



The Newsletter of  
**Redeemer Lutheran Church**  
Dec 2014

**The Witness**

Deck the Halls

Sunday November 30 @ 11:15 am

Snow Angels Craft Fair and Cookie Walk

Saturday December 6 @ 8:00 am

Men's Breakfast at Three Brothers

Saturday December 13 @ 8:00 am

RINGS Christmas Party at St. Johns,  
Hebron

Sunday December 14 @ 5:00 pm

Longest Night

Sunday December 21 @ 5:00 pm

Christmas Program and Angel Brunch

Sunday December 21 @ 10:00 am

Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday December 24 @ 5:30 pm

Christmas Day Worship

Thursday December 25 @ 10:00 am

Lessons and Carols

Sunday December 28 @ 8:00 and 10:00 am

## Advent and Christmas Events

### Advent Worship Continues Sundays until Christmas

Advent begins on Sunday November 30. It is a time of hoping, waiting, yearning, and preparation. For the second year in a row we will begin our Advent worship services in the Fellowship Hall, which serves as our “**Waiting Room**” before the service begins. After this time of waiting and preparation we will then move into the sanctuary.

### Deck the Halls

Sunday November 30 at 11:15 am

On the first Sunday of Advent after the second service we decorated the church for Christmas. Also, during the Advent season **you may purchase poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary.** These can be designated in honor of or in memory of a loved one, and you can take them home with you after Christmas Day! The cost is \$16.00 per pot. Sign up at the Welcome Table by **December 14.**

### Snow Angels Craft Fair, Cookie Walk and Quilt Sale

Saturday December 6 at 8:00 am

It's time for our big annual fundraiser! Saturday December 6 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm is Snow Angels Craft Fair, Cookie Walk, and Quilt Sale. It's a great way to get some Christmas shopping done, have some fun, enjoy some great baked goods, buy a quilt made by our **Redeemer Quilters**, and support your

church all at the same time. You can also enjoy a lunch prepared by our RINGS Youth Group.

We need people to bring in home-baked cookies. We also volunteers to help in the kitchen and clean up after the event. Please sign up at the Welcome Table. Thanks to **Arne Olsen** for efficiently coordinating this event every year!

### All-Church Christmas Program Sunday December 21 at 10:00 am

This year our Christmas program will be presented on December 21 at the second service. ***Note that the early 8:00 am service is cancelled on this Sunday.***

### Parish Fellowship Angel Brunch Sunday December 21 at 11:15 am

After the second service on December 21 we will join for our annual Parish Fellowship Angel Brunch.

This year our theme will be “**Old World Christmas**” so we are asking people to share their Christmas traditions. First, we invite you to **fill out a card** at the Welcome Table that that describes your favorite “Old World Christmas Tradition.” Some or all of these cards will be read at the Angel Brunch. These cards are available at the Welcome Table.

Second, we invite you to **bring a dish to share** at the brunch that is part of your family's Christmas tradition or an “Old World” recipe that perhaps reflects your

## Advent and Christmas Events

ethnic heritage. Or maybe it's just an "Old World" Christmas tradition that you always wanted to enjoy!

Third, instead of bringing specific items for the homeless this year, we are requesting **\$5.00 Walmart gift cards** to pass out to our Daytime Drop-In Guests on Christmas Day. Please give these cards to Laura Byers or Susan Hudson.

Finally, we are also going to make up **goody bags for the children** with items like candy, fruit, and perhaps a small toy. These goody bags will be passed out by our "**Christmas Angel**" who plans to visit our church on that day.

This should be a lot of fun and we hope that everyone will join us for this special church family Christmas celebration.

### Longest Night Service

Sunday December 21 at 5:00 pm

On Sunday December 21 at 5:00 pm we will host a service called "*The Longest Night: A Service of Hope and Remembrance*" with the help of our friends from Grace Lutheran, First Presbyterian, and St. Ann's Episcopal churches.

For those struggling with grief, illness and other issues, the Christmas season can be a difficult time. This simple service acknowledges this reality, while focusing our hope and belief on Jesus as the Light of the World. Please consider joining us!

### Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday December 24 at 5:30 pm

On Christmas Eve there will be a traditional candlelight service at 5:30 pm. Please come join us as we celebrate this very special tradition of the church.

### Christmas Day Service

Thursday December 25 at 10:00 am

We gather together as a church family on Christmas Day at 10:00 am to rejoice in the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. What better way to remember "the reason for the season!" Joy to the World!!

### Christmas Dinner for the Homeless

Thursday December 25 at 11:30 am

Because Christmas falls on a Thursday this year we will be joining with other WACM churches to provide a proper Christmas dinner for our Daytime Drop-In guests. To find out how you can help see Susan Hudson.

### Lessons and Carols

Sunday December 28

On Sunday December 28 at both services we will enjoy our Service of Lessons and Carols. This service is always a favorite as we spend the entire hour singing favorite Christmas carols and reading seasonal scriptures. Our Praise Band will play the carols at the second service.



*Thanks to Char and Arne for their commitment to the success of this project!*



*Fran was one of many volunteers who came out during the week of preparation.*

Thanksgiving 2014 at Redeemer Lutheran was totally amazing. We had so many volunteers and food donations. We estimate that we fed 150 plus 30 dinners that were delivered. We also had many of our volunteers also eat, so maybe 200 dinners. All that was unused for the dinner went to the food pantry. Thanks to all who worked, donated and prayed for us. And a big big thank you to Arne Olsen for cooking all the turkeys and coordinating the home deliveries! We are truly blessed!



*The serving line lasted for more than an hour because people continued to arrive.*



*A few of the folks who helped serve.*

## Pastor's Message

On November 23, we had a wonderful celebration luncheon, catered by Megan Liebrau of Now We're Cookin', who rents our kitchen.

Outside of her great food and lively conversation, we were able to take a moment to reflect and celebrate an amazing year. It is important for us to look back on the last 12 months and realize what has been accomplished. It is truly amazing can only be attributed to providence - the action of the Holy Spirit! Here is a chronology of events:

- ◆ In December 2013, we were awarded a \$5,000 Neighbors in Need Grant from the Thrivent Community Foundation in recognition of our work with those in need
- ◆ In April 2014, we re-shingled and upgraded the 19 year old roof of the fellowship hall and education wing. The work was covered with an insurance claim due to a November 2013 hailstorm. We only paid \$750 for work valued at \$30,000 - a needed and amazing gift!
- ◆ In June 2014, the Thrivent Community Foundation offered a Challenge Grant. They offered a 1 to 2 match - they would match \$5,000 if we raised \$10,000. In an attempt to meet this challenge, we asked for gifts from individuals and businesses, wrote for grants, and organized two major fundraisers. This effort was called *The Drive For Five*.

So, the following events took place...

- ◆ On Saturday, September 20, under the leadership of President Anne Johnson, Redeemer held its 1st Car Show and Hot Dog Festival. It raised nearly \$1800, as well as confidence in our ability to achieve *The Drive For Five*.
- ◆ On Monday, October 27, under the leadership of Debbie Dechant, we held a Benefit Dinner at Crandall's Restaurant in Hebron, earning nearly \$4000! A tremendous night!
- ◆ With these events and other generous gifts, *The Drive For Five* goal of \$10,000 was achieved and exceeded, with over \$13,000 raised on our own, and \$10,000 total from the Thrivent Foundation, for a grand total of over \$23,000 raised, funds earmarked for capital improvements and programs that help those we serve.

I could have never imagined any of this happening last year and it has been an incredible ride watching it all unfold this year. We have been incredibly blessed. Thanks be to God!

If asked to explain how we did it, we do well to quote the angel Gabriel's words to Mary in the Gospel of Luke: "*For nothing will be impossible with God.*" (Luke 1:37, NRSV)

Come join us and see what God has in store for Redeemer in 2015!



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

We try to create an accurate listing of members' birthdays and anniversaries. If your important date isn't listed, please email the church office at [info@rlcw.org](mailto:info@rlcw.org) and we will make sure that we get it right next time. We hope you enjoy this feature and appreciate your patience with any (unintentional) errors or omissions!

### Birthdays

December 2	Kelly Van Fleet
December 4	Savanna Victory
December 6	Carla Scholpp
December 7	Benjamin Scholpp
December 9	Carol Lapp
December 12	Ginger Johnson
December 16	Dan Sychowski
December 17	Dave Byers
December 23	Luke Knudsen
December 24	LeRoy Knudsen
December 28	Ray Schultz
December 28	Nick Wedoff
December 29	Molly Griffin
December 30	LaVerne Watts
December 30	Bill Lapp

### Anniversaries

Dylan & Irene Berger  
December 6, 1980

## Worship & Music

### Share Your Musical Gifts!

The Worship & Music team invites you to share special music at any time, especially during the holidays.

It enhances the service and people enjoy it--as evidenced by the great response to the Praise Band! Anyone interested, be it solo, duet, small group, or instrumental are welcome.

Please contact Carolyn Jurisch or anyone else on the Worship Team.

### Christmas Helpers

We need greeters, ushers, readers, and communion assistants at our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. We also need several readers for Lessons and Carols on December 28. Sign up at the Welcome Table.

## Christian Education

### Daytime Bible Study

Beginning January 7 at 10:00 am

Join with church friends and Pastor John Hudson on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 am to read and discuss Isaiah, chapters 40-66. These Bible readings were favorites of Jesus. They contain a message of hope and good news. They call for social responsibility. They celebrate joyful prayer and worship.

This will be a six week session, ending before Lent. The more the merrier. Please come.

## Stewardship

This fall, we have been talking about *Giving in Grace* as a spiritual practice and discipline. It is important that we consider why we give instead of just doing it out of habit.

The first reason we give is as a joyful and thankful response to God's rich gift of grace in Jesus Christ to us. The second reason we give is to share God's love in Jesus Christ with others .

These two reasons form the basis for our giving and the work we do together as Redeemer . We support our ministry with our time and talents, as well as with our financial treasure.

Please prayerfully consider making a financial commitment to Redeemer in 2015 by filling out a commitment card and returning it to church as soon as possible. As you fulfill your commitment, consider the following:

- ◆ Giving "first-fruits" by budgeting your offering, giving to the church first
- ◆ Being a "growing giver," growing your giving each year
- ◆ Striving for giving a tithe of your income (giving 10%) & beyond

Thank you for giving of yourself and for considering how you might share your gifts of time, talent and treasure in in response to God's gracious gift of Jesus Christ for you.

Thank you for *Giving in Grace!*

## November Council Report

- ◆ November 11 marked Redeemer's 35th anniversary.
- ◆ Great celebrations in worship with Baptism (1), Holy Communion Instruction (7), & Confirmation (3)
- ◆ Exceeding goal of \$10,000 for the Drive for Five Matching Grant with successful Crandall's Dinner. Over \$20,000 now available for capital projects and social justice programs!
- ◆ Preparing of 2015 budget
- ◆ New council members needed, as **Joe Scholpp** & **Anne Johnson** complete their term
- ◆ Next meeting is Tuesday Dec. 9. Guest are always welcome to attend.

## Woodstock Food Pantry

The WFP can use volunteers! Volunteer hours are M/W/F from 8:30 to 12, first shift and then 12 to 3 pm. Please contact our representative **Carol Knudsen** for more information.

## RINGS (Our HS youth group)

### Upcoming Events

(All times 5:00 –7:30pm unless noted)

**Dec. 6, 11am-2pm** - Lunch @ Redeemer's Craft Fair

**Dec. 14** - Christmas Party @ St. John's

**Jan. 2**—Feed My Starving Children (10:30 am)

Contact Pastor Tom for more details!

## Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast this month will be on December 13 this month because the Craft Fair is on the first Saturday. They will meet at Three Brothers Restaurant as usual. All men are invited to attend. Thanks to **Dave Byers** for organizing this group!

### Publicity

We're in the news again!! Copies of the November 19-25 *Woodstock Independent* article about our Thanksgiving Dinner are available at the Welcome Table. Also there is a great picture of Arne on the bulletin board from the Nov. 26-Dec. 2 edition!

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## Our Leadership Team

<u>Team</u>	<u>Team Leader</u>	<u>Council Liaison</u>	<u>Team Members</u> <small>(at least 2 members needed — in addition to chair and liaison)</small>
Parish Education		Curt Bruce (382-0678)	Deb Story
Parish Fellowship	Laura Byers	Anne Johnson	Ginger Johnson Liz Henniges Jerry Sanato
Social Justice		Owen Wilson	Carol Knudsen ( <i>Food Pantry rep.</i> ) Charlotte Scholpp ( <i>WACM rep.</i> ) Arne Olsen ( <i>WACM rep.</i> )
Outreach/Evangelism	Dave Byers Arne Olsen	Joe Scholpp	<i>The entire congregation!</i>
Worship and Music	Carolyn Jurisch	John Van Fleet	Gloria Peetz Anne Johnson Susan Hudson
Stewardship	Pastor Tom	Dick Peterson	
Finance	Bill Lapp	Deb Story	Bruce Friedman
Property		Debbie Dechant	Don Range, Dan Sychowski
Prayer	Susan Hudson	Pastor Tom	<i>The entire congregation!</i>



# December 2014 Sunday Servants

## **8:00 AM**

John a& Susan Hudson  
Phyllis Ule  
Andy & Kimberly  
Zinke  
Marie Nikitovich

## **7-Dec**

*Communion*  
*Reader*  
*Usher*  
  
*Greeter*

*Altar Care: Dick & Pat Peterson*

## **10:00 AM**

Dave Byers & Joe Scholpp  
Mary Laidig  
Robert Jablonski Jr./Sr.  
  
Anne Johnson

## **8:00 AM**

n/a  
Liz Henniges  
Dylan & Irene Berger  
Don & Irene Range

## **14-Dec**

*Communion*  
*Reader*  
*Usher*  
*Greeter*

*Altar Care: Mary Laidig*

## **10:00 AM**

Dick & Pat Peterson  
Charlotte Scholpp  
Rich & Ginger Johnson  
Steve Ujka & Betty Frank

## **8:00 AM**

n/a  
n/a  
n/a  
n/a

## **21-Dec**

*Communion*  
*Reader*  
*Usher*  
*Greeter*

*Altar Care: Dick & Pat Peterson*

## **10:00 AM**

Kathie Schultz & Deb Story  
John Hudson  
Bill & Carol Schultz  
Dave & Laura Byers

## **8:00 AM**

n/a  
tbd  
LeRoy & Carol  
Knudsen  
Nick & Jamielynn  
Wedoff

## **28-Dec**

*Communion*  
*Reader*  
*Usher*  
  
*Greeter*

*Altar Care: Dick & Pat Peterson*

## **10:00 AM**

n/a  
tbd  
John & Kelly Van Fleet  
  
Joe Scholpp

# December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00a Quilters 6:00p Girl Scouts	2 7:00p Evening Prayer	3 4:00p Bulletin Deadline 7:00p PADS Opens	4 7:00a PADS Closes 7:00a Daytime Drop In 8:45a TOPS 7:00p Praise & Prayer 7:30p 4-H	5	6 8:00a Snow Angels Craft Fair and Cookie Walk
7 8:00a Communion Worship 9:00a Oatmeal Bar Christian Education Communion Worship	8 9:00a Quilters Girl Scouts Boy Scouts	9 Evening Prayer Church Council	10 p Bulletin Deadline p PADS Opens	11 7:00a PADS Closes 7:00a Daytime Drop In 8:45a TOPS Praise & Prayer		13 Men's Breakfast at Three Brothers
14 8:00a Word & Prayer Worship 9:00a Oatmeal Bar 9:10a Christian Education 10:00a Communion Worship 5:00p RINGS Christmas Party @ St. John's Hebron	15 6:00p Girl Scouts 6:30p Boy Scouts	16 7:00p Evening Prayer	17 Bulletin Deadline 7:00p PADS Opens	18 7:00a PADS Closes 7:00a Daytime Drop In 8:45a TOPS 7:00p Praise & Prayer	19	20
21 8:00a NO EARLY SERVICE 9:00a Oatmeal Bar 10:00a Christmas Program 11:15a "Old World Christmas" Angel Brunch 5:00p Longest Night Service	22 6:00p Girl Scouts 6:30p Boy Scouts	23 7:00p Evening Prayer	24 4:00p Bulletin Deadline 5:30p Christmas Eve Service 7:00p PADS Opens	25 7:00a PADS Closes 7:00a Daytime Drop In 10:00a Christmas Worship 11:30a Christmas Dinner for the Homeless	26	27
28 8:00a Lessons & Carols 9:00a Oatmeal Bar 9:10a Christian Education 10:00a Lessons & Carols	29 6:00p Girl Scouts 6:30p Boy Scouts	30 7:00p Evening Prayer	31 4:00p Bulletin Deadline 7:00p PADS Opens			