



THE CONNECTIONS

To Redeemer Lutheran Church
3700 SE Woodland Road, Bartlesville, OK
918-333-6022
E-mail redeemer@rlcbvl.org Web Site: www.rlcbvl.org
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Reaching Lives for Christ by Gathering for worship and fellowship in Christ Growing through God's Word and Sacrament Giving joyfully in service to God and His People Going as a witness that Jesus is Lord and Savior

December 2013

From the Senior Pastor's desk

SENIOR PASTOR
Rev. Mark Carter

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Rev. William Shupe

DEACONESS
Karia Carter

CHURCH SECRETARY
Helen Harper

MDO DIRECTOR
Taylor Carter

PARISH NURSE
Stephanie McCartney RN

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

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VICE PRESIDENT
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CONGREGATION SECRETARY
Peggy Richers

TREASURER
Terri Rau

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Bill Sattich

CHAIRMAN OF ELDERS
Darrell Keltner

DIRECTOR OF TRUSTEES
Ed Durkin

MINISTERS
All the Baptized of Redeemer Lutheran Church

Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas 2013

Beloved of Redeemer,

Grace, mercy and peace to you in Jesus!

The seasons have come. Thanksgiving is past. Decorations are making their way up the tree, up to rooftops, and all along the roadways. The hustle and bustle has begun.

Your mind is likely filled with what unique gift to purchase for that special person in your life. And, of course, there are the family gatherings and parties for which to prepare. Time for your own family to simply "be together" is rare. Yet we press on.

We prepare!

Where in your own heart is preparation for the Christ Child, for Christmas? In the midst of all the parties, decorating, and gift buying is an opportunity to worship. Advent is no small occasion in our worship lives. For centuries, from Genesis, already promised the One to come to save us from the sin that brought judgement and death into our world. The Jews prayed for the moment of the advent of the Messiah. They just did not understand how He would come, what He would do and how He would do it. Most missed it. So most missed Him.

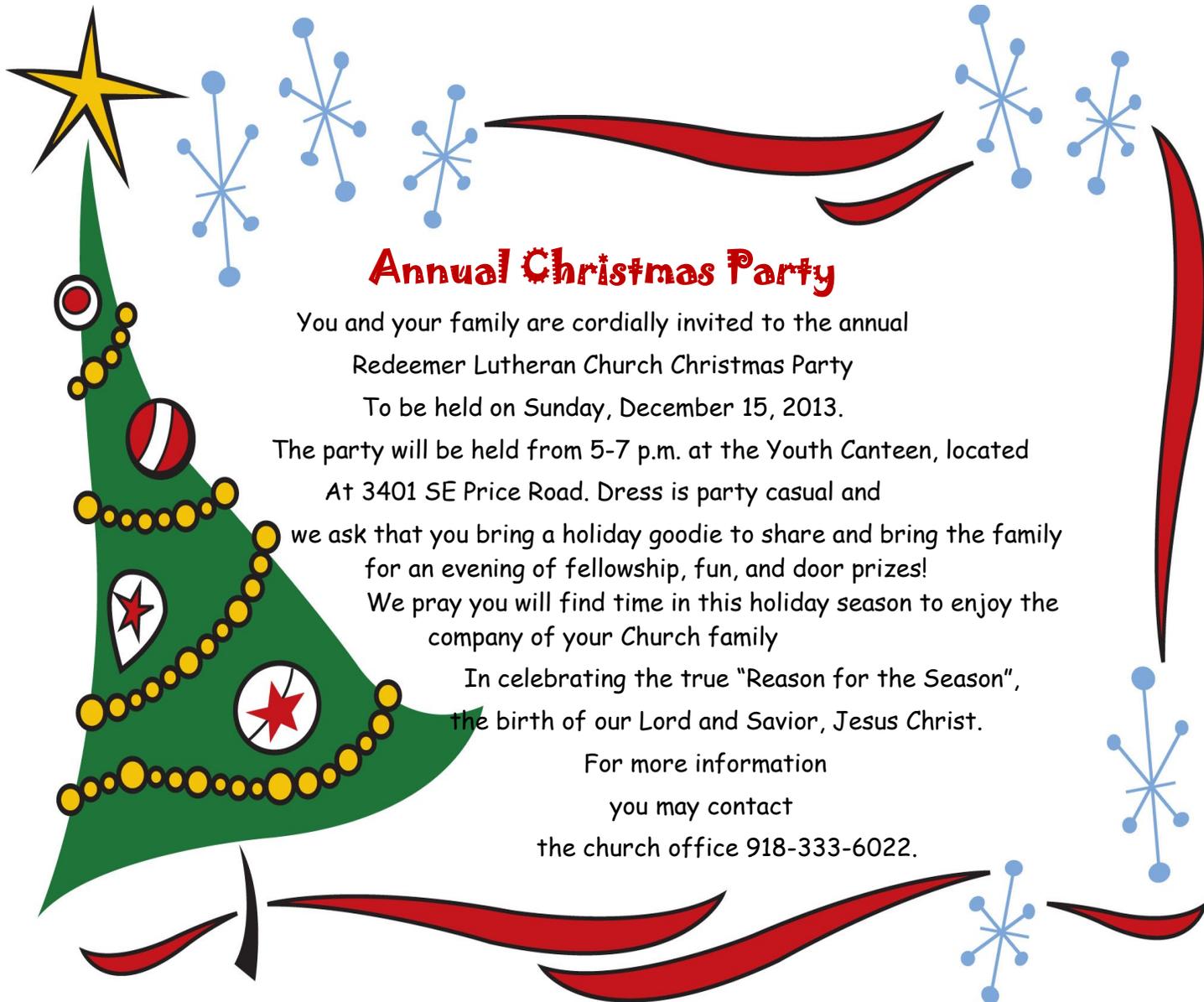
Will you?

You know the story of His birth, His Words, His miracles, His fulfillment of the Law for you. You know why He came. He came to save YOU because He loves you with His very life. He gave himself to a messed up world entering quietly yet so very powerfully because of a desire that all who believe would find themselves making their pilgrimage safely through this broken world.

Christmas is not just for children. It's not only for family get-togethers. And it really isn't about gift giving and receiving. Those are to remind us of God's gift--the gift of His one and only Son, Jesus, who gave everything of Himself for you. And, if you were the only person who needed such a magnificent benevolence, He still would have come. We have a rescuing, saving God.

In all your rushing through the season, will you take extra time to worship? I know of no more contemplative opportunity than the midweek Advent services, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. I pray you pause, reflect and remember why He came and His commitment to be with you always that you might be with Him. And finally to deliver you unto your heavenly home where sin, sickness, tears, and death are no more. Sunday School classes, too, herald the message.

Sit at the feet of Jesus and perhaps even herald Him to your friends. In so doing, we offer our thanksgiving,



Annual Christmas Party

You and your family are cordially invited to the annual
Redeemer Lutheran Church Christmas Party

To be held on Sunday, December 15, 2013.

The party will be held from 5-7 p.m. at the Youth Canteen, located
At 3401 SE Price Road. Dress is party casual and

we ask that you bring a holiday goodie to share and bring the family
for an evening of fellowship, fun, and door prizes!

We pray you will find time in this holiday season to enjoy the
company of your Church family

In celebrating the true "Reason for the Season",
the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

For more information

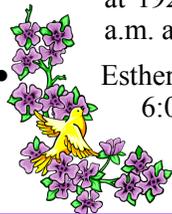
you may contact

the church office 918-333-6022.



We welcome all who are interested to
come and attend a Circle meeting. They all
have a Bible study, refreshments and lots of great fel-
lowship. If you are interested, feel free to call me, Sara
Lambring at 913-333-9754.

- Martha Circle will meet at Becky Trentman's
at 1920 Surrey Ct. on December 17 at 10:00
a.m. and for a potluck luncheon.
- Esther Circle will meet on December 19 at
6:00 p.m. at Grill 66, 821 S. Johnstone.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Not too late to buy beautiful
Christmas cards in the Narthex
and support LWML projects!!



Christmas Decorating

Join the Youth as we
celebrate and decorate the
church for Christmas on
December 14th. We'll
be eating at noon and then

"Footprints to the Manger"

Come and join the children as they
tell the Christmas story on
December 15, 2013 at 10:45 a.m.

This Advent/Christmas Service
follows the steps taken to reach the
manger where the Christ child lay.
There will not be an early service
that day.









Deaconess Corner—

Waiting ~ it is difficult for many of us, and our fast-paced world seldom reinforces that there is good that comes in waiting and anticipation. Advent is one of those times, the word itself coming from the Latin “*coming*”. It is a time in which we are called to remember the years of waiting and yearning of the Old Testament people as they waited for the promise of the Messiah. It is a time in which we think of the waiting of Mary as she anticipates the birth of her child. During Advent, we too are called to wait expectantly for the holy child that will be born at Christmas, and also for the *coming* of our Lord and Savior who will return in glory. We gather at the

table of the Holy Supper where He *comes* to us in His body and blood; we gather at the font where He is present in the living water of baptism; and we gather together in worship as He *comes* to us in His word. He *comes* to us daily and yet we wait in wondrous anticipation of the day when we will behold Him face to face.

There is a lovely movie entitled “Angels in the Outfield” about two young foster boys who long to be adopted and have a home. One thinks it will never happen, while the other remains hopeful and answers his friends doubts with the thought, “*it could happen*”. He keeps this hope alive sometimes against great odds. Is this our hope, that “*it could happen*”? Was this Mary's hope, that “*it could happen*”? We need not live in doubt for we are promised in God's Word that we live both in hope and also in assurance that the child promised to Mary was indeed the Word incarnate, true son of God and true son of Man. And now we live not only in hope but in the assurance that the Christ Child upon whom we await during Advent, is also the King that will return in glory.

And so we pray and sing, “*O Come, O Come Emanuel*”. We await you dearest Jesus as the long awaited Messiah, as the One who comes in our hearts daily, and as the King who will come in glory. We wait ~ come Lord Jesus.

Deaconess Karla Carter

MUSINGS OF THE MINISTRY: PASTOR BILL SHUPE

ADVENT: THE SAD LITTLE FORGOTTEN SEASON

The sad reality that we face in this world, is that Christmas lasts longer than ever, and yet fewer people know what Christmas is about each year. The question, “Whatever happened to Thanksgiving?” in regards to pre-Christmas sales is being eclipsed by, “Whatever happened to Halloween?” Christmas it seems is all about how much can be sold each year, how extravagant can the decorations be, and how can we give the best presents for the best prices.

This reality is being seen even in our churches. How can we best outdo last year's Christmas pageant? Who is responsible for the decorations? Why can't the Christmas decorations go up a littler earlier this year? My hesitancy to answer these questions stem from the fact that we seem to have forgotten all about the season of Advent. Advent is simply the season of waiting for what is coming, not just on Christmas morning, but for what is coming as a result of Christmas

morning. Advent is the season that we look forward to the end of the world, for with the birth of the Christ-Child is the promise that the Kingdom of God is at hand. This leads us to realize that we are not worthy of the many blessings that God has given to us through His Son.

As you prepare for Christmas this year, take time to remember what Christ's coming means for your salvation. Let Advent be not just pre-gaming for Christmas this year, but also a time for reflection on God's uncountable love for us and the coming of His kingdom.

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*
COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS by Charles Wesley



The
Christmas
season will
soon be upon us
and the WOW group will
be assembling a **poinsettia tree**
for our sanctuary. If you would like to provide
a plant, either in honor or memory of a loved one,
please provide the needed info on the bottom of this sheet
or contact Tammy Beier (333-1895), or the church office. The cost
of the plants will be \$12 each. The last day to place your order will
be December 8.
Your information
will be included
in our weekly
bulletins.

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

**You may take your plant home on December 25th!



Youth Corner

Dates of Importance

- Youth Bible Study - every Sunday morning at 9:30 am
- Midweek - Off until January 8th.
- Journey in January - January 17-19

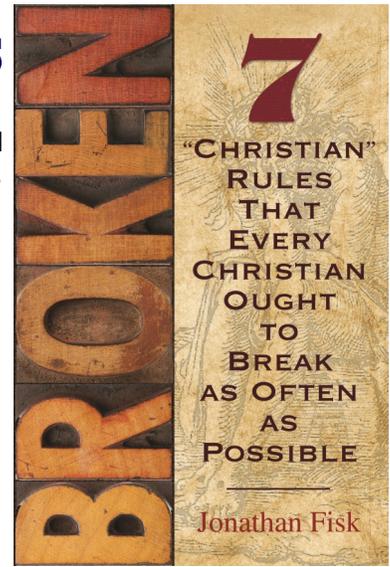
Revelation - Midweek

Just a reminder that we will be meeting again for our Wednesday night Midweek in January. We will eat and enjoy each other's company as we spend time in devotions and fellowship. We will continue the study in Revelation and the end times. The first Wednesday in each month will be devoted to fellowship.

Broken - Sunday Mornings

There are only two kinds of spirituality in the world. One is the manifestation of the old evil foe who has sent many false spiritualities out into the world, and the other is the holy spirituality found only in faith in the one true God. One is a lie, and one is real.

Rev. Fisk's honest and defining book stands on the foundation of Scripture and exposes these seven counterfeit "Christian" rules. In fact, he doesn't just tell you what the lies are — he marches them boldly into your living room and demonstrates how they are going to ruin your life by twisting your heart, mind, and hands away from the true and real theology of the Lord. The lessons in *Broken* aren't easy to learn, but they are vital to the survival of the church. These rules need to be broken. And breaking the rules has never felt so good.



The High School Class will be going through this book on Sunday Mornings. Feel free to follow along with them by reading it yourself.

Journey in January

Journey in January is a High School Christian retreat, that is planned, orchestrated, and run by High School Youth from around the state of Oklahoma.

Who can come to Journey in January?

Freshman to Seniors are all welcome to Journey in January. Register as a church youth group, must have adult chaperones register with your group. Or individuals can register, and please also register an adult to attend. If you cannot get an adult to attend with you we will connect you with an adult to be your chaperone, and you will join that church group for some of the activities.

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR SHUPE IMMEDIATELY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!!!

Be sure to check out our Youth Group page on Facebook and our Twitter account @RLCBVLYouth



Report from the Treasurer, Terri Rau

Below are our Operating Fund (Budget) results through October 2013. The cumulative cash available in the Operating Fund was \$152,151 and total cash, including Mothers Day Out and restricted funds, was \$235,460.

The balance due on the internal loan to the Family Life Center Fund is \$41,680. The monthly payment is \$3,071 and annual interest is 5%.

For October 2013 YTD and the entire years of 2012 / 2011, average monthly receipts were \$38,961 / \$42,915 / \$40,941, and average monthly operating expenditures were \$40,641 / \$47,858 / \$35,334. Our 2013 Budget of \$547,300 is about \$45,608 per month.

Financial Summary	Month		October Year to Date	
	Oct 2013	Oct 2012	2013	2012
Budget Receipts	\$42,517	\$33,229	\$389,610	\$392,869
Budget Expenditures	\$50,278	\$35,783	\$406,408	\$486,213
Budget Surplus (Deficit)	\$(7,761)	\$(2,554)	\$(16,798)	\$(93,344)

In
God's Service,
Terri

7th Annual Live Nativity



King of Kings Lutheran Church, located in Glenpool, will proclaim the true meaning of Christmas through its 7th annual presentation entitled "Live Nativity". This will take place on Saturday and Sunday, December 14 & 15, in the field just southeast of 151st St and Hwy 75. There will be two performances each evening at 6:00 and 7:30. Real live animals... sheep, camels and a donkey will be part of this FREE 30 minute outdoor presentation. Costumed characters will act out the account of the birth of Christ. It is advised that you dress warmly and bring blankets to make your seating on the metal bleachers more comfortable. At the end, guests are welcomed to come forward and join in the singing of "Silent Night" and to pet the animals. Then we invite

you to enjoy complimentary hot chocolate and cookies at the refreshment "stable". We look forward to you joining with us in thanksgiving as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ: Son of God, King of Kings, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace, and yes, the real "reason for this season" of Christmas. For more information please email the church office at ...info@kingofkingsok.org or call 918.291.2005. (this presentation is also supported by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans)

CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT SERVICES

The story of Christmas is a love story. St. John wrote, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9). Because of Jesus coming to save us, everyone can joy fully say, "God loves me dearly, Loves even me."

- December 4 "God's Love Covers Me with Christ" Jeremiah 23:5-8 7:00 P.M.*
- December 11 "God's Saving Love Stirs My Heart" Malachi 4:1-6 7:00 P.M.*
- December 18 "God's Love Is Our Greatest Gift" 1 John 4:9-11 7:00 P.M.*
- December 24 "Traditional Candlelight Service" 7:00 P.M.*
- December 25 "Christmas Worship with Communion" 10:00 A.M.*

A fellowship meal will be served at 6:00 P.M for your convenience and joy.



december 2013 2013



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15 a.m. Divine Worship with <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Blended Service	2 9:15-2:45 MDO 11:30-1:00 p.m. Red Hat Purple Circle Phillips Grille 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Scouts	3 7:15 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Staff Mtg. 9:15-2:45 MDO 2:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship Study	4 9:30 Women's Bible Study 9:15-2:45 MDO 5:00 Bell Choir Practice 6:00 Advent Dinner 7:00 p.m. Advent Service 7:30 p.m. Awakening Chorus Rehearsal	5 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Care Group 7:00 pm Just Doing It Exercise Class	6	7
8 8:15 a.m. Divine Worship with 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Blended Service <i>Holy Communion</i>	9 9:15-2:45 MDO 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	10 7:15 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Staff Mtg. 9:15-2:45 MDO 2:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship Study	11 9:30 Women's Bible Study 9:15-2:45 MDO 5:00 Bell Choir Practice 6:00 Advent Dinner 7:00 p.m. Advent Service 7:30 p.m. Awakening Chorus Rehearsal	12 8:00 a.m. Braille 9:00 a.m. Ladies' Care Group 7:00 pm Just Doing It Exercise Class	13	14 12:00—3:00 p.m. Pizza and Christ- mas Decorating!!!
15 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS CHIL- DREN'S SERVICE 5:00-7:00 p.m. Church Christmas Party	16 9:15-2:45 MDO 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	17 7:15 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Staff Mtg. 9:15-2:45 MDO 10:00 a.m. Martha Circle 2:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship Study 7:00 p.m. Bunco	18 9:30 Women's Bible Study 9:15-2:45 MDO 5:00 Bell Choir Practice 6:00 Advent Dinner 7:00 p.m. Advent Service 7:30 p.m. Awakening Chorus Rehearsal	19 8:00 a.m. Braille 6:00 p.m. Esther Circle 7:00 pm "Just Doing It" Exercise Class 7:00 Elder's Meeting	20	21
22 8:15 a.m. Divine Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Blended Service <i>Holy Communion</i>	23 NO MDO	24 <i>Office Closed 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight</i>	25 <i>Office Closed Christmas Day Service 10:00 a.m.</i>	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28
29 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. 5th Sunday Combined Blended Service <i>Holy Communion</i>	30 NO MDO	31 NO MDO 7:15 Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Staff Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Adult Fellowship & Study 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Service	1 <i>Office Closed New Year's Day</i>			

2013



Birthdays

12-1 Larry Fodor
1 Sue Waller
3 Janice Lonski
3 Janice Wolff
4 Tristan Hubler
4 Judie Page
7 Marty Colpitt
8 Duane Bersche
9 Wilmer Wagner
10 Gregory Mitchell
11 Tyson Fugett
11 Pete Grana
12 Clara Vigesaa
13 Marvin Cogdill
13 Dakota Ward

14 Dawn Dickson
14 Cindy Thompson
15 Don Brurud
16 Zylar Vigesaa
17 Haley Angleton
17 Jim Polley
17 Susan Wilkinson
18 Steve Thompson
19 Gary Beckrow
20 Gage Holland
22 Linda Allen
22 Christine Grana
22 Spencer Herren
23 Sarah Merritt
24 Luke Gotwalt

25 Janet Brazda
25 Steve DeFrees
26 Claudia Lawrence
26 Anthony Peters
27 Bob Kingsbury
28 Bernice Leaton
28 Crew Wells
29 Becky Trentman
29 Michael Wilkinson
30 Chance Stevens
31 Barbara Larson

2013



Anniversaries

12- 1 Gene & Barbara Larson
1 Frosty & Marge DeFrees
16 Merlin & Cheryl Lindstrom

18 Abraham & Jessica Buesser
18 Bob & Lavona Wyckoff
22 Michael & Katie Runnels

24 Don & Norma Brurud
30 Jay & Dawn Dickson



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