

# **CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**

**Eblast**

**December 4, 2025**



## **WORSHIP WITH US ON SUNDAY AT 11 A.M.**

### **FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH**

This Sunday is the first Sunday of the month, as such, all open plate donations will be directed to the Bridge to help those less fortunate in the Valley. (These are donations that would ordinarily go to the Rector's discretionary fund.)

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE UPDATE**

Class Resumption Date: Sunday School classes will resume **THIS SUNDAY** December 7th at 9:30 AM. We look forward to welcoming everyone back and continuing our lessons.



### **ADVENT WORSHIP CHANGES**

Canon Melinda advises that you follow the bulletin closely during the season of Advent. You'll notice that the Opening Acclamation, the Confession, the Eucharistic Prayer, the Memorial Acclamation, the Post Communion Prayer, and the Blessing are seasonal variations. The service music is different as well. We won't sing or say the Gloria again until Christmas.



### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:30 p.m.  
If this service is too late for you, please join Canon Melinda at St. John at 4 p.m. for their Christmas Eve Service.

# AdventWord

November 30 - December 25, 2025

- |    |               |    |              |
|----|---------------|----|--------------|
| 30 | Again         | 13 | Unquenchable |
| 1  | Said          | 14 | Honor        |
| 2  | Tribes        | 15 | Abundantly   |
| 3  | Quietness     | 16 | Recompense   |
| 4  | Reveling      | 17 | Highway      |
| 5  | Gratify       | 18 | Cleansed     |
| 6  | Day           | 19 | Robes        |
| 7  | Heed          | 20 | Truly        |
| 8  | Counsel       | 21 | Deep         |
| 9  | Equity        | 22 | Declared     |
| 10 | Encouragement | 23 | Mother       |
| 11 | Written       | 24 | Angel        |
| 12 | Brood         | 25 | Endless      |

[AdventWord.org](http://AdventWord.org)



Forward  
Movement

Sign up for email updates and daily meditations at [AdventWord.org](http://AdventWord.org)



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

# SPAGHETTI

## *Fund Raiser*



- **FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SENFT FAMILY**
  - STEPHANIE (HAVENS) SENFT
  - SAYRE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1993
  - LOST HER LIFE TO CANCER
  - LEAVING BEHIND 3 YOUNG CHILDREN
- **A SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL DINNER WILL BE HELD**
  - SATURDAY DEC 6<sup>TH</sup> FROM 4PM TO 7PM
  - AT THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER IN SAYRE
- **TICKETS:**
  - \$10 IF BOUGHT AHEAD OF TIME
  - \$12 AT THE DOOR
- **EAT IN OR TAKE OUT**
  - CHILDREN UNDER 5 ARE FREE

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 from Shari Stroud (702) 810-0576 or at Impact X Performance located at 114 Desmond Street in Sayre. Or you may pay \$12 at the door. Church of the Redeemer is located at 201 S. Wilbur Ave. in Sayre. Please make checks payable to Bonnie Garrity. Stephanie is Bonnie and Betsy Schumacher's niece.





Find Comfort and Hope:  
Christ Church to Host "Blue Christmas" Service for  
Those Struggling This Holiday Season  
Sunday December 7 2pm

TOWANDA, PA — The holiday season, often portrayed as a time of unbridled joy and celebration, can be a time of profound sadness, grief, and loneliness for many in our community. Recognizing that not everyone is feeling "merry and bright," Christ Church is offering a special "Blue Christmas" service on December 7th at 2 pm. This quiet, contemplative service, also sometimes known as a "Longest Night" service, is a sacred space where individuals can bring their authentic feelings of pain, loss, and struggle without the pressure to put on a happy face. It is open to everyone, regardless of church affiliation, who may be navigating a difficult time, such as: Grieving the loss of a loved one, dealing with the pain of separation or broken relationships, coping with job loss, health issues, or other significant changes in life, experiencing loneliness or depression amidst the holiday festivities, feeling overwhelmed by the state of the world or personal worries. The service will include periods of silence, reflective music, candle lighting, and scripture readings that acknowledge the reality of human suffering and point toward the enduring hope and comforting presence of God, even in our darkest moments. "The Christmas story reminds us that God came to dwell among us, in the midst of our human experience—including the pain and the mess," said Reverend Betsy Sentigar of Christ Church. "Our Blue Christmas service provides a safe, supportive place to acknowledge our sorrow and to be reminded that we are not alone in our grief. God is with us, and so is our community." All members of the community and their friends are invited to attend this service to find solace, strength, and a renewed sense of peace this Advent season.

Event Details:

- What: Blue Christmas/Service of Comfort and Hope
- When: Dec. 7th, 2pm
- Where: Christ Episcopal Church, 1 Main St. Towanda, PA
- Cost: Free and open to all
- More Information: For any questions, please contact 570-265-5035 or email our parish secretary at [christchurchsec18848@gmail.com](mailto:christchurchsec18848@gmail.com)

Join us as we pause from the holiday hustle and make room for honest reflection, finding light and grace in the midst of darkness.



## **HOLIDAY CONCERT OF ORGAN AND HARP**

On Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> you are invited to join us at Church of the Redeemer for a free holiday concert of organ and harp music being presented by Ted Davenport.

## **WEDNESDAY SERVICES SUSPENDED**

Our Wednesday 12:05 Holy Eucharist will resume in the New Year on January 7.

## **DECEMBER 6 & 7 LESSONS**

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 11:1-10

**Psalms:** 72:1-7, 18-19

**Second Lesson:** Romans 15:4-13

**Gospel:** Matthew 3:1-12

## **BIRTHDAYS**



Jennifer Prickett	12/6
Renee Shay	12/7
Larry Gabb	12/7
Hazel Hunt	12/9
Kevin Prickett	12/9
Emily Marshall	12/9
James Davies	12/10



## 2025 ANGEL TREE



In this season of sharing God's love and in the joy of giving, we are joining St. John's Lutheran Church in adopting the residents of The Athens Health and Rehabilitation Center, located on Main Street in Athens. As you take a star off the tree you will find different gift suggestions on each. The gifts **do not** need to be wrapped, as the items will be put in gift bags by the staff, assuring that the right items go to the appropriate patients. Please help us to make sure *everyone* gets a gift this year.

I am asking that all gifts be returned to the church with the star by Sunday, Dec. 21st. Please help us add to their joy at not feeling lonely or overlooked during this Christmas season. Feel free to call me with any questions. My number is 607-425-8489

Always,  
Margaret Cole

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Advent II (December 7)

Look for places where the wolf and the lamb lie down together in peace. Where do you see that peace in your relationships, in your family or circle of friends, in the neighborhood, the city, the nation, and the world? Even within yourself, where has peace been forged between previously warring factions?



## OUTREACH AT REDEEMER

The food item for the month of December is Peanut Butter or Cereal. Items collected go to our local food pantries to help those with food insecurities here in the Valley.



## YOU ARE INVITED TO CRAFTING DAY



On Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. we are invited to crafting day at St. John in the South Wing. Feel free to bring a dish or snack to share with the group. There is sure to be some Christmas creations being made. No experience needed, just a desire to partake in fun and fellowship. We hope to see you then!

## DANDY CANES AND THE BRIDGE



We are thrilled to announce that The Bridge and the Valley Food Pantry have been selected as beneficiaries of the Dandy Canes fundraiser again this year. **The Dandy 19 location at 78 White Wagon Road** (*better know as the Wiliwana Dandy*) **Sayre, PA 18840** has been selected for the Bridge. **The Dandy 17 location at 244 Spring Street, Sayre PA** has been selected for the Valley Food Pantry. Please stop by

these locations now through Friday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. Every Dandy Cane that you purchase will directly support our mission to help those in need in our community. Thank you for helping to make an impact this season.



## YOU ARE INVITED TO A POTLUCK AT ST. JOHN

On Sunday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>** the people of St. John invites us to a potluck at noon. Chicken speidies and rolls will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. Let's make a day of it and enjoy lunch with our siblings at St. John and come back to Redeemer for a wonderful holiday concert.



## **ST MARY'S GUILD CHRISTMAS DINNER RESCHEDULED (AGAIN!)**

Join us at Yanuzzi's on **Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup>** for our rescheduled Christmas Celebration beginning at 5:30 pm.



### **GREENING OF THE CHURCH**

On December 21<sup>st</sup> after the 11 a.m. service we will be greening the Church for the Christmas season. This is always a joyfull time of fun and fellowship and as an added bonus there will be breakfast pizza!! We hope you will consider staying after the service to help us.



### **CONTINUING TO IMPROVE OUR WORSHIP SPACE**

Last August, during his visitation, Bishop Kevin urged us to apply for a Mission Resource Grant to improve our sound system. We did just that and we received a grant that covers nearly half the cost of upgrading our sound system and adding a camera that will improve our livestreaming capabilities. This camera will allow us to look a little more polished, and perhaps more attractive, to those viewing online. Did you know that we average over 100 views per week? Work has begun with new wiring put into place this week and starting on Friday, new speakers will begin to be put into place. We are grateful to the estate of Ruth Tozer Bixby that helped make this upgrade possible.

Our Altar Guild has notice that some of our “hangings” (also known as “paraments”) are in need of upgrade. We have order new white hangings and are sending up prayers that they arrive in time for Christmas. We are certain that they will arrive in time for Easter!



## ***Christmas Flowers for Church Altar***

*To place an order either fill out this order form or call the church office (888-2270). Please indicate color and size that you would like. **Deadline to order is December 14<sup>th</sup>***

- |              |           |                |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| o 6" Pot     | (1 Plant) | <b>\$13.00</b> |
|              | o Red     | Quantity _____ |
|              | o Pink    | Quantity _____ |
|              | o White   | Quantity _____ |
| o 6 1/2" Pot | (1 Plant) | <b>\$20.00</b> |
|              | o Red     | Quantity _____ |
|              | o Pink    | Quantity _____ |
|              | o White   | Quantity _____ |
| o 8" Pot     | (1 Plant) | <b>\$23.00</b> |
|              | o Red     | Quantity _____ |
|              | o Pink    | Quantity _____ |
|              | o White   | Quantity _____ |
| o 10" Pot    | (1 Plant) | <b>\$37.00</b> |
|              | o Red     | Quantity _____ |
|              | o Pink    | Quantity _____ |
|              | o White   | Quantity _____ |



From: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory, honor, or thanksgiving of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

• Paid    Check \_\_\_\_    Cash \_\_\_\_



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## **John the Baptist**

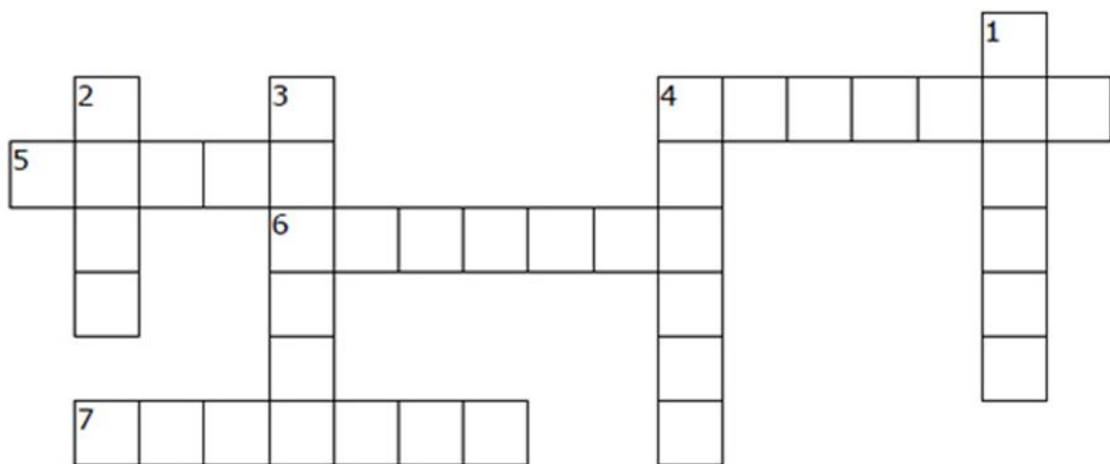
# Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST  
Matthew 3



## ACROSS

4. One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
5. The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
6. To get ready for something that is going to happen
7. What John did to people in the Jordan River

## DOWN

1. An area where there is little rain and not many plants
2. The man who preached that Jesus was coming
3. To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
4. To deliver a sermon

VOICE  
REPENT

PREPARE  
JOHN

DESERT  
PREACH

PROPHET  
BAPTIZE



# Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1-2 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



JOHN THE BAPTIST  
*Matthew 3*

W L U Z M H V J O J Q V Q S U  
I Y V S L O G N K M D B H A K  
K C T X T N M R H K Y T E X X  
C I X J T E Z Y J T A E S L E  
P N N Y Y Y A S L P P T R Z T  
R B M G J W I L D G S U E S Q  
E D A H D H A I R U X G P T C  
P Z O P Y O U S C E N U E R F  
A T O Q T W M O H I N J N A F  
R Z S G N I L O H L R L T I M  
E Z J N P O Z C P N E P Y G P  
E S P O A E A E H M N N Z H C  
L O R D H E M T A F T Q X T Y  
J W K K R N J C U Y C T Q T U  
I X E P F N M H L D Z D E N I

LORD  
BAPTIZE  
REPENT

PREPARE  
STRAIGHT  
LOCUSTS

KINGDOM  
PATHS  
HONEY

JOHN  
PREACHING  
CAMEL

HAIR  
WILD  
BELT