

# CONNECTIONS



## *Slow Down*

REV. RYAN EDEN

*“A voice cries: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’”*

*-Isaiah 40:3*

Every year, as we get to Thanksgiving, we begin hearing the same complaint. As the Thanksgiving decorations are overshadowed by the Christmas decorations on the other side of the aisle. Or even the Halloween costumes dwarfed by the Christmas decorations.

## *This Issue:*

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As the radio stations start playing Christmas music as soon as the clock strikes midnight on November, we hear the same lament. “It seems like Christmas comes earlier and earlier each year.”

But this makes us wonder, is the Church today any different? Each year, it seems, we want to jump past the season of Advent and straight to Christmas. As we go through the Advent season, we want to sing those Christmas hymns we love so much. We want to hear those Christmas stories. We want Christmas to come earlier than it does.



But doing that forces us to lose the great gift that Advent is. Advent is a season for preparation, to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. But this is not just to prepare us for the coming of Jesus on Christmas. It is a blessed season to prepare us for our Lord's second Advent, when He will come again in glory to judge both the living and the dead. When He will come to take us into His kingdom which will have no end.

So, this year, let us not try to jump past the blessed season of Advent. But let us enjoy it. Let us hear the voice of one crying in the wilderness of this world, “Prepare the way of the Lord” in our hearts and minds and build ourselves in this blessed hope and joy.

*“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him...”*

*John 1:9-10*





*"All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children."*

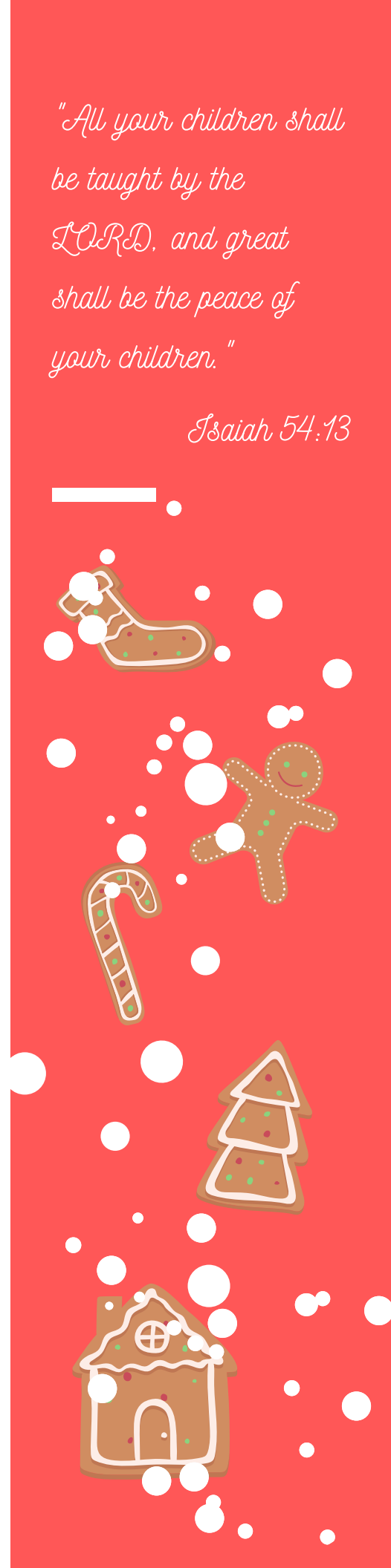
*Isaiah 54:13*

What an exciting time of year! Preschoolers get very excited about the changing weather. We love snow! We also have a lot of fun talking about Jesus' birthday and Christmas this month. We are looking forward to our Christmas program on December 18th. We will sing during the Advent service, and are excited for our families and the congregation members to hear our songs. We will have a cookie social in the Fellowship Hall after the service. In December, we will also learn about nursery rhymes, and healthy bodies. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our wonderful church family!

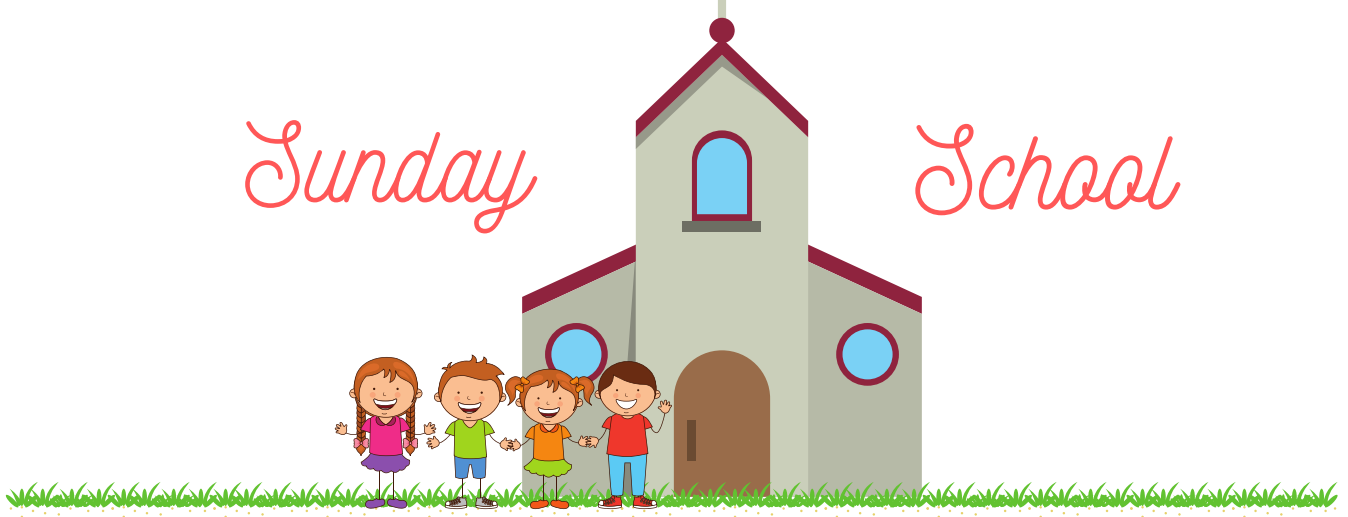
- Redeemer Lutheran Preschool Staff



Photos from Grandparent's Week

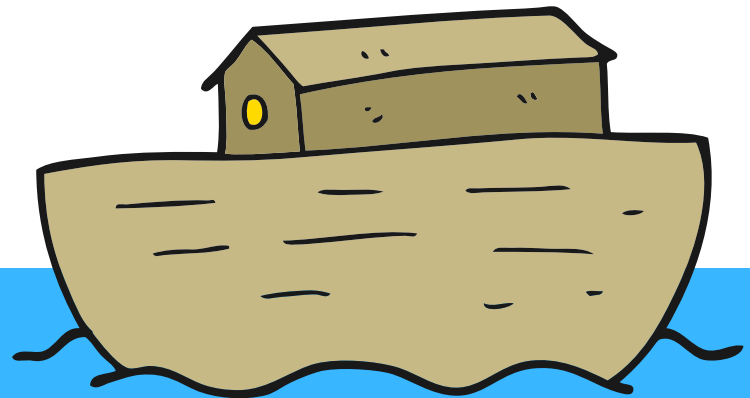


# Sunday School



Recently, the lower unit of Redeemer's Sunday school learned about Noah's obedience to God in building and ark in a time of drought. When it was time for all the animals, two of each kind, to enter the ark, God helped summon them. Once all the animals, food supplies, and Noah and his family were safely on the ark, God protected them from all harm during the raging daily rising flood waters. In all, they were in the ark for over a year. Then, when it was safe for Noah, his family, and all the animals to leave the ark once again on dry land, God placed a beautiful rainbow in the sky as a promise that never again would He destroy the earth with a flood. The four lessons displayed: God is sad when we disobey; We are all called to be God's helpers; God offers us His protection; and God always keeps His promises.

In front of cardboard ark is....  
Faith Passow, Charlie Flesch, Jeffrey Stevens, Faith Fruechte and Aubrey Fruechte in front.



**"Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him entered the ark because of the water of the flood. Of clean animals and animals that are not clean and birds and everything that creeps on the ground, there went into the ark to Noah by twos, male and female, as God had commanded Noah."**

**Genesis 7:7-9**

# Global Missionaries



“God in His wisdom has called us back from Africa, and has brought us to Madison, WI to serve at Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church. Pastor Ryan will be serving as a missionary for the South Wisconsin District, working full-time as the pastor of Our Savior. Our Savior is the only deaf church in Madison where you can worship God in sign-language and learn about His love. We thank God for this new opportunity to serve, and we ask for your continued prayers and support in this new adventure of service!”

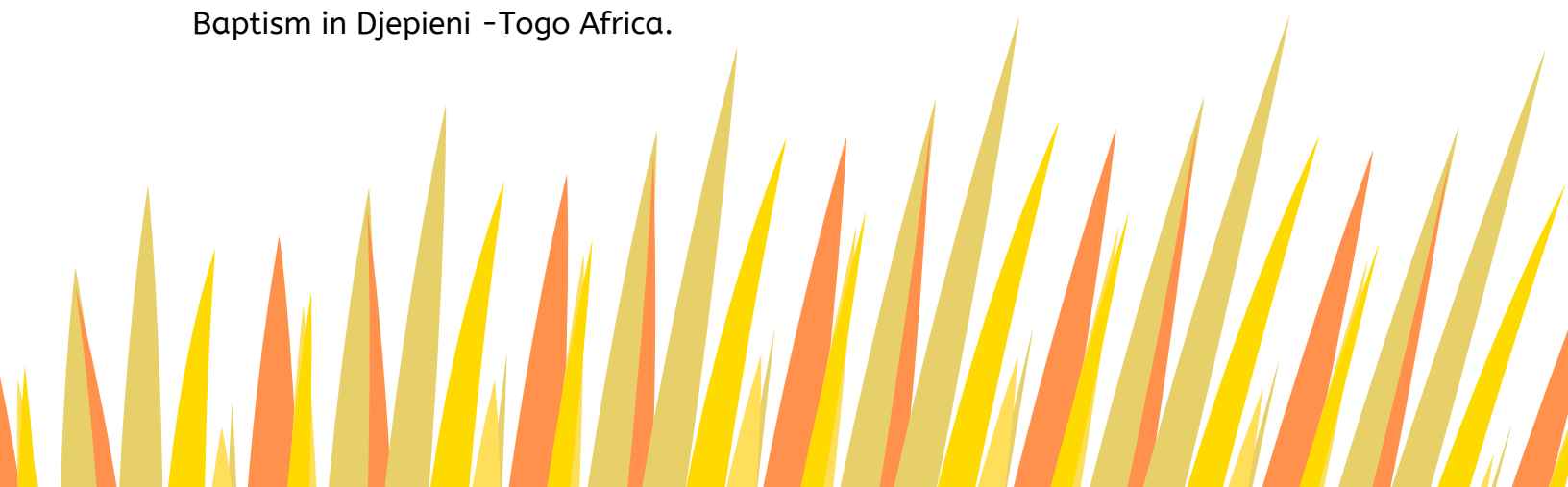
-Rev. Ryan McDermott



Baptism in Djepieni -Togo Africa.

*"He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."*

*Mark 16:15*





# *The Poinsettia*

By Hannah Hoepner

Have you ever wondered what made the poinsettia so special? A native plant to South America, the poinsettia blooms during the winter; a sign of life among death. The bold red color of the leaves are used to naturally dye clothing, and the sap is used to treat fevers. Beware that this plant is toxic to animals if ingested.

Poinsettias were first introduced in America in the 1820's by a botanist who was visiting South America and fell in love with the bold colors. He transplanted some to America and entered them into a flower show where they have been a popular winter flower since.

The Christian symbolism of the poinsettia comes to us from a small girl in Mexico. According to legend, a small Mexican girl was upset because she had nothing to bring the baby Jesus during Christmas service. Her family encouraged her, saying that anything she brought to Jesus would be more than enough because our love for Him is what he really cares about. So the girl picked some weeds and fancied them up as best she could. After placing them in the manger, they transformed into beautiful poinsettias!

The star shape is meant to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem that shone brightly over the barn where Jesus was born. The red leaves symbolize Jesus' blood that he shed for our sins, and if you find a white poinsettia, it stands for Jesus' purity.

## December Calendar

## 2019 Election

### Events

- Dec. 14: 8a-12p: Holiday Bake Sale
  - Dec. 15: Newsletter Deadline
  - Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
  - Dec. 25: Christmas Day
  - Dec. 31: New Year's Eve
  - Advent Services (6:30p):
    - Dec. 4: *Zechariah's Song: Amazing Gift*
    - Dec. 11: *Mary's Song: Amazing Love*
    - Dec. 18: *Simeon's Song: Amazing Peace*
- \*Light dinner served before services (5:30p)
- Dec. 24: 4p: Christmas Eve Service
    - Topic : *The Angel's Song: Amazing Glory*

### Birthdays

- David Przybylski - Dec. 2
- Charlie Flesch - Dec. 5
- Larry Graff - Dec. 11
- Mandi Rolbiecki - Dec. 16
- Shirley Ballard - Dec. 30

- President - Jasson Passow
- Vice President - Margaret Hohenstien
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- Board of Property - Marvin Wolfmeyer
- Board of Preschool - Mandy Flesch
- Board of Fellowship - Susie Sonnefeld
- Board of Stewardship - Lois Ankrum
- Christian Growth - Lori Rolbiecki

Special thanks to our newly elected members. We appreciate that you are opening your hearts and sharing your time and talent.

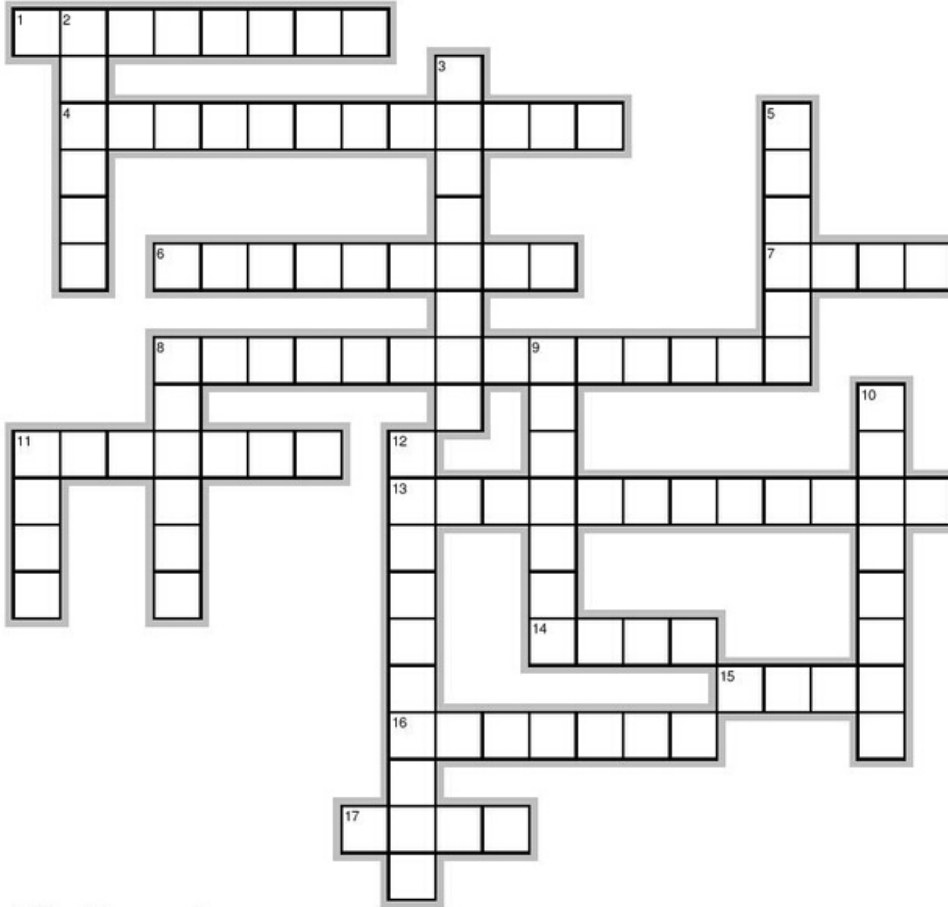
*"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*



# Advent Crossword Puzzle

David Bennett, ChurchYear.Net



EclipseCrossword.com

## Across

1. Famous saint, who is associated with Christmas, whose feast is celebrated during Advent
4. Popular evergreen family devotion used during Advent (2 words)
6. Church holiday right after Advent
7. "Our \_\_\_\_\_ of Guadalupe," Catholic feast falling during Advent
8. Jesus' cousin who prepared the way for Jesus (3 words)
11. Title of Jesus, meaning "anointed one," and the name of an oratorio by Handel
13. Church season immediately before Advent (2 words)
14. Title of Jesus meaning "master"
15. Pinkish color used during the third Sunday of Advent
16. "Christ \_\_\_\_\_": Church holiday celebrated the Sunday before Advent (2 words)

17. Number of Sundays during the Advent season

## Down

2. One of the major Old Testament prophets
3. Month when Advent usually begins
5. Liturgical color of the Advent season (We use blue)
8. Foster-father of Jesus
9. What the word "Advent" means
10. Advent Hymn: "O come, O come \_\_\_\_\_"
11. Mother of Jesus
12. "The Immaculate \_\_\_\_\_": Marian holiday that falls during the Advent season

Answers: Across: 1 Nicholas, 4 advent wreath, 6 Christmas, 7 Lady, 8 John the Baptist, 11 Messiah, 13 ordinary time, 14 Lord, 15 rose, 16 the King, 17 four  
Down: 2 Isaiah, 3 December, 5 violet, 8 Joseph, 9 arrival, 10 Emmanuel, 11 Mary, 12 conception



# Coloring Corner: Advent Wreath



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through faith.

A decorative border consisting of small red dots arranged in a circle, framing the contact information.

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Sunday at 9 am.  
Communion is served on the 1st, 3rd  
and 4th Sundays.

Office Hours:  
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