

DECEMBER 15-  
DECEMBER 24,  
2017

# The Messenger

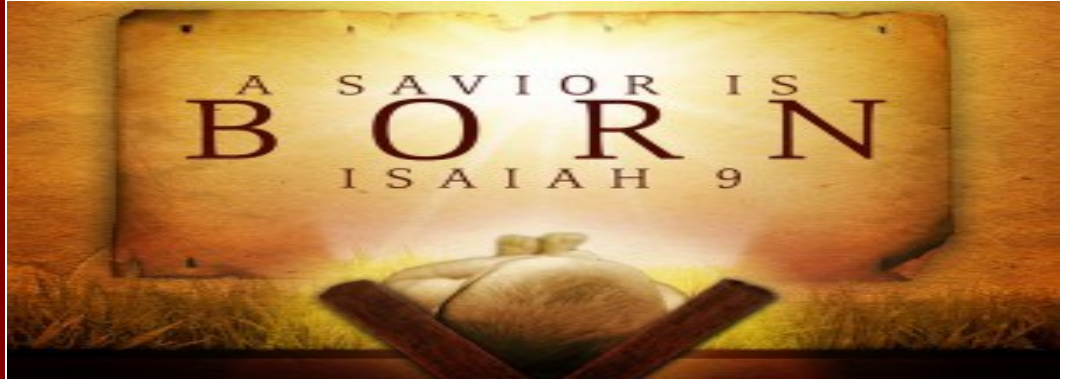
...the newsletter of Redeemer Lutheran Church

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"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."



## African Children's Choir

Redeemer is blessed to host the African Children's Choir for a concert on Sunday, January 21st at 6:30 pm. We are in need of families to house 2-3 children and a chaperone for the nights of January 21st, 22nd and 23rd. They will be using the classrooms at the church for their studies during the day but generally the host families will provide their morning and evening meals and possibly a bag lunch. Once we have the families committed we will pull a meeting together to coordinate details. Please contact Anita Diederer or Angie Thorpe if you are interested in volunteering as a host family. For the families that participated a few years ago it was an unforgettable experience!

## Christmas Caroling

Help spread some Christmas cheer to our Redeemer family. We will be caroling and visiting our shut-ins on Saturday, December 23. A light lunch will be served in the fellowship hall at 11:30. Then we will split up in teams to go caroling. There will be a hot chocolate social at Pastor John's house to follow. If you are or know of any shut-ins please let us know so that we can add you/them to the list. Any questions, please contact Josie Douglas

## Did You Know

- ◆ For those who need a little help hearing during the worship service, there are ear pieces that are connected to the sound system that you can use. Just ask an usher for help.
- ◆ The 4 year olds of our Preschool will be having their Christmas program on Monday, December 18, 11 AM in the sanctuary. Come and support your preschool and see the Little ones tell the Christmas story their way.
- ◆ Sedona restaurant with their charity steak meal, raised money for Thurman Brisbane. It was matched by Wegman's to donate \$5400. Thank you to those who enjoyed the meal and helped
- ◆ You can contribute to our information pops. Please contact Sharon Evenson if you have something that Redeemer should know!
- ◆ A printed copy of the Messenger can be found in the magazine carousel each Sunday.



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## Redeemer's 40th Anniversary

Celebrating 40 years of connecting people to Jesus! Throughout 2018, Redeemer will be reflecting and celebrating these 40 years with a variety of special events and activities. Our theme...GATHER, NURTURE AND GROW .....help prepare us to go and tell others about our Savior.

We begin our celebration with special worship services on January 7, 2018, with guest proclaimer, Dr. John Nunes, President, Concordia College, Bronxville, NY. Following our worship services, all are invited to Fellowship Hall for pot luck luncheon. Luncheon signup sheets are in the narthex. Please make your reservations no later than December 17, 2017. Any question, please contact Nancy Minnich 540-424-7028



### Advent Hymn of the Week

Our Advent hymn of the week is “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding.” This ancient hymn calls us to prepare for the coming of Christ and to heed the voice of the one who calls us to, “Cast away the works of darkness” as we walk as children of light. Following customs developed in the early Christian Church, many generations of Christians adopted a detailed pattern of worship each day. A system of seven services was developed. These services were used at various times of the day and night. Many thought that this pattern was reflected in the Psalms. For example, Ps. 119:164 says, “Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules.” Though not everyone would participate in all of these services, they were diligently followed in monasteries. The Lutheran Confessions rejected the “babbling of the seven canonical hours of prayer” that turned worship into a work and cautioned that such a system was a human invention and it was not sinful to omit such services. Still, Luther urged that Christians be involved in daily worship and devotions, and Lutherans have continued to use several of these offices, including, Matins, Vespers and Compline. In the Middle Ages, as the community gathered for one of the morning offices known as Prime, an Advent custom emerged. On the First Sunday in Advent, the first day of the new church year, they would sing “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding.” From then until Christmas Eve, at each service of Prime, they would sing this hymn because it summarized the themes of Advent and called the singers to prepare themselves for their Savior. Though we do not know the author of this old hymn, it continues to call people to hear the Advent message. Today, many Christians hear this hymn as one of the songs often sung in the famous Service of Lessons and Carols that is broadcast worldwide from King’s College Chapel in Cambridge, England, every Christmas Eve. It remains a powerful witness to the message of Advent.

## **CBTP/CSTP**

In January, we will be collecting gently used and new clothing of all sizes for those leaving incarceration and being supported by the Christian Brothers and Christian Sisters Transition Program (CBTP/CSTP). The purpose of this program is to serve, support, encourage, and discipline Christians as they transition from incarceration to a free, productive, law-abiding, Christ centered life in our communities.

It Provides Christian ministries necessary to enable individuals to free themselves from addictions, homelessness, joblessness, and other obstacles blocking them from receiving blessings from God.

**Clothing suggestions:** jackets, sweaters, dresses, suits, shirts/tops, pants, jeans, and pajamas. No socks, shoes, or undies.

If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie Mullinax.

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## **Board of Elders**

The Board of Elders is looking for members of the congregation to serve on the Worship Committee. This committee will assist the Board of Elders and our Ministry team in the development of diverse styles of worship as chosen in our January 2017 Vision congregational workshop. There are three openings available for interested persons. If you are interested and want to know more, check out the Worship Committee charter that can be found on the Board of Elder bulletin board in the Fellowship hall. Any questions or to volunteer, please contact our Head Elder – Randy Mayer.

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## **Vision Saturday 2.0**

The whole church is invited to a strategic planning session called Vision Saturday 2.0. This will take place on Saturday January 6, 2018. Coffee will be offered at 8:45am and we will begin at 9am.



## This Week at a Glance

- Friday, December 15th**
- RAAI - 11am
  - ROMANS Game Night- 6pm
  - AA - 7pm
- Saturday, December 16th**
- Advent by Candlelight - 6pm
- Sunday, December 17th**
- Worship Services - 8am & 10:45am
  - Sunday School - 9:30am
  - Confirmation - 6pm
- Monday, December 18th**
- Bible Study - 7pm
  - Boy Scouts - 7pm
- Tuesday, December 19th**
- Ladies Night Out @ Vinny's 6:30pm
  - Compassionate Friends - 7pm
  - Theology on Tap - 7pm
- Wednesday, December 20th**
- Bible Study - 10:30am
  - Advent Service - 12:30pm
  - Advent Service - 7pm
- Thursday, December 14th**
- RAAI - 11am
  - Sanctuary Choir - 7pm
- Friday, December 15th**
- RAAI - 11am
  - AA - 7pm
- Sunday, December 17th**
- Worship Services - 8am & 10:45am
  - Sunday School - 9:30am
  - Family Service - 6:30pm
  - Candlelight Service - 10pm



## This Week's Birthdays!

- December 15th**
- Jennifer Koehler
  - Jennifer Miller
- December 17th**
- Eric Keefer
- December 18th**
- Jacob Waltman
- December 20th**
- Ann Koehler
- December 21st**
- Philip Wiltenmuth
- December 23rd**
- Stephanie Biscamp
  - Alicia Crowley
  - Ryan Hymes
  - Rebecca Richey



*Happy Anniversary*

**December 16th** - David & Peggy Carlson (44 Years)

**December 18th** - Allen & Faith Marburger (24 Years)

**December 23rd** - Ty & Laura Bartel (5 Years)

**December 24th** - Michael Eastman & Barbara Buck (42 Years)

\*If we missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office so we may update our records and join with the church in remembering these precious moments.



# December 2017

## Details of Events

December 1st - 7pm Kohathites

December 2nd- 9:30am Decorate the church.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Worship 8am & 10:45am Active Shooter Class Voter's Meeting Confirmatio n 6pm	4 Peace choir 6pm  Boy Scouts 7pm  Bible Study 7pm	5 Beauclair Event 5pm	6 Bible Study 10:30am Advent service 12:30pm Art Group 2:30pm Advent Service 7pm Elder's Meeting 8pm	7 RAAI 11am Homeschool Group 12:30pm Agape Ringers 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm Outreach 7pm	8 RAAI 11am KINGS 5pm AA 7pm	9 Men's Breakfast 8am
10 Worship 8am & 10:45am	11 Boy Scouts 7pm  Bible Study 7pm	12 From the Heart Stitchers 10 am	13 Bible Study 10:30am Advent service 12:30pm  Advent Service 7pm Council Meeting	14 RAAI 11am Agape Ringers 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 7pm	15 RAAI 11am  AA 7pm Romans Game Night	16 Advent by Candlelight 6pm
17 Worship 8am & 10:45am Confirmation 6pm	18 Boy Scouts 7pm  Bible Study 7pm	19 Ladies Night Out @ Vinny's 6pm Compassionate Friends 7pm Theology on Tap 7pm	20 Bible Study 10:30am Advent service 12:30pm Art Group 2:30pm Advent Service 7pm	21 RAAI 11am Homeschool Group 12:30pm Agape Sanctuary Choir 7pm	22 RAAI 11am  AA 7pm	23
25 Worship 8am & 10:45am 6:30pm (Family) 10pm (Candlelight)	25 10 am Service  Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Open from 9-1	27 Church Office Open from 9-1	28 Church Office Open from 9-1	29 Church Office Closed	30
31 Worship 10am & 7pm						



## Acolytes

### Early

**December 3** - TBD

**December 10** - TBD

**December 17** - Joshua Vigil/TBD

**December 24** - TBD

**December 31** - TBD

### Late

**December 3** - Walker Berndt/Aiden Koehler

**December 10** - Ethan Schwenzer/Johnny Hinz

**December 17** - Lucas Woollard/Jonah Unruh

**December 24** - Regan Schwenzer/Rachel Ward

**December 31** - Louis Wiltenmuth/Liam Miller

## Lay Readers

**December 3rd** (E) Shannon Hard (L) John Karpiscak

**First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9**

**Epistle: I Corinthians 1:3-9**

**December 10th** (E) Linda Gazion(L) Linda Karpiscak

**First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11**

**Epistle: II Peter 3:8-14**

**December 17th** (E) Randy Mayer (L) Lea Wiltenmuth

**First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

**Epistle: I Thessalonians 5:16-24**

**December 24th** (E) Laurie Mayer (L) Ken Elam

**First Reading: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

**Epistle: Romans 16:25-27**

## Ushers

### Early

**December 3rd** - Tom Church, Mike Evenson, Jason Biscamp, Michael Biscamp

**December 10th** - Dave Allen William Lewis, Moe Long, Richard Rush

**December 17th** - Frank Misemer, Mike Eastman, Mike Weiland, Rob Hybl

**December 24th** - Rick Moseley, David Bye, Randy Mayer, Mike Diederer

**December 31st** - Dave Allen, Sam Henley, Moe Long, Frank Misemer

### Late

**December 3rd** - Marcus Woollard, Adam Tisdale, Bjorn Thorpe, Douglas Berndt

**December 10th** -ROMANS

**December 17th** - Berner Johnson, Craig Nehls, Josiah Koehler, John Wiltenmuth

**December 24th** John Sullivan, Rich Gasperoni, Chris Koehler, John Overbey

**December 31st** - Craig Nehls, Tim Moles, John Sullivan, Chris Koehler

## Men's Ministry Breakfast for Thurman Brisben

**December 2nd** -Jack McGrady, Mark Mueller, Bob Nette, Mike Newchok

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.

### December Lead

#### Elders:

(E) Hank Farr

(L) Steve

Schwenzer



# Embraced by the Redeemer

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**We're on the web!**  
[Embracedbyhim.org](http://Embracedbyhim.org)

## Contact Us!

### Redeemer Staff:

#### Pastor:

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

#### Music Director:

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

#### Office Manager:

Tonaka Gary  
[info@embracedbyhim.org](mailto:info@embracedbyhim.org)  
540-898-4748

#### Treasurer:

Susan Biscamp  
[treasurer@embracedbyhim.org](mailto:treasurer@embracedbyhim.org)

#### Preschool Administrator:

Michelle Gasperoni  
[preschool@embracedbyhim.org](mailto:preschool@embracedbyhim.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday  
9am - 3pm

## Advent By Candlelight

Redeemer Family and friends, you are invited to our second annual **Advent by Candlelight** dinner and music event on **Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> with dinner starting at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall.** The theme for the event is Darkness into Light. All we ask is that you bring your family favorite side, appetizer or dessert to share with all and the entrée will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for you to sign up 8 folks to a table. Once dinner is over we will head up to the sanctuary for the singing of your favorite carols and hymns. Please join your Redeemer family and bring a friend if you would like! If you are interested in hosting a table, please see the note below. This will be a moment of rest and reflection in this busy season so please join! If you have any questions, please call Anita Diederer.

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

### Host Opportunities

Want to ensure you have a seat at this year's **Advent by Candlelight**? Volunteer to be a table hostess and we will reserve a chair for you! Hosts provide table settings and holiday decorations for 8 folks. Many partner with another family to host a table. It will be lots of fun and requires only a few moments of time for planning and decorating. If you want to host a table this year, please fill out your name at the top of one of the sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex. Table would need to be set by 5:30 pm on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> for the dinner at 6 pm. Please call Anita Diederer if you have any questions or would like to volunteer!

## Friendly Reminder

Please have all announcements ready for input into the Messenger, screens, and bulletin no later than Noon on Thursdays of each week. After that time there is no certainty that it will make it in that week.