

DECEMBER 2025

The Messenger

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Newsletter

December 2025

Mark Your Calendars!

December 7th – 10:00-10:45 Adult Bible study, confirmation, and 4th-6th grade class Sunday Worship at 11:00 am w/o communion

December 14th– Sunday School Christmas Program at 9:00 a.m. followed by a Happy Birthday Jesus party in the Fellowship Hall and our **Annual Voters' Meeting**

December 21st – 10:00-10:45 Adult Bible study, confirmation, and 4th-6th grade class Sunday Worship at 11:00 am w/o communion

December 24th– Christmas Eve Candlelit Service at 5:00 p.m.

December 28th-10:00-10:45 Adult Bible study, confirmation, and 4th-6th grade class Sunday Worship at 11:00 am with communion

Bible Studies at Church

Ladies' Bible Study: Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Studying prayer

TAWG: (time away with God): Will **NOT** be meeting during the month of December

Thursday Bible Study: Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study: Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Miss something from the Sermon?

All of our worship services are livestreamed and archived on our Facebook page! You can also find them on our website at: www.orknoxin.com

Welcome! As December begins and the season of Advent unfolds, we are invited to pause amid the busyness and turn our hearts toward the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings. The world around us may be growing colder and darker, yet the promise of our Savior shines ever brighter as we await His coming.

This month, we invite you to join us in worship, fellowship, and faithful preparation as we journey together toward the celebration of Christ's birth. Look forward to Christ-centered messages, and opportunities to grow through Word and Sacrament. You'll also find ways to serve our neighbors with the compassion and mercy that flow from God's grace.

Let us move through this holy season with watchful hearts, joyful anticipation, and steadfast faith—living in the sure promise that our Redeemer comes.

You are a cherished part of what makes our church community whole.

Welcome home this Advent!



A note from Church Leadership

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter this blessed season of Advent, our hearts are drawn once again to the joyful anticipation of our Savior's birth. Advent is a time of waiting, watching, and preparing—a season in which the Church looks with hope toward the fulfillment of God's promises. In the midst of busy schedules, family gatherings, and year-end commitments, may we all find moments of quiet reflection to remember why this season matters: Christ comes *for us*.

During this time of preparation, we want to remind you that your church family is here for you. Whether you are carrying burdens, seeking prayer, longing for community, or simply needing encouragement, please know that you are not alone. The message of Advent—*Emmanuel, God with us*—is also our message to you: we walk together in Christ.

As we look forward to the weeks ahead, we also wish to share an important note regarding Advent services. Although we are not hosting midweek Advent services at Our Redeemer this year, we warmly encourage our congregation to attend the Advent services at St. Peter Lutheran Church in North Judson. Their services will take place on December 3, 10, and 17 at 6:30 p.m. Additionally, the December 10 service will feature special hymn singing beforehand at 6:15 p.m. We hope these services will be a blessing to you as you prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ.

We are further delighted to share joyful news with the congregation. At our recent special voters' assembly, the congregation voted to extend a Call to a pastor. This is an exciting and prayerful step in the life of Our Redeemer. We trust that the Holy Spirit is at work guiding both our congregation and the pastor who has been Called, and we look forward with hope and confidence to what God has in store for us. This truly feels like a new chapter—one filled with opportunity, growth, and renewed mission. May God strengthen our unity and deepen our faith as we prepare for the ministry that lies ahead.

As we seek to make this Advent season meaningful, we also want to invite you into God's Word in a special way. If you would like to take part in an Advent reading plan, please follow the schedule provided on the next page. This plan is designed to help us journey together through Scripture, reflect on God's promises, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Whether you follow it individually, with your family, or with a small group, we pray it enriches your devotional life.

May this Advent season fill you with peace, hope, and the joyful expectation of Christ's coming. We thank God for each of you and for the privilege of serving Him together in this season of anticipation and in the new chapter ahead for Our Redeemer.

In Christ,
Leadership of Our Redeemer





1 Luke 1:1-4	2 John 1:1-5, 18	3 John 1:1-5, 18	4 Isaiah 9:6-7 & 11:1-5	5 Micah 5:2-4
6 Matthew 1:1-17	7 Luke 1:5-25	8 Luke 1:26-38	9 Luke 1:39-45	10 Luke 1:46-56
11 Luke 1:57-66	12 Luke 1:67-80	13 Luke 2:1-7	14 Matthew 1:18-25	15 Luke 2:8-21
16 Matthew 2:1-12	17 Luke 2:22-40	18 Matthew 2:13-15	19 Matthew 2:16-18	20 Matthew 2:19-23
21 John 1:6-8, 15	22 John 1:9-14	23 John 1:16-17	24 Isaiah 52:13- 53:12	25 Revelation 21:1-8



Upcoming Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee is PLEASED to announce that the following Our Redeemer's will be up for election at the December's Voters' meeting (December 10th), each for a two-year term pursuant to our constitutional bylaws. Note that this will give us a full number of both Elders and Trustees for the first time in a while.

Congressional President: Brad Hazelton

Elders: Dr. Walter Fritz, Dave Geisler, and Mike Lord

Trustees: Rodney Koch, Jerri Cole and Jim Harshman

Sunay School Superintendent: Joyce Anderson

Board of Inreach/Outreach: Sharon Krick and Sandy Dean

Head Usher: Meda Sullivan

UPCOMING EVENTS



Advent Service Invitation While Our Redeemer will not be hosting Advent services this year, we warmly invite our congregation to join **St. Peter in North Judson** for their mid-week Advent services:

December 3 at 6:30 p.m.

December 10 at 6:15 p.m. (hymn singing beforehand)

December 17 at 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth.



We're Going Caroling

Christmas Eve Worship Service

You are warmly invited to join us this year for our Christmas Eve Worship Service on **Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m. (Central Time)**. Together, we will joyfully celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This special evening of worship will conclude with a beautiful candlelight service, filling our hearts and sanctuary with hope, peace, and the light of Christ.

We hope you will join us for this meaningful time of

Christmas Caroling – Join Us!

We will be going Christmas caroling again this year, and we warmly invite you to join us on **Sunday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m.** as we bring Christmas joy to our shut-ins.

If you would like to be part of this meaningful outreach, please sign up on the sheet posted on the **“What’s Going On at ORLC”** bulletin board located in the Fellowship Hall.



Remembering Our Shut-Ins This Christmas Season

As we gather with family and friends during this joyful time of year, our hearts naturally turn toward the warmth of home, the beauty of Christmas traditions, and the hope of the Savior’s birth. Yet in the midst of our celebrations, it is important to remember those who may not be able to share in these moments in the same way—our shut-ins.

For many of our dear brothers and sisters, the days leading up to Christmas can feel especially long and quiet. The glow of lights, the sounds of laughter, and the excitement of the season are often experienced from a distance. They carry a lifetime of memories, but sometimes feel the weight of loneliness more deeply during the holidays.

Let us take time to reach out with the love of Christ. A simple visit, a thoughtful card, a phone call, or even a moment of prayer on their behalf can brighten their hearts in ways we may never fully understand. When we extend kindness to them, we offer more than a gesture—we remind them that they are seen, valued, and still a beloved part of our church family.

This season, may we bring the light of Jesus into every place it is needed. Let us be His hands and feet, sharing joy with those who cannot easily come to us. In doing so, we honor the message of Christmas: that God came near, not only to the strong and the joyful, but also to the weary and the forgotten.

May our compassion be a reflection of His love, and may our church family remain closely knit—both inside and outside our walls.



YOUTH GROUP News

Please Keep Our Youth in Your Prayers

This January, a group of our young people will be traveling to Cincinnati, Ohio to participate in **Youth Quake**, a powerful weekend designed to deepen faith, strengthen friendships, and inspire the next generation of Christian leaders.

Youth Quake provides a dynamic schedule filled with worship, Bible teaching, small-group discussions, and interactive sessions that help teens explore how God is moving in their lives. They will hear from engaging speakers, enjoy uplifting contemporary music, and participate in hands-on activities that encourage teamwork, reflection, and spiritual growth. Alongside these sessions, there will also be time for fellowship, fun, and community-building as they connect with other youth from across the region who share their faith.

We believe this trip has the potential to spark meaningful transformation in our youth—renewing their spirits, widening their perspectives, and equipping them to live boldly for Christ. **We humbly ask that you keep them in your prayers** as they travel, learn, and worship together. Please pray for:

- **Safe travels** to and from Cincinnati
- **Open hearts and minds** to receive God's word
- **Encouragement and unity** within the group
- **Spiritual growth** that continues long after they return

Thank you for supporting our young people and lifting them up before the Lord. May God bless them on this journey, and may He work through them in beautiful ways.

Thank You for Making Our Community Thanksgiving Meal a Success!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped make our **Free to the Community Thanksgiving Meal** a truly special event. Because of your generosity, compassion, and servant hearts, we were able to share God's love in a powerful way.

Thanks to volunteers who cooked, served, cleaned, greeted guests, organized donations, and prayed over this outreach, **we served over 200 people!** Families, neighbors, seniors, and individuals from all walks of life came together to enjoy a warm meal and the warmth of fellowship. It was a beautiful reminder of what happens when the church becomes the hands and feet of Jesus.

Your time, energy, and kindness made a difference—not only in filling plates, but in filling hearts. May God bless each of you for showing His love in action. We look forward to many more opportunities to serve and shine His light in our community.





December Worship Service Volunteer Schedules

PowerPoint

Dec. 7 Jana Hazelton
Dec. 14 Harper Hazelton
Dec. 21 Sharon Krick
Dec. 28 Gracie Krueger

Usher Schedule

Dec. 7 Meda Sullivan, Elaine Browne, Robin Vargo, and Casey Vargo
Dec. 14 Meda Sullivan, Bruce Zimmerman, Paul Meyers, and Phil Hamand
Dec. 21 Meda Sullivan, Keith Enger, Christy Enger, and Deb Bell
Dec. 28 Meda Sullivan, Dane Cruz, Becky Wirebaugh, and Guy Weber

Communion Assistant

Dec. 21 Mel Lenig

Acolyte

Dec. 7 Miles Fraser
Dec. 14 Emma Brammer
Dec. 21 Neva Balaszek
Dec. 28 Hudson Hazelton

Lector Schedule

Dec. 7 Jana Hazelton
Dec. 14 Diane Cruz
Dec. 21 Meda Sullivan
Dec. 28 Kathy Dedloff

Children's Message

Dec. 7 Billie Krueger
Dec. 14 No Children's Message
Dec. 21 Diane Cruz
Dec. 28 Megan Hamand

We are deeply grateful for each of our faithful volunteers who serve with such dedication and joy every Sunday. Your willingness to give your time and talents is a true blessing to our church family. Because of you, our worship services run smoothly and our ministry continues to thrive.

As our church grows, so does our need for helping hands! We invite others to join this amazing team of servants. Whether you can greet, set up, sing, teach, or simply lend a hand where needed, your participation will make a difference. Thank you for serving so faithfully — we thank God for each of you!



DECEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

Jill Hazelton	December 3	James and Cathy Brown	December 27
Carson Peterson	December 10	Michel and Sindi Lord	December 31
Kathy Gyrion	December 13		
Alyssa Redlin	December 13		
Brad Hazelton	December 15		
Miles Fraser	December 17		
Christian Duffee	December 22		
Rodney Koch	December 22		
Shelley McGinley	December 23		
Carol Miller	December 25		