

Newsletter – February 2025

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR HUEHN

The Mission of Redeemer Lutheran is **"To grow as followers of Jesus Christ, reflecting the Gospel by word and action everywhere we are."**

The word for disciple in the Gospels describes Jesus' followers, including the Twelve Apostles, to whom Jesus said, "Follow Me!" Jesus tells all believers in Him that the larger group of people who followed Him were the same. In Acts, it is used to describe people who believed in Jesus after the apostles spread the gospel. Over 250 times, this important word appears in the New Testament.

In this newsletter, as we grow as followers of Jesus Christ, I will answer the question, "What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus Christ?"

First, it means knowing Jesus as the Son of God and believing in him as one's Savior from sin, death, and the devil. Peter, as one of Jesus' disciples, confessed, **"...and we have believed, and have come to know, that you (Jesus) are the Holy One of God."** (John 6:69). And the Apostle Peter later confessed about Jesus after He rose from the dead, **"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."** (Acts 4:12)

Second, a follower of Jesus acknowledges Christ's words as the word of God and accepts his teaching as infallible truth. Jesus says, **"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."** (John 5:24). And **"So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."** (John 8:31-32)

Third, a follower of Jesus learns more of Christ and strives to do his will. Jesus says, **"Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."** (Matt. 5:24) . Jesus, in His great commission, also says He sent out apostles as followers of Him, and **"teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."** (Matt. 28:20) Jesus also said, **"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."** (John 14:23)

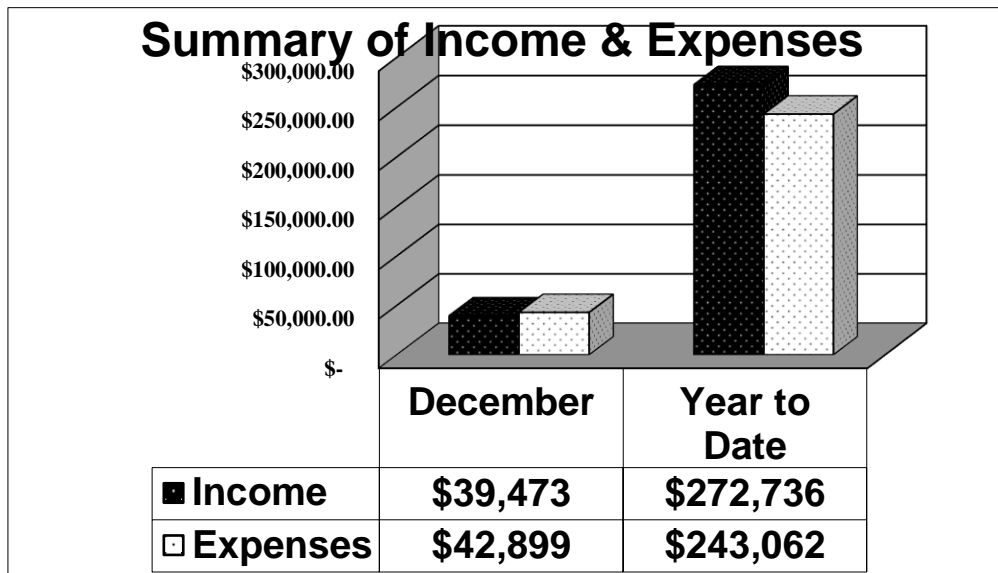
Fourth, each follower of Jesus will pattern his life after Christ and follow his example. Paul writes of Jesus, **"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, six who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be**

grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8) And Jesus told His disciples, “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.” (John 13:15)

The Lord blesses us as His chosen people in our baptism to follow Him as His followers, His disciples, and His Christians as he gives us strength to do so by the work of the Holy Spirit at work through the Means of Grace.

Following Jesus with you,
 Pastor Huehn

Financial Update



The Finance Committee would appreciate it if you would put the amount of your offering on the outside of your office envelope. This makes counting the weekly contributions much easier and is a double check on the amount enclosed. Thanks for your cooperation.

Memorials

- ♥ From the family and friends of Chuck Newberg, gifts to the Memorial Fund to be designated later.

Midweek Lent Worship

Redeemer will gather every Wednesday during Lent at **6:00 P.M.** to worship as we prepare our hearts and minds on our Lord's Passion, death, and resurrection.

Ash Wednesday

The Holy season of Lent begins on March 5th

6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes.

The Imposition of Ashes

At Redeemer, as part of our Ash Wednesday devotion, we offer the opportunity to receive "the imposition of ashes" upon the forehead. The following is a brief explanation about this practice.

Q. *Are the ashes "blessed?" Do they give a special blessing?*

A. No. They are simply a physical symbol to aid in your meditation. The blessings we receive are through God's means of grace, His Word and Sacraments.

Q. *Do I have to receive them?*

A. No! Any compulsion to receive the ashes would be contrary to the freedom we have in the Gospel. They are simply offered as an opportunity for you. If they will help you, please receive them. If not, please feel comfortable not receiving them. No one will think any less or more of you if you do or don't!

Q. *Do I have to leave them on?*

A. No. You may wash them off at any time. Again, whatever it most helpful to you. In fact, washing them off can be a joyous thing, as you remember that the water of baptism has rescued you from sin and death!

Q. *What about Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 6:16-18)? Those words read: "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. . . . But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others . . ."*

A. These words of Christ refer to our motivation: "that you may be seen by others." If this is why you want to receive ashes, to be seen by others, you should not receive them! This would be contrary to the Gospel.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Center for our Lenten Suppers. These will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 5th and continue for the next 5 Wednesdays throughout Lent. If any group would like to host a soup supper or multiple soup suppers, please sign your group up at the Welcome Center.

From Board President Michael Gregurich

We know that 2025 will certainly be an exciting year of growth at Redeemer - as well as an opportunity for us to increase our engagement with each other, with our community, and most importantly - with the word of God. Very shortly you will be receiving a survey which will ask for your input and your ideas and I thank you in advance for taking the time to fill that in. We have a congregation rich in talents and ideas and we want to utilize those to help build upon the amazing foundation that has already been laid at Redeemer.

The Executive Board continues to work on some interesting and important projects. No doubt you will have noticed that most (if not all by the time you read this) of the trees have been removed - and that opens up some interesting discussions about that lot, and what opportunities it has for the future. We have engaged with the city on a small parcel they own, and I look forward to updating the congregation on what options lie ahead. We have plans for our website, plans for helping our preschool flourish, plans for the creation of an Endowment Fund Committee and so much more. Pastor Huehn continues to be not only an amazing support to the board, but also a source for ideas and increased involvement. As I mentioned, it will certainly be an exciting year ahead.

None of this can be done without individuals who spare a bit of their time to help make all this happen - and we could certainly use more! As you know, we have an opening on the board for Director of Spiritual Growth and we would love to see this filled, so we ask you to prayerfully consider if you might fit this role.

So be on the lookout for the survey and feel free to reach out at any time with questions or concerns.



2025-26 Preschool Registration Is Open

We are now accepting registrations for preschool. All forms are available in the office or on our website. Please share this information with friends and family! Word of mouth is our best advertising.

Do you need a ride?

We know that the weather, or the time of an activity might make it hard for you to join us for events. We want to make sure that members of our congregation are able to take part in all the activities that we have on offer. Should you need a ride, please reach out to the church office so we can make arrangements for you!

Hearing Problems?

New hearing devices are available to use for both worship and bible study.
Please ask an usher for help.

Executive Board Vacancy - Director of Spiritual Growth

We currently have a vacancy on the Executive Board for the Director of Spiritual Growth. This position provides assistance to the Pastor and helps coordinate an ongoing ministry of spiritual growth for the congregation at Redeemer - with the support of the entire board. The board meets once a month for about an hour, so the time commitment for this position is not significant - yet it, along with all the positions on the board, provide a great service to Redeemer. We ask that you prayerfully consider if this might be a role that you can fill, and if you have any questions, please contact Pastor, Michael Gregurich or any member of the board.



February Book Club will be meeting at church on Saturday, February 22nd at 10am. The books with discussion questions are available for sign out at the welcome center. All interested readers are welcome. Any questions, call Lisa Battin 920-323-6456.

Ladies Night Out

Ladies of the congregation are invited to meet at Waterfront Wine Bar in Manitowoc on February 7th at 6 p.m. to enjoy dinner and to better get to know other women in the congregation. All are welcome. Contact Beth Utecht 952-240-4817 with questions.

Men's Night Out

Gentlemen of Redeemer are invited to meet at Tower Tavern in Manitowoc on February 6th at 6 p.m. to enjoy dinner and to better get to know other men in the congregation. All are welcome. Contact Pastor Huehn 309-706-9925 with questions.



Cookie Decorating!

Join Family Ministry on February 22 from 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. as Harman's Bakery teaches us how to decorate Valentine's themed cookies. All ages are welcome. The decorating will take place at Redeemer in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up at the welcome center and pay \$15 to the office. Please invite friends and neighbors. Questions contact Beth Utecht 952-240-4817

****Sunday school is studying the Old Testament! Please join us. Questions contact Beth Utecht 952-240-4817****

Betty DeGodt

1736 Cedar Court

Manitowoc, WI 54220

Birthday: April 14 Phone: (920) 323-1854

Betty DeGodt first visited Redeemer back in January 2023 with friend and neighbor, Joanie Champeau. Her other neighbors, Boyd and Linda Krueger, are also Redeemer members. Betty says family means everything to her so “Welcome” to our Redeemer Christian family.

Betty's life has quite an interesting journey but in spite of trials, it was Betty's deep faith in God and asking Him for help that we see a happy and busy Christian lady today.

Betty's life began as a farm girl in rural Sturgeon Bay. After high school, she attended U.W. Manitowoc and earned a Broker's Degree. The beginning of a 25 year marriage took the couple to Milwaukee where she worked as a legal secretary while her husband attended law school. Then came a move to Manitowoc, before moving to Two Rivers where they had been blessed with three children. The family became very involved at Good Shepherd. Betty was a member of Roger Gottschalk's choir and Pastor Dowdy was most helpful with his ministry.

After the children started school, Betty started working at the Old School House in Mishicot in the Francis Hook room. Some of you may know how Francis was an artist of many people illustrated in our Lutheran Children's books or paintings. Redeemer has her illustration of “Jesus the Carpenter” in the conference room. This job advanced Betty to an outstanding position of organizing events offering national art scholarships. She did extensive traveling and met with many well-known people throughout the United States. Although she enjoyed the job and opportunities, she missed being home regularly with the family and raising the children. So after five years, she returned home and utilized her Broker Degree by selling real estate.

Betty later married Keith Martin who was Superintendent of the Two Rivers Schools. Some of her three children were good friends of Keith's three sons and a blended family was most successful. In later years, Betty and Keith moved to Felician Village in Manitowoc where Keith passed away five years ago after a 25 year marriage. Betty then purchased her condo on Cedar Court, continues to spend time at her cottage in Sturgeon Bay, enjoys traveling and will be in Florida for the month of February.

Betty's children include a married daughter, Kelly, who lives in Manitowoc, teaches at Valders and has two daughters. Son, Dan, is married, lives in Brainerd, MN with three married daughters. Son, David, is married and lives in Golf Port, Mississippi. Betty doesn't like the title “step” as Keith's three sons are Rick, Rand and Reid but very much part of a blended family, including ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. They enjoy all being together frequently at cottage or elsewhere. Two years ago, they all attended a family wedding at Cancun, Mexico.

Betty truly enjoys meeting people and joined our choir soon after coming to Redeemer. She also attends Bible classes. During any free time at home, she enjoys reading, watching TV, doing puzzles and has started painting with acrylics. Betty truly feels blessed by God and His guidance.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Feb. 1 Tessa Lynn Kamien, Ava Matthies
Feb. 2 Lisa McDougal
Feb. 5 Amy Kamien, Michael Paltzer
Feb. 7 Craig Neuser, Lilly Meyer
Feb. 8 Vern Troullier, Joan Walsh, Jerry Hirssig, Lisa Whitney, Sandra Schultz,
Claire Neilson
Feb. 10 Brett Kabelowsky, Alysha Olson
Feb. 11 Sally Rettinger
Feb. 15 Cash Olson
Feb. 16 Jeni Siebold, Tracy Kamke
Feb. 21 Aaron Thrasher
Feb. 22 Christa Neuser, Ron Ruebesam
Feb. 23 Oliver Hayon
Feb. 24 Eunice Hrudka
Feb. 25 Heather Brandl, Michele Brixius
Feb. 26 Stephanie Leicht
Feb. 28 Jan Tomchek, Lydia Fricke

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Feb. 3 Craig & Carol Redwine
Feb. 10 Rodney & Rachel Strzyzewski
Feb. 11 Kevin & Syvilla Lipski
Feb. 15 Mike & Claudette Quint
Feb. 27 John & Michele Brixius

Redeemer Lutheran Church

1712 Menasha Ave., Manitowoc, WI Phone: (920) 684-3989

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am-1:00pm

Pastor Jonathan Huehn: (309) 706-9925

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1)
2) Worship 9am Fellowship Educ. Classes 10:20am	3) Worship 6pm	4) Finance 8:15am Bible Study 9am	5) Confirmation 5pm	6) Men's Night Out 6pm	7) Ladies Night Out 6pm	8)
9) Worship 9am Fellowship Educ. Classes 10:20am	10) Worship 6pm	11) Finance 8:15am Bible Study 9am	12) Confirmation 5pm	13) Exec. Board Meeting 6:30pm	14)	15)
16) Worship 9am Fellowship Educ. Classes 10:20am	17) Worship 6pm	18) Finance 8:15am No Bible Study Today	19) Confirmation 5pm	20)	21)	22) Cookie Decorating 10am Book Club 10am
23) Worship 9am Fellowship Educ. Classes 10:20am	24) Worship 6pm	25) Finance 8:15am Bible Study 9am	26) Confirmation 5pm	27)	28) Office Closed Today	March 1)

Website: www.redeermanty.com

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