



**Redeemer
Connection**

February 2018





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

Attendance Record

Dec 31--46

Jan 7--47

Jan 14--45

Jan 21--44

The next
Church Council
Meeting is 6:30 pm
Monday, February 12, 2018

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



There will be a meal served at 5:15 pm before the Wednesday Lenten services

Ash Wednesday, Feb 14, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, Feb 21, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, Feb 28, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, Mar 7, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, Mar 14, 6:30 pm
Wednesday Mar 21, 6:30 pm
Palm Sunday, Mar 25, 9:00 am
Maundy Thursday, Mar 29, 6:30 pm with potluck
Good Friday, Mar 31, 6:30 pm
Easter Sunday, Apr 1, 9:00 am with breakfast

The New Normal on Church Guests

Recently I participated in a webinar from Lifeway Research on the subject of church guests. The speaker made it clear that the traditional type of visitor is almost a thing of the past. The traditional visitor is someone who is loyal to his or her denomination. If he or she moves they will seek out that denomination in the new town and most likely join that church. This type of visitor or guest is labeled as the “old” normal. This type of visitor has pretty well disappeared.

The “new” normal guests fall into three categories.

1) Experimentals – these are largely people who have no church background but have started to seek out a church. They generally have high expectations of the churches they visit. The churches generally get one chance to make a good first impression. A negative first impression means they will not come back for a second visit. The examples used for a negative first impression were one rude person, poor child care, and dirty bathrooms. Twenty percent of church guests fit into this category according to Lifeway Research.

2) Life Changers – these are people who are seeking out a church because of a major life change such as birth of child, death in the family, job change, finances, illness. With this group the church has a small window of opportunity. Once the crisis has passed the window closes.

3) The Relationals – The research found that 8 out of 10 people would go to church if they were “invited and accompanied” by someone who belongs to the church. So if you invite and bring a friend or neighbor to church they will come! This group has the highest percentage of second visits because they already have a connection to the church through the person who brought them to church. These are the people who are most likely to join a church.

Our Re:Vitality Committee has been talking about and coming up with ideas on how we can make our building and our congregation more guest friendly.

The webinar recommended good hospitality (greeting, tours, bathrooms (again!), refreshments. That the website should be guest friendly. If you haven’t checked out our new website, do so. (Thank you, Jason Passow) Child care, pre-registration on the website, safety issues especially for children, guest friendly signage on and in the building, and (wait for it) “over-the-top” bathrooms.

Things to ponder. Share your ideas and thoughts with me.

Let’s make it great in ’08!

Pastor Kevin

Dear M.C.



In this article, congregation members pose questions to M.C. (our Music Coordinator) who thus responds with whatever words of wisdom the Lord chooses to give him.

Dear M.C., Can you tell me more about the Festival Choir?

MC: The Festival Choir is a new intergenerational choir of Redeemer that will sing at church festivals. The choir is open to moms and their babies, grandpas, young adults, and anyone else!

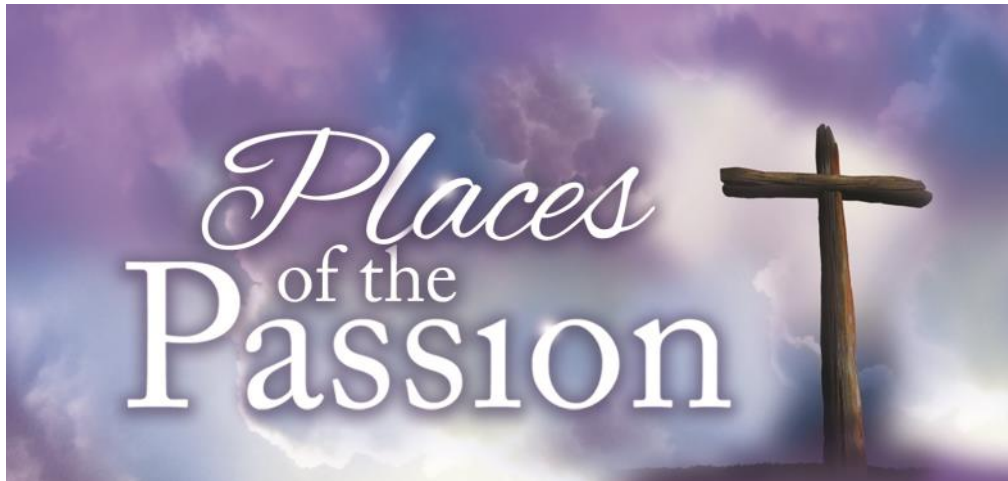
We will meet in the sanctuary after every Lenten service, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. To be mindful of everyone's time, rehearsals will end at 8pm. The choir will sing on Easter Sunday, April 1st, and potentially other dates as determined by members and based on what can be rehearsed in the time allowed.

No need to audition! Just show up by the piano at the back of church after Lenten services and bring your friends and family!



If you have a question you would like addressed, please feel free to ask our Music Coordinator personally, send an email to paklemp@hotmail.com, or call him at 507-312-4784.





PLACES OF THE PASSION

This Lenten series is drawn from Luke's account of our Lord's Passion. Each week, a different section of the Gospel is read; and each week, Luke will take us to a different place—the *Places of the Passion*. However, the focus will not be on those physical places. Instead, throughout the series, the hearer is invited to gaze in wonder on the spiritual work that our Lord does in those places. Jesus will share His strength in our times of weakness. When Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God's grace when Jesus visits them. Week after week, we will enter the places of the Passion, only to discover their Lord waiting for us and willing to share a love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

Ash Wednesday, Luke 22:1–13, “A Place at the Table for You”

Wednesday 2, Luke 22:14–38, “The Upper Room: A Place of Service”

Wednesday 3, Luke 22:39–46, “Gethsemane: A Place of Strength”

Wednesday 4, Luke 22:47–53, “The Betrayal: A Place of Eternal Love”

Wednesday 5, Luke 22:54–62, “The Courtyard: A Place of Renewal”

Wednesday 6, Luke 22:63–23:25, “The Trial: A Place of God's Will”

Maundy Thursday, Luke 22:7–23, “The Last Supper: A Place of Forgiveness”

Good Friday, Luke 23:44–49, “Golgotha: A Place of Simple Love”

THE REDEEMER PRESCHOOL PRESS

February 2018



Happy February! Wow, it has certainly been a COLD and snowy start to the new year! Our preschoolers haven't been able to get outside and enjoy the snow very often, due to the cold temperatures. We pray that February will bring warmer temperatures so that we can go outside more often and enjoy the winter weather while we have it.

In the classroom during January we had fun learning about winter, mittens, quilts, and dinosaurs (and the letters W, M, Q, and D). This month we look forward to studying about the zoo, valentines, and the ocean. We will also "Celebrate Seuss" at the end of the month, as we celebrate the late Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2.

The second week of February, we will kick-off our annual candy bar fundraiser. You can help us out by purchasing some candy bars or take an entire box of 60 bars to sell. The bars cost \$1 each. If allowable at your place of employment, we'd appreciate if you would bring a box to work and sell them for us. If you would like to get a box, please stop in the preschool on a weekday morning or see a preschool board member on a Sunday morning. The box can be paid for when you pick it up or after the bars are all sold.

This month we will also be taking part in Redeemer's annual Parents' Night Out. This event will take place on Saturday evening, February 10. We look forward to providing a fun evening for children so the parents can enjoy a fun evening out.

May God bless your February with health and happiness!



A group of Redeemer Pre School students with the 10 Days of Giving barrel. Picture taken by Merchants National Bank.



Annual candy bar fundraiser
kick-off will be the week of
Feb 12th.



Saturday, Feb 10th
4-7 pm

2017 YEAR END REVIEW

A testament to God's faithfulness

Dear Redeemer Lutheran Church

Let's begin by saying THANK YOU! Because of you, our church was able to share the love of God in new and exciting ways this past year and make a difference both at home and abroad. We are grateful for your deep commitment to the life and ministry of our congregation, and humbled by your generosity.

There is joy in giving to others. Providing gifts to feed the hungry, warm the homeless, care for others and welcome the lonely is not simply a mandate of the Gospel, but also remind us of God's great love for us. A love revealed in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ who deeply and passionately loves each one of us. The Gospel really is good news-news that we are called to share.

Because of you, we have been able to share that love with those around us. This 2017 review highlights just a few of the things we have been able to do this past year because of your generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

We completed several major church projects landscaping, electric door, painting, expansion of Preschool with nature-based programming, grand piano purchase, garage and bathroom upgrades.

Operation accomplishments included revamping financial accounting, adding Bible study, work in Revitalization, policy development, and launched a new website. Attended Best Practices conference.




We celebrated the 500 yr Reformation, Pastor Kevin's 35th ordination anniversary, and Redeemer's 60 yr Anniversary.

Together, we are making a difference, and we are thankful for all you do in order to make a difference in the world around us.

Blessings

Pastor Kevin & the Church Council

BY THE NUMBERS

	
143 Church Members	
8% Increase Giving	8% increase Attendance
4% under budget	
90% decrease Loan amt	50% increase Endowment Fund
Redeemer Garden Touched 2,400	Christian Education Touched 4,000
Special Music Sundays 16 	5 Confirmands 40 Visitors
Facebook likes inc 90%	Children's Message Touched 150
Services Touched 2,966	Intergenerational Services

Generously Supported:

Hope Harbor
 Hope Lutheran High School
 Winona Community Warming Shelter
 Winona Volunteer Food Shelf
 World Mission
 Pennies for Life
 Hurricane Disaster Relief
 Feed My Starving Children
 Salvation Army Angels
 People of Faith
 Camp Omega Capital Campaign

All of this because of....

YOU

Thanks!

STEWARDSHIP

Gift Opportunities

By Sandy Bauer

Appreciated Stock or Mutual Funds

If you have any appreciated stock or mutual funds, you can benefit tremendously by gifting the appreciated asset directly to Redeemer. Redeemer does not pay capital gains taxes. You, as the donor, get the opportunity to deduct the value of the stock on the date you give it to Redeemer. Redeemer has an account at Edward Jones located at 1215 Gilmore, Winona MN (507) 454-5068 to accept this type of donation.

Here is a sample of how this can work: *Jim wants to give \$5,000 to Trinity. If he gives cash and is in the 28% bracket, his out of pocket cost is \$3,600. If he gives stock worth \$5,000, but he paid \$4,000 for the stock, his out of pocket cost is \$4,000 minus \$1,400 or \$2,600 to give \$5,000 in value. Plus, he avoids \$150 in cap gains tax. So the gift costs \$2,450.*

IRAs

The Federal Government made permanent the law that allows donors age 70 1/2 and older to withdraw up to \$100,000 each year from the total of all their IRA accounts tax-free if they give the money directly to a charity. Any distribution to charity counts towards the donor's required minimum distribution from their IRA accounts even though the charity, and not the donor, is the recipient.

Giving through an IRA is very simple too. You don't need an attorney. Simply call your IRA administrator and tell them what you want to do.

Life Insurance

One of the easiest ways to make a gift to Redeemer Lutheran Church is through life insurance. Simply, you can make the church a full or partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy that you own or intend to take out.

Wills

A will simply directs those we leave behind how to divide up what is left. It is a statement of what was important to you. It can be a final way to teach your kids that they were important to you, but so were some ministries that are making a difference in the world. Contact your attorney to make a will or to add a codicil to your will to include Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Gifts through a person's estate are lasting testimony to the importance that the church and service to God has held in someone's life.

Planned Giving

Other opportunities to give include Charitable gift annuities or charitable trusts. These are set up with a professional.

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

[2 Corinthians 9:7](#) | [NIV](#) |



The best vitamin for a Christian is B1



To love someone is to see him how God intended him



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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

