

The Christian Connection

The Meaning of Christmas

One of my favorite words that I have ever learned is *gemütlichkeit*. *Gemütlichkeit* is a German word pronounced Ge-moot-lik-kite. Other than being really fun to pronounce, it has incredible meaning. If you do a Google search, you get a boring definition of “geniality; friendliness.” This woefully fall short. My German professor said *gemütlichkeit* is that atmosphere and attitude of warm, friendly hospitality, and cheerfulness when you are surrounded by family and friends, a warm fire, and warm food.

Gemütlichkeit is a good word to describe the idealic Christmas gathering. I think it is also a possibility to describe the first Christmas. Have you ever thought that it was possible that Jesus was born in a warm house, filled with the smells of cooking and surrounded by loved ones who cheerfully celebrate the birth of a new baby in the family? If you are interested in reading more, I would encourage you to take a look at the latest post on our website.

The point is, the reason why we have *gemütlichkeit* at Christmas is not simply out of tradition, but because it is at this in the church year that we remember that God came down and dwelt with mankind so that he could deliver them from their sins and restore them to himself. God’s desire is to be known by you and to draw you into Him.

Saying, Jesus is the reason for the season is not just some trite, pithy saying, it is the absolute core of what we believe as Christians, not just for this season, but for every season in life. So this Advent and Christmas season, what are some things you and your family can do to remember to keep Jesus at the center of your celebrations?

One suggestion is to follow an Advent devotional. A daily reading of scripture and prayer. On our website during Advent, you will find a daily post with a scripture reading. There will also be a couple other resources available for you to spend some time in God’s Word this month. I hope you find them helpful and may Jesus bless you and your family as we await Jesus’ coming!

Inside this issue:

- Pastor Schultz’s column
- Sermon Text
- Coming up
- Volunteer Schedule
- Birthdays
- School News

The purpose of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is to worship God in a Bible-based, Christ-centered ministry, evangelizing, discipling, nurturing and equipping people for the spiritual well-being of every life.

Pastor Schultz



Jesus Christ
The Light of the World
Christmas Eve Service

5:00 pm

Musical prelude begins at 4:30



Sermon Text for December

December 2

Jeremiah 23:5-8

December 9

Malachi 4:1-6

December 16

Isaiah 40:1-11

December 23

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

December 24

John 1:1-14

December 30

Guest preach-Pastor Bob Rieth

**You can listen to our sermons
on our website!**

Orlckirkland.org

If you can't listen to us online,
contact us and we can send you a
disc of the sermon.

Children's Christmas program
December 23rd during the service.



Volunteer Schedule

Please mark your calendars and if there are any conflicts with your schedule, please find someone to fill your spot and let Kristine Dootson know of the substitution. If you are unable to find someone to switch with you, call Kristine Dootson @425-753-2020.

Date	Nursery	Sunday School	Lay Reader	Flowers	Coffee
12/2	Helen Long	No SS	Patti Prue	Christmas Decorations	WMF Celebration Sunday
12/9	Vilma Luck	No SS	Pam Jussel	Christmas Decorations	Ornament exchange party
12/16	Pam Jussel	Kristine Dootson	Duane Leach	Christmas Decorations	Open
12/23	Kristine Dootson	Kristine Dootson	Cheri Sorensen	Christmas Decorations	Open
12/30	Cheri Sorensen	No SS	Kristine Dootson	Christmas Decorations	Open

December Birthdays

Jillian Slonecker	Dec. 1
Darlene Olson	Dec. 3
Janet Watson	Dec. 4
Cheri Sorensen	Dec. 5
Nancy Ostlund	Dec. 9
Judy Landguth	Dec. 10
Linda Brostrom	Dec. 17
Blake Walden	Dec. 22
Miriam Schultz	Dec. 26
Justin Watson	Dec. 28
Linda Todd	Dec. 29
Paul Bottem	Dec. 30

Anniversaries

Joe & Alice Bottem

Dec. 4, 1953

Mike & Lisa Lewis

Dec. 10, 1988

Wil & Darlene Olson

Dec. 17, 1955

Thank you!

Thank you to all who donated shoeboxes to Operation Christmas! 55 boxes were sent thanks to all of you!



School News



- Pastor Schultz will be having chapel time with the ORCS kids the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month.
- ORCS will have Christmas singing on December 19th and 20th, the last 20 minutes of class.
- School will be out for Christmas break December 22nd-January 4th.

Our Redeemer Christian School is a non-discriminatory, non-denominational educational institution. Our Redeemer Christian School serves as an extension of the Christian ministry of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and an outreach program to our neighborhood community.

The *Christian Connection* is edited and published for ORLC . It is also available on our website www.orlckirkland.org . If you do not want to receive it in your inbox, please let us know by calling (425)821-2424 or emailing orlckirkland@hotmail.com.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
11611 NE 140th St. Kirkland, WA 98034