

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
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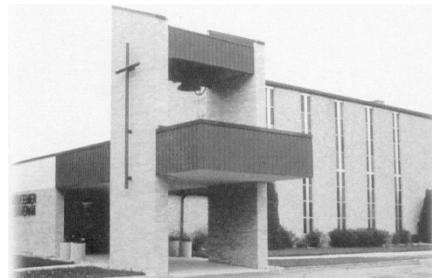
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Go Disciple All Nations

Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



2020

IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church

Volume XXX, Issue I

This is the time of year that you want to focus on what could be or what we would like to see in the future. The end of the year also might be a time when we look back at the previous twelve months.

As a church staff, this year has been particularly tough. In the year 2019, there has been a lot happening that has affected everyone. Anna has had to deal with an increase frequency of seizures in one of her kids that changes the time she can be in the office. Cassie has spent some time in Nebraska to visit her father who came close to losing his life trying to fight the effects of his cancer treatment. Lori experienced the passing of her husband after a surgery to relieve complications of a stroke. With so many moving pieces in the church staff it has been difficult to spend time to strategize, plan, and carry out the simple tasks that have been easier in past years.

Unfortunately, the year 2019 will be a time I would also like to somehow escape. My wife and I received news at the end of spring that my mother had been diagnosed with cancer. She found out soon afterwards that the type of cancer she has is terminal, and it had already spread to other parts of her body. She was given the general guess that she had six to twenty-four months to live; six months ago that seemed like a long time, but it has gone by quick.

The year 2020 may be different; somethings may not ever change. God's love to us never wavers; it can be relied on in any circumstance. I realize that with every passing year, life presents more challenges. Time is one thing in life that you cannot buy; and the time we have is precious. May we "see" in 2020 the opportunities that God is giving to this congregation to share the love of Christ; even through joyful times, and in season of great sadness.

Pastor Matt

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot. ¹⁹ Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. ²⁰ They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.



WINTER WOMEN'S STUDY - Join us Wednesday, January 8th, at 9:00 am for Think on These by Heidi Goehmann. This 8-week study focuses on how Philippians 4:8 gives us the admonition to place our minds on things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise...but what does this mean for us in our daily lives? Dive in as we search the Scriptures to find out more and begin to "think on these". The cost for the book is \$5. Sign up outside the church office.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

In loving memory of:

Ted & Lois Bartel by Linda, Lorraine & Families

Marvin & Luella Behm by Ken, Carol, Gordon, Myron, Debra & spouses

William (Bill) Stanton Braun by James & Gayle Braun

Pam Carlson by Jeff & Kristine

Estelle Cola & Steven Ellis by John & Sharon Cola

Curt Conklin by Marcia & Family

Husband & dad Dean Cordes, nephew & cousin Stephen Reynolds by Cindy Cordes & Family

Michael Dahlke by Irmgard Dahlke, Marilyn Worke, Larry & Helga Miller

Donna Gast, Laurie Gast, Walter & Ida Gast, Levi Elsing, Marilyn Heveron, & Wally Gast by Darv Gast, Joe & Darla Hammschmidt & Family, Dawn Gast & John Friedl

Parents Jeanette Hillenbrand and Wayne & Alicia Peterson by Gary & Mary Hillenbrand

Harvey & Katie Hoekstra and Delmore Johnson by Darrell & Gail Hoekstra

Gordon & Maealice Kimpling by Jeff, Darla, Zach, Safiya, Syriah, Paul & Don

Mildren Knutson by Brenda Schanbachler

Parents Leon & Inez Maras, Ralph & Florence Munsterman, brothers Dan Maras & Mark Munsterman by Dave & Anita Maras

Our parents and siblings who have passed and recently my brother Elmer and Gene's sister Maxine by Gene & Rose Meyer

Norman & Pearl Pankow and Lester & Darline Vogeler by Terry, Cheryl, & Brent Pankow

Our parents in heaven Duane & Barbara Rasanen by Jennifer Rasanen & Christy Ruegge

Lloyd Rhoda by Bonnie Rhoda & Family

Lloyd Rhoda by Deb & Family

MaryAnne Rossow by Brian, Jackie & Devyn Frank

Gloria Schroeder by Gary Schroeder Family

John Schroeder by Lori & Families

Niece & cousin Naomi Shelvik by Christina, Susan & Dan Spieker

Louis Smith by Charlene

Our parents by Gayne & Marvelle Stone

George & Alice Streich by The Streich Family

Lucien Vlaminck by Michael & Joy Gratz

Past Ruth Circle members by Ruth Circle

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.

JANUARY

Janice Bartel – 320-403-5045
Sharon Skaro – 320-599-4506

Matt & Jennifer Akerson
Elloyd & Janice Bartel
Rev. Jack & Carol Baumgarn
Jacob Berghuis
Sarah Berghuis
Susan Christensen
Andrew Cordes
Dave & Julie Danzeisen
Jerry Gesch
Pete & Paulette Hagen
Gary & Mary Hillenbrand
Carol Jackson
Jared & Kjaresty Johnson
Dylan & Angela Kalkbrenner
Roger & Lois Koosmann
Jerret & Darci Mohr
Bill & Bridget Neumann
Jeff & Cheryl Pitt
Stan & Sharon Skaro
Rolf & Joyce Standfuss
Dale & Ashley Weilage

FEBRUARY

Deb Bremseth – 320-231-2089
Sarah Fosso – 320-967-4159

Troy & Lisa Anderson
Deb Bremseth
John & Sharon Cola
Carolyn Davis
Ryan & Sarah Fosso
Jeremy & Nichole Gleason
Sarah Hagen
Keven & Diane Hillenbrand
Jamie Jackson
Randy & Lynn Johnson
Roger & Nancy Klaassen
Ben Kopacek
Brad & Claudia Lenz
Brad Marcus
Gene & Rose Meyer
Randy & Melissa Mord
Nathan & Margart Nielsen
Tim & Stacy Pollock
Charlotte Roduner
Jennifer Schoumaker
Dave & Lynn Sherod
Jeff & LeAnn Stauffenecker
Tony & Kerry Texley

DEALING WITH DISAPPOINTING THINGS

It has happened to the best of us as a child, you've waited and dreamed about the perfect Christmas gift all season. You know, the one you dropped so many hints. But Christmas Day arrives and when all the gifts are finally unwrapped you sit amongst the shreds of festive paper but that one gift you wanted does not and worse yet amongst your pile of gifts is the dreaded socks and underwear gift. Dealing with disappointment, at any age can be a hard situation your hopes have gotten so high that the deflation can almost seem life shattering.

I am not sure that the Magi dealt with disappointment but think about when they came to worship Jesus. They arrived in Jerusalem before Herod wondering where to find the one who had been born King of the Jews. Rather than finding him in a royal palace they follow the star to the small town of Bethlehem. Instead of a grand palace and lines of worshippers they arrive to small house of a carpenter and his wife along with their small toddler child, the one named King of the Jews. Instead of disappointment, they fall down and worship him.

Maybe we can take a lesson from these Magi, in unexpected and sometimes disappointing moments of our lives what would happen if we fell to our knees and worshipped.

As we start this new decade, maybe we need to shift our focus from dwelling on disappointing situations but falling to our knees and worshipping. Maybe 2019, was not the year you hoped it had been, rather than carry those things into the new year let's focus on turning to our Savior in those moments and let Him guide us with His light into this new year and season ahead.

Oh, star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide with thy perfect light.

Blessings on your New Year, Cassie Drenkow, Director of Christian Education

REDEEMER VBS FOCUS Save the Date of July 26th-30th, 2020. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee contact Cassie in the church office.

CONFIRMATION MENTORS are invited January 15th for a mid-year check-in meeting with Cassie. You'll get to talk to other mentors about how things are going and get some important information for the second half of the school year.

LEAP OUT OF THE WINTER BLUES and get out of the house for a fun evening of BINGO for the whole family. All Redeemer members are invited to a fun night of BINGO on February 28th from 6:30-8:30 pm. There will be snacks and fun prizes for all ages. So, escape the Winter blues and join us for an evening of fellowship.

NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available!

The time has come for us to pack up the last child's box of ornaments. Next Christmas Sarah will be decorating her dorm room just like her sisters have. One tradition Russ and I have kept up all these years is giving the girls an ornament each year. Now they have a nice collection to start their own traditions.

I tend to gift the preschool children with a handmade ornament each year too. This year Gretchen had the time to create those! But we also made a lot at school too for our Christmas service. Many time ornaments are chosen to represent a special memory or meaning. Our ornaments represented the fruits of the Spirit and the Christmas story.

Love = Wreath. God's love goes round and round.

Joy = Bell. Ring out the bells for Joy.

Peace = Candle. The light from candles spread warmth and peace.

Patience = Gifts. Patience is waiting with a good attitude.

Kindness = Angel. Angels spread kindness to everyone.

Goodness = Star. A few good men followed that star to goodness-Jesus.

Faithfulness = Staff. Through good times and bad shepherds were faithful.

Gentleness = Nativity. Gentle baby Jesus is God's gift to us.

Self-control = No ornament but a something we constantly practice-pretty sure that self-control was none existent when the kazoo's came out, just ask

Pastor Matt about that!!

I pray that you find the Christmas story in the ornaments you pack away. Maybe keep one out all year as a constant reminder of God's spirit.

Rachel Jeppesen
Preschool Director

†† JANUARY 2020††					
	ELDERS	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	SOUND	LIBRARY
Jan 5 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Dave Runke Matt Akerson Neil Buboltz	Rolf & Joyce Standfuss Troy & Lisa Anderson	Koda Helfinstine William Jorschumb	David Reyes Darrell Hoekstra	Lorraine King
Jan 12 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Paul Meyer Wayne Dahlke	Jeff & Darla Kimpling Alice Beckmann, Carol Dahlke	Matthew Mohr Adriana Behl	Mike Mohr Brad Marcus	Bonnie Rhoda
Jan 19 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Jeff Pitt Doug Jorschumb Brandon Kopacek Dave Danzeisen	Deb Arnold Bonnie Rhoda, Todd Swartz	Monica Rhoda Maddox Bolstad	Adam Sandau Art Bolland	Marcia Gilman
Jan 26 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Paul Meyer	Myron Behm, Mike Botzek Doug & Renee Jorschumb Jack Kuppich	Adam Sandau Bradyn Bush-Gregory	Sergio Fernandez Brad Marcus	Anita Petersen
USHERS	8:00 AM *Brad & Claudia Lenz, Dave & Carol Runke (*Head Usher) 10:30 AM *Doug Jorschumb, David Maras, Curt Swart				

Sunday	Attend	Comm	Adults	Sr. High	S. S.	Online	Private
Dec 1	120	103	19	2	30	80	
Dec 8	323		32	3	46	67	
Dec 15	234	187	30	3	28	112	
Dec 22	232		21	3	14		
Dec 24	300/105						
Dec 25	94	70					
Dec 29							
TOTALS	1408	360	102	11	118	259	27
In by transfer: Jody & Tina Pillatzki							
Out by death: Donald Sampson							

THANK YOU to everyone who donated items to the LWML Human Care Project "Support Our Troops." There was a total of 408 items donated that included magazines, videos, DVD's, books, word find games, hygiene, snacks & writing material and encouraging words. Thank you to Sharon Skaro, a Blue Star Mother, for helping with this project.

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS THROUGH SCRIP! Forms can be found in the wooden rack in the narthex or the church office and are due on Monday, January 13th.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!! For **JANUARY** we will be collecting "Snacks" for our troops. Beef Jerky – Nuts – Raisins – Granola Bars – Microwave Popcorn – Tuna – Hard Candy – Licorice – Canned Ravioli/Beef Stew – Powdered Drink Mix. Please place donated items in box located in the narthex.

REMINDER FOR YEAR-END DONATIONS: To qualify as a gift in 2019, 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 2020 giving. For hand-delivered checks, the date the check is received by the church determines in which year your donation will be recorded.

PICTURE DIRECTORY 2020 We are looking for 2 or 3 people to organize an updated picture directory by March 2020. Please contact the Fellowship Board if you are willing to help us.

WE WILL HAVE A NEW MEMBER CLASS on January 19th from noon to 2 pm. The church will provide the main course and pastor. Bring a side dish that you would like to share.

HOME VISITS Pastor Matt would like to continue to visit with members in their homes. Sometimes scheduling is difficult to plan ahead. If you would like him to call before stopping by, please let the office know.

THE REDEEMER STAFF would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts that we received this Christmas season. May God bless you and may the New Year be filled with peace, love and happiness!



HOPE FOR OUR CITY BIRTHDAY BAG SERVICE PROJECT

This Sunday School year we will be collecting items all year long. Each month will have a specific item to place in the box. The drop off box will be located outside the Fellowship Hall.

January - Frosting

February – Cake Mix and a can of pop (1 can of pop is needed per cake mix)

March – Candles

April – Decorations (Streamers, Banners and Hats)

May – Spaghetti Noodles and Spaghetti Sauce

SERVING GOD AS STEWARDS

Do we really want to be stewards? No! By nature, we are independent, self-centered people. Our first impulse is that we want to be the owners. We want to have possession of things. We want to be important, to be respected, and even to be envied. We are not born stewards. However, by His grace, God transforms us into stewards who seek to follow His ways rather than our own. With changed hearts, we embrace His love and plan for our lives. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we surrender our desires and plans to serve Him. God empowers us to put aside our need to be owners who are in control as we become His faithful stewards who seek to do His will. The love of Christ controls us. Transformed, we worship the Lord and live lives of faith, love, and obedience rather than living for ourselves.

As the Holy Spirit works in us through Word and Sacrament, transforming us into the image of Christ, we, in turn, will express more of His character. When we believe that God is present in our lives and trust in His power, we will, through faith, apply God's teachings to our lives.

As God's people, we can live unselfishly because of God's giving. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..."* (John 3:16). The love of God empowers us to respond faithfully to His love and grace. We learn to love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). We learn to give because God first gave to us. Being a faithful steward is love in action. As Dr. Stephen F. Olford, a 20th Century Christian leader, said,

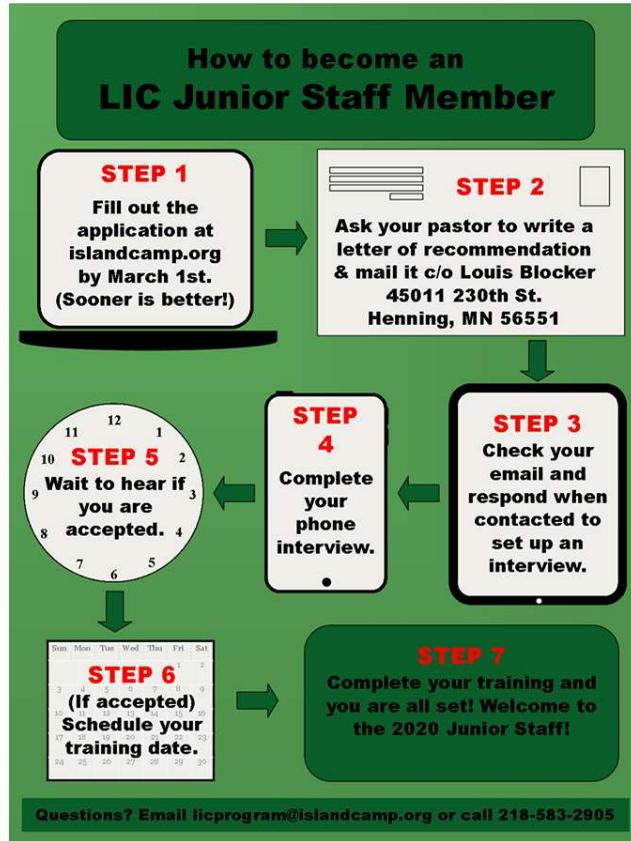
Christ alone owns our eyes to view His world. He alone owns our hands to serve His will. He alone owns our feet to walk His way. He alone owns our minds to think His thoughts. He alone owns our hearts to love Him fervently. He alone owns our personalities to radiate His charm and glory. Failure to recognize this is a refusal to recognize His sovereignty.

Stewardship Board

VOTER'S MEETING – JANUARY 26TH
(Note: Meeting is a week later than normal.)
If you are 18 years old, you can become a voting member.
Join us after first service in the Fellowship Hall.

Go to: http://www.islandcamp.org/files/file/forms/2020/2020_jc_application_fillable.pdf

if you are interested in becoming a Teen Servant/Junior Counselor at Lutheran Island Camp.



National Lutheran Outdoors Ministry Association presents
HOW TO WORK AT CAMP (this summer)
NLOMA.org

01 FILL OUT YOUR PROFILE.
Go to www.nloma.org/summer and click on the "Start Your Journey Today" button to fill out the profile.

02 SUBMIT PROFILE.
Be sure to put a first and second choice camp. Your first choice camp may be full, and another camp could use someone awesome like you!

03 INTERVIEW.
Your first choice camp will contact you to set up an interview. This could be in person or via a video chat.

04 BE PATIENT.
After you interview, your first choice camp will let you know when you can expect to hear back from them. All applications are considered at the NLOMA conference in February, so you may not hear back from a camp right away. After the NLOMA conference, a camp may contact you to hire you or set up another interview.

05 DECIDE TO ACCEPT POSITION.
If a camp contacts you and wants to hire you, the ball is in your court again. Let them know if your awesome self will be joining them this summer!

06 GET EXCITED!
Congratulations! You're going to share Jesus' love at camp this summer! All that's left is to wait in anticipation for the first day.

WWW.NLOMA.ORG/SUMMER

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK AT LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP THIS SUMMER??? "College students and college aged young adults – are you looking for a summer job that is fun, challenging, fulfilling, and looks great on a resume? Come work at camp this summer! Lutheran Island Camp partners with over 20 other Lutheran camps across the country to go through the staff hiring process, and we would love to add you to it! Visit NLOMA.org to start your journey today!"

Skatin' Place

Willmar Area Churches Middle School Event

\$20



January 17th

Register by January 14th

Grades 6-8

Cost includes bus ride and unlimited pizza, pop, skating, and laser tag. Arcade games available but not included in price.

Bus Leaves From:

Calvary (Willmar) 5:30 PM
Country Stop (New London) 5:45 PM

Bus Returns Too:

Country Stop (New London) 10:30 PM
Calvary (Willmar) 11:00 PM