

Our Redeemer's Voice

December 2025



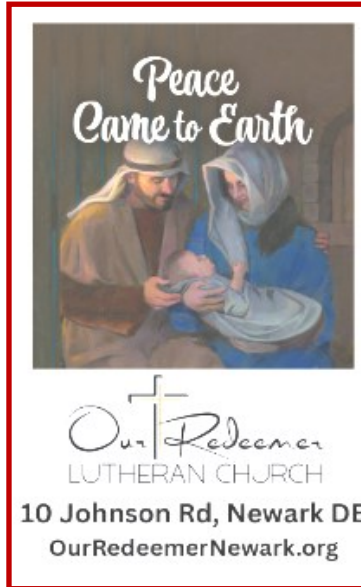
It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas



Our Christmas decorations at church look great! It is nice to see the church look so festive and it is good to see the rich symbolism in some of the ornaments. On the tree are **chrismons**. A chrismon is a "Christ monogram" or a symbol of Christ. Stars, crosses, a fish, a crown etc. are on the tree. These images give us one more way to reflect on the love of God the Father that is ours in Jesus Christ. (The banners, the mosaics, and the windows in our sanctuary are other ways that artistry helps proclaim the Good News.)

All of the decorations get us ready for the gift of Jesus. The season of Advent certainly does that as well. It is a time of preparation. I appreciate how this holy season in the church works with the natural world. Nature is dark around us. There isn't a whole lot of light outside. And the church knows what that darkness is. We deal with sins and their ruinous effects. Those sins are evident. Sometimes those sins creep inside the church. The level of venom, anger, hostility, and hatred; the ease in which people rise to fight; the ways people make judgments without knowledge and publicize those judgments...it's dark on so many levels. And there is only one candle at the start. Yet "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." {John 1}

The church gets brighter week by week. The church gets brighter as we get closer to the yearly remembrance of Christ's birth, of the angels bringing the news of glory in the highest and peace on earth. At last, on Christmas Eve, the Christ Candle shines. Yes, the light of Christ will burn and we will bask in the knowledge of Immanuel- God with us.



Join Us For Worship

Advent starting **Nov 30**
Wednesday Evenings **7 PM**
Sundays **10 AM**

Christmas Eve 7 PM
Christmas Morning 10 AM

Candlelight Portion of the Service.
Familiar Hymns & Carols.
Traditional Christmas Story.
Peace in a Time of Division and Hostility

THIS MONTH...

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10 Johnson Road, Newark, DE 19713
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www.ourredeemernewark.org
Reverend Jeremy Loesch

Of the many gifts of God at Christmas, the knowledge that God has not left us alone is very important. That brings peace to a world filled with division, where the devil works so hard to divide, to split the sheep and lambs of God's flock away from the flock and then devour them.

"Peace Came to Earth" will be the theme for our midweek Advent services and for our service on Christmas Eve. I am really pleased how this theme converges with the need around us and maybe the need within us. There will be sermons on that theme during the Wednesday services and during our Christmas Eve service.

About our Wednesday services...we are going to attempt Holden Evening Prayer. Evening Prayer is often associated with Advent for the focus on light. Holden Evening Prayer is a different setting of the service. The setting of the service was composed in 1986 by church musician Marty Haugen in Holden Village in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State.
(Continued next page)

Holden Village is a retreat center in that part of the country. It will be a new setting of this service for us. We'll give it a try. The bulletins we'll use are easy to follow.

Another thing about the Wednesday services...they are a wonderful piece of the Advent season. Advent is a busy time. December is a busy month. Work is busy. Gatherings fill the calendar. Then there are regular appointments and the everyday things of life that have to happen. So add some time for prayer and devotion and worship. We are preparing for the coming of Jesus. It is good to sit in the sanctuary and let the peace of God wash over you and fill you.

Peace has come to earth. This is not a new message. It's actually the message every Sunday. In **peace**, let us pray to the Lord. The **peace** of the Lord be with you always. The Lord bless you and keep you...and give you **peace**.

Celebrate Advent and Christmas and receive the gift of peace that God has prepared just for you.

Blessings—Pastor

December—Advent & Christmas

*From December 2019 ORLC Archives
By Arlen Besel, Worship Chair*

Years ago in rural Washington, the children's Christmas program included the children reciting the Christmas story from Luke 2. Our calendar begins Advent with either the Palm Sunday story or Jesus explanation about the end times.

The Gospel continues with the story about John the Baptist preaching. Then Jesus describes the role of John in His own ministry.

Matthew's account of Jesus' birth starts with Joseph's concerns over Mary's pregnancy and the angel's assurance and giving Jesus His name.

The Apostle John provides us with a full account of Jesus as God's Son who participated in creation and was sent to earth to be born human so that He could be our Savior.

The Advent Gospel message ends with the holy family's flight to Egypt to avoid Jesus death at the hands of Herod.

The Epistle lessons begin with Romans 13 and the reminder that Christians must live under the authority of civil officers. This message continues with a reminder of our obligation to others.

James reminds us that we must be patient in suffering and the value of perseverance.

In Romans Paul outlines his role to share the Gospel with everyone.

Hebrews begins with a reminder that Jesus is far superior to angels and is clearly described as the Son of God. The description makes clear that Jesus was a part of the creation event and was established as one who is above everyone and thing.

The Epistle lessons end with a reminder in Galatians that Jesus birth and life was focused on His role to provide salvation to all who would believe in Him.

The Old Testament lessons are mostly from Isaiah and prophesy of the coming Messiah and His role in the salvation story. God provided a clear map of the future Savior and our redemption.

Take advantage of the mid-week Advent services.



Hope ~ Peace ~ Joy ~ Love

Let us practice all about this Advent season

King of Kings



By Dr. Kari Vo

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered

with Mary, his betrothed, who was with Child. (Luke 2:1-5)

How strange it seems! The Emperor Augustus spoke, and the wheels of government started turning. And so a small family had their first baby far from home, in Bethlehem—a baby who was the Son of God.

Jesus would be a very different ruler than Augustus—a King who lived among the poor, a refugee for some years, and homeless Himself as an adult. He served people rather than being served—patient years of teaching, healing, listening, and forgiving. And when the time was right, He lay down His life to save His people. And His crown was of thorns, and His throne was a cross.

But that wasn't the end—for Jesus broke the power of death, not only for Himself but for all of us as well—for everyone who trusts in Him. Augustus died without ever knowing about the greatest thing that happened during his long years in power. But we know—because God made sure that this good news went out into all the world. We have a King who loves us, and we who trust in Him will live with Him in His kingdom forever.

WE PRAY: Father, thank You for giving us Jesus as our loving King! Amen.



Our Redeemer News & Notes



CHRISTMAS

GATHERING—Join us Christmas Day for a "Gathering of the Three" when Our Redeemer hosts Faith Lutheran and Concordia Lutheran

at 10 a.m. Together we will unify our hearts as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. Pastor Thress will play the organ. Pastor Kummer will preach while Pastor Loesch assists.

PRAYER LIST— Karen, Mary, Carl, Mimi, Faith, Hanah, Michael, Bill, Janet, Charlu, Jessie, Betty, Hertha, Sarah, Sandy, Libby, and Louise.

ATLER GUILD TREE TRIM & DECORATION DAY—On November 30, the first Sunday in Advent, we will be decorating the House of our Lord. Please join us after the service to create a joyous sharing of our hearts as we greet this blessed season.—*Lina*

ADVENT FELLOWSHIP—After the 7 p.m. Wednesday night advent services, join us in the commons room for coffee, cookies and conversation fellowship. If you can bring some coffee or other dessert to share, please let me know.—*Lina*

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP HOUR— All fellowship gatherings are held after service the second Sunday of the month. We ask 2 to 3 people to bring items such as simple snacks, desserts, finger foods, etc. to share. See Lina. You can also sign up to bring items on the bulletin board in the Narthex. November fellowship is on the 9th. —*Lina*

BIBLE STUDY—Bring your coffee and join us each Sunday at 8:45 a.m.



News & Notes.... CONTINUED

2026 CALENDARS AVAILABLE—2026 Calendars may be picked up in the resource area, or in the Narthex.

NEW MEMBER CLASS—Lutheranism 101 Class for prospective members, or members who wish to refresh their knowledge, continues on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. "We utilize the Lutheranism 101 book and materials. Even if you missed the first classes, you are still welcome to join us—*Pastor*

CHRISTMAS CLOTHING DRIVE—*HOPE ON DECK*. We are collecting *NEW* clothing for older foster children, ages 10 and up. Sweatshirts, pajamas, socks, underwear, shoes, shirts, jacket, gloves, hats. —*Ruth*

BUILD-A-BAG PROJECT—**MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!**

If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:11

We have finished 6 sleeping bags in 2 months. That's about half of the all the bags we made during our 2024 fall and winter, and 2025 spring work sessions. It's all thanks to long time partners Ruth and Lina, and Theresa who joined us in September and Paul Kasulis joined us in November. He wanted to find out about our mission and willingly learned to sew helping us finish bag #6. He returned to help measure and labeled materials for future sleeping bags. Bonnie Johnston also stopped by bringing 4+ bags of sheets and other materials from members at St. John's in Dover. She stayed to help us prep the sheets for use. Thanks be to God for hands brought together in His service. Finished bags are being delivered to Hope on Deck. (see below)

HOPE ON DECK—Because calls to Newark Empowerment Center have not been returned, three of the sleeping bags were donated to Hope on Deck the first week of November. Here is a little about them from their website <https://hopeondeck.org/>: "Hope On Deck has been a cornerstone of the community since 2018, growing by over 400% thanks to a strong social media presence and generous donations. They provide essential items and services to vulnerable populations, including individuals struggling with addiction, recovery, and homelessness. They also help foster care children affected by parental substance use disorder or mental health issues.

Hope on Deck partners other social service organizations to supply vital necessities such as hygiene products, clothing, food, and accessories. They provide tents, sleeping bags, and essential items to homeless individuals. They donate new clothing, book bags, and school supplies to ensure they have the tools needed to succeed to foster care children..

The sleeping bags were made by ladies at Our Redeemer Lutheran Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Newark, De. If anyone is interested in learning how to make them they get together on Tuesdays. Let me know and I will get all the information.



Col. Wiley Blevins (Delaware Guard, ret.) greets Arlen at The Summit's Celebration of Service on Veteran's Day. Arlen served in Germany and Beirut Lebanon from 1958 to 1961

Community outreach extends beyond material support. They feed 125-200 individuals weekly through collaborations with bakeries and grocery stores. Additionally, they have trained over 800 individuals in Narcan use to combat the opioid epidemic, with a goal of reaching 1,500 by mid-2025.

At the heart of the organization lies a simple yet powerful philosophy: showing everyone love and compassion while meeting them where they are. By embracing this approach, they strive to make a tangible, lasting impact on the lives of those served." We will continue to support Hope on Deck taking sleeping bags to their collaborative partner the Meeting Ground Street Outreach in Elkton. <https://www.meetingground.org/> — *Marybeth, Ruth, Lina*

SUNDAY SCHOOL —Sunday School is held on the first and third Sundays. Please see Robin if you have questions.

MEN'S BREAKFAST — All men, those in your household, and friends are invited to join us Sat. December 27 at 8 am. Let us talk, eat, and enjoy each other's company. Bring your own breakfast. We serve the coffee.

NEWSLETTER & ANNOUNCEMENTS—News to be included in Sunday's bulletin is due Tues. morning each week; newsletter deadline is 20th of the month.

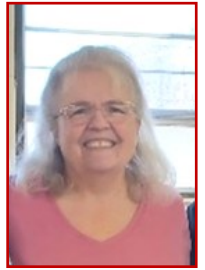
News & Notes.... CONTINUED

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY—Remember, the library always appreciates the donation of children, young adult and appropriate adult books. Thanks to all who donate books. —Julie

Spotlight on Marybeth



- You have been instrumental in continuing the ministry of helping to keep homeless warm in the winter through the Tuesday Build A Bag workshops, even recruiting a Chestnut Hill neighbor to get involved.
- Altar Guild—You are part of the altar guild team, helping to prepare the church for holidays and communion services.
- The flower beds always look better after you quietly come to pull weeds and trim away fading plants. Beautiful lilies and hyacinths pop up in the spring because you planted them.



- In the past, you have served as a Sunday School teacher bringing the word of the Lord to the next generation. For so many years you have been a faithful member and supporter of the Church in so many ways..
- At Church events you will be found helping to prepare and cleanup afterwards.
- LWML—You actively help plan and participate in events like the dinners for Lutheran Campus Ministries. You have helped other LWML organizations carry out projects that touch the lives of those in distress.
- Acting Treasurer—Currently you are serving as "acting" treasurer, an important part of tracking church expenses within the various budget categories.
- Quiet evangelism—The sign where Johnson Road meets Augusta proclaims a new message to the community nearly every week. You have become involved with the local homeowner's association with events and planning, keeping Our Redeemer's invitation to come and worship with us current.
- Marybeth you have done all of this and so much more out of your love for Jesus, for your church family, and for those in need. We have probably left something out, but we want to say, for this and everything else that you quietly do, we thank you.

THANK YOU



Each Month Our Redeemer's Voice will spotlight a different member of our congregation. Names are selected randomly. We have so many in our congregation who have let their light shine at Our Redeemer and beyond. We appreciate everyone, everyday!

It is a New Day



IN THE WORD

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

OF THE WORD

Sometimes we are glad to see days come to a close. They have been hard, boring, or exhausting. We have heard bad news, or we have suffered a heartbreaking event. "Whew!" we sigh, and we look to a new day for better times.

The birth of Jesus brought to the world a brand new day. It was the first day of His life on earth, a life that would bring Him the scorn and mockery of many who heard Him speak the Word of God in truth. It would bring Him betrayal and beating and death on a cross in fulfillment of the plan of God for our salvation. But His death was not His last day on earth! Three days later, Jesus rose, bringing to us victory over guilt and death, over hopelessness and despair. No matter what the day brings, today is a day to rejoice. Jesus came to bring the gift of His grace and the assurance of life in and with Him. He came so we can put the past behind us and delight in a brand new day.

WALKING WITH MY LORD

Lord Jesus, a new day dawned when You came down from heaven to earth, and now I can rejoice in You every day! Amen .

Mustard Seed: The Joy of Christmas. Author: Patricia Mitchell. 3/32 ©2011, revised 2024 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. www.lwml.org Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations were taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version Copyright ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



Lutherans Around Us



Joyful Christmas Blessings from Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD!



We're grateful for God's abundant blessings this year! New students continue to visit, and seven of this fall's visitors have become more fully connected to LCM's activities and opportunities, which is wonderful. LCM students enjoyed a fun hike together in White Clay Creek on a dazzling warm Saturday in early November, and this month, they're looking forward to holiday festivities and celebrations, including our Friendsgiving Dinner and Advent Party.

The November fundraiser continues to be a highlight of 2025. We're especially grateful to Grace Lutheran Church, who hosted the event, and to folks from Bethel Lutheran Church, who provided welcome support; along with at least seven other Delaware congregations that were represented by guests and gifts. In the midst of a joyful spirit, thoughtful speakers, and great community interactions, over 80 people attended, and receipts totaled more than \$12,000. We're delighted!

Thank you and bless you for the many ways in which you support LCM at UD, from home-cooked meals to fundraiser raffle baskets, from generous donations to heartfelt prayers raised on our behalf. Please continue to pray for our students this season, as they navigate final projects and exams, as well as for safe, joyful journeys home for Christmas. One of our juniors, Ilsa, will spend spring term studying abroad in France; please pray for travel mercies and special blessings for that experience!

We're so grateful for generous support from congregations. The practical, financial, and spiritual care of the wider LCM network empowers us to continue providing a nurturing, Christ-centered place for students to grow in faith, outreach, and discipleship. These inspiring students are encouraged in their lives of faith and in their emerging vocations. Through shared worship, fun, leadership, and service in LCM, they learn better how to embody God's love and grace in the midst of their communities by means of their diverse gifts and talents. Thank you for standing with us! We're all in this together.

May your Advent and Christmas seasons shine brightly with the light of Christ Jesus our Lord!

*In Christ, Mindy Holland, Minister of Word and Service +
Chaplain, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UD 302-368-3078; chaplain@lcmde.org*



Warm thanks and Christmas blessings from our LCM team!



OGT ACCEPTS DONATIONS—As you are doing your fall cleaning, keep Orphan Grain Train in mind. They are always accepting donations. All items **Must** be clean, in good repair, and only gently used. We **Need** men's, women's, children's and infant's clothing and shoes in all sizes and for all seasons as well as purses, handbags, reusable shopping totes. We accept accessories; scarves, gloves, belts, and **New** (packaged) underwear. **We Also Accept** the following non-apparel items:

- Curtains, drapes, tablecloths
- Sheets, blankets (no used bed pillows)
- Towels and washcloths
- Sewing fabric and supplies
- Children's items
- Soft and hard toys in good condition
- School supplies (no books)
- Personal care items
- Toothbrushes
- Bath-sized bar soap
- Sturdy combs
- Diapers (packaged) – Adult incontinence and infant





- Medical items – Canes, crutches, walkers, commodes, shower chairs, orthopedic supplies (e.g. boots, shoes), wheelchairs
- Bibles, hymnals

We CANNOT ACCEPT

- Heavily worn, damaged, or stained clothing
- Used underwear – e.g., bras and underpants – and used swimwear
- Glass, ceramic, electric, or battery-powered items
- Hygiene Kits – see Special Projects under What We Do at www.ogt.org

DECEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p>SERVING Pastor Jeremy Loesch</p> <p>ORGANISTS Julie</p> <p>USHERS Arlen, Denny</p>	<p>LECTORS 12/17 AB 12/14 EB 12/21 KG 12/24 12/25 12/28 JH</p>	<p>2 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.</p>	<p>3 Lutheranism 101 6 p.m. Advent Service 7 p.m.</p>	<p>4 Circuit Meeting</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS3 10 a.m. Sunday School . Communion  Julie</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.</p>	<p>10 Lutheranism 101 6 p.m. Advent Service 7 p.m.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship DS3 10 a.m. Digital Fellowship Sunday Special Congregational Mtg</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.</p>	<p>17 Lutheranism 101 6 p.m. Advent Service 7 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Newsletter Deadline</p>
<p>21 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Worship Communion DS3 10 a.m.—Julie </p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Announcement Deadline</p>	<p>24 Lutheranism 101 6 p.m. Nativity of Our Lord Communion 7 p.m  DS4</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Service with Faith and Concordia here at 10:00 a.m  DS4</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.</p>
<p>28 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. DS4 10 a.m. Worship—Digital</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Announcement Deadline</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>JANUARY 1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Communion DS4 10 a.m. Sunday School  Julie</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Announcement Deadline Build A Bag 10 a.m.</p>	<p>7 Lutheranism 101 6 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>

December Bible Readings

- 1 Luke 1:46-55
Revelation 1-2
- 2 Psalm 1
Revelation 3-5
- 3 Psalm 2
Revelation 6-8
- 4 Psalm 3
Revelation 9-11
- 5 Psalm 4
Revelation 12-14
- 6 Psalm 5
Revelation 15-17
- 7 Psalm 6
Revelation 18-20
- 8 Psalm 7
Revelation 21-22
- 9 Psalm 8
Isaiah 1-3
- 10 Psalm 9
Isaiah 4-6
- 11 Psalm 10
Isaiah 7-9
- 12 Psalm 11
Isaiah 10-12
- 13 Psalm 12
Isaiah 13-15
- 14 Psalm 13
Isaiah 16-18
- 15 Psalm 14
Isaiah 19-21
- 16 Psalm 15
Isaiah 22-24



***Read a little
each day and
you will get
through the
entire Bible in
one year***

- 17 Psalm 16
Isaiah 25-27
- 18 Psalm 17
Isaiah 28-30
- 19 Psalm 18
Isaiah 31-33
- 20 Psalm 19
Isaiah 34-36
- 21 Psalm 20
Isaiah 37-39
- 22 Psalm 21
Isaiah 40-42
- 23 Psalm 22
Isaiah 43-45
- 24 Psalm 23
Isaiah 46-48
- 25 Psalm 24
Isaiah 49-51
- 26 Psalm 25
Isaiah 52-54
- 27 Psalm 26
Isaiah 55-57
- 28 Psalm 27
Isaiah 58-60
- 29 Psalm 28
Isaiah 61-63
- 30 Psalm 29
Isaiah 64-66
- 31 Luke 1:46-55
Mark 1

