

**CHURCH SCHEDULE**

**Sunday School & Bible Study:**  
**9:45 a.m.**

**Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday Bible Study:**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**SPEAKERS**

**December 1:** Ken Storm, *Holy Communion*

**December 8:** Ivan Niemela

**December 15:** Ivan Niemela,  
*Service and Sunday School Christmas Program with meal to follow*

**December 22:** Charles Korhonen

**December 24:** Christmas Eve  
**6:30 p.m. – Caroling**  
**7:00 p.m. - Ivan Niemela**

**December 29:** Ivan Niemela

**CONTACT**

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**Redemption**

*“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” - Galatians 4:4-5*

The birth of Christ is one example of many in the Bible showing that God’s plans are perfect, even when they don’t align with our thinking. The time for the Messiah's birth had finally arrived, some 4,000 years after God first mentioned Him in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:25) and roughly 2,000 years ago today (Luke 2:11). Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection encapsulate the essence of divine redemption and forgiveness, fulfilling God’s promise to humanity. Redemption is necessary because Adam’s sin is passed down to all people, and forgiveness is possible because the blood of Jesus can cleanse a penitent soul from sin. Jesus’ atoning sacrifice on the cross provided a way for humanity to be forgiven and reconciled with God.

Today, even after all these years, we still celebrate the birth of Christ as if it just happened. His birth is unique because it involved only a woman, without a man (Isaiah 7:14). This miraculous event, foretold in prophecy, stands unparalleled in history; no other birth has occurred this way, nor will it ever happen again. However, it is not the way He came into this world that is the most important aspect; rather, it is the fact that He willingly came here to be crucified to pay the price for the sins of the entire world. Jesus shed His blood on the center cross of Calvary so that sinful humanity can be cleansed from sin. Where God once required the blood of an unblemished animal, Jesus became the final sacrifice, being without sin. This means that anyone who genuinely calls upon God can be forgiven for the sinful nature inherited from Adam and for the sins committed daily (Romans 10:13). Without forgiveness, we are all separated from God (Isaiah 59:2). Thus, Jesus, who is God, became a man with the sole purpose of saving people from their sins (Matt 1:21).

Jesus began His ministry at approximately 30 years old and was crucified around the age of 33. Our subject text says that He was *“made under the law to redeem them that were under the law,”* meaning He was subject to the same requirements from God as the rest of humanity. By subjecting Himself to the very laws He came to fulfill, He was able to redeem the entire world from the curse of sin. He perfectly fulfilled the Law’s requirements—something no one else could do—which set Him apart as the spotless Lamb. John the Baptist proclaimed that Jesus was the one capable of redeeming us from sin, saying, *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29). Jesus’ obedience unto death made Him the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

The term 'adoption' refers to individuals who, having strayed from the will of God, find reconciliation with Him and, in doing so, receive all the rights and privileges of being a child of God. A powerful example of this adoption is the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-22. In this parable, the son returns home after wasting his inheritance on sinful living. Realizing that his new lifestyle was vain compared to what he had in his father’s house, he decided to return home, hoping to at least become a servant there. Before the son even reaches home, his loving father ran out to meet him and kissed him. The son

confessed his sins, and in response, the father instructed his servants to place a robe of righteousness on him as a token of His forgiveness. This parable beautifully illustrates spiritual adoption: despite our many sins, God welcomes us back as beloved children, rather than merely as servants. He empowers believers with the word of reconciliation to proclaim the forgiveness of sins in the name and through the shed blood of Jesus for those who confess their sins, just as the Prodigal Son did (James 5:16).

As we prayerfully consider the miracle of Jesus' birth, we are reminded that He suffered and died for our sins and now sits at the right hand of God in heaven. We celebrate Christmas because, through Jesus' completed work, we can be eternally reconciled with God. This Christmas season brings many reasons to be joyful. May the love of God, through the forgiveness of sins and the power of the Holy Spirit, dwell in your heart all the days of your life.

*God's Peace,*  
Charles Korhonen