

Redeemer REVIEW



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD CHICO, CALIFORNIA NOV/DEC 2024 VOL. 38 No. 6

from the Pastor...

Rev. Brennan DeForest

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since this is the final newsletter for the year 2024, let's conclude our series on our Church Mission Statement. Since the last newsletter, our updated Church Constitution and Bylaws have finally been approved by our District leaders and thus we can say that our C&B now better helps us carry out the mission of our church in our current time and place.



keep the bills paid and to supply the pastor, office manager, organist, janitor, and other workers with livable wages. If God has blessed you with extra time, and you're not too tired, we need volunteers to hold officer positions, to be deacons, to be part of the altar guild, to be part of the fellowship board, and to do some manual labor tasks around the church building.

If God has blessed you with a special talent or hobby, (such as woodworking or sewing), we can find a way for you to utilize that talent or hobby in God's service. If God has simply blessed you with another day of life, we still want to see you at church each week and together be brothers and sisters in Christ. And as a church, Redeemer Lutheran practices good stewardship, using our gifts and talents in God's service by not hoarding gifts and offerings but supporting a variety of missions and utilizing our unique talents as a church for the good of our neighborhood and community.

Second, *"caring and nurturing of others"* certainly has in mind caring for others when they're going through difficult times, such as during a hospital stay or recovery from an illness or incident or surgery, but this also has in mind caring for others during regular parts of life too. Martin Luther wrote in his Smalcald Articles that the mutual conversation and consolation of brothers and sisters in Christ is a form of the gospel. How often are you praying for others, especially fellow members of the congregation, in your homes or during your regular prayers? How often are you getting to know others at church? How often are you encouraging regular church attendance and Bible study attendance from others? How often are you talking about the Scriptures and sermons with others? Enabled by the Spirit, all of these are not works of the law, but opportunities of the gospel to strengthen you and your own faith. How blessed are we to have a church community who cares for us, and we in turn care for them, when so many in today's culture have no one or a very small community.

Finally, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church is only a community as long as there is a community of believers here, which means we should always be looking to grow our church community. Again enabled by the Spirit, we do this by *"sharing the message of*

So as usual, what is the mission of our church? *"Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church is a community of believers saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. As a people enabled by the Spirit, we are committed to regular worship and the use of the sacraments, studying and teaching the Bible, praying, using our gifts and talents in God's service, caring and nurturing of others, and sharing the message of God's salvation so that God is glorified and all people may know Jesus as their Savior and Lord."* Today to conclude, we're taking up *"using our gifts and talents in God's service, caring and nurturing of others, and sharing the message of God's salvation so that God is glorified and all people may know Jesus as their Savior and Lord."* And remember, each of these tasks is modified by that phrase *"as a people enabled by the Spirit."* All of the good works we do individually and as a congregation are done by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us for the sake of God's kingdom.

First, when we read or hear *"using our gifts and talents in God's service,"* what we probably think is using our money and time in God's service. And that's certainly a big part of gifts and talents, but more broadly this is about a theology of stewardship. God has given us everything that we need to support this body and life, (yes, with some having more and some having less). Thus, part of saying "thank you" to God for His gifts is stewarding them wisely, as well as giving back to God a portion of His gifts and trusting that He will continue to give gifts. In the holy ark of the Christian church, God blesses us by keeping us safe in the boat, and even sees fit to allow us to pick up an oar and help direct and propel the boat in the way God would have us go. All this to say, a theology of stewardship means if God has blessed you with good finances, we need your gifts and offerings to

Continued on page 5

DIGITAL DAILY DEVOTIONS

Lutheran Hour Ministries: <https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions>

Higher Things: <https://higherthings.org/content/#reflections>

Portals of Prayer: <https://www.l.cph.org/portals/default.aspx>

LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO

Listen to good Lutheran radio programs at Lutheran Public Radio, Issues Etc., KFUO, St. Louis. 94.3 The Bridge.

PASTOR'S SERMONS

KKXX.net - Tunein.com KKXX 930 AM, 103.9 FM
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 & 5:00 PM

THE LUTHERAN HOUR
KKXX.net - Tunein.com KKXX 930 AM, 103.9 FM
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 PM

BIBLE STUDIES



Children's Sunday School is 8:45 a.m.
Adult Sunday Bible class is 8:45 a.m.
Thursday Bible Study is 9:30 a.m.

REDEEMER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CHURCH INCOME/EXPENSE – ACTUAL:

January 1 - September 30, 2024

OFFERING INCOME	130,273.69
SCHOOL LEASE (5%) GENERAL FUND	3,402.72
REDEEMER HOUSE INCOME (includes 2023 income of \$8,526)	23,376.00
FACILITY USE INCOME	835.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>4,230.59</u>
TOTAL INCOME	162,118.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>146,639.90</u>
NET INCOME	15,478.10
RETAINED EARNINGS	<u>73,507.37</u>
CURRENT BALANCE	88,985.47

See the Office Manager for more information.



Submit prayer requests to Pastor by email, text, voice mail, or in writing, using the form in the pew rack. pastorbd4est@gmail.com

(801) 910-6937 or (530) 342-6085 Opt 1



CHURCH STAFF

REV. BRENNAN DEFOREST, PASTOR

JACKIE VIEIRA, OFFICE MANAGER

DAVID BUNTING, ORGANIST

JAY ERWIN, ORGANIST

OFFICERS

FRED SHERMAN III, PRESIDENT

JERRY BRANDT, VICE PRESIDENT

BRUCE HOLDERBEIN, FINANCIAL
MANAGER

AARON ASHWORTH, SECRETARY

BOARD OF DEACONS

* JAY ERWIN

ROBERT REAN

TIMOTHY WENSLAFF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

* BRUCE HOLDERBEIN

KEITH SIEMENS

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

* TIM KRESSIN

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

LINDA ALLEN

SHERRI HARDY

DIANE SCOTT

CAROL VARLEY

SHIRLEY WILSON

BOARD OF YOUTH

*DIANE SCOTT

*BOARD CHAIR

HOMEBOUNDED

William Baving
1200 Springfield #110
Chico, CA 95928

Brenda Bell
678 Buttonwillow Ln #28
Chico, CA 95926

Patricia Bodi
650 Manzanita Ave #115
Chico, CA 95926

Sonya Brown
1351 E Lassen, #112
Chico, CA 95973

Paul DeGarmo
2770 Sierra Ladera
Chico, CA 95928

Jackie Eichelberger
1199 Diablo #232
Chico, CA 95973

Esther Henry
14 Discovery Way
Chico, CA 95926

Larry Pohlad
2265 Maclovina Ave Apt 160
Chico, CA 95928

Elaine Rubke
1200 Springfield Dr #213
Chico, CA 95928

Emma Siemens
1770 Humboldt Rd #202
Chico, CA 95928

SERVANTS

ACOLYTES:
NATE GRADO
EVERETT LUTHER
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

ALTAR GUILD:
ROBERT ENGELKEN
BONNIE HUNT
LINDA REAN
HAROLD URNESS
LOUISE URNESS

COUNTER:
PAT LILLIE

DEACON OF THE MONTH
SEPTEMBER
TIM WENSLAFF
OCTOBER
ROBERT REAN

USHERS:
TIM KRESSIN
TIM LANGE
TIM WENSLAFF
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

DRIVERS:
JAY ERWIN
BRUCE HOLDERBEIN
TIM KRESSIN

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

TIM WENSLAFF: ALLEN - HOFFIE
JAY ERWIN: HOFFMAN - RUSTAN
ROBERT REAN: SAWYER - ZIEGLER

GIVE BLOOD AND SAVE LIVES



Make donations at
Vitalant
555 Rio Lindo Ave.
And tell them to credit
your donation to
Redeemer Lutheran
Church

Visit vitalant.org for information



BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER
06 STEPHEN FRATALLONE
13 REV. ROBERT ROBERTS
13 LINDA SWEET
16 FINNELY WEINREICH
22 DON THURMAN
25 LAYLA HOFFMAN
25 LIAM HOFFMAN

DECEMBER
09 TIM LANGE
09 DOTTIE TEFELSKI
09 CAROL VARLEY
12 FRED SHERMAN, III
14 SHERRI HARDY
16 BRETT MIRAMONTES
17 DR. NORMAN MCCANN
20 JERRY BRANDT
24 AVAGAILE GRADO
25 TONI LANGE
26 ALICE DURFEE
28 BRANDON SIEMENS
28 MICHAEL THOMPSON
30 HAROLD URNESS



BAPTISMS

NOVEMBER
06 WARREN LOFINK
09 TIM KRESSIN
13 KEITH SIEMENS
17 RANDY SIEMENS
18 BRIAN MARSHALL
18 AVAGAILE GRADO
18 NATHANIAL GRADO
24 YUFEI WENSLAFF
27 CANDACE THURMAN
27 JACY KROGH

DECEMBER
01 JOHN DURFEE
03 LOUISE URNESS
04 ANITA JOHNSON
06 BRI LOFINK
08 MEGAN GODSIL
08 CYNDIE HOLDERBEIN
17 TODD THOMPSON
24 YUHUAN WENSLAFF
28 DREW ESMAY

Deadline

Jan/Feb

Redeemer Review

December 20





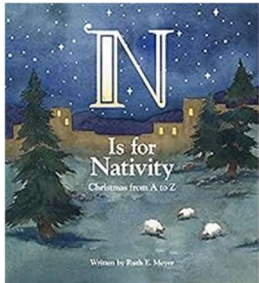
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Maguire Family



Matt, Joey, Isabella, & Robin

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deut 6: 6-7 ESV)



It is not often that a unique book comes at just the right time. This book *N Is for Nativity* published just last year would be a wonderful addition to your children's library. While it is listed as a book for younger children, it would probably still keep the interest of early

elementary children especially if only brought out each year just as Advent begins.

If you have been working on teaching your children their ABC's this book will fit right in. It starts right out with Advent (A is for Advent) and goes through Z is for Zechariah.

It is beautifully illustrated and has a wonderful Glossary that will help more fully develop words for your older children. As a parent you could also use this as the basis for family discussion.

The book is available from both Concordia Publishing House and Amazon. Amazon also has a kindle edition which could be useful if you are traveling.

Prepare your hearts from A to Z!

Matt & Robin were married in 2001 and lived in Sacramento. Matt had a long career in broadcasting as an engineer for several radio stations. Robin is a flight attendant and frequently travels abroad to Europe. We served for ten years as missionaries with FamilyLife, the marriage and family ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ while living in Arkansas. It brings us joy being active with church congregations leading small groups such as Financial Peace and the Art of Marriage.

Our children have been homeschooled since birth, which gives us the flexibility to set our own schedule and curriculum. Our daughter Isabella is seventeen and loves the arts. She has a talent for drawing and loves to sit and sketch, whether it be a canvas or a napkin. Our son Joey is fourteen and hopes to be a Major League pitcher someday. He loves music and sports, especially baseball.

We moved to Chico in 2016 after a long search for a new place to land after living in the South. Robin graduated from Chico State, which helped our decision due to her familiarity with the area. As a family, we enjoy the outdoors, hot summer months and spending time together with our yellow Labrador Rocco.

2024 QUARTERLY MISSIONS

- 1Q Redeemer Charity Fund, \$4,092.98 Faith Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California , 4,092.98
- 2Q Missionary Dennis Meeker, Kenya - \$3,740.80; Missionary Daniel Conrad, Mexico - \$3,740.80; Pamela Boehle-Silva, Always Mercy Kenya - \$3,740.79
- 3Q Lutheran Heritage Foundation - \$3,657.28; Lutheran Classical College, Casper, Wyoming - \$3,657.28; CNH District - \$3,657.28
- 4Q Women's Resource Clinic; KKXX Sermons; The Lutheran Hour; Issues, Etc.

TECHNOLOGY



Technology... artificial intelligence

What is artificial intelligence (AI) or as Apple says, “Apple intelligence.” Is it new or has it been around but just not announced? Is it good, helpful, intelligent or is it harmful, deceitful, or problematic? If you found yourself answering “yes,” well maybe actually “no,” you are right in both cases.

Think back to the days of using a typewriter. You pressed one key at a time. Next look at your computer. If you have been using a computer for many, many years you still remember pressing one key at a time. Then after a while you noticed that when you were using a word processing program for example pressing a key such as “a” there might appear the word “and” thinking that was the logical choice. Other words you frequently used might have the same results.

Because AI is causing the computer to recognize patterns it determines that most of the time when you type “a” the word is “and.” This can be useful for example if a certain phrase perhaps containing 4 or 5 words will be used in an article you are writing. Think back to that manual typewriter you used and how much easier it would have been to write that report if that phrase automatically typed itself.

Next think about searching for something using the internet. You might not know exactly what something is called but entering a word or two can get you started. Your screen shows numerous possibilities or even suggests alternatives. Helpful, yes, but it can also lead you down a pathway it would be best not to go. Sometimes these innocent searches can actually sign you up for something you had not intended.

Do the suggestions that come up when you are searching Amazon for instance cause you to purchase something you were not intending? Possibly, but the suggestions could actually direct you to something useful.

The bottom line: be careful, be aware and don’t just accept what appears on your screen whether that is your computer or your phone. Remember to use technology in a godly way.

LUTHERAN WOMEN’S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Lutheran Women's Missionary League held its Fall Event at Redeemer Lutheran Church on October 19. Twenty-eight women were in attendance. Guests were Roxan Schwab, president of LWML/CNH District and District Ambassador, Bev Vietor. Bible study was conducted by Pastor DeForest. The study was entitled "Come and See" based on John 4:28-30. Pastor DeForest wrote a proposal for a LWML Grant for Outreach to Chico State/Butte College Students" and it was funded in the amount of \$4,850. Presentation took place on Sept. 16 by district president, Roxan Schwab.

Dedication of gift bags for students was made by Pastor Dubke.

Mites are mighty! A thank you to all who contribute to mites.

Thanks also to all the women who helped host this event at Redeemer Lutheran Church.



FROM THE PASTOR...CONTINUED

God's salvation.” Because we have been saved by Christ crucified from sin, death, and hell, in our joy we want this same outcome for others. Indeed, God desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Thus, it is again not a work of the law but a response to the gospel to share God’s salvation in Christ with others. And in doing this, as our mission statement says, God truly is glorified by our proclamation of the gospel. Even more, God’s Word never returns empty, so when we do share God’s Word with others, we can be assured that people will know Jesus as their Savior and Lord, even if we don’t see this outcome until months, years, or decades after we’ve proclaimed God’s salvation, or even if we don’t see this outcome with the people we shared God’s salvation with directly, but only with those to whom we shared it indirectly.

It is my hope and prayer that this year-long look into our church’s Mission Statement has been edifying to you. As we move forward into a new church year in December and a new calendar year in January, may we keep our mission in mind so that Redeemer Lutheran Church may be a blessing to you and to our community, and so that we may glorify God in all that we do. Indeed, 2025 is the 100th anniversary of our church, and we thank God for 100 years of carrying out His mission and we look forward to another 100 years of doing the same!

The Lord be with you, ~Pastor DeForest

THANK YOU FROM WOMEN'S RESOURCE CLINIC

Saying thank you can be as simple as "thanks" as someone passes us a salt shaker. Or, it can be one of those situations where we're not sure what to say. Someone overwhelms us with an unexpected gift, and we feel as if we must "repay" in some way. Finally, we realize that a heart-felt "thank you" is all that is required. When it comes to your gifts to our ministry, several thoughts come to mind as I say "thank you". For one, I'm thankful that you chose us. God laid this ministry on your heart, and you listened. And, I say thank you because you are family. Every one who prays, volunteers or gives is a member of this ministry family, you play a vital role in this particular family. The word "thank you" has varying impacts, depending I suppose, on the sincerity of the person using those words. In this case, know that it is heartfelt. Your gift here has an impact, and I want you to know you are appreciated.

Lovingly in Him,

Brenda K Dowdin
Executive Director

*Thank you,
Brenda*

Women's Resource Clinic

115 W 2nd Avenue
Chico, CA 95926
530-897-6101

THANK YOU FROM DIANNE WILKINSON

To my Redeemer family, thank you so much for the prayers, cards, and hugs while David was in the hospital, and after he went home to the Lord. I am immensely grateful for your kindness, caring, and concern. Thank you again.

In Christian love, Dianne Wilkinson

THANK YOU FROM HIGHER THINGS

*To the saints of Redeemer-Chico,
Thanks be to God for your congregation!
HT greatly appreciates the gift of Carol on
behalf of the youth group. Your gift allows
HT to continue to make the gifts of
Christ Jesus known to youth and young
adults! I pray the Lord continues to bless
Redeemer! In Christ,
Patrick Stordiant, HT Development Executive*



THANK YOU FROM THE MROCZENSKIS

From Vicar Paul, Courtney, and baby Mroczenki



*Dear saints at Redeemer,
Thank you so much for your generous
gift in support of our mission work in
Puerto Rico! Since our visit with you all, we
have visited many congregations and
individuals and are so encouraged by
their generosity. Soon we will start our
online Spanish classes in anticipation of
our deployment January 15th! May the Lord
continue to bless you all!
In Christ,
Vicar Paul, Courtney, +baby Mroczenki*

August 30, 2024

Dear Members of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto all of you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. We hope that you had an enjoyable summer. The summer months seems to go by so quickly. It seems that we celebrated our seminary graduation last week but now the beginning of our fall academic semester at the seminary is right around the corner. The class schedules have been formalized and we are now planning our opening worship service.

On behalf of ourselves and the Lutheran churches of Latin America, we thank you for your donation of \$3,740.80 . God is using your gift in a powerful way as through your gift, we provide materials and training for future pastors who will serve throughout Latin America. In this way we follow the example of St Paul who instructs with the following words: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." (2 Timothy 2:2)

Dan recently suffered an ankle injury, and he will be undergoing surgery here in the Dominican Republic. He is somewhat immobilized, and he will be teaching his seminary classes in our home. Please keep him in your prayers during this time.

Missionary Rafael Flores, his wife Jaelynn, and their daughter Elena will be departing from the Dominican Republic to serve as missionaries in Chile. We thank the Flores family for their years of faithful service in the Dominican Republic and we will miss them greatly. At the same time, we wish them God's richest blessings as they serve the Lord in their new country.

Our head Latin American missionary chaplain, Dr. Jonathan Naumann, is currently undergoing surgery in the United States. Please remember Dr. Naumann and his wife Cheryl in your prayers during this time.

During the first week of August, we participated in the Latin American regional missionary conference. The conference took place in the Dominican Republic and all the missionaries with their families participated. Dr. Geoffrey Boyle, who serves as a professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, in Fort Wayne, directed a study on the Psalms. We give thanks to Dr. Boyle for his great presentation. We enjoyed a great time of fellowship and learning experience.

We thank you again for your prayers and financial support. Enclosed please find a photo of Dan and Deaconess Danelle Putnam posing with a group of Peruvian deaconesses who participated in a training conference. This photo was taken in Lima, Peru, through our prayers and donations made this conference possible. Please check out our new missionary card at the address listed below. God's richest blessings to all of you!

In Christ,

Rev. Daniel & Kathy Conrad
lcms.org/conrad



100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!



Mark your calendars for Redeemer's 100th year celebration coming October 12, 2025.

Plans are being made for multiple events during 2025 to mark this auspicious occasion.

If you would like to contribute ideas, historical information, photographs, newspaper articles, etc. contact the office at redeemerchicooffice@gmail.com or 530-342-6085.

Also, the office manager has compiled photographs, that were in the Sunday school rooms, into binders. People who would have knowledge of "what, who, when and where" are asked to look through the binders that are on the table in the Parish Hall, and then label the photos using sticky notes. The office manager will then create labels for them.



LADIES, SAVE THE DATE

December 7, 2024, 11:15 AM (following Book Club)

Coffee Klatch and Cookie Exchange

Bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share, and the recipe if you choose.



Let's join together for fun and fellowship!

THANK YOU

FROM LUTHER CLASSICAL COLLEGE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your congregational gift to Luther Classical College. Congregations like yours are making a tremendous impact on the founding of LCC and have from the very beginning.

Thank you again for your commitment to Luther Classical College!

Yours in Christ, Rev. Dr. Timothy Rossow
Mission Ambassador
Luther Classical College

ASLEEP IN JESUS



Klaus Guenther Keil

June 1, 1928
August 30, 2024

Allen Lawrence Thompson

December 28, 1935
October 21, 2024



Clarence Erwin Reinking

December 14, 1931
October 14, 2024



Special Services 2024 - 2025

**No Thanksgiving Eve Service
Advent Services**
Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18
Vespers, 4:00 PM

The Board of Fellowship will host a Soup Supper on Dec 4 following the 4:00pm Advent Service. A sign up sheet will be available in the Parish Hall.

We hope you will join us!

The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 PM

The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25
Divine Service, 10:00 AM

New Year's Eve - Eve of the Name of Jesus
Tuesday, December 31
Matins 12:00 PM

Epiphany of Our Lord
Monday, January 6
Matins, 12:00 PM

COFFEE WITH A COP

Pastor DeForest enjoyed coffee and conversation with police chief, Billy Aldridge.



WRC FALL BANQUET

Redeemer Lutheran Church was able to provide thirty-two seats at Women's Resource Clinic Fall Banquet. Participants enjoyed a great meal and heard speaker, Seth Gruber, the leading voice of the pro-life movement.



MEN'S OKTOBERFEST



The Men's Oktoberfest on the first Saturday in October was so much fun! Thank you, Pastor Jordan, for hosting! Thank you, Harold Urness, for the entertainment! There were a variety of good tasting brats, great fellowship

and fierce cornhole competitions!

Save the dates for the next get-togethers:

- ◆ The first Saturday in November at Redeemer
- ◆ The first Saturday in December at Dave Rader's



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PASTOR'S EMAIL:	pastorbd4est@gmail.com
WEB ADDRESS:	www.redeemerchico.org
Facebook:	facebook.com/RedeemerLutheranChico

Our Mission Statement

Welcome to Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, a community of believers saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

As a people enabled by the Spirit, we are committed to regular worship and the use of the sacraments, studying and teaching the Bible, praying, using our gifts and talents in God's service, for the caring and nurturing of others and sharing the message of God's salvation so that God is glorified and all people may know Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

November/December 2024



November/December 2024

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Missouri Synod
 750 Moss Avenue
 Chico, CA 95926