

Redeemer Happenings

December 2025



COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!

"All the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord. Ezra 3:11

When I was a little girl, I loved the old hymn "Count Your Blessings." The song encourages those who are "tempest-tossed" and "thinking all is lost" to "count your blessings, name them one by one." Years later when my husband, Alan, was discouraged, he would often ask me to sing that simple song to him. Then I would help him to enumerate his blessings. Doing so took Alan's focus off his struggles and self-doubt and centered his thoughts on God and his reasons for thankfulness.

The book of Ezra describes God's people facing overwhelming challenges through focusing on God's power and provision. After they'd endured decades of captivity in Babylon, King Cyrus allowed the Jewish exiles to return to Israel to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1-2). Only a fraction returned (2:64). Despite their "fear of the peoples around them" and the great task before them, they rebuilt the altar and laid the temple's foundation (3:3, 10). Then "with praise and thanksgiving they sang to the Lord: 'He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.' And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the Lord" (v. 11).

If you're discouraged or facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles, turn your thoughts toward God. "Count your blessings . . . and it will surprise you what the Lord has done," and continues to do, for those who love Him.

ADVENT 2025

What Child Is This?

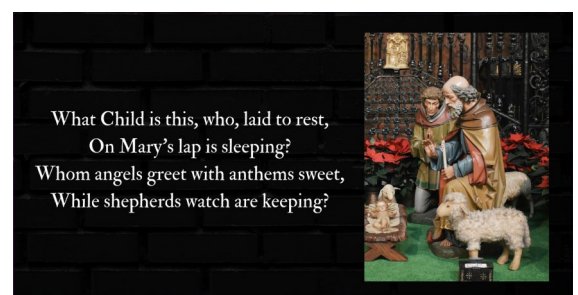
What Child IS This? – Beyond the Lullaby

In 1865, William Chatterton Dix penned a poem that would become the beloved Christmas-time favorite, “What Child Is This?” This year during Advent beginning on **Sunday, November 30**, we will dive into this question.

The “anchor image” for this series is the **nativity scene**, or crèche. We would like to invite you to bring a nativity set that has been part of your family traditions, perhaps for many years to share in a special display during Advent. We will have cards available for you to fill out to give some information such as:

- If you purchased your nativity set, what inspired you to buy it? Were there any particular characteristics that caught your eye?
- If you inherited your nativity scene, what are some memories you associate with it? How did you feel when this piece was passed down to you?
- What details make this crèche different from others?
- What particular message does this depiction of the holy family inspire for you? Which characters really touch you, and why?

Advent is usually about waiting. But we cannot wait to have **HOPE**; it is essential now. We cannot wait to work for **PEACE**; lives are at stake. We cannot wait to embrace **JOY**, even and especially when it seems in short supply. We cannot wait to **LOVE**, most of all, because we are the ones who follow the saving love of Jesus Christ, God-With-Us.



Join us for a SENIOR'S POSADA

Join us for a Senior's Posada

The tradition of Posada started in Mexico - a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, seeking shelter (posada means 'inn'). Monica will lead us in a gathering where we will reflect on the days before Jesus' birth with story and song. We will finish off with coffee, tea, goodies and fellowship. Join us on **Tuesday, December 9th** at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Lounge.

WHEN? December 9th

TIME: 2PM

SONGS, STORY, BAKING AND FELLOWSHIP

CALL THE CHURCH TO REGISTER BY DEC 5th



JOIN US IN OUR 2025 ADVENT MISSION PROJECT.



Giving
Hope
Today

As you enter the church these days you will see that we have begun to collect items to provide Christmas Gifts and Food Hampers through 2 Saskatoon agencies:

★ **OPERATION SANTA ADOPT-A -FAMILY:** We have adopted **4** families identified by several agencies working with Operation Santa in Saskatoon. These families include a total of 26 people with each family member receiving a \$30 gift along with a family food hamper and treats from our Redeemer family.

★ **SALVATION ARMY'S TOY STORE** where we will donate gifts of toys for **children 12 years and younger** to be delivered starting Monday. Parents/caregivers who have applied for assistance are welcome to come and choose appropriate gifts for their children between Dec. 1st and 19th!!

★ We are also collecting gifts of **WARMTH** through donations of warm winter items: new or gently used toques, mittens, socks, blankets to bring warmth especially to the many homeless in Saskatoon.

Our support will help bring to WARMTH, JOY, LOVE and HOPE of Christmas to these families.

HOW CAN YOU JOIN IN?

Donation of gifts for each member of our "adopted" families. It is suggested that each gift be ~\$30.00. Choose a numbered gift tag from the tree in the Place of Welcome that has a little bit of information about individuals. Sign your name on the list on the bulletin board next to the number on your tag. If you would like to choose a gift tag but can not be at church please call the church office by Wed., Dec.2 for information. **Please bring your gift(s) to the church on or before Sunday, Dec.7** so we can sort and deliver them to the depot by Dec 10th. Gifts are to be unwrapped or in a gift bag so they can be checked.

★ Gifts are to be NEW, safe, age appropriate and not require batteries.



Monetary donations are also welcome to towards the purchasing of the unclaimed individual \$30 gifts and food for the 4 family hampers (with a suggested amount equivalent to \$50/person.) Donations can be placed in your offering **THIS Sunday or NEXT Sunday (MARKED ADVENT PROJECT)**, e-transferred or given to the designated person collecting both Sundays. (This week – Elaine Akre)

★ **For Salvation Army gifts you are invited to add NEW toy gifts for children age 0-12 to our toy shop at Redeemer OR donations toward the purchase of these gifts. Unwrapped gifts \$5- \$10 and \$15-\$25 gifts are welcome.**

Food Hamper donations of nutritious non-perishable groceries with amounts suitable for 5-8 member families with age ranges from 0-adult (including several teens!)

Some seasonal treats are welcome too! 😊



★ We are ALSO hoping to give through **GIFTS OF OUR TIME**. Both Operation Santa and Salvation Army have volunteer opportunities during this busy season. **We are waiting for details - to email out soon!**

★ **Be a "Shopping Elf"** to assist in the completion of gift and food hamper purchases. Money for these items will come from Advent project \$\$ donations and the proceeds from our Advent-Christmas Market. Please contact Elaine Akre for further information or if you are ready to shop!



THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR GIFTS, MONETARY DONATION AND PRAYERS AS WE SHARE CHRIST'S LOVE AND COMFORTS OF CHRISTMAS WITH LESS FORTUNATE PEOPLE IN OUR CITY!



GATHER WITH US NEXT Sunday, Dec. 7th at 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Everyone of ALL ages is invited to share more about
God's GIFT that we wait for in Advent.

We will consider the question "What Child IS This?" through song, story,
a take-home activity, fellowship and a WARM WINTER LUNCH.

We will also take some time to explore the Nativity display in the Fireside Lounge. You are
invited to bring a Nativity set to share in our display too. Bring it for the day or for more
Sunday's in Advent.

Also, do you have a story to share about sharing the Winter Warm-Up gift bag made at
last month's gathering? We'd love to hear it!

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?



Men's prayer breakfast

Saturday, December 20 at 8am

Smitty's in Market Mall

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME



*You are Invited to
A Candlelight Service of Remembrance
and Healing*

*You, your family and friends are invited to
a Candlelight Service of Remembrance and Healing
on Thursday, December 18, 2025*

at 7:30 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church

323 4th Avenue South

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.





As we move toward the shortest day of the year - when darkness lingers and daylight seems scarce - we Naturally yearn for light. It is fitting, then, that in this coming of Christ, the Light of the World.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - John 8:12

We know that even one small candle can push back the darkness. As the shortest day approaches, we find ourselves surrounded by reminders of light: the Northern Lights that dance across our winter skies, and the the warm glow of homes and streets decorated in hope and anticipation.

Much like a candle illuminating a room, our faith in Christ shines the truth that He is our Saviour. Our baptismal candles are a visible symbol the the light of Christ that we are called to share with the world.



"You are the light of the world ... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." - Matthew 4:14,16

So what good works - what radiance - do we at Redeemer share? At Christmas we are thoughtful and deliberate with our giving. We direct our gifts towards ministries that bring light into dark places: Luminous, the Salvation Army, the Food Bank, our Advent Project, and many others.

Yet mission does not end with Advent. The work of compassion, generosity and service continues long after the season's lights have dimmed. Redeemer's ministry needs persist throughout the entire year.

I encourage you to let your thoughtful, deliberate and planned giving extend beyond Christmas. Let us keep sharing Christ's light - not just now, but always - so that through our faith and our works, His light shines all year long.

FINANCIAL UPDATE



There was a deficit of \$1,034.10 for the month of October 2025 and a surplus of \$8,993.58 for the year to the end of October 2025, before the fund accounts revenues and expenses.

The general fund giving for October 2025 was \$18,005.00 and for the year to the end of October 2025 it was \$218,644.60. The general fund giving is approximately \$10,500.00 less than what was budgeted to the end of October 2025. The sidewalk project revenues (included as "Capital Income") to the end of October 2025 were \$8,325.00. Thank you to everyone who has so generously contributed to Redeemer's operations.

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 to Redeemer Lutheran Church:

1. Mail 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 setup for automatic deposit. If you use online banking, you may make a payment to Redeemer Lutheran Church by:

Logging into your personal banking account, add Redeemer Lutheran Church as a recipient using the email address redemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net

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. Forms are available next to the offering plate in the sanctuary or 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"



GROSVENOR PARK
UNITED CHURCH

Faith grows with diversity

Prayer Vigil

for the People of Gaza

On peace Sunday, we gather to offer our prayers and our commitment to remember the people of Gaza. This service of prayer, reading, reflection, and song (*originally from the Mennonite tradition*) is open to all.

Sunday December 7 at 7:00 pm

*Grosvenor Park United Church
407 Cumberland Avenue S, Saskatoon*



For accessible entry

Christmas at Camp **KINASAO TWINKLE TOUR**

OPEN ALL WEEKENDS BETWEEN NOW AND CHRISTMAS!

NOV 28+29 DEC 6+7, 12+13, 20+21, 31

**DRIVE OR WALK THROUGH OUR CAMPGROUND
ENJOY 40+ LIGHT DISPLAYS!**

ADMISSION BY DONATION OPEN 6:30-8:30 PM



Redeemer Lutheran Church

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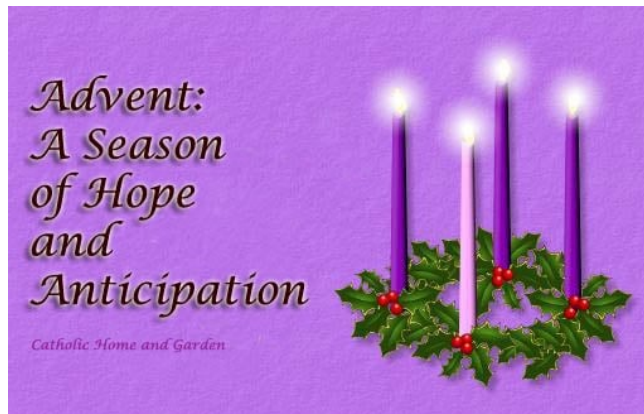
Office hours

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



Join Us On
You Tube

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 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.