“THE DRIVE FOR FIVE!”

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 in the name of Jesus, including the tragic 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. Christ-centered, Biblically based and compassionate, New Life serves over 10,000 women, men, and children each year.

On Wednesday, January 3rd, at Redeemer’s Faith & Family Night, Brandie Perez, a representative from New Life, will be our guest speaker. Brandie will explain New Life’s ministry, and then Redeemer’s adults and kids will bundle diapers – thousands of them – that we have donated to this valuable ministry.

Each year for the last two years, Redeemer has donated over 4,000 diapers. This year is the drive for five! Our goal is to donate 5,000 diapers, sizes 4-6, as well as wipes. You can donate anytime up to January 3rd. On that night, along with bundling, the kids will write notes of encouragement to the families receiving the diapers. Adults and children will also work together to highlight Scripture verses in gift Bibles that will be given to those who receive the diapers for their babies.

Come to this special event on Wednesday, January 3rd. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a free-will offering supper. At 6 p.m. we will hear from Brandie and then begin our bundling party. What a great way to celebrate the New Year by celebrating life as we become involved in this valuable service project to help families in need.

Happy New Year in Christ,
Deciding where your child will go to school is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Parents know intuitively that schools have a big impact on their children, not only academically, but socially, emotionally and spiritually. In fact, your child will spend one quarter of their waking hours in school during their educational years.

At Redeemer Christian Academy, our mission is to partner with you to reinforce and build on the same Biblically based values you strive to instill in your child at home. We understand that, now more than ever, it is a battle to counter the non-Christian messages that the world is sending. The only way we can do that as parents and educators is to daily plant the Word of God in them.

It is a privilege to share why Redeemer Christian Academy is so unique: Our mission is to equip students for their journey on the road through this life to eternal life with God through

Teachings for a LIFEtime: Learning, Integrity, Faith, and Excellence.

While no school can guarantee that your child will not have disappointments, failures, peer struggles, and normal childhood and adolescent challenges, we can guarantee that as your child goes through the normal challenges of growing up:

† They will be guided, encouraged and challenged with Biblical principles in an atmosphere of the same grace and encouragement we have in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

† They will be surrounded by teachers and staff who are committed to pray for them every day.

† The Word of God that is being planted in them will not return empty.

You can expect to be truly known at Redeemer — not just by your name, but by your nature — who you are and what gifts God has given you. You can also expect to be challenged — intellectually, socially and physically — in a host of ways and in a range of arenas. Finally, we expect that you will be inspired by the examples and energy of the teachers (a truly dedicated group), classmates (who become life-long friends) and an entire community of parents and church members devoted to help you utilize your God-given gifts to the best of your ability.

As one parent stated, “Redeemer has a solid core of Christian teachers. The teachers interact well with each other, and show a great love for Christ in their teaching. My son has developed not only academically, but also as a strong Christian. Redeemer was the best place I could have sent my son to prepare him for high school and life.”

Do you know someone that could benefit from such a loving, nurturing school? Virtually every day is a good day for a tour. Check out our website at www.school.redeemerwayzata.org, and give Linda a call in the office at 952/473-5356.

(RCA continued on page 3)
(RCA continued from page 2)

**SHARE THE NEWS: RCA OPEN HOUSES**

Although virtually every day is an open house day at Redeemer Christian Academy, we do offer two special opportunities for you to share our school with the people in your circle of influence:

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 4:30PM-6:00PM**

and

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 4:30PM-6:00PM**

Parents and students will be able to meet teachers and staff, and learn the real definition of "teachings for a LIFEtime."

Please share this invitation to our formal open houses with anyone within your circle of influence. This past year we gained 28 new students mostly from word of mouth and we’d like to offer this opportunity for more students to become a part of our Redeemer family.

**THANK YOU!**

The Compassion Circle would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all who contributed so generously by baking extra Christmas cookies. Several ice cream pails full and 140 clam-shell boxes of cookies were shared with IOCP and Vicksburg Commons families, Meals on Wheels, Home Free (a local shelter for battered women and children), Redeemer’s Shut-ins, and others.

Your generous support of this outreach project was very much appreciated.

Thank you also to the students of Redeemer Christian Academy for the beautiful Christmas cards that were included with the cookies.

**SCHOOL CARNIVAL (FUNFEST)**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 5:30P – 8:00P**

Our carnival/open house, called Funfest, will be held on Friday, January 26, 5:30 - 8:00 pm. It’s an opportunity to bring your friends and family to have fun, and see many other church and school families and those who may be interested in being a part of our school. And…since it’s also an open house, you can take the opportunity to show the families around the school and let them see what goes on at Redeemer. We serve pizza and hot dogs, offer many fun games, and raffles. It’s always a well-attended, fabulous night.

**IT’S STILL ALL ABOUT JESUS**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8 ESV
**Music & Worship “Notes”**

**“Dona Nobis Pacem / I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”**

This hymn of peace is one of the most provocative Christmas poems written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Longfellow had experienced several years of personal tragedy and grief, and did not write in his journals on Christmas Day for the first years in the 1860’s. But then on December 25, 1864, his heart awoke, and he cried for the gift of peace as he wrote this favorite Christmas hymn:

> “Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: ‘God is not dead, nor doth He sleep! The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men!”’

This past month we witnessed a flurry of activity and outreach through our singers and instrumentalists.

In worship we heard a joyous choir of 40 singers, a chamber orchestra, a JoySound worship band, Sunday School children, and cello, harp and violin solos. In Redeemer Christian Academy we heard our students share an “Unplugged Christmas.” 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 sanctuary to bring people into God’s presence.

Thank you for the many personal expressions of appreciation that you have expressed and supported.

Dan Oie
Director of Music and Worship

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**New Year’s (2018) Opportunities in Music and Worship**

Begin the New Year of 2018 by joining one of our music groups. Through the ministry of these ensembles we will experience the community of being a small group, the opportunity of serving, and exercising our faith in Christ. You will grow in your faith.

- **Deo Gloria Choir** – begins **Wednesday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m.**
  Sings for worship once a month.

- **Redeemer Handbells** – **begin Wednesday, January 10, at 6:30 p.m.**
  Play monthly for worship

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

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

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**Epiphany**

They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

*Matthew 2:9*

January 6, 2018
“Love Around The Globe: A Festival of Praise!”

A special concert will be given by Ben Wagner, professional Vocalist and Music Director on Saturday, January 13, at 7 p.m. in the Redeemer Church sanctuary.

Ben is a frequent Redeemer musician with the JoySound band, both as a vocalist and saxophone player. He will be joined by Twin Cities Gospel artist, Corey Stampley.

“Love Around the Globe” is a fundraiser concert to benefit the development of ongoing Christian youth music ministry work overseas in partnership with the Center for Christian Education in Martin, Slovakia and the University de Providence in Port Au Prince, Haiti. We have a vision of duplicating the model of Sounds Like Love Minnesota into a youth festival for students in Slovakia and Haiti.

Music in Worship – January 2018

January 7
..... 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. ..... Sounds Like Love Students

January 14
..... 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. .... LWML (Lutheran Women’s Missionary League), Duncan Schulte/JoySound Band

January 21
..... 8:15 a.m. .......... Sanctity of Life: Redeemer Handbells, Ava Lambert, cello;
..... 10:45 a.m. .......... JoySound Band

January 28
..... 8:15 a.m. .......... Redeemer Brass/Choir
..... 10:45 a.m. .......... Kingdom Kids (Grades K – 3)/Redeemer Brass

Lent and Easter Worship Services (2018)

Ash Wednesday, February 14 .......... 7:00 p.m. .......... Worship with Holy Communion
Wednesdays in Lent .................... 5:30 p.m. .......... Supper
.............................................. 6:00 p.m. .......... WINGS and Adult Classes
.............................................. 7:00 p.m. .......... Lenten Worship
Palm Sunday Worship, March 25 ...... 8:15/10:45 a.m. .... Children and Palms
Maundy Thursday, March 29 .......... 6:30 p.m. .......... Seder Meal (First Communion)
Good Friday, March 30 ............... 7:00 p.m. .......... Good Friday Worship – Choir and Strings
Easter Sunday, April 1 ............... 9/10:30 a.m. .......... Easter Festival Worship – Choir and Brass
**Lifelight Bible Study**

Come study God’s Word in the book of *Acts* beginning January 11th from 9:30--11:30am in the Conference room.

Luke, "the companion of Paul," and author of the book of Luke, also wrote *Acts*, which tells us how the Gospel of God’s grace, and the early church were spread abroad by the apostles and disciples of Jesus, under the influence and direction of the Holy Spirit.

Bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.

Questions? Ask Eva McAtee (763-476-1827) or Judymae Bowers (763-476-0913.)

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**New Wednesday Morning Women’s Bible Study Starts January 3rd**

Who are your role models?

The world desperately needs role models today—people who are fully human yet who exceed human expectations and point others toward God. David is such a role model. His struggles with sin are infamous, and the Psalms reveal his anguish and doubts. Yet he is also described as “a man after God's own heart”—the champion of Israel.

This study introduces you to David the servant and the leader, the sinner and the redeemed, the man and the instrument of God’s creative purposes. As you explore David’s tumultuous story, you too will discover what it means to have a passionate heart for God.

We invite you to join us Wednesday mornings at 10:00 in the Gathering Room.

For more information contact Linda Krantz at 763-476-0587 or Mary Sund at 763-233-2417.

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**Ring in the New Year by Joining a Small Group**

You’re invited for dessert and a short info session on Wednesday, January 10, from 6-7 pm in the Gathering Room to find out more about connecting with others in fellowship, study, and service.

Contact Deb Wagner at thewagners@comcast.net for more information or to register.

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**For Sale: Redeemer Snowblower**

The Redeemer walk-behind snowblower is no longer used and is available for sale.

It is a John Deere 10 horsepower, 32” model with cab.

Inquiries will be accepted through January 8, 2018. Please contact Hank Radintz for further information at 612-865-2130.
‘Every Good Gift and Every Perfect Gift’

**ANGEL TREE 2017 RECAP**

We put a lot of thought and prayer towards these Angel Tree kids. I don't have any idea what it’s like to spend Christmas (or any day, for that matter), without my parent because of what was presumably an intentional criminal act on his or her part. I imagine those feelings run deep now, and likely hereafter. It's a tough row to hoe.

So when I see these gifts coming into the office, from the church and school parents - it’s easy to imagine the lift these kids may get from it. I don’t know what is inside these gifts, but the love that was put into them is so noticeable from the outside. The beautiful wrappings, bows, flowers, and sometimes encouraging messages. And they come with a short note from the parent, who is serving time in prison.

Here’s the best part. Our gift-givers are anonymous. No one’s asking for any credit. You just want to show that child that ‘every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights...’

Thanks to all of you who help make Christmas a little less lonely for these kids by showing them the love of Christ.

Thanks to Gretchen Blount, Cynthia Pannier, Veena & Clyde Waller, Jenny Boyko, and Stacy Klone for volunteering to call caregivers, collect incoming gifts, and deliver them this year. Your efforts are very much appreciated!

God bless you all this Christmas and in 2018!

Erin Kelly

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**A RECAP OF 2017**

**FAMILIES SERVED:** 11

**CHILDREN SERVED:** 29

**LOCATED IN:** Plymouth (most of them), Crystal, Maple Plain, Chaska, and Chanhassen

**WHAT EACH FAMILY RECEIVED:** Gifts, a Bible, a children’s Bible storybook, a handwritten card, an invitation to a special Wednesday night WINGS program on January 10th, a Redeemer brochure, and Prison Fellowship materials. One family also received a pre-lit Christmas tree, as they didn’t have a tree.
Thank you to all those who donated to our adopted family — your generosity was overwhelming!!
Thank you all for the warm welcome and words of encouragement as I begin my new role as the Interim Youth Director at Redeemer. My involvement with the youth as a volunteer and chaperone for the retreats has helped make this transition easy on the kids, and for that I am thankful. I was able to jump right in with the Youth Christmas Party and work out the kinks with two Wednesday evening Youth Group gatherings before our break over Christmas. We are now ready to hit the ground running for 2018!

News and Notes for the Redeemer Youth Group:

† **Wednesday Evenings** – We will gather on January 3rd for diaper packing as noted below. We will then resume our regular Wednesday night schedule starting on January 10th with dinner at 5:30 and Youth Group starting at 6:00. We will do our best to end promptly at 7:30. We welcome any Youth grades 6 to 12 to join us.

† **Sunday Mornings** – Addie Isenberg has begun a Sunday Morning Bible Study for the Youth Group. This takes place on Sunday mornings between services in the house, and all youth grade 6 to 12 are invited. Thank you, Addie, for filling this need!

† **Our Christmas Party** was a success with almost 30 youth in attendance! It was a mostly unstructured evening at Sydney Schrader’s house that allowed the youth to play some games, sing some songs, eat delicious food, and enjoy each other’s company. Thank you, Cathy and Sydney, for opening your home to us and for feeding this animated bunch!

† **Diaper packing on January 3rd** – The Youth Group will participate in this service project with the goal of being of service to families who are packing diapers and need an extra hand. I hope to see you all there!

† **ASP Mission Team** – As you may know, Redeemer has a group of 10 that will be serving on a mission trip to Kentucky with the Appalachia Service Project the second week in July. We ask for prayers for our group as we raise funds, complete our training and secure vehicles for our trip. If you would like to be a prayer partner or help us prepare for this trip in another way, please let me know!

Thank you to all who have contributed to our financial needs by participating in our babysitting events. These have been quite successful, and due to the popular demand from the parents of Redeemer, we plan to do a babysitting night the second Saturday evening of each month starting in January, so please watch for more information!

† **Email distribution list** – I am working on updating our Youth Group Email Distribution List. If you would like to stay informed on what the Youth Group is up to please email me at Youth@redeemerwayzata.org with the email address you would like added to the list. I will also add youth email addresses along with their parents at the parent’s request (A few of the kids have asked me to add their email addresses to the list, but I need permission from the parents).

Thank you again for your support of the Redeemer Youth Group! Please contact me at youth@redeemerwayzata.org or on my cell phone (call or text) 612-245-1409 if you have any questions, suggestions or thoughts you would like to share with me.

Love in Christ,
Annette Vetse

Annette Vetse, Interim Youth Director
**Lutheran Women’s Missionary League**  
*(Lutheran Women in Mission)*

**Are you ………**

**Interested in Missions? and in learning about LWML?**

**Then save these dates:**

- **January 14, 2018**
  Come to church on Sunday, January 14 at 8:15 or 10:45 and you will hear what LWML is all about. Join us for coffee and fellowship in the auditorium between services.

- **June 29-30, 2018**
  at the Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato for the MN South District LWML Convention. If you are between the ages of 22 – 35 and are able to spend a couple of days away from home or job, the committee on young women is ready to welcome you. It’s a great opportunity to meet other young women, share your ideas, grow in your faith through Bible study and special activities planned just for you.
  Have questions? you can text me at: 952-380-8281 or e-mail me at: gerberanna525@gmail.com

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**Service Project**

These cold and snowy days are perfect for settling in to knit and crochet those adorable baby caps that are so needed by the hospital for their newborns.

The display will soon be up and ready to receive your “creations” through the months of January, February and March.

….Happy Stitching!

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**Mite Boxes**

DON’T FORGET TO BRING YOUR MITE BOXES TO CHURCH! March 31st is the deadline for the 2016-2018 Mission Grants. Thank you!

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**Braille Work Center**

Do you ever wonder what all that activity is going on in the copy room to the left of the Receptionist’s desk on Monday and Friday afternoons? Some of you have stopped by and we love that and love to answer questions.

The month of December has been awesome as the **MEN** have been “manning” the center on Monday afternoons and doing a fantastic job. Thank you, Jim, Gaylen, Terry and Phil.

We are always ready to welcome new volunteers. Our work sessions are about 3 hours long. It takes about 15 minutes to produce one book and we usually do 8-9 books, so you can see, we work at a leisurely pace. On the job training is provided!

Also new is the map display (located by the nursery in the lower hall) done by one of our youth. Each “red” pin on the map represents an **order** for the book of Revelation and each “white” pin represents an **order** for the LWML Mustard Seed Devotion, “With this Ring”. Many of the orders are multiple copies, anywhere from 1-25 copies.

Please continue to lift this ministry up in prayer. All books are supplied to the Blind “FREE” by Lutheran Braille Workers. Lutheran Braille Workers operates on donations from individuals and/or organizations (such as Thrivent and LWML grants, etc.).
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Please check your weekly bulletin. Calendar dates are subject to change.
CAROLS AND LESSONS SERVICE

On December 16th, Redeemer presented a special Christmas Concert at the Sunday morning services. With a full orchestra, handbells choir, and 44 singers, the beautiful music was a wonderful celebration to mark the beginning of the holiday week.

On three songs, the enthusiastic voices of five young children raised in praise to the coming of the Christ child added to the joyous sounds.

One member of the orchestra, Laurie, had this to say about the concert, “I had to quickly wipe the tears away during a couple of the songs so I could see my music. I almost forgot that I had to play because I was so moved by the beautiful music.”

Many thanks to Dan and Cheryl Oie for their hard work and inspiration. We are blessed as a congregation and community by your gifts of music.