

'ROUND REDEEMER

Redeemer's Mission: *Leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus and the community of faith, offering hope, help and healing in His name.*

Redeemer's Vision: *Connecting to God, connecting to people, connecting to life!*

December 2008

Sundays @ Redeemer

Band-Led Service - 8:30 am
Organ-Led Service - 10 am
Adult Bible Study – 8:30 am
Sunday30 (children) – 8:30 am

Reverend Dr. Harold S. Draeger
Lead Pastor

Reverend Robert E. Wobrock
Minister of Visitation

Eric Robinson
Outreach Pastor

Reverend Dr. John P. Uhlig
Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Michael J. Mancini
School Principal

Redeemer Ministries

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
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God, bless the reader of this newsletter ...
may it lift up and edify ... strengthen and
encourage ... challenge and make us
dedicated ... to His Kingdom! In His Name,
Amen!

From Pastor Hal

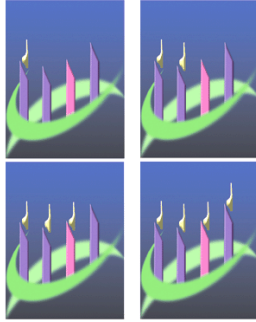
SHARING THE VISION – FORWARD IN MISSION

God's grace has been amazing. For the last three years we have been raising funds for the Education Center that was dedicated a year and a half ago. We pledged \$835,000. By October 31, we had received 95% of those pledges and year end has not arrived. Meanwhile, we have launched a third campaign that will enable us to continue to meet the mortgage while school enrollments increase to 200 students over that period and the increased revenues enable us to cover the mortgage. We are also anticipating that with this funding commitment, we will be able to complete the original vision of 2002 to convert the old education building into office space (The Administration Center). This will enable us to use the space occupied on an interim basis by the school offices and copy center, for childcare during worship and for returning the Holy Grounds Café for use between services to foster connecting and conversation. By raising \$800,000 and adding the expected increased revenue from 30 new students (10 per year), we can cover the build-out costs and meet the mortgage needs.

By working together and considering how we can use personal resources, we can make a huge difference in people's lives for time and for eternity. By pledging yourself to pray for Redeemer's ministry, for an additional 30 students in our School, for our efforts to reach people who have little or no relationship with Jesus, for our leadership team, the outreach efforts of pastor Eric, and for *Sharing the Vision*, you partner with your Redeemer community to reach our goals. By prayerfully considering what sacrifice you can make, you assist us in fulfilling our commitment to fund the new building and to complete the project undertaken six years ago. Together we have raised just short of \$2 million. We can complete the Vision with your help and God's blessing. On December 7 we have our Special Event Sunday that begins with fellowship at 8:30am and continues with one Service of Commitment at 10:00am. Let's make this a day to remember and to celebrate as we *Share the Vision* and continue *Forward in Mission*.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The first symbol of the Christmas Season to be placed in our sanctuary is the Advent Wreath. It is round-shaped, and reminds us of the eternal love of God. The four candles point us to the importance of the Christ Child and are lighted one per week beginning with the first Sunday in Advent. These candles each have meaning and purpose:



1ST CANDLE (*Prophecy*) – a reminder of the “Light of Hope” spoken of by the Old Testament prophets.

2ND CANDLE (*Bethlehem*) – reminds us of the birthplace of Jesus.

3RD CANDLE (*Shepherd*) – represents the great light and joy that surrounded the shepherds at the birth of our Lord.

4TH CANDLE (*Angel*) – represents the light of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.

From Eric

TELL ALL MORTAL FLESH

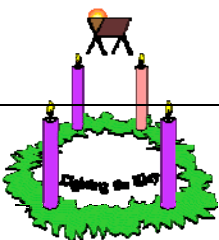
I love the hymn, *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*. Its imagery reminds me that words like "big" and "great" do not come remotely close to describing God. "As of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood..." The words "fear and trembling" ring true to me, as God, who is outside the realm of time, evokes feelings that writers throughout the history of poetry have been unable to capture. Trembling indeed.

But there is something very strange about that first line, "Let all mortal flesh keep silent." It surprised me a few years ago to find that line in the prophet Zechariah. Chapter 2 concludes with "*Let all mortal flesh be silent before the Lord, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.*" This line is one of tremendous hope, saying that God is acting to rescue and restore his people. Let all mortal flesh be silent? All of the sudden this is not a notion that inspires fear, but rather hope. God has arisen to set things right and restore his people.

Fear is a funny thing when we think about God. Martin Luther thought that one of his greatest sins was that he was afraid of a God that willfully damned people who inevitably could not please him. This drove him to hate God, something that haunted him for years. And when I think about the first lines of this hymn, I do not think that it is a stretch: "Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand." This is not a God I'd feel comfortable standing next to, at least left to myself.

However, we know the whole story. Yes, God arose to act. Yet when he made his move, Creation did not stand silent for long. God dwelled among us after leaving his holy dwelling to rescue us, and the Earth shook when our redemption began as God-dwelling-among-us died.

So sure, let all mortal flesh keep silent as God acts. But realize that you will not stand silent for long, because he acts to redeem you.



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

November 30 marks the first Sunday in *Advent*. Wednesday night worship experiences are planned for December 3, 10 & 17 at 7:00pm in the worship center. **Special note:** video series exploring the themes (*Hope, Peace, Joy*) of *Advent*

From Pastor John

MUSIC – IN THE OLD TESTAMENT TABERNACLE TABERNACLE AND TEMPLE WORSHIP

Read with me 1 Chronicles 25. In verse one David set aside certain individuals who were to “prophecy with lyres, harps, and cymbals.” Verse two – they were under the direction of King David. Verse three – “prophesied in giving thanks and praising the Lord.” Some were singers, or choir members. They practiced under a director (verse six). Instruments accompanied the singers – cymbals, harps, and lyres. Note in verse seven that all were trained, that is, they had practice sessions. The total number involved in David’s church music program were 288 (verse seven).

The way they divided their assignments is interesting – verse eight, “They cast lots for their duties.” What these precise duties were is not revealed. Remember David was quite a musician, adept in playing and composing songs (see his many psalms most of which were to be sung). Again, the music program under David had one purpose, verse three, “Giving thanks and praising the Lord.” Note that in 2 Chronicles 5:12, 120 trumpets were used at the dedication of the temple built by King Solomon. Can you imagine – 120 trumpets! What a powerful song!

Join me now, if you will, in reminiscing and remembering the strong music program at Redeemer over the years. A very fine pipe organ in the church to lead the worship, the singing, and the liturgy. Dedicated leaders in the field of worship and music, the sainted Mrs. Marozik, to name one. Gary Behrens to name another and he is still leading and directing. Very accomplished organists over the years – The sainted *Mrs. Leola Page*, and *Fred Frischmann* still very active, and others. The choirs still singing the praises of the Lord. The bell choirs and their director *Betty Frischmann*. The folk communion musicians and their “stringed” instruments. The many children’s choirs from the Day School – the women’s choirs, the special choirs of men and women – the soloists, the cantors (remember them), assisting with the liturgy, the instrumentalists – flute, violin, trumpet (our Pastor Hal), the organ chimes, a memorial to Pastor and Mrs. Marozik, the instrumentalists and singers for the present contemporary services, the Christmas midnight choirs, the Tenebrae singers, singing in the dark as also the organist. Forgive me for having missed some names and some groups – there were so many!

If King David could review the music offerings of Redeemer Lutheran Church, I think that he would be impressed, and he would urge us to continue this emphasis, always with this goal – “Giving thanks and praising the Lord”, verse three. David would also remind us that music is a big part of heaven’s activities (read Revelation 5:8-14). “Sing to Him a new song” (Psalm 33:3), yes, by all means. Sing also the old songs and join our voices with the saints of the past! Sing, praise and give thanks to Lord for His salvation!

It’s great to reminisce, isn’t it? I certainly think so. I remember and thank the Lord for all the great music at Redeemer! Keep it up! Keep singing – the old songs – the new songs! Sing always to the Lord!!



Share some beauty with the members and visitors by donating a poinsettia plant or two to adorn the Altar area on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The Altar Guild will order the plants and all you need to do is locate a donation envelope, place your money inside and drop it off in the Sunday offering or the church office. It is that simple! Your donation will appear on your yearly contribution statement. You may take home your poinsettia after the Christmas Day 10:00am Celebration Service.

2009 FLOWER CHART

Next year's flower chart (for altar arrangements) will soon be available on the closet door in the foyer of the worship center. You may share in the joy of giving to God and your congregation by providing these beautiful flowers for our altar.



Please note: chose your Sundays during the year and remember that there are a maximum of two (2) people/families for each Sunday.

When you receive notification of your upcoming Sunday, you may write down "in honor of or in memory of." Return the letter with \$25.00 in the offering or to the church office. The worship folder will reflect your sentiment on that Sunday. The flowers are then available (leave the container and liner at church) for you to take home after the second service ends. Granara's

Flowers in San Carlos is the shop providing the arrangements. The cyclamens of Advent may be taken home after Advent.

SHARING THE VISION – IT'S HAPPENING REACHES ITS FINAL MONTH

The current *Sharing the Vision* Capital Funding Campaign reaches its final month this month. The three year campaign has yielded through October, 95% of the pledged \$835,000. What a blessing from God!! This is remarkable by every standard of evaluation for this type of campaign. Yea, God! Yea, Redeemer!



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING + BOARD ELECTIONS - DECEMBER 14, 11:30AM

The semi-annual Congregational Meeting will review our ministry and elect members to the Board of Directors on December 14, 11:30am in the Event Center. Positions for election are the Board Chair and two Directors.

Wednesday, Christmas Eve, December 24

Worship Services: 5:00pm and 11:00pm



Thursday, Christmas Day, December 25

Worship Service: 10:00am

SCRIP GIFT CARDS FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING



Use gift cards from *Scrip* for your purchases at Christmas (and even after Christmas) and you will benefit Redeemer's bottom line with no effort on your part. When you use the Scrip gift cards, a percentage goes to benefit Redeemer School – and that revenue benefits our “bottom line.” Gift cards are available for food, Starbucks, department stores (e.g., Macy's). Gifts cards can be ordered after services on December 7 and 14. Or look on the school webpages for a

form: <http://www.redeemer-school.org/>

SPECIAL EVENT ~ Sunday, December 7

Communicate, Collaborate, Come Together!

8:30am in the Event Center

- Participate in activities for all ages

One Service, Our Response to Sharing the Vision 3

10:00am in the Worship Center

- Music, message and commitment offering

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS FOR SENECA HOTEL RESIDENTS (“BAGS OF LOVE”)

For Men: razors, shaving cream, Magic Shave, cologne, after shave lotion, socks (crew and dress), undershorts (waist 36-48), T-shirts (L to 3XL)

For Ladies: hand and body lotion, slippers, socks, pantyhose, scarves, gloves, and hats, ladies underwear (S, M, L, XL)

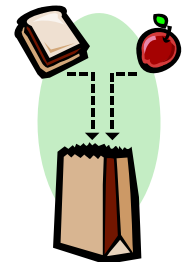
For both: soap, deodorant, combs, hair picks, mouthwash, toothpaste, tooth brushes, flip-flops, shower sandals, foot powder, study Bibles, devotional books

PLEASE BRING ITEMS TO THE EVENT CENTER MARKED “BAGS OF LOVE” BY DECEMBER 20. THEY WILL BE WRAPPED AND TAKEN TO SAN FRANCISCO THAT DAY.

Also needed are volunteers to wrap the gifts on Saturday, December 20 beginning at 8:00am in Fellowship Hall at Redeemer

(Dollar stores and Costco are good resources to purchase these gifts.)

BAGS OF LOVE



*This month – we are also delivering Christmas presents!
Please refer to listing on page 5.*

Saturday, December 20, 8:15am - - - help make PB&J sandwiches and pack bags in the Event Center (aka Fellowship Hall) of Redeemer before heading to SF to distribute food and friendship and prayer to the under-resourced folks in the Seneca Hotel. *Please consider this ministry as part of a way to serve God through serving others.* Contacts: Glenn Hessler, ghessler@comcast.net or 364-2739 and Paul Soule, 1pau5@sbcglobal.net or 364-0952.

*Additionally, it costs over \$200.00 per month to pay for supplies...if you would like to contribute make note on your check: **BAGS OF LOVE***

CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP SERVICES



December 7- special event @ 8:30am and one Worship Service @ 10:00am
All other **Sundays** in December – 8:30am and 10:00am Worship Services

Wednesdays – December 3, 10, 17 – 7:00pm Advent Worship Services
with videos

Wednesday, **Christmas Eve**, December 24
5:00pm the Christmas Story for Families
11:00pm Candlelight Worship Service

Thursday, **Christmas Day**, December 25
10:00am Celebrative Christmas Worship Service



Stephen Ministry

Please consider during this Season of Christmas whether you desire a Stephen Minister to walk with you through the many challenges in your life offering hope, help and healing through our Life-Giving God.

Redeemer's Stephen Minister Leadership Team:

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From Principal Mike

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

*We Exist to Build a New Generation of Christian Leaders
Prepared to Thrive in a Rapidly Changing World*



The Reason for the Season!

By the time you receive this newsletter you will have celebrated Thanksgiving, spent time with family and friends, and many of you will have already experienced the beginning of "Shop 'til you drop" syndrome. Yes, it is time to consider that Christmas is just around the corner.

As Christmas approaches we begin to see the activities of the holidays. Shoppers out in droves, lights, music, and the stress of getting everything ready. I wonder if we sometimes get so busy that we forget what Christmas is really about? I was reading a short story about Jesus' arrival on that very special day 2000 plus years ago and I couldn't help but think of our lives and the hectic schedules we all have. As the holiday season begins, let's make sure we all focus on the arrival of our awesome God. This is a time for family, friends, laughter and love. But most importantly it is a time to remember the greatest gift each of us was given: Jesus!

As school and church family, we celebrate the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose hands our future is signed, sealed and delivered.



May He, whose birth we celebrate, continue to bless our celebration and our task of "Creating the Future One Child at a Time."

Ocean Week

Our annual Ocean Week was a huge success! God truly blessed us with a fun week and the best weather I can remember at the beach. Our Open House was very successful! What a fun night to get together and see all the items that our students have been working on. It was also great to meet so many prospective families, over 20! Thank you PSC for providing the refreshments for all to enjoy. A big thank you went out to our parents, for being so willing to take the time to help with transportation and for helping to make the final day of Ocean Week such a positive experience for students and

staff. The staff put in many hours in preparing for the fun-filled week. Our Parent Service Committee (PSC) funded the Marine Research Institute, which gave presentations to the classes throughout the week on the different habitats and had many hands-on activities. Thanks also to Mr. Steve Harper for preparing a great "beach" lunch of hot dogs, chips, and a drink. Redeemer School is richly blessed because of all these special people who make it their priority to make a difference in a child's life! THANK YOU!

"Miracle at Midnight"

Get ready to celebrate the Christmas season as the 5th and 6th grade classes present a wonderful Christmas Musical called **Miracle at Midnight**. Come and enjoy this Christmas season musical, as the citizens of Bethlehem are hard at work preparing for the census from Caesar Augustus. Little do they know something special is going to happen at midnight. Mrs. Davis our 6th grade teacher, Mr. Doody our 5th grade teacher and Mr. Behrens will direct this wonderful musical. Performance starts at 7:00pm on December 12 in the Event Center.

"They Call Me Coach" by John Wooden, I would like to share with you a small paragraph that I feel embodies what our responsibilities are as teachers at Redeemer. I have reworded some of Coach Wooden's speech to fit how I see our mission at Redeemer.

We who teach at Lutheran Schools have a great influence on the lives of all the young children who come under our supervision. The lives we lead, and teach them to lead, will play an important role in their future. It is essential that we regard this as a sacred trust and set the example we know is right. We must try to prevent the pressures of society and their peers from causing them to swerve from moral principles.

Redeemer teachers have always made it a priority to teach Christian values and morals that

would shape the lives of our students. *You are
all very special to our community and WE thank*

*our great God each day for your love and
commitment to Redeemer Lutheran School.*

Nov. 23-28 ~ NO SCHOOL ~ Thanksgiving Break/Educators Conference
Fri., Dec. 12 ~ 5/6 Grade Musical (7pm)
Tues., Dec. 18 ~ National Geographic Bee (2:00pm)
Dec. 22-Jan 5 ~ Christmas Break

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 14, 10:00am, Worship Center

“Backstage at the Inn ... God Made a Way in a Manger”, a heartwarming and inspirational Christmas program brought to you by the Sunday30 Children and Redeemer Congregation. This story with light-hearted twists reminds us of how God made a way for all of us to become His children through the birth of Jesus. Don't miss this must-see program! *Invite your neighbors and friends!*

✂ Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal, Saturday, 10:00am in the Worship Center

Parents of child/children and participants of the Christmas program: Please meet in the Worship Center promptly at 10:00am, Saturday, December 13 for dress rehearsal. Parents with preschoolers must be present during rehearsal. All others may drop off their child/children and pick them up by noon or 1:00pm.

Rehearsal ~ 10:00am – 12 noon

Lunch ~ 12:00 noon – 1:00pm (This is optional. Please RSVP to E-vite, to Pamela Estes, 780-9727 or pkestes@rcn.com or to Soo-Yee Lim, 591-5229 or krueger.lim@usa.net).

COFFEE/TEA/HOT COCOA SALES

The Sunday30 staff wants to thank all of you who supported the coffee/tea/hot cocoa sales. All products are from Equal Exchange and Fairly Traded that support small-scale farmers worldwide. Your purchases not only support these farmers, proceeds of these sales also benefit a Redwood City organization, The Maple Street Shelter. The total amount donated to the shelter will be announced on December 14 at the end of the Christmas program. We will continue the sales through December 14 – limited quantities left! For more information, please contact Pamela Estes, 780-9727 or pkestes@rcn.com or Soo-Yee Lim, 591-5229 or krueger.lim@usa.net.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE BASKETS



Christmas Cookie baskets are being assembled on Friday, December 19, 9:00am in the church kitchen. These special treats go to friends and the homebound members of our congregation. They also benefit the local jails (via the Service League).

Please bring homemade small-sized cookies and wrapped hard candies on or before the 19th. You may also want to help with this ministry by assembling the baskets on that morning. Baskets will be available for pick up (to take to and visit with the person whose name is written on tag) on Sunday, December 21. (Look in the foyer of the worship center.) *Thanks for your participation!* If you have questions, contact Mardell Rogers, 591-4778.



COLLECTING ITEMS FOR COLLEGE CHRISTMAS BOXES

Lindsey Kinster is collecting a variety of items to send to the college students of Redeemer.

If you would like to help these are the items: shoe box, small size chips, candy, gum, office supplies (pens, Post-It notes, pencils). Bring them @ 8:30am December 7 or drop off in the church of school office.

LIFE ENRICHMENT



Life Enrichment Ministry shares freely the wisdom given freely that is ours through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, to the end that all might have fellowship and hope in this life and in that which is yet to come.

Christmastime Luncheon

Saturday, December 13 @ 11:00am in the Event Center

Sign-up on the sheet in the Event Center or phone the church office 366-5892

Many Thanks!

Thanks to all who supported the Bear Bake Sale fundraiser by providing baked treats and/or purchasing the goodies. Also, any thanks for the cash donation that allowed us to exceed our original goal and maximize Thrivent matching funds up to \$750.00 (a record amount since the bear drive started in 1992). The bears are looking forward to joining everyone in church ~ November 30-December 21.

-Betty and Elaine Swanson



Maple Street Shelter

It takes a team to produce a success and because of each of you the servant event was very successful and greatly appreciated by the residents of Maple Street Shelter. A total of 14 people contributed including several new members (November 8). It's good to have new helpers. Because we had plenty of servers, I was able to spend some time chatting with some of the residents. They each had traumatic experiences to share and were grateful to have a roof over their head, a dry bed, and home-cooked food. I look forward to having you participate in future events. UPCOMING 2009 DATES: Feb 21, May 9, August 8, November 14.

-Sharron Miller



Lutheran Women in Mission

Lutheran Women in Mission affirm, encourage, and enable women, in relationship with the Triune God, to use their gifts in ministry to people of the world.

CNH LWML MITES (projects) ... The first six projects are funded!

7 - Acts in Mission Society, St. John Lutheran Church, Bakersfield, Ca. for \$10,000.00

8 - Faith Family Center, Faith Lutheran Church, Yerington, Nevada for \$8,000.00

December calendar

Monday, December 1, 10:00am LWIM Board Meeting, Event Center

Saturday, December 6, 8:30am Women's Bible Breakfast, Baker's Square, RWC

*Thursday, December 11, 12:00pm (noon) LWIM Annual Christmas Tea (Event Center)

*All women are invited to this special event. The program will be parts of the 5th and 6th graders' musical. Please bring some cookies or finger sandwiches to share.

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

Flour, corn meal, rice, pasta, salt, pepper, white and brown sugar, tuna/ham/spam/chicken/beef/sardines in cans, soup, beans (canned and packaged), vegetables & fruit in cans, condensed milk, powdered milk, bottled or canned fruit juices, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex – place your donations in the large basket beside the information table at the entrance to the Event Center. Idea: when a store offers 2 for 1 ... donate the one you got free!



TEDDY BEAR DRIVE



The annual Teddy Bear Drive has kicked into high gear beginning Sunday, November 30 right through the end of worship on Sunday, December 21. Children love huggable, lovable, cuddly dark-colored bears (new -12"-18") to help reassure them during stress. Benefit: San Mateo County – Children's Fund.

TOY AND BOOK COLLECTION

The Redwood City Fire and Police Departments are again collecting toys and books for Christmas gifts of children who may not receive presents otherwise. There are two barrels on campus ready for your donations. Need more information: Jim Gordon, 366-2932



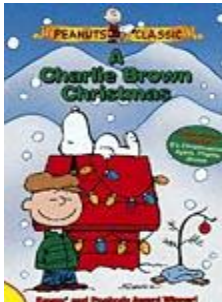
The entire staff of Redeemer Ministries wishes you the most BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

SATURDAY AFTERNOON KID FLICKS

Saturday, December 6, 1:00pm-5:00pm @ Redeemer

~ Children 3 and older ~

*Free: Movie Treats (beverages, popcorn and candy)
Free for each child if adult/parent remains for the films
Suggested donation if child is dropped off: \$10 each
if you want to take advantage of time to
do early Christmas shopping!
Contact: Pam Fosnes, 483-4354*



A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS (1:00pm-1:30pm)

Plot Outline: Lovable schlemiel Charlie Brown searches for Christmas' true meaning in this animated holiday classic. Charlie directs a Christmas pageant, buys a stunted tree and learns that the yuletide means more than just presents and tinsel.



KUNG FU PANDA (+ BONUS MATERIAL) (1:30-3:00pm)

Plot Outline: When China's Valley of Peace is threatened, lazy Po the panda discovers his destiny as the "chosen one" and trains to become a kung fu hero. Master Monkey and Master Viper impart their knowledge to Po, but transforming this slacker into a brave warrior isn't going to be easy.

The bonus material for the highly anticipated kung-fu comedy contains pandemonium galore including the world premiere of "The Secrets of the Furious Five." Also featured are "Dumpling Shuffle," "Learn the Panda Dance," "Do You Kung Fu?" "Inside the Chinese Zodiac," "Animals of Kung Fu Panda" and so much more!



WALL-E (3:30pm-5:00pm)

Plot Outline: In a futuristic world, human beings have destroyed Earth and evacuated the planet, leaving the cleanup to an army of robots they've programmed to do their dirty work. Due to a mishap, the dutiful WALL-E is the only one left. But with the arrival of a female probe named EVE, the monotony of WALL-E's existence is broken -- and he experiences love for the first time.