



## KEMPTON NEW CHURCH NEWSLETTER – December 2023

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KEMPTON NEW CHURCH: [www.kemptonnewchurch.org](http://www.kemptonnewchurch.org) ■ KEMPTON NEW CHURCH SCHOOL: [www.knks.org](http://www.knks.org)

### JOSEPH, BEING JUST

#### **Matthew 1:18-23**

And the birth of Jesus Christ was in this way: His mother Mary, being betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, was found with child from the Holy Spirit.

And Joseph her husband, being just, and not willing to expose her to public infamy, intended to send her away privately. And while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, fear not to take to thee Mary thy wife, for that which is begotten in her is from the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins.

And all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was declared by the Lord through the prophet, saying, Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is, being translated, God with us.

And Joseph, being awakened from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had directed him, and took to him his wife, and knew her not, until she brought forth her firstborn Son; and he called His name Jesus.

#### **God the Savior 38**

It was necessary for [the Lord] to be born of a virgin in legitimate marriage with Joseph.

#### **Athanasian Creed 99**

That [Jesus] was a carpenter's son, was because "a worker in wood" signifies the good of life from the doctrine of truth.

#### **Pastor's Notes**

Not much is said in the Heavenly Doctrine about Joseph, the husband of Mary. But the Lord gives us an idea of his character in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

Joseph is described as a just man (Matt. 1:19). And we can look at the other things we know about him in this light.

We can see why he was described as a just man in his marriage. He followed the ancient custom of betrothal in preparation for taking Mary as his wife (Matt. 1:18). After their betrothal, but before he knew Mary as a wife, Joseph learned she was with child and he sought to protect her from harm (Matt. 1:19).

We can see why he was described as a just man in how he responded to the angel of the Lord. Each time the angel of the Lord appeared to him he faithfully followed the angel's instruction. He took Mary to be his wife but knew her not until the Lord was born (Matt. 1:24-25). He named the infant boy Jesus (Matt. 1:25). He took the infant Jesus and Mary to Egypt to save Jesus from Herod (Matt. 2:13) and then he returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and Mary after the threat had passed (Matt. 2:20-21). Each time he did exactly what the angel of the Lord asked him to do.

We can see why he was described as a just man in how he acted as a father. Joseph was described by Mary as grieving over the twelve-year-old Jesus after having left him behind in Jerusalem (Luke 2:48). And it is reasonable to infer that he was a just man in his occupation as a carpenter as well (Matt. 13:55).

The Lord in His providence knew exactly who to pick to support Mary and provide for the Lord both as an infant and growing child.

What an example to follow!

**HOLY SUPPER** will be offered this month on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the church. This service will be similar to the one we do before Easter. There will be extended readings about the birth of the Lord from the Book of Luke and from the Heavenly Doctrine.

*This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me.*

*This cup is the new covenant in My Blood, which is shed for you. Luke 20:19, 20*

**The Winter Study Topic** this year will be on Memorable Relations in the Heavenly Doctrine. We hope these readings and discussions will help make the spiritual world seem more real than ever before! You might like to think about arranging to be part of a group before the holidays get busy, since the winter study starts soon after the New Year begins. ***If you would like to host a group and have seats to offer, or if you want to join a class,*** please let me or Jen McQueen know so we can help people get connected if needed.

**The Board of Trustees** met on Tuesday, November 14 and discussed priorities for the budget in the next fiscal year.

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## **WORSHIP**

- 10:00 AM services live streamed: kemptonnewchurch.org.
- Services can be heard in the library. Parents with babies or little ones are always welcome to be in there, where a basket of board books (not library books, please) is available. Please leave the room in orderly shape. Thanks!

*Sunday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Service. Usher/Setup: Gavin Stewart*

*Sunday, December 10*  
9:00 a.m. Young Children's Marionette Service.  
*Setup: Jamen and Briana Schrock*  
10:00 a.m. Sermon Service. *Usher/Setup: Luke Heiter*

*Friday, December 15, 7:30 p.m. Holy Supper Service. Usher: Brandon Jungé*

*Sunday, December 17*  
10:00 a.m. Adult Service. *Usher/Setup: George Cauffman.*  
5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tableaux Services (Society Room). *Ushers: Kenan Smith, Garrett Genzlinger*

*Sunday, December 24*  
10:00 a.m. Adult Service. *Usher/Setup: Thos Powell*  
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service.  
*Usher/Setup: Schuyler Heinrichs, James King*

*Sunday, December 31, 10:00 a.m. Sunday School Service. Usher/Setup: Derrick Lumsden*

## **CLASSES**

Please contact the minister leading the class if you would like to attend virtually. He will share a Zoom link with you (if the location has internet connection), which will let you join by phone or video.

*Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m., Arcana Class.*

Location TBD.

We will cover Gen 29:36-46, and the last part of the second earth in the starry heaven, revealed in AC 10121-10166. The verses in Genesis speak about the daily offering, one bullock for a sin offering, and two lambs for a burnt offering, one in the morning and one in the evening. This is a continuation of the second state of the glorification of the Lord, and the regeneration of man. Please let Andy or Jen know if you would be willing to host this class.

*Wednesday, December 6, 7:30 p.m. Men's Class at OSV on Divine Providence (with Judah Synnestvedt)*

*Thursday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. Christmas class at OSV (with Lawson Smith).*

*Friday, December 8, 7:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Youth Group Conjugal Love class at Jesse and Leona Fritch's*

*Wednesday, December 13, 10:00 a.m. Mom's Morning class at OSV*

*Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m. Men's class at OSV on Divine Providence (with Judah Synnestvedt)*

*Tuesday, December 19, 7:30 p.m. Society Christmas class. Topic: The Beginning and End of the Lord's Life (with Lawson Smith). Please let Lawson or Jen know if you would be willing to host this class.*

*Wednesday, December 20, 7:30 p.m. Men's class at OSV on Divine Providence (with Judah Synnestvedt)*

*Wednesday, December 27, 7:30 p.m. Young Adult's class at Adele Jungé's*

**CONTRIBUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Friends, consider an extra capital campaign gift this December on top of your regular contributions, as exciting things are under way for a better west end entrance for all members.

We'd love your assistance in getting this fully funded before we break ground!

And here's to all our active volunteers!  
~Mark, for the Contributions Committee

**MEETINGS**

Board of Trustees Meeting on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. in the library.

School Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 p.m. in the High School Commons.

Pastor's Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. in the library.

**EVENTS****Come to the Society Christmas Sing!**

Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Carols will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Society Room. At 7:30 p.m. we will take a break for snacks and time to celebrate the season together while giving families time to take small children home if needed. Carols will start up again after the break and go until we can't sing anymore. A Christmas ornament craft will be provided for children at the start of the event and during the break. Drinks will be provided, but please bring a favorite Christmas snack or dessert to share. Please contact any one of us with questions.

– Becky Cooper, Heather King, Roxanne Genzlinger

**Craft Sale:** If you want a table but have not requested it yet, please let Kit know (215-531-0534, [klrose85@gmail.com](mailto:klrose85@gmail.com)). The sale goes from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Crafters can begin set up at 9 a.m. We will have a raffle and a cake walk this year to raise money for the church. Please let Kit know if you have anything to donate. Penn and Leesa Cooper will also be selling breakfast sandwiches to raise money for the new renovations. It's going to be a lot of fun with wonderful and talented crafters. We look forward to seeing you all there!

**The Spiral Garden:** On December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. you are warmly invited to participate in a Spiral Garden at the Kempton New Church. This beautiful tradition is a way to participate in an experience of moving from darkness to light with candles and beautiful music as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's coming into the world on Christmas. Please come quietly through the school entrance and leave your coats there, in time to be seated in the Society Room by 6:00 p.m. We will signal an early leaving time for families with young children. Teens and adults are welcome to stay on. Please contact either Genta or Sheila with any questions or if you would like to help with this event.

**Christmas Storybook Time:** Old School Village Lounge on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Instead of the regular Ladies' Handwork, Ayisha will be reading Christmas storybooks on the Wednesdays leading up to Christmas. Boys & girls, old & young invited. Bring crafts or handwork if you wish; there will be toys to play with and paper crafts to cut & colour. Hot chocolate and coffee provided; snacks welcome.

*No Ladies' Handwork Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>.*

**Christmas Cookie Exchange:**

Women, college age and older, are invited to a Christmas Cookie Exchange on Wednesday, Dec. 20 in the society room from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Cookie Swapping begins at 7:00 p.m. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or a bottle of wine to share.

**COOKIE EXCHANGE RULES**

1. All cookies should be homemade and of the same variety.
2. Make 3 dozen cookies.
3. Make little packages of 3 cookies each. (You should have a total of 12 packages that have 3 cookies in each)

Any questions, please call or text Suzanne King (484-793-1451) or Leona Fritch (570-449-8221).

**Youth Group Events:**

**Conjugal Love Class** on Friday, December 8, 7:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Hosted by Jesse and Leona Fritch

**NOTICES / ANNOUNCEMENTS****Baptisms:**

Lee Weston Hendricks, son of Mark and Genta Hendricks, was baptized on November 12, 2023.

Ember Raine Norfo, daughter of Ray and Eden Norfo, was baptized on November 26, 2023.

*Jesus said, Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the kingdom of the heavens. Matthew 19:14*

**Confirmation:**

Laif Judson was confirmed on November 26, 2023.

*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Revelation 22:17*

**Christmas Wreath Fundraiser for the Kempton New Church and School**

Kempton Ladies of all ages: Come make Christmas wreaths to support our church and school at Junge's barn (1054 Mountain Road) today, 4 p.m.-8 p.m. and Friday, 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Hot beverages and snacks served!

**OR**

Come purchase a wreath at the craft sale (Saturday, 10 a.m. -12 p.m.). A large will be \$20 and a small will be \$15. Hope to see you there!

~ Katrin (484) 256-7527

**Heavenly Doctrine Publishing Foundation**

**(HDPF):** As Christmas is on its way, the Heavenly Doctrine Publishing Foundation would like to let you know that we have copies of the Kempton translation of the Word for sale. These can be purchased, and mailed to anyone you wish, using the Kempton Project website, at [www.thesacredscripture.org/theWord](http://www.thesacredscripture.org/theWord). On this website you can use your credit card or your PayPal account, and choose between a cloth or leather binding. No postage is necessary if you pick up the book in Bryn Athyn or Kempton.

Also available from the HDPF, are several classic translations by Ager, Whitehead, Potts and Tafel. These include Heaven and Hell, Divine Love and Wisdom, Divine Providence, Conjugal Love, and

others, as well as the small compilation of passages of "What the Heavenly Doctrine Testifies concerning Itself". These can be ordered via the Lulu print-on-demand website. See [www.heavenlydoctrinepublishing.org/books-for-purchase](http://www.heavenlydoctrinepublishing.org/books-for-purchase).

The HDPF also offers used copies of the Heavenly Doctrine for the cost of postage (or a friendly ride from Kempton). We have most of the Swedenborg Foundation standard version, and many of the Swedenborg Society books as well. Many of them are like new. If you are interested, please contact Gideon and Loretta Alden at [algoose2@verizon.net](mailto:algoose2@verizon.net), or write to them at 287 Hawk Mountain Road, Kempton, PA, 19529.

We read in the short outline entitled An Ecclesiastical History of the New Church, written by Swedenborg 250 years ago: "On all the books in the spiritual world was inscribed 'the Advent of the Lord.'" The books of the Heavenly Doctrine constitute the Lord's Second Coming. Through these books we can understand just how marvelous and essential the first Advent of the Lord into the world was, just a little over 2000 years ago.

**Caleb's Café:** In December, the café will be closed Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> because of the craft sale, but we will be selling coffee at the craft sale with some extra fixings!

We will be open the Friday and Saturday before Christmas (22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>) 9 :00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. And we will be open the Friday and Saturday after Christmas (29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>) 9 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. We will return to normal hours the first Thursday of the new year! Happy Holidays! - Caleb and Roxanne (610) 662-3902

**Society Christmas Mail Boxes** are installed at the KNC every December to facilitate the "mailing" of any Christmas cards we might want to send to others in the congregation. The boxes (with individual name labels) will be set up at some point in the near future, in the hallway between the Society Room and school. They're not the property of KNC; they're a lovely gift we're given every year by thoughtful friends, and we are grateful.

**Do You Enjoy Seeing the Church Decorated at Christmas?** Would you be willing to coordinate a decorating effort this year? Or be willing to help with one? You needn't think you aren't "creative" enough; organization will win the day, and though you wouldn't have to repeat what's been done in the past, you also wouldn't have to reinvent the wheel. Simple is good. Please call Jen McQueen if interested.

**Employment Opportunity:** Our pig farm, Hillside Acres, is looking to hire a full-time employee. Job responsibilities would include truck and tractor driving, feed mixing, pig handling and other general farm tasks. We are willing to train. Call Matt (484-955-2608) or Carrie (484-955-3069). Thanks, and please share if you know anyone looking for full time work.

### **SCHOOL NEWS**

*Friday, December 15* at 11:00 a.m. Kempton New Church School Christmas Program. All are welcome to attend!  
Christmas Break begins after the program.

*Tuesday, January 2, 2024.* KNCS Resumes.

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Love truly conjugal is the union of two minds, which is a spiritual union; and all spiritual union descends from heaven.

*Arcana Coelestia 10168*

*Congratulations and Best Wishes to:*

**Richard and Louise Gardam**

on the 22<sup>nd</sup> – 50 years

**Kevin and Susan Henriques**

on the 22<sup>nd</sup> – 38 years

**Cedric and Janice Lumsden**

on the 27<sup>th</sup> – 43 years

**Christopher and Heather Smith**

on the 30<sup>th</sup> – 29 years

**Brett and Karla Buick**

on the 31<sup>st</sup> – 27 years

