



Connecting people to Jesus

# The *Good News*

**DECEMBER 2018**

*Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii*  
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Oh, I know that it's only the December newsletter and most people think that I should wait for January to wish you a "Happy New Year," but there is one problem, I am a pastor and I march to the beat of a different drum. This drum is not heard by the world, but it is heard by The Church.

The church year begins with the First Sunday in Advent and this year, that falls on December second, so HAPPY NEW YEAR! Advent is that brief season of anticipation as we await the arrival of the Christ Child with Christmas.

Do you remember when you were a child and then again if you had kids of your own? Do you remember the anticipation and excitement of Christmas and of course along with that, the excitement of family and dear friends coming together? Perhaps it started Christmas Eve as everyone would head off to church. There, we would sing hymns and carols and read the story.

We all know the story, the story of the pregnant virgin who received a very special promise that from her womb would come the salvation of mankind. We know about her betrothed, soon to be husband who received a visit from the angel with a message that he was to be the stepfather of the Lord God Almighty. How exciting would that be?

We know the story of those shepherds who were out in the fields watching over their sheep. Perhaps they were just chatting, telling a joke or two while they watched to see that none of the sheep wandered off or worse, a predator got into their midst. We remember the excitement that ensued when all of the sudden, a blinding light appears to them and an angel of the Lord appeared to them with that message that angels often have when they show up, "don't be afraid!" Then the message that their Savior is born. Then suddenly an army of singing angels show up and sing of the glories of God. What anticipation they must have had as they went to see this baby who would deliver them from their sins and death.

We share this anticipation, like the children that we once were, for we are given such a gift. The gift that we receive is so much greater than a new bicycle or toy. The gift is better than the latest video gaming system or the nice big screen. Those gifts wear out and bring only temporary joy and comfort. The gift that we are given never wears out, it never breaks and it is something that stays with us for more than a lifetime.

Every year on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we gather to have the joy of the gift that God Himself gives us in the face of the baby boy of Bethlehem who bounced on His mother's knee two thousand years ago. We gather to sing the songs and hear the story again and again as our hearts are filled with joy that this Babe of Bethlehem is our Savior, God Himself, in the flesh of man.

Jesus is truly God so that the gift that He gives is great enough for the whole world, of all time and He is truly man so that the gift would be for common people like you and me.

It is the season for gifts, and as with so many things that we are given, over time, we get bored with them, we lose them or break them, but this gift is different.

You may get bored with church and with God. You may wander off like those sheep that the shepherds watched on that first Christmas. You may even get angry with your Savior because you fail to see how He is operating properly, according to your ideas of what He should do. But here's the Good News, no matter how much we may neglect or even forget about Him, He NEVER FORGETS ABOUT YOU!

Even when we wander and stray, even when we sin and rebel against Him, you and I remain the apple of His eye and His pride and joy. It is with great anticipation that He waits for the time and day that you will come home and spend eternity with Him.

This is the desire of my heart this Advent and Christmas season, that you will come home to the Lord's House and receive His gifts of life, mercy, and grace. It is my sincere hope that you will have the eternal joy of "The Gift" which is given for you.

Romans 3:23&24 (ESV) "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace AS A GIFT, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..."

You cannot earn the gift and you cannot do anything to procure this gift, but it is given freely, by God to the whole world.

In this Advent Season, let us, like Children, dream of having such a gift with the anticipation that on Christmas, we once again will have joy of it.

However, why wait? Have joy of it now. Christmas is coming, but soon, we will see the fulfillment of this gift on Good Friday and Easter Morning.

Every day that we are in Christ is Christmas and Easter all rolled into one, for on Christmas, our Savior Comes and on Easter, He gives us His resurrection.

So today, I bid you a Happy New Year, a Merry Christmas and a Blessed Easter!

Christ is born, Christ is given as a sacrifice, Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia and all of this is a gift to you!

*O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

*Pastor Christian*

**READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2018**

December 2	Jeremiah 33:14-16	1 Thessalonian 3:9-13	Luke 19:28-40
December 9	Malachi 3:1-7b	Philippians 1:L2-11	Luke 3:1-20
December 15	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 7:18-28
December 23	Micah 5:2-5a	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-56
December 24	Isaiah 7:10-14	1 John 4:7-16	Matthew 1:18-25
December 25	Isaiah 52:7-10	Hebrews 1:1-12	John 1:1-14
December 30	Exodus 13:1-3a,11-15	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:22-40

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**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER**



- Rose Lubitz
- Marcy Reginelli
- Nellie Miller
- Anne Krakowiak
- Mark Matteson
- Carol Riess
- Roger Koopman
- Peter Tirbalk

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**“MEET ME AT THE STABLE”** on December 19

At our Advent Service on December 19th, we will have a display of nativity sets in our sanctuary. If you have a nativity that you would be willing to share please bring it to the Advent Service on the 19th. Please add a short story and of course your name. If, for example, you bought one in China, we would like to know when and where and how you obtained it. They will be displayed on Sunday December 23rd also. It will be fun to view other people’s nativities as we prepare for Jesus’ Birth.



**WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**



**california**  
**PIZZA KITCHEN**

In December, the women will meet on the **first Thursday** instead of the usual second Thursday at California Pizza Kitchen in the Ala Moana Shopping Center. All members and friends of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend. The

ladies have an enjoyable time getting to know more about one another. We hope to see you there on December 6th at 11:00 am at California Pizza Kitchen.

**KEIKI CHURCH VOLUNTEERS**

- December 2 Ruth Crockett
- December 9 Kathryn Koopman
- December 16 Lorine Pelletier
- December 23 Bonnie Jo Alle
- December 30 Lorine Pelletier



**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**  
**November 8, 2018**  
**WELCOMING PASTOR CHRISTIAN**



Front (left to right) Pat Giustra, Nelda Peterson, Rianna Williams  
Second Row (left to right) Dayna Owskey, Gladys Crenshaw, Bonnie Jo Alle, Pastor Christian  
Back table(left to right) Marcy Reginelli, Luella Seyfer, Nance Beadle, Janelle Dryden, Ruth Crockett,  
Christobel Sanders, Ruby Hodel



## **Worship Assistants Schedule for the month of DECEMBER**

**Worship Care:** Lorine Pelletier, Nelda Peterson

### **December 2, 2018 – First Sunday in Advent**

Assistant: Joseph Krakowiak  
Ushers: Anne Krakowiak, Matthew Schlechte  
Lectors: “Willie” Williams – Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Joseph Krakowiak – 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13  
Gospel – Luke 19:28-40

### **December 9, 2018 – Second Sunday in Advent**

Assistant: Henry Kuhn II  
Ushers: Carl Weinsteger, Thomas Windsor  
Lectors: Lauren Block - Malachi 3:1-7b  
Henry Kuhn II -Philippians 1:2-11  
Gospel – Luke 3:1-20

### **December 16, 2018 – Third Sunday in Advent**

Assistant: Jerry Groth  
Ushers: Henry Kuhn II, Marcy Reginelli  
Lectors: Kathryn Koopman – Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Jerry Groth – Philippians 4:4-7  
Gospel – Luke: 7:18-28

### **December 23, 2018 – Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Assistant: Lorine Pelletier  
Ushers: Lester Pelletier, Carl Weinsteger  
Lectors: Takako Thompson – Micah 5:2-5a  
Lorine Pelletier – Hebrews 10:5-10  
Gospel – Luke 1:39-56

### **December 24, 2018 – Christmas Eve**

Assistant: Henry Kuhn II  
Ushers: Marcy Reginelli, Stuart Peace  
Lectors: Marcy Reginelli -Isaiah 7:10-14  
Henry Kuhn II – 1 John 4:7-16  
Gospel – Matthew 1:18-25

### **December 25, 2018 – Christmas Day**

Assistant: Thomas Windsor  
Ushers: Stuart Peace, Lester Pelletier  
Lectors: Bonnie Jo Alle – Isaiah 52:7-10  
Thomas Windsor – Hebrews 1:1-12  
Gospel – John 1:1-14

### **December 30, 2018 – First Sunday after Christmas**

Assistant: Richard Thompson  
Ushers: Marcy Reginelli, Thomas Windsor  
Lectors: “Willie” Williams – Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15  
Richard Thompson – Colossians 3:12-17  
Gospel – Luke 2:22-40

## DECEMBER 2018 Calendar

Sun. Dec. 2, 2018	9:00 am	Divine Service with Communion
	10:15 am	Fellowship
	10:30 am	Bible Study – Room 2
Wed. Dec. 5, 2018	10:00 am	Bible Study – Aloha Room
	7:00 pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols Wine and Cheese reception to follow
Thurs. Dec. 6, 2018	11:00 am	Women’s Fellowship Lunch California Pizza Kitchen – Ala Moana
Sat. Dec. 8, 2018	8:00 am	Fellowship Breakfast – Kahala Zippy’s (dine in)
Sun. Dec. 9, 2018	9:00 am	Divine Service with Communion
	10:15 am	Fellowship
	10:30 am	Bible Study – Room 2
Mon. Dec. 10, 2018	6:30 pm	Spiritual Life Board – Aloha Room
Wed. Dec. 12, 2018	10:00 am	Bible Study – Aloha Room
	1:00 pm	Board of Property Management - Aloha Room
	7:00 pm	Advent Service Cookie and Hot Cocoa reception to follow
Sat. Dec. 15, 2018	8:00 am	Fellowship Breakfast – Kahala Zippy’s (dine in)
Sun. Dec. 16, 2018	9:00 am	Divine Service with Communion
	10:15 am	Fellowship
	10:30 am	Bible Study – Room 2
Mon. Dec. 17, 2018	6:30 pm	Board of Directors – Aloha Room
Wed. Dec. 19, 2018	10:00 am	Bible Study – Aloha Room
	7:00 pm	Advent Service – Holden Evening Prayer Nativity Display
Sat. Dec. 22, 2018	8:00 am	Fellowship Breakfast – Kahala Zippy’s (dine in)
Sun. Dec. 23, 2018	9:00 am	Divine Service with Communion
	10:15 am	Fellowship
Mon. Dec. 24, 2018	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion
Tues. Dec. 25, 2018	9:00 am	Christmas Day Service with Communion
Sat. Dec. 29, 2018	8:00 am	Fellowship Breakfast – Kahala Zippy’s (dine-in)
Sun. Dec. 30, 2018	9:00 am	Divine Service with Communion
	10:15 am	Fellowship
	10:30 am	Bible Study – Room 2



## Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

**Pastor Christian Rasmussen**

Administrative Assistant  
Director of Music  
Trumpet  
  
Cello

**Sharon Shinno**  
**Karl Bachman**  
**Roger Koopman**  
**Jillian Madanay**  
**Lauren Block**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Board of Spiritual Life Director  
Board of Community Life Director  
Board of Finance Management Director  
Board of Property Management Director

**Karl Bachman**  
**Stephanie Spangler**  
**Bonnie Jo Alle**  
**Roger Koopman**  
**Jerry Groth**  
**Stephen Okumura**  
**Henry Kuhn II**  
**Michael Riess**

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