



“The Greatest Light of All”

Pastor John Fiene

December 14, 2025 ~ 10:15am

REDEEMER BY THE SEA ~ “A PLACE TO KNOW AND BE KNOWN”

We are honored to recognize our niche in God’s Kingdom work. Here we will faithfully worship and teach in alignment with God’s Word and we’re a small enough fellowship where you can know and be known by most of the people around you if that’s your desire. Here you will be missed if you’re gone and prayed for when you have needs. You are welcome to contact the office (**kay@redeemerbythesea.org**) with any questions or to get connected.

UPCOMING EVENTS: www.RedeemerbytheSea.org

Dec. 14th	9:45am	Voter’s Meeting
Dec. 14th		Angel Tree Deadline
Dec. 19th	5:30pm	Women’s Friday Fellowship
Dec. 24th	3:00pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING

LUTHER'S CATECHISM ON BAPTISM

People: How can water do such great things?

Pastor: Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5–8).

OPENING SONGS

"Believer"

"Marvelous Light"

INVOCATION AND PRAYER TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 14:1-7

Pastor: The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is none who does good.

People: The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

Pastor: They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

People: Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the Lord?

Pastor: There they are in great terror, for God is with the generation of the righteous.

People: You would shame the plans of the poor, but the Lord is his refuge.

Pastor: Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!

People: When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/SUNDAY SCHOOL DISMISSAL

GREET ONE ANOTHER AND SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION AND OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 4:2-6

In that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. ³ And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, ⁴ when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. ⁵ Then the Lord will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. ⁶ There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

INTRODUCTION AND EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 1:22-25

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-45

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter:

People: Glory to you, O Lord._

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord

God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

"The Greatest Light of All"

Rev. Dr. John Fiene

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: *(concluding each petition)* Lord in your mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG

"Hymn of Heaven"

WORSHIP | GROW | SERVE

OFFERINGS: Visitors: please consider yourselves our guests and do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. In faithful obedience and joyful response to God's grace in our lives, we humbly and gratefully bring our tithes (a regular first portion percentage of our income) and offerings (gifts over and above our tithes for other kingdom work). You may deposit your envelope, check, or cash in the box next to the exit; give online with your phone using the QR code, or text "GIVE" to 442-222-2448. All of these options are also available on our **website:** www.redeemerbythesea.org/donate/



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING UPDATE: We're pleased to announce that the congregation unanimously voted to extend a call to Pastor Eli Thomas to be our next Pastor. The call package has been sent and he will have time to prayerfully deliberate about what God is directing him to do. It is not uncommon for Pastors to take 30-45 days to consider a call. In the meantime, please pray for Pastor Thomas, his wife Jennifer, their children and his congregations. We trust in the Lord and in the Call Process, and we know that God in His mercy is our great provider.

VOTER'S MEETING: Our quarterly Voter's meeting will be TODAY **at 9:45am** (in between services) in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to hold our annual election of the church council. Please plan to attend and stay informed on what's happening at Redeemer by the Sea!

ANGEL TREE – DEADLINE IS TODAY! Support local military families by donating a \$25 gift card through Redeemer online. In return, you'll receive an angel ornament with a child's name on it to pray for during the holiday season. This program helps Camp Pendleton Marines and their families in San Diego. Thank you!



ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP: During this busy Advent season, take a moment to reflect on this special season of light by worshipping with us on **Wednesdays at 5:30pm**. Join us for an Evening Prayer Service **at 5:30pm** in the Sanctuary.

*** These services will not be live-streamed. ***

WOMEN'S FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP: Fri. Dec. 19th at 5:30pm for Happy Hour and Bible Study with friends from RBTS. Our hostess will be Barbara Gehring. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided, but please bring your own beverage. RSVP online to obtain the address and directions.

POINSETTIAS FOR OUR SANCTUARY: Help decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas by donating a poinsettia. The cost is \$13.00 each and is available on our website. Your poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT: In the spirit of the season, it has been a tradition at Redeemer to bless our staff with a financial Christmas bonus from the congregation. The gift gets divided proportionally among our team of three part time office administrators, six musicians, a sound tech, a Sunday School Superintendent, a confirmation teacher and a nursery worker who all do so much to bless and equip us. If you feel so led, please express your appreciation to them with an over and above financial gift. Please include the memo of "staff gift" on the envelope or check. These can be dropped into the offering box at the back of the sanctuary, mailed in, or you can make this gift through our website by selecting the "Staff Christmas Gift" on the donate page.

WELCOME REV. DR. JOHN FIENE: Rev. Dr. John Fiene has been a Church Planter of Grace Lutheran Church in Sandy City, Utah, and later, Advent Lutheran Church, Zionsville, Indiana. Both congregations, subsequent to their own founding, initiated successful new mission congregations. He recently served as pastor at University Lutheran Chapel on the UC campus in Boulder, CO. Pastor Fiene has served as Vice-President of the Indiana District of the LCMS and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain District. He has taught on the subject of mission planting as an adjunct professor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana as well as various pastors' conferences. Pastor Fiene and his wife Solvig Fiene (nie. Preus) currently live in Carlsbad and they have 4 children (3 in California) and 13 grand children.