The Redeemer Reporter

A Member Congregation of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Published Bi-Monthly by
Redeemer Lutheran Church
9009 Kennedy Ave
Highland Indiana 46322
(219) 838-4898

From Pastor's Desk
December 2016-January 2017

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. -Luke 2:4-5

When Mary and Joseph set off for Bethlehem, there were more questions than answers. Where would they stay? Would they find places to rest along the way? What should they take with them? What should they leave behind? What if Mary went into labor along the way? Still, Caesar needed to be satisfied, and so the new family stepped out in faith.

I doubt the trip turned out like they planned. By all accounts they made it to their destination safely without being harassed by highwaymen or encountering a medical emergency. Yet, I don't imagine the stable was their ideal lodgings, or the shepherds their ideal houseguests. But still, all was accomplished. All was complete just as God promised.

Where will Christmas take you? For many of us, this Holy day means travel, either for you, or for people you love. For Joseph and Mary, Christmas meant a long arduous journey to Bethlehem, and then a later unplanned trip to Egypt. For the shepherds, it meant a late night trek into town. For the Wise Men, it meant a long journey to Jerusalem, then Bethlehem, then home by still another route. For these first Christians much was unknown and unplanned.

We still live in a world where the future is unknown. Family lives are unpredictable. Holidays can be filled with more trepidation than rejoicing. Yet there is still much to be thankful for. Small mercies, thoughtful gifts, sincere friends are still some of the best blessings this life has to offer.

You may be looking at the New Year with great uncertainty. Maybe new problems are developing, or maybe you're sure old ones will continue. As much as you're glad the year has passed, you're anxious about the future. What will it hold? Will things be better, or worse? Maybe you're wondering how you'll get through another day. Maybe you're still waiting for an answer to that prayer that you've said over and over. Much is still unknown.

One thing is sure and certain however. It's a part of history in fact. Jesus Christ is born for you. The redemption of our God is not some thing we're still hoping for. It is something that has already come. Years ago, as Mary and Joseph traveled toward the stable. While shepherds watched their flocks and wise men studied the stars. All the while, God was doing what He promised. The Savior has come.

As many places as Christmas may take us, may it always bring us back there: to the stable, to stand silently around the manger, to marvel at the Creator of the stars of night gurgling in the feedbox, waving His arms as all little babies do. This Child has come for you. For your redemption, for your forgiveness, and for your everlasting life. Much about life is unknown, but Christ for you is always certain.

May this season of Holy days also bring you back here to Redeemer where that Christ is still proclaimed and His gifts still given. The season of Advent with its Wednesday services help prepare us spiritually for what happens at Christmas and what happens at Golgotha. Those services also help keep our focus on the most important thing during a time when our attentions can be much divided. The New Year's Eve service helps us set the right note for the year to come as we confess our sins and ask the Lord's blessing on all our endeavors. And week in and week out Jesus once again dwells with His people fulfilling all the promises He has made. Being in the Lord's house every week is the rest we need from a week spent out there in an unpredictable world. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 2016

It has been a long standing tradition of Redeemer congregation to observe the first Sunday in November as All Saints' Sunday. During the services that weekend Pastor read the names of those members of Redeemer congregation who had gone to be with the Lord during the previous year. This year we recognized seven members of Redeemer.

Mildred Frances Keune	November 7, 2015	91 years 4 months 11 days
Doreen Emily Peterson	November 8, 2015	92 years 8 months 4 days
Marietta Alice Hinkel	December 23, 2015	62 years 10 months 2 days
Brian Robert Wilken	March 5, 2016	67 years 17 days
Frank VanderPloeg	April 13, 2016	89 years 11 months 28 days
Gloria Mae Novosel	May 24, 2016	85 years 1 month 13 days
Katie Elizabeth Sitzes	June 4, 2016	25 years 3 months 13 days

Redeemer congregation also recognizes the following family members of Redeemer who have gone to be with the Lord and received Christian burial through Redeemer's clergy.

Larry Russell Sanderson	February 18, 2016	65 years 2 months 28 days
Mary Grace Doran	September 23, 2016	63 years 7 months 14 days

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon them.

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR? Remember Redeemer's Special Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes are available year round in the tract rack in the narthex. These thanksgivings will then be printed in the newsletter each month; but not the amount of your offering. These special offerings are intended to give you an opportunity to let your church family know what you are thankful for!

BIG REDEEMER THANKS TO...

- Gary & Linda Owens, Deanna Ryskamp, and Marge Steinke for collating the October/November newsletter.
- Deanna Ryskamp and Maverick & Griffin Broviak for collating bulletins.
- Linda & Gary Owens sending out birthday postcards.
- Sharon & Adam Knuth for Sunday coffee hours.
- Mary & Dennis Russell for changing the sign.
- Kathy Gaskey for updating the kids' activity bags.
- Donna Wanicki for sending Cradle Roll.
- Renee Reimer for maintaining Redeemer's website.
- The Altar Guild members who polished all of the silver serving pieces. Doris Henry for managing the Altar flowers every week.
- Greg McBroom and Paul Schutte for the final mowings of the year.
- Dorothy Hutson for cleaning and maintaining the pew inserts.
- The Ladies Society members *and jr. members* (Sarah Hildenbrand, Cyndy & Kaite Bishop, Kathy Gaskey and Sharon Degard) who meticulously cleaned and polished the pews of the church for the fall.
- The Garden Committee (Renee Reimer, Sharon Degard, Sue Rohling, Jason Hildenbrand, Gail Gholson, Janet Richey, and Pat Secrest) for all of their hardwork cleaning up and preparing the beautiful gardens for fall. And extra thanks to Jason for seeding the dirt area on the south side.
- Jason Hildenbrand and Pastor Eric for power washing the patio & benches; leveling the patio and sealing the patio.
- Jessica Burkman (along with Tim and family) for the wonderful presentation on the Compass International Family Center to help Redeemerites learn more about one of our supported missions. Thanks to the Elders for supplying breakfast to go with it!
- Pastor Eric for replacing broken molding in the MPR; installing the new bulbs in the sanctuary; shutting off the leaking water fountain; and more.
- The Ladies Society members (Dee Ryskamp, Marion Burkman, Doris Henry, Bev Rodeck, Roseanne Bohanan, Sue Noojin, Marilyn Kaegebein, Janice Ritchey, Dorothy Hudson, Kathy Gaskey, Donna Wanicki, Judy Gauder, Linda Owens, and Dee Reitz) who made special gifts for many of Redeemer's homebound members. And Marion and Rev. Art Burkman for making the special deliveries on behalf of Ladies Society.
- The Fellowship Committee members for organizing, setting up, cleaning up and all the other million things involved with putting together the Thanksgiving Dinner. Your teamwork and fellowship skills are evident in the overwhelming response every year. And the Youth Group families for delivering meals to shut-in members. .
- Jane & Carly Kuva for organizing and setting up the Angel Tree.

And thanks to everyone who gives their time & energy...committee members, teachers, choir singers & ringers, and more...**every "little" thing comes together to keep our church vibrant!**

Thank you to Stracks for the donation of 300 grocery bags that the Youth used for their neighborhood food drive. Thank you also to all of Redeemer's neighbors and members for their generous contributions, which have be taken to St. James food pantry in Highland.

Thank you to Pleasant View Dairy for their donation of milk cartons for our Thanksgiving Dinner. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Thank you to my Redeemer family for their prayers and cards after my recent surgery.
From Judy Gauder

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING OFFERINGS

This special gift is given in thankfulness to God for all His blessings. We offer these special gifts to God because We are thankful for...

♥ the marriage of our son Tom and his bride Donna on September 10, 2016 - *Jim & Sandy Skorupa*

"The Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:4

Little Lambs Learning Center

Redeemer Lutheran Church

All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children. Isaiah 54:13

What's Happening at LLLC?

Little Lambers have been working real hard the past two months of school. We have visited the farm in October and in November we had our Thanksgiving Feast.

Chapel Services: Wednesday and Thursday at 11:00 am

A VERY special THANK YOU to A-Line Movers for storing our caps. We FINALLY have our bench!!

Fundraising:

Thank you to all who ordered honey from our sale.

Kohl's Cares for kids Little Lambs will be participating in the selling Kohl's Cares for Kids gift cards November through January. Kohl's Fundraising Gift Cards are available in denominations of $10, $25, $50. We will have some on hand at during these times but larger orders of these gift cards can be ordered from Little Lambs the by the first Monday of the month. They will be available within 5 days of ordering. These gift cards **CAN** be used to pay your Kohl's charge bill!!! They make great Christmas presents!! To place an order or to purchase on hand cards just stop into the Little Lambs room and talk to Cyndy Bishop.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR We will be having our 2nd Scholastic Book Fair at Little Lambs. It will in in the North classroom from Saturday, Dec 17th to Tuesday, Dec 20th .Please come visit our sale!!

Thank you for supporting the children of Little Lambs Learning Center!!
Gratefully,
Cyndy Bishop

Sunday School News
December 2016 / January 2017

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. Luke 2:7

Time sure has flown by in Sunday School. Seems like we just began our fall classes and here we are preparing for the Advent season already and fast at work for our annual Children's Christmas Service! **Even if you are not involved with the Sunday School program, we would like to invite you to attend the Children's presentation of "Starry, Starry Night" on Sunday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.** It is a wonderful way to usher in the Christmas season, listening to the children tell the story of the birth of our Savior in verse and song. There will be cookies and punch after the program as well! We would like to thank Peggy Glennie, for again taking on the task of director for this year's program. Most appreciated Peggy!!

Cookies needed for the fellowship time after the Children's program. If you can bring a plate to share, it would be greatly appreciated! See sign-up sheet on the door as you enter the narthex. Could also use a couple of volunteers to set up the cookies and punch for the fellowship time. Please let Sue Douthett know if you can lend a hand. Thank you!

PARENTS: On December 4th, 11th and 18th, the Sunday School hour will be devoted to practice for the Children's program. Please see that the children are in attendance each week! We have a lot to learn in a very short time. If for some reason your child will not be able to participate in the program this year, please let Peggy Glennie or Sue Douthett know. Thank you. **The Program is at 6:30 on December 18th. The Children need to arrive between 6:00 and 6:10 p.m. to get costumed and lined up. Thank you.**

We are gladly accepting contributions to help with the cost of the children's gifts bags they will receive at the December 18th program. If anyone would like to donate, please place your contribution in an envelope marked "children's gift bags" and place in Stacy's "in box" or give to one of the teachers. Checks should be made payable to Redeemer and mark memo: Children's gift bags. Thank you.

Christmas Day - No Sunday School or Bible Class. One church service @10:00 a.m.

Jan 1st, New Year's Day. Sunday School is in session, we will meet as a large group. Regular schedule for worship services on New Year's Day.

Starting January 1st through February 5th, we will hold our annual Souper Bowl of Caring drive. All Sunday School and Bible class offerings during this time frame will go to fund Redeemer's Share account. Non-perishable grocery, personal hygiene and paper products will be collected and sent to St. James Pantry in Highland. A Door offering will be taken after all three services by a youth of Redeemer on the weekend of February 4th and 5th. The door offering will also go to fund Redeemer's Share Account.
All non-perishable items may be brought to the Multi-purpose room and placed in or near the cardboard box marked "Souper Bowl." **Please DO NOT place them in the large wood box, we need to count them first. If anyone would like to contribute to Redeemer's Share Fund, please make check payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church and mark the memo, "Souper Bowl" and place in an envelope marked the same. You may turn in to a teacher or place in Stacy's In-Box on her desk.** Visit: https://souperbowl.org/

THIS IS THE LETTER OF THE L.A.W.

December/January 2016

There is indeed much happening in the Youth Group these days, especially now as the holidays are upon us. Do have a look at what all is going on, and consider joining us for one or more of the Youth events coming up in these next two months!

Ongoing and Previous Events

Sunday Bible Study: We are still studying various topics selected by the youth. These past few weeks we have looked at Middle Eastern Christianity and Eastern Orthodoxy, Church and Politics, and New Atheism. As always, if you have a topic of interest, do indeed let the vicar know either directly, or write down the topic and deposit it in the box in the youth group room.
The Dinning-out Fundraiser for October went very well at Panera. We do hope you enjoyed a meal there. The funds raised will go toward future youth events and causes. Please do consider joining us for our upcoming dining-out event. Check your bulletins for details of the next one to come soon.
Food Donations and Collections: these last two Sundays the youth group distributed paper bags to the Highland community with the intent that our neighbors would donate foodstuffs. We collected the donations on Nov. 13 and we were most grateful for the amount that was given. The vicar's office was filled with over-flowing paper bags of food!

Upcoming Events

Wreath Sales will end the weekend of the 26th and 27th of November and the wreaths will be distributed the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of December. The sign-up sheet to order wreaths is located in the foyer.
November 20th, December 18th, and January 15th Youth to Breakfast: the tradition continues at Les Café! Come enjoy breakfast and fellowship!
November 28th Youth Committee Meeting: All parents are invited to the monthly youth committee meeting. We will be discussing our upcoming service projects, fundraisers, and activities. Special attention will be given to Higher Things and January and February activities. All are welcome! We will meet in Vicar Wade's office at 6:30 p.m. *The will be no scheduled December meeting unless needed. If a meeting will be needed, check the bulletin for an announcement of it. The January meeting will be on the 23rd at our usual time and place.*
Christmas "Youth Group Night" will be Sunday, December 11 from 5 - 8pm. The youth will watch a Christmas movie, eat pizza (bring $5 towards food) and desserts, and play Christmas bunco with some fun wacky prizes. Hosted by the Wanickis, but held at the church. Kids in 5th grade up through high school are invited. Come and bring a friend!
Ronald McDonald house will be Tuesday Jan. 3rd. First 20 youth/chaperones that sign up will get to go. Menu will be a soup and sandwich bar. Email will go out to youth around Christmas as to what needs to be donated for our meal. Meet at church at 9:30am. We will need 3-4 drivers.
Polar Bear Picnic: The Youth Group is having their annual Polar Bear Picnic on Sunday, January 29 at 12pm. (Only the grillers have to brave the cold -- the rest of us just enjoy the picnic food in the middle of winter!!) Grilled brats, hot dogs, along with chips, salads, desserts, etc. will be served. Tickets will be sold the two weekends before the picnic for ($5 per person/$3 per child under 10). For entertainment, back by popular demand we will have a second edition of the newlywed game! Also, everyone attending is asked to bring a baby picture to display. It's fun to try to guess who is who! Save the date now for a great menu that you don't usually get to enjoy in the dead of winter, and some fun entertainment.
Golden Opportunities Books are still on sale. Please do consider purchasing one. If interested, contact the Vicar.

May the Prince of Peace bless you all richly throughout these upcoming holiday months – Vicar Wade

DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017 HAPPENINGS

WREATH SALES will end the weekend of November 26th & 27th and the wreaths will be ***available for pick-up the weekend of December 3rd & 4th***. To order a sign-up sheet is located in the foyer or call the church office. Cost of an 18" wreath (fresh evergreen w/red bow) $15; a 24" is $20.00; and a 36" is $35.00.

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER SERVICES will be held **Wednesdays at 7PM** – November 30th and December 7th and 14th. Please plan to attend to prepare for the coming of our Savior. This year's topic will be "The Beasts of Bethlehem: The Ox, The Ass, and The Lamb."

"The Office of Lamplighting" will be held on Wednesday, December 21st.

THE POINSETTIA CHART IS POSTED on the large bulletin board in the church foyer. Poinsettias are $10 each. They are used to decorate the sanctuary and may be picked up after the 10AM Christmas Day service.

ORNAMENTS FOR SALE! Redeemer glass ball ornaments and a variety of pewter ornaments will be for sale in the church foyer for $5 each.

CONCORDIA CEMETERY in Hammond is offering for sale fresh evergreen blankets, stone saddles, artificial wreaths, crosses & hearts. Prices range to $31.00 plus applicable sales tax. The cemetery requests payment in full before placing decorations on graves. Supplies are limited so order early. Phone: 219/932-7437.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE! They are $25 each with $7 made on each book for the Youth Group. The books make **great gifts** for the hard-to-buy-for people on your gift list. They also contain pages upon pages of coupons to use while you shop, eat out or enjoy getting together for fun with friends and family. If you are interested in purchasing a book please see Vicar Wade.

Next Generation
Redeemer Lutheran Church

WARM HEARTS, WARM HOMES PROJECT Winter months can be financially difficult on all of us. Most especially the increased heating and other winter costs can be draining on our vicars. We'd like to provide a bit of extra financial help to our Vicar. For each month, **November through February**, ten empty envelopes will be hanging on the trifold bulletin board. We're asking for 10 people each month to take an envelope; put $20 in it; and return it to the office or in the offering plate. This will provide the Vicar with an extra $200 a month to pay for winter costs. People may donate more if they choose or take more than one envelope to fill. Please make checks payable to "Redeemer Share Cupboard" and put "Vicar" in the memo.

THE ANGEL TREE (*another Redeemer annual tradition*) will be set up & adorned with names of children and families in need this holiday season beginning at the Thanksgiving Dinner (Nov. 13). Please take an angel ornament, buy a gift, wrap it with the angel tag attached, & place it by the tree in the foyer ***NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 11TH.*** Questions, contact Jane Kuva 923-7903.

IT'S TIME FOR THE LADIES SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POT BLESSING AT 6 P.M. ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 1ST! Sign-up sheet on the Ladies' Society bulletin board and please indicate which delicious dish you will bring to share for the Pot Blessing. Christmas Tree Bunco will be the featured fun game. If you wish to participate in the optional gift exchange, please bring a wrapped item (value $5). **All** Redeemer ladies and friends are invited to join in the wonderful Christmas fellowship.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY *"A Longer Look at the Lessons"* meets in the MPR **on Thursdays, 9:30-11 a.m.** Each class examines the Bible lessons for the coming weekend. PLEASE NOTE: ****The Class will not meet on Thursday December 22nd and 29th.****

PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN HANGING OF THE GREENS immediately **follow the 10:45 service Sunday, December 4th**. Pizza and pop will be provided. Stay for lunch and help decorate the church for Christmas.

CHURCH TRUSTEES NEEDED! The Trustee Committee is in charge of the upkeep of the church building and grounds, either by volunteers doing basic repairs and maintenance or by getting bids from contractors and overseeing the repairs/improvements made. Anyone interested in helping PLEASE contact Stacy at the church office or come to **a Trustees Meeting at 12 p.m. (after Late Service); next mtgs. Dec. 4th & Jan. 8th.**

EVANGELISM AND LIFE TEAM COMMITTEE will meet for its next quarterly meeting on **December 5th at 6:00 p.m.** We will review visitors and special projects; including possible participation in the **March for Life Chicago on Sunday, January 15, 2017. Volunteers are welcome anytime – just come to the meeting!** Anyone interested in taking the video disc Life Team training and certification for Lutherans for Life should speak to Renee Reimer

PLEASE NOTE: THE CHURCH SECRETARY WILL BE AWAY ON VACATION DECEMBER 8TH & 9TH, returning to the office on Monday, December 12th. Please look ahead at your calendars for any bills that will need paying, copies to be made, reservations for the multipurpose room, as well as blurbs for the December 10/11 bulletin. Please give that information to the church secretary ***NO LATER MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH.***

*Pastor Kleinschmidt and Vicar Bellesbach will be in the office Thursday, December 8th if you are in need of **Spiritual care** or Golden Opportunities books from Vicar.*

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, DEC. 9TH!

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! Pastor Burkman once again has assured seating tickets for Valparaiso University's Chapel of the Resurrection Advent Christmas Vespers on **Friday, December 9th at 7:00 PM.** The service includes scripture readings and Christmas carols and includes vocal choirs, handbell choir and often a brass ensemble. **There is NO CHARGE for the tickets but TICKETS ARE REQUIRED.** If you would like tickets to the 7PM service, please contact Pastor Burkman (219-922-4546).

A 10PM service is also held. Tickets may be ordered from the Chapel *until Dec. 5th* by phone at 219-464-6517 or email chapel@valpo.edu (*specify service time, number of tickets & mailing address.*)

A reception will be held at the Ballroom of the Harre Union, adjacent to the Chapel, between the 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. services. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS "YOUTH GROUP NIGHT" -- **Sunday, December 11 from 5 - 8pm.** The youth will watch a Christmas movie, eat pizza (bring $5 towards food) and desserts, and play Christmas bunco with some fun wacky prizes. Hosted by the Wanickis, but held at the church. Kids in 5th grade up through high school are invited. Come and bring a friend!

Little Lambs is having a SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR in the North Classroom from Dec. 17-20. **Redeemer members are invited to shop after services December 17 & 18 and after the Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18.**

JANUARY CALENDAR NOTES

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:
MONDAY, JANUARY 2ND & JANUARY 3RD.

JANUARY COMMITTEE MEETING DATE CHANGES:
TRUSTEES – SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH; ELDERS – MONDAY, JAN. 9TH;
PLANNING & STEWARDSHIP – MONDAY, JAN. 16TH AND CHURCH COUNCIL – MONDAY, JAN. 16TH.

WOUNDED HEALERS GRIEF SUPPORT The "Winter" series of Grief Support Groups for 2016 will start on **Wednesday, January 4 from 7 – 8:30 p.m.** Separate *Beginnings Groups* for **Death of Spouse, Death of a Child or Grandchild**, & **Death of a Parent, Sibling or Friend**. **Suicide Survivor Support Group** and a **Teens – "Why Suicide?" Group.** Two *Advanced Groups*: **Coming Back** and **Parents Moving Forward** for those who have completed the "Beginnings" sessions to continue. All groups meet at St. James Church, corner of Kennedy Ave. & 45th St., 9640 Kennedy Avenue. For more info call 219-924-5577. It is non-denominational. *Many individuals from Redeemer have benefited from this special support.*

JANUARY 8TH AT 12PM: Fellowship Committee invites everyone to come undecorate the church (only takes 20-30 minutes--tops!), and then have enjoy a Soup and Chili lunch. Bring a crockpot of your favorite chili or soup and plug it in during late service, or bring a dessert. Fellowship Committee will provide salad and bread and beverages to round out the meal. Bring your own soup bowl to ease our clean up and our impact on the environment -- prize given for the best bowl there!

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY will restart on Wednesdays at 7PM in the Multipurpose Room beginning **JANUARY 11th**. Vicar Wade will continue the study – Bible Feasts. Bible Feasts provides an in-depth study of the sacred festivals God commanded the people of Israel to observe, as well as festivals observed by Jewish people during Jesus' earthly ministry. Participants learn about Jewish food customs, the meaning of each feast, and the promises about the eternal feast in heaven.

LIFE SUNDAY AND MARCH FOR LIFE – JANUARY 14 & 15!

Life Sunday will be held the weekend of **January 14th & 15th** at Redeemer. A door offering to support Lutherans for Life will be received at all three services that weekend.

Anyone interested in attending the March For Life Chicago **SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH** please contact Renee Reimer. For more information visit: http://illinoisrighttolife.org/marchforlifechicago2017.

YOUNG-AT-HEARTS' 2017 PLANNING MEETING will be on **Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.** Come with your ideas for the new year's activities. Afterwards we will go out for pizza and fellowship. Questions and suggestions? Please speak with Deanna Ryskamp or Donna Wanicki.

FEBRUARY/MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE will be MONDAY, JANUARY 23rd AT 10AM!

THE ANNUAL POLAR BEAR PICNIC: The Youth Group is having their annual Polar Bear Picnic on **Sunday, January 29 at 12pm.** (Only the grillers have to brave the cold -- the rest of us just enjoy the picnic food in the middle of winter!!) Grilled brats, hot dogs, along with chips, salads, desserts, etc. will be served. Tickets will be sold the two weekends before the picnic for ($5 per person/$3 per child under 10). For entertainment, back by popular demand, we will have a second edition of the newlywed game! Also, everyone attending is asked to bring a baby picture to display. It's fun to try to guess who is who! Save the date now for a great menu that you don't usually get to enjoy in the dead of winter, and some fun entertainment.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING DOOR OFFERING will be collected after all three services on February 5th. Checks may be written payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church, memo Share Fund. Non-perishable food & toiletry items are being collected for St. James Food Pantry in Highland all through the month of January until February 5th.

Redeemer Share Cupboard Donations

In addition to various food drives to fill the physical share cupboard in the MPR, Redeemer also maintains a charitable fund called the Share Cupboard Account. Donations to this account go primarily to help REDEEMER MEMBERS who are in need. While donations are needed all year round, December usually depletes the fund making this the time when donations are particularly needed.

In the past, the Share Cupboard has helped Redeemer members and others buy groceries, pay heating bills, fix furnaces, pay medical bills, fund school tuition and purchase back to school supplies, clean up after a fire, and make car repairs. Although not expected, some beneficiaries repay the account when back on their feet to help others. All gifts are anonymous and there are many people who have benefitted from it. This is a great way to help people in our own midst and also keep the Lord's advice in Matthew 6:3 to do so quietly and without fanfare. Please consider making a regular gift to help others. Donations can be brought to the office or placed in the offering plate marked for the Share Cupboard. Checks should be made out to "Redeemer Share Cupboard." If you are in need, please talk to Pastor.

NEW FUN CHURCH-WIDE EVENT! Sunday, February 19th the Fellowship Committee is renting the gym at Trinity Lutheran Church on Hohman Avenue in Hammond for a church basketball game! In early January, sign-up sheets will go up on the bulletin board for 2 team coaches, 2 fun announcers, and anyone high school aged and over who would like to play on the two teams. The two coaches will hold a draft in early February, and our two teams will face off in a game **at 4:30pm** on the 19th. Everyone is invited to come and watch and cheer on the teams. Admission will be $3 to cover the gym rental/janitor fee. Afterwards, the Youth Committee is planning a dine-out fundraiser at a yet-to-be-announced restaurant, where you can stop for dinner and celebrate your victory or drown your sorrows in some yummy dinner! Put the date on your calendar, and watch the bulletin board and future bulletin announcements for updates.

SAVE THE DATE! THE YOUNG-AT-HEARTS' 1ST SHOW OF THE YEAR on **Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. matinee** at the Theatre at the Center in Munster for "My Way – Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra." Relive the legendary career of Frank Sinatra as four actors share more than 50 of his beloved hits. "Fly Me to the Moon," "Chicago," "New York, New York," "The Way You Look Tonight," and "That's Life" are just some of the tunes showcased in this musical tribute to the iconic success story of Ol' Blue Eyes. Watch for more details to come in bulletins and a sign-up sheet on the tri-fold in mid-January.

REDEEMER STEWARDSHIP
TREASURES, TIME AND TALENTS

STEWARDSHIP WEEKEND WILL BE DECEMBER 3RD & 4TH.

Instructions and a Pledge Card will be included in the weekend bulletins and then will be available at the Elders' Desk the following week. Please fill out the anonymous card and drop it in the Pledge-Faith Promise Box ***by December 11th*** in order for the Stewardship Committee to count them and plan for income toward the Mission Spending Plan next year.

2017 offering envelopes will be available for pickup in the church foyer beginning December 11th. Please begin using your 2017 offering envelopes AFTER January 1, 2017, **including the Initial Offering Envelope**. **Offering envelope numbers can change from year to year.** If you have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to start, please contact Stacy at the church office. If you no longer wish to receive offering envelopes, please let the church office know by leaving a message on the secretary's desk or emailing info@redeemerhighland.org. ***If offering envelopes or electronic giving is not used, Redeemer is not able to produce a contribution statement for your tax purposes.***

Annual contribution statements are printed for those who use offering envelopes. Contribution statements will be available for pick up in the church foyer at the end of January for 2017.

Let the church office know if you need to have your pledge materials, offering envelopes and/or statement mailed to you. Speak with Stacy in the church office, leave a message or email.

AN ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTION provided to Redeemer by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) which is called "Joyful Response" is available. Forms are available in the church foyer under the large bulletin board or contact Stacy in the church office. ***LCEF provides the program at no cost to the participant or the church!*** *(The program is free unless your bank charges you for automatic electronic withdrawals.)*

HELP TOUCH LIVES WITH THRIVENT CHOICE℠ If you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, remember that your benefits may include Thrivent Choice℠, a charitable grant program, members can help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable funds each year. By directing Choice Dollars, you can help support what matters most to you—even your own congregation [by choosing REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, HIGHLAND, IN]. If you are uncertain about your eligibility, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative. *Directing Choice Dollars are subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice Program. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice for more information.*

2017 SPONSORSHIP CHARTS *Sign up at the large bulletin board or call the church office to pick a date.*

Flowers are $10 per vase and candles are $15 per month, ***checks payable to*** **ALTAR GUILD.** Bulletins are $10 per week, ***checks payable to*** **REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**. Please put your check or cash in an envelope with your name & sponsorship date marked on it and place in the secretary's "IN BOX".

Please Note: Bulletin and Candle sponsorships only list sponsor names, not a reason for sponsorship. Flower sponsors will receive a call the week before their flower weekend. A reason for sponsorship of the Altar flowers is noted in the weekend bulletin. **The sponsors may pick-up the flowers after the 10:45 Sunday service.** If you do not plan on picking up the flowers after service, please let Doris Henry know when she calls or let the church office know – otherwise the flowers sit in the foyer waiting and wilting.

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to greet members and welcome visitors before Sunday services. If you are willing to greet, please pick dates & services to fit your schedule and then **sign-up on the yellow sheet located on the tri-fold "Volunteers Needed"** bulletin board in the church foyer. Thanks!

IN SEARCH OF CHILDREN/TEENS THAT PLAY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS that would like to play during a church service. Call Beth Wanicki at 838-2257, and we will pick out a hymn or other piece of music that would could be played during the offering at a service during the upcoming year, or possibly play your instrument along with the handbell choir. Make a joyful noise!

CHOIR rehearsals are on **Mondays at 6:15 p.m. – December 5 & 12**. On **TUESDAY, December 20th**, Choir will meet to practice and then join in fellowship with a Christmas Pot Blessing. Choir will not practice in January. New members are always welcome! Just come to practice. If you have questions, contact one of the choir directors Meghan Kleinschmidt or Colette Martin.

HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICES Thursdays at 6pm - December 8 & 15; January 19 & 26. Always looking for subs. You do not need to know how to read music! Interested? Call Beth Wanicki 838-2257.

THE SWADDLING CLOTHES PROGRAM is an ongoing program that requires continuous donations.

If you have friends or family that have infant or toddler clothing they no longer use, please have them save the items for this program. If you need help bringing the donations to church, please let the office know. The program is in need of clean "gently used" maternity clothing, infants and toddler clothing up to size 3T, diapers, wipes, and formula. There will be someone at Grace on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month from 1-3pm to receive donations. This is an ongoing project and a joint effort with our sister churches in the Hammond Circuit.

ON BEHALF OF THE SWADDLING CLOTHES PROGRAM, THANK YOU to all of you that have generously given your time and efforts to this ministry. Thank you, also, for all of the donations. The first day of the program (November 12th) provided items to 21 families.

If you are going out of town and are looking for a LCMS church to attend, there is a great church finder tool available at: http://locator.lcms.org/nchurches_frm/church.asp

WJOB – RADIO 1230 AM is the NW Indiana regional broadcaster of **"The Lutheran Hour"** on **Sundays at 10 AM and 6 PM every week**. Programming is paid for by the Calumet Lutheran Mission Association.

WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS –Northwest Indiana Areas Sunday – 11:30 am on TLN – Cable 138 or online at www.worshipforshutins.org. Nationwide it is on DIRECTV Channel 377 at 11:30 am EST on Sundays.

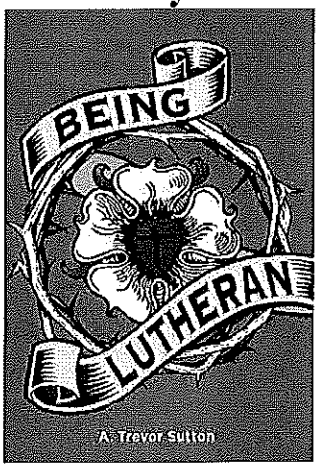
LUTHERAN RADIO STATION: Worldwide KFUO.org wherever you are live, on-demand and archived.

A REMINDER ABOUT LCEF'S YOUNG INVESTORS (Y.I.) CLUB Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) offers the Young Investors (Y.I.) Club to help children and teens save for the future and learn about using money as a gift from God. Check out Y.I. Club at **lcef.org** or call 800-843-5233. Applications available online. An investment in a Y.I. StewardAccount® can be started with just $25. Y.I. Club benefits include:

- ☆ Premium interest rate on balances up to $1,000 (currently at 3.5%; *1% after 1st $1,000*)
- ☆ Y.I. Club newsletters and web activities
- ☆ Report card extra credit
- ☆ Service hours extra credit
- ☆ College scholarship program for high school seniors
- ☆ Option for older teens to begin using a debit card
- ☆ Contests and fun!

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. LCEF StewardAccount access features provided through UMB Bank n.a. The StewardAccount is not available to investors living in South Carolina.

Redeemer Book Review
"Being Lutheran" by A. Trevor Sutton



$15 at cph.org
Reviewer: Serena Schmitt

If you're looking for a book to read by the fireplace this season, Rev. Sutton's "Being Lutheran" may be for you. This month, the Redeemer Reporter (RR) interviewed Redeemer member Serena Schmitt (SS) who recently read the book and gave us her impressions.

RR: Serena, can you tell us what the book was about?
SS: Being Lutheran is a great book that helps any Christian better understand what it means to be a follower of Christ. It's full of history, theology and Scripture.

RR: How would you describe the author's style of writing?
SS: I feel like his writing was easily understood. It was very factual with some humor mixed in.

RR: What do you think was the author's purpose in writing this book?
SS: I think the purpose is to help readers dig deeper in understanding their faith. It's helpful for "new" Lutherans to learn about their faith or a great refresher for "lifelong" Lutherans.

RR: What did you enjoy most about the book?
SS: I really enjoyed how everything went back to following Jesus. It felt very familiar to everything we hear in sermons, Bible studies, etc.

RR: Is there anything that the book could have done better?
SS: I don't have any complaints at all!

RR: Did the book help you understand your faith better? If so, how?
SS: It did! Being a "newer" Lutheran I very much enjoyed learning about my faith. I loved how he explained that being Lutheran is simply following Jesus.

RR: Who do you think would benefit most from reading this book?
SS: I think anyone who is interested in learning more about the Lutheran faith would enjoy this book. It's great to read on your own or in a group study. It includes discussion questions at the end of every chapter.

RR: If someone from church was interested in reading this book, could they borrow it from you?
SS: Yes I would be happy to share!

The Luther Seal: Summary of the Gospel

The most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that Luther himself designed to represent his theology. By the early 1520s, this seal begins to appear on the title page of Luther's works.

Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:

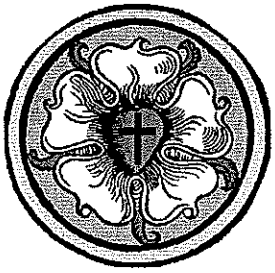
First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530 [WA Br 5:445]; tr. P. T. McCain)

Following are various versions of the seal as it has appeared over time since the Reformation.

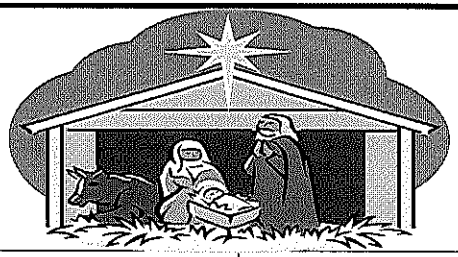
The first version was used in Luther's writings in the 1520s for the first time, and was in black and white, with Luther's initials.

A colorized rendition of the seal began appearing as printers began to include color images in Luther's works. Each one was laboriously painted by hand.



See more about the history of the Reformation at: http://lutheranreformation.org/

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				*1* 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 6 :00 p.m. Ladies Society Christmas Pot Blessing	*2 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off*	*3 Stewardship Weekend* 6:30 p.m. Vespers *Youth Wreath Sale Pick up*
4 Stewardship Weekend 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. SS/YG/BC 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion 12pm Trustees Meeting 12pm Hanging of Greens w/ Pizza *Youth Wreath Sale Pick up*	*5* 6:00 p.m. Life Team-Evangelism Mtg. 6:15 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. Elders	*6* 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Dartball (Lowell)	*7* 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 7:00 p.m. Advent Evening Prayer Service	*8* 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 6:00 p.m. Handbells **CHURCH SECRETARY OFF**	*9 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off* **OFFICE CLOSED** 7 p.m. & 10 p.m. Valpo Vespers 7:30 p.m. Young-at-Heart Play "Annie Warbucks"	*10* 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion
11 Angel Tree Gifts Due 8:00 a.m. Matins 9:15 a.m. SS/YG/BC 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion 1 p.m. Leathercrafters 1-6 p.m. MPR Rented 5-8 p.m. Youth Night at Church (hosted by Wanickis)	*12* 6:15 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Stewardship/Planning 7:30 p.m. Church Council	*13* 9:30 a.m. Pastors' Circuit Conf. (St. Paul, Munster) 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Dartball (Home)	*14* 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 7:00 p.m. Advent Evening Prayer Service	*15* 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 6:00 p.m. Handbells	*16 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off* 4:00—9:00 p.m. MPR Rented	*17* 6:30 p.m. Vespers **LL Book Fair**
18 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. SS/YG/BC *Youth to Breakfast* 10:45 a.m. Holy Communion 6:30 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Program **Little Lambs Scholastic Book Fair—North Classroom**	*19* **LLLC CLASS CHRISTMAS PARTIES** *LLLC Early Release* 6:00 p.m. Little Lambs Christmas Program	*20* 6:15 p.m. Choir Practice & Pot Blessing NO Confirmation NO Dartball	*21* *Little Lambs Christmas Break Begins* *No Class* 7:00 p.m. Office of Lamplighting Service	*22* NO Bible Study	*23 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off*	*24 Christmas Eve* 6:30 p.m. Christmas Candle/HC 10:00 p.m. Christmas Candle/HC
25 Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. Christmas Service *NO SS/YG/BC*	*26* **OFFICE CLOSED**	*27* NO Confirmation NO Dartball	*28*	*29* NO Bible Study	*30 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off*	*31 New Year's Eve* 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion

PASTOR ERIC KLEINSCHMIDT ON VACATION

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 a.m. H. C. 9:15 a.m. SS/YG/BC 10:45 a.m. H. C.	*2* **OFFICE CLOSED**	*3* Meet at 9:30 a.m. Youth Service Event at RMH, Chicago **OFFICE CLOSED** NO Confirmation NO Dartball	*4*	*5* 9:30 a.m. Bible Study	*6 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off*	*7* 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion
		PASTOR ERIC KLEINSCHMIDT ON VACATION				
8 8:00 a.m. Matins 9:15 a.m. SS/YG/BC 10:45 a.m. H. C. 12 p.m. Trustees 12 p.m. Unhanging of the Greens **with Soup & Chili Potluck**	*9* *Little Lambs Classes Resume* 7:00 p.m. Elders	*10* 9:30 a.m. Pastors' Circuit Conf. At Redeemer 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Dartball (Home)	*11* 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 6:30 p.m. Meeting (N.C.) 7:00 p.m. LifeLight	*12* 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 7:30 p.m. Dartball League Meeting	*13 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off*	*14 Lutherans for Life Door Offering* 6:30 p.m. Vespers
15 Lutherans for Life Door Offering 8:00 a.m. H. C. 9:15 a.m. SS/YG/BC Youth to Breakfast 10:45 a.m. H. C. 1 p.m. Leathercrafters 4 p.m. Young-at-Heart Planning Mtg.	*16* 6:30 p.m. Stewardship/Planning 7:30 p.m. Church Council	*17* 6:30 p.m. Confirmation *(No 6th grade Class)* 7:30 p.m. Dartball (Home)	*18* 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 7:00 p.m. LifeLight	*19* 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 6 p.m. Handbells	*20 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off*	*21* 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion
		VICAR WADE BELLESBACH OUT OF OFFICE—AT SYMPOSIUM IN FORT WAYNE				
22 8:00 a.m. Matins 9:15 a.m. SS/YG/BC 10:45 a.m. H. C.	*23* **10AM** **FEBRUARY/MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** 6:30 p. m. Youth Comm. Mtg.	*24* 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Dartball (Resurrection)	*25* 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 7:00 p.m. LifeLight	*26* 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel 6 p.m. Handbells	*27 Pastor's/Vicar's Day Off*	*28* 6:30 p.m. Vespers
29 8:00 a.m. H. C. 9:15 a.m. SS/YG/BC 10:45 a.m. H. C. 12 p.m. Polar Bear Picnic	*30*	*31* 6:00 p.m. Christian Ed. Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:30 p.m. Dartball				

Collections at Redeemer:

- Campbell Soup Labels
  (*box in church **KITCHEN** – for Bethesda Homes*)

- Aluminum Pop Tabs
  (*basket in church foyer – for Ronald McDonald House, Chicago*)

- Ink Jet Cartridges ***(Small cartridges only – cannot have been previously refilled)***
  (*basket in church foyer – for Redeemer Youth Group*)

- Aluminum Cans [**RINSED** & ***crushed***]
  (*porch behind church foyer – for Redeemer Youth*)

- Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs, Junk Mail, Copy Paper, Shredded Paper ***(shredded paper ONLY put in plastic bags)*** – **NO** PHONE BOOKS, CARDBOARD, OR PLASTIC
  (*Green & Yellow Dumpster in church parking lot – for Youth*)

- Old Cell Phones – **only the phone & battery (no chargers)**
  (*basket in church foyer – for Redeemer Youth Group*)

Redeemer Lutheran Church

(A Congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

9009 Kennedy Avenue ◆ Highland, Indiana 46322
Website: www.redeemerhighland.org ◆ Email: info@redeemerhighland.org
Follow us: www.facebook.com/redeemerhighlandlcms
Phone: (219) 838-4898

Services:

Saturday:.....6:30 p.m.
Sunday:.....8:00 a.m.
.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday School, Youth Group & Adult Bible Study:

Sunday:.....9:15 a.m.

Advent/Christmas Special Service Schedule:

Advent Evening Prayer Services (Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 14).....7:00 p.m.
Sunday School Christmas Program (December 18).....6:30 p.m.
Lamplighting Service (December 21).....7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight & Holy Communion....6:30 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion.....10:00 a.m.
New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion.....6:30 p.m.

Staff:

Pastor: Eric Allan Kleinschmidt
Vicar: Wade Bellebach
Admin. Asst.: Stacy Broviak

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Pastor & Vicar are OFF on Fridays.
THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED – Nov. 24 & 25; Dec. 9; Dec. 26; and Jan. 2 & 3

It is the mission of Redeemer Lutheran Church through worship, fellowship, witness, service and education to proclaim Jesus Christ as God's Son and the world's Savior, crucified and risen from death to give us NEW LIFE

DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017 Newsletter