

THE MESSENGER

Newsletter for Redeemer Lutheran Church and Preschool



Reminder about Newsletter submissions

Submissions for The Messenger newsletter must be sent to **newsletter@redeemerfxbg.org**. Due to the sheer volume of emails that the DCS receives on a daily basis, submissions sent to dcx@redeemerfxbg.org are not guaranteed to be included in the newsletter as they may be missed. Additionally, this sets up a good practice in the event a volunteer takes over the newsletter in the future. As a reminder, submissions for the March newsletter are due no later than February 15. Any other inquiries that pertain to the DCS, but that are not about the newsletter should be sent to dcx@redeemerfxbg.org.

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CONTACT US

info@redeemerfxbg.org

540-898-4748

A Letter from Pastor Dave

We have moved from the season of Christmas to Epiphany. Christmas focused on the incarnation of our Lord, that is, on God becoming flesh. The season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light. He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel. This month, on February 14th we transition again from Epiphany to the season of Lent.

During the season of Lent, we will read about King David. No Old Testament saint attests to God's grace quite like King David. Raised from the sheepfold to the throne of the house of Israel; raised again (and again, and again) from sin: pride, murder, adultery, and despising of God; lifted clear of the snare of the wicked, of the pit, of the very gates of death; with no merit or worthiness in himself, David was continually raised up by God's grace and favor. God's grace wells up in Psalm 41, where David exults in divine mercy amid his own weakness, powerful enemies, and treacherous friends. In this psalm, David tracks the flow of divine grace back to its source at the cross and, with prophetic vision, finds it springing forth in the lives of all baptized believers, including you and me. Lent is the ideal time to meditate on David's ordeals and for all believers, your secure position in Christ.

Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout the Lenten Midweek activities, we will meditate on Psalm 41. Please join us in our 2024 Midweek Lent Series: "Be Gracious to Me." You can participate by:

- Reading and meditating on our Lenten Devotional Booklet, "Be Gracious to Me Daily Devotions",
- Pastors Midweek Bible Study will explore in deeper detail the midweek sermon text,
- Join worship on Ash Wednesday services at 12:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. on February 14th,
- Join Midweek services on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. beginning February 21st.
- We are also looking to have weekly Lenten Soup Suppers and Family activity each Wednesday beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- Holy Week activities,
 - Christ in the Passover hosted by Jews for Jesus on Tuesday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m.
 - Holy "Maundy" Thursday at 12:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. on March 28th,
 - Good Friday at 12:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. on March 29th,
 - Easter Vigil at 3:00 p.m. on March 30th.
- Easter Day services at 6:30 a.m. at the river; 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. on March 31st.

Look forward to seeing you!

From the Board of Elders

Grace, Peace, and Mercy to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

With the passing of our beloved Pastor Emeritus John F. Kassouf, the accepting of a call to St. Mark, Houston, Texas, by our Director of Christian Education Laura Ross, and the ongoing illness and subsequent resignation of our organist Darlene Hardy; we realize and recognize, more than ever the rich bountiful blessings the Lord has provided us here at Redeemer Lutheran Church. This amazing congregation of God's people with a history of perseverance throughout, continues to grow in the richness of God's Love. Though, all the above will be missed immeasurably, it has given us an opportunity to further grow in our faith and service to Christ.

We thank God that He has blessed us with so many faithful servants who have a heart to serve. We have many needs during this time, and it has been joyous to see members filling in whenever and wherever it is necessary. During this time, and at all times, it is good to remember that we are not perfect, we will err, and we will disagree, but we will do so lovingly, forgiving one another and always learning from our experience. Through it all we are reminded, that Christ will show us the way. As long as our focus is on Christ and Christ alone, all other matters of the day will be resolved. Whether we are focusing on a Pastor, a Director of Christian Education, Organist, Preschool, Property, Building Projects, etc., we must know that they are an aside to the focus of placing God first and loving one another in Christ name.

The Elders ask you to please pray continuously for this congregation, for the Church Council and for the staff here at Redeemer as we continue to move through uncharted waters. God has commanded us to pray in all situations, and even better, he has promised to hear our prayers.

Prayer includes our call process. When it comes to Pastors, we expect God to provide pastors for his flocks. Since we have had two calls declined, we are tempted to become anxious or despairing. Prayer teaches us who is in control. It is an exercise of faith and piety. It helps us guard against the evil one. We ask that you pray for our Call Committee, for Pastor Dave, for our Circuit Visitor (Pastor Kent) for our District President (Pastor Harmon), and for the future Pastor of this congregation.

We close with the following verse from 1st Corinthians that says it better than we ever could.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

May God Bless

On behalf of the Board of Elders

Craig Nehls

Redeemer Men's Breakfast

Redeemer's Men meet for breakfast and fellowship on **Saturday, February 20 at 8 AM** at Jimmy the Greek Restaurant, 3401 Lafayette Blvd. The subject of discussion will be "Tested by the Flood" If you have not been with us lately, come join us for breakfast and fellowship. If you have never been with us for breakfast, all are welcome. The wives are also invited to join Grumpy Sue for breakfast. ~ YIC John O

Quilting Group

Our Quilting group meets on the third Saturday of each month from **9 AM - 12 PM** (this month: February 17). If you are looking to donate, we are in need of more flat sheets. Please contact Anna Jennings with any questions at 540-412-5373 (home) or 540-842-7920 (cell).

LWML Update

Thank you Redeemer. Here is an update on what your Redeemer LWML has accomplished last year:

\$1165.00 in mites was sent to Chesapeake District to fund various projects both locally and in other parts of the country and the world.

\$600 in gift cards were sent to our seminarian whom we help support by also sending \$25 a month to Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. His name is Adam Nieting. Our LWML group also helped with Choices- the local pregnancy help center. We collected diapers for the new mothers, fathers, and their babies. We have also started sending \$25 a month to help Mark and Megan Mantey - LCMS missionaries in Kenya. 2 large boxes were sent to Matthew 25 Ministries containing empty pill bottles and unused needles to be used in Africa. All these things were accomplished through your generosity. Those mites get a lot done. In His Name, Laurie Mayer

Secret Saint

It's time to start thinking about Secret Saints ministry. Secret Saints is a personal prayer ministry during Lent. Men are paired with men, women with women, and children in most cases are paired with other youth. They secretly pray for the individual, send notes of encouragement with a little weekly treat, but do not reveal who they are until around Easter.

A box with Secret Saints forms will be in the narthex. Please fill out your forms before February 11th. Contact Lea Wiltenmuth or Mike Diederer for details or questions.

Message from the Barrales Family:

Thank you, thank you for such a beautiful service for Margie. She loved her family and her Church family! Thank you all for all your love and care. God continue to Bless you!

with love and much Gratitude,
Robin Rose (Margie's niece)

Fellowship Announcement

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to provide a dinner for the 5 Wednesday's in Lent. This can be a small group or several individuals working together. Dinner is served at 5:30, so have your group come in time to serve, and allow time to clean after the service. Ash Wednesday dinner on February 14th will be a pot luck, so please bring a dish to share. We will still need five more groups to sign up for the following Wednesdays in Lent. Please let Karen Tehovnik or Vicki Ashby know if you can provide this wonderful service for our church.

	Attend. Total	Average Attend.	Gen. Offering	YTD Gen. Offering
December 2023	1557	259	\$87,277	\$731,959
Last Year	1325	254	\$103,075	\$744,757
January 2024	936	234	\$72,573	\$72,573
January Last Year (5 Sundays)	1127	225	\$59,246	\$59,246

Panda Pantry “Souper Bowl”

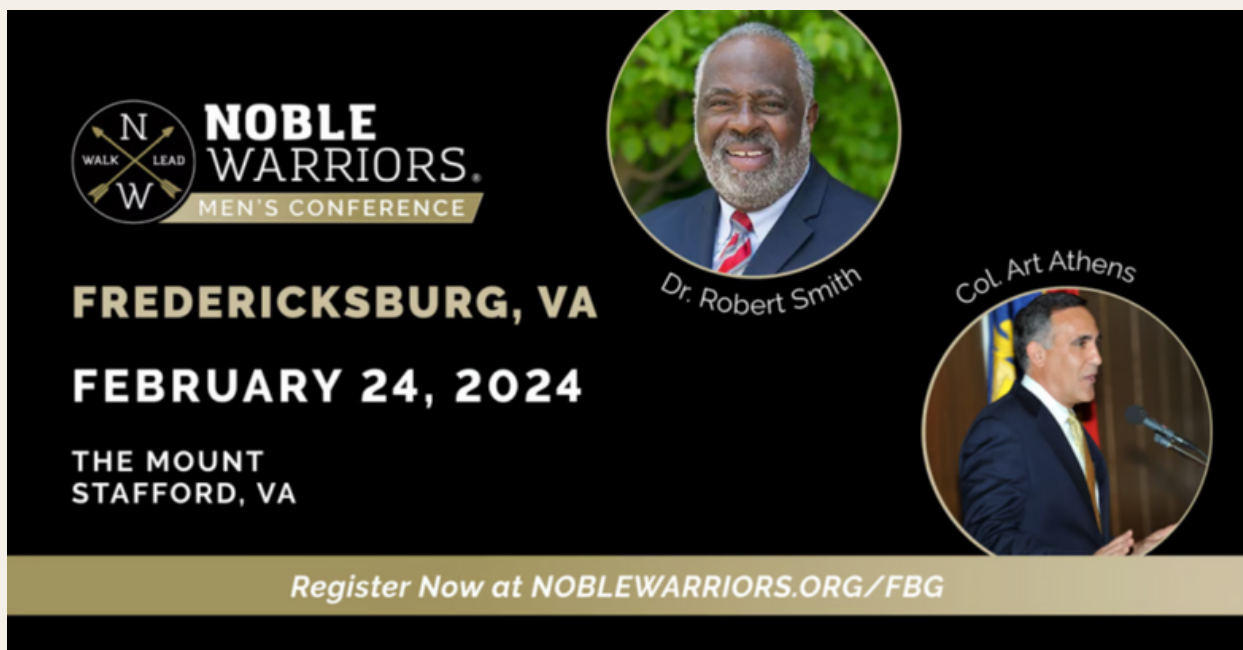
Panda Pantry SOUPER Bowl Event


The Outreach Committee has designated February as Panda Pantry month. We currently supply two elementary schools and one middle school with weekend bags of food for children with food insecurity who receive free breakfast and lunch at school during the week.

On February 11, Super Bowl Sunday, we will have a SOUPER bowl event in the Narthex to collect funds for items included in the weekend bags. We pray that God will continue to bless this ministry here at Redeemer so that we may be a blessing to others.

Noble Warriors

Noble Warriors (used to be Iron Sharpens Iron) is back. Join the men of Redeemer in enjoying a day of fellowship with Christian men from Redeemer and the Fredericksburg area and getting fired up for Christ. Bring your sons. See how to register below:





 **NOBLE WARRIORS.**
MEN'S CONFERENCE

FREDERICKSBURG, VA

FEBRUARY 24, 2024

THE MOUNT
STAFFORD, VA


Dr. Robert Smith


Col. Art Athens

Register Now at NOBLEWARRIORS.ORG/FBG

Narthex Refresh Update

By: Randy Mayer, Congregation President

At the January 14, 2024 Special Voters meeting the Church Council presented the following motion:

We, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church, agree and approve of the execution of a Narthex refresh with the following requirements:

All improvements are to assist in connecting people to Jesus Environment will be warm and inviting Budget shall not exceed \$100K 50% of expended dollars will come from existing unallocated funds 50% of budget dollars will be raised ("sacrificial giving") Work will commence after raising 50% of budget

This motion was approved by the voters in attendance at the meeting. During the discussion of this proposal, a number of members asked about the design choices that had been considered. The digital presentation of the design options was not available during the meeting and are separately attached to this email/ article. The Church Council will be deciding on the members of the Building Expansion/Design/Planning committee (EDP) at their February meeting to continue the work with the design studio. If you would like to be considered for this committee, to "put your name in the hat", please send your name to president@redeemerfxbg.org.

Generously Living Stewards

Our time, our health, our wealth, our very lives – everything we have – is a gift from God, so with these gifts be other-centered rather than self-centered.

***"Be completely humble and gentle;
be patient and bearing with one another in love."***

Ephesians 4:2



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

You'll find all you need:

- Weekly Devotions
- Service Scripts
- And More!

www.redeemerfxbg.org

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Kristie Clifford's birthday	29 Jackie Lepard's birthday	30 Richard and Diane Zaidan's anniversary	31 Coletta Kuehner's birthday Keith Whelpley's birthday	1 Tony and Susan Antonelli's anniversary	2 Timothy and Katherine Gorder's anniversary	3 Laurie Mayer's birthday Moe Long's birthday
4 Joshua Dixon's birthday Sherry Edwards-Coleman's birthday	5 John and Sue Overbey's anniversary	6 Johanna Price's birthday	7	8 Tina Zimmer's birthday	9 David Butz's birthday	10 Jessica Rich's birthday Mike Diederens's birthday
11 David and Marjorie Miner's anniversary Katie Tennstedt's birthday Ken Elam's birthday	12 Aaron Schwenzer's birthday Alannah Montgomery's birthday Carol Tavares's birthday David Bye's birthday Joan Woollard's birthday Lisa Garrett's birthday	13	14 Donald and Harriet Schumann's anniversary Lucas Woollard's birthday	15	16 Bob and Marie Daniels's anniversary Makenzie Waltman's birthday	17 Sebastian Martinek's birthday
18	19 Jacob Sullivan's birthday Jason and Katie Tennstedt's anniversary Ryan Tutchings's birthday Shirley Schmidt's birthday Waverly and Alicia Alley's anniversary	20 Carol Dixon's birthday Lisa Fedeson's birthday Ryan Schilling's birthday	21	22 Christopher Schilling's birthday Tim Smith's birthday	23 Brittanye Van Deusen's birthday John and Debbie Blatchford's anniversary	24 Eric Miller's birthday Vanessa Martinek's birthday
25 Justice Crabtree's birthday Ryan Champney's birthday	26 Hazel Haycraft's birthday Mildred Thomas's birthday	27 Berner and Ray Ann Johnson's anniversary	28	29 Steven Orchowski's birthday	1 Christina Karpiscak's birthday Cole Defever's birthday Elena Long's birthday Ruth Larson's birthday	2 John Scanlan's birthday Jonathan Zimmerman's birthday