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DECEMBER 2022 ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9AM WORSHIP SERVICE

**10:15AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY, KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL AND
CONFIRMATION CLASS**

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Midweek Advent Services

Noon and 7 pm

Midweek Soup Supper

6pm

(Dec. 7, Dec. 14)

Choral Service/Kids Program (Dec. 18)

9am

Christmas Eve (no communion)

4pm & 8pm

Christmas Day (w/communion)

10am

FROM THE PASTOR

GOLD, INCENSE, AND MYRRH . . . AND A MESSAGE TO ALL

How much do babies appreciate the gifts they receive when they are born? Did Jesus, being the Son of God as well as the son of Mary, value the gifts the Magi brought? We would think those gifts impractical for a baby, but then this was not an ordinary baby. That gold bought food and lodging and everything that was needed by the holy family as they fled to Egypt and then got established in a new home. The incense was burned as their prayers ascended to the Father in Heaven, and the myrrh was used some thirty years later to anoint the body later of the Baby grown to be our Savior.

"The gifts are traditional gifts of the East," the Concordia Commentary on Matthew 2:11 tells us. We can be sure that these gifts were appreciated by our Lord, for St. Paul writes, *"If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have"* (2 Corinthians 8:12).

Were the gifts of the shepherds that first Christmas night acceptable as well? What did the shepherds bring? The Bible does not record their bringing any gift at all – except, that is, the gift of their running to the stable with anticipation, the gift of their humble worship as their anticipation turned to realization, and the gift of their *"spread[ing] the word concerning what had been told them"* as they returned to their flocks, *"glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen"* (Luke 2:17, 20). It is obvious the willingness was there as the shepherds brought gifts according to what they had. Therefore, according to Scripture, their gifts were acceptable.

We, too, can be sure that our gifts are appreciated by our Lord – the gifts of our treasures – our gold and silver and the gifts of our praise and adoration as we witness to what we have heard and seen. Like the Magi and the shepherds, we are drawn to the manger bed. Like them, we kneel in awe and adoration. Like them, we use the gifts God gives us, wherever we are, wherever God places us, to *"spread the word concerning what [has] been told [us]."*

Pastor Todd

ELDERS CORNER – DECEMBER 2022

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace, there will be no end...” Isaiah 9: 6-7

The Advent season has begun. Advent comes from the Latin word “adventus” which means arrival or coming, as in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ as a baby born in Bethlehem. Advent is the beginning of the church year and following Advent is Christmas.

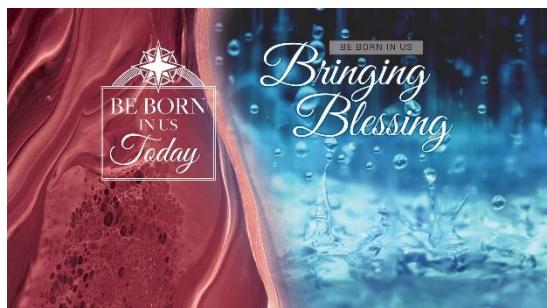
This year, retailers began selling Christmas gifts in October, some advertising “Black Friday” type sales. Each year it seems that the world attempts to take Christ out of Christmas, but no matter how early they start, they cannot diminish the significance of the birth of a Child in a stable on that special night in Bethlehem, over 2,000 years ago. *“...The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”* Isaiah 7:14 *“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means God with us)”* Matt. 1:23 Isn’t it comforting that we can always say that God is with us. *“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you (God) are with me.”* Psalm 23:4 *“If God is with us, who can be against us?”* Romans 8:31 Thank God for being with you, even if it has not been a good day, week, month, or year. He gave His life for us all and is waiting to welcome us to come home. *“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 4:7

Blessed Christmas to All!

Will Landrum, Redeemer Elders.

Midweek Advent Series

BE BORN IN US TODAY



In this Advent series, we are reminded that Christ is born in us spiritually today and every day. He enters into us daily to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence within us as we become more and more like him in the living of our lives.

Week 2 (Dec. 7) • Be Born in Us Today Bringing Renewal (Isaiah 40:31): The prophet Isaiah declared that a Holy One from God would be born into this world to bring renewal to all the faint and weary. Christ's birth restores our strength that we might serve him.

Week 3 (Dec. 14) • Be Born in Us Today Bringing Guidance (Psalm 31:3): The children of Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years, often doubting God's plan for them. With the arrival of Jesus on the scene, we have a clear path to the promised land of heaven through him who is the Way.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS - are available in the Narthex. You can choose from the booklet that follows the Midweek theme "Be Born in Us Today" or the booklet put out by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Or take one of each! There are also Advent Devotions available for kids complete with stable and stickers.



MIDWEEK ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS – Watch for the sign-up sheet for Advent soup suppers to be posted in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider providing soup, rolls, or dessert on any of the following Wednesdays: Dec. 7, and Dec. 14. Soup should be ready to serve at 5:30p. Contact Ronda with questions.

Special Thanks To

- ❖ All who took time out of their Saturday to help decorate the church for Christmas and to Dian Mauth for coordinating the effort.
- ❖ Everyone for their prayers, cards and well wishes after the passing of Gina's father. *Pastor and Gina*
- ❖ Everyone for their prayers, cards and well wishes to Chuck Fordham this past year as he dealt with health issues. May you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Chuck and Hermine Fordham*

MEN'S GROUP - All men are invited to Men's Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 9am in the Fellowship Hall. Come for good food, fellowship and bible study.



VOTER'S MEETING – Sunday, Dec. 18 immediately following worship service (10:20ish). The agenda will include board reports, approval of 2023 budget and a brief update on By-laws revision project.

COMPASSION KITCHEN volunteer sign-up sheet is posted for December. Please look at your calendar and sign up for a week, or two! It is easy, fun, and you get a delicious lunch! Volunteers arrive at 11:30am and are done by 1:30pm. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered. It really is a joy to be able to work with and get to know more people in our congregation.



The Compassion Kitchen team

December Birthdays

- 2 Deb Werner
- 3 Kevin Einspahr
- 4 Aspen Gibson
- 5 Cheryl Evenson
- 6 Cindy Norberg
- 10 Kaylee Sorensen (Kroll)
- 13 Ken Sump, Elizabeth Uhrich
- 14 Duane Frank, Linka Compton
- 15 John Rohlfing
- 16 Kathy Breese, Pierce Gibson, Chloe Julson
- 17 Angela Julson, Jerry Weldon
- 18 Jeff Mauth
- 19 Parker Gibson
- 20 Katherine Gibson
- 22 LaVada Mundt
- 23 Becky Bond, Melba Niemuth
- 24 Roxy Grall
- 29 Dorothy Thieme
- 30 Tom Valenti

Anniversaries

- 2 Andy & Sally Grego
- 12 Karl & LaVada Mundt
- 22 Andy & Donna Sutherland
- 28 Jeff & Dian Mauth

January Birthdays

- 1 Liesl Batdorf, Rick Gartner
- 7 Sash Eirich, Taylor Kroll
- 10 Misty Lyon
- 13 Donna Sutherland
- 14 Kelsey Yarbrough
- 16 Jesse Ingle
- 17 Joy Ledgerwood
- 20 Bob Littlejohn
- 21 Jan Dykeman
- 23 Joey Riordan
- 24 Daniel Engelmann
- 25 Colton Lyon
- 26 Rev. Laurence Meyer
- 29 Dee McDorman

Anniversaries

- 9 Bob & Jan Spencer
- 14 Bob & Cheryl Evenson
- 24 Ken Dobbin & Nancy Petrowicz
- 28 Nate & Ariel Gruzs

PRAYERS – Please let the office know of any changes to the prayer page by calling 943-4967 or emailing office@richlandredeemer.org. *Indicates friends/family.

HOMEBOUND:

Jan Dykeman
Reta Siefken
Bernie Simpkins
Eileen Stixrud
Pearl Raabe

CANCER:

Deanna Snider
Harper Beare*
Rev. James & Ann Gier*
Gary Hoff*
Terry Hoff*
Jerry Johnson*
Kevin Raabe*
Sandi Sheeley*
Gunner Smith*
Beth Vaughn*

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Bob & Cheryl Evenson
Sally Grego
Elaine Kutrowski
Larry Sperlich
Ruth Shook
Eileen Stein
Bobbie Van Buren
Leon Ufkes
Bev & Larry Wetzler
Betsy Clark*
Barbara Coufal*
Gregg Lee*
Jody Schug*
Cooper Siefken*
Phillip Turner*

MILITARY:

Sam Willhoite
Darion Woodall
Brandin Bunch*
Jacob Cagle*
Ryan Cagle*
Brandon Gano*
Byron Gano*
Matthew Gano*
Jonathan Gier*
James Hare*
Sean Williams*

