

# CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

**Eblast**

**December 18, 2025**



**WORSHIP WITH US ON EITHER SATURDAY AT 5:15 P.M. OR  
SUNDAY AT 11 A.M.**

## **GREENING OF THE CHURCH**

**THIS SUNDAY, December 21<sup>st</sup> BEFORE** worship the Sunday School presents its Christmas program (see next page) and **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.



## **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. If you took a star off the tree please returned it and the gift to the church by **THIS SUNDAY**, Dec. 21st. 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.

# Christmas Program

## The Nativity Story



Family and friends and congregation are invited to the Sunday School Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM.

Following an Advent Wreath Lighting and the reading of the Christmas Story, a Birthday Party will be held for the Baby Jesus. Also, during this celebration the students will be decorating the children's Christmas tree in the church.

|        |                                 |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| Where: | Church of the Redeemer          |
|        | Parrish Hall Sunday School Room |
| When:  | Sunday, December 21, 2025       |
| Time:  | 9:30 AM                         |

Hope you can make it!

Sunday School Staff

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

There will be no Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 28th. This break is scheduled in observance of Christmas weekend, providing an opportunity for everyone to spend more time with their families.

Sunday School classes will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 9:30 AM.

Thank you,

Sunday School Staff

## **WRAPPING OUR ARMS OF LOVE AROUND THE COLES**

Baby Bob's (now "Bobby") parents have recently endured significant health challenges such that neither are able to work. Bobbie is growing and he too, still has a long way to go. Grandparents Lisa and David Cole are a great source of support for them. We, as their church community, can provide them with some tangible support, too ... letting them all know that we care about them. We propose putting together a gift basket for Christmas. Here's how you might contribute:

- Write a Christmas/thinking of you card to Zack, Dawn and Bobby (and Lisa and David!)
- Provide a Christmas ornament (Baby's second Christmas, Nativity scene?)
- Grocery store gift card of any amount
- Wal-Mart gift card
- Christmas baked goods
- Stocking stuffer items

Please turn in any item by **THIS SUNDAY**, December 21<sup>st</sup> and we'll make sure that they receive them.

## **WEDNESDAY SERVICES SUSPENDED**

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

## DECEMBER 20 & 21 LESSONS

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 7:10-16

**Psalm:** Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

**Second Lesson:** Romans 1:1-7

**Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-25

## BIRTHDAYS



|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| John Storelli    | 12/20 |
| Mary Storelli    | 12/20 |
| David Cole       | 12/26 |
| Katelyn Lewis    | 12/26 |
| Charles Lattimer | 12/27 |

John & Kristina Felt      12/24



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Advent IV (December 21)

In Romans, Paul defines himself according to 1) who Jesus is (promised through the prophets,) 2) what Jesus gives (grace and apostleship,) and 3) why Jesus is for all people (to foster faith.) How do those qualities and gifts inform your own definition of self? How might you amend, or more greatly appreciate, your own self-image and the image you have of others because of Jesus?



Pay particular attention to the Gospel account of Jesus' birth in Matthew's Gospel. Notice that it is different from the familiar story we have in Luke. Why might the stories be different?

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ORGAN & HARP CONCERT



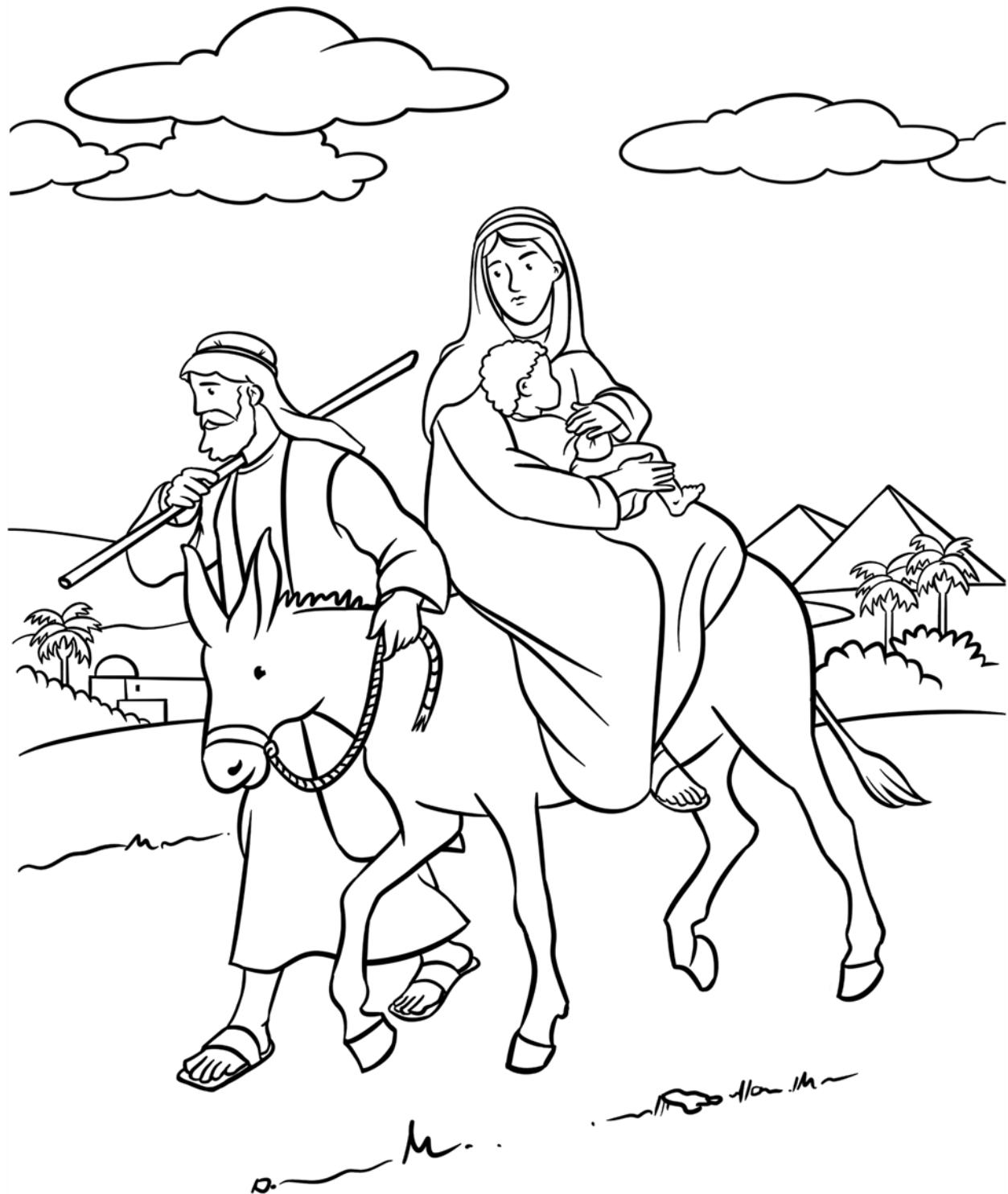
Last Sunday afternoon, we hosted a well-received organ and harp concert performed by Mr. Ted Davenport of Apalachin, NY. Ted is primarily self-taught and although he can read music, prefers to play by ear. Approximately 45 people attended and we were especially pleased that residents of Sayre Health Care (SHC) were amongst the audience. It is through SHC that we learned of Ted. Former parishioner Joanne Lumley has a sister, Jean Swett, who is a resident there. Last Spring she mentioned to Ted, who performs at SHC, that he might enjoy playing our organ. He called, Marcella was agreeable, and he has practiced on our organ almost weekly since then. In thanksgiving he offered to perform a Christmas Concert for us and oh, what a concert!

First, he played the organ for about 45 minutes. He began with a medley that included the *Little Drummer Boy*, followed by variations on *In the Deep Midwinter*, and then a waltz of his own composition. He concluded with a Scots-Irish tune that his recently departed mother especially loved.

After playing the organ, he moved to his harp for about a half an hour – a beautiful instrument he purchased in Italy. He began with *Away in a Manger* (Cradle Song version), *O Tannenbaum (O Christmas Tree!)*, and *Bring A Torch Jeanette Isabella*. Next, he performed childhood favorites *Up on the House Top*, *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*, and *Jingle Bells*. Then his next choice took our breath away as he began *O Holy Night* and then slid into Leonard Cohen's *Alleluia* then back to *O Holy Night*. He followed this by playing five more favorite carols and concluded with *Jesus Loves Me*. The crowd loved him and gave him an ovation.

This particular performance was one of Ted's last, as he is relocating to Florida in February.





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## Escape to Egypt



Let's celebrate!

# An Angel Appears to Joseph

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24

Complete the activity.



*There are vowels missing in each word below. Print the complete word on the blank line beside each word with missing letters.*

1. J \_ S \_ PH \_\_\_\_\_
2. V \_ RG \_ N \_\_\_\_\_
3. M \_ SS \_ \_ H \_\_\_\_\_
4. S \_ N \_\_\_\_\_
5. B \_ RTH \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_ NG \_ L \_\_\_\_\_
7. W \_ F \_ \_\_\_\_\_
8. M \_ RY \_\_\_\_\_
9. J \_ S \_ S \_\_\_\_\_
10. H \_ SB \_ ND \_\_\_\_\_

|                  |             |                  |               |                  |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| husband<br>Jesus | son<br>wife | angel<br>Messiah | birth<br>Mary | Joseph<br>virgin |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|