

Newsletter – December 2023

Dear Saints of Redeemer,

“Time keeps on slippin’, slippin’, slippin; Into the future” (*Fly Like an Eagle*, The Steve Miller Band, 1976). Advent, Christmas, then 2024! Where has the year gone? So much to do, so little time to get ready for December’s festivities before we ring in the New Year.

Don’t blink or you’ll miss it. 2024 will be here before you know it. My suggestion: slow down. Take in the sights, the smells, the sounds of December. Be in the moment with those God puts on your path. Bask in the celebration of our Savior’s birth.

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2.14, KJV). Or, more literally ... “peace among those with whom he is pleased” (ESV). God is pleased with you because of His eternal, only begotten Son. Jesus’ incarnation brings real and lasting peace among the chaos in our lives because this sweet, tiny, perfect little bundle of boy-joy born to Mary in the city of David is your Savior, Christ the Lord (Luke 2.11).

The cosmic peace treaty between God and you and all mankind was ratified on the cross of Christ. God is indeed pleased with you, and nothing in or of this world can change that.

Because we have peace with God, we really do share in His peace with one another. Together, we stand before the altar of God with contrite hearts to be absolved of sins that otherwise might keep us from knowing God’s peace in Christ and separate us from each other. We all kneel at the altar of the Most High who dwells among us to be joined together in His eternal life as the one Body of Christ. In Him is the peace that passes all understanding.

By the end of this year, it will be just over seven months when I first stepped into the Office of the Ministry as your vacancy pastor. Time really does keep slipping into the future, and I have enjoyed every second of it. Before accepting the vacancy, I wasn’t so sure if I’d ever want to return to the ministry. You have reinvigorated my yearning for the ministry once again. As I write this final newsletter article to you, my fervent prayer is that in this high and humble calling I’ve been given, I have impressed upon you through the preaching and teaching of God’s Word that you have a clear conscience before God. His peace and His favor rests on you because your Savior is born! I will continue to pray for you, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we look to the future and the challenges before Redeemer Lutheran.

Those challenges will present themselves in due time. Until then, “cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you” (1 Peter 5.7), and rejoice in Jesus, the “reason for the season.” Take a deep breath. Be refreshed and restored by the angel’s announcement as we move through Advent and the Christmas season.

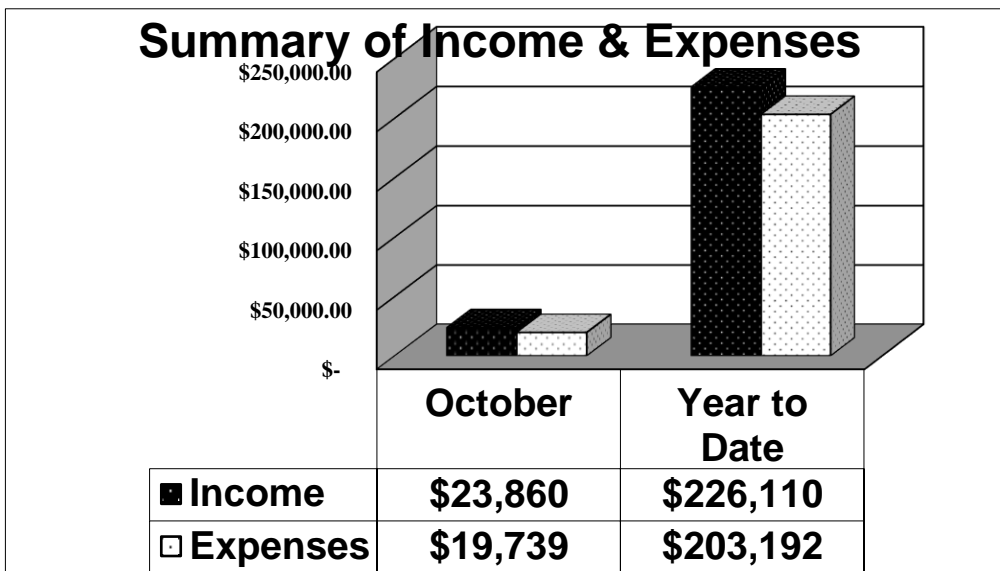
Time may very well slip into the future. But, if we’re intentional with our time, spending some of it in personal prayer and devotion and corporate worship throughout these weeks and month, it

won't slip by unnoticed. As tomorrow becomes today, we will know, dare I say as a confessional Lutheran, we will "feel" the peace of God's presence in our muddled lives. The complexion of our spirit will be brightened by God's love for us in the birth of our Savior.

From me to you, God bless your Advent preparations as we look for the coming of our Lord in glory. His peace to you during our Christmas celebration. Be always rooted in Him. And, on that Day when all time stops slipping into the future, you will see the Lord Jesus face to face and enter into His joy in body and soul.

In service to Christ and His saints,
Pastor Brassfield

Financial Update



Your 2024 Offering Envelopes are now available. We ask that you take your packet as soon as possible so that we can decorate for Christmas. PLEASE DO NOT use your envelopes until January as your # (number) may have changed. All offerings for 2023 should be received in the church office by December 30th.

Winter Weather

As winter weather is upon us again there might be a time when worship or other activities may need to be canceled. Every effort will always be made to have worship. Since the most likely time to cancel something would be on a weekend we have learned that it is easier to contact some media outlets over others on the weekend. We will try to make sure every TV station has our information, but WBAY (channel 2) and NBC26 will be the first place that information will be posted along with Redeemer's Facebook page.

Remember: Packs of Christmas Cards are available at the card rack!

Executive Board Update

Annual Voters Meeting: Our annual voters meeting will be on December 10th following services.

Board Elections: At our voters meeting on December 10th, we'll be looking to elect a new president and one of the non-director titled Executive Board Member positions. Please prayerfully consider nominations for these positions and/or your time and talents and your ability to serve the congregation as a member of the Executive Board.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss these board positions, please reach out to any of the board members.

Your Executive Board members:

- President: Mike Kaczowski (term ends 12/2023)
- Treasurer: John Brixius
- Director of Spiritual Growth/Board Vice President: Kyle Olson
- Director of Education/Fellowship: Beth Utecht
- Director of Property & Legal: Kyle Weidmayer
- Executive Board Member: Lisa Van Sickle (term ends 12/2023)
- Executive Board Member: Lee Matthias

It has been an interesting four years serving Redeemer on the Executive Board. As a congregation, we adapted and survived covid thanks to Zoom meetings and live streaming services, we came back from covid, we modified and approved our Constitution, Pastor DeArmond received and took a call, and as of this writing, we are working through the call process. We were blessed with our vacancy pastor, Pastor Brassfield, who has lead and served us since last May, preaching the word of God and keeping us in Christ and faith. I wish him the best as he has accepted a Divine call to Good Shepherd in Two Rivers, moving there in January. Redeemer is also blessed to have members that have been able to keep us together in community and in Christ through technology, have served in all the various staff, board, Sunday school, musical director, committee, other mission and support positions, and a passionate, committed membership all wanting to do what is best for God's Church, through Redeemer Lutheran Church.

As many of you know, Debbie and I moved last November and now live outside of Kiel in the southwestern part of the county. We feel blessed to be members of Redeemer. We are unsure if we will remain members or join a congregation closer to home. Our sons went to our preschool and our faith and the congregation/church have been a positive 'cornerstone' in our lives as we've navigated the past 29+ years. No matter what we decide, we will keep Redeemer in our thoughts and prayers, and we wish you all the best. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Kaczowski



Advent/Christmas Schedule

- Midweek Advent Services will be on Wednesday December 6th, December 13th, and December 20th all at 6:00 PM.
- Christmas Eve Worship: Sunday, December 24th at 3:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M.
- Christmas Day Worship: 9:00 A.M. on Monday, December 25th.
- The weekend of December 31st, 2024 there will only be one worship service at 9:00 A.M. with no Monday worship.
- January 7th, 2024 will resume our regular worship schedule.

Holiday Office Hours

Friday, Dec. 22: 9:00am-12:00pm

Monday, Dec. 25 – Tuesday, Jan. 2: Office Closed

Wednesday, Jan. 3: Regular office hours resume
8:00am-1:00pm



Epiphany Bonfire

Please join us for a bonfire at Redeemer Lutheran on Friday January 5th from 6-7p.m. We are remembering the Magi visiting Jesus by burning old real Christmas trees. S'mores and hot beverages will be provided.



We Need Ushers!

We need ushers! It is getting tougher and tougher to fill our schedule. It is a pretty straight forward task to serve your fellow church members on a Sunday or Monday. Handing out bulletins, lighting the candles and ushering communion are the key responsibilities. If you are interested, please let Mike Kaczowski or one of the other board members know. We will set up training for those that sign up, and anyone currently ushering that would like a refresher course. Thank you!

Poinsettias



We will once again be decorating Church to celebrate the birth of our Savior! If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for Church, please sign up on the clipboards at the Welcome Center by **December 3rd**. Please fill out your name on the clipboard, put money in the envelopes (PLEASE put name and envelope number on your envelope) and leave the envelopes in the brown box. Thank you! The plant sizes and prices are listed below:

4" White Poinsettia: \$6

6.5" Red Poinsettia: \$11

8" Planter containing foliage plants and poinsettia: \$16

Swag w/ cones, berries, and bow: \$14

Family Ministry Donations

Family Ministry is looking for donations of candy canes (about 100), snacks (Peanut butter crackers, applesauce etc.---total of 100), candy and little trinkets (pencils, erasers, stamps) that will be used for three different events. Some will be used for the St. Nick's visit, other goodie bags are given to kids after the Sunday School Christmas Service and bags are handed out after the Christmas Eve and Christmas Services. Please put donations in the box by the welcome center. If you have any questions, talk to Beth Utecht or Johanna Harris.

St. Nicholas on Dec. 6th

St. Nicholas will be at Redeemer Lutheran's First Advent Service on December 6! Invite children to bring any extra pair of shoes that night to be left below the TV at the entrance to church.

**CHILDREN CAN HELP DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREES DURING
ADVENT SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH!**

Redeemer Lutheran Church

1712 Menasha Ave., Manitowoc, WI Phone: 920-684-3989

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00am-1:00pm

Senior Pastor: Zachary DeArmond (Home: 629-4833)

Associate Pastor: Scott Hirssig (Home: 629-2949)

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1)	2)
3) Worship 9am Sunday School 10am	4) Worship 6pm	5) Men's Bible Study 7am Finance 8:15am Women's Bible Study 9am	6) Advent Service (St. Nick) 6pm	7)	8)	9) STS to Clipper City Chordsmen 3pm
10) Worship 9am Voter's Meeting 10am Sunday School 10am	11) Worship 6pm	12) Men's Bible Study 7am Finance 8:15am Women's Bible Study 9am	13) Advent Service 6pm	14) Exec. Board Meeting 6:30pm	15)	16)
17) Worship 9am (Children's Program)	18) Worship 6pm	19) Men's Bible Study 7am Finance 8:15am Women's Bible Study 9am	20) Advent Service 6pm	21)	22) Office Hours 9am-12pm	23)
24) Worship 9am Christmas Eve Worship 3pm and 5pm	25) Christmas Worship 9am Office closed this week	26)	27)	28)	29)	30)
31) Worship 9am Sunday School 10am	Jan. 1) No Worship Office Closed	Jan. 2) Office Closed	Jan. 3) Regular office hours resume 8am-1pm	Jan. 4)	Jan. 5) Epiphany Bonfire 6pm	Jan. 5)

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