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## THE MESSENGER

December 16, 2022

*Redeemer  
Lutheran Church  
Newsletter*

THE NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED DURING THE HOLIDAYS,  
BUT IT WILL RETURN ON JANUARY 6, 2023. MERRY CHRISTMAS!



**WEEKLY DEVOTION  
WITH  
PASTOR DAVE MINER  
Devotion No. 70**

**Reading: Leviticus 16** (Optional Reading: Leviticus 13-15)

**“The LORD said to Moses: “tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.” (Leviticus 16:2 NIV)**

Do you have a secret place? Do you keep special things there? Is this the place you go to and think and work out problems?

Not all of us have a special place, but you can imagine one. In the Bible, God had a special place. No one could go into it except once a year when a high priest entered and sprinkled blood on the ark of the covenant. This represented the payment for the sins of Israel. God forgave them for everything each year when this happened.

This special place of God's is the holy of holies or the most holy place. The word holy means that it was different and separate from everything else. It was God's alone, and no one could even look inside without God's permission.

The most holy place represents the most intimate and personal place we can meet with God. When Jesus died on the cross, the Bible tells us that the veil, which stood in front of the most holy place, was torn in half. From that point on, it showed that anyone could enter the secret place of God and talk to him.

Are you spending time with God? Then you have entered his most holy place.

**Father, let me come into your holy place often,  
so I can talk to you. Amen.**

## DECEMBER VOTERS' MEETING RESULTS

**Randy Mayer, Congregation President**

I would like to extend a big "Thank You" to the 91 members of Redeemer who attended the December 4, 2022 Voters' Meeting. The main purpose of this meeting was to review and approve the 2023 budget. I would also like to give a special "Thanks" to Daniel Frank, our Chair of the Finance Board, who put together the 2023 budget and budget narrative.

The 2023 budget provided salary increases for our staff and also increased the number of hours in the contract for the Office Manager to reflect the hours needed to fulfill the position requirements. Another addition to the 2023 budget was the recognition of our summer Student Station as an ongoing ministry of Redeemer and provided for increased financial support for it.

Following the approval of the 2023 budget, the voters also approved money to be set aside to (1) provide for pastoral visits to Redeemer as a part of the continuing call process, (2) funds to cover moving expenses of a called pastor, and (3) security system upgrades as a one time expense. The final portion of the Voters' Meeting was an overview of the work that is being done by the Facilities Expansion committee.

## LWML MITES - THANK YOU!

**Laurie Mayer, Treasurer, Redeemer Women In Mission/LWML**

Thank you Redeemer congregation! Your generosity has allowed the LWML to send \$983 in mites to our district to be distributed to various congregations and groups with needs and projects to further the spread of Christ's love. God is good!

In addition, our group has been sending support to a seminarian at the Fort Wayne seminary. We've provided \$275 in direct aid as well as nearly \$700 in gift cards for Easter and Christmas.

We are a generous congregation. In His Name, thank you!

## CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**Pastor Dave Miner**

The church office will be closed on December 23 and 26 and January 2 to allow the staff time to celebrate the holidays with their families.

The office will be open for special holiday hours (9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) on December 27 to December 30. For urgent matters or pastoral care, please contact Pastor Dave at 540-491-3469

## SUNDAY SCHOOL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**Laura Ross, Director of Christian Education**

There will be no youth Sunday School, preschool through High School and Special Education, on Sunday, December 25 or Sunday, January 1. Sunday school classes will restart on Sunday, January 8, 2023.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA**  
**January 8, 2023**  
**Lea Wiltenmuth**

The title for the Christmas Cantata this year is Gifts of the Magi. It is being presented by the chimes choir and the small group singing choir, and it will include carols for the congregation to sing. We look forward to presenting the Christmas Cantata at both services January 8th 2023.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**  
**and 2022 GIVING CHALLENGE**

**T**his year, our members are invited to purchase their own poinsettias in memory or in honor of a loved one, while helping to beautify our church. Please deliver your poinsettias to the sanctuary between Wednesday, December 14 and Saturday morning, December 17. Forms to designate your purchase in honor or in memory of your loved one may be found in the narthex. Please complete the form at the time of your delivery.

**Pastor Dave's 2022 Giving Challenge**

Pastor Dave has challenged us to donate \$5.00 to Redeemer's Social Ministry Fund for each poinsettia purchased. Please indicate "Social Ministry" in the memo line of your check, or donate on Redeemer's website. Everyone is invited to participate.



**PANDA PANTRY**  
*It's the Season to End Hunger in Our Schools*  
**Barbara Buck**

**If you are able, please help feed local students, who are at risk of hunger at home, especially after school, on weekends and when schools are closed for holidays.** There is a box in the Narthex to collect donations. The following items are needed in single servings/small sizes:

**Applesauce**  
**Cheese-Its**  
**Chef Boyardee Cups**  
**Fruit Cups**  
**Granola Bars**

**Juice Boxes**  
**Mac & Cheese Cups**  
**Oatmeal**  
**Peanut Butter/Cheese Crackers**

**Popcorn**  
**Pop-Tarts**  
**Pretzels**  
**Rice Krispie Treats**  
**Ramen Noodles**

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Buck by email at [blb.and.me@gmail.com](mailto:blb.and.me@gmail.com). Thank you for your continued support!

**QUILTERS MEETING**  
**Saturday, December 17 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Come tie with us. No experience is necessary!  
 If you have any questions, please contact Anna Jennings:  
 Home: 540-412-5373 | Message: 540-842-7920

## MONETARY CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR STAFF Collection Ends Sunday, December 18th

**Craig Nehls, Chairman, Board of Elders**

As is our tradition, a monetary Christmas gift for our Redeemer staff is planned from the receipts of a free will offering. If you care to give, please make your check payable to “Redeemer Lutheran Church” and annotate the memo line *Staff Gifts*. Place your contribution in a plain or pew envelope, mark it for *Staff Gifts*, and place it in the offering plate or give it to an elder.

Presentation of the gifts is scheduled for the 10:00 a.m. service on Christmas Day. Receipt of contributions is needed by Sunday, December 18.

On behalf of the Board of Elders, Merry Christmas and God’s richest blessing to you and yours.



**INSTILLING HOPE IN YOUTH**

**Jennifer Miller, Worship Coordinator**

Growing up has always been difficult, but it is an especially challenging time to be a young person today. Mental health concerns, lack of self-esteem, social pressures and isolation all abound, especially as we continue to emerge from a global pandemic. Not surprisingly, school violence, mass shootings, and teen suicide are at an all-time high. Consequently, it is easy for young people to despair about their future.

### **But the Gospel calls us to Hope, not despair!**

Life Promotions *exists* to give hope to youth across the world—to instill the resilient, all-encompassing hope that only comes from knowing that they are loved by Christ. And because they are loved by Christ, every young person has intrinsic value as a child of God.

This is and has been our calling for the last 40 years and will continue to be as we fulfill the mission in three distinct ways through **compelling speakers**, **engaging events** through *Lifest* and *Quake* and **effective curriculum** in *Dignity Revolution*. The beauty, uniqueness, and effectiveness of the organization’s three-pronged approach is that each of Life Promotions’ primary activities work together toward the common mission of *instilling hope!*

We cannot ignore the need young people have for hope, today more than ever.



Thankfully, Life Promotions has proven over the past four decades the ability to effectively *Instill Hope in Youth* through programming that addresses the tough issues youth face in this life, as well as through welcoming presentations of the Gospel that give them hope for eternal life.

But we cannot do this crucial work without the resources needed to support the programs of [\*Lifest\*](#), [\*Quake Events\*](#), [\*Dignity Revolution\*](#), [\*Bob Lenz Speaking\*](#), and our latest outreach, [\*G3\*](#) that utilizes online gaming to reach a whole new segment young people. Your support will go toward the growth of each of these programs and provide the organization with a basis of financial support that will not only maintain the ministry’s efforts in the immediate future but extend Life Promotions’ work well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Won’t you please join in that effort?**

We are motivated more than ever to reach more young people with hope. Will you please join us as we seek to broaden the reach of Life Promotions for the next generation for Christ—to give them hope, dignity, and life? To donate, please see visit the website at [LifePromotions.org](http://LifePromotions.org) and click the *Hope for Life 4.0* icon at the top of the home page. A free will offering will also be received at Redeemer Lutheran Church to support this ministry.

Thanks in advance for your support in giving young people what they need most... Hope!

For more information, please contact Jennifer Miller at [jmiller@lifepromotions.org](mailto:jmiller@lifepromotions.org).

**Redeemer’s youth in “Kings” and “Romans” experience this hope at Quake Events!**

*Redeemer  
Lutheran Church*

Pastor Dave Miner



*Advent, Christmas  
and New Year  
Worship Services  
and Events*

### Livestreaming Worship Services

If you are unable to attend in-person worship services on Sunday during Advent or on Christmas or New Year's, please refer to the times listed under the column, "**Livestream Available**" to identify the worship services you may attend by livestreaming, using the following link:

<https://www.redeemerfxbg.org/livestream.aspx>.

Livestreaming is also available by accessing our website at [www.redeemerfxbg.org](http://www.redeemerfxbg.org). Then, scroll over "Media" on the top right of the page and click on "Watch Live" from the drop-down menu.

DATE	WORSHIP SERVICE	TIME	LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE
December 14	Third Advent Midweek Service	12:30 p.m. (Sanctuary) 7:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)	
December 18	Fourth Sunday in Advent	8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve Services	3:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Children), and 8:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day Service	10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
December 31	New Years Eve Service	7:00 p.m.	
January 1	New Year's Day Service and Christmas Cookie Fellowship During Sunday School Hour	8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.

✝  
✝ + + Weekly Stewardship Message for Sunday 18 December A.D. 2022 + + +  
✝



### Rethinking Stewardship

Are you praying about your pledge? Are you asking God to help you keep your pledge? Always keep God "number one" – especially when it comes to giving back to Him.

**2023 Offering Envelopes  
now available for pickup!**

*"Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people"*



# Prayer for Call Committee and New Pastor



## CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Johanna Champney, Dave Cogley, Marian Dawgert,  
Allison DeGraaf, Judy Devey, Mike Eastman, Linda  
Gagion, Todd Miller, Mat Smith, and Carey Schwenzer**

The importance of prayer for the Call Committee and the process of calling a Pastor for Redeemer cannot be over-emphasized. The Call Committee is seeking prayer from the congregation, as follows:

- Prayer for wisdom and discernment for the Call Committee in recognizing God's appointed Pastor for Redeemer.
- Prayer that the Call Committee and the Congregation will be unified in its prayers for a Godly Pastor who will serve and feed the flock in accordance with God's will. (Psalms 133:1)
- Prayer for a Pastor who has been called by God to lead us and guide us according to the whole counsel of God.
- Pray that God's will be done in this Call, and while we wait, that Pastor Dave Miner be covered in prayer as he holds up the staff and stands in the gap. May we hold up his arms as a congregation. (Exodus 17:9-12)
- Please also pray for Marjorie, Pastor Miner's helpmate, in her very important role as the Pastor's wife.

"<sup>15</sup> And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." — Jeremiah 3:15 KJV

"<sup>11</sup> He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." — Isaiah 40:11 KJV

**Please see any of our committee members if you have any thoughts  
or questions about the call process.**

## SATURDAY & SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE and BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship	8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and 11:00 a.m. (Blended)
Sunday School and Bible Study	Pastor's Bible Study will meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom.

## QR Codes Replaced Paper Bulletins for Worship Services Use the QR Codes Below or "CLICK HERE" Below for Each Service

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Service <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>	Sunday 11:00 am Service <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>	Christmas Eve 3:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Services
		

## *Birthday & Anniversary Blessings*

December 16, 2022 to January 5, 2022

### *Birthdays*

December 16	Janis	Woods	December 29	Tyler	Fehrman
December 16	Mat	Smith	December 30	George	Colwell
December 17	Eric	Keefer	December 31	Audrey	Schmidt
December 18	Jacob	Waltman	December 31	Dave	Allen
December 18	James	Pinkas	January 1	Amanda	Baldwin
December 21	Debbie	Carlson	January 2	James	Bronz
December 21	Philip	Wiltenthuth	January 4	Faith	Marburger
December 23	Rebecca	Richey	January 4	Joshua J	Pinkas
December 23	Ryan	Hymes	January 4	Brendan	Schilling
December 23	Stephanie	Biscamp	January 4	Louis	Wiltenthuth
December 26	Susan	Scarbeck	January 5	Torie	Fox-Moles
December 29	Brian	Glusing	January 5	Elizabeth	Powell
December 29	Danie	Fox-Moles			

### *Anniversaries*

December 18	Allen & Faith	Marburger	December 28	Kyle & Brenton	Hobbs
December 19	Tim & Sarah	Schilling	December 30	Todd & Jennifer	Miller
December 23	Ty & Laura	Bartel	December 30	Jermie & Corinne	Kuehner
December 24	Mike & Barbara Buck	Eastman	December 31	Jack & Amanda	McGrady
December 27	John & Bettye	Garner	January 1	Brandon & Allison	DeGraaf

If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please contact the church office at [info@redeemerfxbg.org](mailto:info@redeemerfxbg.org)

### *Church Flowers*

Flowers are given this week  
to the Glory of God  
by the Marburgers in celebration  
of their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



### December 18 – Advent IV

Surprise pregnancy once redeemed the whole world. Joseph would have aborted the undertaking, but the Lord explicitly forbid it (Matthew 1:19-21). Even human limitations could not prevent the Heavenly Father from keeping His promises (Romans 1:2-3). So, every surprise pregnancy we encounter—along with our lives and everyone else's (Psalm 24:1)—belongs to Almighty God, and we may rejoice to say so.



*Worship Attendance and Contributions*  
are unavailable but will be updated in January 2023.