

Connection

Redeemer Lutheran Church
February 2024





Pastor Chip Winter

Senior Pastor

I remember when Jami and I celebrated our anniversary at 1, 5, and even 10 years. We were often told "Oh, you're just getting started! Just wait..." I also remember thinking "Yes, but we're putting the work in, just like everybody else. So, there's that!" Thinking... but not saying it aloud.

We just celebrated an anniversary this past Saturday. People may wonder, "Why January?" We probably all know couples whose anniversaries of marriage come in December due to being "on leave" during military service, though that is far less common (thankfully) than it used to be. Ours was due to being after Christmas and before Lent (kind of an "on leave" for our attendants in the ministry!). Add to that it was in Texas (82 degrees on the day of the rehearsal) and there you have it.

We have a number of couples whose marriages are on the horizon. As we take part in pre-marital guidance, I'm excited for them. Redeemer will do its best to help them prepare and to be there with the forgiveness of sins (through Christ Jesus' passion, death and resurrection) which will be a most necessary component of their life now lived together "until death parts them." As I often mention in our new member classes (Discover Redeemer), marriage is not a sacrament in that it does not contain the promise of the forgiveness of sins (like baptism and communion, do) – but it certainly does require it!

God bless your unions! And when you have a chance, please encourage those newly in their marriages.

CALLED TO FOLLOW

Featuring *The Chosen*

The first study group begins on Monday, February 12. If you haven't registered, it's not too late. Pick up a schedule and form at the Welcome Center.

We pray that you will consider the Life and message of Christ deeply and that you will take it seriously through this. As you read and watch how He leads and loves His first disciples and others, may His Holy Spirit call you to follow Him with more confidence and better perception. Our prayer is that your heart will be touched and moved to follow His Spirit-led calling on your life.

Jesus told His disciples in Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." People saw God through their unwritten personalities, characteristics, flaws and more, because of God's help. People see God through each of our unwritten human witnesses also because of God's help. May God help us also see Him through the witness of this production. And may God help us follow Jesus Christ well.

As a side note, the movie is made to reflect the times and people of the New Testament. The lighting wasn't great at night then. It won't be in the movie. You will see and hear as if you were there. One strong recommendation is that you click to see your subtitles, located at the bottom of your screen.

Please register for a discussion study group so we may be prepared to welcome you. Please enjoy community, care, and prayer within your group. May God grant you a greater sense that you belong to Him and others.



WOR Girls Night Out

Women of Redeemer (WOR) will be hosting a Girls' Night Out on Tuesday, February 6th, at 6:00 p.m. at Oliver's Pizza and Pub (330 West Willow Knolls Drive). We need to give the restaurant an estimate of the number of people attending so please RSVP by Sunday, February 4th- send an email to rsvp4wor@gmail.com, call Lynn Bivens at 309-697-2626, or sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Every year we have a great turnout and hope you will be able to join us!

Sixty Plus Event

Join us on Thursday, February 8th at 11:30 in Miller Hall. Please bring one picture of yourself from baby to 3 years old. Don't show it to anyone, as we will try to guess who it belongs to. Jane Schmidt will collect and number each one, and we will all get a chance to see how many we can identify. Also, if you have an item of clothing, a favorite quilt or toy, etc from your childhood, bring it to share. We can reminisce together! A main dish and drinks will be provided for \$5.00 per person. Last names A-K, please bring a side dish, and L-Z bring dessert. Sign up in the office hallway. Contact Jane Schmidt at (309)678-2663 with questions. Hope to see you and bring a friend!

Dorcas Circle

Dorcas Circle will be meeting Monday, February 12th at 1:00 p.m. in Miller Hall. We will finalize the meal we will prepare and serve for the Lenten supper on February 21st. Come join us on the 12th, we would love to have you!

LWGP Meeting at Redeemer

LWGP (Lutheran Women of Greater Peoria) will be meeting at Redeemer on Friday, February 16th at 9:00 a.m. in Miller Hall. All ladies are welcome to attend. A light breakfast will be served, and a gentleman will provide music and song. Our contact person from LSSI, Molly, will be with us on that day, where she will bring us up to date about our mission and the new LHV Care Center director will tell us about what is happening in the Care Center. Come join us and find out what's going on!

Men's Mission Trip

The men's mission trip to Appalachia is scheduled for May 4th - 11th. Schedule your time off to do the Lord's work in the mountains. Interested? Contact Larry Locher at 309-397-0347. No experience necessary.

Men's Annual Bowling Night

Join us on February 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at Landmark Bowling Alley. Cost is \$10 which includes unlimited bowling until 9:00 p.m., two games, and shoes. We'll have wings, pizza, mini tacos, popcorn, and soft drinks.

The Annual Trophy for the highest score is on the line. Let's get together and have a great time bowling, sharing stories, and enjoying some great food. Please RSVP to the email invite or text Jason Bloms at 309-643-4054.

Superbowl Subs

The high school youth will be selling sub sandwiches (made with Avanti's bread!) after services on February 10th and 11th.

Subs are \$6.00 each or two for \$10.00. All proceeds will benefit the high school youth, and an anonymous donor has generously offered to match all proceeds up to \$500.

Eternal Light & Flowers

Sign up sheets for the 2024 Altar Flowers and Eternal Light memorials or honorarium are now on the credenza in the main office hallway. Suggested donation is \$25. Use the special envelope and put it in the offering plate drop off in the office. Contact Donna Schlatter at (309) 681-1085 with questions.

Women's Retreat

Leaning on Jesus, led by CPH Author Deb Burma, will be held March 8 & 9 in St. John's Fellowship Hall (13443 Townline Rd., Green Valley, IL 61534). Check-in begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and 8:15 a.m. on Saturday. Registration fee includes materials, Friday snacks, Saturday continental breakfast, and Saturday lunch. Registration deadline is February 24th. Pick up a registration form in the office hallway. Questions? Contact Sheila at sheilawml@gmail.com or 309-635-7050

Lifeline Screening

Lifeline screening will again be at Redeemer on April 9th. Cost is \$149.00. Call 844-591-7098 or visit <https://lsa.social/HC> to sign up. There are a limited number of coupons available to Redeemer members, contact Jeff Schlatter for more information.

Sunday School Offering

The Sunday School offerings collected during February and March will go to support Redeemer's Food Pantry. In addition to the money collected in the purple bowls, children and families are encouraged to bring in food items to help stock the shelves. Items that would be especially helpful at this time are:

- Cereal
- Peanut butter
- Canned fruit (no sugar added, or light syrup is preferred)
- Canned meat (chicken, tuna, beef, or pork)
- Pasta (boxed or bagged- spaghetti, elbow, penne, lasagna, shells, egg noodles, ect.)

All sizes, brands, and flavors are appreciated to provide more variety for our pantry guests. Thanks for helping our community!

Jr High Connect Nerf Night

Sunday, February 18th, is Jr High Nerf Night. We will be meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church as this is a joint event. Your child and their friends are invited to bring their own personal Nerf gear (at their own risk). There are plenty of extra Nerf shooters for everyone. Darts will be provided.

Please note the time change as we will be meeting from 6-8 pm. There will be a snack provided but no dinner. Contact Jennifer Anders with any questions.



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

If you are interested in joining the senior youth group on the mission trip to Pelican Church in Naples, Florida, this summer, the registration is due by February 25th! This trip is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith, relationship, and love. From July 20-27th, our group will help teach English to immigrants in the area to help them with everyday life. We will also help with a few other service projects as well. Please see Pastor Aaron for more information!



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK



Concordia
LUTHERAN SCHOOL



TALES OF TANZANIA



Cheryl Kruckemeyer was already in retirement in Texas when God called her to a new assignment in Tanzania a few years ago as a teacher at Mwadui Lutheran School. She fell in love with the people and even helped plant and build a new church there - Tree of Life Lutheran Church. She was sitting under a baobab tree in the countryside reading her Bible, when curious children peeked out of the rows of corn. So Cheryl began to tell them stories from the Bible and then the children would return with more of their friends & sometimes parents. After a few months of this they decided it was time to build a church. Redeemer was one of the first churches to respond with a gift to start the project. Soon many other churches caught the same vision, and within 8 short weeks the building was finished and ready to be dedicated. But she knew it was time to return to the US when her 2-year teaching assignment was finished. Back in TX, she missed her Tanzanian friends so much that she had to go back and visit last summer in July of 2023. That is when God surprised her in a big way!



So what's the rest of this story? Tales of Tanzania (Cheryl's facebook page) continues into the next mission! In the short year and a half that she had been back in the US, Pastor Nzelu, headmaster at the Mwadui Lutheran School, had been promoted to Bishop in the capital in Shinyanga. Bishop Nzelu (head pastor) surprised her and asked her to return to Tanzania and assist in the management of a small existing medical clinic that is associated with the church cathedral and located next door. What a privilege and compliment! She knew immediately that her previous time in Tanzania had prepared her to accept Bishop Nzelu's invitation. Her earlier career in starting two medical insurance companies would give her a lot of experience, insight and contacts for this new position.



Back in the US, Cheryl tied up loose ends, made some important contacts and set up a 501c3 called Seed Time Harvest. By October she was back on her way to Tanzania to stay indefinitely. So while Cheryl helps improve the small clinic, she will also be helping with the planning, construction and fund-raising for a larger, state-of-the-art modern medical clinic. She is excited but this will be a big assignment. Pray that she is able to connect with all the right people, find favor with them and God makes this happen! May God give her wisdom, strength, patience and a great team to help her!

Tithes & Offerings YTD as of December

Actual \$1,795,230.73

Budget \$1,750,000.00

448

December Average Attendance

Important Dates

February 6: WOR Girls Night Out
February 8: Sixty Plus Event
February 11: Superbowl Subs Available
February 12: Dorcas Circle Meeting
February 14: Ash Wednesday
February 16: LWGP Meeting
February 22: Men's Bowling Night
March 24: Palm Sunday
March 31: Easter
May 4: Appalachia Mission Trip

Submissions for *Redeemer Connection* are due on the 20th of each month. Articles may be submitted by emailing katie.lunzman@redeemerlutheran.com or by using the Communication Request link at redeemerlutheran.com.



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☎ 309-691-2333

🌐 redeemerlutheran.com

📘 facebook.com/redeemerpeoria

📷 [redeemerpeoria](https://instagram.com/redeemerpeoria)

Sunday worship is at 8:15 a.m. (traditional) and 10:45 a.m. (contemporary) with Bible study hour and Sunday school at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday evening worship is at 5:30 p.m.
The church office is open 8:30 - 4:30 M-F

Staff

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Ron Miller Visitation Pastor

Tara Barker Nursery Coordinator 309-453-8764

MY PRESENCE WILL
GO WITH YOU,
AND I WILL
GIVE YOU REST.

EXODUS 33:14

#redeemerpeoria