

# THE REDEEMER

# REMINDER

55 Wyckoff Avenue Ramsey, NJ 07446 Phone 201.327.0148



THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE  
REDEEMER

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

by Pastor Michael C. Linderman, PhD

Dear friends of Redeemer,

I recently viewed an episode of "American Rivers" on PBS that covered the Passaic River. Since living in this part of the state, I've gotten to know parts of the river by sight as I drive along its stretches between Paterson and Newark where it empties into Newark Bay. As it meanders through Rutherford, Arlington and Kearny and into Newark, I often wonder why I know so little about this river despite having grown up in northern NJ.

One thing I became fascinated with while viewing this documentary was the idea of tracing the Passaic River to its source--in the Buck Hill Tract Natural Area in Mendham, NJ. There are two small spring-fed streams, hardly yards apart and 2 feet wide at first, which join up in this small wooded area, and then flow out as humble headwaters of the Passaic. By the time it gets to Newark 80 miles later, it is really substantial.

Our Christian faith has often been imagined this way, as a great river of tradition and meaning-making that has its humble beginnings in a manger in a very small town in Palestine. Today, we are swimming in this great river of tradition, finding its depths appreciated at some times, and its shallows rued at other times. But its source is very small and humble by the standards of human history. And our Advent preparation, which begins on December 3rd, focuses our attention on both the humble beginnings and the mighty and generous implications of its fulfillment in the Kingdom of God. As you prepare to celebrate Christmas this year, remember to take your time along the small tributaries of Christ's presence with us, and linger in the meandering pace of Advent's four weeks. We are headed upstream to the source.

Yours in Christ, PL



### OUTDOOR NATIVITY SET-UP

Join us on Saturday,  
Dec 2 at 9am to set-  
up the outdoor nativity.



### CONFIRMATION CLASS CAROLING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 3:30PM  
AT BRIGHTON GARDENS

BY JUDITH SCHAEFER

Thank you to the people of Redeemer for responding to our "Lead with Love" Stewardship Campaign this year. We are pleased with results, and amazed by members' generosity! So far we have 73 pledgers for \$194,000!

- Have you made a pledge in the past but not one for the coming year? Please join us in showing gratitude for God's love manifest in the ministries of our congregation!
- Have you never pledged? This is the year to consider taking on this godly habit! Take the amount you give on average and guesstimate for the year, then tell us! It's sooo helpful in creating our annual budget for the coming year.

Thank you so much for your support!



## EVANGELISM

BY CAROL DUNBAR

The evangelism committee of Redeemer would like to extend our thank you to the congregation for your support of our mission partners, Daudi and Kellen Msseemaa in East Africa.

Each year the evangelism committee makes a commitment to support out ELCA Mission Partners. Twice a year we accept special collections during both Advent and again during Lent at our church services. As we approach the Advent season we are, again, asking for your support.

We know how important it is to reach out beyond our church and community and share our support for work of the ELCA throughout the world.

Please join us in our commitment by mailing a check to the attention of the Evangelism Committee Mission Support at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer or placing a donation in one of our blue envelopes in the narthex next to the collection basket.

Thank you all for your support.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY - CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

BY SHARON VOGEL, CHAIR

Look for the Giving Tree in the Narthex! Yes it is that time of year, time for our collection to support children at St. Stephan's Grace Church, the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, and the Father English Center. As we have done the last two years, we will be collecting gift cards rather than actual gift items.

Take a tag from the tree and it will specify the type and amount of gift card, as well as intended recipient (ex. 12 year old girl.) If you would rather, you may simply make a cash or check donation in any amount. Make check payable to: Redeemer Lutheran Church, "Giving Tree" written in the memo section.

Gift cards, checks or cash are to be sent to the Church Office, ATTN: Social Ministry, or place in the designated basket in the Narthex. All donations are due by **December 10th.**



BY BARBARA NEMCHEK, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Redeemer's recent survey produced mixed results. There were 280 email invitations sent from the church office. 67 respondents (24%) completed either digital or hard copy surveys. In the first part of the survey, questions around mission, sensitivity to members, a feeling of welcome, and engagement produced strong results, with 88% or greater satisfaction. The feeling of engagement was lower, at 80% satisfaction. On the questions of overall sense of inclusivity, results were equally strong, at 88% satisfaction. However, when the survey asked whether the congregation should address issues related to various identities (age, race, sexual orientation, gender, physical disability, family status, and economic status), there was a pattern of responses. Approximately 20% agreed that these issues should be addressed, another 20 to 25% were ambivalent, and 50 to 55% felt that such issues need not be addressed. The council recognizes some limitations related to the survey; namely that the survey represents a small portion of the entire congregation, and that it is difficult to interpret those responses that were in the middle of the scale. It also recognizes that there seems to be little appetite on the part of half of respondents to learn more about issues related to inclusivity as it relates to specific identities. However, the council does feel that it is in the congregation's interest to be given the opportunity in the future to learn more about these issues and how they may or may not relate to our Christian faith. The Council would like to thank all who took the time to respond, as well as the ad hoc survey committee and the church staff for their work on the survey.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

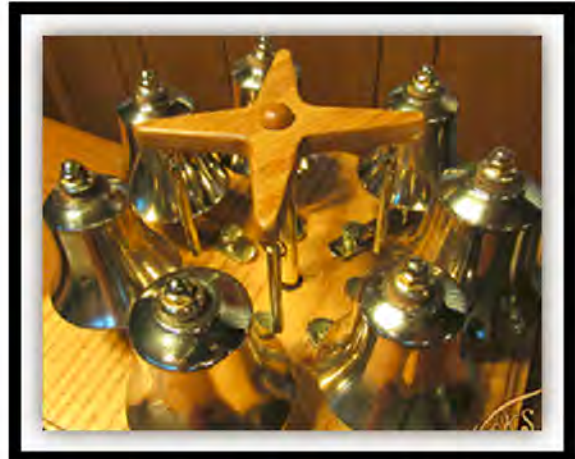
- Dec 2 Nativity Set up, 9 AM
- Dec 3 8 & 10:15 worship services; 9:15 AM pageant rehearsal, 3:30 PM Christmas caroling confirmation class
- Dec 10 8 & 10:15 worship services; 9:15 AM pageant rehearsal
- Dec 16 4:30 PM pageant dress rehearsal & pizza
- Dec 17 8 & 10:15 worship services; 9:15 AM pageant, Awaiting the Light service, 3:00 PM
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve services
  - 10:15 AM - worship service
  - 4:30 PM - family service
  - 7 PM \* candle light service
  - 9 PM - candle light service
- Dec 25 Christmas Day service, 10:15 AM
- Dec 31 10:15 AM worship service

BY FRAN MORTON, MUSIC DIRECTOR



### ***Hark the Glad Sound***

Several times recently you've heard the sound of tinkling bells on a verse of one of the hymns that I want to be extra joyful. That sound comes from actual bells in the pipe chamber that I control from the console. Next time you're in the chancel, look up at the pipe chamber. They're on the left just behind the big facade pipes. They're called a "zimbelstern" and organs have had them for over 300 years. I don't actually play them the way I play individual notes on the rest of the organ's stops. My controls simply turn them on and off, they do the rest by themselves. The pictures below show how zimbelsterns like ours look.



The zimbelstern is on an electric turntable that my control activates. The bells themselves hang individually from springy mounts that allow them to bounce as well to ensure that they ring continuously from the moment I turn them on. The bells are pitched so that they sound well with any stops on the organ except for the very loud ones that cover their sound altogether.

The word zimbelstern means "star-cymbal." This name comes from both what they are - bells; and what the actual thing looks like on the organ. Often they are mounted as a star on the front of the organ case as in the picture below.



Listen for the sound of bells as we move through the Advent and Christmas seasons. They'll be ringing!



BY ANNIE GESUALDO, FAITH FORMATION DIRECTOR

Hello Everyone!

November closed out nicely with Sunday School enjoying a morning of music and crafts. After singing with Fran we made crafts to remind of all that we have to be thankful for. We all added our most favorite blessing to a banner that we hung in church.



We greet December with Christmas Pageant preparations! The Pageant will be held on December 17th at 9:15am. Come see Redeemer's youth using their individual talents to praise our Lord! The Confirmation Class will be active with community service as they help put up the Nativity. I am personally excited about this. I have seen the life-sized figurines in the basement and I can only imagine how amazing it must look all arranged! We will also be bringing some holiday cheer to Brighton Gardens on December 3rd, when we sing Christmas Carols to its residents.

Sadly, in some places of the world, cheer is the last thing on people's minds. But I find the best way to cope, besides prayers for peace is to embrace the joy and beauty of this season ourselves. Cherish the time with loved ones, enjoy some childlike wonder as we see lights on trees and deciding on just the right gift to bring someone a smile. These moments of our joy is put out into the universe and will, in conjunction with our prayers, make a difference.

I wish you all the Light of Christ and the peace and beauty it brings this Christmas!!

Merry Christmas!  
Annie

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BY HEATHER LAYNG, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHAIR

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### DEC/JAN SCHEDULE

- DEC 3 - pageant rehearsal
- DEC 12 - pageant rehearsal
- DEC 17 - Christmas pageant
- JAN 7 - classes
- JAN 14 - classes
- JAN 21 - classes
- JAN 28 - classes

### Confirmation Class

#### DEC/JAN SCHEDULE:

- DEC 3 - caroling
- JAN 7 - class

### REDEEMER'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



**The pageant will be on December 17th. Young people up to grade 12 are able to participate. Click here to register.**

### Advent Party

Karen Vozech is hosting this year's Advent Party at her home in Ramsey on December 3rd at 6pm. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Beverages will be provided. RSVP using the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or [RSVP here online.](#)



Sunday School  
November  
recap



Music with Fran



Helping emojis with  
Pre-k/k class



3rd grade secret scrolls



**Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service  
St. Paul Roman Catholic Church**



# December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>26</b> 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person &amp; online)</p>	<p><b>27</b> 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters 3:30pm Private Lessons 7:00pm Park Toastmasters</p>	<p><b>28</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>29</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>30</b> 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 10:00am Redeemer Knitting/Crocheting Group 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers 4:30pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>1</b> 4:00pm Private GS event 4:00pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>2</b> 9:00am Outdoor Nativity Set-up</p>
<p><b>3</b> Advent 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) <b>9:15am Pageant Rehearsal</b> 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person &amp; online) <b>3:30pm Confirmation Class caroling</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>1:00pm Redeemer Quilters</b> 3:30pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>1:00pm Brownstone Quilters monthly meeting</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>6</b> 10:00am Bible Study <b>7:30pm Choir Practice</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting <b>12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers</b> 4:30pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>8</b> 4:00pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>
<p><b>10</b> 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) <b>9:15am Pageant Rehearsal</b> 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person &amp; online)</p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>1:00pm Redeemer Quilters</b> 3:30pm Private Lessons 7:00pm Park Toastmasters</p>	<p><b>12</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm Private Lessons 7:30pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>13</b> 10:00am Bible Study <b>7:30pm Choir Practice</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 10:00am Redeemer Knitting/Crocheting Group <b>12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers</b> 4:30pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>15</b> 4:00pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>
<p><b>17</b> 8:00am Service of Holy Communion (in-person only) <b>9:15am Christmas Pageant</b> 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person &amp; online)</p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>1:00pm Redeemer Quilters</b> 3:30pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>19</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting 3:30pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>20</b> 10:00am Bible Study <b>7:30pm Choir Practice</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> First Day of Winter Redeemer Reminder articles due 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting <b>12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers</b> 4:30pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>22</b> 4:00pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>
<p><b>24</b> 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person &amp; online) 4:30pm Christmas Eve Family Service 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 9:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</p>	<p><b>25</b> Christmas Day 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person &amp; online)</p>	<p><b>26</b> 1:00pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>27</b> 10:00am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>28</b> 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 10:00am Redeemer Knitting/Crocheting Group <b>12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers</b> 4:30pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>29</b> 4:00pm Private Lessons</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>
<p><b>31</b> 10:15am Service of Holy Communion (in-person &amp; online)</p>	<p><b>1</b> 1:00pm Redeemer Quilters</p>	<p><b>2</b> 1:00pm Brownstone Quilters monthly meeting 1:00pm Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>3</b> 10:00am Bible Study</p>	<p><b>4</b> 10:00am Al-Anon Meeting 12:30pm Brownstone Quilters - Peaceful Scrappers</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>

**Virtual Worship Services are Live on Facebook @ The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Ramsey, NJ. and on YouTube Channel "Lamb and Flag Ministries"**



*May God Bless you on your birthday*

Gustav Hess	1
Carol Carlson	2
Matt Hommez	3
Art Ranges	4
Chamberlin Certosimo	4
Elizabeth Gager	4
Emma Roden	4
Joann Vento	4
Claire Mastrofilipo	6
Trinity Edwards	6
Steven Mones	8
Michelle Austin	8
Art Thompson	10
Lori Wilson	10
Nancy Foelsch	10
Gail Stengel	13
Kristen Grotheer	14
Rob Wortmann	14
Nathaniel Smith	16
Jessica Papp	19
John Grotheer	20
Courtney Falbo	21
John Creegan	23
Lois Farber	25
Sheryl Van Duzer	29
Tracey Cotignola	29
Erika Marrett	30



*Wedding Anniversaries*

Alice and John DeSantis	3
Jeff and Carla Backhaus	7
Jack and Carol Forbes	18
Heather and Peter Layng	23
Robert and Marjorie Hurta	23



*Baptismal Anniversaries*

Alice DeSantis	1
Stacey Royle	8
Jake Royle	8
William Tanis	11
Vivian Manke	12
Kali Vozech	13
Jack Manke	17
Hunter Marrett	26
Sydney Smith	28
Matthew Pra	28



Sign up to host coffee-hour after the 10:15 am service. The sign-up sheet is located on the lectern in Fellowship Hall.

If you notice your special day is not listed during the year, contact the office at [office@redeemerramsey.org](mailto:office@redeemerramsey.org).