DRAW THE CIRCLE, TAKE THE CHALLENGE!

Christmas is over; now what? To avoid the post-Christmas letdown so many of us experience, you’re invited to an exciting new Sunday morning Adult Education class that will begin on Sunday, January 12th.

Called Draw the Circle, this five-session video-based course is taken from pastor Mark Batterson’s award-winning book The Circle Maker. This dynamic series will challenge all of us, including your pastor, to take up the 40-day prayer challenge and “press into God” like never before. Using insightful stories and teaching, Pastor Batterson will show how drawing circles in prayer will help change our lives as we develop a bold, Christ-centered prayer life. The Draw the Circle session titles include: 1) Drawing a Circle; 2) Dream Big; 3) Pray Hard; 4) Think Long; and 5) The Ripple Effect. Come on Sunday, January 12th at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments, fellowship, and the Word of God!

On Sunday, January 19th, at both worship services, we will celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. A young birth mother named Apryl, who spoke at the New Life Family Services gala a few months ago, will be our guest speaker. Apryl has an awesome story that you will not want to miss.

All life, in the womb and out, young and old, is precious in God’s sight and deserves our love and protection. Come and hear an inspiring story of life and the grace of God. We’ll also hear how we can help the cause of life through New Life Family Services, the largest and most effective crisis pregnancy center in the state of Minnesota. New Life also promotes adoption through its own adoption agency. God is pro-life! He gave us life, and now gives us the mission to protect life. What can we do to fulfill our mission? Let’s gather to worship on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, and grow in our faith as we learn how we can protect the precious God-given gift of life.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve
Thank You!

We are so incredibly grateful for people like you who give unselfishly of your time and resources to make our school great. It’s all about relationships – with our Lord and with each other – that make this school successful. Thank you for coming alongside us!

We have Eight New Students for Next Year!
You’re Still Our Best Salespeople!

The most common way people tell me they’ve found out about RCA is through you – our happy parents and members! Want to make a difference in a neighbor child’s life? In a niece or nephew’s life? Have them check out Redeemer Christian Academy. Have them check out our school website at www.redeemerchristianacademy.org for more detail. They can sign up for a tour on our website or contact the office at 952/473-5356. We are all about making disciples through faith + academics + family.

How do Redeemer students fare when they graduate?

“Our daughter was VERY well prepared for high school. She was able to move into advanced tracks in math, science, and language. After her first semester she was rated #2 in a class of 213.”

- Parent Quote

Several high school admissions counselors have shared that they can pick out a Redeemer graduate from others by their demonstration of Christian integrity in dealing with others, and how they show responsibility, intelligence and diligence in their attitude toward their work, friends, and activities.

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

National Lutheran Schools Week provides nearly 2,000 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God’s work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus’ amazing love with children and their families.

National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve.

Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God’s love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.

How do we celebrate? It’s tradition that our eighth grade students decide on fun dress options and activities for each day of National Lutheran Schools Week. They also lead a medallion hunt, making up clues they share with the other grades each morning. This special week ends with the Fun Fest Carnival.

(RCA continued on page 3)
COMEING UP AT RCA

CALENDAR At-a-Glance

Wednesday-Friday
January 1-3
No School/Christmas Break

Monday, January 6
School Resumes

Friday, January 17
End of 2nd Quarter
7:30am Breakfast Buddies

Monday, January 20
No School
Martin Luther King Jr Day

Wednesday, January 22
Quarter 2 Grades Posted on TADS

Friday, January 24
No Bus—Parent Drive Day

Sunday—Friday
January 26-31
National Lutheran Schools Week (Special Events, Dress-Up Days)

Friday, January 31
5:30-8:00pm FunFest (School Carnival)

(RCA continued from page 2)

FunFest Carnival
Friday, January 31, 5:30-8:00pm

We’ll be hosting our annual Funfest Carnival on Friday, January 31, 5:30-8:00pm. If you have never experienced the Redeemer Funfest Carnival, this event cannot be missed! 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!

Lutheran Schools

RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES

- Experiencing and celebrating God’s lavish gifts of love, grace and mercy
- Sharing those gifts with others
- Being transformed by God’s Word
- Clinging to the cross of Jesus

PROVIDING EXCELLENT ACADEMIC PREPARATION

- Developing love for and excitement about learning
- Excelling at reading, writing and effective communication
- Training minds for success at the next academic level
- Creating a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills and the ability to relate well with others

SCHOOLS 1,950
TEACHERS 21,764
DISTRICTS 35

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ReDeemer Christian Academy
Wayzata

Faith | Academics | Family
**Thank You for Serving and Sharing**

This past month (December 2019), a host of Redeemer members and friends experienced the gift of serving Christmas “joy” in many visual and personal ways. The gift of music is a Christmas gift to our community.

In the month of December, singers and instrumentalists visited Meridian Manor, Cherrywood Pointe, Folkestone Wayzata, Trails of Orono, and Christ for People with Disabilities. During this busy time, our people led Redeemer’s worship services and Redeemer Christian Academy Chapel times and programs. In all these events, we experienced the joy and blessing of sharing our time, musical gifts, and talents with others.

Thank you for your expressions of hope, peace, joy, and love – all the themes of our Advent Candle. Keep it up and continue to see these opportunities, not just at Christmas, but all year round.

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**New Year’s 2020 Opportunities in Music and Worship**

Begin the New Year of 2020 by joining one of our music groups. Through the ministry of these ensembles we experience the community of being a small group, opportunities for service, and sharing our faith in Christ. You will grow in your faith.

- **DEO GLORIA CHOIR** begins Wednesday, January 15 at 7:15pm. Sings for worship once a month.
- **REDEEMER HANDBELLS** begins Wednesday, January 15, at 6:15pm. Play monthly for worship.
- **JOYSOUND WORSHIP BAND** is a rotation of singers, guitar players, drummers and instruments.
- **VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL** – Instrumentalists are invited to play with the Redeemer brass, strings, or winds.

To participate, contact Dan Oie:
Email doie@Redeemerwayzata.org or phone 952-473-1281 #209.
FEBRUARY NIGHT OF PRAISE AND PRAYER – FEBRUARY 22
Come and join us for an evening of praise, prayer, testimony, and worship on Saturday, February 22 at 7 p.m. We often wish we could extend our Sunday morning experience of worship beyond a set of four to five songs. February 22 will be an evening to sing extra worship songs, focused on prayer, along with the band and worship leaders. This includes a set of worship songs for choir, with a brief amount of rehearsal.

NIGHT OF PRAYER & PRAISE SCHEDULE
Sunday, February 16
6:00-7:30pm—Praise and Worship Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 22
4:00-5:30pm—Choir, Band Rehearsal
7:00-8:15pm—Praise & Worship Concert

MUSIC IN WORSHIP
JANUARY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5
8:00AM
Scott Eugene, Solo
10:30AM
JoySound Band

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12
8:00AM
Kristi Benthin, Solo
10:30AM
JoySound Band

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
8:00AM
Sanctity of Life; Strings
10:30AM
JoySound Band; Strings

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
8:00AM
Redeemer Brass; Kingdom Kids (Grades K-3)
10:30AM
Redeemer Brass; JoySound Band

Lent and Easter Worship Services

FEBRUARY 26—ASH WEDNESDAY
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

APRIL 5—PALM SUNDAY
8:00 and 10:30 a.m.—Children and Palms

APRIL 9, MAUNDY THURSDAY
6:30 p.m.—Seder Meal (First Communion)

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10—GOOD FRIDAY
7:00 p.m.—Good Friday Worship – Choir and Strings

APRIL 12—EASTER SUNDAY
9:00 and 10:30 a.m.—Easter Festival Worship
  – Choir and Brass
Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford will speak on the topic of “Biblical Truths in Today's Life Issues” on January 11, 2020, from 1:00-3:00 pm at Trinity, Waconia, MN, in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

Coffee and Cookies will be served.

 Everywhere we look we find death all around us: abortion, suicide, school shootings, mass violence, physician-assisted suicide, not to mention the death of a traditional marriage, gender, and common decency. When the world is stripped of meaning and purpose, and the self is stripped of any and all moral character, we’re left with the cultural madness and social mayhem all around us and reflected in the digital media and entertainment of our day. Death appears as the only sure thing, and so our culture becomes fixated on it. Combined with our digital age, this fixation and fascination with meaninglessness has created a world of spiritual and moral zombies, as increasingly we stare into our smartphones and other digital devices that teach us to look to ourselves and at ourselves so we can identify ourselves however we might want.

This is a moment of opportunity for the Church to boldly address the challenges of our age. Rather than cursing the darkness, we can light a match. We can stand ready to shine the light of Christ on all this Christ. We can show how to confront the toxic moral and spiritual influences all around.

Come join as we explore how to find hope and develop good habits of faith and life that combat this evil and build biblical character and the family unit. Join us as we explore how the baptismal life brings the joyous reality of the redeemed, sanctified, and moral identity we are given to live here and now in Christ Jesus.

**THE COMPASSION CIRCLE SAYS “THANKS”**

*Thank you!* 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 Home Free (a local shelter for battered women and children), Meals on Wheels, IOCP/Vicksburg Commons families, Redeemer’s Shut-ins, and others who received more than 150 clam-shell boxes and four ice cream pails full of cookies.

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

*And Thank You* to the wonderful volunteers who packed the cookies in clam-shell boxes and braved icy cold and snowy weather to deliver them.

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

*We love God by serving others.*
REDEEMER GOLDEN SENIORS CLUB

The RGSC, Redeemer Golden Seniors Club meets on **TUESDAY JANUARY 21, 2020**, at 10:00am, in the Gathering Room.

Looking forward to tomorrow's future, we will explore both living at home and apartment versus various senior living options. Also, DOWNSIZINGOLOGY or the science of reducing our valuables and other things from a Christian perspective. We will discuss various places to sell and donate things that we currently have, such as furniture, etc., and all of our no-longer-used items.

Come. Bring your ideas and share your experiences. Bring your fellow senior Redeemer members, relatives and friends.

Questions? Call Rolly or Al Heitkamp at 952-540-6471.

NEW WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY BOOK STARTS JANUARY 22ND

The new book for the New Year will be “Couples of the Old Testament,” and we invite you to join us!

The Old Testament tells the stories of fascinating men and women in relationship: couples who live with chronic disappointment, couples who overcome all obstacles to be together, in-laws who can’t stand each other, a wife who risks death if she walks in on her husband unannounced, and a husband who takes back his wife when she becomes a prostitute. There are arranged marriages, fiercely loving marriages, enduring marriages, an instant marriage, a coerced marriage, and a perfect marriage—until the couple blew it! Together, we are going to dig deeper into these relationships highlighted in the Bible to learn important lessons about marriage, God and ourselves.

We meet on **Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30** in the Gathering Room for Bible Study, prayer, and fellowship. This new study will start on January 22nd, and we hope you will join us. Bring your Bible and a friend!

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

LIFE LIGHT RESUMES


Join us Thursday mornings in the Conference Room from 9:30 to 11:30am.

For information, contact Eva McAtee (763-476-1827) or Judymae Bowers (763-476-0913.)

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*Redeemer Good News* is a monthly newsletter for members and friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church & Christian Academy in Wayzata. Newsletter articles are due the second Thursday of the month. Submit articles, news, and event items to news@redeemerwayzata.org.

Comments and suggestions are welcome.
Join your sisters in Christ at the Lake Minnetonka LWML Zone

Christian Life Retreat

Saturday, January 25
8:45am Registration ($2) & Refreshments
9:15-11:30am Retreat

Bible Study
“Celebrating Life”
led by Rev. Daniel Schultz,
Assoc. Pastor of Zion Lutheran

Servant Event
for Robinsdale
Women’s Center

Invite a young person to join you for this event.

Gifts from the Heart for the Robinsdale Women’s Center (new items)

- 0-3 mo. Sleepers/sleep sacks
- 0-3 mo. Outfits
- 0-3 mo. Onesies
- 0-3 mo. Socks
- Hooded towels
- Baby bottle sets
- Health/grooming kits
- Baby wash/shampoo
- Baby lotion
- Diaper cream

Zion Lutheran Church
241 5th Ave North, Hopkins, MN
REDEEMER YOUTH MINISTRY

Redeemer Youth Group! Open Invitation! We invite all students grade 6-12 to join the Redeemer Youth Group! Youth do not need to be members of Redeemer Lutheran Church or students of Redeemer Christian Academy - All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!
Please join us on Sunday, December 29th for our Youth Group Christmas Party! Meet at Elm Creek Snow Tubing Hill, 12400 James Deane Parkway - Maple Grove, MN 55369. Cost is $15/person - Cash or checks payable to Redeemer please. We will meet in the Chalet at 6:00, with a goal of getting tickets and hitting the hill from 6:30 to 8:30, with snacks in the Chalet after tubing until 9:00. Dinner will not be provided.

Parents are welcome to join us and bring siblings along, but please do not leave younger siblings unattended.

Register here and please consider bringing a snack to share:https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B49ABAC2CA46-snow

WINTER RETREAT! - Mark your calendars! We have tentatively scheduled our Winter Retreat at Camp Lebanon - January 24-26. Cost will be determined based on number of youth attending and vehicle needs, but will come in at least $125 per person. If the cost of the retreat is the only thing holding you back from allowing your child to attend, please reach out to me so that we can discuss scholarship options.

† Who can go? Any youth in 6th to 12th grade (even if you do not regularly attend Redeemer Youth Group).

† Why should high school and middle school youth go on retreats? Just like adults get burnt out from their jobs and the grind of daily life from time to time and need a vacation, our kids need a break from school, home, siblings, and other stressors in their lives so that they can focus on building relationships with their Christian friends and reconnect with God with no distractions from every day life.

† Register here: (Payment will be collected later): https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B49ABAC2CA46-winter1

ASP MISSION TRIP - We have a group heading to Guyan Valley West Virginia July 11 to 19 to serve for our third year with the Appalachia Service Project (asphome.org). ASP is a home repair and rebuilding ministry in Central Appalachia that is near and dear to my heart. If you have a heart for missions, or youth, or construction or helping others, etc., and want to learn more, please let me know and join us for an informational meeting at Redeemer on Sunday, January 12th at 6:30. Youth who are currently in 8th grade or older can attend. We are in need of a few more adult volunteers and welcome adult leaders of all ages to join us. Construction skills are helpful, but not necessary! Remember - God does not always call you to a task you are equipped to do, but equips you for the tasks he calls you to do. So, if the thought of missions has ever crossed your mind, I encourage you to attend the meeting and see what you can do for the people of Appalachia and what God has in store for you!

FUNDRAISING - We are funding our mission trip through fundraising efforts of the youth and adult volunteers. If you would like to "hire the ASP Mission Team" to help with any chores or projects in exchange for a donation for our mission, just let me know. Also, parents watch for details on upcoming babysitting nights so you can enjoy a night out!

WEEKLY YOUTH GROUP - Wednesday nights! - Dinner at 5:30 in the cafeteria - Youth group 6:00 to 7:30 in the house.

SUNDAY MORNINGS! - Starting on Sunday, January 5th, we will meet in the house between services (9:30-10:20). Youth Group Members, watch my "Monday Emails" for details.

Do you have a story, testimony, devotion or lesson to share? The Youth Group enjoys learning from others in the church. If you feel led to join us on a Wednesday evening, please let me know.

If you would like to be added to my weekly email distribution list or have questions, contact me.

Annette Vetse
Youth Leader
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Cell: 612-245-1409
Email: Youth@redeemerwayzata.org

PS. I will do my best to reply to all email and phone messages within 24 hours but please give me grace if I do not succeed!
Lutheran Braille Ministry Corner

LBW’s Buy-A-Dot campaign is well underway. Remember:

Each red dot can be bought for just $1.

Your generosity so far, has been overwhelming. Because of your generosity of $50, $100, $200, and $500 gifts, we are already over half the way towards our goal of $2000, with three months to go. We thank you! You are helping bring the Word to those who are visually impaired and sharing the love of Jesus with them. Remember each red dot can be bought for just $1, making it affordable to everyone.

We also have three interested volunteers. Welcome Arnie, Sue and Judy! One important aspect of this campaign is to reach out to church and community to raise awareness of Lutheran Braille Workers and invite individuals to experience the joy of volunteering.

In 2020 we will be “taking the show on the road.” We have been invited to make a presentation at St. John’s Lutheran School in Corcoran, Minnesota, on February 7th. Julie Zemke, formerly from St. John’s in Corcoran and now the new Director of Marketing and Outreach for LBW will be coming back to Minnesota to visit and will aid in planning the event. Hopefully, we will be able to do the same at Redeemer Christian Academy during National Lutheran Schools week.

Many thanks to our faithful and dedicated volunteers for their hard work, their fellowship, laughter and feeling of “oneness” the past three years. And thanks to the “unseen” who bring their Sunday paper plastic bags in and place them in the basket. You are truly a blessing! May God bless your New Year.

submitted by Anna Gerber
After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” 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. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV)