

December 2023 Newsletter

Sponsored by **Melana Schlueter-**
In Loving Memory of My Mother-Shirley Hartleben
and of Arla Block

“C.S. Lewis is one of my favorite authors. He is most famous as a lay theologian and apologist for Christianity.

While he wrote on many topics, Lewis’ most popular writings are in a series of books for children with a Christian subtext, called *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The first book introduces four children who, by means of a magic clothes wardrobe, are transported to the Land of Narnia. There they meet the great lion, Aslan—the central character of the whole series, and Lewis’ version of what Jesus might have been in a different world.

In the second book, the children—who are just a year older—are called back to Narnia. When the children meet up with the lion again, one of the children remarks “Aslan...you’re bigger!”

To which he responds, “That’s because you’re older, little one.”

The child insists, “Isn’t it because you *are* bigger?” And Aslan explains: “I’m not. But each year you grow, you will find me bigger.”

Each year as I grow, I will find the Christ figure bigger. At Christmas in particular, we are called to discover that as we mature spiritually, we will find more depth and breadth in the person of Jesus. It is not because the Son of God can grow, of course, but because my capacity to receive him has improved. There will always be more Jesus than we can comprehend... more Christ to grow into... more Savior with whom we can form a richer relationship.

As much as anyone, I delight in the joy of Christmas—human affection done up in decorations, sweets, and gift giving. I am pleased that Christian, and truly human, themes of charity and kindness catch on just about everywhere in December.

However, perhaps our predicaments go a lot deeper than the likes of the Grinch, and that the milk of human kindness alone can manage. Perhaps what we need is not more repetitions of “The Little Drummer Boy”, but the stillness to hear the beat of God’s heart in time with our own... the voices of the prophets telling us of the world as God wants it to be. Perhaps we should aim for a deeper awareness of the unending generosity of God, whose presence we can never outgrow.”



THE POWER OF PRAYER WORKS!!

Please remember in your prayers the following members and loved ones...

Grace Hartleben	Vian Kersten	Eugene Preuss
Gordon & Agnes Schlender	Donna Kubiacyk	June Norrbom
Lorna Alberg	Jean Benz	Rollie Hendrikson
Kay & Reuben Carlson	Sharon Philipp	Travis Nunnery

Pray for healing for Fay Rosenow, Andy Peterson, Marlee (niece of Mary Mattes), Judy Brekke (daughter-in-law of Ida Brekke), Dick Hansen (cousin of Lee Innerebner), Allan Innerebner (brother of Lee Innerebner), and Dave Carlson (father of Lara). Pray for those who have recently lost their spouse. Pray for safety & guidance for Josie (Kari Zeinert's niece) as she continues her mission work in Osaka, Japan for 2 years.

Your calls and visits are greatly appreciated. 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) Ida Brekke | 715-253-2734 | 4) Lee Innerebner | 715-253-2200 |
| 2) Gail Koehler | 715-253-6275 | 5) Mary Netzler | 715-253-6290 |
| 3) Faith Kristof | 715-701-0300 | | |

*****Redeemer Bible Study- during 9:30 am Sunday School. We meet in the Heritage Room downstairs.*****

There is an Adult Bible Study Breakfast 9 am at Schultz Restaurant in Tigerton (bring your Bible) the first and third Wednesdays of each month.



December Birthdays

Mary Netzler	12-2
Pam Daffron	12-3
Kevin Rosenow	12-6
Lori Hartleben	12-7
Karl Anderson	12-8
Katelyn Roycraft	12-8
Peggy Stelter	12-11
Staci Olson	12-12
David Luber	12-16
Danny Schrank	12-24
Dave Schmidt	12-25
Karen Kersten	12-26

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

Andy & Mary Peterson	12-11
Gary & Laura Clark	12-31



Our Monetary Discipleship for November 2023

Worship Date	Worship Attend	General Fund	Missions	Building Fund	Sunday School Offering	Other Income	Total
11-5	38	\$1,255.00			\$2.00	\$50 Memorials for Jerry Nelson	\$1,307.00
11-12	44	\$1,675.00			\$69.65 Noisy Coin Offering	\$1,500 Memorial for Carleton Benz \$50 Memorial for Jerry Nelson	\$3,294.65
11-19	32	\$955.00				\$100 Memorial for Jerry Nelson from Witt. Lions	\$1,055.00
11-26	19	\$505.00				\$50 Memorials for Jerry Nelson & \$50 for Anita Wruck	\$605.00
Total		\$4,390.00			\$71.65	\$1,800.00	\$6,261.65

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!

Community Events



Community Tree Lighting Dec. 1 at 7 pm in the Art Park with Caroling led by WBHS Choir followed by cookie decorating and Santa with gift bags at the Wittenberg Community Center.



Food at the Wittenberg Fire Station from 5-8 pm.

Bake Sale/Craft Show Dec. 1st 3-8 pm and Dec. 2nd from 9 am-3 pm at the WOWSPACE

Plan ahead!

WBHS Musical: Matilda! January 12, 13 & 14



**WOW Quilt Show at the WOWSPACE
January 20-21, January 27-28, February 3-4
11:00 AM-3:00 PM
Free!**



Grief Group – starting in January at Redeemer for Redeemer, Zion, and community.

More info soon.

Poinsettia Sale: It always looks so festive to have the church decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas season. You are welcome to bring in your own plant, or there will be plants available for \$5.00 (payable to Ann Hawley) in the Gathering Space. You can take your plant home after the 4:00 pm worship on Dec. 24th. Be sure to include “in honor of” or “in memory of” on the form at church so we can include it in the bulletin. Thank you!

Zion Women's Christmas Party will be held on December 3rd at 1:00 pm. All are welcome to attend and welcomed to bring a guest along! Those attending may also bring a dish to pass to enjoy fellowship and singing Christmas carols.



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
November 9, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Paul Pehlke

Members present:

President: Paul Norrbom

Secretary: Lois Anderson

Treasurer: Peggy Emmel

Vice President: Paul Pehlke

Education: Ann Hawley, Mary Peterson, Tracy Dombeck

WMA: Linda Evje, Judy Boda

Parish Life: Kim Timm,

Trustees: Jeff Lang, Sandra Lang

A quorum was present.

Opening Devotions: Mary Peterson

Meeting handed over to President, Paul Norrbom

Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Mary Peterson, to approve the agenda. Carried.

Council Visitors: None

Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Kim Timm, to approve the October 12, 2023 minutes. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report shows an account balance of \$95,184.34. Of that, there is a budget balance of \$59,910.74 and a non-budget balance of 35,273.60. Motion made by Linda Evje, seconded by Kim Timm, to approve the Treasurer's Report and the bills as presented to be paid. Carried.

- Budget worksheets will be finalized next month.

PASTOR'S REPORT Contracted Pastor Sharon Fox-Bogen

- Made homebound visits and phone calls.
- Pastor Sharon will start a grief group in January, possibly meeting at Redeemer. So far 17 people from Redeemer and Zion have expressed an interest in attending. Pastor Sharon will start leading it. It can be open to the public. The cost for materials will be paid by each participant, and is \$10.00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parish Life

- A number of people have signed up to help with funerals; making desserts or salads, serving and cleaning up. Peggy Hartleben and Mary Peterson have volunteered to be the chairpersons who will contact others on the list for help.
- Received some free Bible study materials for Advent from the Synod.
- We are planning a craft day/cookie decorating after worship on December 10th for all ages. There will be hot dogs, chips, and coco. Santa will visit.

Trustees

- Did maintenance on our water softener.
- Installed new faucets for the kitchen and fixed leak under one sink.
- Replaced the outdoor faucet.
- Cleaned leaves out of gutters in front.
- Otis elevator checked our elevator on October 7th.
- Will look into replacing treble light in furnace room.
- Paul Pehlke fixed issues with our printer and Splashtop program.

Worship/Music/Arts

- Pastors have been booked into the New Year.
- Paraments arrived and were dedicated along with new banners at the November 5th service.
- The organ was tuned.
- November 19th will be a Thanksgiving worship service.

Parish Education

- Sunday school will be helping with worship by singing, reading, and helping with ushering on November 12th with a noisy coin offering for Allizon, our new Compassion International Child from Mexico. Sunday school teachers will provide treats after the service.
- No Sunday school or Confirmation on November 19 & 25, December 24 & 31, and March 24 & 31.

OLD BUSINESS

- Parish Life position is still open
- Update on Transition/MSP process: A meeting was held on Saturday, October 28th with Pastor Asher O'Callaghan and Pastor Dara Clifford. Council discussed the various options they brought up.
- Sent thank you to the estate of Marcia Tellock for the donation to the Memorial Fund.
- Ann completed a survey for the Shawano Area Conference.
- We are in search of a person to mark graves for the gravedigger. Any volunteers?

NEW BUSINESS

- There will be a Joint Council meeting with Zion on November 16th at 5:30 at Redeemer to discuss our options, as our Parish Agreement is due to expire or be renewed in December of this year.
- Motion by Linda Evje, seconded by Judy Boda to use money received from the fall luncheon and basket raffle to purchase Angels from the Homme Home Angel Appeal for our members who are residents of Homme or in Rainbow and Carbonaro Apartments or Rennes in Schofield and also to apply some money toward purchase of some Christmas gifts for Homme Youth and Family Services. Motion passed.
- Motion by Linda Evje, seconded by Kim Timm, to have Peggy Emmel ask Ruthie Olson and Kari Zeinert to be 2023 auditors. Motion passed.
- Poinsettias will be purchased by Ann for Christmas and offered for sale at church.
- Committee reports for the annual meeting will be due the end of December. This includes the nominating committee.
- Our Budget Hearing will be scheduled for January 14, 2024, and the Annual Meeting for January 21, 2024.

Next Council meeting, Thursday, December 14th, at 5:30 pm. Judy Boda will have devotions.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion made by Paul Pehlke, seconded by Mary Peterson, to adjourn. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Anderson, Council Secretary

Joint Council Meeting

November 16, 2023

Meeting held at Redeemer Church in Wittenberg at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda:

1. Reviewed what was discussed at each of the meetings with Pastor Asher O'Callaghan and Pastor Dara Clifford. It was discovered that different things were discussed at our separate meetings. It appears that in the future, meeting with Synod staff need to be **joint meetings only** to avoid discrepancies. Neither of us received positive feedback on the search for a Pastor for our Parish.
2. Discussed Parish Agreement – Decided to have the Advisory Council go through the document and suggest changes, if any. The Advisory Council consists of the President, Treasurer, and 2 other members from each church. After the Advisory Council goes over the agreement, it will be presented to each council for approval.
3. Reviewed Pastor Sharon Fox Bogen's contract on visitations, funerals and memorial services. She receives \$50 per hour plus mileage at the annual IRS rate. Paul Norrbom will contact Pastor Sharon to see if she wishes to continue this contract with our Parish. Both councils were in agreement on continuing with Pastor Sharon.
4. The President of Redeemer, Paul Norrbom, and the President of Zion, Gary Thompson, will compose a letter and then send it to Bishop Anne Edison-Albright lifting up Pete Krolow for the TEEM program. Motion by Paul Pehlke 2nd by Linda Evje.

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Jan Thompson

Those present at the meeting were: Paul Pehlke, Paul Norrbom, Lois Anderson, Mary Peterson, Tracy Dombeck, Kim Timm, Ann Hawley, Mary Mattes, Judy Boda, Linda Evje, Peggy Emmel, Carla Hanke, Jeff Lang, Sandy Lang, Sue Rosenow, Jan Thompson, Gary Thompson.

Reminder: If you can't make it to church, our worship services are taped and posted on our Facebook page and website.

On Facebook at: www.facebook.com/redeemer.lutheran.568

On the Web at: redeemerlutheranwittenberg.weebly.com (This Month at Redeemer)

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 are not required, but feel free to wear one to reduce the spread of airborne illness.
- 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.

Youth News

**9:30 AM Sunday School and also Adult Bible Study in the Heritage Room
9:00 AM Confirmation (at Redeemer).
Worship at 10:30 AM September-December.
Invite friends!**

**The Christmas program for both churches will be Dec. 17th.
Confirmation students will help with the Christmas program.**

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!

Please sign up today!

Our list is located on the table in the gathering space. Be an usher, greeter, reader, communion assistant, videographer, or bring treats. 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 for helping!

We will have fellowship in the Gathering Space on the days that people bring treats. There is a signup on the table in the Gathering Space.

Thank you!!



Zion-Redeemer Lutheran Parish Schedule of Worship Leaders	
Date and Time	Name
Dec. 3, 2023 10:30 R., 8:30 a.m. Z	Pastor Phil Bogen
Dec. 10, 2023 10:30 R., 8:30 a.m. Z	Pastor Karen Zutz Rendall
Dec. 17, 2023 10:30 R., 8:30 a.m. Z	Pastor Karen Zutz Rendall
**Dec. 24, 2023 10:30 R., 8:30 a.m. Z	Pastor Karen Zutz Rendall
**Dec. 24, 2023 4:00 pm at Redeemer	Lay Leader Lois Anderson
Dec. 31, 2023 10:30 R., 8:30 a.m. Z	Pastor Nicole Behnke-Welke

**We will have two services on December 24th one at 10:30 a.m. and one at 4:00 p.m.

Remember in January, our worship times will switch to 8:30 a.m. at Redeemer and 10:30 a.m. at Zion. Sunday School will stay the same at 9:30 a.m. Confirmation will meet at 9:00 a.m. at Zion.



2023 OPERATION CHRISTMAS LIST

HOMME YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS W18105 Hemlock Rd
Stephana Andres stephana.andres@lsswis.org Wittenberg, WI 54499
715/253-2116 ext. 220 Preferred Delivery by 12/15

Population: Boys ages 10 thru 18

Athletic Shoes sizes: 8-13mens

New Clothing sizes: M through XL men's

Board Games

Remote Control Cars

Snow Gloves

Rubik's Cubes

Slippers

Snow boots sizes 8-13 mens

Sweatshirts

Dollar general gift cards

Art Supplies

Subway gift cards

Fishing Gear

Teenage/Adult Coloring Bks

Word Find/Crosswords

McDonald's gift cards

Watches

Taco John's

Wallets

Car Air Fresheners (forooms)

Men's necklaces

DVD – G or PG movies

Snow boots men's 8-13

Hygiene

winter gloves

Snow pants m- xxl mens

Children's & young adult books (*age appropriate*)

Handheld game with built in games (normally 250 games built in)

Water bottles no metal one plastic only

Gift Bags are welcome; please leave gifts unwrapped.

*** No Bathrobes, Food or Glass items, please.**

Please bring your unwrapped gifts to church by Sunday, Dec. 10th. (Gift bags, tissue paper, & bows are always welcome though.) Thank you so much for helping these boys have a joyful Christmas. (Thank you to Thrivent Financial for contributing \$250!)



SAVE THE DATE FOR

Christmas Craft and Cookie Decorating

AFTER
10:30
SERVICE

DECEMBER
10TH

SNACKS | MAKE A GIFT | INVITE A FRIEND

WE DO HOPE YOU'LL

JOIN US!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space so we know how many people to plan for. You can also sign up to help bake cookies or help with crafts. There will be a visit from Santa. Snacks will include hot dogs and hot chocolate. There is a box in back of church for the fronts of old Christmas cards to use for one of the crafts. Thank you—and hope to see you there!

Kari Zeinert is a member of this choir!

A December Scene

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

December 1 at 7:30 PM

December 2 at 3:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church
406 Grant Street
Wausau, WI

**PRESENTED BY THE
WAUSAU LYRIC CHOIR**

*Accompanied by Ann Applegate
Directed by Carla Dul*

Sonnentag
Foundation Ltd


WISCONSIN
PUBLIC RADIO

**INTERCITY
STATE BANK**

December 2023

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>Communion: Communion will be given every Sunday that we have a pastor.</p> <p>Note: We will not have Sunday School, Confirmation, or Adult Bible Study on Dec. 24 or 31.</p> <p>*Worship time is 10:30 am for Redeemer for Sept.-Dec. (Zion meets at 8:30 a.m.)</p>					<p>1 7:30 pm Wausau Lyric Choir 3-8 pm WOW Craft/Bake Sale, Tree Lighting & Caroling,...</p>	<p>2 3:00 p.m. Wausau Lyric Choir 9 am-3 pm WOW Craft/Bake Sale at WOWSPACE</p>
<p>3 9:00 am Confirmation here 9:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion 1:00 Zion Women's Potluck Christmas Party</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Adult Bible Study Breakfast 9 am at Schultz Restaurant in Tigerton (Bring Bible)</p>	<p>7 Church office hrs: 3-5 pm</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 9:00 am Confirmation here 9:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion, Baptism 11:30 am Cookie Decorating & Crafts at Redeemer (with hot dogs, ...)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Church office hrs: 3-5 p.m. Church Council 5:30 pm</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 <u>Christmas Program!</u> 9:00 am Confirmation here 9:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Adult Bible Study Breakfast 9 am at Schultz Restaurant in Tigerton (Bring Bible)</p>	<p>21 Church office hrs: 3-5 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Christmas Eve 10:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion 4:00 pm Worship-Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 Merry Christmas!</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Church office hrs: 3-5 pm</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 New Year's Eve 10:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Budget Meeting: Sunday, January 14, 2024 after 8:30 am worship Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 21, 2024 after 8:30 am worship</p> </div>					

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www.facebook.com/Redeemer.Lutheran.568



*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