



Redeemer Lutheran Church
and 3K/4K Preschool

Rev. Jonathan Huehn Pastor

1712 Menasha Ave., Manitowoc, WI 54220

Phone: 920-684-3989

Newsletter – January 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.**"

It's a new year, 2025, and New Year's resolutions abound. Many resolutions are self-help motivations to grow as a person, get into better shape, lose weight, challenge ourselves to read a certain number of books, stay away from social media more, and volunteer our time in our community.

In my second newsletter on ways to grow as followers of Jesus Christ, we can also make some resolutions for 2025. Last month, we learned that the Means of Grace in the Word and Sacrament help us grow as followers of Jesus Christ through the strength we receive in the forgiveness of our sins, life, and salvation Christ has won for us. The Means of Grace motivates us to grow in other areas of our Christian walk with the Lord. This month, we will learn ways to grow in the Word outside the Divine Service each week.

First, we grow in the Word by reading and meditating on the Word of God daily. St. Peter reminds us as Christians from his second letter in his final words of the letter, "**But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**" (2 Peter 2:18) Knowing Jesus more and more is why we desire to read and meditate on the Scriptures daily, "**increasing in knowledge.**" (Col. 1:10) "**As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.**" (1 Peter 2:2-3, NKJV) As a child is learning to walk, they grow and mature. The key to growing as a follower of Jesus is growth that comes through the study and meditation on His Word. Milk is good nourishment that will help us to grow as children of God into mature Christians, all by the strength of the Holy Spirit at work in us.

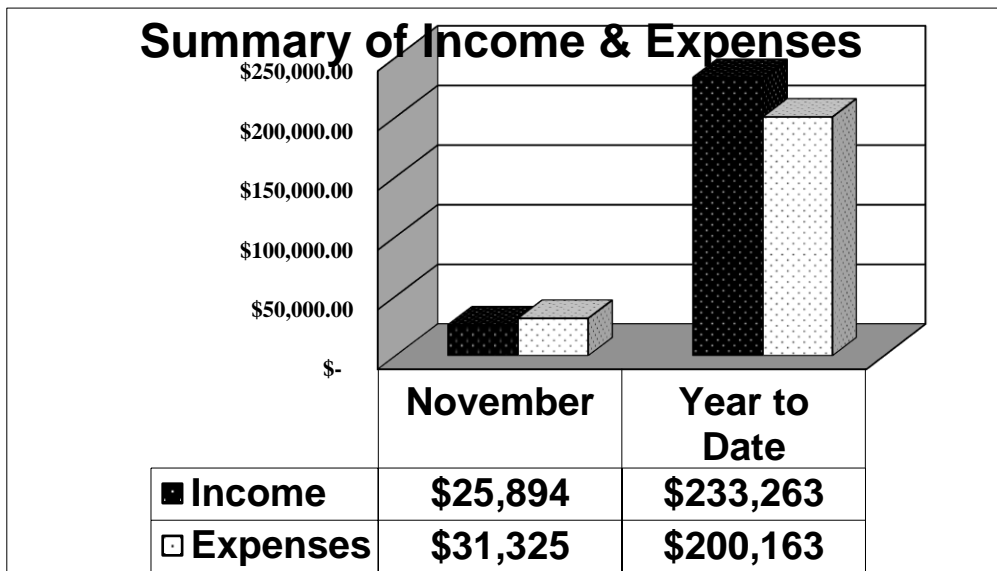
Second, what's the plan for growth in the Word? You might read *Portals of Prayer* along with the daily Scripture readings. You might read the *Daily Lectionary* reading insert in the bulletin each week. You might challenge yourself to a more rigorous plan of reading the Bible in one year from a bible reading app. The important thing is you start somewhere and don't stop or give up. Keep going even if you miss a day here and there. Keep going, keep growing in the Word as a follower of Jesus. Push yourself. Fight against the

temptation to quit. Once you've established the habit of daily Bible reading, finding time in the morning or evening before bed will seem second nature to you to do your daily devotions. Another way to do this is to have family devotions together, where you read the Bible together.

Remember, 2025 is the year to recommit yourself to resolutions in many areas of your life. Some you'll keep, and some you'll fail in again. But why not make growing in the Word together a resolution? Biblical illiteracy is at an all-time high. Christians need to grow in knowing the Bible and Jesus better. Let's strive for this in 2025. Too many other things are vying for our attention. Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Disney+, Netflix, ESPN, and video games consume many hours. God is vying for our time also. Thirty minutes to an hour in the Word is a little compared to how much time we spend in frivolous ways. Pay attention to His Word. Spend time in it daily as He speaks to you through His Holy Word and as you pray to Him in response to that Word as you grow more and more in your communion, your fellowship with the Lord Jesus in 2025. God bless you in your endeavor. And, as your pastor, I'm always here to help you grow in whatever way I can. I'm only a text, an email, or a phone call away. Please reach out if you need help.

Growing in the Word together,
Pastor Huehn

Financial Update



Offering Envelopes for 2025 are now available. Do not use them until January. All contributions for 2024 should be turned in by December 31st.

Contribution Statements will be mailed out the first week of January. Please check your statement and report any discrepancies by January 15th. After that, the financial records for 2024 will be closed and we will be unable to make any changes.

AUTO-GIVING / RMD

- Did you know that Redeemer offers an automatic giving plan where your offering may be deducted from your checking or savings account on either a bi-monthly or monthly basis. See Mary Eisenschink or call the office for more information or to receive an application form.
- If you are required to take a distribution from your traditional IRA for 2025 and would like to save on your taxes, talk to your financial planner or see Mary for more information.

Memorials

- ♥ From the family and friends of Larry Kittell and Ann Hirssig, gifts to the Memorial Fund to be designated later.

Special Thanks to Pastor Scott and Lori Hirssig for donating 4 new high chairs. These high chairs can be pushed right up to the table so that children can eat just like their parents.

Message from Board President:

I want to start by thanking everyone for joining us at the annual congregational meeting. It was not only a wonderful opportunity to speak to the activities that the board has been focusing on throughout 2024, but it also allowed us to celebrate the calling of Pastor Huehn, our positive financial situation and the passing of the 2025 budget, and the continued blessings that the Lord has bestowed upon us.

December is always a busy month - and it is wonderful to see so much happening at Redeemer, especially with the younger members of our community and congregation. From our Preschool Christmas Program to our Sunday School Program - there is nothing like hearing the joy of the season and the love of Jesus from the voices of our youth. A very special thanks to all involved in putting these programs together. I also want to be sure and thank those that decorated the church as it looks just wonderful; to all our musicians and those that added so much to our services; to those that helped behind the scenes with fellowship and all the other special touches that made the Christmas season so special.

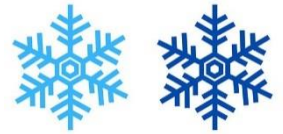
2025 has a lot in store for us at Redeemer. It will be a year of continued growth and transition; a year of new activities and fellowship; a year of opportunities for spiritual development and so much more. I invite you all to be on the lookout for new activities and to participate in every opportunity to deepen your faith and connection with God and with your fellow Christian brothers and sisters in Christ. Never hesitate to reach out to myself or any member of the board with your thoughts, suggestions and new ideas - we are all ears!

From my family to you and yours, God's Blessings and wishing you all a very Merry Christmas.

Michael

Winter Weather

As winter weather is upon us again there might be a time when worship or other activities may need to be canceled. Every effort will always be made to have worship. Since the most likely time to cancel something would be on a weekend, we have learned that it is easier to contact some media outlets over others on the weekend. We will try to make sure every TV station has our information, but WBAY (channel 2) and NBC26 will be the first place that information will be posted along with Redeemer's Facebook page.



Book club will be meeting at church on Saturday, January 25th 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.

Epiphany Bonfire

Please join us for a special bonfire at Redeemer Lutheran on Friday, January 10th from 6:00-7:00 p.m.. We will be remembering the visit of the Magi to Jesus by burning real Christmas trees.

Hot chocolate and s'mores will be served for all to enjoy!

In the event of strong winds, the event will be moved to Saturday, January 11th.

We are aiming to collect and burn 100 Christmas trees this year!

Feel free to drop off your real Christmas tree in the back of the parking lot.

If you have any questions, please contact Kyle Olson at 920-410-2294 (call or text).

We look forward to seeing you there!



Youth Gathering Shoe Drive - Thank You!

We cannot thank the congregation enough for all you support through our first ever shoe drive! With your help bringing in shoes, sharing on social media, and telling friends and neighbors, we were able to collect 52 bags of gently used shoes. While we haven't heard what that equates to for funds, we are very excited with this outcome. And we truly couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you again for supporting the trip to the National Youth Gathering next July!

Sunday School

The Sunday School Children did a WONDERFUL job sharing the message of Jesus' birth with the congregation. Thank you to the Sunday School teachers Mrs. Harris, Mr. Van Sickle and Mr. Utecht for the extra time and effort you put forth. We also appreciated the excellent music put together by Mr. Neustadter, the Redeemer band and the children. Special thanks to Mrs. Huehn for playing the piano for the service.

Sunday School will continue every **Sunday in January from 10:20-11:15!** Make this time part of your routine in the New Year.



- Thank you to those who donated items for St. Nick, the Sunday School bags and the Christmas Services. It is a joy to see the smiles on the faces of those who received them.
- Thank you to everyone that helped decorate the church for the Christmas season, especially Madri Gregurich and Alysha Olson for organizing and preparing the decorations.

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.

George and Dorothy Zimmerman

George and Dorothy Zimmerman have left quite a legacy at Redeemer.

Dorothy has been a member of Redeemer since its inception in 1940. She was a junior in high school when her parents, Louis and Olga Schoenwald, and a group of other families originally formed the congregation. Dorothy is the last living charter member.

Before she went off to college, Dorothy filled in on the piano or pump organ to accompany music for the Sunday school or worship. She and her parents would also help with cleaning the church and whatever else was needed, as the member families took care of all of those duties. Dorothy and George were married in 1947 at the old church on 17th Street.

Throughout the years Dorothy and George were very involved in almost every aspect of the church. Dorothy was an active member of the Ladies' Aid, helping with the various programs, cooking and serving meals, serving as president as well as other leadership positions. She also used her Home Economics background to sew banners and other projects for Redeemer. Dorothy was a member of the Redeemer bell choir for a number of years. She also taught Sunday school and VBS, and she really enjoyed teaching the adult 2-year Bethel Bible series. She taught Bethel five times through the years. She also faithfully attended the Bible studies taught by the Pastors.

George was active on the church council, serving as president several times. He was also active in the Men's Club, participating in all of the projects and activities as well as taking leadership as president at times. George loved to sing and was a lifelong member of the choir. He also used his woodworking skills to make many different items used at Redeemer. George teamed with Dorothy to teach a series of Bethel and he also faithfully attended the Bible studies taught by the Pastors.

Together Dorothy and George made many visits to members and prospective members on behalf of the congregation, and they taught the Sunday morning Bible class for a number of years. They were also very involved in the beginnings of the Hmong ministry at Redeemer. Through the years, whenever the doors were open at Redeemer, Dorothy and or George were likely to be there. There were very few Sundays they would not be found worshipping together.

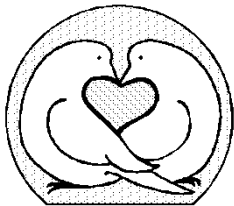
George died in 2013 and Dorothy has moved to an assisted living home in Iron Mountain, MI to be closer to her daughter. But even though she turns 100 years old on January 3, 2025, she stays connected to Redeemer through prayer and receiving the newsletter. She also continues to watch the Redeemer worship service on her iPad every Sunday. Redeemer has been a very important part of her life for many years and continues to be even today.



Jan. 1 Mitchell Drescher
Jan. 2 Harry Cole
Jan. 3 Dorothy Zimmerman*
Jan. 4 Brett Newberg, Ricky Goertz
Jan. 5 Bob Gregurich

Jan. 6 Kenna Reuter
Jan. 7 Bonnie Barnes, Greg McDougal
Jan. 8 Luke Harris
Jan. 9 Karen Beke, Justin Massart
Jan. 11 Lisa Hamann, Betty Kuhn, Chad Rathjen
Jan. 12 Emmett Horswill
Jan. 14 Kim Pagel, Amy Andrews
Jan. 16 Debbie Lindemann, Jodi Kabelowsky
Jan. 17 Pam Phillips
Jan. 19 Cole Troullier, Scott Loiselle, Lee Matthias
Jan. 20 Na' Mara Lindemann
Jan. 23 Mary Eisenschink, Emma Dorow
Jan. 24 Janis Fischer
Jan. 25 Jennifer Junk, Justin Gilbert, Jerry Rettinger, Grace Reimer
Jan. 26 Donna Panosh, LaVonne Nimmer*, Griffin Wotruba, Cole Reinke
Jan. 27 Sandy McGlin*, Mary Orth
Jan. 28 Emma Eisenschink, Mike Canty, Barrett Troullier
Jan. 29 Jerry Strharsky, Jim Beke, Amanda Korlesky, Ethan Selsing, Christopher Borkenhagen
Jan. 30 Marlene Damm, Kelly Block, Casey Schramm, Ian Gregurich
Jan. 31 Naomii Etheridge, Thomas Klein

* indicates shut-in



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 1 Jody & Melissa Neilson
Jan. 2 Randy & Kim Berres, Scott & Lorie Hirssig
Jan. 22 John & Gabrielle Baalke
Jan. 23 Ryan & Jodi Kabelowsky
Jan. 25 Aaron & Kiley Hayon

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

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1) Happy New Year Office Closed	2)	3)	4)
5) Worship 9am Fellowship Educ. Classes 10:15am	6) Worship 6pm	7) Finance 8:15am Bible Study 9am	8) Confirmation 5pm	9) Exec. Board Meeting 6:30pm	10) Epiphany Bonfire 6pm	11)
12) Worship 9am Fellowship Educ. Classes 10:15am	13) Worship 6pm	14) Finance 8:15am Bible Study 9am	15) Confirmation 5pm	16)	17)	18)
19) Worship 9am Fellowship Educ. Classes 10:15am	20) Worship 6pm	21) Finance 8:15am No Bible Study Today	22) Confirmation 5pm	23)	24)	25) Book Club 10am
26) Worship 9am Fellowship Educ. Classes 10:15am	27) Worship 6pm	28) Finance 8:15am Bible Study 9am	29) Confirmation 5pm	30)	31)	Feb. 1)

Website: www.redeermanty.com

Email: office@redeermanty.com

Phone: (920) 684-3989