

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
312 WEST NORTH STREET  
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*DECEMBER 2023*

# *Voice of Redeemer*

Our Mission:

Sharing God's Love & Touching Lives

Our Values:

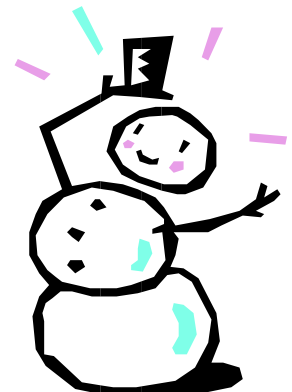
Reaching the Lost

Word & Sacraments

Being Christ-Centered

Growing Spiritually

Loving One-Another & Others





# December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class 9:45am Odyssey Children's Sunday School 11am Worship	<b>27</b> 1pm Weight Watchers	<b>28</b> 10:30am Cheer Club 12:30pm Bridge Club	<b>29</b> 12:30pm Bridge Club 4pm Hand Bells 5pm Choir 6pm Confirmation Class	<b>30</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study <b>9:30am Decorate Redeemer for Christmas!</b> 1pm Heart to Heart 2pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Vespers Holiday Craft and Bake Sale 8am-2pm</b>
<b>3</b> 8:30am Worship w/ Lord's Supper 9:45am Odyssey Children's Sunday School 10am Congregational Voter's Meeting 11am Worship w/ Lord's Supper	<b>4</b> 10am Bible Study 1pm Weight Watchers	<b>5</b> 11am Christian Women's Society (CWS) 12:30pm Bridge Club	<b>6</b> 10am Midweek Advent Worship 12:30pm Bridge Club 4pm Hand Bells 5pm Choir 6pm Midweek Advent Worship	<b>7</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 1pm Heart to Heart 2pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Last Day for Church Pictures</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class 9:45am Odyssey Children's Sunday School 11am Worship	<b>11</b> 10am Bible Study 1pm Weight Watchers 1pm LWML - Vespers	<b>12</b> 10am Elders Meeting 10:30am Cheer Club 12:30pm Bridge Club	<b>13</b> 10am Midweek Advent Worship 12:30pm Bridge Club 4pm Hand Bells 5pm Choir 6pm Midweek Advent Worship	<b>14</b> <b>8am Foot Care Ministry</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 1pm Heart to Heart 2pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:30am Odyssey Sunday School Christmas Program 9:45am Christmas Reception 9:45am Odyssey Sunday School Christmas Party 11am Christmas Music Festival	<b>18</b> 10am Bible Study 1pm Weight Watchers 5pm Council Meeting	<b>19</b> 12:30pm Bridge Club	<b>20</b> 10am Midweek Advent Worship 12:30pm Bridge Club 4pm Hand Bells 5pm Choir 6pm Midweek Advent Worship	<b>21</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 1pm Heart to Heart 2pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class 9:45am Odyssey Children's Sunday School 11am Worship <b>6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service</b>	<b>25</b> <b>10am Christmas Day Worship w/ Lord's Supper</b> <b>Merry Christmas!</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed for Christmas</b> Twin Lakes Playhouse practice in FLC Gym 1pm-4pm everyday through Sat, Nov. 30th	<b>27</b> <b>Office Closed for Christmas</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Office Closed for Christmas</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Twin Lakes Playhouse in FLC Gym 1pm-4pm (Final Day)
<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Adult Bible Class 9:45am Odyssey Children's Sunday School 11am Worship	<b>1</b> <b>Office Closed for New Year's Day</b>	<b>2</b> 10am Property Team Meeting 12:30pm Bridge Club	<b>3</b> 12:30pm Bridge Club	<b>4</b> 8:30am Men's Bible Study 1pm Heart to Heart 2pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

## From Pastor Kevin McReynolds



The piece of paper that represents the better part of my life between Fall 1987 through Christmas of 1991 hangs in my office on the wall nearest to my head as I write. It is a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of NE in Economics.

I don't often get to use the lessons I learned in those Economics classes apart from when I make cross-application of them. E.g. *When demand increases, supply must also increase proportionately in order to meet the demand.* It's a general principle of Economics that can translate into other disciplines – even into theology. E.g. *the more we sin, the more we need God's grace and forgiveness* (see **Romans 6:1**), OR *When more people show up in church on a Sunday, we need more seating to accommodate them.* Pretty simple – especially considering this represents much of what I retain after almost 4 years learning. Sheesh!

But there is another lesson from Economics that we learned – one that afflicts us presently in our country: *Inflation*. Inflation can be described as the upward movement of the cost of goods and services in an economy. It's bad for an economy. Especially when the rise in cost of goods or services outpaces the rise in the disposable income people have to purchase those goods or services. (This pretty much describes our current predicament in the US, doesn't it?). For instance, I have been building a little shed to store our outdoor tools in. I'm nearing the end of the project and needed to purchase some pieces of aluminum fascia to finish the outside of the building. I went to the local lumberyard and got a quote and was *stunned* to find out how much this stuff costs – because in my old life in the building materials business, I used to sell it. The cost has almost *quadrupled* since the last time I sold this material back in 2003. 20 years at 4x the price? That works out to an annual average rate of inflation of 7%!

Inflation can be scary – it devalues currency and, when out of control, it can be the archenemy of an otherwise healthy economy. But inflation isn't necessarily all bad. Prices *should* increase over time – proportional to the rate of wage increase. It's only when prices increase, and wages can't keep up (*usually due to supply and demand issues*) when things get out of hand and inflation occurs and your dollar doesn't go as far as it once did.

Why all this talk about stuff that mostly gets us consumers nervous? Because, as I said: I mostly only get to use my Economics degree when I am borrowing a concept – in this case: Inflation. Specifically, when Inflation is a *good* thing. We have been experiencing inflation here at Redeemer: New members are now a part of the Body of Christ with us. As I write, I'm only moments before a Mission & Ministry Council Meeting where I will report the congregational statistics. This report shows the average age here at Redeemer is dropping (!) Bible Studies, Sunday School, and Confirmation classes are all inflated in size over the same time last year! Giving at the church is outpacing our expenditures! We are experiencing upward movement and expansion in many phases here at Redeemer – *Soli Deo Gloria!*

*(Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!).*

But inflation can be scary! With younger members, the demand for classes, teachers, programs, and services change. With larger classes, the need for more space is vital. With newer people, the struggle to figure out how to assimilate and include them weighs on us. Maybe you've heard the adage of how we should look at these things not as problems per se, but instead as *opportunities*! The Lord has been good to us – His gifts are many and manifest! How will we respond to these opportunities He has placed before us?

This past Sunday (*the twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost*), the Gospel reading appointed was from **Matt. 25:14-30** where Jesus tells a parable about the Kingdom of God. He said it was like a man who went on a journey and entrusted to his servants his property. To each of the different servants, he gave talents – each according to his ability. Upon his return, the man called the servants to account. The faithful servants utilized the talents and made more, whereas the unfaithful servant buried the talent and waited for the master's return. Our role as Christ's Bride, the Church, is not to hide away that which He has given us, but to be always caring for, nurturing, and encouraging further growth of what always was the Master's. How can WE help to inflate (grow) the Harvest? What unique talents, resources, and abilities has God blessed YOU with that could be put to use for your Master? These are questions we MUST ask ourselves if we count ourselves a part of God's Kingdom on earth!

Which brings me back to that paper that hangs by my head on the wall alongside my desk. When I look at some of the other pieces of paper there, they represent ways that I have invested the talents the Lord has bestowed on me – part of which have me here as your Pastor. I don't say this to brag or make over myself, but rather because these pieces of paper are an ever-present reminder to me that whatever I have, however I have put what I have to use... it all flowed first from God's gifts to me.

What will you do with the gifts God has given you? How can you use those gifts in service and love to others as we work together to grow God's Kingdom? Here's a thought: This Christmas, as in Christmases of the past, I want to make you aware of some *other* papers that exist that tell a different story than the ones that hang by my head in my office. There is a file in the church office that contains several vetted organizations that are seeking assistance – either monetary or servant-wise. Some of them are Registered Service Organizations (RSO's) of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and are working in many and various ways to inflate the Kingdom of God, but they also have many and various needs. I'd like you to consider looking through these files to find some that you might be excited about supporting in lieu of giving a gift. (After all, the supply of our own gifts likely far outweighs our demand for them – if you're anything like me, you live abundantly!) How about donating to or sharing with an individual or an organization that is in need this Christmas? Stop by the office and peruse this file – and if there's nothing there that trips your trigger, but you still are interested in helping, stop in and see me. I'll help connect you to a person or entity who is in need. The work of the Kingdom isn't done until the Master returns – there is still time!

May God bless your Christmas!

In Christ,

Rev. Kevin McReynolds



## **GIFT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Matthew 10:8 [Jesus said], “You received without paying; give without pay.”** Would you like to give a gift that you know would be appreciated? In our church office, we maintain a file of many different Registered Service Organizations (RSO’s) of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, properly vetted non-RSO’s, and mission opportunities (both local and international) who are in need of your support.

At this time of year when we remember the gifts our Heavenly Father has given to us – *especially* the gift of His Son – we understand how fortunate we are! God has blessed us even when we don’t deserve His blessings. These many and various organizations could use your help in continuing their Kingdom work. Stop by the church office and peruse the file to see you could help fund the mission of any of these entities. A short list of these groups are included below – and more information is available in the file. (Individual missionaries are not listed, but if you would like to support one, please visit Pastor McReynolds for more information):

Camp Trinity Lutheran	Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Chai v’ Shalom	Lutheran Church Charities
Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch	Lutheran World Relief
Gideons	Disaster Relief
Gleanings for the Hungry	Mission Development
Haiti Lutheran Mission Society	Orphan Grain Train
Informed Choices Women’s Center	Sole Hope
Jews For Jesus	St. Paul’s Lutheran High School – Concordia, MO
Kindness Inc.	Trinity Hope
Lutheran Bible Translators	Unity Lutheran Elementary School – East St. Louis, MO
Lutheran Braille Workers	Ysleta Lutheran Mission

## **MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:**

In addition to the many possibilities of supporting missions and missionaries, we have many available options for giving and sharing right here at Redeemer Lutheran Church. We currently maintain our Organ Fund where we are taking donations for the purchase of a new organ. At his last visit, our organ repairman informed us that our organ is an aging instrument and the company that built it has been sold, thus parts to repair it are becoming harder to find. We started this fund soon after learning this, and *before* calling our Director of Parish Music. Aaron has helped us tremendously and has also proposed the possibility of purchasing a replacement organ in phases to help keep the overall cost down. If you are interested in supporting our organ fund, you can simply place it with your regular offering and label it “organ fund” in the memo line.

## **STAINED GLASS:**

Did you know that the original plans for our Sanctuary included stained glass all around that told the stories of Scripture? These stained-glass artworks were removed from the original plans in an effort to save money and build the most cost-efficient building. We are the present benefactors of their future vision as we worship comfortably in our beautiful Sanctuary. The Mission & Ministry Council of Redeemer Lutheran has discussed the possibility of partnering with an artist to bring to life the once-held vision of having stained glass windows where we currently have clear panes in our Sanctuary. If you would like to support this vision either with a gift or with some future estate planning, please visit with Pastor McReynolds.





## December Altar Guild Schedule

### SET-UP TEAMS

Linda Templeton & Linda Dohrman

### FILL CANDLES WITH OIL

Ron Ufkes & John Fox

### CLEAN-UP TEAMS

Dec. 3 AND 17 – 8:30 a.m. Service – Team 6

Christmas Day, Dec. 25 – 10:00 a.m. Service – Team 6

Marcia Reinert, Linda Dohrman & Sue Jennings

Dec. 3 AND 17 – 11:00 a.m. Service – Team 10

Linda Hensley, Luann Kathol & MaryAnn Mixon

If you have questions, please call Marcia Reinert 870-373-1955

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## December Food Pantry Schedule

The Food Pantry Volunteer Schedule for December is listed below.

Each volunteer will work 2-hour shifts.

Morning shift: 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Afternoon shift: Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Thanks to all of you for the time you give for others.

	<u>10:00 a.m. – Noon</u>	<u>Noon - 2 p.m.</u>
Wed., Dec. 6	Linda Templeton & Vickie Mendoza	Doris Latimer & MaryAnn Mixon
Wed., Dec. 13	Ken & Carol Beeman, Judy Curtiss	Joyce Kieltyka & JoAnn McGuire
Wed., Dec. 20	Sandy Smakal & Karen Boyd, Amy McReynolds	Craig & Judy McNabb
Wed., Dec. 27	David & Marcia Reinert, Linda Templeton	Monroe & Sandra Schmidt

If you can't make your scheduled time, please contact Linda Templeton 870-421-3503.

We have volunteers to help when someone can't make their scheduled time.

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The Elders' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 19, at 10:00 a.m. at church. All Elders (Advisory, Visiting, and Assisting) are asked to attend. Following is the schedule for distribution of Holy Communion.

Dec. 3	8:30 a.m.	Mark Feicho, Stan Helms and John Templeton
Dec. 3	11:00 a.m.	Jim Hitch, Greg Williams and Jeff Hensley
Dec. 17	8:30 a.m.	John Fox, Steve Hacker and Ron Ufkes
Dec. 17	11:00 a.m.	Jim Hitch, Greg Williams and Jeff Hensley
Dec. 25	10:00 a.m.	Mark Feicho, Steve Hacker and John Templeton (Monday Christmas Day)

# Food Pantry Report for December Newsletter

## Monthly Update for October 2023

We served 109 families in October of which 19 were new families. There were 69 children under the age of 18; 121 adults from the age of 19 to 64; and 23 senior citizens for a total of 213 individuals.

Total expenses for October were \$4,506.00.

The donations for October were \$1,449.00.

We continue to need paper sacks. Thank you to those who have brought us paper sacks this last month. It is very helpful. We are still collecting plastic bags.

If you should shop at Harp's or Town and Country, you can ask them to bag your groceries in a paper sack. You can drop them off in the box in the narthex.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help distribute or shop for our Food Pantry, please contact me, Linda Templeton at 870-421-3503.

Thank you all for the monetary donations and/or all the food donations. I hope the chart with the items we hand out helps those that would like to donate food items. The past eight months were great with the congregation's donations of food. Please continue with these donations, as it is greatly needed and appreciated.

Linda Templeton, Chairman of the Redeemer Food Pantry

### Monthly List of food for the Redeemer Food Pantry

<u>January</u> 1lb pkg Spaghetti or 15oz can Pasta Sauce Any flavor	<u>February</u> Peanut Butter 18oz or Jelly or Jam 12 to 20oz	<u>March</u> Oatmeal Regular or 8.5oz with 6-10 pkts Instant or Box of Macaroni and Cheese	<u>April</u> 1lb Instant Pancake Mix or Box of Cereal Any kind	<u>May</u> Cans of Soup Any Kind or Box Saltine Crackers	<u>June</u> Canned Vegetables Any kind or 15oz Can Beef Stew or 15oz can Chili
<u>July</u> 5oz Can Tuna/Chicken or 1lb bag of beans Any kind	<u>August</u> 14oz Can of Cranberry Sauce or 15oz can Pumpkin Puree	<u>September</u> 15oz Can of Sweet Potatoes or 6.2oz Box of Instant Mashed Potatoes	<u>October</u> 6oz Box of Dressing/ Stuffing or 3.5oz pkg of French Fried onions	<u>November</u> Pkg Dinners like Tuna or Hamburger Helper, etc or 1lb and 2lb bag of rice	<u>December</u> 15oz can Fruit Any kind or 3oz Pkg of Ramen Noodles Beef or Chicken

We have listed the items that we distribute to our clients each month and if you like you can purchase one or two of these items to donate to the Food Pantry. You can put the items in the box in the Narthex and someone from the pantry will pick them up for distribution. We appreciate everyone who has donated food items or monetary gifts. In the last 6 months we have nearly doubled our family clientele. **Please no glass jars.**

Thank you so much for being so generous and gracious.  
Linda Templeton, Redeemer's Food Pantry Manager

## Finance Team Update

**2 Corinthians 9:6 *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***

Have you ever forgotten the checkbook on a Sunday morning? Misplaced that box of envelopes? Would you like to be more consistent in your giving to church? One way to make giving easier (and thereby making more cheerful givers!) is to donate to church online.

Some of you may not know that we have an online donation system. You can access it on your computer from our website home page or from our Facebook page below each of our YouTube videos. You can setup a single one-time donation or reoccurring donations from your credit/debit card or directly from your checking account by clicking on any of the tiles on that page. Be aware, there is a charge for the convenience of donating this way. For credit/debit card donations there is a flat fee of 45 cents plus 2.84% on the amount of the donation. For a direct bank account donation, the flat fee is 24 cents plus 1% of the amount of the donation. The website has an option for you to increase your donation to cover the charges on your donation but if this is not selected, these expenses are deducted from your donation and the church absorbs the cost of the transaction.

Note that you can make an automated donation without any charges if you use your banks "Bill Payer" service. Banks typically offer this service free of charge just for having an account with them. Within this service, you can set up an autopay on a weekly or monthly reoccurring basis. If you have online access to your bank account, you should be able to set this up yourself from your computer. If you don't have online access, your bank can help set this up for you. You will need the church's address and your envelope number to use as an account number when setting up this service. If you have questions about any of these options or need help in setting up any of these services, please call Mark Troester at 870-421-7065 for assistance.

## Restricted Funds Information

We have a new restricted fund for "Eden Village". Eden Village has broken ground at 1594 Cannie Baker Road. It is a tiny-home community that will provide permanent housing to low income, disabled individuals of the community as soon as next summer. Other active restricted funds include: Food Pantry, Foot Care, Altar Guild, Broadcast Ministries (KTLO), Center of Hope, Organ Replacement/Repair, Redeemer Benevolence Fund, Heart to Heart, Cheer Club, Handbells and Choir. This is not a complete list but covers the ones that are most active and need our support.

## Message about the Redeemer Benevolence Fund

We occasionally receive donations to the Redeemer Benevolence fund for a specific person. As a refresh reminder about the process, the benevolence fund is administered by our Benevolence Team. They research what is needed and report to the church Council for approval of any fund disbursements. The Benevolence Team includes Jim Hitch, Joan Fox and Dar Zipperer. If you know someone who needs help from this fund, let any one of these team members know and they will determine the level of assistance needed. You do not need to include a name on your donation to the Benevolence Fund but you do need to tell one of the Benevolence Team members about the need. Thank you for your support of this fund.



## **CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S SOCIETY DECEMBER 2023 NEWS**



Our group gathers together every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11am for fellowship, fun and periodically having guest speakers. We organize the Church Garage Sales and help with other activities in the church. With the money from the sales, we are able to help community missions and some of our District and church programs. All ladies are invited to join us.

**Our meeting time has changed for December. It will be on Tuesday 5th at**

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Even though the sales are over till next year we still collect jewelry throughout the year. You can give the Jewelry to Luanne Stone, Pat Hacker or Cathy Troester. If you have any furniture or big items for our next sale contact Cathy Troester. Our drop off days will start again in March. Watch for more info in February.

**This year we were blessed to be able to donate money to these missions:**

Concordia Seminary (Adopt a Student)    Alpha House    Gamma House

Concordia Seminary (Food Pantry)    Hospice House    Serenity Inc.

Heart to Heart    KCMH Christian Radio    Care Center Ministries    Kindness Inc.

Twin Lake Literacy Council    Hospice of the Ozarks    Sunday School Odessey

Into the Light (Human Trafficking)    Salvation Army (Thanksgiving Meals)

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(HELPING YOU BELONG) We are about welcoming people to Redeemer at the Sunday Service's. All you need is a smiling face to greet new visitors. We can use people for both services. Stop by the HUB to sign-up.

**Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!**





## Stories behind Our Favorite Hymns

Our December Hymn of the Month is "*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*". It was written by Georg Weissel (1590-1635), born in Prussia. He was a scholar, a school teacher, a German Lutheran minister and hymn writer. He wrote about 20 hymns. This hymn first appeared in 1642, after Georg had died.

Weissel lived through and died during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). This was a devastating time as struggles between Protestant princes of Bohemia and the Catholic Emperor lead to plundering and the untold suffering that brought disease and famine. During this time the population of Germany dwindled from 16 million to 6 million in 30 years.

Pastor Weissel was inspired by Psalm 24 to write this hymn. David was calling the people of Jerusalem to prepare for the Ark of the Covenant coming into the city. The Ark represented the presence of the Lord. David called for the people to open the gates so the Lord could enter.

In like manner, this hymn calls us to open the gates of our hearts so the Lord can enter there. It calls us to make our heart a temple, fit for the Lord. The first verse is our waiting for the "King of Glory" who is the "Savior of the World" (see Psalm 24:7-10). In verse two we see the times full of "distress" and "woe". Verse four reminds us that the gates are the "portals of [our] hearts". Our heart becomes a "temple set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ". In verse five, we see the "King" has become a "Redeemer" who will abide in our wide-open hearts. The petition is to the Holy Spirit to "lead us on until the glorious race is won" (i.e. lead us to eternity).

During Advent, we wait for a Savior who will not only change our hearts now, but will come in glory in the fulfillment of time.

Psalm 24:7 "***Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.***"

### Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring;  
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings;  
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is He  
Who comes to set His people free.  
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in  
And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
- 5 Redeemer, come and open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
O enter with Thy grace divine;  
Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

LSB #744

# Holiday



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023**

**8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M**

**\$5.00**

**\*CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP \*CRUSTY BREAD\* COOKIE  
DINE IN OR CARRY OUT\*11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

**\*FREE COFFEE & SPICED APPLE CIDER**

**\*DRAWING FOR \$50 GIFT CARD**

**\*REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL  
N. HWY. 5 & NORTH STREET MT. HOME, AR**

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE OZARK CENTER OF HOPE**

## DONATIONS

**You may put your donations for the Holiday Craft and Bake Sale in the  
kitchen on Thursday, November 30 or bring them to the Fellowship Hall**

**between 8 a.m. -3 p.m.**

**on Friday, December 1**

**or contact Bobbie (314-712-7768), Carol (618-210-1482) or**

**Doris (870-405-4169) if this is not convenient.**

**Would appreciate it if you would mark a price on the item(s) you are donating and let us  
know who to thank for the donation.**

**Thank you for your support in this worthwhile project.**



# Secured by Scripture



*God's WORD reminds us that we are anchored and held in Him. God is always looking to find us. He comes to us in many ways.*

*This series hopes to share resources where God's Word can speak to you in your daily life.*

Remember counting down to Christmas with an Advent calendar? This book, designed for families, has daily devotions with a lift-a-flap calendar in the back of the book.

Counting to Christmas: Family Advent Devotions and Calendar has a daily devotion centering around a question children might ask (*How could baby Jesus be the Prince of Peace? Who tells the angels what to do? Who led the wise men to Jesus?*). Children will ask questions. Each devotion not only address a question, but will get children thinking about something they can say (a Bible verse), do and pray about.

Advent is a time of preparation, a time to focus on our need for a Savior and on God's response to that need by sending His very own Son to be our Savior.

The devotional is easy enough for older children to read on their own and for younger children to understand. Paired with an advent wreath (lighting candles), hymns and setting up a nativity, this devotional can provide hope and comfort in Jesus.

This book can become a yearly Advent tradition and will hopefully spark devotion time in families year-round.

Counting to Christmas is available at [CPH.org](http://CPH.org) for \$12.99.



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A huge THANK YOU to all of you who filled shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We delivered 34 boxes to the collection site at East Side Baptist Church on 11/16/23. It was great fun getting together on a Saturday morning to pool all our little 'treasures' and go around the tables selecting from the 'goodies' to fill several shoe boxes. We hope to make it bigger, better and even more fun in 2024 so watch for more information in the coming months. Remember that you still have time to build-a-box online. We can actually do that up until the end of December. Just go to the Redeemer website at [Redeemermtnhome.org](http://Redeemermtnhome.org). Go over to the right and select the 'Serve' tab. Under that, the third selection is 'World'. Then select 'Operation Christmas Child Build-A-Box'. We set a goal of 20 online boxes for December 1st, but we can utilize this site until the end of December to meet that goal. So have some fun selecting from the comfort of your home. The cost is \$25.00 and that includes the shipping!!

Remember that not only are we brightening the life of a little child somewhere in the world, but we are also bringing the gospel message of God's gift of his Son Jesus Christ to the world. It is the easiest evangelism outreach we can do, without even leaving our home. We can all be proud of Redeemer's participation in the largest children ministry in the world.



HAVE A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON



Please bring cookies for our  
reception on  
Sunday, December 17th  
Thank you!



### Special Worship Services

\*You are invited to join us in the  
celebration of Jesus' birth.\*

Sunday December 17th

at 8:30 a.m. (Odyssey Sunday School Christmas Program)  
and 11 a.m. (Christmas Music Festival)

*\*Please join us between services for goodies,  
coffee, and punch in the Fellowship Hall.\**

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### PERFORMANCE PLUS

January 14, 2024 – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Our talent show is fast approaching. Take the rust and dust off your talents and get ready to share them with your Redeemer Families 1st talent extravaganza. Get to know our members hidden talents and have a fun afternoon.

Please fill out the registration form and return to Carol Steinbach or Lynne Zimmer by January 3, 2024 or in the box at church in the narthex.

A few ideas — comedy, ventriloquism, monologues, puppetry, magic, skits, mime, kitchen band. There will be more ideas posted in the narthex. Surprise us with your creativity.





## Odyssey Children's Sunday School

Children from the age of 3 years old through the 5<sup>th</sup> grade will enjoy learning about Jesus and our Christian values at Sunday School between services from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

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### Sunday Morning Bible Study

In the Bible Study between Worship Services, Pastor McReynolds is taking up the topic of the Lord's Supper. We will study the theology and practice according to the Word of God. Do you have questions about what we believe, teach, and confess? Here is your chance to learn WHY we believe as we do about The Sacrament. Join us between services on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall for Adult Bible Class.



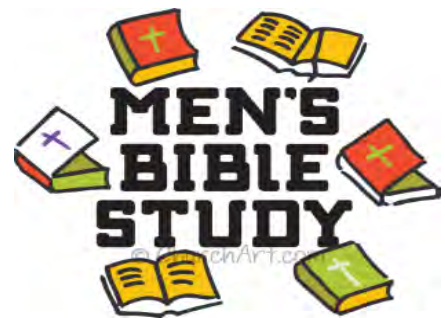
### Monday Morning Bible Study

Pastor Gadbow is leading the Monday Morning Bible Study. We are working through the books of the minor prophets: Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah. These books were written to call God's people to repent of their sins, to exercise justice among the oppressed and to look to the Messiah. Although written against Nineveh, Nahum brings "good news" to believers. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Monday mornings.

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### Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study

Pastor McReynolds leads the Men's Bible Study on **Zionism & Millennialism** beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and Donuts will be available at church at 8:30AM for those who don't go Cozy Kitchen beforehand (so we can still enjoy some fellowship). We welcome any newcomers to the study also!





## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

will be held on

Dec 24th at 6:00 p.m.

Dec 25th at 10:00 a.m.

## **ADVENT SERVICES**

Will be on Wednesdays

Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

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## **REDEEMER CHOIR & BELL CHOIR**



Wednesday Practice times:

Bell Choir 4:00 p.m.

Choir 5:00 p.m.

Aaron Jackson

Music Director

903-724-2800

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## **2024 FLOWER CHART**

The new chart is located on the Office Window in the hallway between the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall. If you want to purchase altar flowers to recognize a special date, post your name as well as the names of the honorees

and the occasion on the Flower Chart. The cost is \$17.00 for each bouquet. Please indicate if you want to purchase 1 or 2 bouquets by putting the number next to your name and circling it. Make your check payable to: Redeemer Lutheran Church, note "flowers" in the memo line and submit your check to the church office. You can pick up flowers after the 11:00 a.m. service Sunday or Monday. Stephanie McElroy 870-425-6071 Monday through Thursday.

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## **FOOT CARE MINISTRY**



Foot Care is the third Thursday of each month from 8:00a.m. to noon. If you would like to help in this ministry, please call: Linda Templeton

870-421-3503. In December Foot Care will meet December 14, 2023 due to the upcoming holiday.

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HAPPY  
*Anniversary!*

12/12	Jim & Nickie Dages	63 yrs.
12/16	Leonard & Dolly Cardascio	45 yrs.
12/16	Robert & Judy Nosari	62 yrs.
12/18	Bill & Sandi Garner	59 yrs.
12/19	Brad & Lani Hasselwander	31 yrs.
12/23	Dan & Donna Hall	46 yrs.
12/28	Stan & Joanne Helms	44 yrs.
12/29	Kevin & Sandra Rosenkotter	39 yrs.
12/30	Don & Nancy Salawater	62 yrs.
12/30	Ron & Maggie Schneider	28 yrs.

## ***Scholarships***

Redeemer Lutheran Church has scholarships available for students who wish to attend college. You can request an application from the church office. For those students who have received assistance and are applying again for this semester, you must submit a report of your grades from last semester along with the classes you will be attending this semester. The deadline is January 31, 2024.

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## **KTLO Radio**

Worship services at Redeemer Lutheran are being broadcast on local radio station KTLO 97.9 FM at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. Find Videos of Sunday Services and Sunday

Bible Classes on our web site:

[redeemer@redeemermtnhome.org](mailto:redeemer@redeemermtnhome.org)



# December Birthdays



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Ashley Smith	2
3 Betty Jardine Tammy Johns Keith Loos Rick McGuire MaryAnn Mixon	4	5	6 Eden Edwards Robert Stone	7 Kyle Jennings	8	9
10 Karolyn Cooper Lani Hasselwander Wanda Meger	11	12 Adele DeVries	13 Patsy Hays	14 Pat Kumsher Curt Shirkey	15 Doris Latimer	16 Emily Lewis
17 Rita Ament Emily Pelton	18 Jim Berres Rachel Bipes Marilyn Snyder	19	20	21 Joanne Helms Ron Westergaard	22 Lois Grindley Kathy Metzger Carol Steinbach	23 Martha Ahrens
24 Oral Olson	25 	26 Brandon Gamelin Larry Johnson	27	28 Sherry Ebert	29 Shirley Ford Chloe Nosari	30
31 Jim Dages Joyce Woehlecke						