

# OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

904 Bluff Street Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

## THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

*A traditional, liturgical, Biblical congregation in the heart of Cedar Falls ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Christ.*

Rev. Michael R. Knox, Pastor  
(319) 231-9761

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Pastor  
(319) 389-5526

Matthew Baker, Vicar  
(605) 342-0259

Church Office: 266-2509

Email: [orlc@cfu.net](mailto:orlc@cfu.net) Website: [theforgivenessplace.org](http://theforgivenessplace.org)

### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday In Advent

December 17, 2023

**TO OUR VISITORS** We rejoice that you have joined us this morning to hear the Word of God, receive His gifts of life and salvation, and to respond to His faithfulness with “Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” *Ephesians 5:19*

- ✘ Please take the time to fill out the Communion Registration/Visitors’ Cards which are in the small card holders on the pew.
- ✘ Please read the announcement below regarding Communion.
- ✘ Guests who will not be communing may place the Visitor’s card in the Offering plate.
- ✘ Guests who intend to commune are asked to announce this intention to the Elder and give the card to the Usher as they come forward to receive communion.

### OUR REDEEMER PRACTICES CLOSED COMMUNION



The Sacrament of the Altar is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink, instituted by Christ Himself. As we receive this Sacrament, the oneness of fellowship at the Altar (I Corinthians 10:17) presupposes a oneness in doctrine with the Apostles (Acts 2:42). For this reason the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of Closed Communion. If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Our Redeemer or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning. Rather, we would invite you to speak with Pastor Knox,

Pastor Saunders, or Vicar Baker about Holy Communion and about becoming a communicant member of this congregation.

### THOSE SERVING GOD’S PEOPLE THIS WEEK

**Elder:** Tom Strub **Ushers:** Blake Wayson, Harold Saathoff

**Service Assistants:** Logan Baker **Organist:** Roxann List

**Tellers:** Jonah Bolin, Tom Strub **Shut-Ins:** Dean and Martha Garms



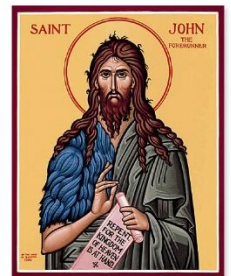
**TODAY IS THE 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT** As it was last Sunday, so again today, the Church’s attention is drawn to the last of the Old Testament prophets, John the “Baptizer.” It was noted in last Sunday’s bulletin that it would be just as appropriate to call him John the “Preacher” for he is as well known for his preaching as for his baptizing.

You heard from last week’s Gospel that **“John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist.”** (Mark 1:6). The camel’s hair and leather belt were not worn because John was eccentric in any way, or because he was looking for some way to draw unnecessary attention to himself.

He chose his clothing because it reflected who he was - a prophet of God.

Elijah, the great prophet of the Old Testament, wore **“a garment of hair with a leather belt around his waist.”** (2 Kings 1:8). Other Old Testament prophets likewise wore **“a prophet’s garment of hair.”** (Zech. 13:4). In the same manner, when St. John comes to be a prophet, he comes looking the way a prophet ought to look, dressing the way a prophet ought to dress. This way, the people will understand who St. John claims to be - he is not just a madman raving in the desert. He is one who speaks on behalf of God, and he dresses for his duties.

Your Pastor wears unusual clothes when you gather here with him, not in the wilderness beyond the Jordan, but here in God’s house. The vestments he wears don’t make him what he is but do reveal, that like John, he is God’s servant in this place, speaking on behalf of God. Like John, the work of all pastors is to be a preacher of **“Christ crucified”** (1 Corinthians 1:23) and point those who gather here today to **“Christ, the Lamb of God,”** who, as He is present with His body and blood, **“takes away the sins of the world.”**



# GAUDETE

**THEY'RE NOT PINK, THEY'RE ROSE** This morning you see the Rose colored paraments which are only used twice each year. During the development of Liturgical practice, it became customary to use Rose colored paraments on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent instead of the Purple traditionally used with these Seasons. In old usage, today is called, "Gaudete" Sunday. Its counterpart in the penitential season of Lent is called "Laetare" Sunday. These names come from the first word in the traditional Introit for each day which is translated "rejoice."

This was a subtle change from the penitence associated with Purple to a spirit of joy associated with Rose. The point of both days is to provide us encouragement as the Church progresses toward the end of each respective penitential season. This color change is not something new to most of you for you have already been accustomed to the lighting of the rose candle on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent.

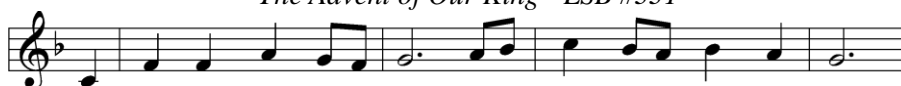
**BECAUSE ADVENT IS A PENITENTIAL SEASON** we observe a few liturgical changes.

- We omit the singing of the Gloria in Excelsis. (p. 187-189)
- We do not make use of flowers. The exception to this is today - the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent, Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday you also see the Rose colored paraments.

## I. THE PREPARATION

### Hymn of Invocation

"The Advent of Our King" LSB #331



- 1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
- 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
- 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5. Before the dawning day let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
 The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

- △ 6. All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
 With Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

**Stand/Remain Standing**

### Invocation

P/V: In the name of the Father and of the (✠) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**C: Amen.**

### The Confession of Sin

P/V: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P/V: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

P/V: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.** *Psalm 32:5*

P/V: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

P/V: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to be the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C: Amen.**

*Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

## II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Introit



Cantor: Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will | say, Rejoice.

**Cong: Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\***

**The Lord | is at hand.**

**Lord, You were favorable | to Your land;\***

**You restored the fortunes of | Jacob.**

**You forgave the iniquity of Your | people;\***

**You covered | all their sin.**

**Will You not revive | us again,\***

**that Your people may re- | joice in You?**

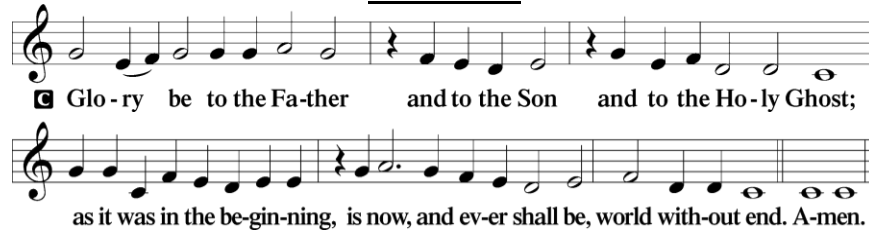
**Let me hear what God the | Lord will speak,\***

**for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.**

Cantor: Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will | say, Rejoice.

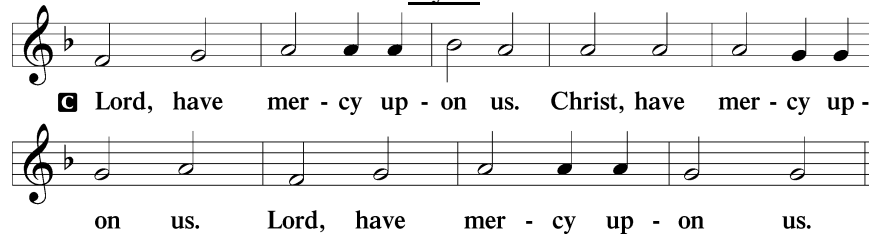
*(Ps. 85:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4)*

### Gloria Patri



### Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



### Gloria in Excelsis

*is omitted during Advent*

*Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

### The Salutation



**P** The Lord be with you.

*II Timothy 4:22*



**C** And with thy spir - it.

### The Collect of the Day

**P:** Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Be seated*

### The Old Testament

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God

### The Gradual Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” LSB #338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain

### The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### The Alleluia/Verse



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Behold, I send my messenger be - | fore Your face, \*  
who will prepare Your way be - | fore You.

(Matthew 11:10b)



☐ Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

### The Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to the Evangelist John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## The Nicene Creed

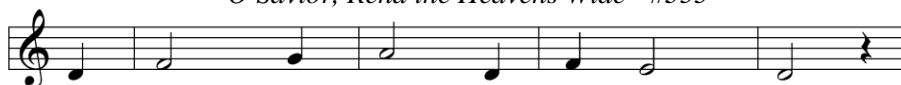
I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

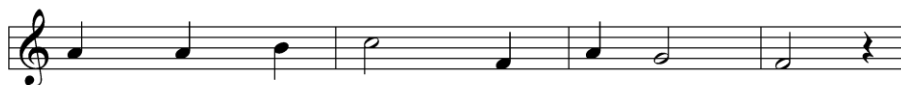
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life (✕) of the world to come. Amen

## The Hymn of The Day

*“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide” #355*



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;  
4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?



Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:  
Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,  
O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.  
Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.  
Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

5. O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,  
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?  
O Sun, arise; without Your light  
We grope in gloom and dark of night.
6. Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
O come, lead us with mighty hand  
From exile to our promised land.
7. There shall we all our praises bring  
And sing to You, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud You and adore  
Forever and forevermore.

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Tune: Public domain*

### The Sermon

*Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory*

*Stand*

### The Offertory

*Psalm 51:10-12*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## **The Prayers**

*Various Petitions are prayed. Each petition will conclude with the response:*

**P:** Lord, in Your mercy.

**C:** Hear our prayer.

*The Congregation, gathered for worship in person, will now be receiving the Sacrament of the Altar. This most significant portion of the Divine Service, when our Lord Jesus Christ draws near to His people with His flesh and blood, will not be streamed. Members desiring to receive the Sacrament who are unable to be present in the Church will be visited by one of our pastors to bring them the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.*

*Those who have joined us online for the Service of the Word are now encouraged to pray the Lord's prayer.*

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from (⌘) evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**May the Lord bless and keep you.**

**Please call Pastor Knox (319/231-9761) if you would like to receive a Pastoral visit.**

## ✠ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✠

<b>Sun. 12/17</b>	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Bible Class
	4:00 p.m.	Festival of Christmas Music
<b>Mon. 12/18</b>	6:30 p.m.	Confession and Absolution
	7:00 p.m.	Board of Elders
<b>Tue. 12/19</b>	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study at Peace-Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service at Peace-Shell Rock
<b>Wed. 12/20</b>	10:00 a.m.	Our Redeemer Book Club
	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
	12:00 p.m.	Midday Advent Service at Our Redeemer
	5:25 p.m.	Adult Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service at Our Redeemer
<b>Sat. 12/23</b>	7:30 p.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace – Shell Rock
<b>Sun. 12/24</b>	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Class (No Sunday School)
	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service at Peace-Shell Rock
	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Divine Service at Our Redeemer

### HYMNS/READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

#### Wednesday, December 20 – Midweek Advent Service III

Liturgy: Evening Prayer - LSB page 260; Reading: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Office Hymn: “Once He Came in Blessing” LSB #333

#### December 24, 2023 The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Invocation: Jesus! Name Of Wondrous Love .....900

Gradual: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.....338

Hymn of the Day: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came .....356

Distribution: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.....357

Distribution: Savior of the Nations, Come .....332

### CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES

In an effort to keep the members of Our Redeemer aware of our financial condition as a congregation, the following is provided by the Board of Stewardship and the Financial Secretary.

- Giving/income Year to Date \$211,676 (*through November*)
- Budget Year to Date: \$225,600
- Difference: -\$13,924

Donations are almost \$14,000 below our 2023 budget. Please consider increasing your offerings to reduce the deficit.

### BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

**THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. This class is currently studying Revelation.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. There will be no Sunday School on 12/24 or 12/31.

**WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY** This class meets each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. During Advent the Class will meet following the Midweek Service, approximately 7:30 p.m. The class studies the weekly readings, hymns, and propers for the upcoming Sunday. It is a way to prepare for the coming week’s Divine Service.

**THE VICAR’S BIBLE STUDY** This Fall Vicar Baker meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month at 9:00 a.m. The class also meets at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings of the same week at Peace in Shell Rock. The class will resume on January 8/9.

**YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** **YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet with our Vicar on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11:15 and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. During Advent the youth will not meet on Wednesdays.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY** are given by Pat Springer in loving memory of her dear husband, Art, and her grandson, Nate. Comfort is given in the true and certain hope of eternal life. *“Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.” Psalm 62:1.*

**2024 ALTAR FLOWERS** – Donations for Altar Flowers for 2024 can now be given. To reserve a Sunday, please place your name on the Flower Chart in the Parish Hall and fill out a flower donation card which is under the chart. Alternatively, contact Sara Lair – (319) 830-4370 or sjlair@cfu.net. Cost is \$40.00 plus tax – Bancroft will bill you directly.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** The regular time for Corporate Confession and Absolution, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month, will take place tomorrow, Monday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. Time for Individual Confession and Absolution will be available after the Service of Corporate Confession and is available by appointment as well. Please call Pastor Knox or Pastor Saunders to make those arrangements.

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS GIFT** As you leave the service this morning, you will receive a booklet developed by the Board of Communications & Outreach for Our Redeemer’s recent participation in the Historic Churches Tour. It is our hope you will gain a new-found appreciation for the symbolism in our beautiful sanctuary. (One per family, please.)

**UPDATED PHOTO DIRECTORY** Sometime after the New Year we will be printing a new Congregational Photo Directory. If you would like to update your photo, Tammy will be taking photos for the next several weeks in the lower level of the Education Wing during refreshment time. Please check the draft directory which is in either the Narthex or in the Parish Hall. Make sure that your information is correct. If everything is ok, put a check mark or your initials in the margin. If information needs to be corrected, please note what changes need to be made.

**THE FINAL MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES** will be held this Wednesday, and 6:30 p.m. This year throughout Advent we have focused our attention on the words of the week. Advent Services will also be held at Peace Lutheran on Tuesday evenings at 7:00



December 20 at Noon the Epistle readings for p.m.

**THANK YOU** to all members of Our Redeemer who contributed in one way or another were able to fulfill our 35 tags for the Salvation Army clients, and for our individual that of the Family.

to our Angel Tree. We is a client with Friends

The gifts were delivered to the Friends of the Family and the Salvation Army this week, and they will distribute to the recipients. We appreciate you working with the short time frame we were given, and for your generosity.

**TEXT BLAST INFORMATION** The Communications & Outreach Board thanks all who signed up for Church360’s new text-blast service. By now you should have received, and replied to, the registration email sent to you last Monday through Church360. If anyone had any difficulties with the registration process, please contact Greg Gerjerts and he will be of assistance.



**THE FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC** is this afternoon - Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. the congregation is invited to celebrate the Christmas Gospel in Word and Song. The festival will include Advent and Christmas music sung or played by instrumentalists, vocalists, the Sunday School students, the Adult Choir, and the congregation.

**COOKIES AND COCOA** Mark your calendars! On December 17<sup>th</sup> there will be “Cookies and Cocoa” after the Christmas Music Festival. There is a sign-up list to bring cookies, hot chocolate, plates, etc. downstairs in the Parish Hall. Contact Michaela Knox with any questions.

**NEW PORTALS OF PRAYER AND LUTHERAN WITNESS** are available in the Narthex.

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE**

#### **Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24\***

4:00 p.m. Divine Service @ Peace-Shell Rock

6:30 p.m. Divine Service @ Our Redeemer

#### **Christmas Day – Monday, December 25**

9:00 a.m. Divine Service @ Our Redeemer

\* Regular services at Peace and Our Redeemer will be held on Saturday and Sunday of Christmas weekend. Peace will observe the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent on Saturday, December 23 at 7:00 p.m. and Our Redeemer on Sunday morning, December 24 at 9:00 a.m.