

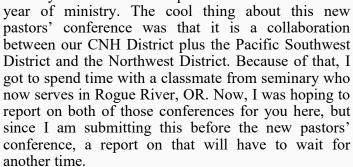
Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Chico, California Nov/Dec 2023 Vol. 37 No. 5

from the Pastor...

Rev. Brennan DeForest

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank you for permitting me to attend two pastors' conferences during the month of October. The first was the District Pastors' Conference for our California/Nevada/Hawaii District in the first part of the month. The second, which was just this last week, was a conference specifically for new pastors who have just entered the ministry or who have completed their first



Even though they can be quite a headache with the travel and disruption of the weekly routine, I've always been excited about conferences. I was especially excited to meet plenty of new people at my first district conference. I was much less excited, however, about the topic of discussion for the conference. "What do we do with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)?" led by Pastor John Nunes from southern California. Maybe you've heard of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Maybe you or someone you know has had to have DEI training for their work. Diversity, equity, and inclusion is a modern idea that because the world is diverse, each and every single workplace, school, and institution must also be diverse, inclusive of a variety of perspectives and diversities, and give equitable treatment to a variety of diversities.

I wasn't excited about this topic because unfortunately it comes with a lot of baggage. Our society emphasizes social justice issues, gender identity issues, and other problems along with diversity, equity, and inclusion. In other words, DEI has become just another place where the current cultural confusion is pushed. And so the result of DEI



is not the bringing together of diversities in a living, working, peaceful harmony, but rather the polarizing of diversities in an attempt to create harmony where there may not be.

If you're confused at this point, unfortunately that's how most people feel after going through DEI training. And confusion was still what I felt at the end of the pastors' conference. However, even though I was still confused and unsure about a number of DEI

issues, I was glad in the end that this conference dove into the issue of diversity, equity, and inclusion because I have come to some absolutes regarding DEI and the church. The Christian church is diverse because it began about 2000 years ago in a location at the crossroads of three continents and since then has spread throughout the globe. Yet the Christian church is also not diverse because we are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 says, "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." The Christian church is equitable because Christ Jesus died for and forgave the sins of the whole world. Yet the Christian church is also not equitable because each member of the church has experiences, sufferings, and works different from every other member of the church. Finally, the Christian church is inclusive because we desire all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of God. Yet the Christian church is also exclusive because in some of our practices, such as the Lord's Supper, we do exclude some people for their protection.

So overall, even though the topic of my first district pastors' conference wasn't the most exciting to me, I did end up thinking about the topic and its issues and I feel that will make me better prepared for ministry in the church at large and our community. Thus, I want to thank you again for permitting me to attend the conference and thank you for your support as I not only serve you, but also serve in our community, in our district, and in our church. I plan to continue attending various pastors' conferences so that I continue to better serve you and the church at large.

The Lord be with you, *Pastor DeForest*

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

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

SUNDAY School for children is Sunday, 8:45 a.m. SUNDAY Bible class is 8:45 a.m. THURSDAY Bible class, 9:30 a.m.

REDEEMER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

January 1 - September 30, 2023

CHURCH INCOME/EXPENSE - ACTUAL: OFFERING INCOME 116,165.09 SCHOOL LEASE (5%) GENERAL FUND 2,994.48 FACILITY USE INCOME 960.00 INTEREST INCOME 3,172.78 TOTAL INCOME 123,832.35 TOTAL EXPENSES 152,313.02 **NET INCOME** -28,480.67 **RETAINED EARNINGS** 83,880.43 55,399.76 CURRENT BALANCE

See the Office Manager for more information.

HELP ON FLOCKNOTE

Provide your current email and phone number for text messages to the office manager. If you do not have email or text capability, update your phone number for voice messages. This is important in order to receive prayer requests and announcements.

HELP WITH THE DIRECTORY

Provide a current photo or have the office manager take your picture.
Tues. - Thurs.
9:30. - 4:00

redeerchicooffice @gmail.com

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 Vacant, Financial Manager Vacant, Secretary

BOARD OF DEACOMS

* JAY ERWIN

ROBERT REAN

DARYL SMITH

TIMOTHY WENSLAFF

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CAROL VARLEY
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*Board Chair



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

brennan.deforest@ctsfw.edu

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

ALTAR FLOWER/ETERNAL CANDLE SIGN-UP



SPONSOR: Altar Flowers and/or Eternal Candle \$20/MONTH

Sign-up charts are posted in narthex.



HOMEBOUND

SERVANTS



BIRTHDAYS

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

Sophie Collins

587 Rio Lindo Ave Chico, CA 95926

Paul DeGarmo

2770 Sierra Ladera Chico, CA 95928

Jackie Eichelberger

1199 Diablo #232 Chico, CA 95973

La Vera Hansen

35481 Camino Capistrano Capistrano Beach, CA 92624

Anita Hartwig

2750 Sierra Sunrise Ter 229 Chico, CA 95928

Esther Henry

14 Discovery Way Chico, CA 95926

Roy/Marge Holderbein

1901 Dayton Rd Spc 162 Chico, CA 95928

Larry Pohlad

1200 Park Ave, Apt 126 Chico, CA 95928

Elaine Rubke

1200 Springfield Dr Chico, CA 95928

Sharon Schaffert

627 Larch St Chico, CA 95926

Emma Siemens

1770 Humboldt Rd #202 Chico, CA 95928

ACOLYTES:

EVERETT LUTHER
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

ALTAR GUILD:

ROBERT ENGELKEN
JUDY EVANS
BONNIE HUNT
LINDA REAN
LOUISE URNESS

COUNTER:

PAT LILLIE

DEACON OF THE MONTH

November

TIM WENSLAFF

DECEMBER

ROBERT REAN

Ushers:

TIM KRESSIN
TIM WENSLAFF
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

Drivers:

JAY ERWIN BRUCE HOLDERBEIN KURT JORDAN DARYL SMITH

October 29 Reformation Day (Observed)

Celebration Dinner following Divine Service



DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

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

Deadline

January/February Redeemer Review
December 20

November

- 04 SHARON SCHAFFERT
- 13 REV. ROBERT R. 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
- 25 Toni Lange
- 26 ALICE DURFEE
- 28 Brandon Siemens
- 28 ALLEN THOMPSON
- 28 MICHAEL THOMPSON
- 30 HAROLD URNESS

BAPTISMS

November

- 09 Tim Kressin
- 13 Keith Siemens
- 17 RANDY SIEMENS
- 18 Brian Marshall
- 24 Yufei Wenslaff
- 27 CANDACE THURMAN
- 27 Jacy Krogh
- 27 ALICIA SCOTT

DECEMBER

- 01 John Durfee
- 03 Louise Urness
- 04 Anita Johnson
- 06 Bri Lofink
- 08 Megan Godsil
- 08 Cyndie Holderbein
- 08 Daryl Smith
- 17 TODD THOMPSON
- 24 YUHUAN WENSLAFF
- 28 Drew Eslmay



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)

Hopefully the last article about the curriculum at your children's schools brought up some purposeful dialog in your home or with friends. This article is similar but with a slightly different perspective.

As parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends your foundation for teaching your children is your Bible and Catechism. However, the basic skills taught in school dovetail with the teachings from these books. For example, reading is necessary to read and study your Bible. But how does mathematics align with spiritual study?

How do you teach your children about tithing and charitable giving? If you simply give your child money to put into the offering plate does that teach them about giving from their income? Let's look at a possible technique to help your children. You can do this the old fashioned way with paper and pen or you can do this via technology, though a thorough understanding of pen and paper might be better before moving onto technology.

Many children get caught in a trap of not fully understanding the mechanics of a checking account if all their experience comes from using the ATM. Even if they "check their balance" at the ATM before making a cash withdrawal they can forget about the withdrawal they made the day before and end up being overdrawn.

A simple way, and this can start at an early age, is to use a checking account with checks and a check register. This can be done by using old checks from an account you closed, or you can make up checks and a register and print it out.

What you create is the Bank of Mom and Dad and rather than just giving your children their allowance you give them a check to deposit into their checking account. What do they learn?

- •How to fill out a deposit slip
- •How to record the transaction in their check register
- How to know what their bank balance is at any given time

This then gives you great opportunities to talk about budgeting and their spiritual responsibilities of handling their money.

Next, when they want to spend some of their money they need to write a check. This teaches them how to properly fill out a check and how to record this transaction in their check register. When they present their check to you, this gives you yet another chance to discuss responsible spending as checks are not always just for cash. You could, for example, have them write a check made out to the church for their offering on Sunday.

As your children get older you could create an electronic account; however, keep the same principles of maintaining accurate records. If they learn this concept thoroughly when they are older and move to using an ATM they are less likely to request funds that will overdraw their account.

There was a day when money management was actually taught in school. No longer. So again this becomes thinking outside of the box so that your children use academic tools to align their spiritual responsibilities.

Prov. 22:6 says,

Train up a child in the way he should go. And when he is old he will not depart from it.

LWML MITES

Coming soon... An informational meeting on Lutheran Women's Missionary League.



The mite boxes that were recently distributed for donations help support many worthwhile mission projects



The first Sunday of each month will be designated as Mite Box Sunday. These offerings can be deposited in the LWML box in the narthex. Thank you.

QUARTERLY MISSION SUPPORT

- 1Q Redeemer Charity Fund \$4,746.09 Faith Lutheran Church, Ukiah, California: \$4,746.09
- 2Q Missionary Dennis Meeker, Kenya \$3,598.84, Missionary Daniel Conrad, Mexico \$3,598.84, Pamela Boehle-Silva, Always Mercy Kenya \$3,598.84
- 3Q Lutheran Heritage Foundation, \$3,598.84, Lutheran Deaf Ministry, Pastor Seeger \$3,598.84
- 4Q Women's Resource Clinic,; KKXX Sermons; The Lutheran Hour; Issues, Etc.



Technology... more about staying alert

Last issue we looked at same song new verse. Well...here is another new verse just in time for the holiday season.

If you receive an email or text or even a voice message saying that it is from your church or your pastor and asking you to purchase gift cards STOP! Your church or your pastor will not ask you to do something like this. If there is a legitimate reason to raise funds to help someone or fund a project it will come from the leadership of the church after careful consideration and will be handled as a donation through the church, such as a mission fund as was done during the Camp Fire. (A simple call to your church to question this action can save you hundreds of dollars.)

If you have been caught in this scam and you indicate that you are purchasing gift cards you will be contacted again and told to erase the blackened area on the back of the card and give the number to the caller. AGAIN STOP!

You can take these cards (without scratching out the blackened area) to your pastor or church and let your church disperse these cards as appropriate to those who are in need, or use them yourself. Then, be sure to block that email or text from future contact by that caller.

TECH TIP: Turning off your phone or tablet is not the same as restarting the device. If your device seems to be acting "strangely" make sure to restart it as it may just need to get some of the residual data removed. If you don't know how to restart your phone go to the store where you got your phone and ask for help. Remember restarting is not the same as doing a factory reset. There are times when that action needs to be done, but often a simple "restart" solves the problem.

Technology is a tool but use it in a godly manner especially during this upcoming holiday season to protect yourself and your loved ones!

MERCY SERVANTS

Deacons and several members are serving as mercy servants. Our priority is visiting the homebound as well as members with needs due to illness or following surgery.

After the Divine Service on November 5th, volunteers and interested persons will meet in the Fireside Room with Pastor DeForest.

This first meeting will be to review goals, establish guidelines and improve our coverage. Interested? Join us in the Fireside Room.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTES

Season's greetings from the Trustees! You may have noticed most of the grass areas have been replaced by rock and drought-tolerant plants with drip irrigation. These changes give the grounds a nice clean look and will help us keep up with Redeemer grounds maintenance and lower our water usage. We still have many small projects and maintenance tasks which are posted by the mailboxes across from Pastor's office. If you would like to help out, please contact Bruce or Keith and we can set you up with a task you feel comfortable with!

We would like to remind our members about building security. On days when you unlock the church facility for entry, please make sure you lock up before you leave. If there are still members in the church when you leave, make sure they have a key and are locking up when they leave. If you are ushering you are also responsible for locking up the church, or at least make sure you have assigned someone to lock up when coffee hour is over.

Many Blessings, Bruce Holderbein

GIVE BLOOD AND SAVE LIVES



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



ANNO DOMINI

The Liturgical year for Church and Home

Advent

From the First Sunday in Advent through December 24th

The Theme

Advent is the beginning of the church year. Beginnings are exciting! God, in His mercy, has given us a little more time to prepare for His coming. "Advent" means "coming of the Lord." This refers not only to Christ's historical coming but more especially to His present and future coming. The Palm Sunday cry resonates in this season as well: "Behold! Your King comes, to you, lowly and humble."

There are three "comings" intertwined in the celebration of Advent. The First Sunday--Jesus will come at the end of time to usher in the Kingdom of Glory; 2nd Sunday--He comes in the present, in His Word; 3rd Sunday--again concerns His coming in the present, in His Sacraments; 4th Sunday--His coming into the world at His Conception (not Birth). These three are not kept separate, but are blended into a continual "coming."

The Mood

You don't begin a party before the guest of honor arrives; you make preparations. Advent is a time of preparation, not celebration. Preparation involves repentance. There is also a sense of anticipation of something tremendous about to happen. The penitential aspect is indicated by the omission of the *Gloria in Excelsis* in the liturgy until Christmas Eve. The hymns throughout the season are of Advent and not of Christmas.

An exception to the penitential mood may be made on the 3rd Sunday, marking the half-way point in our journey to the manger; the color rose traditionally is used, signifying eager hope and longing for Christ's coming; Rose-colored flowers may be used. This subduing of the penitential mood is to encourage anticipation of the coming Christmas celebration.

To build anticipation for the Feast of the Nativity, an Advent wreath may be set up, with three blue candles and one rose candle. A candle is lit the 1st Sunday, two the 2nd Sunday, two blue and the rose one on the 3rd Sunday, and all four on the last Sunday. Another practice in some churches is to set up the stable on the first Sunday, and place only a blue candle in the center of it where the manger will go; the 2nd Sunday the ox and ass are added; the 3rd some sheep join them; and the 4th Mary and Joseph are placed on either side of the candle. Then at the Christmas Eve mass, the candle is replaced by the manger and Christ Child. Both the wreath and the stable ideas are appropriate in the home as well as in the church. The wreath is removed after the last mass on the 4th Sunday, and a tree is erected in its place. If no tree is used, then the wreath may be used, but the 4 colored candles are removed, and a white candle is lighted in the center to represent Christ, the light of the world, born on Christmas Day.

The Colors

The color for Advent is blue with the meaning of joy, expectation, heaven. and the Virgin Mary. The exception may be the use of rose on the 3rd Sunday, as explained above. In the absence of rose paraments and vestments, the blue is used. The emphasis of this Sunday being brought out by flowers, the 3rd candle on the Wreath, and perhaps rose colored ribbons hanging from pulpit and lectern as book markers.

It is best to refrain from singing Christmas carols, or holding Christmas parties or dinners during Advent. The Sunday(s) after Christmas or the Epiphany are appropriate times to do those things. That is also the time for any Christmas Sunday School programs or pageants. In Church, the Christmas Tree and decorations are to be put up after the last mass of Advent, or on Christmas Eve in the home and not lighted until Christmas Eve.

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DEACONESS PAMELA BOEHLE-SILVA, RN - BOUND BY MERCY



We walked arm in arm, talking about our mothers. I was in Kenya, reunited with my dear friend Mary after not seeing each other for three years. Although we had been separated by thousands of miles, we were bound by mercy. Mary's mum had died from a brain tumor just a few months earlier. My mama had just entered hospice care, and unbeknownst to me, she would die a few weeks later.

after I returned home. Mary and I were bound by suffering *and* by Christ's mercy. Her mum's story is a poignant reminder of why Rehema Open Door, the upcoming hospice and palliative care center in rural western Kenya is so essential. I am honored to share her story with you.

At age 58, Mary's mother, Rose, began to faint and have seizures. This often happened when she would go to the river to fetch water, or when she went to the market. Rose also developed a leg wound that wouldn't heal. Obviously, these symptoms were disturbing and limited her activities of daily life. Fortunately, Rose's family was able to get her to a local hospital where tests showed blood clots in her brain. Her seizures continued, however, and an MRI revealed a brain tumor.

Soon after, Rose saw a neurosurgeon at another hospital many hours from her rural home. Here she had brain surgery to remove the tumor and was discharged home. Yet, within a month, Rose's condition deteriorated; she was in severe pain and nearly bedridden. The tumor had returned and she was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme—an aggressive brain cancer.

At this point, a compassionate physician suggested hospice care for Rose. He explained that chemotherapy would not likely help her and would more likely cause many distressing symptoms. Hospice could provide her with comfort and pain relief in a safe environment.

This recommendation was unusual. In Kenya, due to cultural traditions and fear, a doctor is often reluctant to tell a patient they even have cancer. It's even more unusual that they recommend stopping treatment and suggesting hospice or palliative care.

Rose lived her last eight months at St. Vincent's Hospice in Muhoroni–quite



a distance from her family. Here, the hospice staff was able to control her severe pain so when family visited, Rose would smile, sing and pray with them. Because of the wonderful care Rose received, the family was even able to take her from the hospice to her rural home for a few days at a time which gave her great joy. Her last months, weeks and days were spent in comfort and relative peace.

Rose was just 59 years old when she died. She was a widow for 17 years, raised 9 children and experienced the death of 5 of them. She was survived by 4 children and 8 grandchildren. Thankfully for the family and her, she also had some insurance through Kenya's National Hospital Insurance Fund which covered some costs, but the family still paid for doctor visits



and part of her brain surgery. Most Kenyans cannot afford either insurance or medical care. It's common practice in Kenya that medical care must be paid for upfront by the patient or family before receiving treatment.

Rehema Open Door will provide much needed hospice care for people like Rose and her family, yet closer to home. With your support, lack of funds will never be a deterrent for care at Rehema. This hospice will be a refuge for those suffering in body and soul, as well as giving support to their families and caregivers.



We are excited to announce the Grand Opening celebration of Rehema Open Door on October 4, 2023! This event will showcase the clinic portion of the project, which will soon be open to the community for services. This is the first phase of the facility's construction. Deaconess Pamela and her husband Dennis, along with friends and fellow Rehema supporters, Jeff and Anne, will travel to Kenya for this long-awaited event.

Thanks to support from generous donors like you, this dream of mercy is coming true, a place where patients, like Rose, can receive necessary care and love.

Always Mercy, Pamela

MISSIONARY - REV. DANIEL CONRAD, LATIN AMERICA

Dear Members of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church,

"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

(Philippians 1:2) We pray that you have enjoyed your summer as it draws to a close. It seems the summer months pass so quickly. On behalf of ourselves and the Lutheran churches of Latin America, we thank you for your donation of \$3,598.84. God is using your gift in a powerful way as future pastors, deacons, and deaconesses are formed who will serve the Lord throughout Latin America.

Dan and I are currently in the United States as we have moved from Mexico and are processing our documents for our next missionary assignment to the Dominican Republic. It was hard to say goodbye to the many people in Mexico that we have gotten to know over the years. We give thanks to God for our time there and we have many treasured memories. Remember the Lutheran Synod of Mexico in your prayers as the national pastors continue to serve the Lord faithfully throughout Mexico.

The visas for the Dominican Republic require many documents. Slowly but surely, we are getting the necessary documents together and hopefully we will soon be sending them in to the Dominican Republic consulate. Dan's new missionary assignment will be that of serving as a seminary professor at Seminario El Reformador.

Ana continues to work as a medical assistant at Corwell hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. She hopes to enroll in an emergency medical technician program early next year. She is now a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Warren, Michigan. We give thanks to God for the great fellowship that she is receiving at this congregation.

Seminary El Reformador is getting geared up for the fall semester. The seminary currently has enrollees that represent eleven Latin American countries. The professors, staff, and seminarians look forward to an exciting academic year.

We thank you again for your support and prayers. Enclosed please find our prayer card and a photo of our seminarians that study at our seminary in the Dominican Republic. Your generosity provides materials and courses for these future pastors who will serve the Lord throughout Latin America. God's richest blessings!

"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews13:20,21)

In Christ.

Rev. Daniel and Kathy Conrad





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PASTOR'S EMAIL: brennan.deforest@ctsfw.edu
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 2023



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Missouri Sprod 750 Moss Avenue Chico, CA 95926

Kedeemer Ebangelical Lutheran Church