

THE MESSENGER

Newsletter for Redeemer Lutheran Church and Preschool



Christmas Poinsettias

The Alter Guild is asking that those wanting to support the poinsettia fund this year give \$15 for each plant. If you would like to support them, please write your checks to Redeemer with poinsettias in the memo line and place them with your dedication form in the offering. The deadline is Wednesday, December 13.

_____ @ \$15.00 each Total \$_____

Given by (name as you want it to appear):

In memory of _____

OR

In honor of _____

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QUESTIONS?

Inquiries may be sent to
info@redeemerfxbg.org

Praying Our Way Forward (Matthew 7:7-12 NIV)

Have you heard the story about the pastor and the taxicab driver who happened to die at the same time? They arrived simultaneously at the Pearly Gates. The taxicab driver went to a fabulous palace, complete with fountains, a slide for the pool, and an army of servants. Meanwhile, the pastor was ushered down a lonely lane to an extremely modest place where he was invited to spend eternity. Discerning the discrepancy between the two rewards, the pastor complains to St. Peter saying, "Look, I spent my entire life ministering to other people. If the taxicab driver deserves a mansion, why don't I get one, too?" St. Peter immediately responded by saying, "Well, up here, we go strictly by results. When you preached, people slept. When the taxicab driver drove, people prayed."

As we enter the Advent and Christmas seasons, I ask you to join me in prayer. I ask you to pray daily for this church of ours that we love. Let us not talk about prayer, read about prayer, or even right now, study about prayer. Let each of us pray. Let every move we make, every decision we take, be an action directed by God's will. I suggest the following three statements as a guide for our prayer time together in the days to come.

"Ask and it will be given to you." Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Ask and it will be given to you;" Let your requests be known to God. The writer of James 4:2b says, "You do not have because you do not ask God." I do not know why God, in his divine providence, wants his children to express their needs, but it is all through the Bible and we best embrace it wherever we find it. Jesus reasons, "if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ... how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" God is not a Santa Claus with a need to fulfill a gigantic wish list. God is like a heavenly parent who wants to be engaged with his children. I ask you to ask.

"Seek and you will find." To seek is to hunt, to pursue, to delve into, to explore, to try to discover. God and God alone should guide our decisions, I ask as your pastor and friend to take a long look and listen before you leap. What dreams can you still fulfill for the glory of God? What more could you do for the good of others? Is there a role you can take for the kingdom of God in this place? How do we proceed in our search for our next pastor, DCE, organist. Seek and you will find. I have watched people seek before and I can guarantee they find.

"Knock and the door will be opened for you." The doors of opportunity will open for you. The angel says to the church in Philadelphia in Revelation 3, "Behold, I set before you an open door which no one can shut." The angel might have written that about Redeemer Lutheran Church. Our potential has never been greater. Through the last few years have raised challenges, God has things for us to do, and dreams for us to fulfill. It is time to step through the door of opportunity. The prayer of Jabez, a minor character in the Old Testament, in Chronicles 4:9 says, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory!"

I ask you during the Advent and Christmas seasons to pray with me that we hear and resolve to act on the whole will of God, now and forever. Amen.

Redeemer Men's Breakfast

Redeemer's Men meet for breakfast and fellowship on **Saturday, December 16 at 8 AM** at Jimmy the Greek Restaurant, 3401 Lafayette Blvd. The subject of discussion will be "The Lord's Hand." All are welcome to come. The wives are also invited to join Grumpy Sue for breakfast. Hope to see you Saturday morning! ~ John O.

Quilting Group

Our Quilting group meets on the third Saturday of each month from **9 AM - 12 PM** (this month: **December 16**). We can always use clean flat cotton, poly/cotton sheets for backs. Please contact Anna Jennings with any questions at 540-412-5373 (home) or 540-842-7920 (cell).

CHRISTMAS *Schedule*

DECEMBER 6, 13, 20

12:30PM ADVENT SERVICE

5:30PM DINNER & FAMILY ACTIVITY

7:00PM FAMILY SERVICE

DECEMBER 24TH AT 10:00AM, 6:00 & 8:30PM
(6:00PM CHILDREN'S SERVICE)

DECEMBER 25TH AT 10:00AM

DECEMBER 31ST AT 10:00AM
W/COOKIE FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWING

WWW.REDEEMERFXBG.ORG

Confirmation for Adults - Need a Refresh?

Confirmation is one part of a life-long sharing of God's gifts. Confirmation helps you organize all the stuff you have learned over the years and fill in blank spots you may have ... or may have forgotten.

- Confirmation prepares you to make your own public profession of Christian faith first made at your baptism by parents and sponsors.
- Confirmation helps you understand how you fit in the church and how you are part of the marvelous Body of Christ.
- Confirmation explores God's great love for the world, and for you, explaining it in a meaningful way.
- Most importantly, Confirmation provides a fundamental understanding of Christian Faith so that we can attend Holy Communion and receive its full benefits.

Over the course of the program, we will explore the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, Baptism, Holy Communion, and Confession and Absolution, as well as other key themes of Christian life.

Proposal: In 2024, Pastor Dave is exploring how to offer a confirmation refresh for adults, or those adults who have not, but would like to take a confirmation course. If you are interested, signup in the Lobby/Narthex so that we may better appreciate the need within Redeemer.



Stewardship Message for December A.D. 2023

The Holy Family – Stewards of Life!

“...behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:20-21

Mom's Night Out

Mom's Night Out is **Dec 14th at 6:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a chance to have some fun fellowship and celebrate the Christmas season together. Please bring a dish, side, dessert, or whatever you want to share. Also bring a wrapped pair of fuzzy socks for a fun game of white elephant and any other game you would like to share. As always there will be childcare at the church. Please RSVP to Katie Tennstedt and let her know if you will be needing the childcare.

Children's Christmas Party

December 23rd will be the last practice for the Children's Christmas Eve Service at 10am. Following the practice there will be a Children's Christmas Party downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. All of God's children are invited to come celebrate! We will be decorating cookies, playing a few games, and enjoying our time together. If you plan on attending, please let Katie Tennstedt know.

Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling at Chancellor's Village will be taking place on December 10th. Everyone is invited to meet at the Church at 3:30pm to carpool over the Chancellor's Village where we will be singing Christmas Carols and passing out Christmas Cards. There will be up to 35 residents who will join us in their dinning room. Please let Sarah Schilling know if you plan on attending.

Quick reminders:

- **Voters Meeting** on **December 3** after the 11 AM service. The key item on the agenda is to approve the 2024 Redeemer budget. Childcare and a light lunch will be provided
- The church office will be **closed Dec. 25-29** to allow the staff to celebrate the holidays. For urgent matters or pastoral care, contact Pastor Dave at 540-491-3469.
- **Practice for the Children's Nativity:** December 3rd, 10th, & 17th following the 2nd service with a final practice December 23rd at 10am.

December Dollar and a Dish

Ladies of Redeemer, you are all invited to LWML's December Dollar and a Dish brunch **Saturday, December 9th at 10:00 am**. The brunch will be held at the Diederens's home. Please bring a dollar for the Redeemer Women in Mission (LWML) freewill fund and a dish to share. Drinks and paper products will be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on the Fellowship table to gauge how many ladies will be able to attend. Remember that all ladies attending Redeemer are part of LWML and are welcome! This is a chance to get to know fellow sisters in Christ so please join! To RSVP or if you have any questions, please contact Anita Diederens at 540-455-5058.



Catch health problems before they go too far.

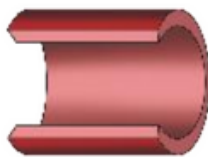
Life Line Screening offers a 5-screening package to provide peace of mind or early detection for risks of stroke and cardiovascular disease. The combination of these tests helps detect problems—**before you have symptoms** and while you and your doctor can still take action...so you can keep doing the things you love.



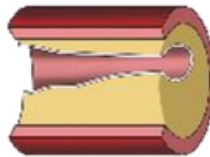
Keep doing the things you love.



Plaque buildup can lead to cardiovascular disease, stroke and aneurysms.



A normal artery allows blood to flow through easily.



Plaque buildup in the arteries reduces your blood flow and can be dangerous if left untreated.

Register now to check the health of your arteries

5 Important Screenings for Only \$149 (Special Package Pricing)

- Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)
- Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation)
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening
- Osteoporosis Risk Assessment

Join the **10 million people** who have been screened.
We are coming to your neighborhood.

When: Saturday January 13, 2024

Where: Redeemer Lutheran Church
5120 Harrison Road Fredericksburg, VA 22408

To register for your appointment and to receive the special discount, please call toll-free **877-754-9648** or visit [LLSA.SOCIAL/HS](https://www.llsa.org/social/hs)

Screening results are provided to you in about 14 days. We direct all participants with abnormal results to take the report to their physician. Appropriate modification of risk factors (including high blood pressure, smoking, heart disease, diabetes and poor diet) is also necessary for cardiovascular disease prevention. Our screenings cannot detect all forms of stroke risk or cardiovascular disease. All tests are for screening purposes only. You should consult with your personal physician regarding your screening results. Price does not include any applicable review fees. Insurance Note: Life Line Screening does not participate in the Medicare program and the cost of our screening services is not covered or reimbursable by Medicare. Life Line Screening does not file insurance claims nor provide referrals to any physician's group or hospital. If you are unable to attend the screening for any reason whatsoever, we will issue a gift card for the full amount to be used by you, or anyone you choose, for future screening services.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

You'll find all you need:


- Weekly Devotions
- Service Scripts
- And More!

www.redeemerfxbg.org



December Birthdays and Anniversaries



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Bill Demarest III's birthday	2 Raylan Kuehner's birthday
3 Guy Johnson's birthday	4 Allison Weiland's birthday Jason and Susan Biscamp's anniversary Lynn Orchowski's birthday Melissa Berndt's birthday	5 Don Roinestad's birthday Robin Tutchings's birthday	6 Joanbeth Segal's birthday Karen Smith's birthday Mike Evenson's birthday	7 Francine Kassouf's birthday Harold Haycraft's birthday Stacie Biscamp's birthday Todd Miller's birthday	8	9 Charlotte Dixon's birthday Sue Overbey's birthday
10 Aiden Hymes's birthday Charlotte Hymes's birthday	11 Jason Tennstedt's birthday	12 Billy Beale's birthday Corina Camplan's birthday	13 Connor Frank's birthday	14 Zech Kennedy's birthday	15 David Cogley's birthday Jennifer Koehler's birthday Jennifer Miller's birthday	16 Janis Woods's birthday Mat Smith's birthday
17 Eric Keefer's birthday	18 Allen and Faith Marburger's anniversary Jacob Waltman's birthday James Pinkas's birthday	19 Timothy and Sarah Schilling's anniversary	20	21 Debbie Carlson's birthday Philip Wiltenmuth's birthday	22	23 Rebecca Richey's birthday Ryan Hymes's birthday Stephanie Biscamp's birthday Ty and Laura Bartel's anniversary
24 Michael Eastman and Barbara Buck's anniversary	25 Christmas 	26 Susan Scarbeck's birthday	27 John and Bettye Garner's anniversary	28 Kyle and Brenton Hobbs's anniversary	29 Brian Glusing's birthday Danie Fox-Moles's birthday	30 Jermie and Corinne Kuehner's anniversary Todd and Jennifer Miller's anniversary
31 Audrey Schmidt's birthday Dave Allen's birthday Jack and Amanda McGrady's anniversary						

Worship Attendance & Contributions

	Attend. Total	Average Attend.	Gen. Offering	YTD Gen. Offering
November 2023	976	254	\$50,226	\$645,261
Last Year	990	248	\$49,623	\$641,683



In loving memory of

Pastor John F. Kassouf

September 30, 1954 - November 22, 2023

[Pastor John's Obituary](#)

.([click here](#)).