RLC Genesis — December Newsletter



Just a Note

What are we waiting for? That's a question that I've heard from my kids on many occasions through the years. It seems they're always waiting around for me as I finish up some last-minute thing or another... "Come on! Let's go to Grandma and Grandpa's house. What are we waiting for?" or "Can we play a game now? What are we waiting for?"

Waiting...we spend much of our lives just waiting around, whether we're waiting in line at a store or waiting on hold for someone in customer service or waiting for public transportation or waiting at stoplights or waiting for test results... Just think about how much time we spend waiting! Oftentimes (and particularly in the examples mentioned above), waiting is associated with sitting or standing around and doing nothing. BUT...there's a different kind of waiting that Advent brings to light for us.

Advent is a season of waiting and preparation...waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas as well as waiting for his promised second coming. However, this type of waiting doesn't involve sitting or standing around and doing nothing. The type of waiting that Advent brings to the forefront of our lives is an active form, in which we are called to share hope, love, joy, and peace in a world that so desperately needs it. Advent preparation involves actively preparing our hearts to receive the Savior of the world, both by centering our lives on the One who came to save and by sharing the love of God with our neighbors and those in need.

As we prepare our hearts and center our minds on Christ this holiday season, may you be filled with the joy and wonder of the shepherds, the song of the angels, and the peace of the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in the manger. May you be filled with the wonder of Mary as she pondered all these things in her heart. And may you be encouraged and led to share the Light of Christ...the light that you carry within you...as you actively wait for the greatest gift this world could have ever asked for.



We are bearers of light in a world that longs for it. So... what are we waiting for? Let's bring it!

God's Blessings, Pastor Sarah

Join us for Advent & Christmas Worship!



December 17, 2023 | Christmas Program



Join us for worship at 9am on December 17 as our Sunday School kids present their Christmas program. They've been working hard on music and parts and are so excited to share this program with all of you!

A HUGE thank you to the following individuals:
Rachel Kuebelbeck for directing the program, Kathy Wirth
for providing the piano accompaniment, Lori Schneider
and our teachers for their guidance, and Ridell Curtis and
all the volunteers who are helping assemble the stage.
Last but not least, thank you to our Sunday School kiddos
for participating and sharing the story of Jesus' birth!





While Christmas is a joyous time of year for many, we are also mindful of the unrest and pain that exists in our lives, communities, and world. Whether you are grieving this time of year or supporting others who are going through difficult times, please join us for worship on December 21, the longest night, as we focus on the hope and peace that is revealed to us through the ever-present Light of Christ.

Christmas Decor Donations

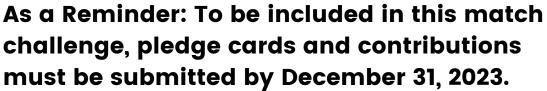


Last Month of Mortgage Match!

THIS IS IT... the LAST MONTH of the mortgage reduction challenge!

So far, we are at \$131,000 in pledges and offerings...soooo close! Let's see if we can reach this goal together.

To all who have already turned in pledge cards or made contributions, THANK YOU! And a huge thank you to Galen and Bonnie Kabe for their generous offer to match donations and pledges made to the building fund, dollar for dollar, up to \$200,000.



Contributions can be designated as one-time gifts or weekly/monthly/annual contributions (and can span over the course of 3 years).



Quilts for Sale! (Mortgage Debt Reduction)

Last month, we blessed 33 quilts created by our quilting group. These quilts are available for purchase through the month of December (suggested price is listed on each tag), with all proceeds going to the mortgage debt reduction match challenge.

Quilts make beautiful gift ideas!



Christmas Program Rehearsals

Practices for the program are scheduled for December 3 and 10 during Sunday School time and Saturday, December 16 (dress rehearsal!) from 10:00am - 12:00pm. A light lunch and short Christmas activity for families will follow the dress rehearsal at 12:00!



Advent Countdown

Families: Please take and enjoy an Advent countdown paper chain craft kit located in the Narthex. The kits are designed for children to learn more about the Advent season as they prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. Each day has a fun activity idea.



Sunday School Teachers



Sunday School teachers are needed for the second half of the year (January – May). If you are willing to teach and are not currently on the rotation, please reach out to the church office or email youthandfamily@rlcstjoe.com. Thank you!

Youth Event | December 17, 2023 | Following Service



December 17, 2023 from 10:15-11:00 for grades 7-12. Gift exchange (gifts provided), watch a holiday movie, decorate Christmas cookies, and enjoy snacks.



December 2023 Newsletter

Confirmation Baking Night & Annual Bake Sale

















SADE



Staffing Update

Our Office Manager, Bailey Bussmann, has decided to resign from her position at RLC to focus her full attention on being a mom. Bailey's last official day will be Dec. 6; however, she will remain with us one day a week through the end of January to help with the transition. Thank you, Bailey, for all you have done for our congregation. You are appreciated, and you will be missed!!



Veterans Quilt



On Sunday, November 5, we honored our RLC veterans during worship. Several stayed after the service for a photo with the Veterans' Quilt made by our quilters. If you served in the military but your name is not yet included on the quilt, please email the church office!

St Joe Food Shelf Match



The St. Joseph Community Food Shelf served 120 local households in 2023. The food shelf appreciates its donors and all donations! As you may know, the food shelf is able to greatly stretch monetary donations to make a huge impact. From November 23-December 31 that impact will go even farther! A generous donor will MATCH all monetary donations dollar for dollar. If you are interested in donating, checks can be written to RLC with "Food Shelf" in the memo and placed in the offering plate, mailed to church or dropped in the secure drop box. All donations will be given to the food shelf prior to December 31. Thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity!



Peoples Church in Bemidji is looking for craft items to help keep clients active during these cold winter days when everyone is stuck inside. The Outreach committee is taking donations of crafts such as adult coloring books, markers, colored pencils, paints, paper, beads, supplies for bead crafts, prepackaged crafts in a bag, craft glue, scissors etc. Items can be placed in the wire baskets in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please reach out to Angela Haynes or Susan Curtis.

Having Trouble Hearing in the Sanctuary?

If you have had issues hearing spoken voices in the sanctuary, please let us know! David Krzenski, our volunteer sound technician, has been working hard to improve the microphone sound quality for those with hearing aids and has several solutions that just may do the trick. Please reach out to the church office, or stop by the OBS desk after worship on Sundays, and David would be happy to assist!





Nominating Committee Seeking Council Members



WE NEED YOU! Our Nominating Committee is looking for individuals interested in serving on the church council. We will specifically have in the areas of Finance and openings Christian Education. lengths Term are generally 3 years, and council meetings are held once a month. If you would be willing to serve RLC in this important part of ministry, please reach out to Connie Dullinger, John Anderson, or Rich Haselhorst.

Bible Study in-person or Zoom!

Join us for morning Bible study either inperson (Fireside Room at the church) or via Zoom on Thursdays at 9am! Together we look at and discuss the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. Come and share, or just come and listen. We'd love to have you join!



Fare for All January 8, 2024 @ 3:30pm - 5:30pm



Fare For All offers savings that are much less than retail prices. The program has no income requirements and is open to everyone who is looking to save money on their grocery dollar. There are no forms to complete, and cash, credit, debit and EBT cards are all accepted.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. Birthdays

Zachary Nesland 12/01 Colin Welle 12/01 Jerry Bobeldyk 12/02 Lance Anderson 12/03 Kathryn Wirth 12/03 Angela Haynes 12/05 Amaya Marwitz 12/06 Dean Holtz 12/07 Sara Revier 12/07 Maureen Tubbiola 12/07 Jessica Kompelien 12/08 Rachel Haaland 12/09 Buddy Huls 12/09 Ethan Carlson 12/11 **Rob Lyon 12/11** Patricia Michaelson 12/12 Lilah Hannon 12/13 Richard Rasmussen 12/13 Deborah Robinson 12/13 Matthew Goebel 12/14 Mark Hennigs 12/14 Gwen Kranz 12/15 Jim Parsons 12/15 Deanna Birk 12/19 Brady Goebel 12/19 Lori Baggenstoss 12/22 Debbie Sabrowsky 12/22 Jake Petron 12/24 Joan Schramm 12/27 John Anderson 12/31 Vayda Baggenstoss 12/31 David Ford 12/31

Council Highlights - Dec.

- Our Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28 after worship.
- Our Office Manager, Bailey, has resigned her position. Her last official day will be on December 6.
 Graciously, she has offered some additional help in transitional time until the end of January. She will be very missed and we wish Bailey and her family the very best!
- The Office Manager and the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator positions will be posted this week.
- We plan to sell the old Grand
 Piano (currently in the Fellowship
 Hall) and the old electric piano
 (posting coming soon!).
- The Sunday School Christmas
 Program will be held on Sunday,
 December 17 during worship. We will worship in the Fellowship Hall that day to accommodate the large stage.

For corrections or additions, please reach out to the church office so our records can be updated. Thank you!