

DECEMBER 22-  
DECEMBER 31,  
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."

This is the last Messenger of 2017! We have had an exciting and full year! We will return in 2018! We pray you all have a blessed Christmas!



## 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



- ◆ We praise the Lord for Faith Marburger as she celebrates 40 years as a deaconess and a blessing here at Redeemer.
- ◆ Pastor Koehler is also celebrating as he was ordained 45 years ago this year. His dedicated ministry continues after retirement as he is the vacancy pastor in Stamford.
- ◆ Three new TVs were put into classrooms. Thank you Mike.
- ◆ Have you noticed some tree pruning? Keeping with security, Keith has had the large evergreens trimmed and cleared the scrub brush along the road. Thanks Keith.
- ◆ Many thanks to Anita and her hard working helpers for the dinner last Saturday and all the "eating" events they have prepared.
- ◆ 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 Kickoff

Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 7:45am and 10:30am Redeemer Music Director, Jacob Drenkler will present music to prepare us for worship. Please enter the sanctuary quietly and listen to the special musical arrangements.

We encourage your attendance to welcome our special guest, Rev. Dr. John Nunes, President, Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y. Dr. Nunes will serve as Proclaimer and Pastor Kassouf as Liturgist at both services.

There will be a luncheon following the worship services at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. 40 Years of connecting people to Jesus!

*Celebrating*  
**40** *Years*

## Advent Hymn of the Week

The hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" grew out of a series of antiphons sung from December 17 to 23, one each day, at Vespers, prior to and following the Magnificat. These antiphons, which came to be known as the "O" Antiphons, date back to at least the ninth century. At a later date, probably the twelfth century, they were collected into Latin verse by an unknown author. It was in 1851 that the English theologian and poet, John Mason Neale (1818-1866), translated the Latin verse, drawn from a 1710 German collection of psalms and hymns, into the English we now know as this hymn.

Neale's short life of 48 years, due to chronic poor health, was a life of accomplishment. It was said that he was one of the great Latin and Greek scholars of his time. Through this expertise, he provided translations of numerous Latin and Greek hymn texts used in the Church even to our day.



## **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 Christain 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 22nd** - RAAI - 11am  
 - AA - 7pm
- Sunday, December 24th** - Worship Services - 8am & 10:45am  
 - Family Service - 6:30pm  
 - Candlelight Service - 10pm
- Monday, December 25th** - Christmas Service - 10am
- Sunday, December 31st** - Worship Services - 10am & 7pm



**Church Office Hours are limited December 26th - 28th from 9am - 1pm**  
**The office will be closed Friday December 29th and will reopen January 2, 2018 at 9am**

## This Week's Birthdays!

- December 23rd** - Stephanie Biscamp  
 - Alicia Crowley  
 - Ryan Hymes  
 - Rebecca Richey
- December 27th** - Richard Fredenburgh
- December 29th** - Tyler Fehrman  
 - Danie Fox-Moles
- December 30th** - Eric Church
- December 31st** - Dave Allen  
 - Audrey Schmidt



- December 23rd** - Ty & Laura Bartel (5 Years)
- December 24th** - Michael Eastman & Barbara Buck (42 Years)
- December 27th** - John & Bettye Garner (42 Years)
- December 28th** - Kyle & Brenton Hobbs (4 Years)
- December 30th** - Todd & Jennifer Miller (22 Years)
- December 31st** - Jack & Amanda McGrady (29 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.*

Merry Christmas



# December 2017

## Details of Events

December 1st -  
7pm Kohathites

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

No Sunday School  
12/24 & 12/31

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 Beauclaire 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 Drengler  
[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

## Not That Far from Bethlehem

Do you have a favorite Christmas Carol? Often they transport us back to a time and place we remember warmly. The remembrances of family, friends, a special occasion, coupled with the thought of Christ's birth, makes for Christmases to remember. Often when you hear the music, whether you are alone or with those you love, you can't help but sing. Notice that you just seem to sound better when it's a Christmas carol. My list of favorite carols grows each year. I have come to appreciate what a wish for the future could be in a Christmas carol. Our worship life at Redeemer allows us to travel back to Bethlehem and then to move forward toward our eternal future. Our life is built on the certain hope that our Savior Jesus Christ will not only transport us back to Bethlehem, but jettison us forward to our eternal home. Can we share that message clearly in this Christmas season? I pray we can.

My prayer for you this Christmas is that you will allow the Holy Spirit, through the Word and in keeping with the tunes of the season, to transport you to heavenly places. May your travels be safe, your meals be delicious, your cookies scrumptious and your worship profound yet simple. By all means... SING!

Below are a few links to some Christmas albums I have enjoyed over the years. I pray they are a blessing to you too... Christ keep you now at Christmas and long into the new year, Pastor John.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K50n\\_YT81A&list=PLpW5IXC4QrwxKeQBd81MNXIL6EGFSxG2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K50n_YT81A&list=PLpW5IXC4QrwxKeQBd81MNXIL6EGFSxG2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pitHiRVmEPY&list=PLCDC622A3814E55C7>

## 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.