**“DEFENDING THE GIFT OF LIFE”**

As we start another year, we look back on 2016 and thank God for life. God is the author of life. He is our Creator. He is our Redeemer through Jesus. We thank Him for the blessings of life.

We also thank Him for the people who defend our lives: the soldiers of the United States military, who serve and fight to protect our freedom. Many—over 1 million American soldiers—have died fighting for our country. We salute the soldiers who fight for us.

The picture on the right shows Richard Overton. At 110 years old, he is the oldest living World War II veteran. Thank you for serving our country!

Another battle for life rages on. This one is in the womb. Since January 22nd, 1973, when abortion was legalized in America through the ninth month of pregnancy, over 58 million unborn babies have lost their lives. This battle for life needs soldiers who love God, love life, and are willing to serve to protect the precious gift of human life.

January is Sanctity of Human Life month at Redeemer. We hold that all life, from the moment of conception to its natural end, is precious and deserving of protection. We commit to serving the Lord in the battle for life. We do that with our lips as we speak the truth for life and against death, and announce forgiveness for all sins, including the sin of abortion. And we do it with our hands and feet as we serve the needy, especially pregnant mothers and families with children.

One way to join the battle for life is to get involved with ministries such as New Life Family Services, the largest comprehensive pregnancy care center in Minnesota. New Life serves over 10,000 men, women, and children a year.

On **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4th**, at our **FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT**, a

(Reflections continued on page 3)
Teachings for a lifetime

A parent spoke with me about their child who had transferred in to Redeemer in the older grades and shared what a difference Redeemer had made in their child’s life as far as being able to make better choices – Godly choices, and also apply themselves to their work.

A Wayzata basketball coach regularly refers parents to Redeemer although he has never had a child attend our school. He tells parents he sees traits of Redeemer graduates that you want your child to have: integrity, discipline, and the ability to take responsibility.

This is a great evening of fun, fellowship and fundraising for our school. The evening will include games (cake walk, crazy hair, teacher’s pet, treasure chest, pop bottle ring toss and many more), inflatables, prizes and food. We’ll have pizza and hotdog meal deals, so plan to come for dinner! All are welcome – the more the merrier!

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK
Celebrated January 23-27
Yea, rah, rah!!! Over 2500 Missouri Synod Lutheran

(RLS continued on page 3)
Wednesday, January 4th. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with free-will offering supper. At 6 p.m. we start bundling, highlighting, and writing. The guest speaker and video follows. Brandi Perez, director of community outreach for New Life, will describe the work of the center and let us know how we can be involved in the fight for life.

Happy New Year! We praise God for life through His Son Jesus. We commit to using our lips, hands, and feet to defending God’s gift of life.

In Christ

Pastor Steve

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**LIFE LIGHT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES**

A new nine-week LifeLight study of the first half of the New Testament book of **Romans** will begin on Thursdays **beginning January 12** from 9:30--11:30am in the Conference Room.

A Study guide ($10) is available in the office. Come study God’s Word with us. Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.

Questions? Ask Eva McAtee (763-476-1827) or Judymae Bowers (763-476-0913.)
Music & Worship “Notes”

Ideo, Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
(Therefore, glory to God in the highest!)

“I thank my God every time I remember you...because of your partnership from the first time until now.” (Paul wrote this to his Philippian friends.)

During Advent, beginning November 27, we witnessed a flurry of activity and outreach through our singers and instrumentalists. In worship we heard a choir of 45 singers, a chamber orchestra, a JoySound worship band, brass, harp and violin solos and we visualized Creo Dancers praising the Light of the World. In Redeemer School we heard our band and voices of students sharing “The Great Christmas Giveaway.” The Kingdom Kids learned to play Christmas Carols on their “Boom whackers!” Through WINGS we wished Jesus a “Happy Birthday” and visited our next-door neighbors, Meridian Manor.

Thank you, Redeemer, for investing your musical efforts to Wayzata and people nearby.

Thanks for inviting them to worship.

Thanks for sharing this beautiful worship place to bring people into God’s presence.

Thank you for the many personal expressions of appreciation.

Dan Oie
Director of Music and Worship

Tour Martin Luther Art Exhibit at MIA

January 6

Space is still available to visit the Martin Luther Art Exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art on Friday evening, January 6.

Sign up outside the Redeemer Church Office. The cost is $30 which includes transportation, a light supper, and a guided tour.

You don’t want to miss this once-in-a lifetime experience to view Martin Luther’s pulpit from which he preached his final service. The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. What better way to begin the New Year and celebrate our Lutheran heritage.

Contact Stacy Klone or Dan Oie.

New Year’s Opportunities in Music and Worship

Begin the New Year of 2017 by joining one of our musical groups:

♫ Soli Deo Choir – begins Wednesday, January 11 at 7:30 p.m. Sings for worship twice a month.

♫ Redeemer Handbells – begin Wednesday, January 11, at 6:30 p.m. Plays monthly for worship.

♫ JoySound Worship Band – a rotation of singers, guitar players, drummers and instruments.

Contact Dan Oie to participate at email doie@Redeemerwayzata.org or phone 952-473-1281 #209.

Music in Worship – January

January 8  8:15 and 10:45 a.m.  Sounds Like Love Students
January 29  10:45 a.m.  Kingdom Kids, Redeemer Brass
**Wednesday Morning Women’s Bible Study**

Wednesday Morning Bible Study starts a new book on January 4th. Life is full of trials! Women face disappointments, despair, and doubts. In *Trials - Don’t Resent Them as Intruders*, we are going to look at four pertinent questions about trials: Why does God allow trials? How can I handle my trials? What can I learn from trials? How can I have joy in the midst of trials?

As we search God’s Word for answers to these questions, we will find the help we need to live lives that are pleasing to God - even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

We invite you to join your fellow sisters-in-Christ on Wednesday mornings in the Gathering Room at 10:00am, for Bible study, prayer, and the singing of old, favorite hymns.

For more information, please contact Linda Krantz at 763-476-0587 or Mary Sund at 763-233-2417. We hope you will join us!

**Redeemer's Christmas Display**

Thank you to Judi Micoley and Jenny Boyko for responding to the request for repainting/repairing buildings and characters of Redeemer's outdoor Christmas display. Jenny got her family involved -- thanks to Carol and Duane Smith, Mara Boyko, Shelley Smith and especially to Dennis Murschel for repainting the choir figurines.

*After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*

*Matthew 2:9-11*
Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser

Fellowship and a hearty breakfast were enjoyed by many of the Redeemer Family, Saturday, November 19, at the Applebee’s restaurant in Plymouth. Our goal of raising $1000 was accomplished to support the Habitat for Humanity program. Thank you to those who supported this event and thank you to Applebee’s for sponsoring this Flapjack Fundraiser Program.
THANK YOU FROM THE COMPASSION CIRCLE

The Compassion Circle would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed so generously by baking extra Christmas cookies to share with IOCP and Vicksburg Commons families, Meals on Wheels, Redeemer’s shut-ins and others, and Home Free, a shelter for battered women and children. Your time and effort in supporting this outreach project is very much appreciated. Thank you also to the students of Redeemer School for the beautiful Christmas cards that were included in the cookie packs.
**LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) NEWS**

**NEXT MEETING**
Redeemer’s LWML group will resume on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017, AT 10:00 AM** in the Conference room, for Bible Study from the Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly.

Do you love to knit or crochet? January - March we will be making baby caps for a local hospital. Instructions can be found next to the LWML display in lower hallway.

**LWML 75TH ANNIVERSARY**
The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League will celebrate our 75th Anniversary in 2017 in Albuquerque, New Mexico on June 22-25, 2017. More information about this

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**“Diamond Dazzle Celebration”**
is available in the winter issue of The Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly or online at [www.LWML.org](http://www.LWML.org)

**LAKE MINNETONKA ZONE LWML RALLY**
The Lake Minnetonka Zone LWML “Celebrate Spring” Rally will be held on **SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017** at Zion Lutheran Church, 241- 5th Avenue North, Hopkins, Minnesota. The theme is “Prepare to Build” and speaker for the day is Joel Landskroener/Mayer Lutheran High. **Save the date!**
The Lake Minnetonka Zone

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**MITES UPDATE**
Want to know what your MITES are doing? Check it out at [http://www.mnalwml.org/resources/mites-at-work](http://www.mnalwml.org/resources/mites-at-work) to learn how your mites are blessing Mission grant recipients.

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**THE STORY BIBLE STUDY**
Join Pastor Steve and your fellow brothers and sisters for the Adult Education Hour between services Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Steve is leading a journey through Scripture using *The Story*, a fresh, effective way to study and understand the great themes of the Bible.

What a great way to study the Word together!

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**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
**January 16, 2017**

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**MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LWML RETREAT**
Sponsored by the District’s Christian Life Committee and Pastoral Counselors will be held at the Best Western Plus – North Mankato on July 28-29, 2017. Watch for more information on registration and theme.
STUDENT MINISTRY

Welcome to 2017! We made it! Are you ready for what God has in store for you this year?! Are you ready to grow in every way of your being? Are you ready to be challenged? Are you ready for the ups and the downs? Are you ready to process through all the unexpected things coming your way this year? Some of you might be answering these questions out loud with a zealous and passionate “YES!” Your plans are in place, your lists are written out and you are ready to go! I want to tell you that the ONLY way you will be ready to tackle what is ahead of you this year is with Jesus. Plans and lists are great and are usually components highly effective people. But no plan and no list is complete if Jesus is left out and off of it.

The real question for this year is: Are you ready to give it all to Jesus? In Matthew 19 and Luke 18 Jesus is talking to his followers and challenges them to sell everything and give it away and follow Him. He was testing their commitment level. He wanted to see who was ready to move past their known experiences to new and greater experiences. He knew that what He had for them was more satisfying than anything they could ever have on their own. But they had to make the adjustment and put Him first.

Whatever your thoughts, hopes and dreams are for this new year I want to encourage you to give up the seat and the head of the table and let Jesus sit there. Your seat is the one right next to Him. The same way Mary sat at the feet of Jesus while Martha made busy with the “stuff.” Mary’s experience was much more satisfying and intimate than the Martha’s. Mary left that interaction fulfilled.

Martha left it annoyed. Mary took one more step closer to Jesus. Martha missed the opportunity to do so.

Our Student Ministry is dedicated to sitting at the feet of Jesus. Each week we spend our time moving closer to Him. One of our core purposes is to help our students know Jesus in a deeper more meaningful way. To help them grow in their own personal relationship with Him. To equip them with what they need to walk by faith and not by sight. To be on solid ground with the One who loves them more than they could ever imagine. And to live a healthy and fruitful life because the love of Jesus has transformed them. We are ready to give it all to Him this year. How about you?
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**Calendar dates are subject to change.**

Please check your weekly bulletin.
We invite you to worship with us!

SUNDAY WORSHIP & PRAISE: 8:15 am and 10:45 am, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—All Ages: 9:30 am

**COMING SOON TO REDEEMER … BRAILLE WORK CENTER**

A Memorandum of Understanding for Braille Work Centers between Lutheran Braille Workers and Redeemer Lutheran Church, Wayzata, was signed in November.

We are entering into Christian partnership focused on the manufacture and distribution of Braille Christian Bibles and Christian materials for people with visual impairment throughout the world.

**Prayer**

Please remember this ministry in your prayers. Especially remember those we will serve, people with severe visual impairment, who may not have the Word of God in their language or in a form they are able to read.

**Labor**

Secondly, volunteers are needed for collating, assembling, punching, binding, checking, and shipping.

Would you be willing to volunteer 4 hours once a month, twice a month, three times a month or more?

Training will be provided.

“Sharing a Changeless Christ in a Changing World”