



Redeemer Radiates

December 2017



Redeemer Lutheran Church
4513 Williams Road Fort Worth, TX. 76116

WEB SITE: Church–[http:// www.redeemerfw.org](http://www.redeemerfw.org)

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Pastor

Administrative Assistant

Organist

Congregational President

Congregational VP

Advisor

Chairman, Board of Elders

Chairman, Board of Trustees

Chairman, Finance Board

Chairman, Christian Day School

Chairman, Christian Education

Chairman, Mission Ministry

Chairman, Stewardship

Chairman, Fellowship

Chairman, Ushers

Congregational Secretary

Janitor/ Groundskeeper

Sexton

David A. Grassley

Melody Smith

Dr. Pamela Butler

Roy Schroeder

Clark Penas

Tyler Wagner

Duane Janssen

Larry Riemenschneider

Mark Hinrichs

Crystal Golden

Debbie Thomas

Georgia Hotaling

Rebecca Austin

Lori Penning

Eric Skiles

Frank Riley

George “Dell” McDaniel

Joe Masterson

The Pastor's Corner

Preparing for Advent and Christmas

American spending during this year's Christmas season is estimated to be \$600 billion, or about \$900 per person. For many companies this is the season when they make the most income and realize the most profit. It is sometimes said that, during the Christmas season, even secular merchants sing with great gusto, "What a friend we have in Jesus!"



Now, no one wants to make the weeks before Christmas a joyless time of deprivation and fasting. Giving and receiving gifts has its place. And it is appropriate that we give and receive with joy.

But there is a greater joy. The Bridegroom is returning in order to meet His bride, the Church. Celebration is definitely in order.

However, if we are going to truly be part of God's Christmas, we need to prepare for His Son's second coming. We all know that Jesus Christ is returning. And all of us will be present. The Scriptures says that "every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him" (Rev. 1:7).

Martin Luther prepared excellent questions and answers for the season of Advent. These are important for us today. Consider the following questions and answers:

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner? *Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.*
2. Do you also hope to be saved? *Yes, such is my hope.*
3. In whom, then, do you trust? *In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.*
4. Do you believe Jesus will come again? *Yes, I believe that Jesus will return soon!*
5. Will all people be happy when He returns? *No, those who refused to trust in Jesus as their Savior will be filled with fear of their judgment and their self-condemnation to hell.*
6. Do you look forward to Jesus' second coming? *Yes, I do. Jesus is my Savior.*
7. Finally, what will Jesus do when He returns? *He will take me to be with Him forever.*

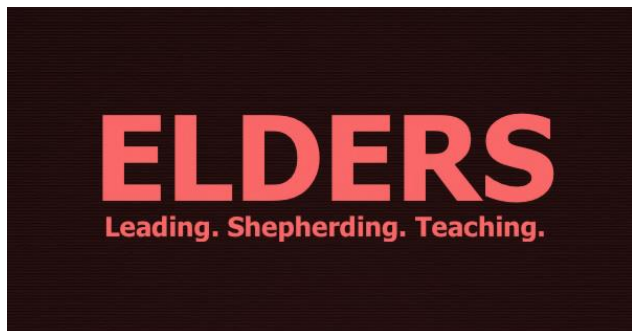
This is exciting news! This is why recalling what Christ has done for us makes us happy during the season of Advent. This is a very special season. True preparation during Advent makes us joyfully look for to the birth of the infant Savior.

We, of course, prepare for the Christ's final coming by trusting in what He did for us at His first coming. For us and for our salvation, He lived a sinless life in our places and died on the cross to pay for all of our sins. When He said from the cross, **"It is finished,"** he meant that he had completely atoned for all human sin.

That why we rejoice during the Advent season. The coming of the Christchild is the coming of humanity's Savior. The same

Savior will return again. He will call us home to be with Him, body and soul, forever. This is far more exciting news than getting anything money can buy!

Pastor Grassley



**ELDER OF THE MONTH
FOR DECEMBER:**

Donald Thorpe
Asst. Elder: Jason Cook

**FLOWERS PLACED TO THE
GLORY OF GOD IN DECEMBER:**

- 3rd Frances Graham in memory of Gerald.
- 10th The Landy's in celebration of Betty's birthday on 12/7.
- 24th Poinsettias
- 31st The Landy's in celebration of Ray's birthday and their anniversary, both on January 2nd.

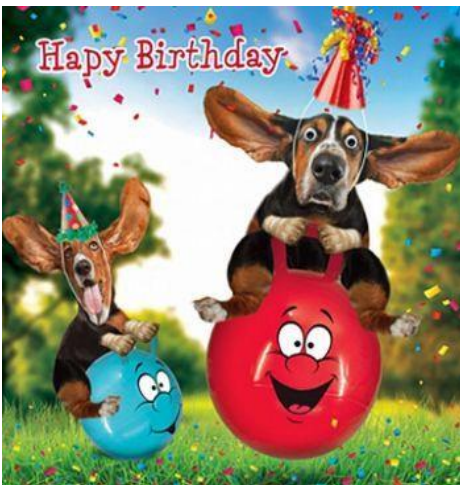


ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER:



- 12/02 Gerald & Anne Lutterman (39)
- 12/02 John & Nancy Moyer (28)
- 12/12 Mark & Gina McGee (21)
- 12/19 Gary & Dixie Burkett (56)
- 12/19 Norman & Lisa Preston (20)
- 12/20 Dennis & Martha Kitzmann (48)
- 12/20 Larry & Tammy Riemenschneider (31)

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER:



- 12/01 Judy Pitre
- 12/01 Gene Zulfer
- 12/03 Mary Pumphrey
- 12/03 Mary Pumphrey
- 12/03 Stephanie Gutierrez
- 12/04 Michael Neben
- 12/04 Michael Neben
- 12/04 Frances Graham
- 12/06 Laura Stuck
- 12/06 Laura Stuck
- 12/06 Mark McGee
- 12/07 Betty Landy
- 12/07 Betty Landy
- 12/07 Curt Fischer
- 12/07 Norman Preston
- 12/07 Norman Preston
- 12/07 Ruth Goulet
- 12/08 Florene Richter
- 12/08 Florene Richter
- 12/08 Darold Klamt
- 12/10 Mary Morones
- 12/10 Mary Morones
- 12/10 Rick Carter
- 12/11 Brooks Heitmeier
- 12/11 Brooks Heitmeier
- 12/11 Eric Skiles

GREETERS IN DECEMBER:

12/31 The Hotaling's

**The December/January sign-up sheet
Is on the Stewardship bulletin board
in the narthex. Please sign up today!**



The Winter Voters' Meeting has been scheduled for December 3rd at 6:00 in the Parish Hall. The meeting will include election of officers and approval of the 2018 budget. We need all members to attend. Thanks.

The Congregation extends Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Rhyan Moody. Rhyan died on Thanksgiving Night as the result of a car accident. She is the great-grand-daughter of our own Charles and Genell Ruhlmann, and the grand-daughter of Debra Penrod. She was 14 years old. Her funeral was Tuesday, November 28th. Please keep this family in your prayers during their struggle to cope with this tragedy.

The Congregation also extends Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of Baby Ford. Baby Ford died before birth. The parents, Jason & Denise Ford, are brother and sister-in-law of Lu Fischer. Please keep this family in your prayers, too.

The 2018 Flower Chart is available on the Altar Guild bulletin board. Flower arrangements are \$30.00.

Also, please notice that the Poinsettia Flower sign-up sheet is also there. Costs for these poinsettias has risen from the florist, so we now need to collect \$13.00/plant. If you are interested in purchasing one (or more) plants, we thank you for helping us beautify our Sanctuary this Christmas season. We ask that you leave your poinsettias until after Christmas day to take them home.

Your (mighty) mite offerings support Redeemer's Quilting Program. Please drop them in the purple box that is in the narthex on the first Sundays of the month.

BOARD INFORMATION

Fellowship:

Christmas By Candlelight: Tuesday evening, December 5th, 6:30 pm. Anna Thiemann and Donna Riccono are co-coordinating this year's Christmas By Candlelight for the Fellowship committee. We are planning the program and promise a great Advent event. For questions, see Anna, Donna or Lori Penning. If you are interested in hosting a table, please sign up on the sheet posted on the Fellowship Bulletin Board. This is always a well-attended event and is a wonderful introduction to our Christmas/Advent Season. If you haven't been to one of these, please seek out a 'table-host' and let them know you would like to come! Seats are \$10.00 and will be paid either by the hostess or the attendee.

A HUGE Thank You! to everyone who helped at the picnic. Your willingness to always step in and help is so very appreciated.

This year's Mid-Week Advent Meals will be served at 5:30-6:30 pm on the following Wednesday evenings:

- December 6th – Chili, grilled cheese sandwiches, desserts
- December 13th - Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, desserts
- December 20th – Baked potato and taco bar, desserts

Youth Group:

The Youth Group will be hosting a dinner and movie for Christmas on Friday, December 8th. We will provide a home cooked meal in the FLC from 6 to 7 p.m. Then, from 7 to 8:45 p.m. we will be showing *The Nativity Story* in the theater. While the adults attend *The Nativity Story*, any children will be watching Charlie Brown movies in the Parish Hall, supervised by some of the teens so

everyone can come. For the movie, we will provide popcorn, soft drinks and candy.

Stewardship:

The December -January Greeter sign-up sheet is now up on the Stewardship bulletin board. Please sign up today! We need greeters!!!

Whole Person Health Ministry:

Holiday Stress

This month, I would like to share with you an article from my Faith Community Nursing library regarding stress and depression during the holidays:

Our emotional dimension is one aspect of wholistic health; it is very important to our total well-being. St. Paul encourages us with these words, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 6 and 7.

Depression refers to feelings of sadness, isolation, discouragement, or hopelessness that persist for two weeks or more. The presence of depression does not indicate a lack of will power or a weak faith. It can be treated with medications and counseling.

Signs and symptoms of depression that require a doctor’s attention, if several of these are occurring and/or, if newly experienced for 2 weeks or more:

- Loss of interest in usual activities
- Feelings of worthlessness or guilt
- Eating too much or too little
- Difficulty sleeping (if new and unusual for you)
- Restlessness, over activity, or irritability
- Thoughts of death or suicide

To keep stress under control during the holidays in a life that is already hurried, try cutting back this year:

- Adjust your expectations. Instead of baking multiple cookie recipes, bake just your favorite. Bake the others once a month during the rest of the year.
- Recruit family members to help address Christmas cards. Or divide your list among 12 months and surprise your friends and relatives with a letter or e-mail at another time of the year.
- Shop online or through catalogs. Wrap as the gifts arrive in the mail.
- *Focus on devotions, singing carols, attending the various added services during Advent.*
- The Christmas tree and other decorations don't have to be perfect. Enjoy the process.
- **Get plenty of sleep, eat nutritionally along with the many holiday rich eating events. Drink plenty of water.**
- Keep meals simple, even Christmas dinner. Enjoy relationships of those around your table. Grace them with your calm and caring presence.

Remember, Jesus is the Reason for the Season. May the Prince of Peace give you a calm and joyful spirit this Christmas.

(reprinted, with permission, "From a Parish Nurse Monthly Newsletter Articles for Congregational Health Ministries.")

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Be Stronger-Live Longer, Tuesday morning exercise, strength and balance class will take a break in December and resume the first Tuesday in January.

WPHM Cabinet and Volunteers, Pastor and Pat and the Head Elder and WPHM assigned Elder watch for date of our annual Evaluation and Planning meeting and lunch, probably in mid-February.

Our A Matter of Balance 8-week class completed with 14 participants in November. We hope to repeat the workshop in the summer of 2018.

Please let me know if you or someone you know would be interested in attending a 6-week, “Health for Me – Chronic Disease Self-Management” Workshop, sponsored as was the A Matter of Balance class by Sixty & Better and Texas Health. If enough interest we are looking at scheduling this workshop in March, Wednesday mornings, 10 am – 12:30 for 6 weeks. For questions and more information contact Donna.

Watch for information about “20 Minutes to Save a Life” a quick CPR review with training on the Automated External Defibrillator, sometime in the new year.

Whole Person Health Ministry wants to thank the following for coming over to the Family Life Center Sunday, November 20th to donate blood: Rebecca Austin, Jason Cook, Robert Croteau, Georgia and Alan Hotaling, Edna and Duane Janssen, Janice Moser, Kevin Penning, Al Rearick, and Paul Wagner. You each are blessed to be a blessing in the lives of others.

Our next Blood Drive will be in March. For those of you who donate regularly, please plan on our Redeemer Drive when you plan timing on your other donations. While everyone was not eligible to donate for various reasons, your willingness is greatly appreciated and to be recognized.

Whole Person Health Ministry also wishes to thank our Redeemer family for the generous support of our annual Pre-Thanksgiving Bake Sale Fundraiser on Sunday, November 20th. As previously announced, proceeds are used for our non-budgeted expenses throughout the year: gifts for our ill and confined, food at our various events such as CPR class, outside speaker presentations, our annual Elders/WPHM Cabinet Planning and Evaluation Meeting Lunch, and Be Stronger, Live Longer exercise and strength classes, to name some.

Special thank you to our Cabinet members and volunteers who assisted Sunday: Betty Moser, Sheila Tischler, and Florene Richter.

We are overwhelmed with the response this year: Thanks to each of you who donated baked items and purchased items with your free will offering. We netted \$513. Thanks to our Redeemer Family donations, along with special WPHM designated donations from anonymous donors during 2017, we have just been able to order replacement electrode pads for our 2 defibrillators.

God bless each of you.

Donna Riccono, Redeemer Parish Nurse
Faith Community Nursing

Mission Ministry:

Thank you to everyone that has taken a Christmas Angel. It's not too late if you would like to bring Jesus to a foster child. We still have 3 left. The gifts are due back by Sunday, December 10th.

Reminder to collect all of your cancelled stamps from the Christmas cards you receive. These are given to St. Paul's LWML since we do not have an LWML group here.

Thank you,
God's Blessings,
Georgia Hotaling

Christian Education:

Wednesday Evening Bible Study is suspended until after Advent.

Tuesday Morning Bible Class is also suspended until January.

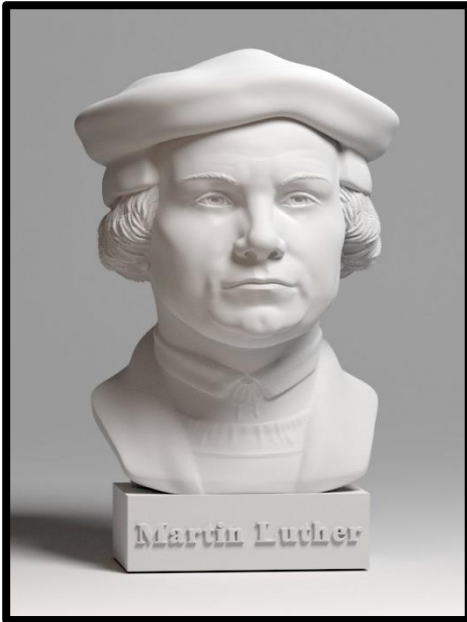
Please remember in your prayers: **Members:** Anne Allen; Bettye Baird; Jocelynn Collins; Elaine deTurck; Ruth Goulet; Frances Graham; Mark Hinrichs; Betty Landy; Ray Landy; Mark McGee; Eva Merritt; Gene Morones; Anna Moser; Rev. Richard Nelson; Lori Penning; Judy Pitre; Charles & Genell Ruhmann; Bettie Schatte; John Schatte; Alan Schaubhut; Lucille Skehan; Bill Skokan; David Thomas; Randy Thomas; Stormi Thomas; Ben Wagner; Mildred Wagner; Jeanette Zulfer. **Relatives of members:** Bill Baird; Kala Barnett; Janet Bliss; Susan Boudreaux; Ellie Jo Carberry; Meril Christenson; John Baars Connell; Dean Crocket; Shirley English; Jason & Denise Ford; Pat Garnet; JoAnn Gibbs; Alan Goulet; Andrew Graham; Glen Hammett; Bob Herrmann; Ed & Sue Herrmann; Craig & Trina Hotaling; Jeanette Hutchinson; Arleen Hayek; Debbie Hyden; Louetta Lewis; David Littlefield;

Alison McMurray; Chuck Merritt; Kevin Neville; Lynda Quirey; Carole Rannefeld; Ryan Robinette; Steve & Carolyn Saucedo; John Sergent; Timothy Sherman; Brian Stevens; Matthew and Shantel Schatte; Andrew & Kelsey Theiss; Jacob Thomas; Shelia Toland; Danielle Tyus; Scotty Walker; Pat Wyer. **Friends of members:** Kelley Adams; John Allison; Steve Briscoe; Dawn Brown; Renee Brown; Elinore Cocca; Dan Crofts; Jolene Crowe; Lauren DiGiovanni; Robert Edmonds; Terry Forsyth; Parker Garret; Larry Hoffman; Susan Hodges; Clair Hoelscher; Nancy Hood; Kyle Hopkins; The Aaron Johnson Family; Peg Kennedy; Telina Manbek; Charlene Marroquin; Julie Miranda; Marshall Martinez; Jed Oidtman; Deann Pearson & Family; Lucille Pumphrey; Linda Riojas and daughters, Zoe and Sage; Sheersha; Camilla Ryan; Camilla Stephens; Tina Taylor; Jerry Walker; Sam Yim.

From “*Martin Luther Day by Day*”
December 1

“The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” Romans 13:12

The Light of the World



The doctrine of the Law, or the first light, is the moon. It teaches our obligation to bear fruits, as a good tree should. The other light is the sun. It speaks of the new man, of a different tree, telling us that we receive the Gospel from Christ. There we hear whence and how a man becomes good, namely, through faith. Thus the Gospel deals, not with our works but with grace and gifts, with the good that God does for us and presents to us through Christ. The Ten Commandments tell us about our duties toward God. Now, to be sure, the moon shines at night, but still it does not turn night into day. Christ, however, is the true Sun. He ushers in the morning and the day. He teaches us how to be saved and how to be delivered from death and sin. Therefore He says: “I am the Light which illumines the whole world”; for He alone liberates from sin, death, the devil, and hell. . . . Now again the proclamation is issued that sin is condemned solely in Christ, and that we are delivered from sin without our works, boasts, or deeds, but only through the death of Christ. This is the message of the Gospel. This is the light and the true brilliance of the sun, which radiates through the entire world. So Christ’s claim is just. The doctrine in itself is true; He is the Light of the world.

From *Sermons on the Gospel of John*, Chapters 6-8 (Luther’s Works 23:324-25)

2017 Advent and Christmas Season Calendar

December 3rd, 10:30 am – First Sunday in Advent

December 6th, 5:30 pm – Advent Meal (Family Life Center)

December 6th, 7:00 pm - Mid-Week Advent Vespers Service

December 10th, 10:30 am – Second Sunday in Advent

December 13th, 5:30 pm – Advent Meal (Family Life Center)

December 13th, 7:00 pm - Mid-Week Advent Vespers Service

December 17th, 10:30 am – Third Sunday in Advent Divine Service

December 20th, 5:30 pm - Advent Meal (Family Life Center)

December 20th, 7:00 pm - Mid-Week Advent Vespers Service

December 24th, 10:30 am – Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve
Service

December 24th, 7:00 pm – Christmas Candlelight Service

December 25th, 10:30 am – The Nativity of Our Lord Divine Service

December 31st, 10:30 am – First Sunday After Christmas

December 31st, 7:00 pm – New Year's Eve Service

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 2:00 PM Homeschool Event
3 10:30 AM Divine Service 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Voters' Meeting	4 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM St. Paul Basketball Team Practice 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM LifeLight- Hotaling's	5 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 PM Christmas By Candlelight	6 10:00 AM Quilting 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Meal Before Mid- Week Advent Service 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Vespers Service	7 10:00 AM Grocery Bags for LSSS 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM St. Paul Basketball Team Practice 7:00 PM Board Meetings	8 7:00 PM Braille @ St. Paul	9
10 10:30 AM Divine Service 11:45 AM Blood Pressure Check after Service	11 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM St. Paul Basketball Team Practice 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM LifeLight- Hotaling's	12 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice	13 10:00 AM Quilting 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Meal Before Mid- Week Advent Service 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Vespers Service	14 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM St. Paul Basketball Team Practice 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	15	16 2:00 PM Homeschool Event
17 10:30 AM Divine Service	18 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM St. Paul Basketball Team Practice 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Youth Group Meeting 7:00 PM LifeLight- Hotaling's	19 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM St. Paul Basketball Team Practice 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice	20 10:00 AM Quilting 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Meal Before Mid- Week Advent Service 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Mid-Week Advent Vespers Service	21 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM St. Paul Basketball Team Practice 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Mysterion	22	23
24 10:30 AM Divine Service 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Church Office Closed 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM The Nativity of Our Lord	26 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Adult Choir Practice	27 10:00 AM Quilting	28 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM UFO Night	29	30
31 10:30 AM Divine Service 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM New Year's Eve Service						

