

# Redeemer REVIEW



REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

CHICO, CALIFORNIA JAN/FEB 2023

VOL. 37 No. 1

*from the Pastor...*

*Rev. Donald Jordan*

## WAITING ON THE LORD

Waiting is extremely difficult for most of us. It is a human tendency to be impatient. Nobody likes waiting in a long line of people or traffic on a road. People want a magic pill, an instant result, but it doesn't work that way. We need to learn the lessons of forbearance and patience when we live in a world with so many other people. We just don't get our way and we don't jump to the head of the line.

Waiting on God is, perhaps, even more difficult as we live our days under His care and providence. Is it no wonder that so many times in Scripture, especially in the Psalms, we are admonished to "Wait on the Lord."

There are so many needs that others have, and you have your own needs that require attention now, not in the future. But, in this age and time of instant results and instant approvals, waiting on God seems so old-fashioned.

The Lord is not in a hurry and He takes His time, as He has demonstrated throughout history. God took almost one week to create the heavens and the earth. God took hundreds of years before He sent His Son, Jesus, at just the right time. And now, the Lord has taken over 2,000 years to do His work of bringing the Gospel to people, calling them to repentance and salvation in Jesus Christ alone.

We don't know the timeline of the Second Coming of Jesus. It might be today, tomorrow, or hundreds of years more. We just don't



know, and it seems that, at times, God is dragging this on too long.

But, God's time is the best time and we leave all things to His direction. We wait on Him because He knows best. He determines our last day when we die in Christ. He determines when the Son will return in glory to judge and to raise all the dead, some to life and some to death. He gives us the time,

being patient, to hear His Word, repent of our sins, to receive forgiveness, and to love our neighbor with deeds and words.

As we wait for God the Holy Spirit to do His good work, we know it takes time and we must be patient. This is all part of God's process of molding and discipling us as students of His Word. Just as our earthly schools took 12 grades, and then college, or post-graduate school, it all required massive patience and waiting. We took time to read, study, learn, test, and then graduate. We took time to learn a trade or craft.

God gives you the time now as a gift. Use the time wisely as you take time to attend Divine Service. Come to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. It takes time, but it is worth every minute. In eternity, where there is no time, we will have a full understanding of what it means to wait on the Lord, as we praise and thank Him for saving us and making us His children through faith in Jesus Christ.

*Pastor Jordan*

## DIGITAL DAILY DEVOTIONS

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

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

Portals of Prayer:  
<https://www1.cph.org/portals/default.aspx>

## PASTOR ON THE RADIO

Pastor Jordan is a regular guest on "Live Talk with Jerry Olenyn" every Friday on KKXX radio. 8:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. AM 930, FM 103.9 [www.tunein.com](http://www.tunein.com)



## LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO

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

### PASTOR JORDAN'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

## REDEEMER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1, 2022 - November 30, 2022

INCOME/EXPENSE – ACTUAL:

CHURCH INCOME/EXPENSE – ACTUAL:

OFFERING INCOME	143,335.00
FACILITY USE INCOME	620.00
INTEREST INCOME	1,693.71
SCHOOL LEASE (5%) G F INCOME	<u>4,027.35</u>
TOTAL INCOME	149,676.06
TOTAL EXPENSES	180,824.61
NET INCOME	-31,148.55
RETAINED EARNINGS	<u>59,401.00</u>
CURRENT BALANCE	28,252.45



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

(530) 513-1284

(530) 342-6085 Opt 1



March/April

Newsletter Submission

Deadline

February 20



Recycle



- Separate plastic bottles, with the lids removed, from aluminum cans and place in separate plastic bags.
- Opaque bottles should be separated from clear bottles.
- Place bags in the appropriate bins in the Parish Hall storage closet.
- **NO GLASS**, non-CRV, or paper waste.

## CHURCH STAFF

REV. DONALD JORDAN, PASTOR  
 JACKIE VIEIRA, OFFICE MANAGER

DAVID BUNTING, ORGANIST

JAY ERWIN, ORGANIST

### OFFICERS

FRED SHERMAN, III, PRESIDENT

JERRY BRANDT, VICE PRESIDENT

VACANT, FINANCIAL MANAGER

VACANT, SECRETARY

### BOARD OF ELDERS

\* JAY ERWIN

ROBERT REAN

DARYL SMITH

TIMOTHY WENSLAFF

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

\* BRUCE HOLDERBEIN

KEITH SIEMENS

### BOARD OF EVANGELISM

### BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

LINDA ALLEN

DIANE SCOTT

CAROL VARLEY

SHIRLEY WILSON

### BOARD OF YOUTH

\*DIANE SCOTT

\*BOARD CHAIR

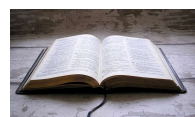
## BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY School for children is each Sunday, 8:45 a.m.

SUNDAY Bible class is studying I, II Timothy, and Titus, 8:45 a.m.

THURSDAY Bible class, 1st Corinthians, 9:30 a.m.

CAMPUS Ministry/Young Adult Bible Study, first Sunday of the month, 5:00 p.m..



## HOMEBOUND

### William Baving

1200 Springfield #110  
Chico, CA 95928

### Patricia Bodi

650 Manzanita Ave #115  
Chico, CA 95926

### Sonya Brown

1351 E Lassen, #112  
Chico, CA 95973

### Ann Carney

1200 Springfield Dr #217  
Chico, CA 95928

### Sophie Collins

3548 Ebano Way  
Chico, CA 95973

### Paul DeGarmo

2770 Sierra Ladera  
Chico, CA 95928

### Jackie Eichelberger

1199 Diablo #117  
Chico, CA 95973

### La Vera Hansen

35481 Camino Capistrano  
Capistrano Beach, CA 92624

### Anita Hartwig

2801 Cohasset Rd. #234  
Chico, CA 95973

### Esther Henry

14 Discovery Way  
Chico, CA 95926

### Roy & Marge Holderbein

1901 Dayton Rd Spc 162  
Chico, CA 95928

### Janet Jokschi

7292 Cutler Ave  
Orland, CA 95963

### Larry Pohlad

1200 Park Ave, Apt 126  
Chico, CA 95928

### Elaine Rubke

1351 E Lassen Ave #217  
Chico, CA 95973

### Sharon Schaffert

627 Larch St  
Chico, CA 95926

### Emma Siemens

1770 Humboldt Rd #202  
Chico, CA 95928

### Catherine Skahan

375 Cohasset Rd  
Chico, CA 95926

## SERVANTS

### ACOLYTES:

AARON ASHWORTH  
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

### ALTAR GUILD:

CAROLYN FIORILLO  
CLARA IVES  
ANITA JOHNSON  
LORI JORDAN  
LINDA REAN  
LOUISE URNESS

### COUNTER:

PAT LILLIE

### ELDERS OF THE MONTH

#### JANUARY

JAY ERWIN

#### FEBRUARY

DARYL SMITH

### USHERS:

TIM WENSLAFF  
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

### DRIVERS:

JAY ERWIN  
BRUCE HOLDERBEIN  
KURT JORDAN  
DARYL SMITH  
KEITH SIEMENS

### LANDSCAPERS:

PAUL EAGAN  
BRUCE HOLDERBEIN  
TIM KRESSIN  
KEITH SIEMENS

## ELDER ASSIGNMENTS

TIM WENSLAFF:	ALLEN - GODSIL
JAY ERWIN:	HANSEN - MASON
DARYL SMITH:	MCCANN - SHERMAN
ROBERT REAN:	SIEMENS - ZIEGLER

A calendar of events is  
available online at  
[www.redeemerchico.org](http://www.redeemerchico.org)



## BIRTHDAYS

01/02	LINDA ALLEN
01/02	REV. DONALD JORDAN
01/03	MARY SIEMENS
01/10	OLIVER FIORILLO
01/10	DAVID SWEET
01/14	ANDREW JORDAN
01/14	BRI LOFINK
01/17	SVETLANA SMITH
01/20	LINDA ROWE
01/30	TODD THOMPSON
02/01	EVA LAMONT
02/05	AURORA PONCI
02/06	THERESA BURCH
02/11	AMANDA SIEMENS
02/14	DUSTIN SIEMENS
02/15	MICHELLE SWEET
02/27	ELAINE MIRAMONTES
02/28	JULIE MCCANN
01/01	Linda Rowe



## BAPTISMS

01/08	Carolyn Fiorillo
01/14	Jerry Brandt
01/14	Ella Miramontes
01/14	Kyla Miramontes
01/14	Nicholas Miramontes
01/14	Brandon Siemens
01/19	Diane Scott
01/25	Henry DeGarmo
02/01	Kathy Sweet
02/02	Michelle Sweet
02/04	Eva Lamont
02/06	Layla Hoffman
02/06	Liam Hoffman
02/10	Rev. Donald Jordan
02/11	Aurora Ponci
02/13	Alice Durfee
02/17	Andrew Jordan
02/19	Glen Bergendahl
02/23	Lindsey Allen
02/24	Carol Varley
02/27	Michael Thompson



## ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP

- ◇ Two identical arrangements are needed for the altar at each service. these may be placed the sacristy on Saturday. Please schedule drop-off time with Altar Guild member.
- ◇ You can sign up on the chart in the narthex or you can call the office to sign up. It is preferred that you provide the flowers, but if you would like Altar Guild to purchase for you, you can make arrangements with them to do so.
- ◇ The cost may be split with a friend. Sign up together on the flower chart.
- ◇ You may use any flowers you like, including flowering potted plants, floral arrangements, fresh flowers from store or garden.
- ◇ The flowers are placed in an area approximately 15" in height and 14" in width.
- ◇ In addition, you may like to dedicate your flowers. Please call the office to provide this information for the bulletin.
- ◇ Please check with the Altar Guild to see if there is a need to leave flowers during Advent, etc.
- ◇ Thank you for signing up to provide the flowers for the altar. It is to the glory of God.

Altar Guild is in need of a few more workers! The work is not difficult and can be scheduled at your convenience. Altar Guild sets up/takes down for communion each week, coordinates altar flowers, keeps oil candles filled and changes the paraments during the church year. If you would like to learn more about Altar Guild and how you may serve the Lord in this way, please see Lori Jordan.

## SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS



SPONSOR ETERNAL CANDLE  
\$20/MONTH

Sign-up chart is posted in narthex.

Sign-up  
chart is  
posted in  
narthex.



## THANK YOU

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift and for your prayers. I am blessed to serve at such a wonderful congregation. I look forward to playing again after recovery time. In Christ, David Bunting, Organist.

May the Lord bless you all for your gifts throughout the years. I am so very grateful for the blessings I have received, whether financial, a smile, a word of encouragement, or a prayer. As I come up on twenty years of service at Redeemer, I realize it is because you all have made it a pleasure to be here. Thank you. Jackie Vieira, Office Manager.

Your generous monetary Christmas gifts are received with deep appreciation and thanks. I only wish I could thank you all individually. Gratefully, Pastor Jordan.

## NEW MEMBER

TIM KRESSIN  
DECEMBER 21, 2022  
TRANSFER FROM  
TRINITY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
TEMECULA,  
CALIFORNIA



## ASLEEP IN JESUS

WANDA E. AMES  
ROBERTS  
OCTOBER 25, 1931 -  
DECEMBER 16, 2022







## TECHNOLOGY

Technology...  
where is it going?



*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)*

Another year has started and with that come new challenges. It is a good time to renew many things, but most importantly that of prayer.

While this has been recommended before it seems appropriate to mention it again. Concordia Publishing has many blog sites appropriate for various ages.

<https://blog.cph.org/>

This will allow you to subscribe to all of the blog sites or search for specific interests. One site that is of value to the whole family is the Everyday Faith Calendar.

Download the calendar for January. Note that there are readings in the book of Philippians as well as suggestions for daily prayer. The prayer suggestions help you as parents teach your children to pray for more than just themselves and/or for family members.

You can print out the calendar and post it on your refrigerator; print out sufficient copies for each member of the family and laminate them to use for placemats. You might send the calendar to grandparents, aunts and uncles and ask them to pray along with you. Be creative with the calendar and start the year with prayer!

### QUILTERS

Quilting  
will resume the 2nd  
and 4th Mondays, 9:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m.  
No experience necessary.  
All are welcome!



Last newsletter we talked about various scams that were going around. The end of the year saw many more. As a category the one that seemed to pop up more and more was about shipping/delivery of items. Not surprising since this was the time of year when gifts were being sent in great quantities.

Again, the warning that if you did not personally initiate don't respond, and don't hesitate contacting your relative/friend if they actually sent you something before clicking or responding in any form. What sounds like a gift from a friend may not be.

You may think you have finally gotten a handle on technology but much of the technology that we think has evolved as far as it can go is only in the beginning stages. Consequently careers in the area of technology are increasing in unheard of numbers. For those who are just entering the age of career education or who are retraining for a new or second career it can be a confusing time.

If you have been a member of a church for a number of years you have probably seen how technology has impacted your church in various ways. Some think of technology as being "electronics" entering the sanctuary and the way they worship when actually there is much more to it. Technology helps your church keep members connected so they know how to help, what events are going to take place and when. Technology can be useful but we just have to make sure it is investigated before being initiated.

As this New Year starts one place you may not have considered is that your prayers regarding technology are vital. Pray that new areas of technology are investigated, that people are encouraged to bring information to the pastor and deacons of the church, and that those seeking education in the field of technology are encouraged not discouraged. Pray that your church will use technology in a godly manner and that your prayers matter even if you haven't the foggiest idea what AI, or 3D printers or bandwidth or any other terms being used mean.

Technology does not replace a hug, or handshake or encouraging smile but it is also not evil. It is the intent in the use that is the problem. Pray for technology in 2023!

Dear Members of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church,

November 14, 2022

Greetings in the name of the Lord. The Psalmist exhorts us: "Oh give thanks unto the Lord for He is good. His mercy endureth forever. (Psalm 136:1) We set aside a holiday called Thanksgiving in which we give thanks to God. At the same time, we realize that every day constitutes a day to give thanks to the Lord for all of the blessings that he has bestowed upon us. Accordingly, we give thanks to God every day! May the Lord bless your Thanksgiving celebration abundantly!

Dan has been given permission by his doctor to return to the mission field and we will be leaving for the Dominican Republic on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Dan will be receiving orientation for his new position as chaplain for the Spanish speaking pastors and missionaries in Latin America. In addition, he will continue with his teaching duties. We give thanks to all of you for your support and prayers for us during this medical leave. We also give thanks for to the medical personnel that helped us during this time.

Ana continues in her program to become a Certified Medical Assistant. She is now in her last academic semester and will star her internship upon completion of this course. Consequently, Ana will not be returning to the mission field but will remain in the United States. We understand that this is a normal part of a child's growing up. At the same time, it is a big change for the three of us. Please keep Ana in your prayers as she continues to adjust to life in the United States and finds employment.

The national pastors in Mexico are preparing for a theological conference that will take place in December. We give thanks to the national pastors for their enthusiasm, and we also thank missionary Arthur Rickman who serves in Panama for coordinating this conference. This ongoing educational opportunity is a great blessing to the pastors in Mexico.

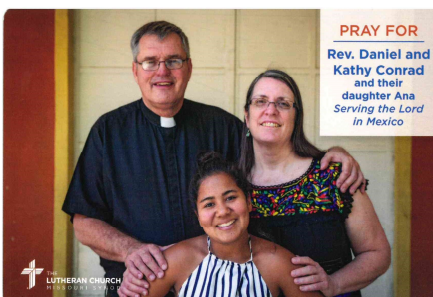
Vicar Job Jimenez continues to serve at the mission congregation El Redentor, in Tijuana, Mexico. National pastor Samuel Perez who serves at Iglesia Luterana San Juan in Mexicali is serving as Job's vicarage supervisor. We give thanks to God for the proclamation of the Gospel in the city of Tijuana, Mexico.

Enclosed please find our prayer card and photo of two of our national pastors.

Keep Neftali and Benjamin in your prayers as they continue to serve the people in Mexico.

We thank you for your prayers of God's mission in Mexico. Have a Merry Christmas and may the Lord bless you in 2023!

*"To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—<sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen."* (Jude 24,25)



**Rev. Daniel and Kathy Conrad**

Daniel.Conrad@lcms.org lcms.org/international  
lcms.org/conrad

**BIRTHDAYS:**

Daniel – July 6  
Kathy – July 30  
Ana – Oct. 10

**ANNIVERSARY:**

May 13

**HOME DISTRICT:**

California-Nevada-Hawaii

Rev. Daniel and Kathy Conrad serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Mexico, based in Mexico City. In this role, Daniel serves as the coordinator of theological education for the entire country. He works with and mentors national pastors and pastors in formation who are serving throughout Mexico. With the challenges of Mexico City's population being 25 million people and the shortage of national pastors in this country, Daniel provides assistance in sending out workers to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pray for the Conrads as they serve in Mexico. Ask God to give Daniel strength as he continues to mentor and teach national pastors in the different regions of Mexico. Give God thanks for the national pastors that this country does have and for the future pastors that are in formation. Let us give thanks that the Conrads are serving God's children in Mexico.





## REFORMATION LUNCH - FIORILLO BABY SHOWER



Thanks to the Board of Fellowship - Linda Allen, Carol Varley, Shirley Wilson, and Diane Scott for serving a delicious meal and to all who provided

food, set up, service, and clean up. The baby shower for Evan was wonderful. God's blessings to Evan Mateo Nunez-Fiorillo!



## LECTIONARY SUMMARIES

### THE CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS

(New Year's Day)

(1 January 2023)

Numbers 6:22–27

Galatians 3:23–29

Luke 2:21

THE LORD JESUS COMES IN THE FLESH TO FULFILL THE LAW FOR US AND SAVE US FROM OUR SINS

Circumcision is the covenant God made with Abraham and his seed. It sealed God's promises and blessings in the flesh, but it also signified the burden of the Law. When the Lord Jesus came in the flesh to redeem His people, He subjected Himself to the Law in order to fulfill the Law and release all men from its captivity. "He was called Jesus" (Luke 2:21), because He came to save His people from their sins. He would shed His blood on their behalf, as He did already when "he was circumcised" (Luke 2:21). As He also sacrificed Himself upon the cross, you are "justified by faith" in His blood (Gal. 3:24). Therefore, "you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise" (Gal. 3:29), not by the circumcision of your flesh, but in the flesh and blood of Christ Jesus, the true seed of Abraham. "Baptized into Christ," you belong to Him and are clothed and covered by His righteousness (Gal. 3:27). Holy Baptism is the true circumcision made without hands, by which the Lord Jesus puts His name on you and blesses you (Num. 6:22, 27).

### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Christmas 1

(1 January 2023)

Isaiah 63:7–14

Galatians 4:4–7

Matthew 2:13–23

THE LORD JESUS UNDERGOES A NEW EXODUS IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS

Herod's efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod's edict, Joseph must "take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt" (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He "had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son'" (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing "his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses" (Is. 63:12). Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. "He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them" (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God's might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we "receive adoption as sons" in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus' name: "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:4–6).

### THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

(6 January 2023)

Isaiah 60:1–6

Ephesians 3:1–12

Matthew 2:1–12

THE LORD GOD IS MANIFESTED IN THE INCARNATE SON

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi from the East. In that respect, it is a "Thirteenth Day" of Christmas, and yet it also marks the beginning of a new liturgical season. Where Christmas has focused on the incarnation of our Lord, that is, on God becoming flesh, the Season of Epiphany emphasizes the manifestation or self-revelation of God in that same flesh of Christ. For the Lord Himself has entered our darkness and rises upon us with the brightness of His true light (Is. 60:1–2). He does so chiefly by His Word of the Gospel, which He causes to be preached within His Church on earth, not only to the Jews but also to Gentiles (Eph. 3:8–10). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in the house (Matt. 2:5–11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word to find and worship Him within His Church (Is. 60:3–6).

### THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

(First Sunday after the Epiphany)

(8 January 2023)


Isaiah 42:1–9

Romans 6:1–11

Matthew 3:13–17

THE TRIUNE GOD IS MANIFESTED AND REVEALS HIMSELF TO US IN HOLY BAPTISM

The Baptism of our Lord is an "epiphany" of the one true God in the flesh and blood of Jesus. He is the chosen servant of the Lord, anointed with the Spirit for the rescue of God's people to "bring forth justice to the nations" (Is. 42:1). Thus, He makes all things new, and He is given "as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations" (Is. 42:6). In the waters of the Jordan, He takes His place with sinners and takes all the sins of the world upon Himself. He undergoes the Baptism of repentance in order to "fulfill all righteousness" for us (Matt. 3:15). He submits Himself to the curse of sin and death in order to redeem us. We are baptized with a Baptism like His, thereby dying and rising with Him, so that "we will also live with him" (Rom. 6:8). Indeed, all of us who are baptized into Christ Jesus are anointed with His Spirit and named by His Father as beloved and well-pleasing sons and daughters.



An organ concert with Renata Peperkorn, student at Concordia University Seward, will be Sunday, March 5, 4:00 p.m. Plan to attend a great musical treat.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
(15 January 2023)

Isaiah 49:1–7  
1 Corinthians 1:1–9  
John 1:29–42a

GOD REVEALS HIS GLORY IN CHRIST AND HIS CROSS

“The LORD, the Redeemer of Israel,” calls forth “his Holy One” (Is. 49:7), Jesus, the Christ, “from the womb” of His mother (Is. 49:1). The incarnate Son of God is revealed as the Savior, not only for Israel but also “as a light for the nations,” whose salvation reaches “to the end of the earth” (Is. 49:6). John came “baptizing with water” (John 1:31) to reveal Jesus as “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29), and who glorifies His God and Father by His atoning sacrifice upon the cross. When Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended “from heaven like a dove” and “remained on him” (John 1:32). By our Baptism, we are anointed by the same Spirit, adopted by God the Father, and “called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:9). Therefore, we “are not lacking in any gift,” but we can trust Him who promises to sustain us to the end, “guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:7–8).

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
(22 January 2023)

Isaiah 9:1–4  
1 Corinthians 1:10–18  
Matthew 4:12–25

THE LORD MANIFESTS HIS GLORY THROUGH HIS OFFICE OF  
THE HOLY MINISTRY

By His coming in the flesh and by His preaching and miracles, the Lord Jesus shines the light of His Gospel upon “the people who walked in darkness” and “who dwelt in a land of deep darkness” (Is. 9:2). He also has “multiplied the nation” and “increased its joy” (Is. 9:3) by calling disciples to Himself from the ends of the earth. For this purpose, He calls Peter and Andrew, with James and John, to follow Him and be “fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19). As Jesus did, they also go forth “proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people” (Matt. 4:23). They preach the foolishness of the cross of Christ as the very power and wisdom of God. This word and preaching of the cross divides “those who are perishing” from “us who are being saved” (1 Cor. 1:18), but it unites the Church, the one Body of Christ, “in the same mind and the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10).

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY  
(29 January 2023)

Micah 6:1–8  
1 Corinthians 1:18–31  
Matthew 5:1–12

GOD MANIFESTS HIS GLORY IN THE HUMILITY AND  
WEAKNESS OF CHRIST CRUCIFIED

The Lord tells His people, “I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery” (Micah 6:4). By the sacrifice of His beloved Son, He has redeemed us from our slavery of sin and death; He has forgiven our transgressions by the shedding of His blood. His great mercy and salvation lead us “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly” with our God (Micah 6:8). We boast only in the incarnate and crucified Lord Jesus. He is “the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Cor. 1:24). He is our life and salvation, our “wisdom” and “righteousness and sanctification and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:30). Now He opens His mouth and teaches us His wisdom. By His cross and Passion, the kingdom of heaven is ours. We receive mercy and are satisfied; we see God and are called sons of God in Christ. “Blessed are you,” therefore, “when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely” on account of Christ (Matt. 5:11).

THE PURIFICATION OF MARY AND THE  
PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD (2 February 2023)

1 Samuel 1:21–28  
Hebrews 2:14–18  
Luke 2:22–32 (33–40)

GOD GIVES THE GIFT OF A CHILD TO DESTROY DEATH

The Lord opened the barren womb of Hannah and gave her the gift of the son for whom she prayed, and in grateful response she presented and gave the child, Samuel, to the Lord’s service. “As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD” (1 Sam. 2:28). So, too, did Mary and Joseph present the Child promised from the fall, born of a virgin’s womb. The true offering wasn’t the turtledoves or young pigeons. It was the Child they carried. This Child has come to “destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery” (Heb. 2:14b–15). Set free by His advent in our flesh and the promise of what He would do “in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people” (Heb. 2:17b), Simeon and Anna rejoiced, and we with them, for we know that we, too, can face death unafraid and “depart in peace” (Luke 2:29) when our time comes.

## LECTIONARY SUMMARIES (CONTINUED)

### FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(5 February 2023)

Isaiah 58:3–9a  
1 Corinthians 2:1–12 (13–16)  
Matthew 5:13–20

#### THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST

Jesus warns that “unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:20), but He also calls His imperfect people “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Matt. 5:13, 14). That’s because the Lord Jesus came not to abolish the Law or the prophets, “but to fulfill them” (Matt. 5:17) in perfect faith and love. Since He does and teaches all of God’s commandments, He is “called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:19). God manifests His “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” in “Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2–4), and through the preaching of the Gospel He gives His “secret and hidden wisdom” (1 Cor. 2:7). Christ gives this perfect righteousness to His people, and it leads them to true fasting, which is “to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free” (Is. 58:6) and “to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house” (Is. 58:7).

### SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(12 February 2023)

Deuteronomy 30:15–20  
1 Corinthians 3:1–9  
Matthew 5:21–37

#### CHRIST SETS LIFE BEFORE US SO THAT WE CAN WALK IN HIS WAYS

The God who reveals Himself in His incarnate Son promises life and blessing to all who obey His commandments “by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules” (Deut. 30:16). However, we are “people of the flesh” and “infants in Christ” (1 Cor. 3:1), among whom “there is jealousy and strife” (1 Cor. 3:3). Jesus must instruct us against the human ways of anger, adultery, divorce and false witness (Matt. 5:21–37), because all who live in these ways “shall surely perish” (Deut. 30:18). On the cross, He died to forgive our sins and free us from the ways of curse and death. Since Jesus Christ is our “life and length of days” (Deut. 30:20), we can be reconciled to our brother, live in chastity and marital faithfulness, and speak with honesty. He who serves from His cross also offers His gift of reconciliation at His altar, and we can be at peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are “God’s field, God’s building” (1 Cor. 3:9).

### THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

(19 February 2023)

Exodus 24:8–18  
2 Peter 1:16–21  
Matthew 17:1–9

#### GOD MANIFESTS HIS GLORY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST JESUS, TRANSFIGURED FOR US BY HIS CROSS

The Transfiguration confirms “the prophetic word ... to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place” (2 Peter 1:19). The divine glory of Jesus is manifested in the word of His apostles, who were “eyewitnesses of his majesty” (2 Peter 1:16). “He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun” (Matt. 17:2). Moses and Elijah witnessed the fulfillment of the Old Testament in this Lord Jesus, and the Father testified concerning Him: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 17:5). By His own blood, shed on the cross, Jesus makes and seals the new covenant with us. Hence, “the appearance of the glory of the LORD” is no longer “like a devouring fire” (Ex. 24:17), but it is graciously revealed in His own body. As “Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel” went up the mountain with Moses and “beheld God, and ate and drank” (Ex. 24:9, 11), we also behold the Lord our God in Christ Jesus, and we abide with Him as we eat and drink His body and blood at the altar.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

(22 February 2023)

Joel 2:12–19  
2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10  
Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

#### RETURN TO THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, FOR HE HAS RECONCILED YOU TO HIMSELF

On Ash Wednesday, we come down from the mountain with Jesus and set our face toward His cross and Passion in Jerusalem. We make our pilgrimage with Him by way of repentance, and thus we return to our dying and rising in Holy Baptism. Christ Jesus, “who knew no sin,” became our sin, so that by His death we are released from sin and in His resurrection we “become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21). As God has thereby reconciled the world to Himself in Christ, “now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2). He has provided the sacrificial Lamb, and He has left “a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering” (Joel 2:14) in the Eucharist. He summons us to return to Him with all our heart because He is “gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love” (Joel 2:13). We do so with faith and confidence in Him, and so we pray to Him as our Father, give to the needy from a heart of love, and fast for the sake of repentance (Matt. 6:3–4, 6, 17–18).



## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

(26 February 2023)

Genesis 3:1–21  
Romans 5:12–19  
Matthew 4:1–11

Following His Baptism, Jesus is “led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matt. 4:1). As He takes upon Himself the curse of our sin and sets Himself against our enemy, He trusts His Father’s voice and waits upon His Father’s hand for all things. The devil questions His sonship, but the beloved and well-pleasing Son remains faithful and lives “by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4). Jesus patiently suffers hunger in His mortal flesh and returns to the dust whence man was taken, and by His pain He brings forth food for all the children of men (Gen. 3:18–19). By the sweat of His brow, we eat the fruit of His cross, even as our nakedness is covered by His righteousness. Although all people live in bondage to death through the trespass of the first man, Adam, all the more “have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many” (Rom. 5:15). His righteous obedience “leads to justification and life for all men” (Rom. 5:18).

### REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

#### LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER SERVICES 2023

ASH WEDNESDAY DIVINE SERVICE  
February 22  
12:00 noon, 7:00 p.m.

LENT MIDWEEK WEDNESDAY  
12:00 Noon  
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

PALM SUNDAY  
Divine Service 10:00 a.m.

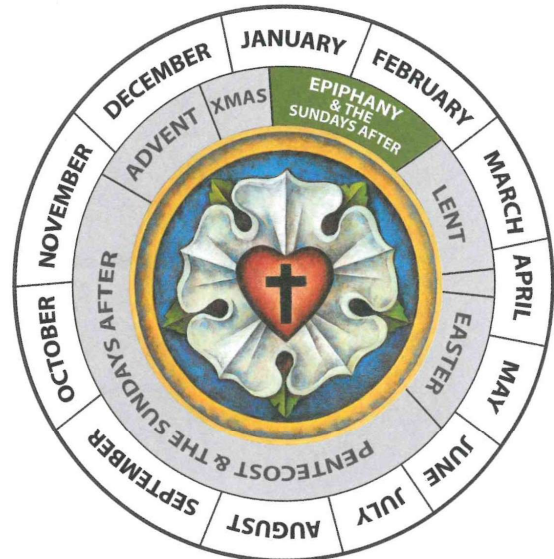
HOLY (MAUNDY) THURSDAY  
April 6, Divine Service 12:00 p.m.  
No Bible Class/No Evening Service

GOOD FRIDAY  
April 7, Chief Service 12:00 p.m.  
Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD - EASTER  
SUNDAY  
April 9  
Easter Breakfast and the Flowering of the Cross  
9:00 a.m.  
Divine Service, 10:00 a.m.  
The Ascension of Our Lord 12:00 noon  
May 18, Matins, 5:00 p.m.

## THE TIME OF CHRISTMAS EPIPHANY AND ITS SEASON

*Begins with evening prayer on January 5  
and ends the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.*



Epiphany is one of the oldest seasons in the Christian Church Year, second only to the Easter season. This season of lights emphasizes Jesus' manifestation (or epiphany, from the Greek *epiphaneia*) as God and man. The earliest Christians called the Feast of the Epiphany the Theophany (“revelation of God”). When the Gentile Magi come to worship Jesus, they show that everyone now has access to God. Now all people, Jew and Gentile, can come to God’s temple to worship, because Jesus is the new temple: God in the flesh. The Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6) marks the celebration of the visit of the Magi.

Epiphany may include as many as nine Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. The season is marked at its beginning and at its end by two important feasts of Christ.

**During Epiphany, we worship Jesus, who has given  
all mankind access to God through Himself.**

Matthew 2:1–12

Matthew 3:13–17

John 2:1–11

## EPIPHANY PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS

- Like Christmas, the Epiphany of Our Lord, the Baptism of our Lord, and the Transfiguration of Our Lord are feast days of Jesus. The color for feast days is white, the color of divinity, purity, and joy. The Sundays after the Epiphany focus on the growth of Jesus' ministry, and the color green is used to symbolize that growth.
- On the First Sunday after the Epiphany, the Church celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord. The Father sent Jesus to bear the sins of the world. So Jesus steps down into baptismal waters so that He can soak up the sins of the world: He is baptized into our sins so that our Baptism might be into His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.
- The Feast of the Transfiguration, celebrated on the last Sunday in the Epiphany season, is a significant and uniquely Lutheran contribution to the Christian calendar. This festival commemorates the moment on the Mount of Transfiguration when three of Jesus' disciples glimpse their Lord in divine splendor, seeing Him as the center of the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). Jesus proclaims to His disciples, then and now, that He is the long-awaited one who has come to die for the sins of the world and be raised again in glory.
- The Transfiguration of Our Lord is the last Sunday before Lent. Because we give up singing *Alleluia* during Lent, at the close of the service on Transfiguration we say farewell to *Alleluia* with the hymn “Alleluia, Song of Gladness” (LSB 417).



22 December 2022

*Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ~John 20:28*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Yesterday was the feast day for the apostle Thomas. While the story of "Doubting Thomas" occurs during the season of Easter, it is also fitting that his feast day occurs during the season of Advent. I say this because when Thomas finally has a chance to see his crucified and risen Savior Jesus Christ, he responds with the great confession, "My Lord and my God." Despite his waiting, Thomas responds in faith. So also we, during the season of Advent, are waiting to see our crucified and risen Savior Jesus Christ come again. Yet despite our waiting, we respond in faith, receiving the Word and Sacraments, and confessing Jesus as our Lord and our God. And may we all especially make this confession at his birth on Christmas Day, when we hear again of his first coming as the baby in Bethlehem!

In my last letter, I especially focused on my vicarage experience. In this letter, I will provide updates since the last letter. The first quarter came to an end in mid-November. I had a few significant papers in the final weeks, but I was able to finish them up without losing too much sleep. Overall it was a successful quarter. During the break between fall and winter quarter, I rested and organized some things around the house. Abby and I were also able to travel to her family in Nebraska and visit them for about five days for Thanksgiving. Unfortunately we left Fort Wayne in the early afternoon, hitting Chicago traffic at a horrible time, but we eventually made it safely to Nebraska. Nonetheless, the trip was wonderful and we were able to see family members we hadn't seen in a long time, which made it even better.

Upon returning from our Thanksgiving trip, the winter quarter at the seminary began. This quarter I am taking classes on the Formula of Concord, Martin Chemnitz's Examination of the Council of Trent, sermon writing and delivery, Pastoral Theology, and theological ethics. It looks like it will be a tough quarter, but I am thankful for the Christmas break to get caught up and even get ahead on some assignments. Speaking of Christmas break, that started just last weekend for both Abby and I. We began with a trip to Chicago for a wedding, then flew to Utah to spend time with my family. On Christmas we will fly to Nebraska and spend time with Abby's family, then return to Fort Wayne as Abby's school returns from break. So far the break has been restful and it has been a nice time with family and friends.

Those are most of our updates. Abby's teaching is still going well, though she has especially enjoyed getting some needed rest during the break. Her school recently finished the second quarter, so she is halfway done already! Time seems to be going by quickly. We of course are looking forward to call day in April and the end of our respective school years in May, but until then, we give thanks for our year in Fort Wayne and for one last festival half of the church year before our roles in the church change.

We pray you all are well. Thank you so much for all your prayers as well as your financial support. You all have been a tremendous blessing to us throughout this past year and we are very thankful for you. We especially pray God's blessings to you all this Christmas season and into the New Year. Thank you again!

In Christ,

*Brennan + Abigail DeForest*

*Thank you for all your prayers as well as your support checks in the recent months. God's blessings & Merry Christmas!*



Dear Members of Piedcemer Lutheran Church,



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Love, Brennan + Abby DeForest

Benefits sent to  
Brennan DeForest

November  
Scholarship Fund:  
\$2,245.89

Coins for Christ:  
\$41.00

Recycle &  
Calendar Sales:  
\$8.00

December  
Scholarship Fund:  
\$2,45.89

Coins for Christ:  
\$1.04

Recycle &  
Calendar Sales:  
\$115.00



# Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas

P.O. Box 4  
Pflugerville, Texas 78691

Rev. Mark Seeger  
512-251-3125  
MarkDYMT@AOL.com

## December 2022 - End of year report

Dear friends of Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas,

It's hard to believe that another year is over and it's time for our semi-annual report. We are slowly growing, but we are nowhere near the numbers we had pre-covid. So far this school year, we have had 105 in our four classes - Elementary, Middle School, High School and College Age, so things are looking up. Out of those 105 students, 54 are returning and 51 are new this year. It's always good to see new kids show up with the returning students. Five of our adult volunteers are no longer able to help, either because of moving or getting new jobs. If you would like to volunteer Tuesday or Wednesday evenings, you are more than welcome!

After two summers of not being able to have the Deaf Youth Service trips because of the uncertainty of Covid, we were finally able to resume them this past summer. We took six youth and two adults to St. Louis, where our service projects included Orphan Grain Train, painting classrooms in a Lutheran school, working in a thrift shop and teaching sign language for a "Jesus Signs" workshop. Another service trip is being planned for this summer, too.

The t-shirts that we are giving out this year show a well-known Austin mural that says, "I love you so much" and we add the words, "God says," and below it "John 3:16," and on the back we have the words "We love you so much at" right next to our logo.



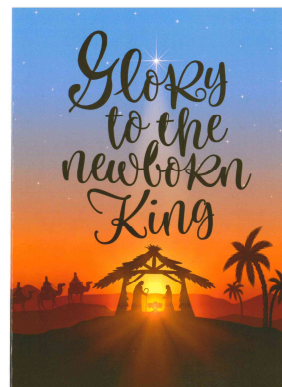
We are once again allowed to serve homemade cakes and brownies to the students, like we had done for the years prior to Covid. The kids are able to request their favorite cakes on their birthdays. So far this school year, we have baked 26 cakes and 15 pans of brownies. We have also been given a lot of candy and cookies to give out. I actually do try to limit the amount of sugar we feed the kids, but when well meaning people show up with a bag of candy or box of cookies, it seems like a losing battle.

May God bless you and yours during this Christmas season and all through the year!

In Christ,

Rev. Mark Seeger

*Thank you for all you have done to support this ministry. We truly appreciate it. Because of your great support, we DO NOT need any more donations. We have enough to last several years. Over the past several months, at the suggestions of some of our donors, we have sent donations to several other Deaf ministries. If you would like suggestions of other Deaf ministries that could use your support, I'd be happy to send you some recommendations. If you continue to send to us, we will use what we need, but we will share with other Deaf ministries.*



Dear friends at Redeemer,

Throughout the Christmas season... may you see His love in every kindness, find His joy in every part of your celebration and feel His peace in the quietness of your heart.

Thank you for your generous support!  
In Christ,  
Rev. Mark Seeger



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### 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.

## January/February 2023



## January/February 2023

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