



Redeemer Connection

January 2018

Ten Trends for the Church in 2018

I have adapted the following from an article from Lifeway, a popular church research company. It is projecting the trends for the church in 2018 based on what they saw in 2017.

The audio revolution. Kindle and Nook didn't take off like people thought. Most people (especially younger) have earbuds and listen to music, books, and even sermons. Our sermons are now available on the church website. Check it out if you have internet access.

Boomer retirement crisis. The boomers (those born between about 1946 to 1964) are now retiring in huge numbers. However, in some occupations people are choosing to wait until they are older until they retire. This is also causing problems. So some occupations like clergy where the average age is 57 – in ten years there simply won't be enough to go around. What happens then? One solution has been raising up lay people to take on the pastor's role in worship and preaching. One church hired a woman to be worship. She did a good job so they made her the pastor. Even though she has no official training. The LCMS has created the SMP (Specialized Ministry Pastor). These men are trained to do ministry in a particular place. They have to remain in that place.

The deferred maintenance crisis in church facilities. Many institutions have deferred maintaining their buildings to balance the budget. However, you can only defer so long. We have started an improvement fund to get a head start on things that will need repair or replacement in the near and distant future.

Churches moving into retail spaces. With retail stores closing across the country, many new churches are popping up in former retail space. One church in Rockford, Illinois, bought a closed department store and eventually the whole mall with parking ramp included. They grew bigger and bigger so they bought back their old location and opened a second site.

Ongoing church closures. The LCMS has between 800-1000 churches without a pastor. As time goes by and the clergy shortage becomes more acute, we are going to see more churches closing, more sharing of pastors and more dual parish arrangements. We have two in our own circuit. Grace, Stockton and Messiah, La Crescent have formed a dual parish currently being served by a retired pastor. St. John's, Hart and St. Mark's, Rushford have also formed a dual parish served by Pastor Hintzman. The Southern Baptists estimate they will close 15,000 churches in the next decade.



Evening Bible Study
meets on the first and third Thursday
of each month

The next
Church Council
Meeting is 6:30 pm
Monday, January 8, 2018

Attendance Record

Nov 26--55
Dec 3--52
Dec 10--44
Dec 17--75
Dec 24 am--42
Dec 24 pm--70

Communion is held on 1st, 3rd & 4th Sunday of each month



The rise of the neighborhood church. For a while all you heard about were mega-churches. However, they found that many people don't want to be lost in the crowd or have to park more than a block from the church. So many large churches are now going with the multiple site model. Several churches already have a dozen or more worship sites in one city.

The learning revolution of the best church leaders. Most churches ask volunteers to fill positions or draft anyone to fill a position whether they are qualified or not. The trend is moving toward trained leadership. Training is a huge part of our Re:Vitality program.

Downsizing of worship centers/sanctuaries. For years churches grew and built bigger worship centers. Now churches are shrinking and are left with a lot of unused space.

The rise of networks. Churches have begun forming networks. Even so-called, non-denominational churches network with other churches. It is kind of a way around forming a new denomination. In many Christian circles, being associated with a denomination is a negative thing. You see many churches today changing their name and dropping the denominational label.

More Great Commission intentionality. This is the most important. The church (all denominations) have been bleeding members for years. Most peaked in the 1960s or 1970s and have been losing members since. Millions of members in some cases. One reason is fewer children. White American's are currently reproducing at the rate of 1.9 children. Obviously we are not replacing ourselves. Consequently, the church must get back to Biblical basics and make disciples *from* all nations. This is what our Re:Vitality program is all about. It is getting churches to focus outward rather than inward. It is asking our churches to re-examine everything we do in light of the Great Commission.

Good news the Synod has finally gotten the coaches together to train them for the Re:Vitality program. They will be trained in January and available to us in February. The coach will help us move forward to revitalize our own church.

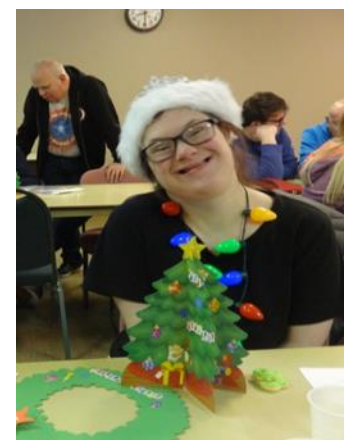
I think we have a great and exciting 2018 ahead of us!
Pastor Kevin

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Members of Church Council and Boards
(This page removed for online distribution.
See printed newsletter for this information)



People of Faith Celebrate

The People of Faith Ministry celebrated Christmas with songs, prayers, music, readings, Christmas cookies, a Christmas craft and fellowship. The room was filled with spirit, love and joy. During the prayer time, they pray for one another's needs which is truly humbling to witness. They meet at Redeemer Lutheran Church four times a year; this year being the eighteenth year. The group serves people with developmental disabilities. It has adopted the vision statement "We the People of Faith, believe that embracing individuals with developmental disabilities in our Winona congregations will be a window to the heart of God for all." About 50 attend each time. Redeemer is serving a special part of the community and celebrate the invaluable contributions that can be made by each of God's people.





Pictured (L to R): Pastor Kevin Froelich of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mary Meyer of Hope Harbor and Sandy Bauer of Redeemer.

Hope Harbor is an organization just opening its doors to young, at-risk teen girls from the ages of 12-17. We are an interdenominational Christian ministry that provides refuge for these girls who are needing help. We provide on-site counseling and school, life skills training, and spiritual and personal growth opportunities. We help to equip the teens, empower parents, and to serve those in need by anchoring them to the hope of God. Hope Harbor is a non-profit, 501 (c)3 home that is fully funded by groups and individuals such as Redeemer Lutheran. We are humbled by the generosity of those in our community who recognize the needs of families in this area and are willing to step up and support us! Redeemer Lutheran presented Hope Harbor with \$447 which was part of their Thanksgiving offering.



HOPE Lutheran High School Choir performing at the December 17th worship service.

THE REDEEMER PRESCHOOL PRESS

January 2018



Happy New Year to all!

This new year finds us thankful for all the blessings of the past year and also hopeful as we pray for God's continued blessings upon our preschool and its students and families in 2018. We thank all of you for being a part of those blessings. We thank you for your prayers, your gifts and donations, and for your support and attendance at preschool events such as Katy Smith's presentation and Jesus' Birthday Party. Your support of our preschool means so very much to us!

We took part in Merchants Bank's "10 Days of Giving" food drive, and we also supported the Salvation Army's gift drive for children in need. We had generous responses to both and helped to make the holidays a little happier for local families in need this year.

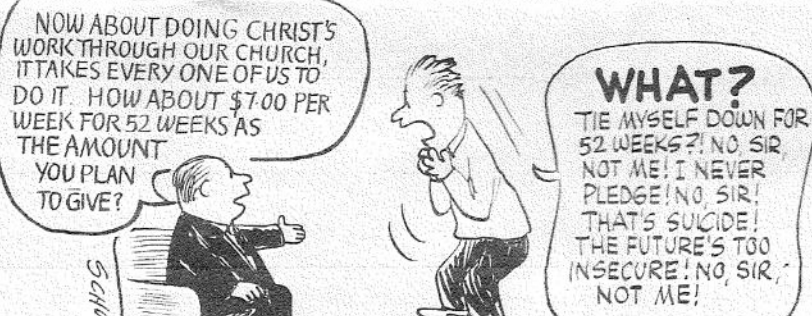
This month we are trying to get back into the swing of things in the classroom now that all the "busy-ness" surrounding the holidays has ended. We will be studying Winter, Mittens, and Quilts during this snowy and chilly month. We will also be gearing up for our up-coming annual candy bar fundraiser, which happens next month.

Again, we thank you for your support and encouragement. We wish you God's richest blessings in 2018!



Pre-School Christmas program on December 21





Redeemer Bake Sale has Record Year Sold 51 dozen Rosettes before 9 AM!



The 14th Annual bake sale was held on Saturday, December 9th.

Thank you to everyone who donated food items, Christmas items, monetary support and helped with set up, pricing, selling and clean up.

Our profit was \$1,363.75 which will be directed to the cross project.



Lutheran World Relief

Dairy Cow

In some parts of the world, dairy cows are in the dowries. In others, dairy cows prized for milk nourishes a family and increases income. For families in Peru, a good dairy cow provides more than six gallons of milk a day. Redeemer is giving a Dairy Cow to provide a family with an important asset that will help long into the future.



Hope Harbor is a voluntary placement program ministry offering teenage girls ages 12-17 and their families the opportunity to heal from past hurts and destructive behaviors through a structured residential program that incorporates the entire family with a focus on Jesus Christ in all things.

They rent a home in Winona with four girls currently in the program. More info at <http://hopeharbormn.org/home>.



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Redeemer Church ...

Welcomes you to come praise His Love for Us!

Sunday at 9 am.

The 1st , 3rd & 4th Sundays
are Communion Sundays.

Office hours are:

Mon-Thurs 9 am—1 pm

Fri 9 am— noon

