

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
1401 6TH STREET SW
WILLMAR, MN 56201
(320) 235-4685
redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org
www.redeemerwillmar.org

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

12/17

Address Service Requested



Go Disciple All Nations

Sharing Christ, 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, goodwill towards
men
Luke 2
13-14

DECEMBER

2017

IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church

Volume XXVII, Issue XII



Is this another article reminding everyone that December is about Christmas?

Am I going to write about the culture taking away the true meaning of the Christmas season?

Jesus Christ, true God, cared enough about me that He left His heavenly home to take on an earthly body to ransom me even though He had done nothing wrong. He valued my eternal destiny so much that He was born to a young woman; and took on a body that was vulnerable to disease, aging, and death. That story is the most amazing story to every be told in all of history. It not only changed the course of nations and movements; but it also marked a turning point in the lives of people around the world.

No matter what else is happening in my life I want to see that Jesus is the most important person in my life. I would like others to see that Jesus is taking me and molding me because of what He did for me on the cross. Unfortunately, I think that Christ is the furthest thing that I resonate when I am around town. I struggle to want to talk about the awesome story of the manger, yet the fact is that my human nature is most prevalent in my actions. That's why the telling of the story of a young pregnant woman going to a small-town east of Jerusalem is worth telling again and again. December is a great time of the year to retell the story of the birth of Jesus and...why He came to earth. He came to give His life because mine is so discombobulated that I cannot do anything to earn love from God. I need that story just as much as anyone who has ever lived, Christmas is a personal story for me.

Is the story of Christmas personal to you too? Is this a story worth repeating and sharing with others?

As a congregation of followers of Christ, we are seeking to make His love story known to others. Our vision statement, "Sharing Christ, Changing Lives", is a blueprint of how we want to carry out the Great Commission. We want to see the love of Christ change people's lives; it is the only thing that changes people.

On Sunday morning we want to continue to look at how we can better make Christ known in Willmar and the surrounding area. We will start to formulate goals for this congregation for the 2018 year so that we can continue this journey together. By the end of December, we will print posters for the congregation to see and join together in these goals as we launch into the new year. Christmas is a great time to remember who Christ came for when He was born in Bethlehem, His story does not stop with the manger; it continues as we wait for Him to return again someday.

Pastor Matt

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

Elloyd & Janice Bartel
Neil & Marlene Buboltz
Lee & Beth Corti
Cassie Drenkow
John & Marlys Eggen
Ron & Dee Erpelding
Joel & Sharon Jergenson
Doug & Renee Jorschumb
Mike & Lori Martinek
Gene & Rose Meyer
Mike & Mary Mikkelsen
Craig & Heather Petersen
Bob & Lila Rekedal
Jerry & Betty Schleh
John & Lori Schroeder
Kim & Deb Setrum
Stan & Sharon Skaro

JANUARY

Sharon Skaro – 320-599-4506

Janice Bartel – 320-403-5045

Matt & Jennifer Akerson
Elloyd & Janice Bartel
Rev. Jack & Carol Baumgarn
Jacob Berghuis
Sarah Berghuis
Susan Christensen
Dave & Julie Danzeisen
Jerry Gesch
Pete & Paulette Hagen
Gary & Mary Hillenbrand
Carol Jackson
Jared & Kjaresty Johnson
Dylan & Angela Kalkbrenner
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 Templar
Dale & Ashley Weilage



TWO-YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Every Christians goal in life should be to read the entire Holy Bible. This plan will take you through the Old and New Testament in two years, and through the Psalms and Proverbs four times. CONGRATULATIONS! After this month you will have read through the entire Bible!

Dec 1	2 Peter 1	Psalms 142
Dec 2	2 Peter 2	Psalms 143
Dec 3	2 Peter 3	Psalms 144
Dec 4	Catch-up Day	Psalms 145
Dec 5	1 John 1:1 – 2:2	Psalms 146
Dec 6	1 John 2:3 – 27	Psalms 147
Dec 7	1 John 2:28 – 3:24	Psalms 148
Dec 8	1 John 4	Psalms 149
Dec 9	1 John 5	Psalms 150
Dec 10	2 John	Proverbs 1 – 2
Dec 11	3 John	Proverbs 3 – 4
Dec 12	Jude	Proverbs 5 – 6
Dec 13	Catch-up Day	Proverbs 7 – 8
Dec 14	Revelation 1:1 – 8	Proverbs 9
Dec 15	Revelation 1:9 – 20	Proverbs 10 – 11
Dec 16	Revelation 2	Proverbs 12 – 13
Dec 17	Revelation 3	Proverbs 14
Dec 18	Revelation 4 – 5	Proverbs 15:1 – 29
Dec 19	Revelation 6	Proverbs 15:30 – 16:33
Dec 20	Revelation 7:1 – 8:5	Proverbs 17 – 18
Dec 21	Revelation 8:6 – 9:21	Proverbs 19 – 20
Dec 22	Revelation 10 – 11	Proverbs 21 – 22:16
Dec 23	Revelation 12	Proverbs 22:17 – 23:35
Dec 24	Revelation 13	Proverbs 24
Dec 25	Revelation 14	Proverbs 25
Dec 26	Revelation 15 – 16	Proverbs 26
Dec 27	Revelation 17	Proverbs 27
Dec 28	Revelation 18:1 – 19:10	Proverbs 28
Dec 29	Revelation 19:11 – 20:15	Proverbs 29
Dec 30	Revelation 21:1 – 22:11	Proverbs 30
Dec 31	Revelation 22:12 – 21	Proverbs 31

A Christmas Story in 4 Parts

I had been promised to Joseph of Nazareth. Our families had met and made all the necessary arrangements and then it happened. The most wondrous thing that could have happened. I am afraid to share with anyone lest they think me crazy. A messenger from our Lord appeared to me and told me that I am God's appointed to carry His Son. What would Joseph think? What will my family think? I am to be the mother of our promised Savior what does this mean for my life? I do not know but I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said. -Mary the mother of Jesus

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents,
but in *His* presence

Pregnant how can she be pregnant. I was at first furious, hurt, disappointed I didn't want it to be a big scandal, but I knew I needed to divorce her quickly and quietly. Then it happened God's messenger appeared and to me and told me to not be afraid to take Mary as my wife and that child she carried was from God. -Joseph of Nazareth

The night started out like any other night. We had all settled in our own spots for the evening, keeping careful watch over the flock making sure no intruders or predators gained access to the sheep. Then it happened a bright light filled the sky and a messenger from God appeared to tell us the Savior had been born, the promised Messiah. Then one bright light became many as there was a whole host of Angels in the sky singing; "Glory to God in the highest," -Shepherd outside Bethlehem

Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds in a field, each had a different experience revolving around the birth of our Savior. Okay, so maybe these three didn't use these exact words when they shared their experience of encountering God in their lives, but their experiences became a part of who they were and part of their story. Can you imagine being one of the shepherds? Is it really something that you would want to keep to yourself? The effects of their encounters with God's messengers forever changed their life.

I am small town kid from Nebraska who grew up in a Christian home, spending Sunday mornings in our family spot next to the organ. The daughter of a social worker, whose work life sometimes bled into our family life as we spent our Christmas seasons wrapping toys and other gifts not destined for under our Christmas tree but to a family who didn't have the option for such luxuries as Christmas gifts. I attended public high school and college encountering friends with various life backgrounds which often led to interesting and sometimes heated discussions about certain differences. All of these things have become a part of my story and they are just a small part, there are so many more events and things that have happened in my life where I have seen God working.

God walks alongside us throughout all of our life experiences, sometimes we are aware of His close presence, other times He seems to be distant but he is always there throughout our lives. How is God a part of your story? What has he done in your life that you can share with others? As Christ-like servant leaders how can we encourage others that maybe walking the same path we are walking or have walked before them.

"They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherders were impressed. . . . The shepherders returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!" The Message Luke 2:18-20

Blessings on your ADVENT-ure this Christmas Season,
Cassie Drenkow, Director of Christian Education

PICTURES FROM GRANDPARENT'S DAY

Our day started with Chapel and singing for the grandparents. After that we all went on the bus to shop for Safe Avenues. We purchased about 85 Christmas gifts for both parents and kids. Then we enjoyed lunch together.



Rachel Jeppesen
Preschool Director

†† DECEMBER 2017 ††

	ELDERS	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	SOUND	LIBRARY
Dec 3 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Dave Runke Doug Jorschumb Wayne Dahlke Leon Schultz	Gayne & Marvelle Stone Rolf & Joyce Standfuss Troy & Lisa Anderson Todd Swartz, LaVonne Van Zee	Jay Marcus Adrianna Rodriguez	Mark Boesch Darrell Hoekstra	Michelle Marcus
Dec 6 6:00 PM	Jeff Kimpling		Natalie Gleason	Mark Boesch	
Dec 10 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Michael Sandau Neil Buboltz	Jeff & Cheryl Pitt Lyle & Vera Ehrenberg Alice Beckmann, Carol Dahlke John & Marlys Eggen	Sergio Fernandez Mackenzie Schoumaker	Kolby Lindquist Kolby Lindquist	Sarah Fosso
Dec 13 6:00 PM	Ron Jaspersen		Evan Friton	Sarah Jeppesen	
Dec 17 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Mark Sellmann Doug Jorschumb Stan Skaro Wayne Dahlke	Youth	Payton Freiberg Natalie Jorschumb	Mike Mikkelsen Darrell Hoekstra	Lorraine King
Dec 20 6:00 PM	Dave Runke		Hannah Lingbeek	Kolby Lindquist	
Dec 24 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM	Michael Sandau Jeff Kimpling Jeff Kimpling	Jeff & Darla Kimpling	Nicholas Mohr Malinda Petersen Mitchell Nelson	Mark B. Wayne D. Sarah J.	Bonnie Rhoda
Dec 25 10:00 AM Communion	Neil Buboltz Ron Jaspersen	<i>Merry Christmas</i>	Kayleigh Barber	Brad Marcus	
Dec 31 10:00 AM 5:00 PM Communion	Mark Sellmann Ron Jaspersen ?	Doug & Renee Jorschumb	Elsa Gustafson Henry Johnson	Brad Marcus Art Bolland	Anita Petersen
USHERS	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	*Ken Behm, Matt Akerson, Amiah Akerson, Mike Botzek *Joe Hammerschmidt, Kourtney Hammerschmidt, Jeff Pitt			(*Head Usher)

JESUS is like a computer:
He ENTERS your life,
SCANS your problems,
EDITS your tension,
DOWNLOADS solutions,
DELETES your worries,
And SAVES you!

CRAFT NIGHT will be December 8th from 6 pm to midnight in the Fellowship Hall. Any type of project is welcome i.e. scrap booking, crocheting, knitting, coloring, sewing, whatever you would like to work on! Bring a snack to share and your own beverage. For questions contact Julie Danzeisen.



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

THE LWML MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT supports full-time church work students through scholarships going into full time church work. For the 2017-2018 two of the students that have been given the award are from Redeemer. They are Aubrey (Akerson) Browne, who is studying to become a Director of Christian Education and will also have a major in Theology. She attends Concordia Seward, NE. She is the daughter of Matt & Jennifer Akerson. The other one is Berett Steffen, the son of Joe & Michele Steffen. Berett attends Concordia Seminary Ft. Wayne, IN. He is involved with music at the seminary. Congratulations to Aubrey and Berett!

LWML LADIES!!! Have you remembered to put mites in your LWML Christmas Stocking for 2017? Please bring your stocking on Sunday, December 10th and empty it in the LWML box.

Sunday	Attendance	Adults	Sr. High	Children	Comm	Private
Nov 5	265	30	10	47	201	
Nov 12	348	34	7	56		
Nov 19	301	28	11	59	208	
Nov 23/24	89/111					
Nov 26	245	23	7	45		
TOTAL	1359	115	35	207	409	29
Out by transfer: Jane Larson, Adam & Mackenzie Doraska						
Out by death: Anna Urban						

HAVE YOU MOVED IN 2017? Changed telephones or cancelled your landline? Please leave us your new contact information in the office so we can keep you informed about all the events at Redeemer. We hope to get a new church directory printed soon so our members can have current information also.

Silent Night, Holy Night

A band of traveling actors was performing in the little towns of the Austrian Alps in 1818. One night, the actors traveled to the tiny village of Oberndorf, near Salzburg, Austria. They were supposed to perform their recreation of the Christmas story at St. Nicholas Church, but the organ had been damaged and could not be repaired in time. Instead, the program was presented in a private home. St. Nicholas' assistant pastor, Josef Mohr, attended the presentation.

That night, as Mohr walked home, his path took him over a small hill. Looking down on the little village below, he was overtaken by the beauty of the glowing scene and the majestic silence of the wintry night. Standing in the peaceful winter night, his thoughts took him back to the first Christmas when angels spoke to shepherds on a holy night such as this. A poem began to form in his mind, that he would later title "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!"

The pastor quickly wrote down the words to his poem when he arrived home. He wished his poem could be sung at the church's upcoming Christmas service, but he had no music. The following day, Mohr raced to the home of his close friend Franz Gruber, a school master in the village and the church organist. When Gruber read the poem, he remarked, "Friend Mohr, you have found it — the right song — God be praised!" It is said that Gruber composed a musical setting the same day.

On Christmas Day, during a service at St. Nicholas Church, Franz Gruber and Josef Mohr sang their new song to the congregation. The organ had not been repaired, so Gruber accompanied them on his guitar. "Silent Night! Holy Night!" had been sung for the first time.

Within the next few weeks, an organ repairman came to repair the instrument. As soon as he finished his work, Franz Gruber sat down to test the organ. It is reported that the first song he played was his new Christmas composition. Being moved by the music, the repairman took a copy of the song back to his own Alpine village. There, a family of Austrian singers, started singing it throughout the countryside.

The carol became a European favorite. It was translated into English from the Austrian language in 1863 by Jane Campbell, and made its first appearance in America in 1871 in a Sunday school hymnal.

Year after year, we lovingly sing this simple song to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

God's blessings to you all as you celebrate Christmas with your family and friends. May the peace, joy, and excitement of that first Christmas be with you all year long!

Praising Him,

Anna Barber



YOUTH NEWS!

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS LOCK-IN is Saturday, December 16th, from 7:00 pm-10:00 am Sunday, December 17th. Come dressed in your favorite Christmas Jammies as we participate in some great Christmas themed activities along with a Christmas Sock Exchange at some point during the night. We will be busy baking up some treats for Coffee hour the next morning and serving during Sunday school hour the next morning.

Sock Exchange Party Instructions:

Pick a pair of new socks. You will be using these to "wrap" your gift items. Go for funny, cute, cozy... be creative, remember? Stuff your socks! With treats or gifts for the exchange price limit of \$5-7 for items to fill the socks. What can you use to put inside? Handmade items, nail polish, candy and chocolate, gift cards, soaps, lotions, something incredibly cheesy... The list is endless!

7TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH will be serving the Advent meal on Wednesday, December 6. Each family is asked to bring a pan of bars or 1 dozen cookies. Middle school youth are asked to arrive at 4:45 pm for meal prep and set-up. High school Youth please arrive at 5:45 pm to help with serving and clean-up.

7TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH BELL RINGING will be Wednesday, December 20, from 5:00-9:30 pm at Koosmann's. Sessions are 5:00-6:15; 6:00-7:15; 7:00-8:15 pm; and 8:00-9:30 pm. Please sign-up using the new online registration link: <http://reg.redeemerwillmar.org>. You must insert your information first and then register for one of the times above. Parents, we will need a few adult volunteers to be present at each one of the shifts above, if you can volunteer please let Cassie know right away. Parents will also need to drop off and pick up from Koosmann's.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE will be **December 9th** from 9:00-11:30 am for 2nd through 6th graders. Preschool through 1st grade should report at 10:30 am.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE will be held on Sunday, December 10th at the 10:30 am worship service.



LET'S PRAY FOR OTHERS! Redeemer encourages everyone to join our Prayer Chain list. Please contact the church office if you're interested in praying for others or by signing up via the church website under Ministries/Prayer Chain. If you join the phone list, all you need to do is call the next person and pray. If you join the email list, no need to pass it on, just pray. It's as simple as that! If you have a prayer request, just call the church office to get the prayer chain started.



PRAYER BOX Please share any prayer requests or praises in your life by filling out a form and dropping it in the Prayer Request Box located in the narthex.

QUILT BLOCKS are available on the rack in the kitchen if anyone would like to take them home to sew! Please come and join the Happy Quilters as they meet every Monday at 12:30. If you can tie a knot, you are a quilter!

ARE YOU GETTING NEW SNOW BOOTS SOON? Bring last year's boots and those that don't fit anymore to church and put in the Shoes For Missions box. We take boots and shoes of any kind. Please tie or rubber band your shoes together.



LOST AND FOUND Items are showing up at church that we don't know if someone misplaced or if they are intended for someone to pick up. We have a collection of items in the church office, please check it out.

THE RACK IN THE KITCHEN has many items that have been left behind from potlucks, funerals or morning treats. Please check it out to see if any belong to you! Please remember to mark your containers in the future so we know who to contact. Any items remaining will be donated to Goodwill.

REMINDER FOR YEAR-END DONATIONS: To qualify as a gift in 2017, 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 2018 giving. For hand-delivered checks, the date the check is received by the church determines in which year your donation will be recorded.





WORSHIP SERVICES & EVENTS:

December 6, 13 & 20 – Advent Worship – 6:00 pm
December 6 & 13 – ADVENTure School – 7:00 pm
December 10 – Children’s Christmas Service – 10:30 am
December 19 – Preschool Christmas Service – 5:45 & 7:00 pm
December 24 – Christmas Eve – 10:00 am; 3:00 & 5:00 pm
December 25 – Christmas Day – 10:00 am
December 31 – New Year’s Eve – 10:00 am & 5:00 pm



6:30 PM ADVENT SUPPER SERVING SCHEDULE:

December 6 – Youth
December 13 – Altar Guild
December 20 – Elders & Fellowship Board



TRAVELING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER? Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? Redeemer offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you have plans to travel south this winter, electronic giving gives you a convenient way to keep up with your intended offerings. Simply complete and return an electronic giving authorization form to get started. Look for the yellow forms in the narthex or church office.

ADDRESS NEEDED If you are going South for the winter, please contact the church office with your address and what months you will be gone.

YOUR ELDER FOR 2017

<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
Ron Jaspersen	354-5083	Grothe – Jacobson
Leon Schultz	248-7466	Jagow – Kruse
Doug Jorschumb	235-5451	Kubasch – Meyer
Neil Buboltz	796-2352	Mikkelsen – Phillips
Wayne Dahlke	262-9847	Pitt – Schoumaker
Jeff Kimpling	235-5373	Schroeder – Streich
Dave Runke	235-9068	Stueckrath – Zetah



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 the church office no later than Sunday, December 17th.

In memory of:

By: _____

I/We will pick them up

or

I/We will leave them at the church



Contribution \$ _____ Offering # _____

COME TO LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP!

Coming in December...

Island Christmas Dinners

For Your Entertainment:

Dec. 8 – Island Christmas Dinner

Mary Weber - A Stringed Christmas

Dec. 9 – Island Christmas Lunch

Christmas Songs by Gary Bach

Dec. 10 – Island Christmas Dinner

St. Paul's Henning Choir

Dec. 15 – Island Christmas Dinner

"Moline Sisters Quartet"

Dec. 16 – Island Christmas Lunch

Christmas Carols by Gail Guse

Dec. 17 – Island Christmas Dinner

Messiah's Minutemen Christmas Drama

Schedule:

Friday and Sunday

3:30 Wagon Ride

5:00 Dinner/6:00 Program

Saturday

12:00 Lunch/1:00 Program

Cost is \$25 per person
Call or e-mail for reservation

(218) 583-2905
info@islandcamp.org

Lutheran Island Camp
45011 230th Street
Henning, MN 56551

*Wagon or Sleigh Rides
for Christmas Dinners
as weather permits!
(Not available for Lunches)*

Redeemer Mitten Tree



- Each Mitten tag on the tree indicates one need or want request from a family in our community.
- Select as many tags as you wish and bring your gift wrapped only in a gift bag back with a gift receipt to Redeemer by 12/18/17.
- Include the gift receipt and securely tape the mitten tag to the gift.

Thanks for helping spread the holiday joy
this Christmas season!