



January 2022 Newsletter
Sponsored by Arletta Crowell in memory of
her husband, Elmer

*******January-April Redeemer worship will be at 8:30 a.m.*******
*******& Sunday School remains at 9:30 a.m.*******
*******Zion will meet at 10:30 a.m.*******

Entering a Fresh Day of Life

*Imagine yourself as a diver on a cliff.
Now exhale and dive into the unscripted day.*
--Mark Nepo

Unscripted. This day. My day. A fresh day. Waiting.
Ready to be opened. Holding more than what is expected.
No matter the lengthy list of have-to-do, don't-want-to-do,
Enter with a readiness to receive, to appreciate.
Prepare for a full plunge instead of a toe-in-the-water.

Release the tight grip on a measured schedule.
Stand on the threshold of dawn like a diver on a cliff
Eager to receive what awaits, ready for adventure.
Aim for the deep waters of life where the day's activity
Will surely bring an opportunity to connect with the Holy.

Even if there is a chill of morning disgruntledness
Or a hesitation about what the daunting waters hold,
Enter the approaching hours as positively as possible.
Aim toward a full-hearted dive, straight into the depths.

Draw strength while standing on the cliff of faith.
Remember the Guardian of Dawn as a steady companion.
Lean forward with courage. Let go with full confidence.
Leap with a no-holds-on. Leap without dawdling distractions.

Be willing to dive into the unwanted, as well as the welcomed.
Head into yawning humdrum, as well as the extremely exciting,
Summon awareness of being carried on Spirit's supportive wings.

Hit the water with gusto, no matter how dreaded the entrance.
Upon arrival, swim with total confidence and eagerness,
Liberated for a while from self-imposed drudgery of past days.
Float along now, buoyed by renewed trust and gratefulness.

And when the next day dawns, stand on the cliff of faith again,
With even more assurance, with even more trusted anticipation
Than the day before. Stand on the cliff's solid stone of prayer.
Get ready for the dive.

Advent:

It is not over,
this birthing.
There are always newer skies
into which
God can throw stars.
When we begin to think
that we can predict the advent of God,
that we can box the Christ
in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time
that God will be born
in a place we can't imagine and won't
believe.
Those who wait for God
watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening
always listening
for angel words.

by Ann Weems

Happy New Year, beloved people of Redeemer and Zion! What surprises will meet us in 2022?

Let's support each other as we practice the faith
filled words of the Christmas story in Luke 2: Be
not afraid! I bring you good news of great joy!
Christ the Lord is born in the flesh. God is with us,
interested in our lives, continually caring for our
world! God's presence makes all the difference.
The gift of faith from this very human God in Jesus
will help you and me each day in every situation
and in every relationship to stay the course.
Like Mary we, too, can ponder all this wonder in
our hearts and then, like the shepherds, we can go
back to "normal life" and live lives of glory and
praise. Not without risk and challenge, this life of
faith is real - both messy and wonder-filled! God
promises to be there for you! Or as Mark Nepo
writes in his poem, with faith we can dive in with
gusto, no matter how the waves of 2022 meet us.
Or as Ann Weems puts it, "this birthing is not over;
God will be born in a place we can't imagine and
won't believe." Our job is to keep listening for
angel words. Where is God showing up next?
Keep the faith, friends! You can be sure it leads to
a community of LOVE!

See you at worship!!!! Pastor Sharon



THE POWER OF PRAYER WORKS!!

Please remember in your prayers our homebound members...

Ann Block
Grace Hartleben
Verna Tellock
Gordon & Agnes Schlender
Lorna Alberg

Kay & Reuben Carlson
Arletta Crowell
Vian Kersten
Donna Kubiacyk
Eugene & Joanne Pruess

Gert Schmidt
Maggie Guestchow
June Norrbom
Marcia Tellock

We are thankful for continued healing of Evie Low, Joanne Pruess, Reuben Carlson, Nancy Pehlke, and Saul Hanke!
Our prayers are with the family of **Audrey Hartleben**, who passed away peacefully at noon on Monday, Dec. 27th.

Your calls and visits are greatly appreciated. Pastor Sharon tries to visit monthly. She would welcome a volunteer to help. If you'd like to add a prayer request to this list please call the prayer chain below or the church at 715-253-2590 and leave a message. Redeemer Prayer Chain....Please call anyone on this list with the name(s) of the person for whom you would like prayers. That person will call the next one on the list, etc. etc.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1) Lorna Alberg | 715-253-2721 | 4) Faith Kristof | 715-253-2637 |
| 2) Ida Brekke | 715-253-2734 | 5) Lee Innerebner | 715-253-2200 |
| 3) Gail Koehler | 715-253-6275 | 6) Mary Netzler | 715-253-6290 |

Our Monetary Discipleship for December 2021

Worship Date	Worship Attend	General Fund	Missions	Building Fund	Sunday School Offering	Other Income	Total
12-5	26	\$2,090.00					\$2,090.00
12-12	50	\$3,180.00	\$220.00		\$14.00	Newsletters \$60 each: Fay Rosenow-Feb., Arletta Crowell-Jan., Vian Kersten-July	\$3,594.00
12-19	53	\$1,315.00	\$20.00			Newsletter: \$60 Dianne Long-April	\$1,395.00
12-24	67	\$2,620.00					\$2,620.00
12-26	17	\$320.00					\$320.00
Total		\$9,525.00	\$240.00		\$14.00	\$240.00	\$10,019.00

Offering envelopes are available in the wall rack near the main entrance door in the Gathering Space.

Please use an envelope with your offering and write your name and amount on the envelope.

Using the envelopes insures you get credit for monies given to the church and helps with the accounting. Thank you!

2022 ALTAR GUILD:

**The duties include set up and clean-up of communion,
changing the altar cloths (when needed) and watering the plants.**

There is a sign-up for next year's Altar Guild in the Gathering Space. Please volunteer!

January: Ruthie & Dick Olsen and Gail Koehler
February: Ruthie & Dick Olsen and Gail Koehler
March: Dianne Long & Kari Zeinert
April: Dianne Long & Kari Zeinert
May:
June:

July: Lois Anderson & Nancy Pehlke
August:
September:
October:
November: Lori Hartleben & Fay Rosenow
December: Linda Evje

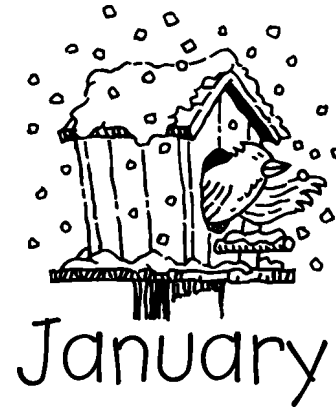
Guidelines for a Safe Sanctuary:

- In an effort to keep everyone healthy and safe, we ask that you consider the wellbeing of those around you.
- Masks, while not required, are considered a way to reduce the spread of airborne illness and the use of them is encouraged.
- Upon entering the church, during the service and after church, please allow ample distance to those outside of your family that are around you. The personal space and comfort zone around each and every one of us has increased over the last year. Please be aware.
- If you are not feeling well, please stay home. If you are a part of the service, we will find someone to fill in for you. You will be missed and we will most certainly pray for you.

Quilt Show: Walls of Wittenberg Presents "The Art of the Quilter VIII – Quilty as Charged"
Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, January 22 and 23, January 29 and 30, February 5 and 6

**The 2022 show will feature: 40+ quilts on display, a featured antique quilt, a disappearing quilt block display/tutorial, a selection of gently used quilting books available for a free will offering.
Show admission is FREE.**

**There will be a Fellowship/Devotional
time in the Gathering Space on Thursday
Jan. 6th at 1:00 p.m. ALL ARE
WELCOME!**



Happy Birthday!

- Mike Gilbertson 1-1
- Peggy Hartleben 1-2
- Roland Hendrikson 1-3
- Sharon Backes 1-19
- Derek Dombeck 1-20
- Alan Hanke 1-30

Happy Anniversary!

- Carleton & Jean Benz 1-1

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter for 2022, please make a check payable to Redeemer Lutheran Church for \$60.00 and write a note with your name and the month you would like to sponsor. Please include on the note in honor of or in memory of (if you wish.) This can be put in with the weekly offering or mailed to the church office. The monthly sponsorship covers the cost of those newsletters being mailed, along with the monthly fee for our website. Thank you to all who sponsor the monthly newsletter!

2022 NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Thank you to the following newsletter sponsors for this coming year:

- January, 2022**Arletta Crowell** – In loving memory of her husband Elmer
- February, 2022**Fay Rosenow** – In loving memory of her husband Ron
- March, 2022**June Norrbom** – In Loving Memory of her husband Carl & son Loren
- April, 2022.....**Dianne Long**—In Loving Memory of her son Michael
- May, 2022
- June, 2022
- July, 2022.....**Vian Kersten** – In loving memory of her husband Milan
- August, 2022
- September, 2022
- October, 2022
- November, 2022
- December, 2022

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please sign up today!

List is located on the table in the gathering space to be an usher, greeter, reader, communion assistant, or videographer. For those trained in counting collections after church, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the secretary's office. Thank you!

Excerpts from Children's Letters to God compiled by Stuart Hample and Eric Marshall

- Dear God, Did you mean for giraffe to look like that or was it an accident? Norma
- Dear God, Instead of letting people die and having to make new ones, why don't you just keep the ones you got now? Jane
- Dear God, Who draws the lines around the countries? Nan
- Dear God, I went to this wedding and they kissed right in church. Is that OK? Neil
- Dear God, I like the Lord's prayer best of all. Did you have to write it a lot or did you get it right the first time? I have to write everything I ever write over again.
Lois
- Dear God, It's OK that you made different religions but don't you get mixed up sometimes? Arnold
- Dear God, Did You Really Mean Do Unto Others As They Do Unto You, Because If You Did Then I'm Going to Fix My Brother. Darla
- Dear God, My grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go? Love, Dennis
- Dear God, Thank you for the baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy. Joyce
- Dear God, How come you didn't invent any new animals lately? We still have just all the old ones. Johny
- Dear God, Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now. Ginny
- Dear God, It rained for our whole vacation and is my father mad! He said some things about you that people are not supposed to say, but I hope you will not hurt him anyway. Your friend, (but I'm not going to tell you who I am)
- Dear God, Please send me a pony. I never ask for anything before. You can look it up.
Bruce
- Dear God, My brother is a rat. You should give him a tail. Ha Ha. Danny
- Dear God, I want to be just like my Daddy when I get big but not with so much hair all over. Sam

Savvy Caregiver

The Savvy Caregiver program is designed to teach caregivers practical real-world skills and techniques to reduce stress. This class will be held on Wednesdays (January 26 – March 2) from 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm at the Shawano County Library. Contact Mary Jo to register by calling 715-526-4712.

Book Club

This book club will be reading “Still Alice”. The club will meet on January 12th at the Shawano Library from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. Contact Mary Jo to register by calling 715-526-4712 or Kristin Waukau at 715-799-5270. Please call the ADRC if you need a copy of the book. The February 9th book club will be reading “My Two Elaines”.

Memory Café (Oconto County): The Oconto County Memory Café meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. The location for the January 18th meeting will be at the Oconto Falls Senior Center for a movie day! Contact Mary Jo for more information by calling 715-526-4712.

Memory Café (Shawano County): The Shawano County Memory Café meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm. The January 11th meeting will be at Twig’s Beverage. Contact Mary Jo for more information at 715-526-4712.

Caregivers Stronger Together: This caregiver support group takes place at The Caring Tree Adult Day Center in Oconto Falls the 4th Thursday of each month from 10:00 am – 11:00 am. Contact Mary Jo at 715-526-4712 or Bonnie at 920-591-0796.

Caregiver Support Group – Shawano: This caregiver support group takes place at the Shawano Library the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm. Contact Mary Jo at 715-526-4712 or Kristin Waukau at 715-799-5270.

Boost Your Brain & Memory

This evidenced based program takes a holistic approach to improving brain health. This course will be held on Wednesdays (February 9 – March 30) at the Wittenberg Community Center from 10:00 am – 11:30 am. Contact Mary Jo to register by calling 715-526-4712.

Brain Check-Ups

A brain check-up is a wellness tool that helps identify possible changes in memory and cognition. Brain check-ups will be held at local libraries from 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm on the following dates:

March 7 – Farnsworth Library in Oconto

April 11 – Oconto Falls Library

May 9 – Shawano Library

June 1 – Lena Library

July 7 – Gillett Library

August 8 – Suring Library

September 7 – Lakewood Library

October 4 – Menominee Library in Keshena

Contact Mary Jo to schedule an appointment by calling 715-526-4712.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MINUTES

December 16, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Arla Block

Members present:

President: Arla Block

Vice President: Paul Norrbom

Secretary: Deb Rieck

Parish Life: Judy Boda

Worship, Music, & Arts: Linda Evje

Trustees: Paul Pehlke

Education: Mary Peterson

Pastor Sharon Fox Bogen

A quorum was present.

Motion made by Mary Peterson, seconded by Paul Pehlke, to approve the agenda. Carried.

Council Visitors: None

Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Paul Pehlke, to approve the November 11, 2021 minutes. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report shows an account balance of \$71,556.30 as of November 30, 2021. Of that amount, \$22,968.82 is non-budget, and the budget has a balance of \$48,587.48. Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Paul Pehlke, to approve the Treasurer's Report and the bills as presented to be paid. Carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Planned advent and Christmas services. Thanked all with their help with the decorations.
- November Wedding: Katelyn and Michael Roycraft
- Worked with Parish Life and Education: Acolytes, Sunday School, First Communion Class, and Marriage Policy. Confirmation students are studying the Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed.
- Made visits and calls to the homebound and sick.
- Took vacation Thanksgiving week and will be on Vacation the week after Christmas.
- Making tentative plans for the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis July 24-28.
- Discussed possible closure procedures for inclement weather.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustees

- Linda provided the Trustees with a list of items that may need to be addressed in the future.
- Paul Norrbom checked into the purchase of a water softener for the church. Motion made by Mary Peterson, seconded by Paul Pehlke, to invest in the water softener Paul Norrbom found at the start up cost of \$2,550 with no additional monthly fees. Softener will be serviced and filled on an as needed basis. Motion Carried.

Parish Life

- Met on the policies regarding Marriages and Weddings, and Facilities Use. Council should review it prior to the next meeting.

Parish Education

- First Communion was December 12. Christmas Program will be December 19.

Worship/Music/Arts

- Everything is ready for Christmas

OLD BUSINESS

- 2022 Budget was reviewed
- 2022 Council Positions still needing to be filled: Trustees, Parish Life, and Vice President
- Volunteers still needed for money counting

NEW BUSINESS

- Communion Linens ordered but are on back order.
- Orange cones were purchased for sidewalk protection during snowplowing season.

Next Council meeting, Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 5:30pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion made by Mary Peterson, seconded by Linda Evje, to adjourn. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Rieck

Council Secretary

Budget Meeting Jan. 16th & Annual Meeting Jan 23rd 2022

Leadership: Please consider volunteering to be on the church council. We have openings for the following: Vice President (1 year), Trustee (1 year or 3 year term), and Parish Life (2 year or 3 year term). We also need people on next year's nominating committee. The Trustees are responsible for the care and maintenance of the physical property of the church. The Parish Life Committee is in charge of the giving tree, calling volunteers for food for fellowship, family game night, and revising policies when needed. If you have any questions, please ask a council member or someone on the nominating committee. The council meets the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Thank you so much to those who have volunteered so far to be on council or as delegates representing our church for Synod Assembly, Homme Home, Crossways Camping Ministries, and the Shawano Conference.

Sincerely, the Nominating Committee:

Lois Anderson, Mary Netzler, Ann Hawley, and Ryan Buntrock

Youth News:

Thank you to our youth, the Sunday School teachers, and especially Laura Clark for the wonderful Christmas program on December 19th. What a wonderful message in the "Tale of Three Trees" adapted from the book by Angela Elwell Hunt. One tree wanted to grow up to be made into a treasure chest. Another wanted to become a strong sailing ship. The third tree wanted to be the tallest tree in the world. God had different plans. The trees became the manger for baby Jesus, the fishing boat that held Jesus and his disciples, and finally the cross where the Son of God was crucified. Every time people thought of the third tree (the cross), they would think of God. This was better than being the tallest tree in the world. Sometimes God's plans are different than what we had planned for our lives, but "Wait and I will show you something!"...says God. His plans always work out for the best.



Attention Council Committees

Please submit your reports for the annual report as soon as possible if you haven't done so already! Thank you! Ann Hawley, secretary

****Thank you to all who donated presents for the boys at Homme Youth & Family. Our goal was 20 gifts, and we surpassed 30 since there were multiple gifts in each bag. Thank you so much!**

January 2022

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1 Happy New Year!
2 8:30 Worship w/Holy Communion	3	4	5 Adult Bible Study Breakfast 9 am at Schultz Restaurant in Tigerton (Bring your Bible) Confirmation: 3:30-5 Zion	Fellowship & Devotions 1:00 in Gathering Space. Church office hrs: 2-4 pm	7	8
9 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School	10	11	12 Confirmation: 3:30-5 Zion	13 Church office hrs: 2-4 pm Church Council 5:30 pm	14	15
16 8:30 Worship w/Holy Communion Budget Meeting following worship. 9:30 Sunday School	17	18	19 Adult Bible Study Breakfast 9 am at Schultz Restaurant in Tigerton (Bring your Bible) Confirmation: 3:30-5 Zion	20 Church office hrs: 2-4 pm	21	22
23 8:30 Worship Annual Meeting following worship. 9:30 Sunday School	24	25	26 Confirmation: 3:30-5 Zion	27 Church office hrs: 2-4 pm	28	29
30 8:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School	31					



Communion

Communion will be given on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of January.

*******January-April Redeemer worship will be at 8:30 a.m.*****
& Sunday School remains at 9:30 a.m.
Zion will meet at 10:30 a.m.**

******In case of inclement weather, be sure to check your email, Facebook, or our website (or call the church. We'll try to leave a message on our voicemail if church is canceled).***

Reminder: Pastor Sharon will be on vacation from Dec. 26-31, 2021.
For emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Lois Graper at 715-853-2549.

Redeemer Lutheran Church
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Wittenberg, WI 54499
(715) 253-2590
redeemerwitt@gmail.com



*The mission of Redeemer Lutheran Church
is to care for all people through the proclamation of the Gospel,
celebration of the sacraments, and service to our neighbor.*

*We strive to accomplish this by our witness at church, home, school,
work and play, all to the glory of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.*

Bringing people to Christ ~ Bringing Christ to people