

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

1401 6TH STREET SW

WILLMAR, MN 56201

(320) 235-4685

redeemer@redeemerwillmar.org

www.redeemerwillmar.org

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Sharing Christ, Changing Lives



2024



Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



IN TOUCH WITH REDEEMER

A newsletter by and for the family of Redeemer Lutheran Church

Volume XXXIV, Issue I

My dear family in Christ,

It's a new year, and I continue on a winning streak. For over 20 years, I have been the only person I know to keep his New Year's Resolution.



This is the time of year when people all over make a resolution of some sort to hopefully improve their lives or take some control back. Some common New Year resolutions are to shed excess weight, dig ourselves out of debt, improve relationships, or seek a job promotion.

I know that many members of Redeemer have been absent for way too long and that "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." I can hear those voices saying, NEXT WEEK, we're getting back to Church. Then Sunday morning rolls around and you decide that watching Church online will have to do again.

I'm glad we're online; people worldwide can hear the Gospel. Still, there is no substitute for gathering together in the name and presence of the Lord and His people. The author of Hebrews writes in Chapter 10:24-25, *"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*

It is also an excellent time to return to Church because the new pastor is still lost in the sea of new faces. Some are becoming familiar, but many are not. I assume you have been here all along; you will get no rebuke from me.

So, I encourage you to make 2024 the year of the Church. We have such a loving congregation and a merciful God who calls you to come home to His house in Willmar.

Now, I know some of you are curious about my winning streak and what resolution I make every year. I resolve to not make a New Year's resolution. And just like that, the streak continues!

See you at Church! Your brother in Christ's service, Pastor Craig Donofrio

SERVING GROUPS

We have monthly serving groups and if you're not on the list and would like to be, contact the church office.

JANUARY

Sharon Skaro – 320-894-7247

Matt & Jennifer Akerson

Elloyd & Janice Bartel

Rev. Jack & Carol Baumgarn

Jacob Berghuis

Sarah Berghuis

Susan Christensen

Andrew & Heather Cordes

Dave & Julie Danzeisen

Jerry Gesch

Paulette Hagen

Gary & Mary Hillenbrand

Jon & Lindsey Hillenbrand

Carol Jackson

Jared & Kjaresty Johnson

Dylan & Angela Kalkbrenner

Roger & Lois Koosmann

Jerret & Darci Mohr

Bill & Bridget Neumann

Jeff & Cheryl Pitt

Stan & Sharon Skaro

FEBRUARY

Deb Bremseth – 320-231-2089

Sarah Fosso – 320-894-3325

Deb Bremseth

John & Sharon Cola

Ryan & Sarah Fosso

Jeremy & Nichole Gleason

Keven & Diane Hillenbrand

Jamie Jackson

Nancy Klaassen

Ben Kopacek

Brad & Claudia Lenz

Brad Marcus

Randy & Melissa Mord

Nathan & Margaret Nielsen

Wayde & Sarah Olson

Tim & Stacy Pollock

Charlotte Roduner

Joseph & Katherine Schaeffbauer

Dave & Lynn Sherod

Jeff & LeAnn Stauffenecker

Tony & Kerry Texley

NOTE: Please remember to contact your co-chair and ask them how you can be of assistance or just to let them know you are available.

†† JANUARY 2024 ††		
WORSHIP SERVICES CAN BE HEARD IN THE PARKING LOT ON SUNDAYS BY TUNING TO FM STATION 101.9.		
	ELDERS	ACOLYTES
<u>Jan 7</u> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Dave Danzeisen, Mark Sellmann Brandon Kopacek, Steve Lueders	Kaylee Cordes Drake Miller
<u>Jan 14</u> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Stan Skaro Brandon Kopacek	Kyan Schroeder Oscar Lopez
<u>Jan 21</u> 8:00 AM Communion 10:30 AM	Dave Danzeisen, Stan Skaro Jeff Pitt, ?	Griffyn Dahline Stella Berghuis
<u>Jan 28</u> 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Jeff Pitt Steve Lueders	Ellie Runke Drake Miller
<u>USHERS</u> (*Head Usher) 8:00 *Dave & Carol Runke, Tyler Hanson 10:30 *Doug & Renee Jorschumb, Dave Maras, Curt Swart		<u>LIBRARY</u> Marcia Gilman

Have you listened to Pastor Craig on For You Radio? "The Gospel for the believer and the unbeliever, alike!" There is a new program posted every Friday. You Can subscribe for free on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, or wherever you find your podcasts. You can also go to www.ForYouRadio.org to listen.

REDEEMER GROUP EMAIL Did you get an email on December 27th with an update about a past member? If not, you can receive updates or important announcements by contacting Lori with your email address.

A NEW SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will start on January 7th at 9:15 am in the Trinity Room with Dave Danzeisen and Brandon Kopacek. Pastor Donofrio will also continue his Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall.

FELLOW REDEEMERITES! I have decided to pursue a career in the ministry. Upon acceptance to the seminary, school would begin in June of 2024. Julie and I will then be moving to St. Louis, Missouri. Please keep us in your prayers! Dave & Julie Danzeisen

PRESCHOOL

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Redeemer Lutheran Preschool! We have had an amazing first half of the school year and we are looking forward to what’s to come. Gretchen and I would like to thank Pastor Craig, Anna Barber, Carol Jackson, Jeff Pitt and Dave Danzeisen for all of your help with our preschool Christmas Program. The kids did an amazing job telling everyone of Jesus birth. Earlier this month we took the kids caroling at Stacey’s Nursery and they “helped” make the wreath on the preschool office door. We then went and sang at Independence place and handed out ornaments. The residents even sang with us a time or too! We were asked to please come again and sing. Thank you for all of the support given to the preschool, Gretchen and I really do appreciate it. From all of the kids here at Redeemer, thank you and have a very Merry Christmas! God’s blessings now and in the New Year, Michelle and Gretchen

SOUP AND CRACKER COMPETITION! Hello church... the Preschool has chosen the Food Shelf for our chapel donation and service project this month. We are asking our families to bring **cans of soup and boxes of crackers** for donation. As we did a few years ago we would like to **“challenge you”** to out bring the Preschool families! We all love a friendly competition. Cash donations are obviously welcome. Chapel is the week of the 9th. We would like to bring our donations to the Food Shelf on the 15th. Thank you... the Preschool. ***(Place donations in the narthex by January 14th.)***

REMINDER FOR YEAR-END DONATIONS: To qualify as a gift in 2023, federal regulations require that checks must be dated on or before December 31st and the mailing envelope accompanying the check must be postmarked by December 30th. Gifts received after that date will be posted to your 2024 giving. For hand-delivered checks, the date the check is received by the church determines in which year your donation will be recorded.

FAMILY OF THE WEEK! We are selecting two Redeemer families to pray for each Sunday in our worship services. Watch for a letter in the mail prior to the Sunday that we will pray for you and your loved ones.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are in your mailbox and please make sure your name is on the top of the box. Please do not use these until 2024 as your number may have changed. If you would like a box and did not receive one, contact Lori in the church office.

REDEEMER GIFT CARDS! Order gift cards any time of the year! A percentage goes towards a Preschoolers tuition, to a Redeemer Youths account, or to our General Education. The percentage listed on the form is what the church receives back in rebates. **Fill out the form included in the newsletter, in the church office or the narthex! Deadline is Monday, January 8th.**

REDEEMER’S NEXT POTLUCK MEAL will be Sunday, January 21st at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to pass!

SHOES/BOOTS/TENNIES Don't throw those old boots or shoes away! Bring them to church, along with your other outgrown dress shoes and tennies, and place them in the shoe box located in the narthex. They will then be taken to Lutheran Island to both benefit the camp, as well as people in other countries around the world.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!! For January we will be collecting “Snacks” for our troops. Beef Jerky, Nuts, Raisins, Granola Bars, Microwave Popcorn, Tuna, Hard Candy, Licorice, Canned Ravioli, Beef Stew, Powdered Drink Mix. Please place donated items in box located in the narthex.

THE HAPPY QUILTERS meet every Monday at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join them on January 8th in 2024! If you can tie a knot, you are a quilter! If you like to sew at home, there are squares available on the rack in the kitchen.

IT'S TIME FOR BINGO!! We will have our first bingo night of the year on Friday, January 19. A light supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. with bingo to follow at 6:30. Please consider helping out by donating bingo prizes. We ask that they be new items. Gift cards are also a big hit, so any help you could give would be appreciated. Please drop your items off in the church office.

Are you struggling with depression, anxiety, loneliness, a broken relationship, or the loss of a loved one? Do you want to find help, but you don’t know where to turn? Pastor Keith Brustuen is an LCMS pastor in Montevideo, and holds a Master’s Degree in Counseling. His counseling is both psychologically and theologically sound. Find peace in the midst of life’s storms. There is help for you and/or your loved one. Go to www.TheCenterforFamilyCounseling.com or call (320)253-3540. Appointments are available in person in Montevideo or via Zoom.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped serve the Advent meals and brought desserts to share. The meals were delicious, and the help was awesome! Also thank you to Renee Jorschumb for coordinating the meals and to Michelle Hanson for picking up the groceries every week. Thank you!

THANK YOU to our monthly serving chairs. The work you do in your designated month(s) with coordinating Sunday morning coffee, arranging for desserts to be brought to funerals, working at events, etc. is much appreciated.

THANK YOU to those who attended the Nativi-tea. It was a fun afternoon. A special thank you to all the hostesses that decorated tables for the Nativi-tea, all those that brought nativities and angels to display, all the musicians and those involved with the program, and to all the men who helped with set-up and take-down. All of you were appreciated very much in whatever role you played. Thank You!

THANK YOU to everyone who purchased Christmas gifts for kiddos in our community. You are all a blessing! Thank you to Anna Barber for taking over the tree toy tag making. May God bless you in the New Year! LeAnn S. and Shelly S. from United Community Action Partnership

THANK YOU to the congregation for the many cards I received to celebrate my 80th birthday. God has blessed us in so many ways and lots of friends. Your kindness is truly appreciated! Thank you! Pastor Loren Kruse

TO OUR DEAR REDEEMER FAMILY It’s hard to believe that we have been here for less than three months, and already we feel so at home – even though we continue to struggle to learn so many names and faces that will come in time. Paula and I have been so touched by your kindness and generosity in the Advent/Christmas season. We are overwhelmed with your gratitude for the Gospel and amazing cards and gifts. Words fail to be able to express our gratitude for the wonderful family that is Redeemer Lutheran Church so all we can do is offer a hearty “THANK YOU!” to every one of you for the gift of your love and for sharing in on God’s wonderful gift of love, shown to us by His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and our God! May this New Year find you with every blessing and may He never remove His gracious presence from Redeemer Lutheran Church. Happy New Year! In the love of Christ, Pastor Craig and Paula Donofrio

QUARTERLY VOTER’S MEETING
JANUARY 28TH – 9:15 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

SUN	ATTEND	COMM	ADULT	ELEM	H.S.	SHUTINS
Dec 3	223	173	58	23	12	
Dec 10	222		53	22	13	
Dec 17	208	162	51	12	10	
Dec 24	116		-	-	-	
Dec 24 Eve	262		-	-	-	
Dec 25	59		-	-	-	
TOTALS	1090	335	162	57	35	12
In by Baptism: Amelia Elizabeth McDowell						

LUTHERAN WITNESS MAGAZINE Renew or subscribe to the Lutheran Witness magazine. The cost is \$20 for the year. Place your check (payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church) in the Lutheran Witness envelope found in your 2024 offering envelope box and drop in the offering plate or bring to the church office no later than January 21st.

LWML NEWS

Happy New Year Redeemer Ladies and LWML members!

Mark your calendars for our January meeting on the 9th starting at 5:30 pm with a potluck supper in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Renstrom will once again lead us in a Bible Study. This month we will be bringing items for Foster Stitches, a local ministry for us to come alongside.

We were asked and accepted the sponsorship of a grant for the Minnesota North District. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation translates books into different languages. We agreed to be a sponsor of this grant. I will have more information at our meeting. Here is some additional information on Foster Stitches. They are a place in Willmar that have new or gently used clothing for children taken into foster care. At this time the need is for athletic pants in L, XL, and XXL for males. We thought it would be wonderful to support a local ministry.

Keep in mind there should be a planning meeting next month for the Spring Rally. I haven't heard of a date yet. We will need to set aside some time to repurpose the banner for the District Convention.

Lastly, if there is bad weather on the 9th, we will follow what Willmar Public Schools does. God's blessings, Brooke Sellmann, Chair

LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP NEWS:

SUMMER REGISTRATION: It's not too early to start thinking about registering for camp this summer! Registration will open up on January 2nd. The registration is completely online on the Lutheran Island Camp website. If you have questions about registering, please contact the camp office at 218-583-2905. ALL program descriptions will be on the website. The summer program brochures will be coming out sometime in January so keep an eye on your mailbox! **REMEMBER--**Redeemer has scholarships available for all our campers!

SUMMER STAFF: Would you like to work at camp this summer? The summer staff application is open! The link is on the camp facebook and Instagram pages, as well as on the website. Camp struggles each year to get the camp fully staffed, so please spread the word about working at camp. You can check out this website for more details: www.islandcamp.org/summer-employment.

END OF THE YEAR GIFT TO CAMP: Camp is hoping to raise \$100,000 before the end of the year to fully cover their operating costs. Currently they have raised \$50,883.99. Please consider making a gift towards camp this year.

LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP ERC RENOVATION UPDATE:

GOAL: \$2-2.3 million
\$1.2 million available now for construction
\$423,000 potential matching grant
\$280,304 raised toward the matching grant so far

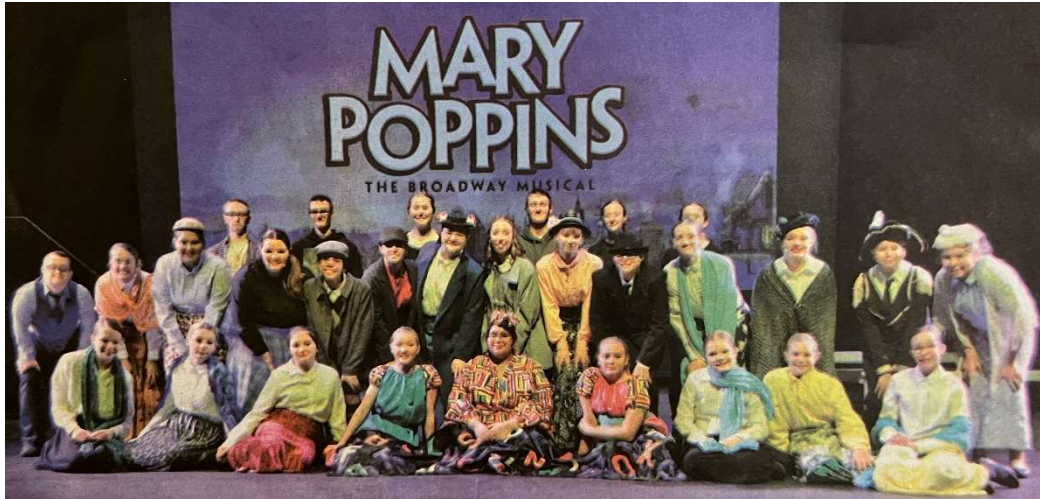
You can give towards this program today at www.islandcamp.org/renovation, by sending in a check or give with a credit card over the phone. Specify that your gift is for the ERC matching grant. For questions, contact Stacy at licdirector@islandcamp.org

QUILT & CRAFTING RETREAT -- JANUARY 24-28

A fun weekend of quilting and crafting!! Can't make it for the whole weekend? No problem! Register for this fun event online or call the camp office at 218-583-2905 if you would like help registering. So gather up some of your friends and head to camp for this fun event. (Pssst ... if you miss this one, there will be another one April 17-21!)

ATTENTION MEN: Set aside the weekend of March 8-10 to attend the men's retreat at camp. The speaker will be Dr. David Coe who is the author of the book "*Provoking Proverbs: Wisdom and the Ten Commandments*".

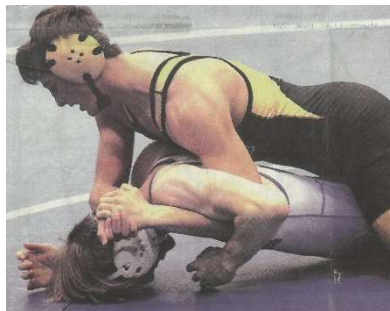
YOUTH IN THE NEWS



MACCRAY cast and crew performed “Mary Poppins”! In the front row, second from right is Elsa Fosso. Middle row, third from left is Chelsea Lopez.



Seniors on the wrestling team from New London-Spicer High School. Pictured above, second from right is Adam Sandau.



The team includes eight wrestlers who placed in the top six in last year’s sectional which included Adam Sandau, pictured on the left. Competing for lineup spots also included Andrew Sandau.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED TO THE POINSETTIAS IN MEMORY OF THESE LOVED ONES:

Marvin & Luella Behm by Ken, Carol, Gordon, Myron, Debra & Spouses

Curt Conklin by Marcia & Family

Husband Dean Cordes by Cindy Cordes

Michael & Irmgard Dahlke by Larry & Helga Miller and Marilyn Worke

George Ellis and Steven Ellis by John & Sharon Cola

Parents Lloyd & Bonnie Rhoda, Dean & Helen Fosso, and Ryan’s sister & brother-in-law Bob & Kelly Rodenberg by Ryan & Sarah Fosso

Pete Hagen by Hagen & Olson Families

Gordon & MaeAlice Kimpling by Jeff, Darla, Zach, Paul, Safiya, Syriah, Don Kimpling

Parents Leon & Inez Maras, Ralph & Florence Munsterman, sisters Janet & Diane, brothers Dan, Mark & Dick by Dave & Anita Maras

Norman & Pearl Pankow and Lester & Darline Vogeler by Terry, Cheryl, & Brent Pankow

Ed & Arlene Pitt and Simon & Gloria Zimmer by Family of Jeff & Cheryl Pitt

Parents Duane & Barbara Rasanen by Jennifer Rasanen & Christy Ruegge

Lloyd & Bonnie Rhoda by Deb Bremseth

Richard & MaryAnne Rossow by Brian, Jackie & Devyn Frank

Parents Jim & Betty Schmidt by Laurie Nelson

Husband John and brothers Cliff & Clyde by Lori Schroeder

Richard & Arlene Adams and Stanford & Donna Skaro by Stan & Sharon Skaro

Louis Smith by Charlene & Family

Lucien & Ellen Jean Vlaminck by Michael & Joy Gratz

Darryl & Ruth Wacker and Dr. David Donofrio by Pastor & Paula Donofrio

Roland & Vivian Wedel by Joanne Koep, Katelyn, Adam & Aiden

Richard Zetah and Mary Ann Zetah by the Zetah Children

If anyone is interested in taking a poinsettia home or if you know of someone who would enjoy it, please help yourself.

