

Holidays at:

# Helping Hands...



## Christmas Eve—At Redeemer Church

**Tuesday, December 24, 2025**

- Candlelight Worship @ 7:00pm
- Holiday Hymns will be sung by all at 6:45pm
- Communion Will Be Open To All
- \*\*Cookies, Coffee and Punch will Follow

**Sunday, December 28, 2025**

- Readings & Carols @ 10:00am
- Communion Will Be Open To All
- \*\*A light lunch will Follow

Come join in with family, friends and neighbors for a time of holiday cheer. We will share the carols you love to hear and also God's special story will be heard. What more could we ask for on the Eve of our Lord's birth? This special time together will end with Candle Lighting and the singing of "Silent Night."

So come celebrate the joy of our Savior's birth with family, friends and neighbors this **Christmas Eve** and fill your holidays with the true meaning of Christmas in a SPECIAL way by remembering the birth of God's Son.

May the love of our Father in heaven touch you this year in a way it has never touched you before. Remember Jesus came so that God could **"be with us" - ALWAYS!!**

Also, we pray we will see you, **Sunday, December 28th @ 10:00am for Carols & Readings.** This is a time when the "love of Christmas" touches our hearts and reminds us why God sent his son as a baby to the earth—to share His LOVE with Us.

*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**

# God's Helping Hands

## Redeemer Church, E.L.C.A. "...your helping hands"

A Congregation of the NorthWest Lower Michigan  
Synod of Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

2727 W. Holmes Road  
Lansing, Michigan 48911  
517-882-8000 (church voice)  
517-882-8622 (school voice)  
517-882-2063 (fax for both)  
517-980-6250 (emergency #)

**redeemerlansing.com**  
**hhclearningcenter.com**

E-Mail: [janhite@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janhite@sbcglobal.net)  
E-Mail: [director@hhclearningcenter.com](mailto:director@hhclearningcenter.com)

Sunday Worship begins at 10:00am

**\*Live & Streaming**

*\*Holy Communion is Celebrated Every Sunday and Open  
To all of God's Children*

Sunday Luncheon follows worship, 11:15am  
Wed. Adult Enrichment Hour, 7:00pm

### CHURCH STAFF

Jan Hite, Pastor  
Danielle Greene, Violin  
Tom Jones, Minister of Music  
Sandra Walker, Council President  
Vickie Crouch, Learning Center President  
Rachelle Williams, Learning Center Director  
Various School Teachers & Staff

Church Council meetings are open to all members.  
**Their normal meeting time is the 3rd Sunday of  
each month @ Noon.**

Helping Hands Christian Learning Center Board  
meetings are open to all to all members, parents and  
community members. **Their normal meeting time is  
the 4th Thursday of each month @ 6:00pm**

### **Helping Hands Newsletter**

is published bi-monthly  
Editors: Rachelle Williams and Pr. Jan Hite

\*Deadline for the **February 2026** edition is:  
**January 20, 2026**

\*The editors reserve the right to make changes  
to all items submitted.



*"Our Hands are God's hands at  
work with those in need"*



### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Harry Wilson	Dec. 13
Sandra Walker	Dec. 20
Edward Fitzgerald	Dec. 21
Tom Jones	Dec. 21
Gareth Zimba	Dec. 26
Denise Eulert	Dec. 31

### **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Ed & Carla Fitzgerald	Dec. 02
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### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Gam Mahkaw	Jan. 01
Bruce Gelespie	Jan. 04
Katherine Jones	Jan. 27

We are sorry if we missed your special day.

Please let the office know of your date by  
calling 882-8000, emailing,  
[janhite@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janhite@sbcglobal.net) or by dropping your  
name and Birthdate or Anniversary date in  
the offering plate. **Thanks!**

## **ANNUAL MEETING FOR REDEEMER CHURCH IS SET...**

Our Annual Meeting is set for **Sunday,  
January 25, 2026** following worship.

As always this is an important time as  
we will decide on budgets for both our  
church and school, elect officers for the  
boards of both our school and church  
council and highlight what we have ac-  
complished in the year 2025 and what  
we plan to do in the year 2026.

Please mark 1/25 on your calendar now  
as it is important that we all be present.  
Watch for a  
copy of the  
Annual  
Report in  
you email  
or mailbox.





# A Christmas Legend

Three trees shivered in the cold moonshine, a date palm, an olive and a dark green pine.

They whispered together, saw a light in the sky, paused, secrets forgotten, heard a new baby's cry.

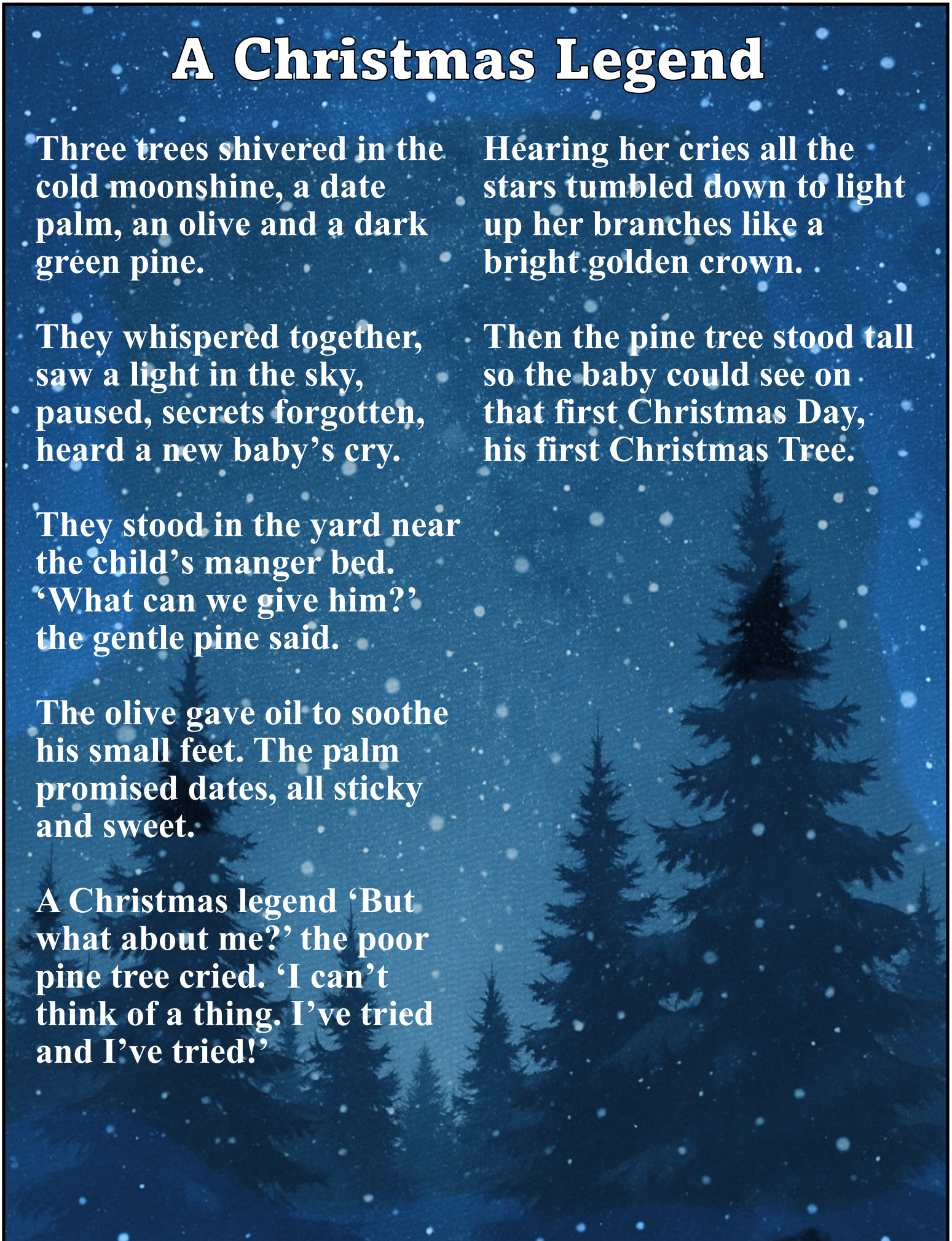
They stood in the yard near the child's manger bed.  
'What can we give him?' the gentle pine said.

The olive gave oil to soothe his small feet. The palm promised dates, all sticky and sweet.

A Christmas legend 'But what about me?' the poor pine tree cried. 'I can't think of a thing. I've tried and I've tried!'

Hearing her cries all the stars tumbled down to light up her branches like a bright golden crown.

Then the pine tree stood tall so the baby could see on that first Christmas Day, his first Christmas Tree.







## Please join us for these upcoming Community Events & Needs

### “Don’t Forget Poinsettias or Holiday Gifts”...

Every Christmas Season we have the opportunity to purchase a Poinsettia Plant for the church or a special gift for another in need. This year the special gifts you can buy are: **Food for Orphans/Children for (1) Month \$25, Health Visit For Child \$10, or a Backpack Filled w/ Food, \$10.** If you purchase a Poinsettia Plant to adorn our worship space for Jesus on Christmas Eve **the cost of each plant is \$10/each.** Thank You for your gift!!!



### “Mobile Food Pantry”...

**Date: On Going Dates Thru-out Our Community.**  
**Times Vary. \*See Our Website for Details**

Distribution of **FREE, fresh, non-perishable** food items available.



#### Who can participate?

- The disadvantaged and vulnerable.
- Senior citizens on fixed incomes.
- Families/individuals with limited/low income jobs.

**ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BRING A  
VALID DRIVERS LICENSE OR I.D.**

**THANK YOU...to ALL OF YOU** for caring for those in need. This year both **Redeemer Church and Helping Hands Christian Learning Center** put together 15 “Thanksgiving Food Baskets” for families in our surrounding neighborhood, so that they could enjoy Thanksgiving. It is always a blessing when we can be a “blessing” to others. A BIG “thank you” to **EACH OF YOU** for making this project a wonderful success. May God bless **ALL OF YOU** for the way you have chosen to bless those in need. Keep your eyes open and see where you can help a brother or sister in need, especially as the economic challenges continue for all of us and as the Christmas Season will soon be upon us. **Thanks!**



### Next Taco Dinner...

**Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026**  
**6:00-7:30pm.**

Our next Taco Dinner is in February 12, 2026 and you are invited. You and your family and friends are invited to enjoy Tacos, chips, beans, rice, and all the toppings which include Guacamole. There will also be various drinks and fabulous Ice Cream to top off a great meal. And of course it is **ALL YOU CAN EAT!** And there is “Take Out.” Cost is: Adults: \$10, Seniors: \$9 and Children: \$5.



**We are looking forward to seeing you on Thursday, February 12th, 2026!!**

### “Cookies For Christmas Eve”...

**Date: Tuesday, December 24th**  
**Time: 7:00pm**

Christmas Eve will be here before you know it and with that special day comes the time for us to worship our Lord. **After our 7pm worship service we will gather for a time of Cookies/Drinks/Fellowship.**

If you can share a dozen of your special Christmas Cookies with others it would be much appreciated.

Please take time with others on that special eve to remember our Lord, before you head over to share the JOY of Christmas with family & friends. We hope to see you then and pray you can spare a dozen of cookies to share with others.

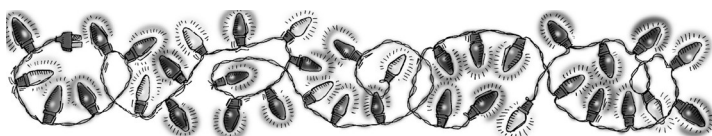


**DON'T FORGET—THE HOLIDAYS  
CAN BRING ON MORE GRIEF  
Allow Yourself to Feel...**

#### Don't be afraid to feel.

Feel pain, feel joy, feel love, feel anger, feel excitement or happiness. Feeling is good and sometimes after going through the hardest parts of life, we have to remind ourselves to stop ducking cover, to stop wincing and grimacing, afraid to feel because we are afraid to break. If you are there, take a step today and let yourself feel something. It might be scary at first, it might hurt a little, but the whole thing about coming alive doesn't mean that you won't feel pain. It simply opens your heart to joy as well. What are you feeling right now? Take a minute to tap into them, to ask yourself how you're really doing beneath the surface and write it down. **Yes, allow yourself to feel...**

Visit For More Support: [hospiceoflansing.org](http://hospiceoflansing.org)





# Helping Hands Christian Learning Center

**Our Mission:** to provide nurturing care to God's children through our helping hands, offering a safe haven for holistic growth.

## How to infuse your family with the spirit of generosity this Christmas

Around this time each year, many children have made a Christmas wish list that includes items like toys, games, crafts and electronics. While children may express gratitude and joy in response to receiving gifts, the concept of generosity of spirit has certainly changed over the years.

It was St. Nicholas's legendary status of generosity that gave rise to the modern-day tradition of Santa Claus. As the story goes, as a young boy, St. Nicholas was left with a substantial amount of inheritance when his parents died, which he then used to help others—primarily the poor.

St. Nicholas was generous. Generosity is defined as the quality of being kind and giving time, attention or gifts to others without conditions or the expectation of getting something in return. Being generous is seen as a positive virtue in people and has been linked with other emotions such as empathy and compassion.

### Parental behavior matters

The roots of generosity, such as empathy, compassion and prosocial behavior, begin to develop in the toddler years.

One study of charitable giving by children shows that boys and girls give equally. Research also shows that by the age of nine most children have a good understanding of generosity. As with all aspects of development, as the child ages, greater understanding and mastery of generosity will unfold.



What role do parents play in socializing children to be more generous? One way is by showing generosity themselves. Research shows that a parent's level of generosity and charitable behavior is correlated with their child's display of the same behaviors.

Modelling generosity makes an impression on children and is thus a great first step to fostering this behavior. Siblings can also effectively role model empathy and compassion, which also leads to generosity.

Another way is to talk with children about generosity. Studies have shown that having family discussions about generosity had a stronger influence on children's charitable behavior than parent role modelling alone.

## Five ways to help foster generosity

**Give experiences.** Gift gifting does not always need to come in the form of material possessions. Giving experiences can be of value as well. This can include time with caregivers, such as a set of tickets that children can "turn in" to bake together, do arts and crafts, go skating, swimming, hiking, or to a movie or the theatre. These experiences are also opportunities to discuss the value of family connection and making memories.

**Give to those in need.** Discuss the legend of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) and his spirit of giving to those who are less fortunate. Encourage children to add a gift to someone in need to their Christmas or birthday wish list, or to give used or unused material possessions (such as toys, books or clothing) to those without.

**Give without expecting anything in return.** The core concept of generosity is to give without conditions. Show children that being charitable is unconditional. Several reputable local, national and international organizations have charitable gift giving programs for children in need (for example, providing water purification tablets and school supplies).

**Give the gift of time.** Together with your children, come up with a list of ways they could give their time to someone else. This could be shoveling someone's driveway, weeding a neighbor's garden, or cleaning up his or her local park. They could also give their time to an organization in need of volunteers (for example a soup kitchen).

**Give year round.** Generosity and kindness shouldn't just happen over the holidays. Make these concepts part of your everyday family life and try to schedule acts of kindness together. At the dinner table, ask your children: "Can you tell me a time today you showed kindness?" You can also talk about how, as a parent, you showed kindness or generosity to someone in your professional or personal life that day.

**Giving gifts is certainly part of being generous**, but as we all know, the holidays can also be a time of stress and panic about getting the right gift, navigating the shopping mania in stores, and frankly, just paying for everything. All is not lost, however, there are other narratives that parents can use around kids when it comes to generosity like the story of the birth of our Lord and the generosity found in it.

Take time this year to share with your children why Jesus was brought into our world and what gifts he gives to all of us through his life, death and resurrection. May you and your family be blessed with a FULL CHRISTMAS and may the generosity of our Lord touch you in a very special way this Holiday Season...

## What's Happening

### December/January

- 12/12: Hanukkah, Begins
- 12/18: HHCLC Bd. Mtg. 6pm
- 12/21: 1st Day of Winter
- 12/24: Christmas Eve Worship, 7:00pm
- 12/25: **MERRY CHRISTMAS**
- 12/24: HHCLC, Closed for Holidays
- 12/25: HHCLC, Closed for Holidays
- 12/26: Kwanzaa, Begins
- 12/22—01/02, ALL Schools
- \*Christmas Break
- \*Center Open M-F, 7am till 6pm
- 01/01: Happy New Years!!!
- 01/01: HHCLC, Closed for Holiday
- 01/05: ALL Schools Starts Up
- 01/06: Epiphany
- 01/19: MLK Day, No School
- 01/20: Staff Christmas Party
- 01/23: HHCLC Bd. Mtg. 6pm
- 01/27: CPR/AED Classes For Staff

**Helping Hands Christian Learning Center** is a ministry of Redeemer Church and has been servicing the community for over 30 years. Here we offer love and quality care to God's children. Come in today to see what we have to offer you and your family.



### Sunday Schedule

- Worship: 10:00am
- Lunch and Fellowship: 11:15am
- Wed. Adult Enrich. Class: 7:00pm

**We are a church of this community and ALL are welcome. Come as you are!**



## Happy Birthday To You...

<b>December</b>		01/12	Reco S.
12/04	Alicia F.	01/15	Naomi M.
12/17	Ashley P.	01/15	Kaia R.
12/20	Garth Z.	01/16	Kyro W.
<b>January</b>		01/19	Ms. Michell
01/02	Myles H.		
01/08	Tiana B.		
01/10	Ivory B.		



## Happy Anniversary To Our Beloved Teachers...

Ms. Giselle	Dec. 13
Ms. Serita	Dec. 17
Ms. Rachelle A.	Dec. 28
Mrs. Renata	Jan. 12

*Thank you for your years of commitment to  
Helping Hands her beloved children.*

## Important Information...

We currently have a few **spaces available in both our Pre-School Class and Infant class.** If you are looking for full-time child care for that age group, please give us a call. All meals and bedding are included in your child's tuition.

ALSO...

We are currently looking for a devoted **full-time teacher for our Learning Center.**

If you are being called to work with children who are developing their future, and you want a fulfilling career, call, 517-882-8622.

Christmas is for children.  
What better time could there  
Be to honor and love our  
Children than the time when  
The King of the  
Universe was  
Himself a little child?



## Helping Hands Christian Learning Center...

Child Care, Pre-School, Kindergarten Readiness,  
Before and After School & Summer Programs  
**are here, for your "Peace of Mind"!**  
**Call 517-882-8622 for more information**

Your Helping Hands ....December 2025/January 2026

# How Did the “12 Days of Christmas” Come to Life?

The story goes that from 1558 until 1829 people in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly.

During this era, the song ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’ was written as a subtle way of celebrating Christ’s birth in public without risk of prosecution.

The song’s lyrics had a hidden meaning known only to members of the church. Each element of this song offered “code meanings” about Christmas that brought the story of Christ’s birth alive for people of faith.

1. The partridge in a pear tree stood for *Jesus Christ*
2. The two turtle doves stood for the *Old and New Testaments*
3. Three French hens stood for *faith, hope, and charity*.
4. The four calling birds were the *four gospels*
5. The five gold rings represented the *first five books of the Old Testament* (the Law).
6. The six geese a-laying stood for *the six days of creation*
7. Seven swans a-swimming signified *the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit*.
8. The eight maids a-milking represented *the Beatitudes*.
9. The Nine ladies dancing were *the nine fruits of the Spirit* (see the fifth chapter of Galatians).
10. Ten lords a-leaping were the *Ten Commandments*.
11. Eleven pipers piping stood for *the eleven faithful disciples*.
12. Twelve drummers drumming symbolized *the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed*.

Isn’t that fascinating? Whether or not the story is based on true occurrence, hearing this story gives each of us pause to reflect on the song. Each element of the lyrics offers a positive reason to celebrate our faith in Christ. With the deeper meaning to contemplate, the song becomes a lighthearted anthem of praise and a tribute to those who dared celebrate, in song, their gratitude for Christ.

Aren’t we blessed to be able to worship the Savior without fear of harm? Maybe we should stand a little taller and be more open in sharing the gospel with those who don’t yet have the truth. Aren’t we blessed to have the scriptures to read and ponder? Maybe we should spend a bit more time reading those words that are openly available to us. Don’t we have more to learn and practice so that we truly understand faith, hope, and love?

Would it not be good to become better acquainted with the fruits of the Spirit, and be a better example of them? There are only a few days before Christmas arrives this year, so take time to listen to the song “*The Twelve Days of Christmas*” a few times and celebrate the blessings of being able to openly and wholeheartedly celebrate the birth of God’s SON, and your faith in him!



**Redeemer Church, E.L.C.A.**

*"...your Helping Hands"*

**Helping Hands Christian Learning Center**

2727 West Holmes Road  
Lansing, Michigan 48911  
[www.redeemerlansing.com](http://www.redeemerlansing.com)  
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*Please deliver by:  
Dec. 18*

*Christ  
IS Born!*



We invite you to visit us. **Everyone is welcome here!** We are people of God who give ourselves freely and joyfully to God, to one another and to others. This community witnesses to a God who is

active in the world. We proclaim God's active love for all people: poor and rich; people of all cultures and races; women, men, children, younger, older, single, married, divorced, widowed, those of all lifestyles, blended families, single-parent households, ... all are welcome! You are invited to meet this community that seeks to reflect God's open and loving embrace.

***SUNDAY MORNINGS  
Praise Time!***

- ♦ Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.
  - Holy Communion is shared each week
  - ALL are welcome \*Dress is casual
  - Lunch is served the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday. Please join us for a great time of food and fellowship.

**ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO  
JOIN US!!**

**WE ARE A DIVERSE, AND  
WELCOMING COMMUNITY.**



**Join Us At...**  
**Helping Hands Christian  
Learning Center**  
**December 22—January 2**  
**7:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m., M-F**

While your elementary age children are on break from school, Helping Hands Learning Center will be offering full-day care for children, ages 5-11. There will be indoor and outdoor activities to keep them busy along with movies, crafts, games, and some field trips. Also breakfast, lunch and snacks are included. **OUR SPACE IS LIMITED**, so call to reserve your spots soon!!

**\*We are closed Wednesday & Thursday  
December 24 & 25 and  
Thursday, January 1st.  
517-882-8622**

*Winter Break*