



## Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

*Transforming Lives  
and Building Community  
by Loving God  
and Serving Others*

## The Monthly Newsletter of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

**December 2016**

### See inside for:

- ◆ **December Worship**
- ◆ **Cookie Shop**
- ◆ **OWLS Events**
- ◆ **Mission Trip Opportunities**

### Advent. Beginning, waiting, preparation, coming.

These are some of the common definitions of the word advent. Perhaps a combination of all would be better than one single word, even though the Latin meaning of the word advent is *coming*. Advent is a beginning, a starting out. It is the point where God's Son begins his life as an incarnate human being, living among us, teaching us, and showing us the example of how to live a life of unselfish sacrifice.



Waiting...waiting...waiting. What are we waiting for?

We wait and we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior. Sometimes we prepare with extravagant excitement and sometimes we get ready in prayerful preparation and devotion. No matter how we prepare for the celebration of the birth of the Savior, we need to remember that Christ is at the center of these days.

Christ was born. He walked the earth as the Servant King, healing, feeding, leading, teaching, preaching, and loving. It is important to remember that without the story of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, the Christmas story would be no more than a story about a little boy, born into difficult circumstances on chilly night in a stable. The heart of the matter lies in the cross, the cross where our Lord died for us. He, the one perfect life, died because we are sinful. We need the Savior, not to celebrate the giving of gifts, Christmas cookies, and beautiful twinkling lights. We need the Savior because in our humanity, we sin in "thought, word, and deed...by what we have done and by what we have left undone." (*Lutheran Book of Worship*, p. 56) Three days later he rose from the dead promising us salvation and resurrection and newness of life.

There is a mindfulness about this season of the year. We remember that not only did Christ come as a wee babe in a lowly manger, he will come again, at a time only the Father knows. And for that day, we wait with eagerness, when we will be united with all the saints who have gone before. There is a place prepared for us, and let us remember why we wait, why we prepare with joy and thanksgiving, during this beautiful season of the year.

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Matthew 1:23 (NRSV)*



Peace and blessings to you,

Intern Pastor Carol Strand

## Friend Sunday

We all have friends around us: old friends, new friends, good friends, casual friends. Having friends around us is good for so many reasons. And finding time and things to do with our friends is always important.

One of the things we will be doing on Sunday, January 22 is calling it Friend Sunday and inviting you to bring a friend to worship. This might be a friend who has strong ties to a faith community - what a great way to form a link with them by inviting them to your church and you visit their church another day. You might invite a friend who you know does not have a faith home or much of a faith life - what a great way to reach out in care for them.

So think and pray and then talk to one or more of your friends (neighbor, childhood friend, co-worker, part of another group) and invite them to come with you on January 22 (or any other day for that matter). There will be a special focus in worship that day on friendship and a special fellowship time after the services. We want to meet some of your friends and have them see a little more about your world and faith. Come be a part of friend Sunday.

## Strength Finders

### Living Your Strengths Presentation Rescheduled for Dec. 1st

Join us on Thursday, December 1st for an insightful presentation on '*Living Your Strengths*' from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This is our third presentation offered and we are honored to have Nancy Lee Gauche, who is an experienced presenter in the Strengths training area, join us once again for this evening of enlightenment and learning. This program helps identify and affirm your talents/strengths, as well as discover how to use them for growth and service in every area of your life. A number of individuals have already participated in this program and have had fun discovering more about themselves and finding ways to celebrate and live into those strengths in their church, home, and work life.

*Thank you* to those who have already signed up to be a part of this. For those who are thinking about it, there is still time! God has uniquely designed each one of us and we think you will find it interesting to learn and understand your individual strengths and talents. We feel there is so much value in this, Our Redeemer is covering 1/2 of the cost. \$10 will get you the book which contains an access code to take a short on-line assessment quiz to identify your individual top 5 strengths. Books can be picked up during the week in the office. Please consider joining us for this session to identify, understand, and live into our strengths to further God's work in our church, community, and world.

# Worship Schedule

## **Advent Worship (11/30, 12/7, 12/14) 6:30pm**

Come join us again for our special Wednesday evening gatherings (11/30, 12/7, 12/14) for worship at 6:30, and even better will be coming for the meal being served from 5:30-6:30. These Advent services are always enjoyable times for helping in our holy preparations for the season, being able to sing some grand music, and turning our eyes to the manger.

## **Sunday Worship (12/3, 12/11, 12/18) 8:45 & 11am and 12/25 one service at 10am**

Join us for our regular worship times for the first three Sundays of December. On 12/11, we will be having a Christmas program during the 11am service.

## **The Longest Night (12/21) 6:30pm**

Longest Night is a special service of quiet and reflection that recognizes the difficulties of life and this very season. Come worship and let a live potter help us to see ourselves as worthy vessels of God's love and tender care.

## **Christmas Eve (12/24) 4:30pm & 10:30pm**

4:30pm Blessing of the Family Service—10:30pm Candlelight Communion Service

## **Christmas Day (12/25) 10:00am**

On Christmas Day, we will have one worship service at 10:00am which will be our Lessons and Carols Service.

## Christmas Story worship

Come join us for a special worship on Sunday, December 11 at our 11:00am service for what will be a delightful worship marked by children, youth and adults bringing the Christmas drama to life within the framework of our worship. Come sing, watch, listen and engage in this special worship around the Christmas story. If you would like to be a part of the program (any age is welcome!) please see someone on the children's ministry team.



## Cookie Shop Sale!

Saturday, December 3rd  
8:30am to noon or til they're gone!  
\$5/dozen

We could use volunteers to both help set-up and plate the cookies on Friday evening as well as help us with the sale on Saturday morning. If you would like to help, please let Lisa or any member of the Children's ministry team know.



## Baker's Wanted!

Please bake 1 dozen (or 10 dozen!) cookies for the annual Cookie Shop fundraiser, benefitting Children's Ministry Program! Drop off cookies on Friday, December 2nd from 10am-7pm.

Thank you to all those who helped with our youth pie fundraiser! Thanks to the bakers and the buyers of these thanksgiving pies. Check out some pics below:





## **Upcoming OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) Events – EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

### **Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Lights in the Park at Phalen Lake**

Join us at our Wednesday evening meal @ 5:30 with Advent worship following @ 6:30-7:00. We will then head over to Phalen Lake to view the fun holiday light display featuring over 60 animated sculptures. Return time approximately 7:30. Maybe even find more decorated homes to see! Rides will be provided. Event is free.

### **Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – January Afternoon Game Time**

We'll have an afternoon of game fun at church to liven up those hard January days. Game time will start at 3:30 with snacks provided. Stay afterwards for our Wednesday evening meal. Event is free.

Here are a couple pics from one of our recent events:



## **Project Home**

"Thanks again Our Redeemer for opening your doors to Project Home". That was a message we heard over and over again from the staff, the volunteers who came from all over this area, and the clients. We opened our back Education Wing to host up to five families a night during the month of November. They showed up about 6:00pm and were picked up about 6:20am every day.

There are two churches every month who open up their spaces, make some adjustments, and then take primary lead for staffing this program that provides temporary housing for families with kids who are unable to find longer term housing. One of the major dilemmas in our community is the lack of affordable housing and this program helps them in a difficult time of transition. In the extra chaos that these parents and children face, it is significant for them to have a safe and comfortable place to call their own. And here at Our Redeemer is one of the few places these families find individual space vs being together in a fellowship hall separated only by cardboard walls.

Thanks go out this year to all of the volunteers who stepped up to befriend and serve these families during the night and those who stayed overnight. Special thanks goes out to David Bradee, Deb Camasta, Allen Heimerdinger, Joan Paulson and Jessica Morgan for their leadership and service.



## Tanzania trip and ministry development

The St Paul Area Synod has had a long developing relationship with the Iringa Diocese in Tanzania, West Africa. Through the past twenty years different individual and congregations have become involved in a variety of ways to provide intentional ties. The foundation of these partnerships center around Prayer (shared prayer for each other in a variety of settings), Projects (ie building schools, establishing new churches, creating health centers, initiating a local seminary, assisting with water projects, micro finance work and more), and Presence (being face to face to share more deeply in each others worlds).

Our Redeemer is taking some steps to see how we might join 80 other local ELCA churches in some form of partnership. One special opportunity will be a exploration trip to Tanzania this July 5-20 to build relationships, visit much of the area, and explore possible partnerships. If you are interested in either attending this trip (we have information packets available) or serving on a ministry team to build this partnership please contact Pastor Karsten. Applications for the trip must be turned in by December 15.



## Doulos Men's Work Trip

We have been invited to partner again with Prince of Peace in Burnsville for a men's mission trip to Doulos Discovery School in the Dominican Republic over February 18-25. This will be a trip to assist with various building projects, help bring down extra supplies, have devotional and evening conversation time, and be open to other ways God will use us and how God can work in us. This will be a trip of about 8-14 people and will cost about \$1,400. If you are interested please contact Pastor Karsten for more information or a trip packet. Application for this trip needs to be in by December 15th.



## Wednesday Dinners

All are welcome for our Wednesday night dinners from 5:30-6:30pm. Loaves and Fishes provides the food so there is no cost for the meal. Plan to join us before our services or before you head to one of your Wed eve activities.

## A move away from Operation Christmas Child

Over the past many years Our Redeemer has participated in collecting shoeboxes of presents to send to kids overseas. For a variety of reasons including a diminishing interest, some issues with the practicality of the gifts received, some concern about the methods of the organization, and because it was hard to simply keep adding more caring opportunities to our missions program, we decided to stop participating in this program. Individuals can and did choose to still participate on their own. The missions Team is focusing on being able to have more direct ties with our outreach projects or inviting people to consider international gifts through The ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

## Eastside 8

This growing collaboration of both lay and pastoral leaders from the local East Side ELCA Lutheran congregations continues to gain momentum. On Saturday, November 19th leaders from these congregations met to talk over more ways that our being in relationship and finding ways to work and worship together can help us as individual congregations and better serve the wider community.

One of the next things to help build a better awareness of each other is to participate in shared Lenten Worship. This March and April we anticipate having Wednesday evening worship in our individuals congregations that will have allow for the clergy to visit the different congregations on rotating nights. They will get to meet our community and we will get a better feel for their life and ministry. And we will once again gather for a shared Good Friday worship - this year being hosted right here at Our Redeemer. More details on these worship opportunities will come out closer to Lent.

## Working for Change

One of the best ways to address local and regional issues of injustice and try creating a more fair and just society is to be aware of current issues that are being addressed and find ways to engage in collaborative efforts to create change. If you are interested in acting for justice and being a servant with a deliberate focus more on change than care then consider joining Pastor Karsten and Intern Pastor Carol for a special one day gathering with a large diverse group on Saturday, January 28th from 1-4. Contact one of the Pastors for more information.

**Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 29 for our Annual Meeting. On this day we will have one worship service at 10:00am with the Annual Meeting following.**

## Worship Assistants

Date	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25 One Service 10am
<b>Worship Host</b>	Dennis Peterson	Claire Sexton	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Amy Krohn
<b>Gift Cards</b>	Sharon Peterson		Jill Rodriguez	
<b>Kitchen Help</b>	Darlene Harwood Florence Senske	Dennis & Jan Peterson	Dick & Sharon Peterson	Mark & Doreen Winter, Jessica Morgan
<b>8:45am Greeters</b>	Barb Birchem Judy Triplett	Dan & Laurie, Danny Fitzgerald	Virginia Kettleon Florence Senske	
<b>11:00am Greeters</b>	Shirley Keating Helen Wallace	Sherry Pasket Katie Syring	Nora Smeed Jessica Ryden	Claire Sexton Sharon Peterson
<b>8:45 Lector</b>	Dianne Derks	Anna Miller	Lana Larsen	
<b>11:00am Lector</b>	Hilary Hinrichs		Jane Koza	Deb Camasta Dave Bradee
<b>8:45am Ushers</b>	Dennis Paulson Rob Klemm Kent Weispfenning Roger Sparks	Roger Ollila Baryogar Johnson Roger Svendsen Dennis Peterson	Dan Fitzgerald Bill Maynard Bill Fredine	
<b>11:00am Ushers</b>	Claire Sexton Caitlyn Edwall Matt Kilbride Scott Torvi	Vicki Anderson Brett Rediske Randy & Jane Koza Jennifer Houge	Jessica Morgan Kari Keating Dick & Sharon Peterson	Mark & Doreen Winter Troy & Courtney Magnuson Larry & Sandy Pruden Mike Welte Mike Kahrau

### Christmas Eve

4:30 Worship Host: Mark & Doreen Winter, Lector: Scott Torvi

10:30 Worship Host: Bruce Ring & Rita During, Lector: Kathi Kirchoff

### Online Giving Opportunities

Thank you for your support of Our Redeemer. We appreciate all of the contributions you donate to help our ministry here at ORLC.

Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. We appreciate your gifts!

Mobile Users Scan Here



### Finances through the month of October 2016

<b>2016 Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$28,296</b>
<b>Member Giving</b>	<b>\$256,868</b>
<b>Supplemental Income</b>	<b>\$38,534</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$323,698</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$298,068</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$25,630</b>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.</i></p>						
4 First Sunday Food Shelf, Blood Pressure Check, Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School, Program Practice 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b> 4:00pm Reconciling with Christ	5 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	6 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b>	7 9:30am Bible Study, 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir 7:30-8:30pm Wed Night Youth	1 6:45am Men's Study 6:00pm Cookie Baking, Strength Finders (F)	2 10am-7pm Cookie Drop Off Cookie Shop Set Up	3 8:30am-12pm Cookie Shop 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b>
11 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School, 11:00am Contemporary Worship & Children's Program 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b>	12 6:00pm Joy Circle	13 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Internship Committee Mtg 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b> , Hope Circle	14 9:30am Bible Study 1:00pm Finance Mtg 5:30pm Meals and More, OWLS event 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Sanctuary Choir 7:30-8:30pm Wed Night Youth	15 6:45am Men's Study 6:30pm Knitting & Crochet Group Caribou	16	17 9am-3pm Scrapbooking 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b>
18 Bucks for our Building 8:45am Traditional Worship 10:00am Sunday School 11:00am Contemporary Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b> 4:00pm FH Rented	19 6:45pm Lives Worth Living	20 11:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b> , Church Board (F)	21 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Meals and More 6:00pm Confirmation, Bell Choir 6:30pm Longest Night Worship 7:30-8:30pm Wed Night Youth	22	23 Office Closed	24 4:30pm Family Christmas Worship 10:30pm Traditional Christmas Worship
25 Merry Christmas 10:00am Worship 1:00pm <b>Spring of Eternal Life Church</b>	26 Office Closed	27 11:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm <b>SEL (S)</b>	28 9:30am Bible Study 5:30pm Meals and More	29	30 Office Closed	31 5-9pm <b>SEL (S)</b>

**Our Redeemer Staff**

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**Worship Schedule**

**8:45am Traditional**

**11:00am Contemporary**

**5th Sunday 10:00am**



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