

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATING 111 YEARS OF MINISTRY



Redeemer Lutheran Church
The Rev. Richard A. Mathisen, Interim Pastor

246 Hulmeville Avenue
Pennel, PA 19047
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

WORSHIP SERVICES 9:30 AM

Communion Sunday's

1/3/16, 1/17/16, 1/31/16

Undecorate the Church 1/9/16

Annual Cookoff 1/16/16

Annual Meeting 1/24/16



January 2016

Pastor's Page

From the Pastor

The Season of Epiphany

Every year, after the 12 Days of Christmas end on January 5, we begin on January 6 the church season we call "Epiphany." So, what's an "epiphany"? An epiphany is an "aha" moment, the light bulb going on in your head, the sudden realization of something that you hadn't realized before.

We may think "epiphanies" will never happen to us. But they do, all the time. We never know just when and where God is going to pop up, do we? We can never predict when the veil is suddenly going to part and grant us a glimpse of glory in the midst of the mundane. If we look at the world through the eyes of expectant faith, we might discover God in all sorts of unexpected places.

A friend of mine was present at the birth of his daughter. They went to the hospital and he settled in for the long labor. Occasionally, he'd slip out to get a drink of water. There he discovered that another woman was also giving birth at the same time. Every few minutes, her husband would dash into the birthing room to check on his wife. Then he'd hurry down the hallway to the waiting room. It turned out he was watching a basketball game on television. During commercials, he'd check on his wife!

Now, that seems like a poor sense of priorities! To choose watching TV rather than being present at the miracle of a new life, a time when the finger of God so clearly touches human existence. But, of course, all of us have probably made the same kind of poor choices, looking the other way while God is being revealed within arm's reach. Whether we see it or not, the world is fraught with God's presence, pregnant with God's glory.

The Day of Epiphany technically refers to the Star, commemorated on January 6, when God's presence was revealed to the Three Wise Men. The First Sunday after the Epiphany is the celebration of the "Baptism of our Lord," occurring this year on January 10, and is a church festival. It marks the "epiphany" during the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptizer when a voice from heaven declares that Jesus is God's beloved Son. The season of Epiphany ends with Transfiguration

Sunday, the last Sunday before Lent. Transfiguration Sunday commemorates the day when Jesus' mission is revealed to the disciples on a mountaintop with Moses and Elijah, when a voice from heaven speaks again.

The Season of Epiphany reminds us that we are never far from God. Even when we cannot see it, we are surrounded by the angels of God. All around us God is working incognito in the ebb and flow of ordinary life. And once in a while we are blessed with a clear vision of God's nearness -- on a mountaintop -- or in a birthing room. And that's what Epiphany is all about.

Have a great Epiphany season!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mathisen



Prayer Concerns

Members: Charlene Williams, Josephine Weiss, Jim and Helen Susko, Alice Skinner, Jane & Lynn Leppo, Marty Ditcher, Barbara Kissinger, Dee Grover, Lenore Miller, Doris Parfitt, Donald Robinson, Christina Jackson, Carol Samuels-Stout, Pat Gallagher, Linda Winter, Charles Olson, Michelle Morris, Gary Overbagh, Ruth Schwartz, Blanche Short.

Relatives and Friends of our Members: Ray Gould, Tracey Yepello, Jerry and Bernadine Messenger, Marie Trainor, Michelle Manrodt, Christina Hughes, Codey Erb, Catherine Kelly, Rosemarie Jester, Bernice Mazur, Susan Marion, Tom Gallagher, Dennis Green, Debbie Norman, Karen Flynn, Ginny Fritz, Rachel Frasca, Jose Ruiz, Jay Messenger, Dennis Finn, Barbara Bielak, Henry and Arlene Krajewski, Dick Bolinski, Mary Gruppioni, Marietta Williams, David Bakos, John Hrywnak, Thomas Hemphill, Amanda Lyons, Patti Kinsley, Patricia Paul, Jennifer Maroun, Myrt Dinda, William Gardiner, Terry Lee, Dana Stone, William and Marjane Engle, Beth Ohr, Fred Winter, John Gruppioni and Elaine Reese, Patti Hiller, Lorrie Marten, Lonnie Johnson.

Remember in Your Prayers Pastor and staff of Redeemer, and our Nations Leaders:

Remember in your Prayers our Members and Friends Serving In the Military: Ron Skoczylas, Chad Durban, Bryan Oser, Joseph Piel, Derrick Stone, Mason Burgess.

Prayer Initiative for January

On January 10, 2016 we will pray for:

Lynda Jones & children Kevin Jones, Charles Jones & Brian O'Connell, Cindy O'Connell & children Daniel, William & Abby Clark, Richard & Jennifer O'Connell and children Kyra & Patrick, Iene Kersten, Charles & Barbara Kissinger, Donna Kistner

On January 24, 2016 we will pray for:

Linda Lee, Andrew Leppo, Jane & Lynn Leppo, Michael Leppo, Jean Lippincott, Carol Lipson, Edith Williams, Kristie Mabin, Janet Maher, Margaret Manrodt, Marsie McMullen & children Travis & James, Henry Pfeil

Parish Register

Dear Friends of Redeemer Lutheran Church,

Bucks County Housing Group Board of Directors, staff and client families wish to thank you for your generous donation eight \$25 (total \$200) Redners gift cards for Thanksgiving meals made on 11/18/15.

Your support in our mission and choosing BCHG for your donation is greatly appreciated. BCHG has been serving homeless and impoverished residents since 1979. Our Pennel shelter clients will benefit from your generosity. Thank you for your support in helping us to accomplish our work with our impoverished neighbors.

Sincerely,
Kathleen, Dorrian, Client Resource Coordinator



Dear People of Redeemer,

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and support during all of my eye surgeries, and also for the kind expressions of sympathy at the loss of my mother-in-law, Joan Gallagher. Tom and I are thankful we have Redeemer in our lives.

God Bless You All,

Pat Gallagher



Annual Reports are due

Please submit your report to me by January 6, 2016. Please send your report by email. If you need help I will be happy to type this for you, just let me know. Holly.

Parish Register continued



Natalie Grace Schmidt was baptized on October 25, 2015. She is the daughter of Brian and Meghan Schmidt, and little sister to Hailey.



Recently Baptized

WELCA News



Thank you to everyone who participated and to everyone who donated to the WELCA thank offering held Thanksgiving week. We were able to send \$168.00 to the national Women of the ELCA.

Thank you to everyone who baked or purchased cookies at our annual Christmas Cookie Walk. Your very generous help makes this event possible. All proceeds go to Redeemer's current fund.

Our Next Meeting Date is January 19, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the parish hall. Devotions will be offered by Kay Robinson, with refreshments by Kay Robinson, Dolores Hoppe, and Ruth Samuels. Our program will be presented by our own Linda Bartleson with health information we all need. Mark your calendar and come out on Tuesday the 19th – even if you have never been to a WELCA meeting in the past.

All Redeemer women are welcome.

Christian Education/Sunday School

Happy New Year! Hope you all had a very blessed Christmas, a wonderful time with family and friends and are raring to get back to Sunday school! Our classes for the youth resume Sunday January 3, 2016 in the book of Genesis, Joseph in Egypt.

Thank you to the children, their parents, the high school youth and the congregation for their participation and attendance at our annual Sunday School Christmas pageant! The children worked very hard and this was the first year for this group everyone who could read had a speaking role. Well done!

Once again for our service project, Kids helping kids, the SCS sponsored a child from the angel tree and also wrote letters to servicemen. Part of being a disciple of Jesus is doing things for others and these are just two of the projects we do in Sunday school to encourage our kids to serve. *Our year long service project is collecting school supplies for the Bucks County Housing Group. If you would like to help support this worthy cause please bring in school items or to make a monetary donation place it in an envelope marked "SCHOOL SUPPLIES." The goal is to fill school bags for those in need with the necessary tools to have a great start for next year.*

The weather has been kind to us so far but if we do have inclement weather and need to cancel Sunday school and worship you will be notified by me via text or email or someone on the phone chain. Parents please give Denise Robinson your cell number (the numbers will only be used for SCS) to receive immediate info by text for cancellations or let her know the method of contact you would prefer. Let's hope we don't need to use this!

DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY- start saving egg cartons for resurrection eggs

2nd – Un-decorate the church

3rd - Lesson--- Joseph in Egypt--- Genesis 40-45

10th – YOUTH IN WORSHIP; Baptism of Jesus celebrated; God's Global Barnyard

16th –Evangelism cook off fellowship

17th - Joseph in Egypt continued Genesis 40-45

24th - Joseph in Egypt continued Genesis 40-45

31st – practice for Transfiguration/ burying the Alleluias

LOOKING AHEAD---FEBRUARY

7th - Transfiguration/ burying the Alleluias- Fat Sunday; Youth drama; BRUNCH evangelism distributes stars

10th – Ash Wednesday

Christmas Pageant, Sunday 12/20/15

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A Christmas Story

A Christmas Story



Members were delighted as children read and performed "A Christmas Story" on Sunday 12/20/15. Everyone did a fantastic job, and thanks to the wonderful Sunday School team that put this together.

To God be the Glory!



January Server Schedule 2016

January 2016	9:30am Worship
1/3/2016	Setting 3 Communion
Acolyte/Crucifer	Patricia Finn
Lay Assistant	Gail Blinstrub
Altar Guild	Rita Solt, Linda Winter
Counters	Gail Blinstrub, Patricia Gallagher
1/10/2016	Service of the Word, Youth Worship
Acolyte/Crucifer	Georgia Woodford, Kyra O'Connell
Lay Assistant	Brian O'Connell
Altar Guild	Kim and Gary Overbagh
Readers	TBA
Counters	Gail Blinstrub, Patricia Gallagher
1/17/2016	Setting 10 Communion
Acolyte/Crucifer	Brian O'Connell
Lay Assistant	Lori Meola
Altar Guild	Kim and Gary Overbagh
Counters	Gail Blinstrub, Patricia Gallagher
1/24/2016	Service of the Word
Acolyte/Crucifer	Billy Clark
Lay Assistant	Andy Martinsen
Altar Guild	Gail Blinstrub, Joan Dunn
Counters	Andy Martinsen, John & Edna Schwenk
1/31/2016	Setting 3 Communion
Acolyte/Crucifer	Cindy Oser
Lay Assistant	Lori Meola
Altar Guild	Gail Blinstrub, Joan Dunn
Counters	Andy Martinsen, John & Edna Schwenk





January 16, 2016

5:00pm

Join Us for our Annual Cookoff

Appetizers

Entrée

Dessert

Sign up below for attendance and if you will be entering an item in the Cookoff!

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Attending: _____

Yes, I will be entering the contest and bringing the following: (place a v next to the item)

_____ *Appetizer*

_____ *Entrée*

_____ *Dessert*

Here's Where Your Pennies Go

Luke
10:37

“Which of these three was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him,.....

....GO AND DO
LIKEWISE

Thank you for generously supporting the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. With our gifts and with prayers, service, and advocacy, we answer Christ's call to “Go and do likewise.” This “going and doing” makes a life-saving difference for neighbors near and far. ELCA World Hunger is a connected, comprehensive, and compassionate program that helps individuals and communities break the cycle of hunger and poverty. Your gifts make a difference in our fight to end hunger. Each gift to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal is a promise to our neighbors around the world and around the corner that they are not forgotten, that their hunger and thirst will not go unnoticed. God Bless and keep you as you, **“Go and do likewise.”**



Kate Warn is an ELCA missionary in Rwanda and is the country coordinator for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program in Rwanda.

In November, the Lutheran Church of Rwanda celebrated its 20th anniversary. To mark the occasion, members gathered in southeast Rwanda near the border with Tanzania in the town where the first Lutheran congregation was established in 1994 by refugees returning from exile. Two trees were planted for the anniversary: one tree to commemorate 20 years of Lutheran ministry in Rwanda and one tree to symbolize the Lutheran Church of Rwanda's connection to the global Lutheran community.

When I think about planting trees in the Rwandan context, I think about a vision described in Revelation 22:1-2: "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life ... flowing from the throne of God. ... On either side of the river is the tree of life ... **and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of nations.**" From the ashes of death and destruction in Rwanda, there has been new life. Rwanda is at peace and rapidly developing. A church founded by refugees now has more than 40 congregations, 26 pastors, and a vision for a sustainable future.

Still, the wounds of genocide and exile are deep, and the need for healing remains in Rwanda. As the Lutheran Church of Rwanda planted trees this week to mark the past, this church also proclaims a commitment to God's mission of redemption and reconciliation. "The leaves of the tree are for the healing of nations." May it be so in Rwanda.

Finance

Financial Condition for the period ending	December 15th	
Current Fund		
Income	\$	110,588
Donations/Reimbursements	\$	18,045
Expenses	\$	<u>114,328</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$	14,305

The financial condition is currently showing a positive bottom line. There are two factors in achieving this result (1st) being your financial support to Redeemer and the (2nd) the monetary savings due to the decrease in a Pastor's salary and benefits.

Please continue to support Redeemer through your weekly giving and participation in our fundraisers.

Respectfully,
Kim Overbagh, Treasurer

Advent Matins



The congregation celebrated the Advent season through music on Sunday 12/6/15. What a wonderful way to start the season! Thanks to all those who planned, and participated in the worship service.

To view and listen go to the Redeemer Facebook page.

At the top are three labels **Redeemer, Home , Find Friends.**

Click on Redeemer and scroll down until you see the entries from Karen Kondrk inviting you to view on Amazon cloud. There are 2 entries, one for the Redeemer Bells and one for EZ Ringers. Enjoy!!!

Sharing God's Bounty

January

Being a Faithful Steward

As stewards, we demonstrate our faithfulness by how we manage the resources and gifts God entrusts to us. *"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful"* (1 Corinthians 4:2). We are to *"always give [ourselves] fully to the work of the Lord because [we] know that our labor in the Lord is not in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:58). Our effort is invested in the Lord's winning cause.

Peter wrote, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms"* (1 Peter 4:10). Through faith, we serve others by showing our love (3 John 5-6), by witnessing for Christ (Acts 1:8), by sharing with those in need (2 Corinthians 9:7-8), and by doing good to all people (Galatians 6:10). God is pleased when we use our time, talents, and treasures in ways that give Him honor and glory through our service for others.

As devoted and committed stewards who seek to do God's will, we receive his special blessings. The Lord will *"bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God"* (1 Corinthians 4:5). In 1 Samuel 26:23 we read, *"The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and faithfulness."* We look forward to the Lord telling us, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"* (Matthew 25:23).

Until the Lord takes us to our eternal home, we are to be active and involved stewards faithfully seeking to please him. We can be faithful because he abounds *"in love and faithfulness"* (Psalm 86:15) to us. We press on as faithful stewards knowing that *"He will not forget [our] work and the love [we] have shown him . . ."* (Hebrews 6:10).

"My mother drew a distinction between achievement and success. She said that achievement is the knowledge that you have studied and worked hard and done the best that is in you. Success is being praised by others and that's nice too, but not as important or satisfying. Always aim for achievement and forget about success."

Helen Hayes

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
1/24/16**



***Please plan to attend this important meeting!
Potluck luncheon during meeting.***

***Please put your reservation slip in the box in the narthex or
call the church office at 215-757-2724***

------(cut along here)-----

***I plan to attend the annual meeting on January 24,
2016. Please indicate what item you will bring,
below.***

Name: _____

Attending: _____

I will bring:

Salad: _____

Entrée: _____

Dessert: _____

Legacy Story: Patricia Gallagher



Pat Gallagher was born in Bensalem on March 6, 1955. She graduated from Neshaminy High School in 1973 and started working at Pomeroy's Department Store as a secretary. After working there for 13 years, Pomeroy's closed and she started working at United Way of Bucks County in Fairless Hills as the Office Manager. She has now worked there for 28 years.

Her parents, Ken and Janice Winslow grew up in Bristol and attended church at Harriman Methodist. When they got married they bought property and built a house in Bensalem. However, they continued to attend their church in Bristol and Pat and her brother were baptized there. Dot Claus, who lived down the street from them, suggested that they join her at her church in Penndel. Pat's parents took her advice and started to attend Redeemer. Pat and her brother then started attending Sunday School. That was in 1960 and Pat still remembers some of the teachers that she had through the years. Her parents became very involved in the church.

Once she completed high school, Pat stepped away from church, but a few years later, she realized she needed something bigger in her life, so she returned, became a member and has been here at Redeemer ever since.

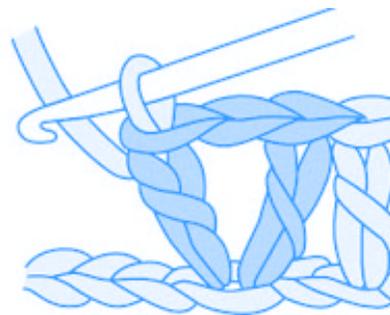
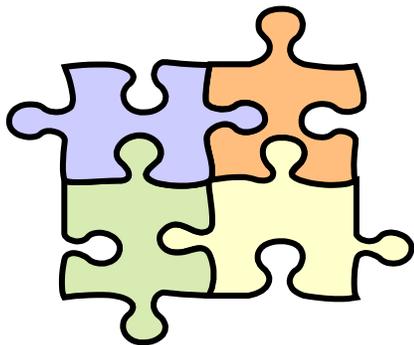
Pat has been an active member at Redeemer. She has served as Sunday School

Secretary, been a member of the Church Council as Secretary. She is currently a Counter and Chair of Memorial Committee.

Pat met her husband Tom at Pomeroy's where they both worked. He was friendly with her mother who also worked there and she introduced them. He had tickets to a Chicago concert and invited Pat to go and the rest is history. They were married in 1988 here at Redeemer. Pat explains that it was destiny that she and Tom got together. Before she even formally met him, he played guitar here at Redeemer as a guest representing Our Lady of Grace. Since Tom is Roman Catholic and Pat a Lutheran, their wedding ceremony was presided over by both Pastor Boyer and Tom's priest, Father Jim. It was a very beautiful ceremony.

In her spare time, Pat enjoys jigsaw puzzles, crocheting and Nascar racing. She also shares her house and heart with two cats, Max and Alex.

Pat is a product of this church. She went through all the Sunday School classes and became a member of the church. She thinks it's important that kids today follow that same lead. They need to attend Sunday School and become a very involved member at Redeemer. She believes that what our church is currently doing to keep kids interested is wonderful.



GUIDING LIGHT

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.



What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

What you do:

1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell "God is light."
4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!



LET THERE BE LIGHT

In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his ways.

Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.

"Y O U , _____ , A R E



_____ ; T H E



M Y



D +  +  - T + S

I N T O _____ ."



2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV

January Birthday's and Anniversaries

January Birthdays

- 2nd Erin Dunn
Jeannie Vitale
3rd Wayne Degen
4th Frank Rager
7th Elaine Rossi
Robert Brad, Jr.
Gail Blinstrub
Chelsea Lee Stout
8th Anjali Bose
Carol Lipson
9th Julie Bartleson
10th John E. Seyferhelt
12th Doris Parfitt
13th Danielle Martinsen
Carey Trumpler
14th Cindy Short
Mike Dunn
Marsha Goodwin
15th John Slaughter
16th Gary Overbagh
19th Christopher Rager
Nicholas Morris
Kerstin Pugh
21st Lynn Leppo
22nd Lauren Bilofsky
Angelique Defeo
23rd Damian Thomas
Kelsi Martin
24th Laura Ottinger
27th Patricia Martin
29th Dolores Danielson

January Wedding Anniversaries

1/26/1999 Wayne and Sharon Degen



**Visitors and Neighbors:
Welcome to Redeemer Lutheran Church!**

***Our door is open to you!
We would be happy to have you join us as
a Partner in prayer, in song, and in the
hearing of God's word.***



MISSION STATEMENT

Redeemer Lutheran Church is a caring community of baptized believers, confessing Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior. As a forgiven community, we gather in faith around God's table to hear God's word and participate in the life giving sacraments, which God has instituted through His Son Jesus Christ. Responding in faith we are called to joyfully proclaim the Gospel of our Lord in word and deed in the wider community.