HAPPENING THIS WEEK

SUNDAY	DECEMBE	R 11
All Giving	Tree Gifts	s due back with tags on TODAY
8:15am	DW	Worship
9:30am	ALL	Worship & Livestream
9:30am	DW	Family Ministries Grades Preschool-12
9:30am	DW	Adult Bible Study - Meeting Rm
9:30 & 11am	DW	Nursery
11:00am	DW	Worship
11:00am	DW	Family Ministries Grades Preschool-8
Noon	DW	Move & Sort Giving Tree Gifts
5:00-7:00pm	DW	Journey to Bethlehem
	DW	High School Youth will help with Journey to Bethlehem before heading to Culvers

MONDAY	DECEMBER 12
10:00am	DW

TUESDAY	DECEMBER	13			
10am-2pm	DW	Food Pantry			
5:30-7pm	DW	Food Pantry			
C.OO 7.20	DIM	Maidalla Cabaal			

6:00-7:30pm DW Middle School Christmas Party - wear your

Christmas sweater!!

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14

DW	Senior Bible Study
DW	Helping Hands in the Meeting Room
DW	Open Gym 6-12 grades
DW	Worship Team Practice
	DW DW

THURSDAY	DECEN	DECEMBER 15			
9:00am	DW	Distribute Giving Tree Gifts			
6:30pm	DW	MOPS/Moms Next - Multipurpose Room			

FRIDAY	DECEMBE	R 16 - Building Closed
6:45am		High School Bible Study at DHS Library
9:30	DW	Kahl/Marl Small Group - Meeting Room

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17

SUNDAY	DECEMBE	R 18
8:15am	DW	Worship
9:30am	ALL	Worship & Livestream
9:30am	DW	Family Ministries Grades Preschool-12
9:30am	DW	Adult Bible Study - Meeting Rm
9:30 & 11am	DW	Nursery
11:00am	DW	Worship
11:00am	DW	Family Ministries Grades Preschool-8
6:00pm	DW	High School Christmas Party - Wear your Christmas Sweater!

Key: DW—DeWitt; SJ—St. Johns; ON—Online; All—All Campuses

Would you like to receive our weekly enews?
Keep up with what's happening, sign-up for our enews.

contact us at: office@dewittredeemer.org



DeWitt (Main Office)

13980 Schavey Rd DeWitt, MI 48820

517-669-3430

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs: 8:30am-4:30pm

Sunday Services:

In-person: 8:15, 9:30, 11:00am

Online: 9:30am (FB & YouTube)

St. Johns

200 E State St. St. Johns, MI 48879

989-224-6859

Office Hours:

Tue & Wed: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Sunday Service:

9:30am

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Welcome to Worship!

We are so grateful that you have joined us. Today, we continue our message series for Advent entitled "The Promise." This Christmas season, we are looking at four of the first people to see God's incredible promise of a Savior fulfilled. We have looked at Simeon and the promise of HOPE. Last week, we focused on the shepherds and the promise of PEACE. This morning, we turn to Zechariah and the promise of JOY.



CHECK IN

You are important to us.
Guests and members,
let us know you are here
or leave a prayer request
by filling out the
connection card in the
pew and dropping it in
one of the boxes in the
back of the worship
center. You may also
check in online through
our app or by scanning
this QR code or by visiting:

myredeemer.church/ connect



Announcements



DeWitt Campus

St. Johns Campus

Christmas Eve (Saturday)

3:00, 5:00, & 7:00pm

2:00pm

Christmas Day (Sunday)

We will offer a Christmas Day Devotional online for you to enjoy in place of live services at either campus.

CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

We are looking for volunteers for Christmas Eve Services. Services will be 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00pm. If you are interested in greeting, ushering or being a host/hostess at the Information Center, please sign up at the information counter in the church lobby or email <u>Sandy</u>.

With your help, Christmas Eve Services at Redeemer will be a warm, welcoming, joyful experience for all who come.

2022 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

This year's Christmas Offering is being dedicated to the following:

Cardboard Prophets – Every month, the Redeemer Church #BetheChurch program supports Cardboard Prophets and their mission to help the homeless community. Part of the funds to the Christmas Offering will be used to purchase tents, sleeping bags, meal kits, hand warmers, and much more.

Midwest Mission Kits – Midwest Mission is one of 10 cooperating depots in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Supply Network. They distribute UMCOR supplies in response to disasters within the United States. Part of the Christmas offering will go towards the UMCOR Mission Kits.

Herb and Kim Burkett – Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, the Burketts continue to lead and grow the congregation of the Ukrainian Bible Church. They work with teens internally displaced and provide a short reprieve, conduct children's camp to offer a time of peace and safety, and hold weekend retreats for adults to reinforce the truth of God's Word. Your gift will enable them to proclaim the gospel and to grow God's kingdom.

To make a gift, simply use the Christmas Offering envelopes in your monthly mailing or mark any envelope with 'Christmas Offering'. A gift can also be made through the mobile app, under the <u>GIVE TAB</u> on our website, or text 517-731-0518 with your dollar amount and the word 'Christmas'. Thank you for your support.

OUTREACH

GIVING TREE

We are extremely grateful and always amazed by the generosity of our congregation. This year we will be sharing over 450 gifts with local families, providing personal care baskets for each family, a Happy Birthday Jesus cake and Christmas story bag, Christmas breakfast and dinner along with extra food for the families during break. Just a reminder we do inventory of gifts this afternoon and shop for any gifts that have not been returned. *If you forgot your gift*



today, please contact <u>Suzie</u> by email or text 269-275-8773 and let us know the tag number, item, and when you'll be able to drop it off.

Please be in prayer for the Giving Tree families. The greatest present is Jesus' presence! Thank you for sharing His love.

HELPING HANDS MINISTRY meets year round the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 2-4PM at the DeWitt Campus to work on a variety of sewing and craft projects for local organizations. Either cutting, assembling, sewing, or other simple task - <u>all skill levels are needed and invited to join us</u>. Next date is this Wednesday, December 14 - all materials are provided, stop by and check it out.

FAMILY MINISTRIES

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM - TONIGHT!!



Sometimes in the midst of a busy holiday season, the real reason we celebrate Christmas can get lost.

Please join us at the DeWitt Campus TONIGHT in celebrating the birth of Jesus from 5-7pm.

5:00-5:30 - Singing by our Kids Choir 5:30-7:00 - Grab a snack at Martha's Bakery and visit shops to make kids' crafts.

There is no cost to attend - invite a friend!

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES - THIS COMING WEEK

We are excited to host Christmas parties for both Middle School and High School groups! Both will have games, prizes, cookies, and Ugly Sweater contests! Middle School will be on December 13, during groups from 6pm-7:30pm. High School will be a white elephant gift exchange on December 18 from 6pm-8pm.



Big Idea: JOY COMES FROM FOLLOWING GOD

GETTING STARTED

If an angel told you that you were going to have a child this year, how would you react?

REFLECTION/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What stands out to you about Zechariah and Elizabeth (v.5-7)? What feelings might the couple have had in light of their barrenness?
- 2. What was the significance of the task for which Zechariah was chosen (I Chronicles 23:13)? What might he be feeling as he prepares for it?
- 3. How would the birth of this son affect Zechariah and Elizabeth? Describe the child's mission in your own words. Why would Zechariah doubt?
- 4. What is one thing that has brought you great joy lately? Why?
- 5. Describe a time in your life when God surprised you with a great blessing or answered a prayer you had prayed for a long time. How did you respond?
- 6. How is John's mission a model for your mission today? How might you "prepare" people for the Lord?
- 7. What are the prayer requests on your mind and heart today?

PRAYER: God, thank you for sending John to prepare the way for the Lord. Through him, you prepared the people to receive Jesus, their Savior. May we, also, prepare the way for the Lord through our lives. May we reflect your joy and love. In the name of Christ, we pray, Amen.

GOING DEEPER: Read Luke 1:46-55 and Luke 1:67-79. How does Mary's song compare and contrast with Zechariah's song? Make a list of the things which Zechariah praises God. How does Zechariah's song show God's unfolding plan from OT days to the coming of the Messiah?

FOCUS SCRIPTURES:

December 11, 2022

"While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. But the angel said, 'Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord...He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God." Luke 1:11-16

MY NOTES:

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