



Redeemer Lutheran Church

Crossroads

December 2024



Christmas Schedule

Mid Week Advent Worship with

December 4, 11, 18

7:00pm

On site and online

Christmas Eve

Mid Day Quiet Communion

12:15pm

Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion and Candlelight

7:00pm

On site and online

Special Music Begins a 6:30pm

Please Enter Quietly

Special Christmas Music will be presented beginning at 6:30pm on Christmas Eve. We are all excited to see one another and to celebrate Christmas, but please enter the sanctuary quietly. The choir and special musicians have worked hard and we should honor their gift to us. Other church members desire to listen, and talking and greeting can be a distraction. Please do your greeting and talking in the narthex and not in the sanctuary. Please refrain from taking pictures in front of the Christmas tree until after worship. Thank you.



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"All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth."

When I was a child, my parents had one of those multi-record sets put out, I think, by Reader's Digest that had scads of Christmas music on it, and one of the songs I vividly remember from those years so long ago was that one about the teeth. The singer purported to be a child who had lost their two front teeth, so every time they wished someone Merry Christmas, it came out as a whistle. O how we might long for those simpler times when that was the biggest problem we faced. I also suspect that that child's 'want' list for Christmas was a bit longer than just front teeth.

This past weekend, Nan and I were out doing some Christmas shopping, and to help us stay in the mood, I tuned the radio in my car to one of those stations that was already playing Christmas music, Pretty quickly, and somehow all in a row, we heard more songs about wanting things for Christmas.

As we made our way down the road, a song came on about wanting a hippopotamus for Christmas. The song begins:

*I want a hippopotamus for Christmas
Only a hippopotamus will do
I don't want a doll, no dinky Tinkertoy
I want a hippopotamus to play with and enjoy.*

It goes on from there. Throughout the song the singer's parents and teachers try to talk them out of it, saying that a hippopotamus wouldn't be good for the child, but the child insists.

That's like us so much of the time: we think we want something and then it turns out all wrong. Then, suddenly, we are stuck with a hippopotamus, and what then? We are so often so self-focused, so right-this-moment, so short-sighted. Perhaps God calls us to



look wider. Perhaps God calls us to consider our neighbors.

Somehow the next song on the radio was about wanting for Christmas too. This song was *We Need a Little Christmas*. Maybe you know how the song begins:

*Haul out the holly
Put up the tree before my spirit falls*

*again
Fill up the stocking
I may be rushing things, but deck the halls again now*

The refrain follows echoing how we need a little Christmas right now. It's a jaunty song that doesn't call for much introspection, at least not until you get to a later verse:

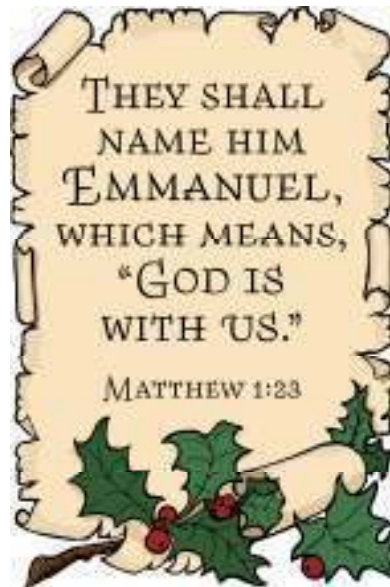
*For I've grown a little leaner, grown a little colder
Grown a little sadder, grown a little older
And I need a little angel sitting on my shoulder
Need a little Christmas now*

We know what it's like, particularly in our world of today, to grow a little leaner and colder, sadder and older. So maybe this song is one of the most profound Christmas songs there is. All too often, our world has not turned out like we thought it would. All too often, the disappointments and lost hopes have affected us. We do need a little Christmas now.

Then, amazingly, the next song was about wanting something for Christmas again. Only, this time, the song wasn't sung by us, but rather for us — at least the way I heard it. I don't think the song was written for this message, but it should have been. You see, Christmas is about Jesus come to us. He comes to save us, to be one with us that we might be one with him. Why? Because of the strength of his love for us.

So, back to the radio. It was Mariah Carey on the radio, but I heard the singer as Jesus. The song Jesus sings to us?

All I Want for Christmas Is You.





Debby Metz	12/1			Pat Blackwell	12/26
Evelyn Ashby	12/2			Laurah Shealy	12/26
Ashley Ferri	12/4			Charlotte Audette	12/27
Stephen Summer	12/4	Barry Stutts	12/15	Jean Cook	12/27
Douglas Bernhardt	12/6	Gary Byrd	12/17	Jase Martin	12/27
Richard Lagroon	12/6	Dianne Shealy	12/17	Rebecca Epting	12/28
Jayson Audette	12/7	Elliott Himel	12/18	Kelly Mitchell	12/29
Jason Martin	12/9	Wesley Cowan	12/20	Alan Schultz	12/29
Gerald Huckaby	12/10	Dorothy Pappas	12/21	Lindsay Small	12/29
Glenn McGuffin	12/13	Sandra Moore	12/24	Janis Baker	12/31
Lyle Campbell	12/15	Carole Jaeger	12/25		

In Appreciation

Leisure Timers Christmas Luncheon



Leisure Timer's Christmas Fun!

Mark your calendar for Thursday, December 19th at 12:00. It's time again for our Annual catered Christmas Luncheon!

You won't be disappointed in our entertainment! Yes! Jim Boatwright and Lois McLeod will take time out of their busy schedules to join us! Friends are always welcome. There will be a minimal cost for the meal. Watch for more details in the "Go and Serve" and the "eNewsletter"! Everyone planning to attend will need to sign up on the "Naughty" or "Nice" list. Remember... Redeemer welcomes all! (HO! HO! HO!)



Each month the Church Council recognizes and thanks those among us who have offered themselves to the work of the church in special ways. This month the council appreciated:

All those who **helped load a second truck in a month** full of donations for Williamsburg County!,

The **Property Action Team** who have made an intentional focus on our property to determine repairs and needs and taken action to get those things done,

Our nominees for Council who were willing to serve if elected: **Gary Byrd, Kathy Chartier, Holly May, Brian Metz, Martie Newmyer, and Martha Summer**, and to

This year's nominating committee: **Julie Crooks, Carroll Lorick, and Steve Summer**.



Inspire, Incarnate, Indwelling:

Advent Worship Service

For the first three Wednesdays in December we'll have an Advent worship service in the sanctuary starting a 7 pm. Our theme this year is Inspire, Incarnate, Indwelling: God Enters the World. As we prepare for Christmas, join us in exploring how God meets us where we are. God the creator, God the redeemer, and God the sustainer are ever present in our daily lives. Let's talk about how we experience that during the season of Advent.

Inspire, Incarnate, Indwelling: God Enters the World

Wednesday, December 4, 7:00 pm - Inspire: God the Creator

Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 pm - Incarnate: God the Redeemer

Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 pm - Indwelling: God the Sustainer



The Gift for The Person Who Has Everything

Looking for the gift to give that keeps on giving? Have you thought about ELCA Good Gifts? The ELCA Good Gifts program is an incredible way to honor someone while making a difference in our world!



ELCA Good Gifts has an assortment of gifts that can be given in memory or in honor of someone. These gifts are used both domestically, for projects here in the United States, and globally in nearly 90 countries. As Lutherans we believe that God is calling us into the world, and the Good Gifts program gives us an avenue to do this and to make a difference in communities around the world.

Throughout Advent, there will be Good Gifts Catalogues in the narthex or see Pastor Gary or Pastor Amanda for help. You can also find the catalogue online. If you have any questions about the gifts, their use, or ELCA World Hunger, don't hesitate to ask. And don't forget, when someone asks you for your Christmas wish list think about

Jim's Retirement Celebration

Although Jim's last Sunday on the organ bench with us will be at the end of December, a celebration to honor him will be on January 11, 2025.



Letters were sent to the congregation inviting contributions for a gift of appreciation to him. During the celebration, we will have a friendly 'roast' for Jim. Watch for more details as they become available, but mark the date down now!

Thursday Bible Study on Break

The last Thursday Bible Study before the Christmas break will be December 12. Bible Study will resume its study of Deuteronomy on January 9.





For your support of our Blessing Box! The **525 Players** are so glad to see so many of you for our recent production of “**A Parade of Short Plays**”. We deeply appreciate all the food and monetary gifts for our Blessing Box. Our Blessing Box is in much better shape now, thanks to your generosity. Let’s all do our part in providing food for those in our community in need.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

DECEMBER 8 AT 4:00 P.M.

Fellowship Center

Our Choral Scholars will be presenting a special program of Christmas Music!



This concert will benefit the ELCA Good Gifts program. All proceeds from this show will go to help support the ELCA’s outreach to displaced youth who are homeless. It’s not a category that gets a lot of attention, but our scholars feel strongly that they want to help these young people, who for a variety of reasons are without adequate housing.

And one more special musical announcement!

I’ve written a special Advent anthem entitled “Advent Acclamation” dedicated to the choirs and congregation of Redeemer Lutheran Church. It’s my way of saying thank you all for over ten years of being with you all and for being the awesome congregation that you are!

This triumphant piece features our handbell choir, our Adult Choir, Bailey Walker on trumpet, and Thomas McKinney on cello.

Thomas McKinney, Nancy’s very talented grandson, will accompany the anthem and playing the beautiful Bach *Arioso* during Communion.



Community Campfire and Carols

On Sunday, December 22nd, join us in the front area of Redeemer to sing some Christmas carols, enjoy a campfire, make s'mores, and build community! We'll

meet from 5:30-6:30 pm. Bring a lawn chair and a friend! If you're a musician and would like to help provide music contact Pastor Amanda. We're also looking for a few folks to help with the fire, s'mores, hot chocolate, etc. Also, yes, there is a plan if it rains! We will still meet, but inside the fellowship hall. If there is rain the event will mysteriously change to Candles and Carols!



If You are 70½ or Older....

then you may have an opportunity to support our church in a powerful way. If you have an IRA, once you reach the age of 70 and a half, you must make mandatory withdrawals which become taxable income to you. However, there is a way to make contributions from your IRA directly to the church without it becoming taxable income. Want to know more? Contact Yvonne Krouse at the church office for all the "how to's."



Special Music on Christmas Eve



We have a wonderful concert of Christmas

Music planned to make your Christmas

Eve more meaningful and special.

Join us at 6:30 and hear the bells, the brass, the choir, and more!

Thanksgiving And Christmas Food Boxes

Thanks to your generosity Redeemer provided 14

Thanksgiving turkey dinners to Seven Oaks Elementary School families.

We are now collecting for Christmas din-



ner boxes, if you'd like to sponsor a whole meal the price is \$60.00 per family. Any donations amounts are accepted, please mark them Christmas meals and put in the offering plate, mail or drop off in the office. We are also collecting those recycled fabric type shopping bags to deliver the meals to Seven Oaks, please place on the counter/island in the fellowship kitchen. Michelle Knight can answer any questions. Thank you for your support.

Share the Warmth Coat Drive



Brrrr! If you think that it feels colder, imagine those neighbors without a warm coat to wear! We have a lot of cold weather ahead! It will be great to meet our challenge of 100 coats! Please invite friends and family to join our challenge! Thanks for sharing

the warmth of your heart with our neighbors!



Breaking Down Big Churchy Words... and Ideas

When I went to seminary I felt like one of my primary textbooks should be a dictionary. There were so many long words that often had a much simpler meaning. There are also many concepts that I had to wrap my mind around as well. So, I figured we could look at these words and ideas together in a monthly newsletter article.

Let's look at *Core Values*

Throughout 2024 Redeemer's church council has been working on core values for our congregation. With the congregation's input four core values rose to the surface. At the annual meeting in November council presented these...

A faith community responding to God's grace by gathering for worship, prayer, and communion, creating a sense of belonging and spiritual growth.

A faith community providing a safe place which values diversity allowing people to laugh, celebrate, and care for each other with grace and generosity.

A faith community accompanying our neighbors through encouragement, learning, hospitality, and unconditional love.

A faith community leading through compassion and acceptance, and inviting others to explore their gifts and talents in service to God and others.

Over the coming months we'll explore these statements in a variety of ways. Thanks for joining in and exploring who we are as God's church here at Redeemer!

Blessings,

Pastor Amanda

If You are 70½ or Older....

then you may have an opportunity to support our church in a powerful way. If you have an IRA, once you reach the age of 70 and a half, you must make mandatory withdrawals which become taxable income to you. However, there is a way to make contributions from your IRA directly to the church without it becoming taxable income. Want to know more? Contact Yvonne Krouse at the church office for all the "how to's."



December Book Study Sunday Afternoon Book Study

During the month of December, the Sunday Afternoon Online Book Study will take a break. A new season

will start in January. Look for more information soon regarding which book and the start date!



Council Updated on Building Manager, and Music Director Search

The November meeting of the Church Council turned out not to be a good date for many, but the agenda was light, mostly featuring updates on several ongoing concerns.

After reports and deciding about celebrations and recognitions of appreciation, the Council was updated that the Property Action Team has a candidate to recommend for our Building Manager position. However, due to the poor attendance and the desire to be fully transparent, the Council delayed acting on this until more Council members could consider the proposal. Council will likely have a brief, special meeting to consider this soon.

Pastor Gary updated the Council on the process and state of the search for a new Music Director. Applications are coming in, and the Team will begin interviewing

after Thanksgiving.

Council affirmed the date of January 11 for a celebration for Jim Boatwright after his retirement and approved a letter to the congregation soliciting contributions toward a farewell gift to Jim.

The Council made sure things were in place for the 'Meal of Thanks' congregational dinner on November 24.

Finally, the Council decided that our Advent offerings will go to Lutheran Disaster Response of the Carolinas to help with Hurricane Helene relief.



- Building Manager considered
- Music search update
- January 11 celebration for Jim
- Advent Offerings to help with Hurricane Helene relief

By the Numbers

	October YTD 2024	October YTD 2023	October YTD 2022
Total income	\$426,138	\$418,359	\$390,561
Total expenses	\$440,289	\$431,674	\$485,865
Income less expense	(\$14,151)	(\$13,315)	(\$95,304)
Unrestricted Cash Balance	\$241,032	\$184,132	\$153,062
Attendance	Onsite: 93 Online: 86	Onsite: 89 Online: 93	Onsite: 122 Online: 93

Congregation Approves Spending Plan and Elects New Council Members

Redeemer's Annual Congregational Meeting for 2024 was held on November 10. During the meeting the 2025 Spending Plan was approved and Gary Byrd, Martie Newmyer, and Martha Summer were elected to Church Council. Next year's nominating committee will be Bill Newmyer and Linda Wells.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice @</p> <p>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>11:15am - Worship & Music @</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>		<p>6pm - HS Youth group @</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Practice @ Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - Handbell practice @</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support group @</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>10am - Concert Setup/Rehearsal</p>
<p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice @</p> <p>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>3pm - Concert Setup/Cleanup @</p> <p>4pm - Choral Scholars Concert @</p>	<p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>		<p>6pm - HS Youth group @</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Practice @ Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - Handbell practice @</p>	<p>10am - Thursday Bible Study @</p> <p>7pm - Thursday Bible Study @</p>	<p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>4pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>
<p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice @</p> <p>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>4pm - Church Council @ Large</p>	<p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>		<p>6pm - HS Youth group @</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Practice @ Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - Handbell practice @</p>	<p>12pm - Leisure Timers @</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support group @</p>	<p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>4pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>
<p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice @</p> <p>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>5:30pm - Campfire and Carols @</p>	<p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>7pm - Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>Agape Myanmar Christian Church</p>	<p>6pm - NAMI support group @</p>	<p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>4pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>
<p>8:45am - Faith Launch/Adult</p> <p>9:30am - Choir practice @</p> <p>10am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>12pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>4pm - Movie Night @ Fellowship</p>	<p>10:30am - Staff Meeting @ Front</p>	<p>Agape Myanmar Christian Church</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>6pm - HS Youth Group @</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Practice @ Choir</p> <p>7:30pm - Handbell practice @</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>6pm - NAMI support group @</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>6pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>	<p>10am - Agape Myanmar Christian</p> <p>4pm - Agape Myanmar Christian</p>

Giving Tree How To's

This year Redeemer is helping 7 families from Sharing God's Love with Christmas gifts that they would not be able to get for their children otherwise. Here's an opportunity for you to share some love...

1. Choose a gift from the online SignUp Genius. <https://relu.link/GivingTree2024> Purchase gift. Wrap or bag it.
2. Add the ID number from the SignUp Genius to the gift in a way that the number may be easily removed or covered. A tag with the child's name will be placed on the gift.
3. Option—Order gift online and have it sent to Redeemer. Give us your name and the gift number. We'll wrap the gift for you.



4. Important—Return gift to the church no later than Sunday, Dec 15!

5. Cash donations are needed to purchase a

\$50 gift card for the parents of each family. Include Giving Tree on check or envelope and put in the offering plate, give to an usher, or mail to church office.

Any questions as Pastor Amanda or Becky Lass (80.240.8883).

Christmas Thoughts....

You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries.

—Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

“He was created of a mother whom he created. He was carried by hands that he formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, he, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.”

—Augustine of Hippo

“He became what we are that we might become what he is.”

—Athanasius (4th century)

There are many of you ... who think to yourselves: “If only I had been there! How quick I would have been to help the Baby! I would have washed his linen. How happy I would have been to go with the shepherds to see the Lord lying in the manger!”

Yes, you would! You say that because you know how great Christ is, but if you had been there at that time, you would have done no better than the people of Bethlehem. ... Why don't you do it now? You have Christ in your neighbor. You ought to serve him, for what you do to your neighbor in need you do to the Lord Christ himself.

—Martin Luther

The Search for the New Music Director

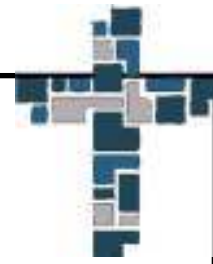
The Search for a New Music Director to Follow Jim after his retirement is under-



MUSIC DIRECTOR

way. Our Search Team has prepared the job description and had it approved by the Church Council. Next, they developed the interview process they will use. Then the opening has been advertised and some applications have arrived. After Thanksgiving, the Search Team will consider the applications and decide which candidates they would like to consider and interview. Please keep this group in your prayers. Members are: Pat Blackwell, Kathy Chartier, Dan Lowe, Martie Newmyer, Jason Roddey, Skip Smith, Pastor Amanda, and Pastor Gary.





Calendar

Always subject to change!

Faith Launch

Littles-5th Grade

Most Sundays, 8:45-9:30 am

Wednesday Night MS/HS Youth Group

6th-8th and 9th-12th grades

Wednesday, Dec 4, 2024 and Jan 8, 2025

Redeemer Fellowship Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm

Confirmation Class

7th-8th grades

Sunday, December 8, 2024

@Redeemer

1:00-4:00 pm

Wednesday Night HS Youth Group

9th-12th grades

Wednesday, December 11, 18, 2024

Redeemer Fellowship Hall, 6:00-8:00 pm

South Carolina Lutheran Kids Synod Event

1st-5th grades

Saturday, December 7, 2024

St. Stephen, Lexington, 10 am—3 pm

Making Treat Bags for the Homebound

Littles-5th grade and Parents

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Redeemer, 8:45-9:30 am

Caroling and Visiting Our Homebound

Littles-5th grade and Parents

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Meet at Redeemer, 4:00-6:00 pm

Trip to the Zoo

Littles-5th grade and Parents

Saturday, January 11, 2025

Meet at Redeemer 1:00-3:00 pm

South Carolina Middle School Retreat

6th-8th grades

Friday, Jan 24-Sunday, Jan 26, 2025

Camp Kinard

South Carolina Elementary School Retreat

1st-5th grades





Redeemer Lutheran Church

525 St. Andrews Rd
Columbia, SC 29210
(803) 772-5419
www.relu.church

Address Service Requested

Rev. Gary Loadholdt, Senior Pastor

Cell Telephone: 803-528-5693

pastorgary@relu.church

Rev. Amanda Burke, Associate Pastor

aburke@relu.church

Yvonne Krouse, Parish Financial

Administrator

ykrouse@relu.church

Jim Boatwright, Director of Music

jboat@relu.church

Judy Chapman, Parish Secretary

judy@relu.church

Sunday Services

8:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

2024 Congregation

Term Expires End of 2024

Bill Newmyer

Carol Valovcin

Linda Wells

Executive Committee

President

Bill Newmyer

Vice President

Diane Hunt

Treasurer

Todd Anderson

Secretary

Donna Nunamaker

Term Expires End of 2025

Kai Jørgensen

Fauni Lowe

Mike Parker

Term Expires End of 2026

Diane Hunt

Donna Nunamaker

Shannon Smith

Online Giving

Scan this symbol with your
smart phone to be con-
nected to our online giving

