Pastor Steve Ferber

“ADVENT: THE LESSON OF THE PALM TREE”

It’s so easy to fly from the Thanksgiving mode right into Christmas, isn’t it? I remember one year “helping” my wife shop at Cub foods; we picked up our Thanksgiving turkey, stuffing, and all the other delightful food Donna would be serving on Thanksgiving Day. That same night we talked about when we would cut down the family Christmas tree. Without even thinking about it, we took the mental leap from Thanksgiving to Christmas.

But between those two grand holidays lies something beautiful and powerful, if we take the time to appreciate it. Advent season begins Sunday, November 29th, and lasts until Christmas Day. During those few weeks we have the privilege of waiting. Waiting is a lost art in the 21st century, something we see as a negative - waiting in line, waiting in traffic… But during Advent, as we wait for the coming of Jesus, in the manger, and at the end of time, our appreciation for God’s tremendous gift of salvation grows and grows. By the time Christmas comes, we’re truly ready to celebrate the magnificent gift of the Son of God in the manger.

For nearly two thousand years God’s Old Testament people waited for the Messiah to come. God promised Abraham in Genesis chapter 12 that from Abraham’s seed would come the Savior of the world. It was an agonizingly long wait, but finally the Messiah was born. That story of waiting for the Savior is beautifully illustrated by a devotion a fellow pastor sent me. Through the picture of a date palm tree we have the powerful lesson of Advent:

“In June of 2006, Israeli doctors and scientists successfully germinated a 2,000-year-old date palm seed. Found at the Herodian fortress of Masada on the west bank of the Dead Sea, the seed was tagged “Methuselah” for the man with the oldest recorded age in the Bible. In addition to the challenge of awakening a long-dormant seed, the team also wanted to learn more about the tree praised in Scripture for its shade, food, beauty, and medicinal qualities. The date palm has an important role in the Bible. In the Old Testament, the tree is linked to the temple and presence of God. The New Testament describes excited crowds praising God and throwing palm branches at the feet of Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. God’s

(Reflections continued on page 3)
So the next generation would know … even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Psalm 78:6

Our perception is that it was a silent, holy night. All was calm, and surely the night sky was bright and surrounded that stable where a virgin mother gave birth to a child. A tender infant certainly slept in peace, a peace we would describe as heavenly.

The silence of this holy night was interrupted by the glorious song, an alleluia, streaming from a heavenly host of angels. The sight and sound caused shepherds to quake, to arise from their vigil of watching sheep to seek the one who would be both the Good Shepherd and the Lamb of God. Yes, the Savior was born.

In that stable, the shepherds saw, for themselves and also on our behalf, the light of God’s love radiating from the holy face of the babe. This was the dawn of grace, the dawn of redemption. This was the birth of Jesus, the Lord and Son of God, who would save His people from their sins.

There is no better way to tell the story, to tell the next generation, than to sing the carols of Christmas. May they be in your hearts and on your lips as we once again rejoice at the wondrous birth that occurred on that Silent Night, Holy Night.

Our students will tell the Christmas message at two worship services. Students from Preschool 3s and Pre-Kindergarten 4s will share God’s message on Wednesday, December 9, 9:30AM, in the church.

Prekindergarten 4s - grade 8 proclaim the story on Tuesday, December 15, at 9:00AM and 6:30PM.

Fellowship receptions in the auditorium follow the worship on the 9th and 15th at 6:30pm only.

(RLS continued on page 3)
promise to bless the world through a descendant of Abraham also lay dormant for 2,000 years. Finally, the Seed of promise sprouted. That Seed was Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah. Soon the story of His resurrected life would go out to every nation on earth. The miracle is now ours to experience.”

The miracle of Christmas is rooted in the promise of Advent. The long-awaited Promised One, the Seed of Abraham, has sprouted. He is born! He dies for our forgiveness! He rises for our eternal life! He is coming again to take us home! Thank You, Lord, for the privilege of waiting.

As we wait, worshiping the Lord helps us prepare for His coming. Beside our regular Sunday Advent services, this year Redeemer will have three midweek “Advent Meditations,” on Wednesday, December 2nd, 9th, and 16th, from 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Come worship the Lord, stay for supper at 5:30 p.m. What a great way to wait for the Lord!

God’s Advent peace to you,

Pastor Steve
glorious singing, unite with others in the Christian faith, allowing for reverence and reflection, and owning the Church’s Christmas as unique from the “world’s” Christmas. Since 1919, the carol, “Once in Royal David’s City” has opened the Service of Lessons and Carols. A creative children’s teacher and writer from Ireland, Cecil Alexander, wrote the words of this famous carol in 1848 as a means to teach the lines of the Apostle’s Creed, “conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary.” “Once in Royal David’s City” is the opening carol of the world-famous King’s College Service in a worldwide broadcast every Christmas Eve.

SINGERS INVITED TO LESSONS AND CAROLS REHEARSALS
Extra singers are needed for Lessons and Carols. Contact Dan Oie at doie@redeemerwayzata.org

Key rehearsals are:
Sunday, Nov. 29 ........................ 5 – 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 3 ........................ 7 – 8:15 p.m.
Thursday, Dec 10 ....................... 7 – 8:15 p.m.
Thursday, Dec 17 ...................... 7 – 8:30 p.m. (orchestra)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CONNECTS CHRISTMAS TO PEOPLE
At Redeemer we are intentional about sharing our time, talents, and treasures with others in the community. During December you will catch glimpses of Redeemers students, musicians, and members participating in community events:

Wednesday, Dec. 2 @ 6:15 pm.......WINGS families Carol Sing at Meridian Manor

Tuesday, Dec. 8, @ 7:00 pm .........Christ for People with Disabilities at Wayzata Evangelical Free Church

Wednesday, Dec. 9 @ 6:15 pm.......Handbells and Choir at Golden Living (Hillcrest)

Tuesday, Dec 15 @ 6:30 pm .......... Redeemer School Concert – Redeemer Gym

Saturday, Dec. 19 @ 4:30 pm .........Folkestone Wayzata Chapel

Dan Oie
Director of Music Ministry
doie@redeemerwayzata.org
(952) 473-1281
LWML PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Since the inception of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, approximately ten years ago, LWML members have lovingly donated their time and talents by creating hand-knitted and crocheted shawls for those in need. On LWML Sunday, shawls were placed on display in the sanctuary and blessed by Pastor as part of the children’s message.

The ministry’s message of caring is simple, universal and endearing. We have seen time and again that the creation and presentation of a prayer shawl, like all acts of generosity, enriches the giver as well as the recipient.

We think about presenting prayer shawls when someone is ill, facing surgery or mourning the loss of a loved one. We also present a baby shawl to welcome a baby into the Redeemer family at their baptism.

When do we give prayer shawls?

How do I get a prayer shawl?

There is NO person designated to deliver shawls. It is an open ministry and all members of Redeemer are invited to participate in delivering prayer shawls. Visits are meaningful.

LWML member contacts are: Anna Gerber (953-475-9168) or Eva McAtee (763-476-1827).

LWML PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Redeemer Alumni Sarah Kaminski signed her Division 1 National Letter of Intent to play basketball as point guard at George Mason University on Thursday, November 12.

George Mason is a Division 1 college located in Fairfax, Virginia, and has approximately 35,000 students.
DATES AND TIMES TO KEEP IN MIND

Are you aware of all the many ways to communicate events and needs of our Redeemer family? And how to get items submitted? Here are our many vehicles for sharing information and the deadlines for each:

- **CyberSaints** – deadline, Wednesdays at 5 PM
- **School Newsletters**, due 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5 PM.
- **Redeemer Good News** newsletter, due 3rd Thursday of the month.
- **Happenings** bulletin insert, deadline, Wednesdays 5 PM.
- **Wayzata Redeemer Website** - no deadline, we post as we receive.
- **Wayzata Redeemer Facebook Page** – email posts and copy as you have.
- **HALLway Bulletin Boards** – no deadline, we post as we receive
- **TV Monitors** - no deadline, we post as we receive.
- **Street Signs** - get changed Monday mornings.

The best way to share your message is to send it to Stacy via email (sklone@redeemerwayzata.org) and type where you want it posted in the subject line.

NEW LIFE LIGHT
STUDY BEGINS
JANUARY 14

A new LifeLight Bible Study of the Old Testament books of Jeremiah and Lamentations will begin on Thursday, January 14th.

You are invited to study the Bible with us each Thursday for nine weeks from 9:30-11:30 am in the small conference room off the long hallway beneath the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome.

Study guides ($10) will be available in the office.

Contact Judymae Bowers (763-476-0913) or Eva McAtee (763-476-1827) if you need more information.

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT
DECEMBER 6, 2015 5:00-7:00 PM

Sign up sheets for hostesses and guests are available in the lobby.

Join the women of our congregation and friends for an evening of music and fellowship in preparation for the Christmas season. Our music program will be provided by Dan & Cheryl Oie — a selection of Christmas favorites old and new.

We welcome all women and girls 13 years and older. Questions? Call Mary Sund @ 763-233-2417.
We can all easily recall the landmark experiences of the year but I would argue that Jesus was possibly working the most in the less dramatic episodes of our lives when His voice was soft and subtle. You see, we have become conditioned in society to want bigger and better all the time. We want the fireworks and all that goes with it on a regular basis. That expectation has crept into the expectation of our relationship with the Lord. We’ve conditioned ourselves to expect life-changing experiences with God only when the variables of life have reached epic proportions. “If the adrenaline ain’t a flowing, then I ain’t a growing.” Though none of us would consciously put it that way, I think if we stopped for a minute the Holy Spirit would reveal to us how much we do operate in that manner.

I am making it my goal this year to construct our ministry in a way that helps our students become aware of Jesus’ involvement in their lives on a daily basis. I believe if they can see Jesus personally invested in their lives on a daily basis, their faith will grow tremendously resulting in them being more comfortable in their own skin and impacting the world like never before.

Would you be willing to join me in this endeavor? You can join us with your prayers. Pray for God to work in our students on a daily basis and for them to be preserved as a remnant among their peers. And then watch God answer those prayers and pray some more.

in Christ,

Joe Lomando
Student Ministry Director

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**DECEMBER 2015 SCHEDULE**

12/02, 6:00 pm—7:30 pm .... The Gathering
12/09, 6:00 pm—7:30 pm .... The Gathering
12/16, 6:00 pm—7:30 pm .... The Gathering
12/23 .................................. NO STUDENT MINISTRY PROGRAMMING
12/24 .................................. Christmas Eve!
12/25 .................................. Merry Christmas!
12/30 .................................. NO STUDENT MINISTRY PROGRAMMING
We invite you to worship with us!

SUNDAY WORSHIP & PRAISE: 8:15 am and 10:45 am, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION-All Ages: 9:30 am

EXTRA COOKIE REQUEST —

COMPASSION CIRCLE’S ANNUAL COOKIE PACK

The Redeemer Compassion Circle invites cookie bakers to contribute as many Christmas cookies as you are willing to share with others for our annual cookie pack.

Cookies will be distributed to Redeemer shut-ins, Home Free (a local shelter for battered women and children), Interfaith Outreach, and Meals on Wheels.

Please mark the containers "for CC" and deliver them to the Redeemer kitchen by Sunday December 13th. Adults are also welcome to help sort and pack the cookies in the auditorium on Monday, December 14th, between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

Contact Rie Schibilla (612-803-5824) or Vi Schulte (763-473-8697) with questions or to arrange for pick up if you are unable to deliver your cookies to the Redeemer kitchen by noon Monday, December 14th.

Thank you very much. "We love God by loving others."

GATHERING ROOM

The Multipurpose Room has been renamed the “Gathering Room” in an effort to better fit the reason the room is used and rented to Redeemer members and community events such as baby and bridal showers, Bible studies, weddings, funerals, etc.
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**SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 8:15 AM Worship
- 10 AM Women's Bible Study
- 5 PM Advent Worship

**MONDAY**

- 8:10 AM Moms in Prayer
- 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study
- 7 PM Al-Anon—MP

**TUESDAY**

- 8:15 AM Worship
- 9:30 AM LifeLight Bible Study
- 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study
- 7 PM Al-Anon—MP

**WEDNESDAY**

- 8:15 AM Worship
- 9:30 AM All ages Bible Study
- 10:45 AM Worship
- 5 PM Advent by Candlelight

**THURSDAY**

- 8:10 AM Moms in Prayer
- 9:30 AM LifeLight Bible Study
- 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study
- 7 PM Al-Anon—MP

**FRIDAY**

- 8:15 AM Worship
- 9:30 AM All ages Bible Study
- 10:45 AM Worship
- 5 PM Advent by Candlelight

**SATURDAY**

- 8:10 AM Moms in Prayer
- 9:30 AM LifeLight Bible Study
- 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study
- 7 PM Al-Anon—MP