

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
1401 6TH STREET SW
WILLMAR, MN 56201
(320) 235-4685

[redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org](mailto:redemer@redeemerwillmar.org) www.redeemerwillmar.org

Non-Profit Org.
US Postal Paid
Permit No. 370
Willmar, MN 56201

Address Service Requested



In Touch With Redeemer

Sharing Christ and Changing Lives


And
suddenly
there was
with the angel
a multitude of
the heavenly host
praising God,
and saying,
Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward men.
Luke
2:13-14
(KJV)

December 2015

IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church

Volume XXV, Issue XII

The King is Coming!

Is it really already advent? The pleasant fall this year has perhaps made us think it's still October, but yes indeed it is time for Advent. That means that we have our Advent Worship Services this month. We have a short service at 6:00 pm on Wednesday Evenings, and at 6:30pm we have our Soup and Sandwiches free of charge! It's a great way to prepare for the coming of Christ our King.



The Kingdom of God is a major theme in God's holy history, from the house and the lineage of David to David's greater Son and Lord, whose birth we anticipate during Advent. This Advent's sermon series will focus on lesson from the Old Testament Prophets, who spoke from the perspective of their own times under the kings of Israel in Judah. These kings were full of shortcomings and failures. Yet through these prophets, God prophesied of a greater king to come, whose kingdom will have no end.

Our lives as Gods' people in Christ are "lived under Him in His Kingdom," As Luther put it-under the righteous rule and reign of Christ our King. Christmas celebrates his birth and coming among us, even as we pray as He taught us, "Thy Kingdom Come." May our Advent worship help us prepare and rejoice, for the King is coming!

Advent 1 "The King's City: Safe and Secure"

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Advent 2 "The King's Herald: Announce the King!"

Malachi 3:1-4

Advent 3 "The King Will Have His Day"

Zephaniah 3:14-20

We invite you to join us as we prepare for our King, and the birth of our Lord!

In Christ,
Pastor Greg Enterline

CURRENTLY SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES...

Lt Jason & Emily (Ansonge) Geddes
412 34th Street
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
Grandchildren of Virginia Ansonge

Major James Nelson
Orthopedic Surgeon at
Ft. Benning, Columbus, GA
Parents are Wayne & Laurie Nelson

ET5 Brianna Runke
Electronics Technician
Hopper Information Service Center
Suitland, Maryland
Brianna is the niece of Dave & Carol Runke

CW3 Jeffery Nelson
Chinook helicopter maintenance test pilot at
Ft. Bliss in El Paso, TX
Parents are Wayne & Laurie Nelson



**MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS &
SERMONS ON THE WEBSITE**
www.redeemerwillmar.org

PLEASE NOTE:

**The stoves in the kitchen are shut off to conserve gas.
Call the church office 24 hours in advance if needed.**

**Please keep the church office current on all contact information
when moving, changing home or cell numbers, and email addresses.**

**HOSPITAL INFORMATION: If you ever have the misfortune of having to
spend a day or more in the hospital, you or someone you know may need to
call the church. The hospital may ask you your church affiliation, but they do
NOT notify the church office.**



AT REDEEMER PRESCHOOL



“Hark how all the Welkin Rings”
A scandal over famous Christmas Hymn

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” Luke 2:13-14

“HARK how all the Welkin rings, Glory to the King of Kings.” for those of you that don’t know this is the original first line of the classic Christmas hymn *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*. The hymn originally written by Charles Wesley in 1739 was later adapted to modern language, modern language of at least the 1700’s that is to what we today know as Hark the herald Angels Sing. So what is a Welkin? According to Merriam Webster online dictionary a Welkin refers to, vault of sky, upper atmosphere, celestial abode of God.



Apparently a friend of Wesley’s thought that the word Welkin was outdated in 1739 and changed the outdated language to the well known line we know today of “Hark the Herald Angels Sing.” It is said that Wesley was so upset with this change that he refused to ever sing the hymn.

As we know, the term herald is an official messenger, in the case of this hymn the official messengers of God heralding the good news of the birth of Christ.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing is the basis for our children’s Christmas program this year as the children and youth present their program “Heaven and Nature Sing”. You’ll meet Harold an angel who desperately wants to be involved in delivering messages during the birth of Jesus and thinks he can be a part of the Angel chorus to rejoice at Christ’s birth. The angel chorus of children will share with us the message of Christmas and how all of us can be apart of the celebration no matter our skills, gifts or talents.

Join us December 13th at the 10:30 am worship and hark how Harold the Angel Sings.

Blessings to you this Advent season,
Cassie Drenkow
Director of Christian Education

resources:

Welkin.(23, November 2015).Merriam Webster Online Dictionary.

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/welkin>

Hymn Story: Hark the Herald Angels Sing. (23, November 2015.) Lectionary. org.

<http://www.lectionary.org/HymnStories/Hark,%20the%20Herald%20Angels%20Sing.htm>

I don't know about you but the anticipation of Christmas is sometimes more satisfying than the actual arrival of the holiday. As I grow older the baking, making gifts, and decorating are the really enjoyable parts of the season for me. And if there is a snowfall while I am doing these things even better!! In fact even a few flecks of snow like we had last week will cause me (and my daughters) to push play on the Christmas music!!

What is it about snow and Christmas? It just doesn't seem like Christmas without snow. The first snows of the season cover the dust and bland colors of late fall. Our world has a fresh look and feels brand new. A blanket of snow is peaceful and calming. It seems to slow us down (and it can literally stop us in our tracks). The world settles down for a long winter's nap. We slow our breathing and relax. It can fill us with hope that "Yes, we can survive the holiday season!" But more than that a hope that penetrates deep in our soul that "Yes, we can handle this world with all of its darkness."

This hope comes in the form of a little baby born on Christmas. The only One who can penetrate the darkness and cover us like a new blanket of snow with peace. It is the anticipation of His coming that makes this season one I look forward to each year.

As I was contemplating how to write this a song came to me. I was hearing the first phrase "tears are falling" as if "snow was falling" but the words suit the season of Advent and especially reflect the hope we have as Christians as unrest is rampant in our world at the moment.

"Welcome to Our World"– Amy Grant

*Tears are falling hearts are breaking, How we need to hear from God.
You've been promised, we've been waiting. Welcome Holy Child.*

*Hope that you don't mind our manger. How I wish we would have known.
Long awaited Holy Stranger, please make yourself at home.*

*Bring your Peace into our violence. Bid our hungry souls be filled.
Word now breaking Heaven's silence. Welcome to our world.*

*Fragile fingers sent to heal us. Tender brow prepared for Thorn.
Tiny heart whose blood will save us unto us is born.*

*So wrap our injured flesh around You. Breathe our air and walk our sod.
Rob our sin and make us holy perfect Son of God.
Welcome to Our World.*

Preschool Christmas Service

"Come To Bethlehem and See"
Thursday, December 17
5:45 and 7:00 pm
Fellowship between services.

Community Art Night

Bring your family and create projects
for gifts and decorations
December 1, 5:30-7:00 pm

†† DECEMBER 2015 ††

	ELDERS	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	LIBRARY
<u>Dec 2</u> 6:00 PM	Jeff Kimpling		Cora Gleason	
<u>Dec 6</u> 8:00 AM Lord's Supper 10:30 AM	Michael Sandau Doug Jorschumb Dave Runke Neil Buboltz	Rolf & Joyce Standfuss Mike Botzek, Deb Arnold Roger & Nancy Klaassen Leon & Carole Schultz	Jennassa Hanson Quiana Christenson	Bonnie Rhoda
<u>Dec 9</u> 6:00 PM	Stan Skaro		Cristill Duaso	
<u>Dec 13</u> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Jeff Kimpling Leon Schultz	Gene & Rose Meyer Larry & Judy Lind Marlin & Chery Niss Loren & Judy Schultz	Michael Mohr Zoey Jorschumb	Anita Petersen
<u>Dec 16</u> 6:00 PM	Dave Runke		David Reyes	
<u>Dec 20</u> 8:00 AM Lord's Supper 10:30 AM	Mike Botzek Stan Skaro Neil Buboltz Doug Jorschumb	Brad & Suzanne Skindeliem Jeff & Cheryl Pitt Todd Swartz, LaVonne Van Zee Carol Dahlke, Alice Beckmann	<u>(acolyte needed)</u> Mikayla Schoumaker	LaVonne Van Zee
<u>Dec 24</u> 3:00 PM 5:00 PM	Stan Skaro Jeff Kimpling		Rebecca Wubben Gaborick Bolstad	
<u>Dec 25</u> 10:00 AM	Michael Sandau	<i>Merry Christmas</i>	Jordan Freiberg	
<u>Dec 27</u> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Dave Runke Stan Skaro	Gayne & Marvelle Stone Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg Harlan & Trudy Hemingway Keven & Diane Hillenbrand	Tucker Helfinstine Sarah Jeppesen	Michelle Marcus
<u>Dec 31</u> 5:00 PM	Leon Schultz Mike Botzek	<i>Happy New Year</i>	Kaitlin Mogard	
<u>USHERS</u>	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	*Ken Behm, Matt Akerson, Amiah Akerson, Mike Botzek *Joe Hammerschmidt, Kourtney Hammerschmidt, Jeff Pitt		(*Head Usher)



ARE YOU GOING TO BE GETTING NEW SNOW BOOTS SOON? Save your old snow boots and bring them to church and place them in the bucket by the courtyard door. We will take all your shoes that you don't wear anymore -- work boots, high heels, tennis shoes, and dress shoes, you name it -- any kind of shoes EXCEPT flip flops. Please either tie your pairs of shoes together or rubber band them together. Thank You for helping out Lutheran Island Camp!

SENIOR PASTOR CALL UPDATE: Pastor David Johnson of Grace Lutheran Church has declined our call to serve as our Senior Pastor. Please keep Pastor Johnson in your prayers as he continues to serve his church in Becker, Minnesota and as we continue to call for a Senior Pastor.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions each year starting around Thanksgiving. These contributions help support the work of the church now and throughout the year. During this season, please consider demonstrating appreciation for your own good fortune or good health by making an additional contribution, or, if you haven't done so already, by committing to a consistent giving plan. Redeemer offers congregation members a convenient electronic giving option for making donations. Look for the yellow Simply Giving pamphlets in the narthex or contact the church office for details.

“THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS”

For **DECEMBER** we will be collecting previously viewed DVD's (comedy and action), paperback novels, games-board games, electronic, hand-held games, car games, crossword and word find books, and journals. Please place donated items in box located in narthex.

THE REDEEMER LWML thanks all of you who donated items to the Human Care Project, “Support Our Troops” this past year. There were 214 magazines, 12 books, 66 hygiene products, 106 treats, 47 games, and 44 greeting cards. Thank you for your prayers and support for our troops.

DECEMBER BIBLE READING

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Isaiah 7:10-8:8
1 Peter 3:1-22 | 11 Isaiah 28:14-29
1 John 5:1-21 | 21 Isaiah 42:1-25
Revelation 9:1-12 |
| 2 Isaiah 8:9-9:7
1 Peter 4:1-19 | 12 Isaiah 29:1-14
Jude 1-25 | 22 Isaiah 43:1-24
Revelation 9:13-10:11 |
| 3 Isaiah 9:8-10:11
1 Peter 5:1-14 | 13 Isaiah 29:15-30:14
Revelation 1:1-20 | 23 Isaiah 43:25-44:20
Revelation 11:1-19 |
| 4 Isaiah 10:12-34
2 Peter 1:1-21 | 14 Isaiah 30:15-26
Revelation 2:1-29 | 24 Isaiah 44:21-45:25
Revelation 12:1-17 |
| 5 Isaiah 11:1-12:6
2 Peter 2:1-22 | 15 Isaiah 30:27-31:9
Revelation 3:1-22 | 25 Isaiah 49:1-18
Matthew 1:1-17 |
| 6 Isaiah 14:1-23
2 Peter 3:1-18 | 16 Isaiah 32:1-20
Revelation 4:1-11 | 26 Isaiah 49:22-51:16
Matthew 1:18-25 |
| 7 Isaiah 24:1-13
1 John 1:1-2:14 | 17 Isaiah 33:1-24
Revelation 5:1-14 | 27 Isaiah 51:17-52:12
Matthew 2:1-12 |
| 8 Isaiah 24:14-25:12
1 John 2:15-29 | 18 Isaiah 34:1-35:10
Revelation 6:1-17 | 28 Isaiah 52:13-54:10
Matthew 2:13-23 |
| 9 Isaiah 26:1-19
1 John 3:1-24 | 19 Isaiah 40:1-17
Revelation 7:1-17 | 29 Isaiah 55:1-13
Luke 1:1-25 |
| 10 Isaiah 26:20-27:13
1 John 4:1-21 | 20 Isaiah 40:18-41:10
Revelation 8:1-13 | 30 Isaiah 58:1-59:21
Luke 1:26-38 |
| | | 31 Isaiah 60:1-22
Luke 1:39-56 |

Sunday	Attendance	Adults	Sr. High	Children	Communion	Private
Nov 1	298	23	7	52	212	
Nov 8	202	20	8	49		
Nov 15	230	23	10	51	182	
Nov 22	284	23	13	64		
Nov 25/26						
Nov 29						
TOTALS	1014	89	38	216	394	27

In by Baptism: Owen Ervin & Ethan William Krakow

SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and a list is posted on the church office window. Please check your phone number for accuracy or if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office. Please help out when your co-chair calls.

DECEMBER

Beth Corti – 320-231-1907
Gloria Schroeder – 320-382-6400

Elloyd & Janice Bartel
Lee & Beth Corti
Cassie Drenkow
John & Marlys Eggen
Myrtle Elsing
Ron* & Dee Erpelding
ElRoy & Lavonne Gast
Joel & Sharon Jergenson
Doug & Renee Jorschumb
Gene & Rose Meyer
Mike & Mary Mikkelsen
Craig & Heather Petersen
Bob & Lila Rekedal
Jerry & Betty Schleh
Gary & Gloria Schroeder
John & Lori Schroeder
Kim & Deb Setrum
Stan & Sharon Skaro

JANUARY

Janice Bartel – 320-354-2407
Sharon Skaro – 320-599-4506

Matt & Jennifer Akerson
Elloyd & Janice Bartel
Jacob Berghuis
Sarah Berghuis
Susan Christensen
David & Julie Danzeisen
Jerry Gesch
Pete & Paulette Hagen
Gary & Mary Hillenbrand
Carol Jackson
Jared & Kjaresty Johnson
Dylan* & Angela Kalkbrenner
Kathy Kirchenwitz
Roger & Lois Koosmann
Angela Leindecker
David & Anita Maras
Jerret & Darci Mohr
Bill & Bridget Neumann
Jeff & Cheryl Pitt
Stan & Sharon Skaro
Rolf & Joyce Standfuss
Tyler & Shannon Templer
Robert Theilen

<p>*indicates non-member</p>

Minnesota North District – LCMS Prayer Calendar December 2015

“Partners in Mission and in Prayer with...”

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Rev. Timothy Rehwaldt – St. John Lutheran Church, Sauk Rapids (Popple Creek)	2 Rev. Joshua Reinke – St. John Lutheran Church, Wright	3 Rev. Joshua Reinke – Our Savior Lutheran Church, McGregor	4 Rev. Tim Renstrom – St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Braham	5
6	7 Rev. Blake Rickbell – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bertha	8 Rev. Guy Roberts – Zion Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes	9 Rev. Jeffrey Ross – Nicolai Lutheran Church, Canby	10 Rev. Jeffrey Ross – Zion Lutheran Church, Boyd (Tyro Twp.)	11 Rev. Dean Rudloff – Life in Christ Lutheran Church, Grand Marais	12
13	14 Rev. Jonathan Rusnak – Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Garrison	15 Rev. Stephen Rutherford – Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Backus	16 Rev. George Sagissor, III – Trinity Lutheran Church, Clear Lake	17 Rev. Timothy Schaeckel – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Milaca	18 Rev. Benjamin Schimm – St. John Lutheran Church, Gerfield	19
20	21 Rev. Micah Schmidt – Living Branch Lutheran Church, North Branch	22 Rev. David Schoessow – Christ Lutheran Church, Superior, WI	23 Rev. John Schultz – St. Paul Lutheran Church, Granite Falls			26
27	28 Rev. James Sorensen – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Blackduck	29 Rev. James Sorensen – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Cass Lake	30 Rev. Donald Stauty – Redeemer Lutheran Church, Aurora	31 District Office Closed		

THANK YOU GOD.

My muscles are sore, but they work.
I did not sleep well last night, but I did wake up.
My wallet is not full, but my belly is.
I may not have all I want, but I have all I need.
My life is not perfect, but it is good.



Prayer & Praise Mite Calendar Decem



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Take time to be in the Word this Advent season.	2 Pray for the Teaching Staff at Yambio Lutheran School, South Sudan 10¢ MN NORTH GRANT	3 10¢ if there is snow on the ground; 5¢ if not	4 Pray for School for Children in Cambodia	
6 Praise God for those whose special talents enhance our Advent and Christmas worship services	7 Help a neighbor this week	<i>now</i> 8 Donate one food item for every gift you buy for Christmas	9 Pray for Lutheran Braille Workers 10¢ MN NORTH GRANT	10 Pray for missionaries everywhere	11 Pray for all Full-time Church Work Students 10¢ MN NORTH GRANT	12 1¢ for each Christmas card that you are sending this year
13 Thank God for your family & friends	14 Pray for the Staff Training at Lutheran Island Camp Summer 10¢ MN NORTH GRANT	15 Make a phone call to a homebound person today	16 Pray for Rev. James Kollie Education Fund, Liberia 10¢ MN NORTH GRANT	17 Thank God for your warm house 10¢	18 Pray for the ministry of Orphan Grain Train 10¢ MN NORTH GRANT	19 Take a plate of Christmas goodies to someone who can no longer bake
20 5¢ for each person you greeted at church today	21 \$1 if you have finished your holiday shopping, 50¢ if you haven't started.	<i>now</i> 22 Encourage someone who is homebound during this holiday season	23 Pray for Men Preparing for Ordination 10¢ MN NORTH GRANT	24 O holy night, the night of our dear Savior's birth	25 Christmas Day Unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given	26 Pray for the families of military personnel who are separated from loved ones
27 Pray for all in need during this Christmas season	28 Greet someone today with the "Peace of the Lord"	29 Pray for Life in Christ Lutheran Church, Grand Marais 10¢ MN NORTH GRANT	30 25¢ if you missed an opportunity to share Christ with someone this month	31 Thank and praise God for the gift of another year of grace.		

MITE
-Y
MUF
FINS
AND
NATI
VITY
SC
NE
EXP
O

Rede
emer
LWML
L will

be hosting coffee hour on December 13th. Join us for coffee, "Mite-y Muffins" and various displays of nativity scenes. We are encouraging members of the congregation to bring a favorite nativity scene to be displayed that morning in the social hall. Bring it to the social hall on Saturday, December 12th from 2:30 – 4:00 pm, accompanied with a note indicating your name and why this nativity scene is especially meaningful to you. Someone will be there to help display it and watch over it on Sunday.

Redeemer LWML has a MITE goal to send \$1000 to the Minnesota North District. We are close to our goal but we need your help. We will have the "mite box" out during the "mite-y muffin" coffee time and invite you to drop your loose change in the box.



Order Your Poinsettias

Remember your loved one this Christmas season by decorating our church with poinsettias. Please return this form with your check/cash to Lori in the _____ church office no later than Sunday, December 13th.

Check one:

in memory of:

in honor of:

By: _____

I/We will pick them up

or

I/We will leave them at the church



Contribution \$ _____ Offering # _____

LIKE TO SEW? There are squares on the rack in the kitchen that can be taken home to sew together and brought back for the quilters to finish. The quilters will take the month of December off, but will meet again every Monday at 12:30 starting in January. Come join us!

A BRAND NEW BABY is on the way so let's celebrate with a special day! Please join us for an Open House Baby Shower honoring Callie Bremseth as she and Daniel prepare for the arrival of Baby Girl Bremseth! The shower will be held on Sunday, December 13th from 2- 4 pm in the Trinity Room. Registered at Target.



THESE BOARDS HAVE OPENINGS FOR 2016:

Outreach – 3

Trustees – 1

Preschool – 1

Fellowship – 2

Stewardship – 2

Elders – 2

Talk to Jeff Pitt or the church office if interested.



COMMUNITY ART NIGHT: The Preschool is hosting Art Night once again on Tuesday, December 1st from 5:30-7:00 pm. We need your help!! There are 7-8 art stations with 1-2 helpers at each. This usually counts as a youth service project too! Can you be a host at a table or help greet guests that come for the evening? Let Rachel know at 235-4685 ext 2 or rjeppesen@redeemerwillmar.org.

REMINDER FOR YEAR-END DONATIONS:

To qualify as a gift in 2015, federal regulations require that checks must be dated on or before December 31st and the mailing envelope accompanying the check must be postmarked by December 31st. Gifts received after that date will be posted to your 2016 giving. For hand-delivered checks, the date the check is received determines in which year your donation will be recorded.

2015
May your **Home** be warm,
your **Holidays** grand,
& may your **Heart** be
held gently in the Lord's hands.

QuotesIdeas.com

7TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH AND PARENTS - Salvation Army Bell Ringing Saturday December 5th, 10:00 am-Noon or 4:00-6:00 pm. Sign up for a time to Ring Bells for those in need this year.

SAVE THE DATE Youth Christmas Party, December 5th, 6:30-11:00 pm. Bring a \$5 or under white elephant gift to exchange and a Christmas goodie to share.

YOUTH WILL BE SERVING the Advent meal Wednesday, December 9, each family is asked to bring a pan of bars or 1 dozen cookies. 7-8th Grade are asked to arrive at 4:45 pm for set up and 9th-12th grade are asked to arrive at 6:00 pm for serving and clean-up.

PARENTS DAY OUT! Saturday, December 12th, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm for ages 3 & up. A great opportunity for you to have a kid-free afternoon to do some Christmas shopping done, go on a date, or just have a quiet house for awhile. Your children will be in great hands with Redeemer Youth and Adult Leaders. If interested, please fill out registration form and return to church office by Thursday, December 10. Lunch will be provided Grilled Cheese, Je Jingle Jigglers, Apple trees (apple slices, cheese & pretzel sticks).

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPENINGS for December 6th and 13th will be in the Sanctuary at 9:00 am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE will be on Saturday, December 12th from 9:30 - 11:30 am, preschool and kindergarten students do not need to arrive until 10:30 am for practice.

THERE WILL BE SUNDAY SCHOOL on Sunday, December 20. Please join us!

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 27th, or January 3rd.
Sunday School will resume on January 10.

MEALS ON WHEELS NOTICE: As of December 5, 2015, they will no longer be delivering Meals on Wheels on Saturday's due to the small amount of meals delivered. Hopefully this is just for the winter months.

Redeemer will be delivering the weeks of December 28th and January 4th.

ADVENTure SCHOOL will be starting on Wednesday, December 2, and will also be held on December 9, and 16 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Preschool through 2nd graders will be doing

some fun activities. 3rd graders will be building their stables. The 4th-6th graders will be making their ceramic pieces. 3rd-6th graders -- if you have not signed up or have not paid for your nativities pieces, please do so immediately. **If parents could stay and help** that would be very much appreciated. We can always use an extra pair of hands!

NYG UPDATE Planning for the 2016 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans is fully underway for the Redeemer's youth group! We have met twice now, and the four committees in charge of different parts of planning have made some decisions and most have been talked about to get the best experience these kids can get. The four committees include Publicity and Presentation, Nurture, Empower and Connect Team. These teams have certain aspects of planning the trip so everyone has a chance to be a part of the process. This year's youth gathering focuses on Paul's letter to the Philippians and the 2016 theme is In Christ Alone.



Publicity & Presentation Team Members - Korissa Lindquist, Sarah Jeppesen, Tucker Helfinstine, Jordan Frieberg, Lauren Wubben

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR TRAILBLAZER WINTER ADVENTURE AT

LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP: Take 30 or so kids who've been in school for 6 months; bring them out to camp for a weekend at the end of January; throw in some of our best and brightest staff members; throw in a foot or two of snow, 18 inches of ice, and some great facilities; mix in a hayride, broomball, Thumper pond, skiing and hiking, a few campfires, hot chocolate, a great Bible Study, moving devotions and worship, and you have Trailblazer Winter Adventure. This year's Adventure is scheduled to begin Friday evening, January 29 and will close out Sunday noon on the 31st. This is for 8-14 year olds. The cost is \$10. Some campships may be available.



**CHRISTMAS
LUTHERAN**

dinners are a great way to enjoy Christmas at the Island at this Holy time of year. Make it a new tradition for yourself for your family to

**DINNERS/LUNCHEONS AT
ISLAND CAMP:** These

are a great way to enjoy Christmas at the Island at this Holy time of year. Make it a new tradition for yourself for your family to

enjoy these Christmas dinners. It is not too early to sign up for the event of your choice. Just give camp a call. You can pay when you arrive. They do ask that you register in advance so that in the event of cancellation, they can get in touch with you. Please note that there are both dinners and lunches.

December:

- 6 Island Christmas Dinner (Mary Weber and Friends – “Christmas Strings”)
- 11 Island Christmas Dinner (OPEN)
- 12 Island Christmas Lunch (Whitney and Rachel Borchardt – Raspberry Scented Candles – Christmas Music on The Piano”)
- 13 Island Christmas Dinner (Pastor Ben Schimm – “Tuba Christmas”)
- 18 Island Christmas Dinner (Jessica Borchardt – “Silent Night – Christmas Songs With the Guitar.”)
- 19 Island Christmas Lunch (Justin Hett and Becca Ehlert – “A Christmas Music Duet”)

NEW 2015 ELDER – RESPONSIBILITY

<u>Elder</u>	<u>Phone#</u>	<u>Household Names</u>
Mark Sellmann	235-0075	Akerson – Bokelman
Michael Sandau	894-0637	Bolland – Davis
Stan Skaro	599-4506	Derksen – Grewe
Mike Botzek	235-6938	Grothe – Jacobson
Leon Schultz	248-7466	Jagow – Kruse
Doug Jorschumb	235-5451	Kubasch – Meyer
Neil Buboltz	796-2352	Mikkelsen – Phillips
		Pitt – Schoumaker
Jeff Kimpling	235-5373	Schroeder – Streich
Dave Runke	235-9068	Stueckrath – Zetah

LCMS Stewardship:

Our Lord Jesus Christ healed the man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). He is the great physician of both body and soul. The paradoxical symptom of dropsy was an unquenchable craving for d

even though the body was over inflated with fluid, a craving that when indulged served not to ease but to fuel the disease. And so if a man drinks a great deal, but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him and what is wrong with his body and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for ten, or the owner of ten tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress? For this is not want or lack but a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, "we can rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches . . . the more eagerly he desires them" (*Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, Vol. 4, 135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured. This is why our Lord instructs us on taking care not to be overmuch consumed by money. "No one can serve two masters . . . You cannot serve God and money" (Matt 6:24; Luke 16:13). The point is that our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We always think, if I just had this much more, I would be happy. But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, that happiness evades us. For our desire for more of these things is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy—either in procuring more or in protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician's diagnosis and a physician's remedy. And our Lord, Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, like the man healed of dropsy, applies His Word to us. He shows us how we have put our fear, our love, and our trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things. In His essence, He says, "Stop it! Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that melt and rust and destroy. For you cannot have two masters. Repent!" And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace, that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has done? Do we simply go back to our old ways? "By no means!" St. Paul says (Rom 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways. That way is dead to us and leads us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy, and love of God toward us. And God's great mercy, grace, and love toward us is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us. So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society, and our church. For money is God's gift to us to serve and others. Not the other way round. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven.

CLOTHING COLUMBIA

On December 20, the Sunday School will be hard at work on a mission project for the children in Columbia. Rebecca Gardner, a Willmar native, works with Youth For Christ in Bogata, Columbia. Every Saturday, she teaches about 55 children ages 5-14. She shares Bible stories, sings, and lets them know just how much Jesus loves them. She has said that "my heart breaks when I see them shiver, and try to stay warm. They don't

complain, but they don't have warm clothes." That's where the Sunday School children and you come in. On December 20, the children will be busy tying no sew hats and scarves to send with Rebecca when she travels back to Bogota after a short visit home in December. Any donations of fleece for scarves or hats or mittens for this project would be greatly appreciated. You can drop them off in the church office anytime, with a final drop off date of December 16. A few extra hands on that Sunday would be great too! Let Cassie know if you are available to help out. Thank you for your help with this project!



Here's a pic of the kids she serves every week!