



THE REDEEMER MESSENGER

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What is the Story of CHRISTMAS ...and why do we give gifts?

The story of Christmas occurred over 2000 years ago. It is the story of God sending his Son-Jesus Christ to earth. Jesus was the Son of God so he was greater than a king, yet, he was born in a very lowly place to a young and humble couple. Despite being born in a manger (which is kind of like a barn), surrounded by animals, people knew someone special had been born. God sent a star and an angel to let people know that his Son had arrived. They hurried to see him; some of them traveling for many miles. Today, when we celebrate Christmas we are celebrating Jesus' birthday.

Part 1: *The Story of* MARY AND THE ANGEL
(Luke 1:26-38)

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most

High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, his kingdom will never end.”

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.”

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

Part 2: *The Story of* JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL (Matthew 1:18-25)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet. “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” - which means, “God with us.”

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Part 3: *The Story of the* BIRTH OF JESUS (Luke 2:1-7)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first

census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Part 4: *The Story of the* SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGEL (Luke 2:8-15)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to the, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Part 5: *The Story of the* SHEPHERDS VISITING BABY JESUS (Luke 2:16-20)

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Part 6: *The Story of the* MAGI AND KING HEROD
(Matthew 2:1-8)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written.

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

Part 7: *The Story of the* MAGI WORSHIPPING JESUS
(Matthew 2:9-12)

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Why Do We Give Gifts at Christmas Time?

We give gifts at Christmas, because the magi gave gifts to Jesus.

The gift of gold was given to Jesus to symbolize that He was God in the flesh.

The gift of frankincense given to Jesus to symbolize His holiness

and His purity.

The gift of myrrh symbolized His suffering, trials, tribulations, and afflictions to come.

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Saints in Christ Jesus our Lord:

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to you and your family!

Please join us for our holiday (the word means Holy Day!) services:

Advent Sunday worship

9:00am December 3, 10, 17, and 24

Advent midweek worship - "Samuel, David, and Solomon prophesy their Lord and ours, Jesus Christ the Savior"

7:00pm services on Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20

Children's Christmas Program

Immediately following Divine Service on Sunday December 17

Christmas Eve Hymns and Readings

5:00pm Sunday December 24

Christmas Day Divine Service

9:00am Monday December 25

The Feast of St. John the Evangelist

7:00pm Wednesday December 27

The Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus Divine Service (New Year's Eve)

9:00am Sunday December 31

God's Blessings,

Pastor Alex Post

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Dennis Hegdahl, Keven Kirk, Charlie Swanson, Kyle Kirk,
Randy Frohwein, Ben Barker

GREETERS

December	3	Brandon and Rheba Yost
	10	Richard and Bernita Zitzow
	17	Joe and Jana Robertson
	24	Mike Stubbs, Becky Ross
	31	Dennis and Penny Hegdahl

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

December	3	Keven and Renee Kirk
	10	Randy and Karen Frohwein
	17	Randy and Susan Baker
	24	Richard and Bernita Zitzow
	31	Patty Collins, Nancy DeKock

AUDIO VIDEO TECH

December	3	Brandon Yost
	10	Mike Stubbs
	17	Pat Lowry
	24	Kyle Kirk
	31	Keven Kirk

ATTENDING ELDERS

December	3	Roger Mathews, Charles Misek
	13	Steve Runge
	17	Dennis Sickels, Brad Sickels
	24	Pat Lowry, Brian Alliger
	25	Steve Runge
	27	Steve Runge
	31	Brad Sickels, Brian Mohr

COMMUNION WARE

December	3	Max and Gwen Nash
	24	Keven and Renee Kirk

ASSIMILATION BOARD

December 2nd we will be decorating the church for Christmas beginning at 9:00 AM.

December 9th we will be going caroling beginning at 2:00 PM. Meet at the church to car pool to our various locations.

January 6th, 2018 (really already!) We will disassemble the church decorations and put them away for another year.

We hope you will join us for any or all of these events.

A blessed Thanksgiving to you all!

Sandy Rhodes, Director of Assimilation

HOUSE OF COMPASSION

Thank you to everyone who helped cook and serve on November 7th. Your willingness to help is much appreciated. In 2017 we will cook and serve the 1st Tuesday of every month. Our next serving date is Tuesday, December 5th. Cooking starts at 2 p.m. and serving begins at 4:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy DeKock, 753-7878. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in the past for cooking, serving and working at the House of Compassion.



Strengthening and Supporting Lutheran Families

By Jonathan Lange

During the previous triennium, the LCMS Office of National Mission undertook a “Lutheran Family Initiative.” This forward-looking effort was commended by 2016 Resolution 16-02A and written into the Synod’s existing mission priorities. It affirms that to “strengthen and support the Lutheran family to live out God’s design” is not only important to the mission of the Church, but that it is mission work itself. When the Bible teaches that Adam was made in the image of the Triune God (“... in our own image, after our likeness. ...”), it immediately specifies, “male and female he created them” (Gen. 1:26–27). In this way marriage is directly tied to the life of humankind.

Marriage, life and family are biblically bound together. They are interwoven realities rooted in creation, distinguishable but inseparable. From this simple observation, it is clear that the strengthening of families necessarily involves the strengthening of marriage. It also follows that the strengthening of both marriage and family are a direct benefit to the sanctity of human life.

Here is where LCMS Life Ministry comes into play. Since the tragic ruling of *Roe v. Wade*, the LCMS has been focused on upholding the sanctity of life of the unborn human being. More recently, the appearance of the Hemlock Society has presented a direct challenge to the sanctity of life at all ages.

Now, in the face of myriad assaults on holy marriage and the integrity of the family, we must recognize that our devotion “to upholding the sanctity of human life” compels us to uphold the sanctity of marriage and to support of the family in direct support of life itself.

The Office of National Mission, which has been tasked with implementing Resolution 16-02A, is thinking both deeply and concretely on how this might be done. It is exploring how the specific ministries of life, marriage and family might be brought under a single roof to the benefit of all three.

Currently the office has a goal of producing both a theological rationale and a structural road map to accomplish this by the festival of the Holy Nativity 2017. Pray that God would bless this work with His wisdom and grace.

The Rev. Jonathan Lange is the Marriage, Life and Family consultant for the LCMS Office of National Mission and pastor of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Evanston, Wyo. -Notes for Life, Fall 2017, Volume 12, Issue 1 is published by



Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.

Col. 3:14

At our November meeting a decision was made on our Christmas Mission donation. A list of those remembered will appear in our next newsletter.

LWML Greeting Cards are available to purchase (located on a table in the Parish Hall.) Sympathy, Christmas, Birthday and Get Well cards, \$6. per box (only \$.50 per card) with a portion of this going to Missions. A basket for your purchase is on the table, or you may give money to Marjean Meyer or Melanie Sickels. (any checks can be made payable to the LWML)

Anyone still interested in purchasing a Poinsettia (\$10.) to be used in the Church for Christmas decoration please; call Nancy DeKock 641-753-7878.

Joining our LWML at our November meeting was Gail Friest Blink who will serve on the Altar Circle. WELCOME Gail.

Remaining as officers for 2018 are: President, Deloris Clayton; Vice President, Millie Kosar; and Secretary, Dorothy Lueders. We appreciate their faithful service. We are looking for someone to serve as Treasurer. The dedicated service of Marjean Meyer for many years has been appreciated.

Nancy DeKock thanks the sewing ladies, Byron Rhodes and any others who watered and took care of the flowers in the planters this summer.

Patty Collins and Nancy DeKock decorated the outside planters with Poinsettias and Christmas decorations.

Iowa East District LWML Convention will be held in Cedar Rapids on June 15-16, 2018. Remember to save your ink cartridges which is one of our Mission projects.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 21 at 9:30 AM. Hostesses are Cheer & Flower Circle. We always welcome ALL ladies of Redeemer. Come and share the Christmas spirit with us.

DEVILS ON THE ROOF

“If I heard that as many devils would set on me in Worms as there are tiles on the roofs, I should none the less have ridden there.”

(The city of Worms, Germany, was where Luther’s teachings were challenged as heresy.)

Martin Luther’s “*Little Instruction Book*”



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
Thursday, November 16, 2017

Redeemer Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 7:00 PM. The Collect for the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity was read as the opening prayer. Pastor Post led a Bible Study of John 18:28-40, prepared by President Egger.

Members Present: President: Keith Egger; Pastor Alex Post; Future Financial Secretary: Randy Baker; Elders Director: Steve Runge; Stewardship Director: Brian Mohr; Assimilation Director: Sandy Rhodes; Youth Ministry Director: Rheba Yost; Church Property Director: Brad Pennington and President Secretary: Rebecca Baedke.

Members Absent: Second Vice President: Bruce Johnson; Treasurer Sam Zoske; Financial Secretary: Charles Swanson; Social Ministry Director: Nancy DeKock and Evangelism Director: Janelle Shatava.

Vacant Positions: First Vice President and Director of Parish Education.

Sandy motioned to approve the agenda with additions of 1) two new Elders for council approval, and 2) security at the church. Rheba seconded. Motion carried. Rheba motioned to approve minutes of last month. Brian seconded. Motion carried.

Statistical Report: Last month attendance averages included: Sunday morning worship: 99; Wednesday evening worship: 25; Sunday school: 4 and Adult Bible Class 35. Membership totals remain 329 Baptized and 260 Communicant.

Financial Report: Sam Zoske and Charles Swanson were absent. Randy Baker was welcomed as the future Financial Secretary. Charlie will be outside of Iowa for the next three weeks and provide orientation for Randy upon his return. Financial reports were reviewed. Brad moved and Rheba

seconded to approve the financial reports. Motion carried.

Board of Elders: Director Steven Runge reported the Elders met November 9 with Pastor Post and 5 elders in attendance.

1. Devotions began on the Creed from Luther's Large Catechism.
2. Minutes of October 1st special Elder's meeting pertaining to new copier lease and regular meeting of last month were approved.
3. Communion assistants for next month were scheduled.
4. Holiday service times were agreed upon as follows: Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm; Christmas Day Divine Service with Holy Communion at 9:00 am; New Year's Eve Sunday morning service at 9:00 am with Holy Communion observing "The eve of the circumcision of Jesus". It was decided not to hold an evening New Year's Eve service.
5. Pastor Post made 16 pastoral care home/shut-in visits to 34 individuals last month.
6. Due to recent violence in a Texas church, additional security measures were discussed to propose to the church council.
7. The Elders continued work on their 2018 budget.
8. Two new interim elders, Ben Barker and Mike McKibben, were approved to fill the term ending at the 2018 congregational meeting and then be on the agenda for two-year terms at annual meeting in February.
9. The next Elders meeting will be Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

Board of Stewardship: Director Brian Mohr reported

1. Envelopes for 2018 will be available in the coming weeks.
2. Gift cards for seminary students will again be collected.

Board of Assimilation: Director, Sandy Rhodes reported

1. On November 12, 28 persons enjoyed the play, "Rise Up Old Men" at the Old Creamery Theater, followed by dinner at the Ox Yoke Inn.
2. December 2 the church will be decorated for Christmas.
3. December 9 those wishing to go sing Christmas carols at various care facilities will meet at the church at 2 pm.
3. January 6 the church Christmas decorations will be taken down and placed in storage.
4. Sandy reported she will not serve another term as Assimilation Director.

Board of Social Ministry: Director Nancy DeKock was absent.

1. Nancy informed Keith she will not serve another term as Social Ministry Director.
2. A meal was served by Redeemer members at the House of Compassion on November 7 for approximately 42 persons.
3. December 5 is the next date Redeemer will serve.
4. November is Redeemer's month to collect items for the House of Compassion Supply Closet.

Board of Parish Education:

December 17 will be the Children's Christmas Program. Practices will be at 11 am the three preceding Sundays.. All who wish to attend an adult catechesis classes for new members are asked to contact Pastor Post.

Board of Evangelism: Director Janelle Shatava submitted a written report in her absence;

Visitors who signed the guest book last month and provided mailing addresses were sent information, including Diane Smith, Jami Chambers and Mary Kay North. Persons attending with no addresses for mailings included Richard and Sherry Kasischke, David and Kay Schmidt and John and Helen Maddick.

Board of Youth Ministry: Director Rheba Yost reported Jamie Smith, Nyapukah Ngor and Rheba plan to attend a retreat November 16 and 17. Information of the 2018 Higher Things conference will be distributed to youth and parents in the near future.

Board of Church Property: Director Brad Pennington reported

1. A white board was purchased and delivered and will be set up. Classical Conversations will reimburse Redeemer for this cost.
2. Service Master has been scheduled to clean the fellowship hall, both East and West entrances and a portion needed in the area of the nave.
3. Landon and Landon will be estimating cost of window and door replacement for near future consideration.
4. Mossman Roofing was contacted about revising an earlier estimate and has indicated that due to changes in personnel he could no longer take care of our future roofing repair needs.

President Report: Keith reported Redeemer received \$180 in Thrivent Choice Dollars within the last month, for a total of \$1,636 received in 2017.

Old Business:

Nominees for Iowa District East Officers were discussed. Brian confirmed the motion to nominate the following: Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders as District President; for 1st Vice President: Rev W Max Mons of St Paul's Chapel, Iowa City

and Rev Dr. Matthew Rueger, St John, Hubbard; for 2nd Vice President: Rev Dr. Matthew Rueger, St John, Hubbard, and Rev. Paul Beisel, Immanuel, Iowa Falls. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Steve motioned Ben Barker and Mike McKibben to fill vacant Elder positions with a term ending at the February 2018 annual congregational meeting. Rheba seconded. Motion carried.

2. Church security was discussed with the idea of locking doors following the start of services and ushers watching for anyone needing to enter later. Announcements will be made and notices printed for the newsletter, bulletin and doors.

Old Business:

1. Nomination of a Redeemer delegate to the June 29 & 30 of 2018 District Convention is due by January 31, 2018.

2. 2018 Budget was reviewed.

This Church Council will next meet on Tuesday, December 19, 2017; at 7:00 pm. Steve motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 pm. Rheba seconded. Meeting was adjourned. Pastor Post led the Evening Prayer to close the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca J Baedke

<p>Please pick up a free copy of “The Lutheran Journal” from the table in the parish hall and an “IDE” from the visitors table in the narthex.</p>
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Address correction requested