

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

The Ringer

Volume 1 Issue 12

December 2015 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor



⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." Matthew 2:13-15

²¹ You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. Exodus 22:21

¹⁹ You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:19

Well, the season has begun with hyperbolic commentary on our T.V.s telling us there is a war on Christmas again because a coffee shop didn't put snowflakes and reindeer on their festive red cups. It is enough to make this particular pastor go crazy. No explanation will suffice to quell the perceived offence that so many Christians feel when someone tells us we are in war. But is it a war? I wonder if we were to ask our grandparents or great grandparents about that what they would say after coming out of WWI, WWII, Korea or Vietnam. The outrage that we have over a perceived slight amazes me, saddens me, and at some level maddens me. Will you have dozens of Christmas trees to choose from this year? Will there be aisle upon aisle of decorations to buy? Will there be more choices of wrapping paper than anyone could conceive of? And finally, is this the purpose of Christmas?

This year meets us with war and rumor of war, Real, not contrived. It meets us with millions of people running away from an evil that we cannot in our outraged-over-a-cup mentality conceive, and then sayings from our politicians "no room here". We could take time to look at the historical reasons for this craziness; we could point fingers at our former and current batch of elected officials; we could look at global forces that have been concerned about profits and power, not rights of individuals, but that won't put forth solutions to the present situation.

We can, though, with the gift of our Christmas story understand that there once was a Middle Eastern couple who gave birth to a child that was seen even at that young age as so dangerous that they had to flee to save his life. His message, as he grew, matured, and taught, was to open the eyes of the blind, heal the sick, lift up the poor and proclaim to all "The Lord is near!" If we as a Nation enjoy declaring ourselves a Christian nation, let us then take up the loving power that comes in the Christ child. We will be seen as dangerous, just like he was, because in and through him and his message, we are allowing the walls that divide us to fall down. Christ indeed is our Peace.

In Christ: Peace

Pastor David



Church Council Highlights

Tuesday, November 17, 2015 6:00 p.m.

Outreach - Trunk or Treat was a success. About \$490 was collected for the Rescue Mission.

Nominations Committee - We are still looking for members to serve on the Church Council.

Stewardship Committee - Pledge cards are due back Nov 15. Time and Talent surveys will be going out in Dec.

Safe Church Policy - It was decided that the minimum age for child care providers at our church would be changed from 21 to 18.

The council approved the payment of Noni Strand's registration and expenses to attend the 2016 Synod Assembly in Wichita. Noni serves as chaplain at Salina Regional Health Center. The council feels it is important to support her in this specialized ministry.

The 2016 draft budget was reviewed by the council and will be presented to the congregation at the 1st half of the annual meeting, on Dec 13.

THIRST - Discussion on Nov 8 on the topic of how to talk about divisive issues, went well. Discussion on the ELCA view of weddings and marriage will continue at future gatherings.

Taylor Koers was confirmed on Nov 15. Tyler is the daughter of Todd and Kelley Koers.

Pastor David will be taking time off Wed, Nov 25 through Sat, Nov 28. He will be here Sun,

Council Meeting Minutes are available to read on the Council Bulletin Board and in the office.

Council Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm



Year to date budget information

November 2015

Year to Date Budgeted Offering \$236,442.00

Year to Date Actual Offering \$237,454.00

Year to Date Budgeted Expenses \$241,007.08

Year to Date-Actual Expenses \$252,951.00



Advent Worship and Soup Suppers



Wednesday Evenings
Soup at 5:30
Worship at 6:15

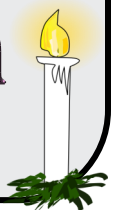
Join us each Wednesday night during the Advent season for supper and worship. We will be using Joyous Light Evening Prayer by Ray Makeever. Holy Communion will be celebrated each week.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

(2 Corinthians 4:6)

Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Communion Service

Dec. 24
5:00 & 7:30 pm



There will be No Christmas Day Service

Education/Worship on Wednesday

Come, Eat, Worship and Learn

Do you have other commitments on Sunday morning?

Wednesday night at Redeemer is a very rewarding and relaxing time for everyone.

Come and join us for all or part of the evening activities!

Childcare is provided free of charge starting at 6:00.



5:30 WEEKLY MEAL

Dec. 2, 9 and 16 Advent soup suppers

Call the church office for a ride!



6:15 WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Dec 16 – Children's Christmas Program

"The Word Comes at Christmas"



6:00 GODLY PLAY – Education for 3 year olds to 3rd grade

Children's Christmas pageant rehearsals:

Wednesday, Dec 2nd, 6:00-6:30

Wednesday, Dec 9th, 6:00-6:30

Sunday, Dec 13th, dress rehearsal 11:45-1:15

(lunch will be served at 11:45, then pageant practice until 1:15)

Children's Christmas Program: Weds. Dec 16 at 6:15 during worship
(children should arrive at 5:30)



EDUCATION AFTER WORSHIP

Classes for 4-6th, 7th-8th, and 9th-12th graders

for Adults "Software for the Soul"

Dec 2 and 9 –personal time of Advent reflection and meditation
with provided scripture following worship

7:15 MUSIC REHEARSALS



No activities November 25, December 23 or 30. Activities resume January 6, 2016

Education

One Class for All Ages
September-December 2015
Sunday Mornings 9:15-10



December 6-LOOK TOWARD THE HEAVEN (Abraham's Call part 2)

Dec 13 - No Class Annual Meeting

Dec 20 - GOD WILL PROVIDE (Sacrifice of Isaac Part 1)

Dec 27 - GOD WILL PROVIDE (Sacrifice of Isaac Part 2)



Brenda Smith talks about Zentangles during adult education Wed. night.

Soft-ware for the Soul



Debbie Wagner shared her story as a brain tumor survivor that led to appreciate her artistic talents given to her by God to become the sunrise painter.

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children's program



The Word Comes at Christmas

In this simple and timeless portrayal of the Nativity, the gospel writers reveal which parts they contributed to the story of Christ's birth.

December 16

6pm



"The Word comes at Christmas", written and directed by Mary Mertz, will be presented December 16th by the youth of Redeemer and Godly Play kids. The evening will start with soup supper at 5:30 followed by the program. After the program we will be presenting all the kids involved in Godly Play and the Connect class (grades 4-6) with an age appropriate bible. A fellowship time with cookies and hot chocolate will end the evening. If you would be willing to provide 1-2 dozen cookies please let Debbie Beckman or Carol Kuhlman know.

Youth News

Redeemer Youth Grades 7-12

The Redeemer Youth gathered at the home of Rick and Betty Henderson for a night of food and fun. They were treated to a hayride and amazing sunset, followed by a wiener roast and bobbing for apples. Thank you to the Hendersons for providing the perfect spot for this event. About 15 Redeemer youth and friends participated in this event.

Kris Neff hosted a gathering at her home on Sunday, Nov 22. The evening began with a delicious meal followed by watching "The Book of Eli" with a short discussion following.

The Very First Holiday Party will be Sun, Dec 13, at the church. Festivities will begin at 5:00. Please bring a gift for the "White Elephant" gift exchange. The gift should cost between \$5 and \$10. Please RSVP by Dec 10 to Kris. Bring and appetizer to share.

If you would like to help out our youth in any way please talk to Kris Neff.



Front row: Anita, Jordan, Tyesha, Tatijana, Nina, Emily.
Back row: Craig, Hunter, Sunshine Rick, Kris, Brock
Lindsey, and Zach Not pictured: Pastor David and Betty.

Confirmation

Tayler Koers

Tayler Koers was confirmed Sunday, Nov 15.

Tayler is the daughter of Todd and Kelley Koers and the granddaughter of Wally and the late Ginny Koers. Tayler is pictured here with her dad and sister, Rylee.

God Bless you Tayler.



Youth Selling Cookbooks

Need a last minute Christmas gift or a gift for a teacher, co-worker or friend? The youth are selling the cookbooks that were made for the church's 50th anniversary - 50 Years of Remembering for \$5.00. They will have a table set up or you may stop in to office to get one. Thanks from the youth.



Outreach



This year the "Adopt-a-family" is Windsor Estates Nursing Home. These residents are in need of simple everyday items. Things such as: personal hygiene items, shoes, sweaters, hat, pants, books and so much more.

Tags will be on the Christmas tree in the gathering space. All you have to do is take a tag, purchase a gift and bring it back to the tree wrapped in holiday paper with the original tag attached. Please have the wrapped gift back at the church by Sunday, Dec 20th *Merry Christmas from the Outreach Committee*



Trunk-or-Treat



Lorraine Snelling Novels

Thanks to a very generous gift from a Redeemer neighbor, many of Lauraine Snelling's books are in our church lending library. The collection includes 6 complete sets of these best selling, Christian novels.



GUYS feed local football teams



GUYS- another football season of service!

Once again the Redeemer GUYS (gearing up your spirit) completed two nights of serving Salina Central and Salina South in the social room. Each team consisted about 80 team and staff each. We coordinate the meals with our own meat man (Wally Koers) and balance of meals are provided by various GUYS. Several pictures were taken and have been seen at different times in the Ringer. The teams are so appreciative of our efforts and express their thanks each time. These young men and their coaches encourage us all to serve. Teams all look forward to the Thursday night meal ahead of a selected game in the football season.

Check this out

Staff Christmas Fund: The Council invites you to contribute to the Staff Christmas Fund again this year. Please make checks payable to Redeemer with "Staff Christmas" on the memo line. Cash contributions should be labeled as such on the envelope.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Content of the Ringer depends on you, the members of this church, every month for articles, photos, important dates, etc. **The January Newsletter deadline is December 15th at 12:00pm.** The newsletter is available by email, mail or by picking up at the church.



- 1 Verle Simpson
- 2 Tom Mertz
- 3 Kendra Albin
- 4 Loren Harris
- 10 Kathy Stohs
- 12 Anita Strommen
- 13 Tom Drown
- 15 Charles Weiss
- 20 Cheryl Itschner
- 21 Jeannette Kpissay
- 21 Lilium Budreau
- 21 Keith Charlson
- 21 Kathy Lowman
- 22 Marge Hansen
- 22 Rylee Hartley



Weather Alerts: It's that time of the year when weather starts to factor into possibly canceling church or meetings.

MAKE SURE TO WATCH YOUR EMAIL!

I will send out a "special weather email" announcing the cancellation.

YOUR SAFETY COMES FIRST!



- 11 Earl & Marge Hansen
- 11 Harold & Becky Klaege
- 22 Chuck & Karen Levin
- 23 Craig & Sheila Alstatt
- 28 Matt & Rita Shaffer



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday Dec 13
9:15 am

Sunday, Jan 24, 2016
9:15 am

Gospels for December

SUNDAY, DEC. 6 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 3:1-6

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

SUNDAY, DEC. 13 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.



SUNDAY, DEC. 20 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” [

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

THURSDAY, DEC. 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day

(continue on next page)

Gospels for December

in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

[¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]



SUNDAY, DEC. 27 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” ⁴⁹He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.



POINSETTIA DONATIONS

Be part of the Redeemer Christmas Spirit by providing a contribution toward the purchase of Poinsettias for the sanctuary. The suggested minimum donation is \$15.00. Make checks payable to Redeemer. Please fill out a form found in the Sunday Bulletin and drop it in the offering plate or return it to the office by Wednesday, December 16.

~ December 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 4:30p-5:30p Executive Meeting 5:30p-6:30p Worship & Music 6:30p-8p Venture Crew (Youth Room)	2 9a-10a Bible Study 5:30p-6p supper 6p-6:30p Worship 6p-6:30p christmas program practice 6:15p-7:30p Education 7:30p-8:30p music practice	3	4	5
6 8a-9a Worship 9:15a-10:15a Sunday School for All Ages 10:30a-11:30a Worship Service	7 1p-4:30p Lee Smith in fellowship hall (fellowship hall)	8 6:30p-8:30p G.U.Y.S. (Fellowship Hall) 6:30p-8p Venture Crew (Youth Room)	9 9a-10a Bible Study 5:30p-6p supper 6p-6:30p Christmas program practice 6p-6:30p Worship 6:15p-7:30p Education 7:30p-8:30p music practice	10 6p-7:30p Council Meeting	11	12
13 7a-8a WORLD HUNGER OFFERING 8a-9a Worship 9:15a-10:15a Sunday School for All Ages 10:30a-11:30a Worship Service 11:45a-1:30p Children's program practice	14 6:30p-8:30p Silver Needles	15 Newsletter Deadline 5:30p-6:30p Education Committee 6:30p-8p Outreach Team Mtg. 6:30p-8p Venture Crew (Youth Room)	16 9a-10a Bible Study 5:30p-6p supper 6:15p-7:15p Children's Christmas program 7:30p-8:30p music practice	17	18 7:30a-5:30p Girl Scout in-service day (service day)	19
20 8a-9a Worship 9:15a-10:15a Sunday School for All Ages 10:30a-11:30a Worship Service	21 6p-9:30p Silver Needles Meeting (Fellowship Hall)	22 6:30p-8p Venture Crew (Youth Room)	23 9a-10a Bible Study 7:30p-8:30p music practice	24 8:30a-10a Breakfast @Bayard's Cafe (BAYARDS CAFE) 9a-3:30p Silver Needles Sew Day 5p-6p Christmas Eve Woship 7:30p-8:30p Christmas Eve Worship	25	26
27 8a-9a Worship 9:15a-10:15a Sunday School for All Ages 10:30a-11:30a Worship Service	28	29	30 9a-10a Bible Study	31	Notes:	

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Filling in as administrative assistant:
Anita Strommen

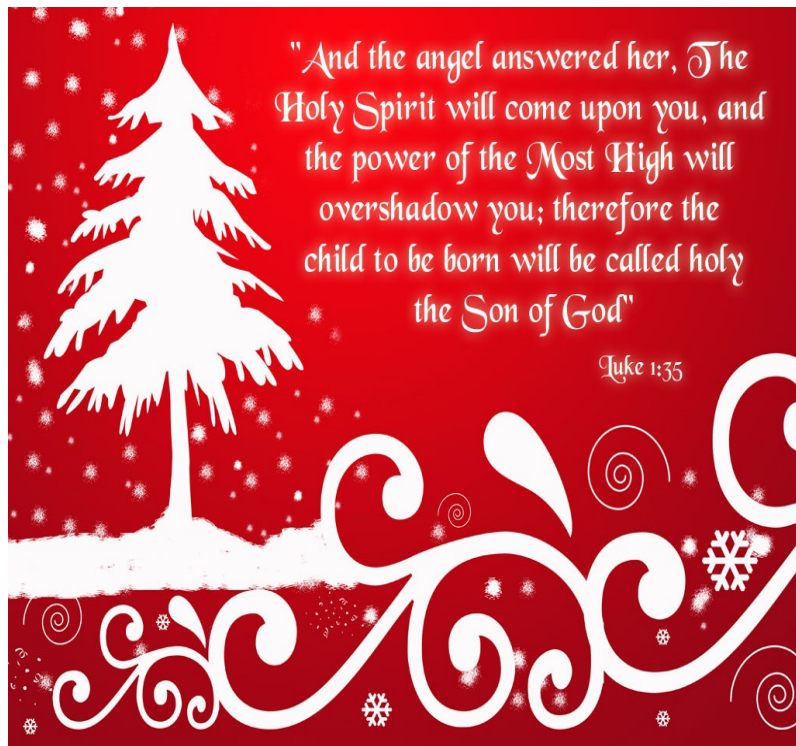
"Chosen by God...to love one another."



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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



Pastor David Strommen

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Weekly Church Events

Sunday Communion Worship

8:00 am and 10:30 am

9:15 Inter-generational Sunday
School

Wednesday Communion Worship

6:00 - 6:30 pm

Organist: Ruth Mirtz

Dorothy Carmichael

Choir Director: Ann Metcalfe

**Bell Director and
Worship Accompanist:**
Britney English

2015 Council

Jody Biegert 827-3429

Rita Charlson 556-1826

Rick Henderson, V.P. 452-9668

Lana Jordan 643-5253

Mary Mertz, Sec. 820-5585

Anna Prockish 212-0685

Mike Ramage 452-0769

Mary Shaffer, Pres. 823-8019

Larry Strahan 820-0953

Officers:

Treasurer: Harold Klaege

Financial Secretaries: Mike Ramage
and Joe Plumer