



Reflections



**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
And Preschool**

First Avenue and Court Street
Iowa City, IA 52245
Phone: 319-338-5626

Email: redemer@ourredeemer.org
www.ourredeemer.org

Weekly Newsletter - December 12/13, 2015

~ *Third Sunday in Advent* ~



ADULT BIBLE
STUDY

Sunday Mornings

9:30 am

Fellowship Hall

2015 Christmas Program . . .

Sunday, December 13th:
Rehearsal in music room at
9:15 am, Sunday School
follows.



Immediately after 10:30
worship service, report to the
Toddlin to Jesus room for a snack.

11:45 am Pre-program music begins

12:00 pm Program begins

Lunch follows program in Fellowship Hall

Please contact Allison Haack with any questions,
alliehaack@gmail.com or 319-400-1312.

Date	<i>Building Up the Body</i>
December 13	2 John - Revelation 3
December 20	Revelation 4 - 11
December 27	NO Class Revelation 12 - 22
January 3	Genesis to Revelation: A Two Year Recap

*Service of
Christmas & Carols*

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN SONG & SCRIPTURE
 Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.
Cookies and cocoa to follow
 Sunday, December 20 at 8:00 & 10:30 am



You are invited!

Open House at 512 1st Avenue

December 20

3:00 - 4:30 pm

House blessing at 3:00 pm

An opportunity to satisfy curiosity. See what the
volunteers have accomplished at the new parsonage
before the Hartwigs move. Come one, come all!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have selected angels for the Angel Tree Prison Ministry project. Just a reminder that gifts are due back to the church by Wednesday, December 16, in order to allow time for processing and delivery before Christmas. You have helped to brighten the Christmas celebration for many children in our area. God Bless you !!!



The Human Care Committee is again sponsoring the Mitten Tree, collecting hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for school children who are without. Please bring your contributions to the church office to place under the Mitten Tree by January 3.

Contact Twyla Freeman with any questions you might have at 530-2371 or taf13146@ourredeemer.org.

2015 SCHEDULE

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

December 13	8:00am & 10:30am 11:45am 12:00pm 1:00pm 4:00-6:00pm	Sunday Service Children's Pre-program Music Children's Christmas Program Lunch Live Nativity
December 14	7:00pm	Christmas Meeting LWML
December 16	1:00pm 5:10pm 6:00/6:10pm	Advent Service Advent Meal Sing-a-long/Advent Service
December 18	6:00pm	Christmas & Cookies
December 19	5:30pm	Service of Christmas & Carols
December 20	8:00am & 10:30am	Service of Christmas & Carols
December 24	4:30pm 6:30pm 11:30pm	Christmas Eve Family Worship Christmas Eve Communion Worship Midnight Communion Worship
December 25	10:00am	Christmas Communion Worship
December 26	5:30pm	Saturday Communion Service
December 27	8:00am & 10:30am	Sunday Communion Service
December 31	7:00pm	New Year's Eve Communion Worship

Midweek Classes
December 16 at 7:00pm

No Midweek Classes
December 23 or 30

Please note new Christmas Eve Service Times!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Christmas Meeting

December 14

7:00 p.m.

66 Barrington Place
Home of Rita Johnson

Jeff Boone, a missionary, will share his experiences in the mission field.

Disbursement of the Cookie Walk funds to various agencies and missions will be determined.

Chili may be dropped off at the church prior to the meeting and those that wish can form carpools there to drive to Rita's.

Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer to share. Hostesses Dianna Reuter and Donna Saehler will provide the drinks and paper products. Carol Schuldt will lead devotions.



HOLIDAY

USHER SCHEDULE

ATTENTION ALL USHERS

Christmas and New Year special services will soon be here which means we always need extra ushers.

This year a third Christmas Eve service has been added (services at 4:30, 6:30, and 11:30 pm). If each usher only ushers once, we will need 20 extra ushers to cover the holidays, not counting the regular services. The more people we get, the fewer times we will have to double up. If you can help more than one service that would be great. There is a sign-up sheet in the church office or talk with Dave Freundt or Dave Hintze. Please do it soon to help us plan! Thanks!

I CAN'T BE A STEPHEN MINISTER!

"I'm not qualified to be a Stephen Minister."

What qualifications are necessary to be a Stephen Minister?

You need to be a caring person who is willing to learn grow, and serve. You must be willing and able to maintain confidentiality. You need to make a commitment to training, ministry, and supervision. If you meet those qualifications, your Stephen Leaders will equip you with the rest of what you need: training, support, encouragement, care, and prayers. They will make sure that you will succeed as a Stephen Minister.

"I don't know what to say or do in a ministry situation."

Stephen Ministry training is thorough and practical. It includes listening; dealing with feelings; maintaining assertiveness, confidentiality, and boundaries; beginning and ending caring relationships; and caring for people who are grieving, dying, aging, divorcing, or experiencing other life crises. The goal of training is to prepare Stephen Ministers for whatever they might encounter when working with care receivers. Through reading, lecture, questions and answers, and skill practice you will learn what you need to know to succeed as a Stephen Minister. After being assigned to a care receiver, Stephen Ministers participate in continuing education and Supervision Group sessions. This is where they care for and support one another and sharpen their caregiving skills.

A new training class for Stephen Ministry is starting in January, meeting Tuesday nights from 6:45-9:15pm. Is this a ministry opportunity for you? For more information contact Pastor Hartwig at 338-5626 or bhartwig@ourredeemer.org today. Applications are available in the church office.





CHRISTMAS AND COOKIES

**Friday, December 18th, 2015
6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

Join the members of Our Redeemer and friends who gather for food, fun, and fellowship. Our dinner will be Falbo's pizza with some sides while we watch a Christmas movie. Decorating Christmas cookies, to take home and give away, will be the main activity. God's Word will be shared before the evening is done.

If you have questions, contact Crissy Pence at crissypence@gmail.com or 321-8402.

Sign Up is in the church office so we know how much food and cookies to purchase!

January - March Portals of Prayer available on the Welcome Center

Building Healthy Families:

This Christmas we will be spending more time together with family members who are home from school, traveling in a car together and eating at the table. As you gather, keep a watchful eye out for excessive negative talk including constantly complaining, find fault, passing on gossip and forgetting to affirm or talk about the positive virtues of others. Sometimes we fall into the habit of forgetting to acknowledge the good things happening in our community, our church, or our family. Sharing negative messages of gloom and doom foster a depressing atmosphere in the home. Instead, look for the positive and talk about it!

*"Whatever is pure, whatever is lovely...think on these things."
Philippians 4:8*



Lutheran Family Service

(319) 393-1000

HOLIDAY CARD SHOPPING?

Are you getting excited for the upcoming holidays? It's that time of year to thank God for his many blessings and share with family and friends the good news of Jesus birth.

There are a few boxes of Christmas cards and some individual cards left on the racks. Don't forget that the elderly, shut-ins and children love getting cards in the mailbox! So check out the Card Shop next to the Fellowship Hall. And send someone a smile!



Thank you for sharing.

from the Women's Mission Guild, LWML

Raising Money for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church & Preschool by **web searching** through GoodSearch. Just join GoodSearch.com to raise funds for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church! GoodSearch donates money to your favorite cause when you search the Internet, shop online or dine out at local restaurants! Use GoodSearch.com to search the Internet and they donate a penny per search to your cause. Use GoodShop.com when you shop online and they donate a percentage of every purchase and offer over 100,000 coupons to help you save money too! Sign up for their GoodDining program and they'll donate a percentage of your restaurant bill when you eat at any one of thousands of participating restaurants. It's really easy; it's free and turns simple everyday actions into a way to make the world a better place. Please sign up today to help support Our Redeemer Lutheran Church or choose your own. Go to www.goodsearch.com to get started. Questions? Kaja Mueller, dce@ourredeemer.org #319-338-5626.



PICK YOUR SUNDAY NOW!

The 2016 flower calendar is in the library to the left of the 2015 calendar. Now is the time to sign up for that Sunday you would really like to honor a special occasion.



Our Redeemer Preschool Weekly Newsletter

December 7th-December 11th, 2015



Angels Share Good News!

Director/Teacher: Kaja Mueller

Assistant: Kate Ramsey

Preschool Phone: 319-338-3949 www.ourredeemerpreschoolic.org preschool@ourredeemer.org

Letter: Aa Color: Green Bible Story: Luke 2:8-21

JESUS TIME: After Jesus was born, an angel appeared to the shepherds who were nearby in a field, watching over their sheep. The angel brought good news of great joy that Jesus, the Savior of the world, was born! These shepherds went to see Jesus. They were so happy they told others this good news! We can share this good news with others, too. Because of sin, we need Jesus. God loves us so much, He gave His Son to save us from our sins. What good news this is!

ARTS & CRAFTS:

- Angel Watercolor
- Paint/Glitter Pinecones
- Candy Cane Beads
- Christmas Craft with Twyla



SONGS/CHANTS:

- “Wiseman Traveled”
- “Jesus Loves, Jesus Loves”
- “GREEN”
- “Away in a Manger”
- “We Wish You A Merry Christmas”
- “Jesus Loves Me”
- “If I Were A Butterfly”
- “Jingle Bells”
- “Little Baby Jesus”
- “Animal Action”

READING CENTER:

- The Adventures of Abby Alligator* - Maria Fleming
- Ants* - Amanda Haley
- The Baby Born in A Stable* - Janice Kramer
- Christmas Night, Fair and Bright* - Julie Stiegmeyer
- Christmas in the Barn* - Margaret Wise Brown
- Get Ready for Christmas* - Jan & Mike Berenstain
- If You Take A Mouse to the Movies* - Laura Numeroff
- I Spy Little Christmas* - Jean Marzollo
- My A Book* - Jane Belk Moncure
- The Nativity* - Fiona Watt
- The Savior is Here* - Carolyn Bergt

SCIENCE CENTER:

Geodes



SENSORY TABLE:

Festive Christmas Decorations and Rice

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

Dec 17th-18th: Class Christmas Party

Dec 21st-Jan 1st: Christmas Break

Jan 4th: Class Resumes with Mrs. Kaja

Next Week's Snack & Line Leaders:

- Monday: Jack Y.
- Tuesday: Jack S.
- Wednesday: Ella
- Thursday: Ellie
- Friday: Preschool

(11 kids M/W/F; 8 kids T/TH)

Happy 4th Birthday to Anna!

Anna will turn 4 years old on Sunday! May God continue to bless her in this next special year of her life!



We are excited about this Advent/Christmas season here in preschool! We have been learning some Christmas songs, chants and finger plays. All the preschool students are invited to sing a few of these during Our Redeemer's worship service on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:10 pm.

Ski Trip on Fri, Jan. 1st



Zion Lutheran Church has invited the members of Our Redeemer to join them for their annual ski

trip to Sundown Mountain in Dubuque on Friday, January 1st from 6:45 am until 6:00 pm.

Who may come?

Everyone, of all skill levels! Children under 5th grade must be accompanied by an adult.

How to register?

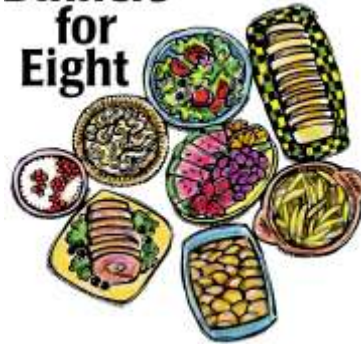
Complete the registration form/liability release form available in the church office and return them to Zion, Attn: Shawn Livingston, 310 N Johnson St, Iowa City, IA 52245, with payment no later than January 1st.

Details

- *Transportation is a chartered bus.*
- *Bring your own lunch or buy your food at the resort.*
- *Costs for the bus, ski pass and ski/snowboard rental are \$65 (+ \$5 for helmet) before 12/20/15 and will increase to \$75 (+\$5 for helmet) after 12/21/15.*

Any questions, please contact Shawn Livingston (319-430-9255 or slivingston@q.com)

Dinners for Eight



If you are interested in fun, food, and fellowship, consider signing up for the next round of Dinners for Eight. Sign up for the first time!! Sign up to

join a second or third group!! There is a form in the office to fill out and place in Box #311. If you have questions, contact Shana Stuart, 337-9465, shanastuart21@gmail.com.

BEAT THE SNOW!

Two volunteers cover a week at a time. The number of volunteers determines how many weeks each gets. Having many volunteers can make this a small commitment of time and effort. Clearing includes the sidewalks and parsonages; the parking lot is done by others. There are shovels, de-icing pellets, and a snow blower available.

Please sign up in the church office.




Live Nativity

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Corner of 1st Ave and Court Street

High school youth portray the Nativity scene with live animals including a donkey this year. Listen to carolers and enjoy refreshments as well.



HELP WANTED BOOKKEEPER

Quick Books is coming to Our Redeemer in January. Larry would like to retire (again). The position is for 20 hours a week. Please contact Pastor at 338-5626 or bhartwig@ourredeemer.com to apply for this bookkeeper position.

THE ANIMALS ARE COMING!

A petting zoo has been contacted to provide animals for the Live Nativity. It comes at an expense, but will provide several animals, an enclosure for the alpaca and goats, and liability insurance. If you are interested in continuing this another year, please show us by donating to offset the cost which will total \$700. Make check to Our Redeemer-memo line on check should be Live Nativity.

Youth Happenings

Join us for dinner, singing and worship before class on
December 16th starting at 5:10 pm!

High School Youth

Join us TODAY

Live Nativity and Christmas Party

High School students from Our Redeemer
Sunday, December 13th
3:00 pm until 7:00 pm

*"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for
all the people. For unto you is born this day in the
city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2:10-11*

What you'll be doing:

Sharing the Good News of Jesus' birth!

- 3 – 4 pm Set up for Live Nativity, get in costume
- 4 – 6 pm Live Nativity / Eat dinner
(Chick-fil-A platter and corn salsa w/
tortilla chips provided)
*Alternate between being dressed in
costume outside for Live Nativity and
eating dinner while warming up inside*
- 6 – 7 pm Christmas Party: *Christmas devotion,
play Christmas games, exchange gifts
(see below)*

What to bring:

- Side dish or drink that you signed up to bring
- a \$5.00 dollar gift for the gift exchange (*must be
suitable for boy or girl; ex: gift card, candy,
chocolate, dvd, book, deck of cards, earbuds, hot
chocolate mix...*)
- warm clothes (*gloves/mittens, hat, earmuffs, etc.
– remember, you will be outside in costume in
cold weather*)



Wise Men still Seek Him.

Confirmation Classes

Wednesday, December 16th

6th Grade Lecture

The Divided Kingdom

*The kingdom of Israel which had been united for
120 years under King David's line was divided in
922 BC into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and
the Southern Kingdom (Judah). The Divided
Kingdom lasted 400 years. In the North, there
were 19 kings and all of them did evil in the
sight of the Lord. In the South, there were 20
kings and 8 of them followed the Lord. The sin of
Jeroboam (king of Israel/North) was not trusting
in God and changing God's Word to suit his own
desires.*

MEMORY DUE: Isaiah 41:10

7th Grade Small Group

TEST: The Ten Commandments

*The test will be over the Ten Commandments,
types of sin, uses of the Law and the opening
and close of the Commandments.*

HOMEWORK DUE: All should be turned in

MEMORY DUE: All should be turned in

FINAL PRODUCT FOR COMMANDMENTS DUE:

Weds, Jan. 6th

TEST: Weds, Dec. 16th (this week!)

8th Grade Small Group

The 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed

*The 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed is about
the 2nd person of the Holy Trinity: God the Son,
Jesus who is both God and man. The birth of
Jesus is recorded in Luke 2:1-14. Why did God
choose the name Jesus for His Son, the Babe of
Bethlehem? The name Jesus means "Savior".
Jesus saved us from the punishment for our
sin—separation from God and eternal life in
hell. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there
is no other name under heaven given to men by
which we must be saved." Acts 4:12*

HOMEWORK DUE: none

MEMORY DUE: none

OUR REDEEMER OFFICE DIRECTORY

Office: 338-5626 Fax: 338-9171 Website: <http://www.ourredeemer.org> Preschool: 338-3949
 Prayer Chain: 351-5297 or prayerchain@ourredeemer.org Special Announcements Line: 338-3505

<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>	<u>STAFF & EMAIL</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
Brent Hartwig, Senior Pastor bhartwig@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 337-2403 (home)	Kaja Mueller, Director of Christian Ed. dce@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 541-4827 (cell)
Kaja Mueller, Preschool Director Kate Ramsey, Assistant preschool@ourredeemer.org	338-3949 (preschool) 338-5626 (church)	Peter Adelsen, Vicar vicar@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Larry Freeman, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)	Kara Hartwig, Youth Coordinator youthcoordinator@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Denise Holida Director of Small Group Ministry smallgroups@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 930-0165 (cell)	Louise Klopp, Director of Choirs choirdirector@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)
Marilyn Paetz, Organist organist@ourredeemer.org	351-4262 (home)	Kate Ramsey, Preschool Assistant preschoolassistant@ourredeemer.org	
Kevin Sellers Director of Technology technology@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church) 631-8924 (cell)	Laurel Sellers, Office Coordinator redeemer@ourredeemer.org	338-5626 (church)

2015 Board of Elders - Ryan Haack, Chair 688-9513

Bill Benson	517-881-9848
Vaughn Davisson	319-648-4660
Ryan Haack, Chair	688-9513
Myrl Holida	351-4301
Skip Kempnich	351-5297
Jeff Kucera	512-6789
Denny Schrader	530-1562
Arlan Thompson	338-2938
Marty Wenck	330-2761

Each family of the Our Redeemer flock is assigned alphabetically by last name to an elder to insure each family is prayed for and feels they "have an elder". It is the sincere feeling of the Board of Elders that we are to love and be of service equally to the entire body of believers. We encourage any one of you to contact any one of us so we can share your spiritual journey, ideas or concerns.

DEADLINES

Reflections (printed weekly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) each Wednesday by 5:00 pm

Beacon Newsletter & Church Activities Calendar (printed monthly): Information must be submitted (written, typed, emailed or faxed) by noon on the 20th of each month.

TELEVISION ~ RADIO

Our Redeemer Worship Service on Public Access TV Channel 18 every Wednesday at 4:00 pm.

The Lutheran Hour Television Ministries talk show "On Main Street" is shown on **Public Access Television Channel 18** on Thursdays at 1:30 pm and Sundays at 10:00 pm.

Lutheran Hour Ministries on Radio—**WMT 600 AM Radio** on Sunday mornings at 6:30 am, and **KXEL 1540 AM Radio** on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND SCREENING

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has been in ministry with children and youth for almost 55 years. Our insurance carrier, Church Mutual, strongly encourages us to promote the safest and most secure environment possible by screening all employees and volunteers, both new and existing, especially those who interact with children. Performing background checks will provide safeguards and peace of mind to our staff, volunteers, parents, youth and children. Additional details will be forthcoming as we put this screening process in motion.



Medical Foster Homes are private homes in which a trained caregiver provides services to a few individuals. Some, but not all, residents are Veterans. VA inspects and approves all Medical Foster Homes.

A Medical Foster Home can serve as an alternative to a nursing home. It may be appropriate for Veterans who require nursing home care but prefer a non-institutional setting with fewer residents.

Medical Foster Homes have a trained caregiver on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This caregiver can help the Veteran carry out activities of daily living, such as bathing and getting dressed. VA ensures that the caregiver is well trained to provide VA planned care. While living in a Medical Foster Home, Veterans receive Home Based Primary Care services.

If you are a Veteran looking for a safe, supportive, long-term care option or someone who would like to consider providing a Medical Foster Home, there is more detailed information on the bulletin board outside the library. There are also some flyers on the wire rack outside the office.



Teachers are needed for the following classes:

Sunday School

- Toddlin' (birth-2) - Assistant
- PreK 1 - Assistant
- PreK 2 - Assistant
- Kinder – Assistant
- 1st – Assistant
- 2nd – Assistant



We are looking for a willingness to support our children on their faith journey by committing to teach through the 2015-2016 school year. If you are interested or have names for us to contact, share with Kelli Kucera at kellikucera@yahoo.com. Substitutes are also needed.



Did you know that approximately 1.8 million children die every year as a result of diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation? If you would like to play a part in changing this situation consider joining MOST Ministries 1611 Water Team heading to Nicaragua this coming Spring (March 28-April 3). We currently need an entire team or a minimum of eight individuals to join. Without you an entire community will not receive physical and spiritual life-giving water.

For more information contact Debby Suchyta at dsuchyta@mostministries.org, 734.994.7909 X11 or visit MOST Ministries website. A firm commitment to go is needed by December 22.

Kids Club

** Registrations are in the church office.*

Our Kids Club is a church-sponsored weekly program for young people. **LITTLE LAMBS** is for children 3 years through Kindergarten. **CROSSTOWN** is for children in 1st and 2nd grade. **FAITH EXPLORERS** is for children in grades 3 through 5. Classes start at 6:45 pm with openings. The children learn Bible stories and Bible verses, sing songs, play games, and participate in craft and mission projects. Children earn awards for completing memory work. For more information about our Kids Club, please contact Denise Schwarting at 325-6153 or Becky West at 430-3809.

MID-WEEK PROGRAM OUR BELIEVERS