

**The Monthly Messenger
Redeemer Lutheran Church**



**January
2023**



A Message from the Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

One of my favorite things to do on a snowy winter afternoon is to flip through seed catalogs. It's fun to think about what we will plant and when different things will sprout and bloom. (I just have to be careful not to give in to the temptation to order one of everything!) It's fun to imagine how the garden will look in different parts of the spring, summer, and fall. Above all, seed catalogs remind me that winter won't last forever, that the days will get longer and the sun will get warmer, that spring will eventually arrive. Like all of gardening, flipping through seed catalogs is an exercise in hope.

Maybe that's why Jesus used so many agricultural and gardening metaphors to teach the gospel. Like gardening, the gospel is all about hope. It's about trusting that what we see is not all there is. It's about believing in the slow, hidden, but inexorable work of God. It's about nurturing and enabling growth, and at the same time trusting that the growth is a gift from God.

Over the year to come, I plan to use this space to look at some of Jesus' metaphors about gardening and growth, and to explore what they can tell us about nurturing our own faith and the faith of those around us. For now, I'll leave you with a few questions to reflect on:

What planting or gardening metaphors do you remember from the Gospels?

Which ones resonate with you, and why? Which ones don't, and why?

What kind of growth do you hope for in your faith garden this year? What can you do to help nurture that growth?

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bob



The Seminarian Report

Greetings all,

The time has come! I have completed the fall semester for year two of my seminary journey. I now get to take the next few weeks to take a breather and enjoy some much needed time with my family. It's exciting to see the amount of personal growth I have made over the past year while on this journey, and I look forward to what's ahead. I continue to express my gratitude and thanks to Redeemer, who continues to support me through this journey, because it certainly is not an easy by. I will be starting my spring semester the week of January 23rd, where I will be taking a history of modern Christianity course as well as an introduction to the New Testament course where I will be diving deeper into the text at a critical approach. I will be returning to Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Harrisburg as well to complete my fieldwork assignment for the remainder of the academic year on February 5th. I continue to ask the congregation for your prayers for Brittany as we begin to arrive at the 3rd trimester of the pregnancy. Late March will be here before any of us know it (and if you ask Ava, she is very excited about the arrival of her sister). I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and enjoy catching up with many of you!

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." - Jeremiah 29:11

Peace,
Tiger Sprout



Join a Choir and Make New Friends!!

Jubilate Ringers (handbells) play once a month and rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6:00-6:45 in the Sanctuary (musical instruction is offered - think “on the job training” - for anyone interested in learning to play the bells).

Youth Choir sings once a month at the 11AM service and rehearses most

Sundays at 9:00 in the Social Hall.

Matins Choir is taking a break this winter. They plan to return for Easter with reinforcements to embellish their ranks!

Senior Choir sings at the 11AM service and rehearses Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:15 in the Sanctuary.

WHAT'S NEW?

NEW!!!

For those who DON'T DRIVE AT NIGHT - or missed a regular rehearsal Sundays at 9:15AM

Leigh-Ann is offering Senior Choir rehearsals on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the sanctuary for anyone who would like to rehearse at a time other than the normal schedule above. This is open to both current choir members and NEW members who might like to see if choir is for them.



New Year's Resolutions - Need a suggestion?

Have you made your New Year's Resolution, yet? Here's a list of some of the most common resolutions - and one that, while worthy might be a bit lofty!

1. Lose weight - this is probably the most common resolution, and the first one dropped!
2. Start an exercise program - this is probably #2 on lists, but often falls off the list as well.
3. Solve world hunger - certainly a worthy resolution, albeit a bit - um - ambitious!
4. **Fill the pews at Redeemer for every service** - this is one for our WHOLE church to achieve, and each of us need to make this our spiritual resolution! Encourage your family - once a week, about 1-½ hours including travel! EASY!!
5. **But** if you want a resolution that's FUN and REWARDING - **JOIN A CHOIR AT REDEEMER!!!** It will cost nothing but an hour or so of your time, and it will “pay” exponentially! The busiest people always find time for the things that are important to them.

MAKE REDEEMER AND HER MUSIC A PRIORITY.



GOD WILL SMILE ON YOU MIGHTILY!

What might YOU offer the Choirs at Redeemer

Many times we have heard people say, “I love the choir, but I can’t sing. I don’t have anything to offer.” Please continue reading.

As a member of this congregation, here’s how you can support and encourage the music ministry:

Encourage! If a song shared by the choir was particularly meaningful or worshipful to you, let that be known. Speak an “amen!”, share a word of encouragement, or send a note or e-mail to the choir, Music Director, and / or Pastor expressing how the Lord has used that ministry in your own heart and life. The people who sing in choirs are not seeking accolades. Choir members would rather hear about the spiritual impact of their ministry or the beauty of the music. They love the beauty of the music as well, and they are humbled to know that what they are doing makes a difference for the Kingdom!



Church Thank You’s – from Leigh-Ann Powers

Judy Harding for taking on the coffee set up on alternating weeks.

The volunteers who do coffee clean up each week: Bill Powers, Jane Matterness, Amy Ebersole, Kristi Raugh, Sharon Wingenroth, Faye Williams and Deb McCarthy, and Norma Good.

Choir members

Senior Choir: Judy Miller, Jan Adams, Barb Roberts, Lisa Sterner, Cyndy Rineer, Kathy Vahaly, Barb Sensenig, Susan Rineer, Bill Roberts, Ben Snell, and Bill Powers.

Matins Choir: Diane Burns, Sally Forry, and Jim Bernheisel.

Jubilate Ringers: Judy Miller, Cyndy Rineer, Kathy Vahaly, Bill Roberts, Tammy Steinhart, Sue Miller, Kim Grabusky, Barb Sensenig, Jan Hughes, Megan Snell, and Dave Kreider.

Instrumentalists: Amaya Williams, Bill Powers, Bill Roberts, Ben Snell, Gary Coxey, Megan Roberts, Lauren Snell, Julian Snell, David Zug.

These wonderful individuals make it easier for me to do what I do. I know that I can count on them when needed. A thank you is not enough, but it is offered from the bottom of my heart!



CHOICES is Back!

As you all know by now, the Choices program is getting a reboot! As a person who has attended the program as a youth, it brings me great joy to see the program coming back for a new generation of kids. We will begin hosting the students from Smith Wade-El elementary school beginning January 10, 2023 and will continue to do so on the second Wednesday of every month, early dismissal Wednesday, for the duration of the school year.

After an inventory take for the program, we have found some supplies, activities and games to get us started that the kids can use during their time at the church. What we ask of the congregation is opportunity to participate in stewardship; donations whether it be time or a financial one towards the group. We ask for monetary donations instead of specific items because we want to take the time to get to know the kids, i.e., what activities they are interested in, what snacks (or possibly meal they are needing for nourishment), and how we can make this an enjoyable and memorable experience for them during their time in our care. As we begin to celebrate Advent and the birth of our Lord Jesus, let us prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's birth in today's world and remember the true meaning of Jesus' birth. Let us show our community the love that Redeemer has to share with the kids from Smith Wade-El and let us do it in the name of Jesus Christ.

– Tiger Sprout



Angel Tree Thank You!

Thank you so much for all that you did (buying, wrapping, and delivering gifts) to make this year's Angel Tree Christmas a success! Through your efforts 51 children were able to experience both God's love and the love of an incarcerated family member. Thank you for honoring the Scripture found in Hebrews 13:3 to "remember those in prison" by remembering their families.



Livestream Help Needed!

We are in desperate need of volunteers to help with livestreaming our 11 am Sunday worship service. At present, Dave and Cheryl Clayton and Bill Steinhart are shouldering the entire burden of this important ministry. Dave will be happy to train you in how to set everything up, and step by step instructions are available. Please consider getting trained in how to do this so that we can maintain this ministry even when the current volunteers can't be present. Please see Dave Clayton to volunteer.



Reconciling in Christ Task Force

In order to facilitate the ongoing conversation about Redeemer's ministry with LGBTQIA+ people, a Reconciling in Christ task force is being formed. Bill Powers has agreed to chair this task force. More news will be shared as it becomes available. Any member who is willing to serve on the task force should speak to Bill. Please keep all members of the task force in your prayers as they begin their work.



February Monthly Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the next monthly messenger are due by Monday, January 20.



Knit Wits

Knit Wits will be taking a break through the month of December and resuming up again on Tuesday, January 3, at 6:30pm. At this meeting we talk about whether we will be meeting once a month or every other week. We encourage and look forward to new members joining us. If you are unsure if this group is for you, please come and check us out and see what we do.



Attention Ladies, Mark Your Calendars!

We are having a “Post-Holiday Brunch” Saturday, January 21, 11:00am and you are invited.

Look for a poster in the lobby by the front door for more information. We would love to have you join us.

Changes to our schedule

- * We will not be meeting In December.
- * January, February & March, we will meet at 3:00pm instead of 6:00pm. Last Sunday of each month.



Decaf Percolator Coffee For Sale

If you use (or know someone who uses) an “old fashioned” percolator to make your coffee and if you drink Decaf coffee, this message is for you.

Due to the closure of church because of the pandemic we froze 5 bags of Decaf coffee for percolators. It has an expired date – but is fine as it is frozen. Now that K-cups and new pots are being used for the Sunday socials, we are left with this supply. If you are interested in purchasing any of this coffee at \$8.20 per pound, please contact Norma Good. Thank you!



Homebound Birthdays

- 14 – Jean Wagner
- 28 – Mary Snyder
- 29 – Celeste Stetter



Sympathy Prayers

Please keep Jan Hughes’ family in your prayers, Jan entered the church triumphant on December 24th.



Help Us Care for You

If you or a loved one are hospitalized, please call Pastor Bob or the church office to let us know. If a box on a computer screen gets missed during admission at LGH, they will not notify the church, and the other area hospitals do not notify churches at all. Please feel free to contact Pastor Bob at any time to let him know your loved one needs care.



Faith and Life

Faith & Life Study will be reading “Acts: Catching Up with the Spirit”, by Matthew Skinner. Dr. Skinner is Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, MN. Pastor Bob will lead this study on how the book of Acts can help us recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today and help us understand how to share the good news of Jesus with our community. Copies of the book will be available at a discounted price from the church, or you can order your own copy in physical or digital form from the seller of your choice. If you would like a copy from the church, please call the office to let us know to order one for you.



Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Quilts

The quilting group for Lutheran World Relief will begin meeting again on Tuesday, January 10 at 9:00am and will meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month from January through September. We usually work on making quilts until about noontime. There are many steps besides sewing in making a quilt so I'm sure there is something you would be capable of doing if you would care to join us and help in this endeavor.

WARM THOUGHTS

Love is a quilt
A quilt is love,
Both love and a quilt should be:
Soft enough to comfort you
Bright enough to cheer you
Generous enough to enfold you
Light enough to let you move freely
Strong enough to withstand adversity
Durable enough to last a lifetime
And given gladly, from the heart

By, Marcella Bechtel



Compline – Wednesdays on YouTube

In order to make the Wednesday evening Compline service accessible to people who don't use Facebook, it will be live on Redeemer's YouTube channel at 10 pm. Please join us for this reflective Service as a midweek “reset”.



Redeemer Bus

To schedule our bus for events beyond Sunday morning services (weddings, funerals, *etc.*) please contact Bill. Powers or Kim Grabusky in the church office.

Also, if you are able to serve as a bus driver, please contact Bill at the addresses above or simply speak to him on a Sunday morning. No previous large vehicle experience needed, just the desire to transport folks from Wheatland Middle School to the church and back!



Tenfold

There are envelopes on the table at the back of the church that say Tenfold – What is Tenfold? It's a community organization committed to sparking the power in all people to achieve equitable housing and financial security through a broad continuum of services. There is a pamphlet on the table describing more in detail who they are and what they do. In essence they are us helping our neighbor.

If you would like to be part of the effort to fight homelessness, you can use either envelope – by donating through our church or directly mail to Tenfold. Any questions: contact Ivy Williams



Prayers

Please pray for our homebound members and those who have ongoing health concerns and also for the Men and Women serving our country. **Please let me know if someone needs to be added or taken off of the list below.**

Service Men & Women: Michael Dangro, Matt Eddy, Terry Flanagan, Jimi Griffith, Joel Harding, Michael Marschall, Jim Martin, James Pugh, Nathaniel Riley, Willie Rivera, Tyler Schmid, Doug Snyder, Austin Stoltzfus, Justin Stoltzfus.

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

Steve Adams, Dianne Adelman, Marshall Anderson, Jane Aspril, Ron Bachman, Edie Baldwin, Dottie Banner, Dottie Barr, Priscilla Barrow, Millie Bechtold, Charles Bernheisel, Guy Burkholder III, Diane Charles, Cheryl & Dave Clayton, Lois Daily, Bill Dangro, Terri Daniels, Sue Dicely, Denise Dickson, Doug & Joyce Eshleman, Ellie Flickinger, Diane Gegg, Geraldine Gontz, Bonnie Goshen, Richard Hannah, Alvin Harding, Lily Higgins, Margaret Hippey, Harold Hinderdeer, Becky Horn, Jan & John Hughes, Michelle Immel, Barbara Kahler, Judy Keiser, Mike Kloss, Gail Kober, Ron & Florence Lentz, Sam & Dawn Leonard, Peter Levingood, Barry Miller, Charles & Shirley Miller, Ryan Miller, Deb Nazarian, Maria Oblender, June Pfeiffer, Stan & Cindy Rambish, Bunny Rambler, Tina Rambler, Ed Riley, Eleanore Rineer, John Sauders, Jim Scheib, Marie Scheurich, Cleary Benson Schmidt, Doris Schreiner, Betty Spade, Katie Shanley, Donna & Jerry Sherman, Dianne & Harvey Sick, Jack Snyder, Liam Stark, Sterner Family, Gerald & Celeste Stetter, Kathy Vahaly, Janet Wakefield, Janet Williams, Carolyn & Richard Willitts, Sharon Wingenoeth, Angelica Zander.

DIRECTIONS:

Three Kings Day, also known as Epiphany, is celebrated on January 6th of each year. Unscramble the letters to find words associated with this Christian feast day.



Three Kings Day

HRRMY _____

SAFIEENNRKCN _____

LAIYHOD _____

HOEP _____

ATFSE _____

GINSK _____

PPHINYAE _____

UYJNRAA _____

AAABZHTLR _____

HODER _____

JSESU _____

CLEROIHM _____

ISARHTCIN _____

BTISMAP _____

HTISX _____

VOERAENLIT _____

CIRAEML _____

ARST _____

IAGM _____

MNWESEI _____

PRAACS _____

OGDL _____

BABY _____

MHEEBTLH _____

Epiphany

I Z F R F G E L D R W N G E M Y H
E P G J N Q T J L E A S T U N J I
K U S O V V T V T D W P D A J I E
B B U U O C U C H S K O H G V P K
Z E X R F K L Z U O M P R P S Q V
H C F N R M I S T Y I I G S A Q W
Z K R E D E E U I P M Y P H H T W
Q Z A Y W J X K E R K C A K I I D
J F N E H Z B L J R T K V I K L P
M M K F O X H E W E Q K S N O C A
B Y I E R O C H T I L F V G W Y V
A R S P A D L Y E H S H L S I Z X
V R E J T T G I M R L E V P D D M
O H N E S G W Q K L R E M M E I Q
T Z C O L W C A M E L O H E F E F
V M E L P I P J D Q W D D E N E V
N J O B X Y E F Y I G A M Q M X S

king

magi

bethlehem

camel

east

epiphany

frankisence

gold

herrod

jesus

journey

myrrh

star

wisemen

worship

EPIPHANY

Epiphany means “appearance or manifestation.” Throughout the world, Christians celebrate it on January 6 - 12 days after Christmas Day. Many countries refer to it as “Three Kings Day.” On this day, Western Christianity recognizes Christ’s manifestation to the Gentiles. The Gentiles, represented when The Magi visited the child Jesus and showed how God’s gift of the Good News is for all people. Eastern Christianity observes Jesus’ baptism on this day. His baptism revealed his identity to mankind. In the East or the West, Epiphany celebrates God revealing himself to the world.

What Was the Significance of Each of the Magi’s Gifts?

- 1. Gold** is a precious metal that has been used for jewelry, ornaments, currency, and idols throughout human history because of its color and shine.
- 2. Frankincense** is an expensive fragrance or perfume made from trees in India and Arabia.
- 3. Myrrh** is a specific kind of costly perfume made from rare thorn bushes in Arabia and Ethiopia that is used as an antiseptic anointing oil and embalming fluid.

Christianity.com

The Redeemer Messenger

Parish Office

Redeemer Lutheran Church

818 Fifth Street

Lancaster, PA 17603

Church Services

Saturday 6:00pm, Holy Communion

Sunday 8:00am, 11:00am, Holy Communion

Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30am to 4:30pm.

Fridays CLOSED.

Hours may vary at times, so **Please call first before stopping in.**

Kim – Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesday 9:30am - 4:30pm.

Thursday, 11:00am-6:00pm.

Pastor Bob – Monday-Thursday 9:30am-4:30pm.

Phone Number - 717-394-0651

Email – redeemerluth@yahoo.com

Website – redeemerlutheranchurch.net

Pastor – Pastor Bob Ierien