

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Eblast

December 5, 2024



Our Boy Scout Troop 4019 were hoping to have their rummage sale this Saturday, however due to the holiday and time constraints, the event has been cancelled. Should we receive a reschedule date we will be sure to let you know.

At both our weekend worship services we will collect pledges and give thanks to God for all YOU do on behalf of the body of Christ. If you have not already completed your pledge card and turned it in, please do so this weekend. Thank you for your support of our parish life together.



GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Will take place immediately after our worship service on Sunday, **December 22nd**. In addition, instead of having “Coffee Time” prior to our third Sunday worship, we will have Breakfast Pizza after we have decorated the church. Please make your calendar!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: 4:00 PM

(Or Join us at St. John at 7:30 PM or Trinity Athens at 7:00 PM)



We hope this message finds you great! We would like to take a moment to reflect on our Sunday School and its connection to our theme *Walk in Love*.

Sunday School is not only a time for learning about our faith, but it also fosters friendships and provides support within our community. Our lessons for our small but mighty group are fun and meaningful, pointing out the importance of caring for one another by showing kindness, compassion, and understanding in their daily lives.

The program includes a variety of activities designed to make learning fun, caring, and meaningful. Included in the program are Bible stories, crafts, puppet shows, and skits - all these activities relate to the Bible story being taught that day. And then there is chapel - a time of song and prayer - where the real-life application of the Bible lesson is discussed as how it pertains to the children's lives. This is a sharing time of their thoughts which are received in a respectful, kind, and caring manner.

We also would like to take a moment to reflect on the Vacation Bible School (VBS) held this past July. Our church had the privilege of partnering with St. John's Lutheran Church and the Sayre Christian Church to put together a Vacation Bible School for the kids in our community. Our theme of *Walking in Love* came alive throughout VBS. It was a reminder that love isn't just a feeling—it's an action. It's the way we care for each other, serve one another, and come together. Despite the challenges we faced—scheduling, coordinating, and juggling all the details—it was beautiful to see how each of us contributed our gifts to make the program a success. There were times when the work felt overwhelming, but it was all worth every bit of the effort when seeing how excited the twenty-one kids were in doing the crafts, songs, Bible stories, games, helping one another, just being kind, and learning that God loved them no matter what! *Walking in Love!*

Sunday school is very special. We invite everyone to actively take part in Sunday School. It's a fantastic opportunity for families to connect, grow in their faith, and enjoy time together. We look forward to more blessings as we continue to *Walk in Love*, learning and growing together in Christ.

Blessings,

Bonnie Garrity
Betsy Schumacher
Emily Garrity

For the last six weeks, we've featured ministries that call the Church of the Redeemer home. For a small congregation, we have a big impact both on the lives of our members and the members of our community. Our last featured ministry is the Community Supper, which for the last decade has been shepherded by Linda Murrelle. As you read the Community Supper story below, notice how many of our featured ministries or ministry partners are a part of this endeavor as well. December will be the last time Linda will plan and coordinate the Community Supper. About this ministry she writes:

The theme for our Stewardship campaign is Walk in Love. I believe that our Community Supper is a beautiful example of this. We have been serving between 80 and 90 people every month and those that choose to eat in enjoy the friendly fellowship. Our support within the church is wonderful: everyone that helps truly enjoys the whole experience. But the best part is the continued support from our community. Our sponsors see the need in our Valley and they have stepped up raising the amount of their monthly pledge and supply us with wonderful deserts. Sayre Rotary, Sayre Christian Church, Encounter Church, St. John Lutheran Church, Strong Women Strong Bones, Guthrie Nurses and our own St. Mary's Guild are our sponsors. This year with the dinner being the day after Christmas we had considered not doing dinner but Carrie Henry, a local realtor stepped up and sponsored the dinner. Sponsors not only donate cash but they donate their time by serving the meals and helping with clean up. We are so luck to live in a community that truly does "Walk in Love."



Readings for December 7 & 8

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

The Song of Zachariah (*Canticle 16*)

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Scripture Reflection

Reflection for December 5

The prophet Malachi says that God is “like a refiner’s fire and like fuller’s soap” (Mal. 3:2). Reflect on events of the past year. How has God been working to refine and purify your life or your community of faith?

Paul writes to the church at Philippi: “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now” (Phil. 3:5). Think about people in your life for whom you give thanks, who have been in your prayers, and who have brought good news and joy to you this year. Consider writing them a letter or a card to express your gratitude.



Serving in Worship at Redeemer

December 8

Reader: Glenda Hinsman

Usher: Bob Cole

Greeter: Margaret Cole

December 15

Rose Carpenter

Bruce Carpenter

Rose Carpenter

Renee Shay	12/7
Larry Gabb	12/7
Hazel Hunt	12/9
Emily Marshall	12/9
James Davies	12/10
Stephanie Sullivan	12/14



The Wildcat closet continues to collect donations of Sweat pants, Sweat shirts, socks and toiletries. The box is located in the atrium . Linda Murrelle will pick up your donations and make sure they are delivered to the proper locations.



YOUTH GROUP

Meets next Sunday at noon in the Parish Hall of the Church of the Redeemer. There are a number of scheduling conflicts that prevent us from going Christmas caroling. Instead we will be watching a Christmas themed movie and enjoy some snacks.

Christmas Flowers for Church Altar

To place an order either fill out this order form or call the church office (888-2270). Please indicate color and size that you would like. **Deadline to order is December 16th**

- o 6" Pot (1 Plant) **\$13.00**
 - o Red _____ Quantity _____
 - o Pink _____ Quantity _____
 - o White _____ Quantity _____

- o 6 1/2" Pot (1 Plant) **\$18.00**
 - o Red _____ Quantity _____
 - o Pink _____ Quantity _____
 - o White _____ Quantity _____

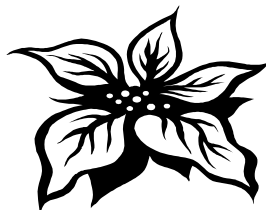
- o 8" Pot (1 Plant) **\$22.00**
 - o Red _____ Quantity _____
 - o Pink _____ Quantity _____
 - o White _____ Quantity _____

From: _____

In Memory, honor, or thanksgiving of:

Phone Number: _____

- Paid Check ___ Cash ___





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"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Luke 11:9-10)

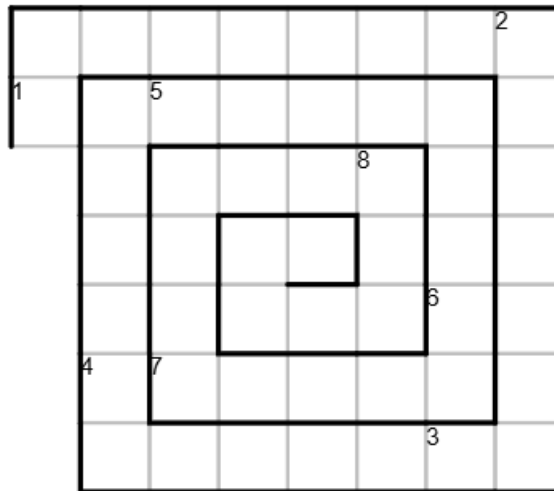
Prepare the Way

As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Luke 3:4 (NIV)



The activity is based on Luke 3:1-6

Look at the numbered sentences, decide which is the right word and write it on the spiral puzzle. A new word starts in each box with a number.



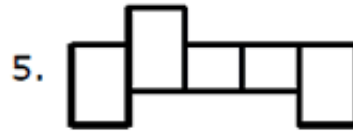
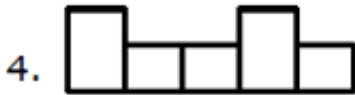
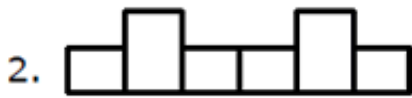
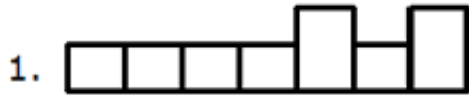
1. Having no bends or curves.
2. To make things or oneself ready.
3. Having a surface free from roughness
4. What we use to speak.
5. To grant a pardon for sin.
6. Having an irregular, course, or shaggy surface
7. To turn away from one's sins.
8. Having bends, curves, or angles.

STRAIGHT	ROUGH	CROOKED	REPENT
FORGIVE	VOICE	PREPARE	SMOOTH

Are You Ready?

"Stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Luke 21:28 (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



careful	lift	pray	heads
clouds	glory	watch	signs