**WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?**

A few days ago most Americans turned their clocks back an hour to mark the end of Daylight Savings time. It’s one of my wife’s favorite days of the year – an extra hour of precious sleep! As I changed my office clock, I thought about how often we would like to turn back the clock of our lives, to before our health failed, before we lost our job, before a loved one died.

Now, in the aftermath of the horrible shootings in Texas and Las Vegas, and the deaths of innocent pedestrians in New York City, wouldn't it be incredible to be able to turn the clock back and live in a kinder, gentler pre-9/11 world? Violence and hatred seem to be taking over, tempting even God’s people to give in to despair and discouragement.

How do we not lose hope? Jesus saw the difficult path ahead for His followers. He did not mince words: “In the world you will have tribulation...” Horrible suffering came upon the early church as it stood for Christ. Great affliction awaits God’s people in every generation who choose to follow Christ, even in America.

But that is not the whole story. Jesus said, “In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). It may look like evil is winning, but where are you looking? God’s Word shouts the truth: “Through death He destroyed him who has power over death, that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14).

Evil may win a battle, but it will never win the war. Jesus defeated the devil, sin, and death 2,000 years ago through His

(Reflections continued on page 3)
REDENEER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

EAT PIE AND SUPPORT OUR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS’ CLASS TRIP
Purchase a certificate from one of our 6th to 8th graders to get a fruit pie or cream pie of your choice from Perkins at their 494/55 location in Plymouth. Fruit and pumpkin pies are $12.00. Cream pies are $15.00. Can’t find a student to purchase a gift certificate from? Email teachers Sandy Tutka at stuntka@redeemerwayzata.org or Gordie Edmison at gedmison@redeemerwayzata.org for pie certificates.

CAREGIVER FOR EXTENDED SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM
Redeemer Christian Academy is seeking an assistant caregiver to work with students in Gr. K-8 from 3:00-5:30pm Monday / Wednesday / Friday when school is in session. You must be 18 years of age or older and love working with children. Contact Linda Wiebold, School Administrator at 952/473-5356 or lwiebold@redeemerwayzata.org with your resume.

EIGHTH GRADE CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE
The 7th and 8th grade students will hold their annual Christmas Boutique on Thursday, December 7, from 8 to 12 and 1-4, and Friday, December 8, from 8 to noon. Everyone will have a chance to purchase crafts, gift items, and baked goods created by our seventh and eighth graders. Students will shop during school hours. Prices for items vary from 25 cents to upwards of $10. Please stop by and see us! The proceeds will go to help fund our class trip!

ANGEL TREE
The Angel Tree is now set up in the church lobby! If you would like to purchase a gift for a local child whose parent is serving time in prison over the holidays, please choose a tag from the tree and log it on the accompanying list. The wrapped gift should be returned to the office by December 8th. If you would like to deliver a gift or gifts to the children, you can sign up on the form provided, also. Thank you in advance for sharing Christ’s love with the kids, and making their Christmas a little brighter!

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER—ALL INVITED
Smiling cherubic faces, inspired music, and the Christmas message are part of the special school children’s Christmas programs. Who can you invite to join you?

† Wed., Dec. 13, 9am:
Preschool 3s and Pre-K 4s Christmas program in the sanctuary
(RCA continued on page 3)
Where are you looking? This Christmas, look to the Word, that points to the manger. God was born in human flesh, for us. He won, the enemy is vanquished. He knows you, loves you, and cares for you. Come to Redeemer’s midweek Advent series on Wednesday, December 6th, 13th, and 20th at 5 p.m. Find peace in a violent world as you worship the name of Jesus.

Pastor Steve

(RCA continued from page 2)

† Tues., Dec. 19, 9:00am dress rehearsal and 6:30pm program: K-grade 8 Christmas program in the gym
Come to the dress rehearsal if you can’t make it to the evening program.

School Open Houses
Tuesday, January 16
and
Tuesday, February 20
4:30pm – 6:00pm

We are hosting formal open houses after Christmas. Who can you invite to learn what it’s like to be part of the family at Redeemer? Parents and students will be able to meet teachers and staff, and learn the real definition of "teachings for a lifetime.” Help us spread the word. We continue to get most of our new families from your fabulous contacts. Thanks so much, and let’s keep that tradition going!

Funfest
Friday, January 26
5:30pm – 8:00pm

Our school carnival, Funfest, will be held on Friday, January 26, 5:30 - 8:00 pm. It’s an opportunity to have fun and see many other school families. Bring your friends and neighbors, too. We serve pizza and hot dogs, offer many fun games, and raffles. It’s always a well-attended, fabulous night. Watch for service hour opportunities to be posted soon.

If anyone is interested in being a co-chair with Kim Kallerup, please contact her at Kimberly.Kallerup@bestbuy.com.

(A Reflections continued from page 1)

death and resurrection. Yes, the devil rages, but he is mortally wounded. He knows his time is short, and then, the Lake of Fire awaits him. Do not give in to his acts of rage. Endure in the faith, trust that God will use even horrific acts to His glory, and look to the Heavens, where Jesus will return with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and we will meet Him in the air and be with Him forever.

(Redemer Good News)
SING WITH REDEEMER’S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CHOIR

... YOU CAN STILL JOIN!

“The Wonder of Christmas” highlights traditional carols arranged with fabulous orchestra parts by David Hamilton, the orchestra director for Michael W. Smith. These colorful carols include: “Christmas Time” (Michael W. Smith), “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day,” “Go Tell It On the Mountain,” and “The Wexford Carol” and a new carol, “Noel” by Lauren Daigle.

Five special rehearsals have been arranged just to learn these carols. The first rehearsal is on Sunday, November 26th and the December rehearsals are as follows:

Rehearsals:

† Sunday, December 3 ............... 3 – 4:30 pm
† Thursday, December 7 ............ 7 – 8:30 pm
† Sunday, December 10 ............ 6 - 7:30 pm
† Thursday, December 14 .......... 7 - 9 pm (orchestra and choir)

“The Wonder of Christmas” will be presented at three services:

† Saturday, December 16 .... 4:30 pm at Folkestone Outreach
† Sunday, December 17 ...... 8:15 and 10:45 am at Redeemer

REDEEMER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY PRESENTS

“AN UNPLUGGED CHRISTMAS”

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 6:30 PM

Come and discover how our students interpret the Christmas story through the dramatic events of a unplugged production.

Our Redeemer students are excited to share their version of Christmas carols with their voices, dance, drama, instruments, and Christmas lights.
**LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY LEAGUE NEWS**

**SAVE THE DATE! — June 29 – 30, 2018**

Come join your sisters in Christ at the

**2018 MINNESOTA SOUTH LWML DISTRICT CONVENTION!**

*Verizon Wireless Center, Mankato*

Are you a young woman between the ages of 22-35 with a heart for missions and interested in learning what LWML is all about?

Our committee on young women, Kelli LaVoi and Tracy Eckoff, are waiting for you to join them for some special events at the Minnesota South LWML District convention on Thursday evening, Friday, and Saturday. Guaranteed to be an uplifting experience!

Contact: Anna Gerber, Lake Minnetonka Zone President at 952-475-9168 for more information.

**SERVICE PROJECT**

LWML invites all who knit and crochet to make “newborn” hats as our service project. We will be collecting these hats January through March.
It’s COOKIE TIME!

Redeemer’s Compassion Circle invites cookie bakers to contribute as many “Christmas cookies” as you are willing to share with others for our annual Christmas Cookie Pack.

Cookies will be distributed to Home Free (a local shelter for battered women and children), Meals-on-Wheels, Interfaith Outreach and Vicksburg Commons families, and Redeemer’s Shut-ins.

Please label cookie containers “for C.C.” and deliver them to the Redeemer kitchen by Monday noon, December 11th.

Adults are welcome to help sort and pack the cookies in the auditorium between 1-3pm on December 11th.

Phone Judymae Bowers (763-476-0913) or Vi Schulte (763-473-5697) with questions, or to arrange for pickup if you are unable to deliver your cookies by noon on December 11th.

Thank you very much.

“WE LOVE GOD BY LOVING OTHERS.”

Need a Gift Idea? — Check out Scrip!

Scrip makes a great gift. Gift cards are available for many retail stores, restaurants, gas stations, and grocery stores. Check out the selection.

Plus, using Scrip for your gift-giving instead of cash or your Visa, gives back money to Redeemer Church and School. It’s a win-win!

Scrip can be purchased in the auditorium on Sundays or the church office weekdays during business hours.

Wishing you a very Merry and Blessed Christmas.
**Diaper Drive!**

Redeemer Lutheran is partnering with New Life Family Services, a Twin Cities area pregnancy resource center, to provide much-needed diapers and wipes to their clients with new babies.

Here’s how it works: During the month of December, Redeemer members and friends will donate diapers (sizes 4, 5, & 6) and wipes. Bring them to the church. We’ll store them here until

Wednesday, January 3rd. On that night, a Faith & Family Service Project night, WINGS kids, student ministry (youth group) participants, and adults will work together to:

a) bundle the diapers,

b) mark verses in Bibles

c) kids will write encouraging notes on 4x6 cards that will be put into the package of diapers, wipes, and Bibles.

A staff member from New Life will speak at the event and show a video of the organization’s services. Dinner will be served at 5:30, followed by music and the service project.

Come on Wednesday, January 3rd, for this special Faith & Family service project! Get started today by buying and donating diapers and wipes.

For more information, contact Stacy Klone or Pastor Steve.

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**Advent by Candlelight**

**December 3, 5:00 p.m.**

*An Evening with Martin & Katie Luther*

Join the women of Redeemer for our annual “Advent by Candlelight” evening as we prepare for Advent and the birth of our Lord.

Our evening will include Christmas carols in English and German, handbells, and more. Special guests Martin & Katie Luther will present a program that promises to delight us as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We are invited to a table talk with them as they discuss one of Martin Luther’s works, the hymn “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come.”

And, of course, we will enjoy dessert and coffee and fellowship at tables decorated with the season’s finest dishes and candles.

Contact Mary Sund with any questions at 763-233-2417.
November 5, 2017

Dear Redeemer Families and Students,

Have you ever had a time when you prayed and God answered you clearly and definitively? And not only did you hear Him loud and clear but His answer was a call to action? If you have had that type of experience then you will be able to relate to the rest of this email.

You might recall that over the summer I was asked to direct a ministry to college students and young adults at Plymouth Covenant Church. I accepted the position and in light of that decision I had decided to step away from my position as Youth Director at Redeemer at the end of October. Once the school year started however I entertained the idea of remaining on staff at Redeemer and leading both ministries simultaneously… in addition to a full-time real estate career and raising my five children. In order to accommodate this arrangement we were going to move our Student Ministry to Sunday’s starting this month. Before making an official announcement to the church, I felt a twinge in my spirit and began to pray. Then in the course of 48 hours about three weeks ago, The Lord spoke to me and rearranged my world. You see 19 years ago I committed to this order of my life: God, family, ministry. Even though I didn’t have a family at that time I knew one day I would and I would live accordingly. The Lord has made it very clear to me that my family needs me to be more present and available to them right now. My children are all at an age when “daddy’s presence” is a vital part of their lives and being gone three nights a week is not in their best interest… or mine. I have also recently discovered that my lack of self-care is catching up with me and it would be unwise for me not to alter course. The Lord’s call to action was and is to step away from the position as Youth Director of Redeemer Lutheran Church. My last Wednesday night at Redeemer will be November 29th.

Even though I know without a doubt I am supposed to take this step, I can equally say I am going to miss our students tremendously. I love being a part of this unique ministry where I get to spend time with students in both a church and a school setting and build a relationship that is centered around Jesus. I have grown to love and appreciate these relationships and will miss the weekly youth group interactions. I am excited about this new dispensation of relationship with Redeemer as I will still be around for the next 10 years as a parent. I hope to keep my connections with the students as much as possible and more importantly, I hope that they know that I don’t need a title or position to love them and be there if they need me. Ministry is a lifestyle and that will never change.

For the next four weeks it will be business as usual. I will be planning out the next few months in anticipation of interim leadership needing a structure to operate within. If you have any questions or concerns during this time please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Thank you for joining me in this journey which I know has been a bit of a rollercoaster lately. My family and I appreciate the love and support.

You are loved!

Joe Lomando

Student Ministry Director
jholmanto@redeemerwayzata.org
612-849-3693
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Redeemer Good News</td>
<td>December 2017</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday</td>
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<td>HC = Holy Communion</td>
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<td>7:30am Orono Basketball</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>8:15am Worship-HC</td>
<td>9:30am Fellowship &amp; Bible Study—all ages</td>
<td>10:45am Worship-HC</td>
<td>3:00pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>5:00pm Advent by Candlelight</td>
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<td>8:30am AA—GR</td>
<td>9:00am Monday Crew</td>
<td>10:30am Submit City-related info for The Portal</td>
<td>1:30pm Braille Work Center</td>
<td>6:30pm Al-Anon—GR</td>
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<td>8:45am Chapel</td>
<td>10:00am Women's Bible Study</td>
<td>5:00pm Advent Service</td>
<td>5:30pm Faith &amp; Family</td>
<td>6:20pm Handbell Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>8:00am–4:00pm Christmas Boutique—Shop Local</td>
<td>3:00pm Study Hall</td>
<td>5:30pm JoySound Practice</td>
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<td>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>1:00pm–3:00pm Compassion Circle Cookie Packaging</td>
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<td>7:00am Breakfast Buddies</td>
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**DEADLINES:**
- ♦ Wednesdays by 11:30am: Bulletin Information Due (Stacy's email or "in basket")
- ♦ 2nd Thursday of the Month by 9:30am: Newsletter Articles Due
- ♦ 2nd Friday of the Month: Newsletter Calendar Items Due

**REMARKS:**
- No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break
- December 23, 2017
- December 24, 2017
- December 25, 2017
- December 26, 2017
- December 27, 2017
- December 28, 2017
- December 29, 2017
- December 30, 2017
- December 31, 2017

**N O T E S:**
- Calendar dates are subject to change.
- Please check your weekly bulletin.

**ADVENT CALENDAR**
- December 1: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
- December 2: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
- December 3: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
- December 4: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
- December 5: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
- December 6: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
- December 7: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
- December 8: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
- December 9: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
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- December 28: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
- December 29: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
- December 30: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
- December 31: "No School—Christmas/New Year’s Break"
We invite you to worship with us!

**SUNDAY WORSHIP & PRAISE:** 8:15 am and 10:45 am, **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—ALL AGES:** 9:30 am

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**Advent by Candlelight**
Sunday, December 3rd
5:00 p.m.

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**Midweek Advent Services—"Call His Name Jesus"**
Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20 at 5:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Services**
Sunday, December 24 at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day Service**
Monday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

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"The Wonder of Christmas"
Sunday, December 17
8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.