



Redeemer Lutheran Church
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Redeemer Church ...

Welcomes you to come praise His Love for
Us!

Sunday Worship at 9 am.

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

Office hours are:

Mon-Thurs 9 am—1 pm

Fri 9 am— noon



Redeemer Lutheran Church

December

2017

Issue XII Vol XIII

Staff

Pastor:

Kevin Froelich

Office Assistant:

Susan Althoff

Music Coordinator:

Phil Klemp

Bookkeeper/Custodian:

Joe Whetstone

Pre-School Coordinator:

Rinli Fruechte

Connections



Advent

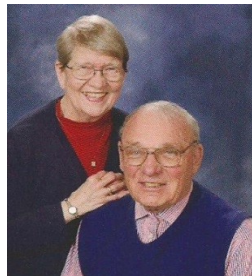
Members honored on Anniversary

Golden Members

These members have served God through Redeemer 50 or more years. Throughout the 60 year history these members have worn many hats as they worked in facets of church life and still do.



Joyce Beard



Dick and Sharon Behnke

They also were Charter Members; their signatures are on the original documents in 1957 when Redeemer was founded. Plus, they were celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary on November 5th.



Arlene Tullius

Lifetime member:

Dietrich Flesch

He was baptized, confirmed, married and has fathered 4 new members at Redeemer



5. Lawn mower blades. The church had a multi-hour business meeting on what type of lawnmower blades to purchase. Now that's silly. You should fight over lawnmower purchases, but not the blades.

6. The pastor's son. The church had three hours of contentious discussion, mostly against the pastor. Toward the end of the meeting, the pastor looked up to the balcony to see that his teenage son had sneaked up there to listen. Ugh. Just ugh.

7. Donuts . . . reprise. This meeting was another contentious discussion about donuts. The issue this time was whether or not people can eat them in the worship center. I'm sure there was a bylaw change as a result.

8. Record time for a business meeting. This church business meeting began at 7 pm and took a break at midnight to resume the next evening. The point of contention was the type of wheels to put on a people mover, standard or chrome. We all fully understand why you need over six hours to fight over this vital issue.

9. The lady gets no respect. The church voted against giving a woman a volunteer ministry position in the church. But they subsequently voted a man to that position on the condition that the defeated woman would do all the work. I wonder if she accepted.

10. Vote to close closes. The congregation had a called business meeting for the singular purpose of voting to close the church. Due to lack of interest, not enough members showed up to have a quorum. I have no words.



The next Redeemer Church Council meeting is Monday, December 11 , at 6:30 pm. Maybe you should attend?!



Dead bodies and donuts.

Those are two of the themes of church business meetings.

Recently, I sent an inquiry on social media asking about memorable church business meetings. I was encouraged that some of the responses were positive. Some congregations really do make the meetings a time to make a positive difference.

But most of the responses were, well, strange. For now, I am sharing my top ten choices from those responses.

1. **Dead body in dumpster.** Church had a prolonged business meeting on whether or not to put a lock on their dumpster. There was no resolution. Within the week someone put a dead body in the dumpster. The church voted overwhelmingly and immediately to put the lock on. I wonder if a pro-lock church member placed the body there.
2. **Church name change.** I am not surprised this meeting was contentious. This type of change is emotional and far-reaching. But this argument against changing the name was classic: "How will Jesus know who we are when He returns if we change our name?"
3. **Donuts.** The church had a two-hour meeting discussing donuts. I get it. Donuts are important.
4. **Absentee member.** Those at the church meeting voted a person to serve in three different positions. But she was not present. That will teach her to miss business meetings.

60th Anniversary Celebration

It was a special and glorious day-Great is Thy Faithfulness. God truly does provide us what we need. The Jell-O Salad was a big hit, the service was filled with music; Because He Lives group singing, and trumpets playing. With Dr. Dean Nadasdy, Pastor Preuss, Pastor Flesch, and Pastor Kevin a part of the service, it was totally awesome! There was a diverse congregation with previous members, community members and Redeemer members all worshipping and celebrating together.





Because He Lives group sang *Amazing Grace*, *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, and *Because He Lives* during the Anniversary service. Along with trumpets playing the refrain the music was inspiring.

Because He Lives is a Bible/hymn study community group and it is their ministry to be able to present God's message at other churches. Anyone is welcome to come. The group meets at 7 PM on Thursday evenings at Central Lutheran Church and is composed of community members that attend a variety of churches. The history of the hymn is studied with information about the composer and the lyricist. Often times hymns previously studied are sung. Bruce Odell directs and Deb Berhow organizes the group. Anyone is welcomed.



Thank you to the 60th Anniversary planning committee: Sandy Bauer, Margaret Hohenstein, Sandy Moger, and Susie Sonnenfeld. They were incredible.

Thank You to the 25 volunteers who made the anniversary a success.

Special thanks to Pastor Kevin for being supportive, flexible enthusiastic and especially for arranging such a beautiful service commem-

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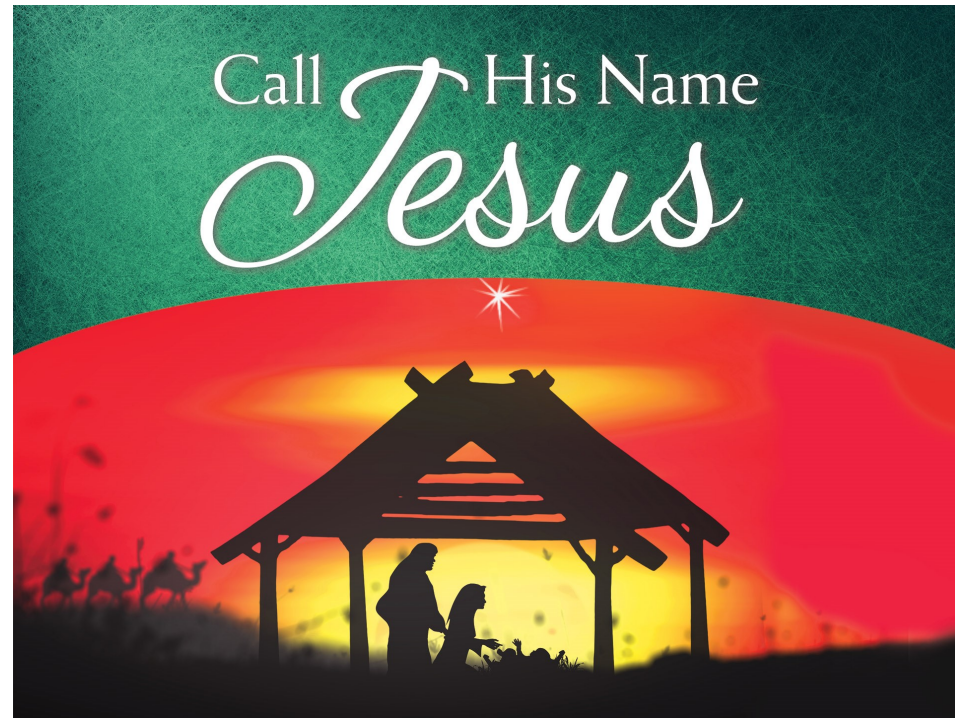
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Our Sunday Advent services celebrate the wonderful name of Jesus as well as other names and titles by which we worship the Child of Bethlehem, our Savior, Lamb, Shepherd, Emmanuel,

Advent 2017

AND the Winner is.....



Isaac Flesch served up the winning Minnesota Wild Rice Hot dish prepared by Terry Hertel in the Hot-dish Cook-off. Other contestants were Mandy Flesch, Rinli Fruechte, Lois Ankrum, and Kim Bray.

Recipe for Minnesota Wild Rice Hot dish

1# Minnesota wild rice (accept no substitutes!)
 2# ground beef
 2 cups diced celery
 1-2 cups diced onion
 1 can cream of mushroom soup
 1 can cream of chicken soup

2 4oz. cans of mushrooms (drained)
 1/4 cup soy sauce
 1/2 cup slivered almonds
 Salt

Wild rice cooking method:

Wash the wild rice thoroughly by running cold water over wild rice in a fine strainer. Bring 3 cups of water for each cup of wild rice to a boil. Add a pinch of salt and the wild rice. Reduce heat and simmer covered for 35-50 minutes or just until the kernels puff open. Fluff with a fork and drain off the water. Rinse thoroughly in a strainer with hot water. For chewier texture, cook less time.

Brown the ground beef and set aside. Sauté the celery and onions in butter or margarine in a separate pan for 5-10 minutes or until tender.

Combine the ground beef, wild rice, sautéed celery and onions, mushrooms, soups, soy sauce, and almonds and stir until mixed. Place the mixture in a slightly buttered 3 quart casserole. Bake at 350° for an hour, stirring occasionally. Add water if needed.



THE REDEEMER PRESCHOOL PRESS

December 2017



As we prepare our hearts and homes to celebrate the coming of Christ, the preschool has been busily preparing as well. Since the printing of our last newsletter, we decided at the last Preschool Board Meeting not to participate in the Samaritan's Purse project (the "shoebox project") this year and instead focus on a more local charity. At the time of this printing, we've been exploring several options but haven't yet made a final decision as to which one to support.

We will again be participating in the Merchants Bank's "10 Days of Giving" food drive. We will have a collection barrel for food donations the first 10 days of December. Food and monetary donations will benefit our local Volunteer Services food shelf. If you can spare a can or box from your pantry, please place it in the collection barrel down at the preschool end. If you would like to donate money, please write a check out to 10 Days of Giving and put the check in the preschool mailbox or give it directly to me. I will pass it on to them when they pick up the barrel of food.

We are also very excited to be sponsoring a holiday presentation by Katy Smith, local parent educator and former Minnesota Teacher of the Year, entitled "Taking Care of Christmas, What Children Really Need This Year". This will take place on Thursday, December 7 from 6:00 – 7:00 here at Redeemer. We are inviting parents of the community and offering free child care to the first thirty who sign up. It promises to be a fun and enlightening evening!

Finally, we'd like to invite you to help us celebrate the Savior's birth by attending "Jesus' Birthday Party". In lieu of a Christmas program this year, we are throwing Jesus a birthday party. The children will sing a few songs, then we will open up the preschool and fellowship rooms and have stations available for games, crafts, refreshments, etc. It is our hope that this will offer families and guests a chance to visit and interact with their children in the midst of this busy season. The party will be on Thursday, December 21 from 6:00 – 7:30. We hope to celebrate with you!

As 2017 winds down, we'd again like to thank you for your support and encouragement during the past year. It has been a year filled with changes, and we thank you for your role in orchestrating those changes and helping our program to grow and improve. We are truly blessed to work in a place with such a supportive congregation!

The children and staff of Redeemer Lutheran Preschool wish you all a blessed Christmas season and a joyous New Year!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

It is that time of the year again when some Christians make a fuss about the commercialization of Christmas. Other Christians talk about how the world is trying to take the Christ out of Christmas. Good arguments can be made for both of those statements. Regardless, our Christmas today certainly doesn't reflect the first Christmas.

Christmas began as a very humble event, an event that exhibited the greatest humility the world has ever seen—the God of glory being laid in a manger – a feeding trough.

Humility was exhibited in Mary's situation. Everything about Mary was humble—her hometown, her poverty, her hardships, her displacement in Bethlehem, her setting.

Humility was expressed in Mary's song. In her Magnificat, she spoke of how God resists the proud but exalts the lowly.

Humility exemplified in Mary's Son. Jesus was the Son of God who became the Son of Man.

We take pride in birth and rank, but He was a carpenter's son. We take pride in possessions, but He had nowhere to lay His head. Is there any way in which we can observe Christmas with the personal humility that reflects our Savior? God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

We can look back to the first Christmas to gain insight on how we as twenty-first-century believers can and should celebrate Christmas.

We celebrate Christmas by telling others about Christ. Luke 2:17 says: "When they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child."

We celebrate Christmas by reflecting on its wonderful meaning. Luke 2:18 and 19 tell us that everyone who heard about the birth of Christ marveled, and Mary pondered these things in her heart.

We celebrate Christmas by offering praise and glory to God. Luke 2:20 tells us the shepherds glorified and praised God for all they had heard and seen.

Put Christ back into your Christmas. Tell others about Him and invite them to our church on Christmas Eve at 4PM. Make time to ponder Him in your heart, and take every opportunity of praising the Christ of Bethlehem.

Pastor Kevin