

MAY 2017

Inside this issue:

Inspirational Reading & Stewardship 2

Statement of Income & Expense & Inspirational Reading 3

Church Calendar 4

Member Anniversaries & Birthdays 5

Monthly Scheduling 6

Pastor John's Last Word 7

"Our God given mission is to connect people with Jesus."

"Our vision sees people connected with Jesus through a discipling process that **gathers** them into our fellowship of believers where we are **nurtured** in the Christian faith, as we **go** into our neighborhoods and beyond to do the work of our Lord and Savior."

# The Messenger

...the newsletter of Redeemer Lutheran Church

## Redeemer Member Mailboxes!

Redeemer members! Please take a moment the next time you are at Redeemer to clean out your mailbox downstairs. The mailboxes have become somewhat out of order over time due to new members being received and old members leaving us. It is our goal to make sure these mailboxes are back in order! If you have difficulty reaching your mailbox (due to it being too high or too low), please contact Katie in the church office (info@embracedbyhim.org or 540-898-4748) so she can make the arrangements. Katie will be working on these mailboxes beginning the week of May 8th. It is also our goal to eliminate using the top two rows of mailboxes for church members to avoid the height issue. We will be leaving those two rows empty and assigning them to Elders/Council members. There will be signs posted once the mailboxes are in the correct alphabetical order so you are made aware of it. This is to avoid taking items or putting items in the wrong mailboxes. Thank you so much for your cooperation, it is much appreciated!



## A Big Thank You!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We just wanted to thank everyone in our Christian family for all the prayers, cards of encouragement, visits at the hospital and phone calls. We feel so blessed by your

thoughts and caring for us during this terrible time in Jimmie's life.

He is slowly getting better by the grace of our loving and powerful God. He still has a long way to go but we can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel.

In Christian love,  
Carol & Jim Dixon





## Secret to a Long Marriage

A couple was celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Their domestic tranquility had long been the talk of the town. A local newspaper reporter was inquiring as to the secret of their long and happy marriage. "Well, it dates back to our honeymoon," explained the man. "We visited the Grand Canyon

and took a trip down to the bottom on the canyon by pack mule. We hadn't gone too far when my wife's mule stumbled. My wife quietly said, 'That's once.' We proceeded a little further and the mule stumbled again. Once more my wife quietly said, 'That's twice.' Hadn't gone a half-mile when the mule stum-

bled the third time. My wife quietly removed a revolver from her pocket and shot the mule dead. I started to yell at her for her treatment of the mule when she looked at me and quietly said 'That's once.'

## Tithes and Offerings

On one particular Sunday, the pastor was emphasizing the importance of everyone giving their tithes and offerings. He went on to challenge the people to give enthusiastically because 2 Corinthians 9:7 says in it that "God loves a cheerful giver." As the plate was passed, a little boy in the second pew,

quickly slipped off his necktie and placed it into the offering plate. His mother, absolutely mortified, asked him what in the world he thought he was doing. The boy replied, "The pastor said put your ties in the offering plate and do it joyfully. I love that man!"

### 2 Corinthians 9:7

Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

(KJV)

## From the Chair of Stewardship & Finance

**"...Redeemer's  
finances are  
strong."**

Happy Easter everyone! Jesus won! (...I now expect a bunch of you are raising your hands and saying, "we won!") Despite what things look like on the statement of giving and expenses, Redeemer's finances are strong. While the books look like our expenses exceeded our income by \$4,887.61 in March, what's most important to pay attention to is the YTD budget surplus of \$944.33. That's where your indicator for how we're doing for the year is at. March looks a little funny because of February being short. Our

books are done on a cash basis, meaning you only show what you took in and what you expended in a given month, so when February is short (as it always is) a few things end up being processed in March, causing an inflation in March's expenditures. A few specifics of note:

620000 - Personnel: All personnel salaries look a little funny for March because February was a short month, meaning that when the checks cleared the bank, it was already March and it didn't count on the

February line.

621507 - Music Education Program: This is an unbudgeted line that is based on what the Congregation gives for the program and what Jacob raises per his agreement with the church. That's why it's not showing a budget, but is showing \$465 being spent.

Have a blessed day in the Lord! And don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you have. I'm always available by email (stewardship@embracedbyhim.org)

## Statement of Income & Expense - March 2017

	Mar 17	Budget	Jan - Mar 17	YTD Budget	Annual Bu...
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
500000 - Income	44,829.16	52,796.58	141,746.40	158,389.78	633,559.00
<b>Total Income</b>	44,829.16	52,796.58	141,746.40	158,389.78	633,559.00
<b>Gross Profit</b>	44,829.16	52,796.58	141,746.40	158,389.78	633,559.00
<b>Expense</b>					
600000 - Cooperative Efforts	5,356.04	5,940.16	17,007.78	17,820.56	71,282.00
620000 - Personnel					
621000 - Pastor	16,558.99	12,542.08	42,986.23	37,626.20	150,505.00
621400 - Secretary	3,605.01	2,403.33	7,210.02	7,210.03	28,840.00
621500 - Music Director					
621501 - Music Director Salary	5,804.13	3,619.42	11,608.26	10,858.22	43,433.00
621502 - Music Director CPS Retirement	338.43	396.33	1,015.29	1,189.03	4,756.00
621503 - Music Director Medical In	655.00	655.00	5,315.00	1,965.00	7,860.00
621504 - Music Director CPS Disability	46.88	43.50	140.04	130.50	522.00
621505 - Music Director AIP	0.00	14.42	0.00	43.22	173.00
621506 - Music Director HSA	0.00	270.83	0.00	812.53	3,250.00
621507 - Music Education Program	465.00		465.00		
<b>Total 621500 - Music Director</b>	7,309.24	4,999.50	18,543.59	14,998.50	59,994.00
621600 - Family Life Minister	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,998.00
621700 - Treasurer	1,931.25	1,287.50	3,862.50	3,862.50	15,450.00
629000 - Payroll Expenses					
629001 - Payroll Service	216.51	83.33	459.76	250.03	1,000.00
629002 - Secretary Payroll	275.79	183.92	551.57	551.72	2,207.00
629003 - Treasurer Payroll	147.75	98.50	295.49	295.50	1,182.00
629004 - Music Director Payroll	450.90	276.92	866.23	830.72	3,323.00
629005 - FLM Payroll	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,204.98
629999 - Health Insurance Admin Costs	0.00		42.00		
<b>Total 629000 - Payroll Expenses</b>	1,090.95	642.67	2,215.05	1,927.97	8,916.98
<b>Total 620000 - Personnel</b>	30,495.44	21,875.08	74,817.39	65,625.20	315,703.98
630000 - Business Operations	1,575.38	2,790.41	5,611.42	8,371.31	33,485.00
640000 - Local Ministry	387.70	3,973.00	5,200.39	11,919.00	47,676.00
650000 - Worship	476.94	522.92	1,920.97	1,568.72	6,275.00
655000 - Elders	286.89	1,071.34	1,311.89	3,213.94	12,856.00
660000 - Property	11,138.38	12,018.85	34,932.23	36,056.35	144,226.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	49,716.77	48,191.76	140,802.07	144,575.08	631,503.98
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-4,887.61	4,604.82	944.33	13,814.70	2,055.02
<b>Net Income</b>	-4,887.61	4,604.82	944.33	13,814.70	2,055.02

## God's Draft Choices

Two of the most highly watched sporting events on T.V. are not when teams or athletes are competing; rather they involve the drafting of players for the National Football League (NFL) and National Basketball Association (NBA) teams. For hours, fans of professional sports will watch to see whom their favorite teams will draft.

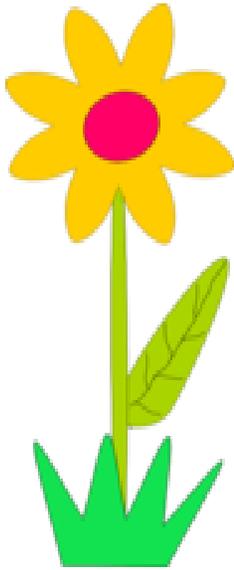
Most of us won't be drafted by professional teams, but, as Christians, we receive a greater calling. We, in essence, are God's draft choices. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit" (John 15:16). God has made us a part of His team. We are not chosen by God because we are successful in our careers, great athletes, or wealthy. God chooses ordinary people to

do extra-ordinary things. "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are" (1 Corinthians 1:27-28).

Through faith, we understand that we are among the foolish and weak through whom God carries on his life-saving work. "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). God entrusts us—clay jars—with this treasure—the Gospel. Even though we are frail and unworthy of our tasks, God has chosen us to carry His message of love to the world. As humble people of faith, we are empowered by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He trans-

forms and molds us. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is God Who does the drafting and the changing. Through faith, we will stay on God's team, and we will bear the fruit that He calls us to bear.

The professional athletes who are drafted are expected to perform. They are paid large sums of money to do athletic things. As God's chosen people, we may not receive large compensation, but our benefits are out of this world! Therefore, we are eager to use our lives and resources in God's service for His glory. Paul wrote, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10). What a privilege it is to be part of and serving on God's winning team!



# May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Bible Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	2	3 Bible Study (potluck) 10:30am Elder's Meeting 6pm	4 Ringers 6:15pm Choir 7pm	5 RAAI - 11am AA - 7pm	6 Men's breakfast 8am LWML Meeting
7 Worship 8am & 10:45am Sunday School 9am Faith & Family Night 3:45pm	8 Bible Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	9	10 Bible Study 10:30am Cub Scouts 6:30pm Council Meeting 7pm	11 Ringers 6:15pm Choir 7pm	12 RAAI - 11am AA - 7pm	13 VBS Meeting 9:30am FH Ladies Appreciation Dinner 6pm FH
14 Worship 8am & 10:45am Sunday School 9am	15 Bible Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	16	17 Bible Study 10:30am Cub Scouts 6:30pm	18 Ringers 6:15pm Choir 7pm	19 RAAI - 11am AA - 7pm Roman's Game Night	20 Quilters 9am Pavilion reserved 11am-1pm
21 Worship 8am & 10:45am Sunday School 9am	22 Bible Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	23 Ladies Night Out at Vinny's 6:30pm Compassionate Friends 7pm	24 Bible Study 10:30am Cub Scouts	25 Ringers 6:15pm Choir 7pm	26 RAAI - 11am AA - 7pm	27
28 Worship 8am & 10:45am Sunday School 9am	29 Prayer Shawl Meeting 6pm Bible Study 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	30 Preschool Graduation	31 Bible Study 10:30am Cub Scouts 6:30pm			

## Details of Events

- **Faith & Family Night will be held on May 7th at 3:45pm**
- **The Ladies Appreciation Dinner is at 6pm on May 13th in the Fellowship Hall**
- **The next VBS meeting will be held at 9:30am on May 13th.**

## Happy Anniversary Lovebirds!



- May 1st - Karl & Zsuzsanna Fehrman (24 years)  
May 2nd - Ron & Terri Byrd (36 years)  
May 2nd - David & Diane Jenkins (35 years)  
May 16th - Rick & Barbara Moseley (36 years)  
May 18th - Steve Cumber & Lisa Cottrell (26 years)  
May 19th - Mark & Vicki Sullivan (38 years)  
May 21st - Dave & Dee Allen (40 years)  
May 24th - Tim & Rachelle Moles (14 years)  
May 27th - Adam & Liz Eichelberger (11 years)

## Happy Birthday!



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| May 3rd - Barbara Moseley<br>Karen Williams  | May 17th - Rosemary Gregor   |
| May 5th - Richard Fredenburgh<br>Andrew McGrady<br>Evan Schwenzer<br>Kacey Schwenzer<br>Brandon Sullivan | May 18th - Anna Jennings<br>May 20th - Laura Wiltenmuth<br>May 23rd - Matthew Fox-Moles<br>Matthew Mattner |
| May 6th - Alaura Collis<br>Kirk Hymes  | May 24th - Mila Church<br>May 25th - Cindy Anderson<br>Jolene Jonas  |
| May 7th - Dee Allen<br>John Hinz Jr.   | May 26th - Addison Bartel<br>May 27th - Heather Carafiol<br>Lester Jedlicka<br>Cindy Lloyd                 |
| May 8th - James Mullinax<br>May 10th - Laura Bartel<br>Rachel Gregor<br>Wayne Winslow                    | May 28th - Connall Crowley<br>May 29th - Josiah Koehler<br>Liam Miller                                     |
| May 13th - Christine Church<br>Tommy Tutchings   |  |
| May 14th - Robert Koehler<br>May 15th - Bettye Garner<br>Briana Way                                      |  |
| May 16th - Jacob Woollard  |  |

### Acolytes

**Early**

**May 7th** - TBD  
**May 14th** - Stephanie Biscamp/Sarah Lewis  
**May 21st** - Mackenzie Waltman/Joshua Vigil  
**May 28th** - TBD

**Late**

**May 7th** - Walker Berndt/Aiden Koehler  
**May 14th** - Ethan Schwenzer/Johnny Hinz  
**May 21st** - Lucas Woollard/Rachel Ward  
**May 28th** - Louis Wiltenmuth/Jonah Unruh

### Lay Readers

**May 7th** (E) Shannon Sullivan Hard (L) Dianne Jenkins  
 First Reading: Acts 2:42-47  
 Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25  
**May 14th** - (E) Linda Bye (L) Mike Mullinax  
 First Reading - Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60  
 Epistle - 1 Peter 2:2-10

**May 21st** - (E) Linda Gazion (L) Perry Darley  
 First Reading - Acts 17:16-31  
 Epistle - 1 Peter 3:13-22  
**May 28th** - (E) Debbie Schuldaski (L) Lea Wiltenmuth  
 First Reading - Acts 1:12-26  
 Epistle - 1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

### Ushers

**Early**

**May 7th** - Tom Church, Mike Evenson, Jason Biscamp, Mike Eastman  
**May 14th** - Frank Misemer, William Lewis, Sam Henley, Richard Rush  
**May 21st** - Mo Long, Darrell Becker, Mike Weiland, Rob Hybl  
**May 28th** - Mike Bush, David Bye, Randy Mayer, Mike Diederer

**Late**

**May 7th** - Adam Eichelberger, Adam Tisdale, Kirk Hymes, Douglas Berndt  
**May 14th** - ROMANS  
**May 21st** - Berner Johnson, Craig Nehls, Josiah Koehler, John Overbey  
**May 28th** - John Sullivan, Rich Gasperoni, Christ Koehler, John Wiltenmuth

### Men's Ministry Breakfast for Thurman Brisbane

**May 20th** - John Hinz, David Jenkins, Berner Johnson, & Bob Waugh

.....  
 If you are unable to usher, please arrange for your replacement or contact Craig Nehls (540-972-2477). Additional Ushers are always welcome. Contact Craig if you're interested in becoming one.  
 .....

**Lead Elders:**  
**(E) Mike Diederer & (L) Bjorn Thorpe**



# Embraced by the Redeemer

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**We're on the web!**  
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## Contact Us!

### Redeemer Staff:

#### Pastor:

Rev. John Kassouf  
[jfkpastor@gmail.com](mailto:jfkpastor@gmail.com)

#### Music Director:

Jacob Drengler  
[music@embracedbyhim.org](mailto:music@embracedbyhim.org)

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## The Last Word

As you conclude reading, we are blessed to see our new masthead, "The Messenger" This is a tool that allows us to expand our outreach goal to Come and See - Go and Tell". We have a MESSAGE to share - that of Jesus Christ and His work among us. In the final analysis, YOU are the MESSENGER, with the neighborhoods and communities that you find yourselves in. Recently, a member called me and asked me the spiritual questions that were raised by a coworker, seeking how to answer to pass along. If a baby dies before it is baptized do Christians believe the child will go to heaven or hell? and if a Christian commits suicide will they go to heaven or hell? Real questions from the neighborhood called "the work place." Pastors so appreciate these types of questions. We may not be good at answering the question, "Pastor, who left the lights on at church last night?" As you go about talking with your friends and neighbors, co workers, and classmates, I suspect questions will be generated that you don't know the answer to. There are times I don't know the answers either... and that dear brothers and sisters is a part of the mystery of our transcendent God. It is ok to say to someone, "I'm not sure. Let me see if I can get an answer, meanwhile, would you like to 'come and see'?" You may get turned down, however, you just might get a big YES! If you get the yes, bring them to an activity at Redeemer or to worship. While they are here, please introduce me to them and bring up the questions they seek an answer to. Together, we will go and tell. Meanwhile, if they just seek the answer, I would be glad to join you in seeking the best biblical answer to those things scripture addresses. Call me, 843-655-2474.

Recently the comment was passed along to me, "Pastor it would be helpful if you shared with us what you read." I've been reading three books of late, "The Art of Neighboring", "Joining Jesus on His Mission" and "The Tangible Kingdom." We are reading the first of these books in our iNeighborhood team (a team you also are a part of... the great commission team of making disciples that we call iNeighborhood) and our Sunday adult Bible class will be reading it too beginning May 1. "The Art of Neighboring" is by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon. If you currently are not in a class on Sunday, come join the team in the fellowship hall at 9:30. Coffee and tea at the front door Sunday morning. Beginning in early May, our Fellowship Board will be moving the drinks and goodies to the lawn and patio just outside our front door. The hope is to welcome our guests who too often run off before any of the regular attenders can greet them. Do take the time to welcome the newcomer, they so appreciate the "friendliness" of our church. If it rains... we will move it into the lobby. Following the direction of the congregation as they helped set vision at our January "envision" gathering and the voters meeting affirmation of those results, we continue to move forward in each area you voted on.

Regarding the additional worship style offerings, work continues in a measured way to use the technology available (also from the "envision planning session as well as the voters meeting) to make adaptations in our worship services. The 8:00 am (early service) will continue to offer the "classic grace" style you have come to know at Redeemer. It is my hope to add back the psalm, chanted on non-communion Sundays, the tradition of allowing the prelude and postlude to be a part of the

service and not "traveling music" as people move through the sanctuary to arrive and dismiss. Certainly, a hymnal based and organ driven music life will be evident in that service. In a measured way, we begin to RE-introduce something that you knew before at Redeemer - praise music during the communion liturgy at the 10:45 service. The search begins for assistance in music participants for that service. If you enjoy singing, particularly singing the religious music you hear today on K-love radio or XM 63 Satellite radio, and you would be willing to share your voice to lead singing for these songs at the 10:45 service, or if you play guitar, piano, or other instruments, please see our Minister of Music, Jacob Drengler and/or Pastor John. Screens that contain our announcements, scripture readings and other resources for worship will be introduced over the next months. These are intended to assist everyone on worship by being able to read, see and participate. Oh, and by the way, if you are wondering... what was the answer to the two questions asked by a member at the start of this article... While none of us decides who goes to heaven or hell, scripture makes clear that faith in Christ as Savior... saves us. He can work that as early in life as "in the womb" - see Luke 1 and the visit of Mary/Jesus with Elizabeth/John the Baptist. We can clearly see that with God anything is possible, including working direct faith to one so young, even before they can talk about it. Again, the 2nd question - a believer, living in the grace of God will sin, we all do. The only unforgivable sin shared in scripture is rejecting the Holy Spirit. The God I love, loves people and sent His son to be savior to all. With faith in Christ present, heaven and salvation are the clear answers of scripture for cases such as these.