

# Redeemer Happenings

## December 2023



Advent is a rich and meaningful season in the church year. But sadly, for many, it can be a very difficult time. Advent unfolds over some of the darkest and busiest days of the year. For many, this is a time filled with activity, demands, and even a sense of loneliness that can be pronounced and paralyzing. It is easy, in the frenetic activity and emotional heaviness, to lose sight of what is most important.

Advent literally means 'coming'. It is a season that encourages us to see and to be aware of Jesus' presence among us. It invites us to notice and experience moments of holy surprise when God draws near in the loving words and actions that pour out from us to others, and that pour in from others towards us. But to fully experience the presence of God in our midst, we need to make room. We need to become comfortable with waiting, watching, and anticipating the arrival of God in subtle and unexpected ways.

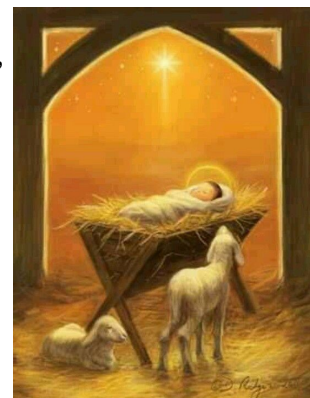
This is the gift given to us in Advent. The gift of space and time and opportunity to make room for the holy presence of God. In turn, it invites us to make space, time, and opportunity in our own schedules for others, so that we might discover once again that we meet the holy in the lives of those around us, both in the tears and in the laughter we share.

During this Advent season we will be focusing on this gift of presence. Reminding ourselves that God's greatest gift to the whole world is His very presence among us, wrapped up in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. We will also remind each other that the greatest gift we can give in return, and in thanks, is to make room in our hearts for Jesus and make room in our lives to be deeply present with others.

Over the next four weeks we will explore together the importance and power of being present with others and offering the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that has been so freely given to us. We will encourage one another to be present, as together we dispel loneliness, emptiness, and despair, with the light of Christ that burns brightly in our hearts.

May God richly bless us as we journey. May God help us to stay awake, to be ready, and to be always alert. For the Lord is Coming, and His Advent and Holy Presence always bring the gift of JOY.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come.



*I will give my*



Ho, Ho, Ho - it is that time of year again - the season of waiting for the birth of the Christ child and giving, and .... My month for the stewardship message. You would think this would be the easy month for a message of giving - but ....

Christmas a time for celebration, visiting, gift-giving. We live in a very commercial world of glitter and fakery. We lose sight of the true message and perhaps lose ourselves and others as well. Stewardship is about sharing our gifts, talents and prosperity with others. We are (mostly) really proficient with our prosperity - giving to friends, family and those in need, Salvation Army, Blessing Bags, Homeless, Breakfast programs and the like. While these are all worthy and necessary perhaps we need to look deeper into ourselves and in addition give a more personal gift -

From our choir anthem

*“What can I give him - poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give Him?  
I will give my heart.*



So how does that translate into action? Perhaps an honest reflection of how we interact with and value others is required. Do we truly put ourselves out to listen to that quiet person in the back pew? Do we value those who cannot “give” us something or are different in some way from us? We may meet and greet others but do we listen with our heart? Do we look beyond our own circle and expand it to include all? Do we become involved to take the lead and load for awhile to allow others to rest? Do we leave our prejudices and haughty arrogance at the door? Giving our heart to Christ means giving our heart to others. This Christmas reflect on what giving our heart truly means and how that translates into year round actions



## **A Prayer from Inner City Pastoral Ministries Edmonton**

*Open my eyes that I may see those who have been hurt,*

*Injured , and oppressed.*

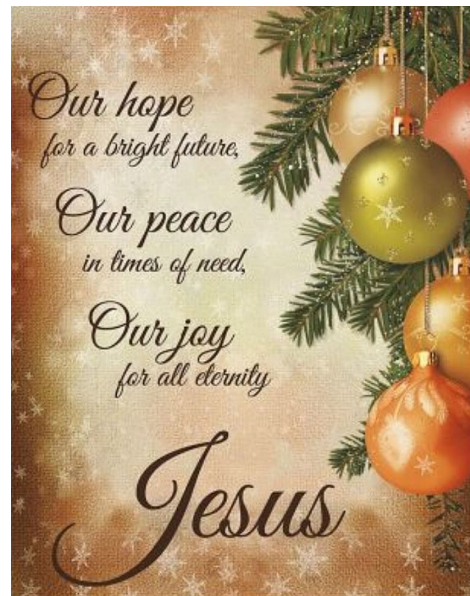
*Open my ears that I may hear cries of sorrow, injustice, anger, and pain.*

*Open my heart that I may give compassion, warmth and love.*

*Open my hands that I may take hold to support, guide, and strengthen.*

*Come to us Holy God... Creator, Redeemer, Spirit - to heal us and make us one.*

*Amen*







## OLDER BUT WISER LUTHERANS

Our Christmas gathering will be on **Tuesday, December 5 @ noon**. We will have lunch and then sing Christmas carols with Grace Buhler on the piano. **RSVP by Friday, Dec. 1** to the church office. No charge for this event – it's a Christmas gift!

**ADVENT** has arrived and **YOU** are invited to join in our monthly intergenerational gathering a week from **Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

This is a time for **ALL AGES** to discover more about “The Gift of Being Present” & “The Gift of Christmas”



ADULTS... SENIORS...CHILDREN...YOUTH...POST SECONDARY STUDENTS...  
GRANDPARENTS...GRANDCHILDREN... we are ALL gifts in our community!  
Join us as we connect gather around tables for meeting each other, story, song,  
an ADVENT take-home project and a Pancake Brunch!



Men's Prayer Breakfast will be **Saturday, December 16, 8:00am @ Smittys's**

ALL men are welcome to attend!



As we enter the Advent and Christmas story of the birth of HOPE, PEACE, LOVE, JOY and LIGHT among us, we are invited to be present in love with those that need it most.

Our 2023 Advent Christmas Mission invites us to BE PRESENT with the many hungry and homeless people in Saskatoon. It is our hope that we will be able to gift them with the gifts that God has given us - Hope, Peace, Joy, Love & Light!

## HOW CAN WE SHARE THESE GIFTS?

There are SO many ways and places to share! We have chosen to share with the hungry and homeless people right here in Saskatoon.

- We are collecting food for a Dec. 4 Book and Breakfast event at Father Vachon (details can be found in Friday’s update or by calling the church).
- You are invited to choose a BLESSING BAG in the Place of Welcome to fill with items that will support the homeless through this colder time of year. Take the bag home and fill it with items from the suggestion list below. Please bring your bags of blessings back to church when they are ready so we can begin handing them out.
- If you prefer to bring separate items that will be used to fill some bags (from the list of suggested items) please place them in the giant GIFT BOX in the Place of Welcome.
- We are also welcoming monetary donations through your offerings (at church, by mail or e-transfer) Please mark these gifts “BLESSING BAGS”. We have willing shoppers who will purchase items to help us fill 50+ bags to be given to homeless people between now and Christmas.

## BLESSING BAGS – ideas to choose from.



| 1 <sup>st</sup> PRIORITY BASICS -      | FOOD ITEMS  |
|--|---|
| NEW WARM socks, mitts, scarf           | Protein rich, nonperishable                       |
| Christmas Treats                       | Beef Jerky, Pepperoni sticks                      |
| Deck of cards/game/notebook/pens       | Cheese sticks .                                   |
| Hand towel Wet Wipes                   | Protein/Granola Bars                              |
| Roll of toilet paper in a ziplock      | Mixed nuts/Trail mix                              |
| A note of encouragement /blessing      | Bottled Water, Hot Chocolate packages ,           |
|  | Nothing that requires a can opener                |
| <b>HYGEINE ITEMS</b>                   | Peanut butter or cheese sandwich crackers         |
| Toothbrush, Tooth paste                |   |
| Body wash or bar soap in small ziplock | <b>TREATS</b>                                     |
| 2-in-1 Shampoo/Rinse (small size)      | Gum/mints/candy                                   |
| Deodorant                              | Chocolate bars                                    |
| Body Lotion                            | Reusable water bottle or travel mug with lid      |
| Brush or comb                          | Plastic utensils                                  |
| Feminine hygiene products              | Large bandaids or 1 <sup>st</sup> Aid Kit (small) |
| Nail clippers                          | Small Flashlight                                  |
|  | Hand Warmers                                      |

Other possible items to be added when bags are handed out: Warm Blankets, Underwear

Please add a tag to the outside of your bag indicating if it is for man, woman or child.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE



For the month of October 2023, we had a surplus of \$4,398.12 before the fund account revenues and expenses. For the year to date, we have a surplus of \$5,266.92. Envelope giving was \$23,189.00 for October 2023. The envelope giving for the year to date is approximately \$18,000 less than budgeted and expenses are approximately \$24,000 less than budgeted to October 31.

An offering plate is located at the top of the stairs in the sanctuary for you to drop off your donation as you enter or exit the church service. In addition, the following options are available for you to make a donation:

### 1. Mail to or drop off a cheque at the church

You can mail a cheque directly to the church office. Mailing address: 812 Preston Avenue, Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 2V2. You can also drop off a cheque in the mailbox at the front of the church or in the church office.

### 2. Interac E-Transfer using online banking

We are set up for automatic deposit. If you use online banking, you may make a payment to Redeemer Lutheran Church by:

- i. Logging into your personal banking account, add Redeemer Lutheran Church as a recipient using the email address [redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net](mailto:redemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net)
- ii. Enter the desired amount and click send. Instructions on how to send and receive an e-transfer are found on Interac's website: <https://www.interac.ca/en/consumers/products/interac-e-transfer/>

### 3. Monthly PAD donation

You may request to sign up for a monthly Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) donation. This option allows you to automatically make your donation monthly by allowing the church to debit your account for your donation. Please contact the church office if you would like to take advantage of this giving option.

Please note that you may also donate marketable securities to the church. This will allow you to eliminate any capital gains taxes and allow you a tax donation credit at the same time.

Please contact the church office for details on making a donation of marketable securities to the church.

Ron Litzenberger





 ADVENT  
*Concert*



St. Paul's Children's Choir  
with the Melodia Singers



Saturday December 2  
7:00 pm


St. Paul's Co-Cathedral  
720 Spadina Crescent



Free Will Offering will be Collected

[WWW.STPAULSCC.COM](http://WWW.STPAULSCC.COM)





*Advance tickets available until Dec. 7 or while they last, from Shannon Klatt - 306-370-0879 text/call, or sitting behind the choir at Redeemer Lutheran church 😊*

**CECILIAN SINGERS  
PRESENT**

*Sing Joy!*

**SUNDAY**

**DECEMBER 10, 2023**

**3:00 PM**

**DIRECTED BY MATTHEW PRAKSAS  
ACCOMPANIED BY CONNOR ELIAS**

**GROSVENOR PARK UNITED CHURCH  
407 CUMBERLAND AVE S**

**TICKETS:  
\$25 IN ADVANCE  
\$30 AT THE DOOR  
UNDER 12 FREE**





*An Invitation to ...  
A Service of Remembrance  
and Healing*



*You, your family and friends*

*are invited to*

*a Candlelight Service of Remembrance and Healing*

*on Thursday, December 14, 2023*

*at 7:30 p.m.*

*Zion Lutheran Church*

*Christmas without a loved one can be a difficult time for those left behind. Other losses, such as the loss of a relationship, health or job can be the cause of loneliness in the midst of Christmas celebrations. Please join us in a service of prayer, scripture, communion and music knowing that God is present. May we find hope and comfort in knowing that we are not alone at this time.*

*Refreshments to follow hosted by Saskatoon Lutheran Stephen Ministers.*

# Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Saskatoon SK  
S7H 2V2

Phone: 306-374-7585

E-mail: [redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net](mailto:redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net)

## Office hours

Monday to Thursday 9am-12pm & 1-4  
(Friday afternoon office is closed)

## A Community of Life & Love, Hope & Healing



We're on the web!  
[redeemersaskatoon.ca](http://redeemersaskatoon.ca)



Join Us On



If you are unable to worship with us in person, join us each week at 9:50 am on YouTube by clicking this link:

[Redeemer Lutheran Saskatoon - YouTube](#)

**This link is also available on the homepage of our website [redeemersaskatoon.ca](http://redeemersaskatoon.ca) at any time.**

You can also go to this same link at any time afterwards to view the service if you are unable to join at 10am. We encourage you to hit 'subscribe' on our YouTube page, so that all future worship services will be highlighted for you. If you have any questions or need assistance in connecting to our YouTube site, just give us a call and we will be glad to help you out.