



**Visitors and Neighbors:  
Welcome to Redeemer  
Lutheran Church!**

***Our door is open to you!  
We would be happy to  
have you join us as a  
Partner in prayer, in song,  
and in the hearing of  
God's word.***



### **Our Mission:**

As a community of faith, we worship the Triune God.  
We are called to love and serve all God's people and  
creation through word and deed.



## Pastor's Page

Grace and Peace to you from God the Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

As I have mentioned in the last newsletter, the next several months, for my newsletter article, I will share Professor Nissan's explanation of each element of the worship service, and how these worship practices are formation for life practices. My hope is that this will help us understand why we do what we do during our worship service. For this month, I will share with you the next two elements of our worship liturgy:



### Thanksgiving for Baptism:



An alternative to Confession and Forgiveness at the opening of worship is the rite of Thanksgiving for Baptism. Thanksgiving for Baptism assists us in learning to follow the instruction of Luther that we are called to renew our baptism each new day. Because ministry in daily life in the arenas of family, workplace, school, local community, and globe all derive from the promises and call of Jesus Christ made to us at your baptism,

when your life was united to Christ's death and resurrection, the frequent use of Thanksgiving for Baptism can serve to deeply connect you to the lasting significance of baptism for how you live out your baptismal vocation in service to neighbors in daily life.

### Gathering Song:

There are many different themes in the various songs we sing at worship. The lyrics of a particular hymn immerses us in remembering God's saving deeds and connects these with what it means for us to be a community of persons dedicated to following the way of God in Christ. The music of the hymn penetrates our souls, affecting us at a level far deeper than conscious thought.



## Pastor's Page continued



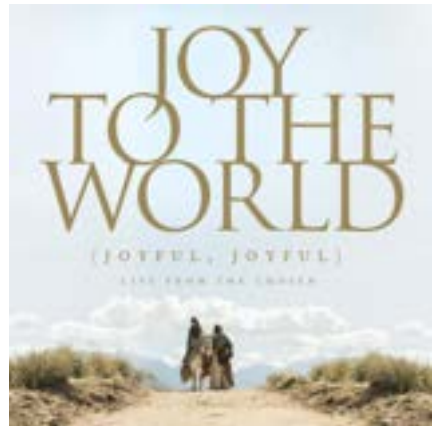
Think about your own favorite hymns and how they have shaped your faith and life as a Christian. Favorite hymns can provide us topics for talking about the promises of God with other people and inspire us to live according to the words we have sung. More than anything else, the very act of singing hymns teaches us that the entirety of our lives is meant to be a song of praise to God each and every day. Everything we do in

life is to be offered as a song to glorify the God who creates, loves, and sustains us.

Indeed may our lives be a song of praise and thanksgiving as we continue to sing,

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.”

Have a very blessed and happy Christmas and healthy New Year.



Pastor Mukesh.



## Prayer Concerns

**Members:** Lois Hershberger; Winnie Ferguson; Patti Paul; Lynn Leppo; Marty Danielson; David Erdman; Elizabeth Reinas; Don Farnham; Jim Reinas; Denise Robinson; Judy Lamb; Dee Grover; Rev. Karl Hommen; Rich Moulder; Mike Dunn; Katherine Patelunas; Heather Palladino; Ilene Kersten; Stephanie Rager; Ally Hommen; Michelle Morris; Jane Leppo; Edith Williams; Dolores Danielson; David Short; Bob Winkler; Millie Murray; Denise Goccia

**Relatives and Friends of our Members:** George Rehm, Jim Mosman, Paula Sykes, Kim Conti, Raymond Short Jr., Terri Rehm, Al Degen, Cheri Shenefelt, Ann Marie Danieluk, Bill Castelberg Jr., Heather Ramola, Pam Pillsbury, Maggie Taley, Jeannine Lipez

**Relatives and Friends of our Members Serving in the Military:** Chad Durban; Joseph Piel; Kelly Cahill; Matthew Brandon Winter; Reid Furman; Julia Furman; Anne Furman; Matt Glaze; John Dichoso; Nicholas Ropars; Danny Parker; Billy Clark



**Remember in Your Prayers Pastor and staff of Redeemer, and our Nations Leaders:**

Pres. Joe Biden, Vice Pres. Kamala Harris, Our U.S. Senators, The Supreme Court, and the House of Representatives.

## Prayer Initiative for November

**On December 10, 2023 please pray for:**

Marsie McMullen and Sons Travis and James; Linda Mecutchen and sons Myles and Tyler; Amy Meola ;Lori and Sam Meola; Don and Valerie Mihalek, and daughters Victoria and Elizabeth

**On December 24, 2023 please pray for:**

Michelle Morris and family; Richie Moulder; Mildred Murray; Alex Northrup; Andrew Northrup



## **Prayer List Guidelines**

Please continue to pray for all those who are in need of healing. If you or a family member is hospitalized or is in need pastoral care, or if a death takes place in your family, please call Pastor Mukesh at 267-391-8514.

### **PRAYER LIST GUIDELINES**

After discussion, the Worship & Committee supports reinstituting the 4-week rule. When someone asks Jennifer to place a person on the list, she will inform them that name will remain for 4 weeks unless she hears differently from them.

1. We will list all members on the prayer list with no limits.
2. We will list Relatives and Friends of our Members for only 4 weeks.

**You need to email the office or call the office to have them remain on longer, and you will have to call or email again in 4 weeks to have it extended again.**

We list all Relatives and Friends of our Members Serving in the Military with no limits.

## **General Information**

Check out our website at <http://redeemerlutheranpenndel.org/>

Follow us on Facebook at Redeemer Penndel.

Articles for this publication must reach Redeemer Lutheran office not later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month to insure their insertion in next month's issue.



<i>Saturday</i>	<i>12/2</i>	<i>6:30 PM</i>	<i>Penndel Tree Lighting</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12/3</i>	<i>9:20 AM</i>	<i>Worship - Advent Matins</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>12/4</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>	<i>Social Ministry</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>12/4</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>12/5</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>	<i>Shared Meal</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>12/6</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>	<i>Evangelism - Zoom</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>12/7</i>	<i>6:45 PM</i>	<i>Bell Practice</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>12/9</i>	<i>8:30 AM</i>	<i>Decorate the Church</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12/10</i>	<i>9:20 AM</i>	<i>Worship - 2nd Sunday Advent</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12/10</i>	<i>3:00 PM</i>	<i>WELCA Christmas Outing</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>12/11</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>12/11</i>	<i>8:00 PM</i>	<i>Grief/Bereavement Group</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>12/12</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Council Meeting</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>12/14</i>	<i>6:45 PM</i>	<i>Bell Practice</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12/17</i>	<i>9:20 AM</i>	<i>Worship - 3rd Sunday Advent</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12/17</i>	<i>10:30 AM</i>	<i>Cookie Walk</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12/17</i>	<i>12:00 PM</i>	<i>Christmas Caroling</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>12/18</i>		<i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>12/18</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>12/19</i>	<i>12:00 Noon</i>	<i>WELCA Meeting</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>12/21</i>	<i>6:45 PM</i>	<i>Bell Practice</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12/24</i>	<i>9:20 AM</i>	<i>Worship 4th Sunday Advent</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12/24</i>	<i>7:00 pm</i>	<i>Worship Christmas Eve</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>12/25</i>	<i>9:20 AM</i>	<i>Worship Christmas Day</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>12/26</i>	<i>6:00 PM</i>	<i>Stewardship</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>12/28</i>	<i>6:45 PM</i>	<i>Bell Practice</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>12/31</i>	<i>9:20 AM</i>	<i>Worship</i>

# Sponsorships

## CHRISTMAS SPONSORSHIPS

Torch Candles, Stanchion Candles, Congregational Candles and Communion Hosts are available for sponsorship for our Christmas services.

Listed below are the prices for the sponsorship. If you are interested in sponsoring any of these items, please call Jenn in the church office at 215-757-2724 or via email: [redeemerlutheranchurchpenndel@verizon.net](mailto:redeemerlutheranchurchpenndel@verizon.net)

### Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm

Torch Candles	\$20
Stanchion Candles	\$5
Congregational Candles	\$13
Communion Hosts	\$15

### Christmas Day Service 9:20 am

Stanchion Candles	\$5
Communion Hosts	\$15



## Weekly Worship Sponsorship

Below is a list of items we generally sponsor and the names and telephone numbers of the person to call. If you are paying by check for the items you are sponsoring, please make the check payable to Redeemer and either place it in the plate during offering or put it in the mail box of those whose names are indicated below. Be sure to indicate the amount, your name and the date of the sponsorship as well as the type of sponsorship.

<b>ALTAR FLOWERS</b>	\$30 per Sunday
<b>ORGAN FLOWERS</b>	\$10 per Sunday
	call Deb Farnham 215-752-1708 or <a href="mailto:dgfteach@yahoo.com">dgfteach@yahoo.com</a> )

<b>ALTAR CANDLES:</b>	\$5.00 per Sunday
<b>COMMUNION HOSTS:</b>	\$5.00 <b>per Sunday</b>
	Kim Overbagh 215-499-7556 or <a href="mailto:IronsidesGirl@yahoo.com">IronsidesGirl@yahoo.com</a>

<b>SANCTUARY LAMP</b>	\$5.00 per Sunday
<b>ROOF FUND</b>	A contribution amount of your choosing
<b>TECHNOLOGY FUND</b>	A contribution amount of your choosing
	call Gail Blinstrub at 215-891-1388 or <a href="mailto:gailaa@verizon.net">gailaa@verizon.net</a>

Altar Candle sponsor dates that are still available 2/18, 4/28, 5/12, 7/7, 11/24 and 12/29



# Council Highlights

## November 2023

### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM COUNCIL MEETING ON 11-14-23

**WORSHIP TEAM** – Advent is a busy time for the Worship Team! This year we will be singing while lighting the candles. On December 9<sup>th</sup>, we will decorate the church and anyone can come to help. There will be one Christmas Eve service at 7 PM and one Christmas Day service at 9:20 AM. We can wear our pajamas to the Christmas Day Service!

**FAITH FORMATION** – A couple of new faces came to Sunday School last week. Jessica is revamping and regrouping the program. Lessons are made for the different age groups that attend. There will be no Christmas pageant this year, there are not enough children present in Sunday School at this time. Thank you to Jess for doing such a wonderful job with our Sunday School!!

**STEWARDSHIP TEAM** – There will be Moments of Inspiration talks through and including January. There are people who have signed up to do their talk, but the dates still open are December 24<sup>th</sup> and also January 21, 2024. Please talk to Denise Robinson in November or December if you need more information on the Moments of Inspiration talks.

**SHARED MEAL MINISTRY** – There were 45 people who attended the Shared Meal in November. We also had 15 volunteers. The meal that was served was pork, ham, pineapple stuffing and cornbread.

**SOCIAL MINISTRY** – Jeannie Vitale met with LaShona Thompson from the Bucks County Housing Group to give her 4 gift cards and mums for the 4 families in the Penndel home. We are getting a list from LaShona for our Giving Tree. We will put up the Giving Tree and get the ornaments on shortly!

**EVANGELISM TEAM** – The pig roast was a success! Trunk or Treat was a success! This Friday is the Christmas Bingo, 11-17-23. Chris Ryan is available to talk to anyone about obtaining a Thrivent card or being an associate member of Thrivent. Please contact Chris if interested.

THANK YOU TO OUR CHURCH SECRETARY, JENNIFER !!!



# Redeemer Lutheran Church Ministries

## Parish Register News and Notes!



### All Saints Sunday Sunday, November 5th

#### HONORING AND REMEMBERING

**Members of Redeemer Lutheran Church who have died since last All Saints Sunday:** Shirley Brendlinger, John Schwenk

**Friends & Relatives:** Robert R. Blinstrub Sr., Earl "Buddy" Bond, Himla Cheedie, Joseph Hochoer, Lisa Knoll, Henry Krajewski, Oscar Pillay, Whelema Pillay, Daniel Tomlinson, Denise Weber, Carol Whittam

### WELCA Thankoffering Service Sunday, November 19



### MEMORIAL DONATIONS – NOVEMBER 2023

*To the Glory of God and in  
Loving Memory of:*

*Shirley Brendlinger*

*John Schwenk*

*A Memorial was presented by:*

*Cheryl Fassak  
Lisa Staub*

*Edna Schwenk and Family*





# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The annual Christmas Bazaar was held Saturday, November 4 and was a huge success. Thank you to all the many people who helped make the bazaar great. It was such a nice opportunity to see people from Redeemer and also people from the community.





## Garden Club



Saturday, November 18, the Saturday before Thanksgiving, property team and garden club combined for fall lawn clean-up. Fourteen (14) hard working volunteers brought plenty of tools and did a wonderful job of making the lawn and flower beds look cared for.

Thank you to Scott Ditcher for setting the concrete pad for the new prayer bench in front of the church. And to Scott and Don Solt for setting the bench on Saturday morning.



Lila, Violet, and Dawn volunteering at the Pantry on Friday. They all look so busy and hard working.



## SOCIAL MINISTRY

Thanksgiving gift cards were provided to the Penndel women's shelter in the amount of \$50 each along with a fall mum.



# Food Ministry

## Food Pantry

This month we received a check for \$300.00 from the American Legion Penndel Memorial Post #436. This post helps us out every year as well. We are so grateful that all of these organizations continue to help our food pantry!



In November for Thanksgiving, the Boy Scouts from Troop 82 in Penndel who meet at OLG School, held their annual "Scouting for Food" drive. They go around neighborhoods and hang bags on people's doors and then come back to collect the food. They donated everything they collected to us! We are very happy that they do this for us every year!

Also for Thanksgiving, Keller Williams Real Estate in Langhorne donated 28 turkeys for us to give out to our food pantry friends. We supplied them with all the trimmings so they could have a nice Thanksgiving dinner.

This real estate company has been donating turkeys to us for a few years now and we appreciate it that they do this.



## Shared Meal

Shared meal on the first Tuesday of the month had 45 guests and 15 volunteers. The meal was ham, and pig roast pork with pineapple stuffing and corn bread from the pig roast.





## Poinsettias for Christmas Service

**DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>  
PAYMENT DUE WHEN ORDERING**

This Christmas season, a 2 quart poinsettia plant for \$7 will be available to order for the Christmas Worship services. A listing of sponsors and their memorial will be printed the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. Please make your check payable to **Redeemer Lutheran Church**.

Please contact Deb Farnham at 267-566-0043 or at [dgfteach@yahoo.com](mailto:dgfteach@yahoo.com) to order your flowers. You may also fill in the form below and turn it in/mail it the church office.

*Orders are due December 8th.  
Flowers must be paid for before they are ordered.*

Name	_____	
Phone	_____	
# Ordered	Red _____	White _____
In Memory Of	_____	
In Honor Of	_____	
Total Cost	_____	
Select One	pick up after service _____	OR give to home-bound _____

## Events Happening

### **Decorate the Church for Christmas Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**



Your help is needed and will be appreciated on Saturday, December 9th at 8:30 am as we decorate the sanctuary, narthex, and church entrances for our Advent and Christmas celebrations!

Also, if you are able to climb a ladder to hang the garland along the side aisles, we could use your help.



### **Christmas Giving Tree Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

As our tradition continues, the Giving Tree will be in the back of the church for the next few weeks. With your help, we can provide gifts to the children in shelters this Christmas. Redeemer has always been generous with this mission! Please pick an ornament, purchase the gift and return it wrapped, with the ornament attached on the outside.

If you are unable to shop, please consider a monetary donation so that a gift may be purchased and no child is forgotten.

**Presents are due by December 17<sup>th</sup>**

# Upcoming Events

## WELCA Christmas Outing Sunday December 10



Our **Christmas Outing** will be on Sunday, December 10, 3:30 pm at Bucks County Community College auditorium. We will see the Christmas Program of the Pennsylvania School for the Performing Arts. Cost is \$27.00.

If you would like to go, please contact Rita Solt.

## WELCA Christmas Cookie Walk Sunday, December 17

Please help the cookie walk be a success by baking cookies and delivering them to Redeemer before service on Sunday, December 17. Cookies need to be “loose” for easy choosing. Please **do not bag your cookies** as we will be giving containers for guests to choose their cookies.



A variety of beautiful and delicious Christmas cookies will be available in the Parish Hall following Worship service.



## December WELCA Christmas Party Tuesday, December 19

The WELCA Christmas Party will be Tuesday, December 19 at 12:00 Noon in the parish hall. Katherine Patelunas and her daughter, Elaine Copeland will host the Party. All Redeemer women are invited. Consider coming out – this is a really fun event!



## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Christmas Eve 7:00 pm**

Holy Communion Service with Carols,  
Candlelight and Special Music

**Christmas Day 9:20 am**

Holy Communion Service with Christmas Carols  
We encourage everyone to wear their pajamas to worship.

### **Christmas Choir**

Volunteers needed to join in  
singing with the Choir for the  
Christmas Eve Anthem.

Any questions, please reach  
out to Trevor.



## Social Ministry

Social Ministry in Action at Redeemer is committed to fulfilling God's command to "...Love Your Neighbors as Your Selves...there is no commandment greater" (Mark 12:31 NIV), and "...Whatever you did not do for the least of these, you did not do it for me" (Matthew 25:45 NIV).



Social Ministry holds their meetings on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 pm prior to Bible Study. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

## Financial Ministry



We continue to collect tapes from Redner Supermarkets and Brown's Shop Rite Stores. We do receive a percentage of money from these tapes which goes to the Current Fund.

Please try to keep them current. You can drop off your tapes Monday through Friday 12-1 or mail them to the church using the address of 239 Fairview Avenue, Penndel, PA 19047, or you can drop them in the basket in the narthex.

Thank you for your help.

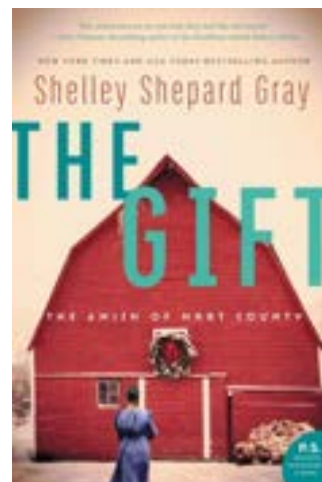
## Book Club

The current selection is *The Gift* by Shelley Shepard Gray.

The book club will meet Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2pm in the Parish Hall.

The book is available on Amazon and several used bookstore sites, and from the Bucks County library.

All are welcome to participate.





# Information Coordinator

OA will continue to meet in the church hall on Monday 7:30 pm and Friday 8:00 pm, except for the last Friday when the Fun Committee is there.

Girl Scouts will meet on Mondays at 5:00 pm and Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

Thursday evenings are still open for an outside group.

Bible study meets Mondays at 7:00 pm.

Bereavement/grief support group will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings at 8:00 pm.

## Jeannie Vitale, Chair



## Grief Share

The grief support group will go back to meeting on the second and fourth Monday at 8:00 pm following Bible Study.

Anyone who feels the need to share their grief, no matter how long or short it's been, is lovingly welcome.



## Bible Study

Bible Study meets every week on Mondays  
at 7:00 pm in the church building.

Come and join us for insightful and spirited conversation, and maybe you will discover something new!

# Evangelism News

December Evangelism Newsletter



## **Evangelism Quote of the month**

*"I know the resurrection is a fact, and Watergate proved it to me. How? Because 12 men testified they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, then they proclaimed that truth for 40 years, never once denying it. Every one was beaten, tortured, stoned and put in prison. They would not have endured that if it weren't true. Watergate embroiled 12 of the most powerful men in the world- and they couldn't keep a lie for three weeks. You're telling me 12 apostles could keep a lie for 40 years? Absolutely impossible." ~ Charles Colson*

## **11/17 Holiday Bingo**

Jasmyn and The fun Committee moved its Cabaret to the spring and filled the vacancy with a very successful Holiday Bingo! I think a good time was had by everyone, winners and losers alike. There was plenty of snacks, raffle baskets, and BINGO! I look forward to **Trivia in January**.

## **12/17 Christmas caroling after church**

We will be doing our annual Christmas Caroling after service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of advent this year. Anyone interested in joining us, please see John or Karen so we can get a good idea of how many people we will have join us this year.

## **Thrivent cards**

We need to be more active in recruiting new members everything we do should be using them. You can be an associate member for 19.95 per year as long as you are 16 or older and still qualify for a 250.00 action card. This is renewable, I checked.

Evangelism meets via zoom at 6pm on the first Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in joining please see Chris Ryan, Patti Finn, or just call or email the church so Jenn can send you the link.

**Our Next Meeting will be on Wednesday December 6, 2023 at 6pm via zoom**

Respectfully Submitted  
Chris Ryan 11/26/2023

# Stewardship Ministry

## A word on Christian Stewardship

by Denise Robinson

*Christian Stewardship is nothing less than a way of life. It is the understanding that everything we have, including our own lives, is a gift from God.*

*It is a way of looking at the world, at everything that touches our lives, through the eyes of faith. Once we accept Christian Stewardship as a way of life, we have found the key to what it means to live the Gospels. All else falls into place. In other words, Stewardship is everything we do after we say I believe.*



During the past few weeks we have been witnessing stewardship through Called to Love and Serve faith stories. We have been hearing how members of our church family are living a life of stewardship. The stories, though different, all resonate with one thing, "I believe". Read the italicized paragraphs again and again, and live your life as a disciple of God, using the gifts God has blessed you with to fulfill God's mission through stewardship.

We are the stewards of all that God has given us, may we care for each other, our community, our church, and the world through our gifts of time, talent, and financial offering.

During this time of Advent as we prepare for the birth of Jesus, the light of the world, let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Prayerfully consider how you are living a life through Christian stewardship. Is there more you can strive to do whether it be making better use of your time, using your talents, or revisiting your financial offerings?

You are the one person God picked out of everyone to be you. You have a unique calling and unique gifts that is a way of life. You are living Christian Stewardship. You are living discipleship through stewardship. Thanks and praise to you all that you see and use what God has blessed you with.

I believe! Go and serve the Lord.

*May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.*

# Discipleship through Dialogue

Read the following Bible verse, lesson, and prayer. You might want to discuss the ending questions with a family member or fellow

*1 Thessalonians 1:1-2, 5b-7, 9b-10 - Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ... You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us*

*and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ... You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*



It makes me squirm a bit, the way Paul comes right out and says, "You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake." He's talking about the example he and the other Christian missionaries set for the new believers, and he isn't a bit shy about it. He just points to himself and says, "Follow this example!"



That seems strange to me, probably because I was brought up in a culture where we are taught to downplay our own good qualities. I can't imagine going to my local congregation and saying during Bible class, "Look at me, look at the way I live. That's what you should be doing, too!"

## Discipleship through Dialogue continued

But maybe I should. Or maybe I should at least get over my embarrassment, because we all know that people learn best from example—from watching what other people do, people that they trust and love. My family has spent more than 30 years living among the Vietnamese immigrants of the St. Louis area, loving them, caring for them, doing the practical tasks that make life easier for people who are still in the process of learning English. And why? Because we love them. Because God called us to do this for them. Because we want them to know Jesus. Maybe we really *should* point to ourselves, just this once, and say, "Look at what we're doing."

Because the whole reason we're doing all these things, is so that they should know Jesus—so they see the way He loves them, all He does to care for them. We want them to see that though Jesus is God Himself, He loves them all so much that He lay down His own life and then rose again, to rescue them all from the power of death and the devil.

So, if they can see Jesus through my life, then ... well, I want them to look. Let them see Jesus—through me, through you, through every Christian. May our lives reflect Jesus so brightly that they all come to know Him and trust in Him forever—our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

**WE PRAY:** Dear Lord, shine through my life so that others will come to believe in You. Amen.

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. Are you shy or not? Why do you think so?
2. How do you feel when someone praises a good thing you did? How do you respond?
3. When have you seen Jesus living through the life of someone you know?

(This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Kari Vo, [lhm.org](http://lhm.org), October 18, 2023.)





# Sharing God's Bounty

## December

### Overjoyed by the Star

In Matthew 2, we read about the Visit of the Magi. Following the star, inquiring at the king's palace, informed by the priests where to find the Child, they trudged with determination to Bethlehem, bringing with them the gifts they planned to present as they worshiped him. *"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh"* (Matthew 2:10-11).

What did the Wise Men from the East know about this Baby or his family? Not much. Yet they came in faith, bringing gifts with them to honor him. How far did they travel? How long was their trip? We can surmise, but what's important to know is that, for them, the trip with all its drudgery was worth it. "They were overjoyed."

How long a trip are we prepared to make this Christmas to worship the Christ Child? Are we willing to put up with inconvenience and sacrifice in order that we might come before him with our gifts, offering them in faith, as the Wise Men did?

What causes our joy this Christmas season? Is it seeing the eyes of little children light up when they open their presents? That's good. Is it finding exactly the right gift for someone special? That's good, too. But are we "overjoyed" when we see the star? Contrary to the messages we hear in the commercials and even the seasonal songs, the only thing Christmas is about is the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Along with doing all the wonderful things that are good to do at this time of the year, including the visiting of sick and the shut-in, the baking of goodies for food banks, the sharing of financial resources with those in need, and all the shopping and caroling and everything else, let's find our joy in seeing the star. That star points us to Jesus and leads us to the Cross. Let us "open our treasures" and worship him with our best and most precious gifts as the Wise Men did.

*Perhaps the real significance of giving is what it does to the steward. What matters to God is not the gift, but the giver. Stewardship is God's invitation to a way of life. It helps us to overcome our selfishness and love of things. What we do with what we have been given is a sign to God and to the world of the depth and meaning of our commitment.*

# December Celebrations



12/3 Annette Carson  
12/3 Ally Hommen  
12/5 Travis McMullen  
12/7 Janet Maher  
12/8 Kristie Mabin  
12/14 Beth Bowe  
12/15 Linda English Patton  
12/20 Diane Anderson  
12/20 Martin Danielson

12/22 David Erdman  
12/24 Jeffrey Mason  
12/26 Michelle Morris  
12/27 Susan Haimowitz  
12/27 Marilyn Kucey  
12/27 Vera Defeo  
12/29 Bill Anderson  
12/31 Thomas Herb



12/8/1998

Donna Parfitt-Herbert and  
Leland Herbert

"Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Sometimes our records are incomplete. Please let us know."

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



## SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

Sunday @ 9:20 AM

All ages welcome to join us!

Any questions?

Reach out to Miss Jess

[xmissjessx92x@gmail.com](mailto:xmissjessx92x@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

- SUN. DECEMBER 3RD – ADVENT MATINS SERVICE (1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT)
  - NO Class! Enjoy service with your family!
- SUN. DECEMBER 10TH
  - SCS
- SUN. DECEMBER 17TH
  - SCS
- SUN. DECEMBER 24TH – CHRISTMAS EVE
  - SCS - Movie Day (the Christmas Story)
- SUN. DECEMBER 31ST – NEW YEAR'S EVE
  - No Class!
- SUN. JANUARY 7TH
  - SCS
- SUN. JANUARY 14TH – YOUTH SUNDAY
  - NO CLASS – YOUTH SUNDAY!



## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS & HELPERS

Our KidMin Program needs some extra help with Sunday Morning  
Sunday School Classes!

Reach out to Jess if your interested or have any questions

[xmissjessx92x@gmail.com](mailto:xmissjessx92x@gmail.com)





## Kid's Pages December

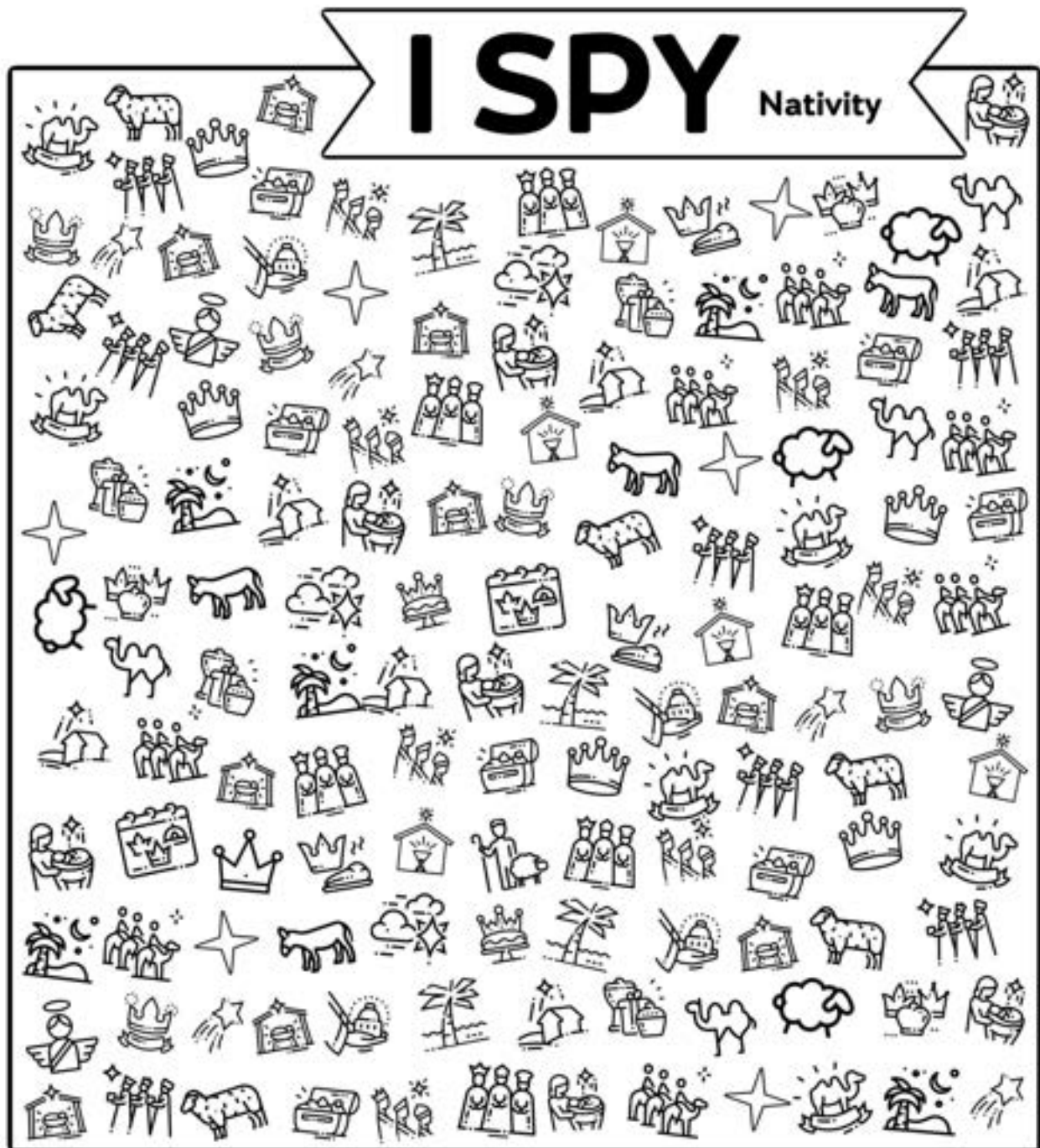


# What Child is This?

## —Christmas Quiz—

1. Why were Joseph and Mary traveling so close to her due date?
  - a. to celebrate Hannakuh
  - b. to buy food during a famine
  - c. to register for taxes
  - d. to see a doctor
2. Why was Jesus born in a stable?
  - a. Joseph couldn't afford a hotel
  - b. to ensure their donkey wasn't stolen
  - c. they enjoyed "roughing it"
  - d. there was no room in the inn
3. Why did Mary and Joseph name their baby Jesus?
  - a. an angel told them to
  - b. it was an old family name
  - c. it was a popular name at the time
  - d. the priest picked it at his circumcision
4. What does the name Emanuel mean?
  - a. "man-child" (literally "manly youth")
  - b. "led by the hand of the Lord"
  - c. "Jesus" in Hebrew
  - d. "God with us"
5. Who told the shepherds where they could find the baby Jesus?
  - a. Mary & Joseph, when they saw them on the road
  - b. the wise men, who passed them in the field
  - c. a choir of angels
  - d. all of the above
6. How did the wise men know where to find the Christ child?
  - a. they saw it in a dream
  - b. an angel told them
  - c. they followed a star
  - d. they followed the shepherds
7. What gifts did the wise men bring to baby Jesus?
  - a. silver & gold
  - b. frankincense, gold, & myrrh
  - c. honey, dates, & unleavened bread
  - d. 2 turtle doves & a partridge in a pear tree
8. Whom did the wise men tell Herod they were seeking?
  - a. the King of the Jews
  - b. the only begotten Son of God
  - c. the long awaited Messiah
  - d. the enlightened One
9. Herod asked the wise men to let him know when they found baby so he could...
  - a. count the baby in the census
  - b. worship the child also
  - c. announce the birth in the tribune
  - d. all of the above
10. What did Herod really plan to do when he found Jesus?
  - a. tax him
  - b. kidnap him
  - c. bow down to him
  - d. murder him
11. Why did the wise men go home by a different way?
  - a. because of bad weather
  - b. they discovered a shortcut
  - c. God warned them to do so in a dream
  - d. they were following a star
12. Where did God tell Joseph to take his family to escape Herod?
  - a. to Egypt
  - b. to Nazareth
  - c. to Jerusalem
  - d. to Rome

# Kid's Pages December



2		4		4		5		4		5		7		4		6		5	
1		6		7		1		3		6		7		4		7		5	
3		3		4		6		2		7		5		9		6		3	