

FROM THE PASTOR:

It's hard to believe that 2011 will soon be behind us! So many would've's, could've's, should've's that come to mind to haunt us, to sober us, to weigh us down, to get us to give up. Paul's inspired words from God surely give us wisdom: *"The one thing I do is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize, which is God's call through Christ Jesus to the life above"* (Phil. 3:13,14). It's a new church year already (we're in Advent) and we have the newness of spirit that Jesus' birth brings into the world - into us - as we meditate on it. For God's timing was perfect in having the Savior come to set us free (Gal. 4:4,5). We have a new start in Jesus: *"for when anyone is joined with Christ, he is a new creation; behold, the old is gone, the new*

has come" (II Cor. 5:17). We have a glorious year ahead of us with His Grace, Mercy, and Power promised by Him to be poured out upon us, and through us to others.

I'm excited about the new year ahead for us in Christ. Challenging? Yes! Exciting? For sure! Stretching out with Jesus' love? Most definitely! Victorious? Promised in Jesus' goodness overcoming evil! (John 16:33; Rom. 12:21; I John 5:4,5).

It's another year...another beginning...another growing with the awareness of God's Son, Jesus, in the world...in us.

A blessed Christmas renewal to us all,
Pastor & Ann Koehler

Our Advent schedule for getting together in God's Grace:

Each Wednesday - Nov. 30th A Coming In The Flesh (Matt. 9:13)
Dec. 7th A Coming In Spirit (Rom. 1:16)
Dec. 14th A Coming In Power (Rev.22:20)



We meet at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for supper (thanks, Fellowship Committee) and the worship service starts at 7 p.m. We continue to offer a service at 12:30 p.m. also on each of these Wednesdays.

Christmas Eve Services are Sat., Dec. 24th, at 6:30 p.m. (Nativity Enactment) and 10 p.m. (Candlelight with Holy Communion)

Christmas Day is Sunday (Dec. 25th) with only ONE worship service at 11:00 a.m. with Holy Communion.



Redeemer Lutheran Church
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Website: www.embracedbyHim.org

AS YOU PREPARE FOR CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR, reflect on who you know that does not attend church, or do not know the love and power of Christ. Try to be intentional about how you share your faith with at least one of those people during the Advent Season. Pray to be open to the opportunities that are given to you so that you may share the joy of knowing Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Will You Be Ready When Jesus Returns? - Anonymous

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name:
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late:
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight:
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear:
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

FROM OUR ASSISTANT PASTOR - Pastor Rob Carter

Reading either Matthew 25:14-30 or Luke 19:12-28 we hear the Parable of the Talents. They are a message that speaks to us about using the gifts that have been entrusted to us, and how those gifts will grow or be taken away.

In them we are introduced to three men, each who have been entrusted with an amount equal to their abilities and the responsibility that they have with their master. Just as we are given those same amounts of resources, gifts, and opportunities as we live our lives that God has apportioned for us.

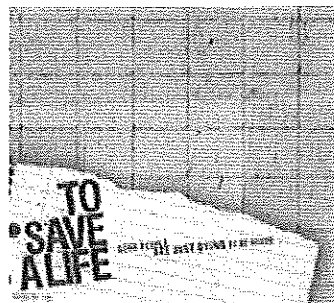
Hearing that one man only received a single talent may make you think that he was given too little, but in comparing what that was worth and the time when he was living, a man could live at the subsistence level for many years with that amount of money. He in fact has been given a great deal. His error was not in receiving only a little, it was in not trusting that he should do something with it. He hid it, buried his talent in the ground and it was worth no more when the master came back than when it had been given to him.

Reading further on in the parable we learn first that the man entrusted with five talents has earned five more, and that the man entrusted with two talents has earned two more, so if you did not already know the outcome of this parable you would be anticipating that the man with one talent would be earning one more. But he will not, he is afraid and worried that his master will punish him if he risks the talent, so he does not even do the least risky thing of putting it into a bank and at least earning a little interest.

What are you holding onto that God has placed into your care? Being afraid, living in fear can keep us from using the gifts that God has placed in our lives. We are worried about what will happen if we make a recommendation at work, worried about what will happen if we consider selling our home and moving for a job or to be nearer to family. Moving beyond worry to anger and at times disappointment because we have not gotten promotions, raises, opportunities that we felt were deserved. Feeling that life is unfair, that we are not getting our fair share, and not trusting that God is providing for us exactly what we need at the time because it is not what we want or hope for.

Proverbs 3:5-6 is a comfort for the fearful man as well as each of us, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Trust the Lord has given you talents and abilities so that you can glorify his name, brought people into your life so that you can be a source of encouragement and strength, given you more because you have trusted and multiplied what has already been given. Know that as we live trusting in what has been given to us by God, knowing that the gift of salvation comes to us through the death and resurrection of Christ, we have the promise of the eternal treasure of life with God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

India Update: This month we sent a letter to the Headmistress at the I.E.L.C. Middle School in Tamilnadu, India introducing ourselves and asking where we can partner with them throughout this coming year. Please continue to pray for the students, teachers, and their families as they come together to learn and grow in faith there. Next month we should be able to share with you their response.



In January we will be having two showings of **"To Save A Life"**. The first for parents on January 6th at 6 p.m. and then for Middle School & High School students and their friends on January 21st at 6 p.m. We will be providing "free tickets" to our children and asking that they distribute them to their friends to invite them to this event. This film portrays many of the pressures that are placed on children as they grow up in school and become members of different social groups, are bullied, and are tempted to not follow rules or to drink alcohol while underage. You can learn more about the film and begin to discuss the issues that it brings up from the material posted on its website <http://tosavealifemovie.com/>.

The Vicar Page

Christians Aren't "Sinners" Qualification

Last month, I wrote an article called "Christians Aren't 'Sinners.'" First, let me say thank you for the feedback I received from many of you. Thank you especially to those of you so concerned about the wellbeing of this body of Christ to approach me about the soundness of my arguments.

My assertion was that Christians aren't labeled "sinners" in God's eyes once Christ claims them. At that point, according to 2 Corinthians 5:21, we're the very "righteousness of God." We're no longer identified by the sins we commit, but instead by Christ's righteousness in us.

Any question about the soundness of this theological claim, I discovered, stemmed from differing understandings of the word "sinner."

I'm not saying Christians do not sin. We absolutely do. However, we should in no way be comfortable with the statement, "I'm a Christian and I sin." It isn't logical. It's a paradox. In Christ, we're perfect in God's eyes. But we still sin. The mystery of living in a cursed creation is that we do still suffer the effects of the Fall until Christ comes again to fulfill his redemption of the world.

In the meantime, we're righteous in God's eyes, because we're in a constant state of forgiveness in Christ. We were dead in sin, but now are alive in Christ. By his death and resurrection, we're given infinite grace from God. Our Father no longer knows us as "sinners" but as his beloved children by the blood of his perfect Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

Intergeneration Communication

One of the first things I noticed about Redeemer (and thanked God for) when I arrived was its generational diversity. Young families and youth passionate about worship is practically unheard of anymore. Yet, Redeemer has a wide range of generations that make up its body.

As much as that impressed me, though, I was completely floored when I went to ROOTS and saw all the intergenerational interaction. Seasoned Christians actively aid the growth of younger believers. Passive involvement is one thing. But active involvement is truly noteworthy.

I'll tread lightly when I say, "*veteran*" members of the congregation pour out their time and energy to be a part of the devotional development of the young 'uns of Redeemer. It's plain that Redeemer's membership recognizes the endless value of spiritual development through personal relationships, and not just through efforts of professional staff.

Redeemer's staff is invaluable to the faith cultivation of the congregation. However, they are not the body of Christ by themselves. Rather, all of us together are united under Jesus' headship to serve one another. The unity of the *entire* church is vital to our growth as individuals and as a body.

I'm sure many of you are aware of the growing discord between adolescents and the Church today. Any number of explanations can be explored, but space and time don't allow. Here, I'm not seeking a rationale for this phenomenon; I'm seeking a response.

Youth, let's ascend to maturity. Adults, let's facilitate further growth in our younger members. A proactive "hello." A handshake. A question into a lifestyle not your own. An informal mentorship. Simple, intentional relationship-building measures between age groups will make our fellowship soar as the body of Christ.

Let's grow from goodness to greatness. The younger generations at Redeemer do not need to be pitied for the secular obstacles before them. They need to be given a voice in the silence, to be equipped as a light in the darkness. They walk freely through places with rigid age restrictions, where many of us dare not trespass. They have a mission field all their own.

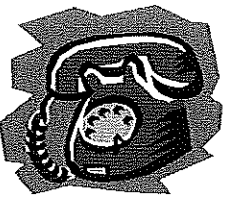
Let's prepare our youth for their ministry at hand. Let's foster their home and refuge at Redeemer. Most importantly, let's foster their relationship with Christ through our intergenerational relationships.

A NEW DAYTIME LADIES SMALL GROUP, focusing on care, support, and the Word, will begin in January. If you are interested, please call Barbara Pauls at 540-898-8336.

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE will sponsor a Family History & Genealogy Seminar on Sat., January 14th, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. For more information please contact Carmen Billings @ 540-891-6568.

REDEEMER QUILTERS: The Redeemer quilters will not meet in December; however this dedicated group of ladies will meet on the 21st of January, 2012.

THE TELECARE MINISTRY needs volunteers who are willing to make regular phone calls to members of the church. If you have an hour a month to make phkne callse, this is the ministry for you! As a Telecare caller, you will be showing Christ's love and care to members through your calls. Think about how nice it would be to know that someone in the church is thinking about you and wondering how you are doing. Call Dee Allen, 540-972-4958, to find out more information about this ministry.



CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT REHEARSALS

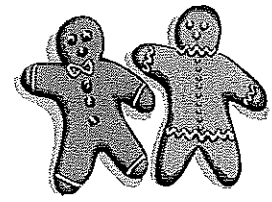
Rehearsals will be held on Sundays, December 4, 11, & 18 following the 2nd service for chidren ages 3 through 6th grade. Costumes will be handed out at the Dec. 4th rehearsal. Any students in grades 7-12 who would like to participate by being a reader or an acolyte at either the 6:30 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, let Mrs. Koehler, Music Director, know. Readers for the 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service will rehearse with the pageant participants on Sunday, Dec. 18, after the 2nd service.



Joy to the World

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP FOR DECEMBER:

A special thanks to all who have shared their time & talents to bake and bring in treats for Sunday morning fellowship during the Fall Season! Sunday, the 11th & 18th of December will be our Christmas cookie sampling fellowships. There will be sign-up sheets on the table outside the church office to volunteer to bring in two dozen of your favorite Christmas cookie to share during fellowship time after the first service. Just drop the cookies off in the Fellowship Hall by 9 a.m. that morning. Any questions? Please call Anita Diederer @ 540-361-7678.



WE CONTINUE TO HELP a few of the many families that call us for financial help during these continued difficult times. Since our last Christ's People Report newsletter, we've been able to help the following families:

13 families with utilities	\$749.59
2 famlies with water/sewer	125.00
1 cong. family utilities/water	348.78
<hr/>	
16 families with 23 children	\$1223.37

With winter and cold weather coming, the requests for help become more critical. Our special offerings - Advent, Thanksgiving Day, & Christmas Eve go into this Social Ministries Fund to help these families.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

2 - Patrick Crowley
2 - Claudine Wilcox
3 - Andrew Walker
4 - Melissa Berndt
4 - Allyson Baker
4 - Michelle Stone
4 - Allison Weiland
6 - Karen Smith
6 - Mike Evenson
7 - Stacie Biscamp
7 - Todd Miller
9 - Sue Overbey
9 - Frank Murphy



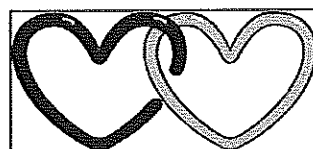
15 - Jennifer Miller
15 - Keith Dixon
15 - Ann Dudley

15 - Jennifer Koehler
16 - Mat Smith
17 - Eric Keefer

19 - Paul Sprick
20 - Ann Koehler
21 - Philip Wilttenmuth
22 - Eric Rhodes
23 - Stephanie Biscamp
23 - Sandra Heidel
23 - Ryan Hymes
23 - Rebecca Richey
23 - Alicia Crowley
27 - Richard Fredenburgh
29 - Tyler Fehrman
30 - Eric Church
31 - Audrey Schmidt

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

4 - Jason & Susan Biscamp
5 - Ted & Erni Smith
11 - James & Kimberly Beck
16 - David & Peggy Carlson
17 - Joe & Marge Barrales
18 - Allen & Faith Marburger



24 - Mike Eastman & Barbara Buck
25 - Randy & Peggy Stallard
27 - John & Bettye Garner
27 - Ted & Dotty Johnston
30 - Todd & Jennifer Miller

DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER we were blessed to be a part of the Lord's adopting into His family of faith through Holy Baptism:



NOAH EDWARD TENNSTEDT
Infant son of Catherine & Jason
Little brother of Aiden
On Sunday, November 6, 2011

And

RYDER HUDSON ANTHONY
Infant son of Sandra & Christopher
Little brother of Hunter
On Sunday, November 20, 2011



Our thanks to our members for their help during the month of December:

USHER SCHEDULE - Early

Dec. 4 - Ed Grandowski (Lead)
Tom Church, Jason Biscamp, Mike Evenson
Dec. 11 - Ken Petermann (Lead)
Jim Pittman, Kirk Hymes, Dave Hunter
Dec. 18 - Ed Grandowski (Lead)
John Uschold, Don Schumann, Mike Weiland

CHRISTMAS EVE (Late) - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
CHRISTMAS DAY (11 a.m.) - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If you are unable to usher on your assigned date, please arrange for your replacement. ****Note**** Additional ushers are welcome to participate in this important ministry. Contact Tom Barlow, 1st Service Coordinator, 804-742-5315.

USHER SCHEDULE - Late

Dec. 4 - Glenn Weaver, Mark Fife, Greg Brown
Dec. 11 - R.O.M.A.N.S.
Dec. 18 - Mark Fife, Jerry Limerick, Mike Diederer

Volunteers needed! Please call Mark Fife, 2nd Service Coordinator, 786-2336 and leave a message or email to chofudgeman1@yahoo.com if you can help.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

EARLY:

Dec. 4 - Ryan Tutchings/Tyler Fehrman
Dec. 11 - Devon Montgomery/Maeve Montgomery
Dec. 18 - Miqueas Vigil/Zechariah Vigil

LATE:

Dec. 4 - Cara Gasperoni/Kacey Schwenzer
Crucifer - Emma Leidy
Dec. 11 - Mathew Zimmerman/Christian Hovda
Crucifer - Josiah Koehler
Dec. 18 - Trejon Edmonds/Philip Wiltenmuth
Crucifer - Tion Edmonds

Christmas Day, One Service:

11:00 a.m. - Eric Weiland/Abigail Durham

LAY READERS:

Dec. 4 - Keith Verbosky (E) - II Peter 3:8-14
Dec. 11 - Faith Marburger (L) - I Thess. 5:16-24
Dec. 18 - David Montgomery (E) - Romans 16:25-27
Dec. 25 - Assisting Elder - Hebrews 1:1-6

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE IN OCTOBER:

	Church	Sun. Sch.
2011	327	130
2010	330	128
2005	318	139
2000	237	118
1980 (1st yr.)	50	35





ZION PRAISE TABERNACLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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November 9, 2011

Redeemer Lutheran Church
5120 Harrison Rd.
Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Dear Rev. Koehler:

Re: Thank You for the Bus Donation

On behalf of the Leadership and members of Zion Praise, I want to express my thanks and appreciation for your generous donation to our church. Your donation means so much to us as a new Ministry, but even more to the outreach effort. You have truly made a difference in someone's life with your donation.

As a new Ministry, one of our challenges was the need for transportation to get our members to and from Worship Services. Almost a year ago, we had transported our members with only 2 vehicles which limited us from picking-up everyone who needed a ride including visitors. We are grateful that through you and your congregation God has taken care of this great need. **To God be the Glory!**

The bus will be used to transport our members from various locations including the Shelter. Also, your cash donation was used to pay for one year insurance on the bus.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

Jacob Harris, Mission Developer

November Preschool News

October seemed a perfect time to continue talking about all the Lord has made. His season of Fall is most amazing. The Lord had a beautiful paint brush, when He painted the leaves brilliant reds, oranges, and yellows. The Lord made bright orange pumpkins grow on vines on the ground, while shiny red apples grow up high in the trees. The Lord had everything planned perfectly.

This month, we read the Bible Story "*Noah and the Ark*." This story led us into the study of the colors of the rainbow; and how the colors always remain in a certain order. The rainbow is a sign that the Lord is always there with us.

On Friday, October 21st, our three 4 Year Old Classes took their first field trip to Snead's Farm. Our field trip to the Great Pumpkin Patch was fantastic! The children enjoyed a full day; feeding the chickens bread; feeding the calves milk; climbing on hay bales in the barn; swinging on ropes in the hay barn; picking their own pumpkins off the vine; and especially riding the hay wagon around the farm.

In November, we will be learning about Indians, Pilgrims and The First Thanksgiving. November is the month we give a special thank you to our Lord and to our families, people who love and care for us.

God bless you