

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATING 112 YEARS OF MINISTRY



Redeemer Lutheran Church

246 Hulmeville Avenue

Penndel, PA 19047

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am-1:00pm

Phone: 215-757-2724    Fax: 215-757-7199    Handicapped Accessible Via a Lift

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On the Web: [redeemerlutheranpenndel.org](http://redeemerlutheranpenndel.org)



## Prayer Concerns

**Members:** Marian Hemphill, Sharon Degen, Marty Ditcher, Dee Grover, Ruth Samuels, David Short, Mike Dunn, Christina Jackson, Hailey Schmidt.

**Relatives and Friends of our Members:** Dennis Green, Mary Gruppioni, Kelli Kane, Dottie Nelms, Dimitri Herr, Lazarus Kondyra, Florence Bakich, Linda Tiberi.

**Remember in your Prayers our Members and Friends Serving In the Military:**

Ron Skoczylas, Chad Durban, Bryan Oser, Joseph Piel, Derrick Stone, Mason Burgess.

**Remember in Your Prayers Pastor and staff of Redeemer, and our Nations Leaders:** Pres. Barack Obama, Our U.S. Senators, The Supreme Court, and the House of Representatives.

## Prayer Initiative for January

On January 8, 2017 we will pray for:

Walter & Margaret Schulze, Ruth Schwartz, Heidi Morgan, John & Edna Schwenk, Karen Kondrk, John Slaughter, John & Danielle Slaughter and children Tyler and Kylie, John & Edwina Seyferhelt, John Seyferhelt and children Michelle and Amanda, Arlene Shecter, Donna Picone, Blanche Short, David & Cindy Short, Jason and Julie.

On January 22, 2017 we will pray for:

Donna Sickles, Don & Rita Solt, Christina Spicer, Katherine Suessenguth, Jim & Helen Susko, Steven & Lizz Szymanek and James, Kristie Mabin, Ronald & Dawn Thomas, Ashley Thomas, Derek & Lisa Thomas and children Damian, Tyler, Blake, Thelma Thorsen, Jeffrey Mason, Jessica Mason, Kendra Mason, Robert & Carey Trumpler, and Evan.



### **Ephesians 6:18**

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

## January Events

- |   |         |   |
|---|---------|---|
| * | 1/1/17  | Worship 9:30am and Happy New Year!  |
| * | 1/3/17  | Shared Meal Ministry 6pm  |
| * | 1/7/17  | Undecorate the Church 9-12  |
| * | 1/8/17  | Worship/Sunday School 9:30am  |
| * | 1/14/17 | Annual Cook-off 5pm   |
| * | 1/15/17 | Worship and Sunday School 9:30am  |
| * | 1/29/17 | Worship and Sunday School 9:30am<br>Annual Meeting and Luncheon following worship |

## Events Coming in February

- \* 2/26/17 Transfiguration Sunday, Youth in Worship  
Fat Sunday, Pancake Breakfast

## Past Events

- \* 64 people attended our Shared Meal Ministry on 12/6/16
- \* Advent Matins Worship Service 12/4/16
- \* Christmas Caroling on 12/13/16 (about 25 people went)
- \* Christmas Pageant on 12/18/16 was wonderful!
- \* Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship
  - Christmas Eve 7 and 9pm: 63, 130 attendance
  - Christmas Day 9:30am: 32 attendance

## Parish Register



Dear Friends of Redeemer Church,

When the next disaster strikes, we'll be ready to respond quickly because of you and your congregation's generous gift of \$745.50.

We deeply appreciate your contribution and support of Lutheran Disaster Response– Eastern Pennsylvania. The collaboration of churches, local agencies and community groups makes it possible for community members that are affected by disasters to receive assistance.

When a large fire displaced families from five apartments this past June in Delaware County, we were able to connect Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wallingford to families in urgent need of basic household goods and clothing. We also help meet long term needs following disaster by connecting volunteers with those who often have needs related home repair and rebuilding. This past fall, volunteers installed drywall and insulation or to make sure a home Kresgeville, PA was safe and warm by winter.

Your gifts supports the preparedness and readiness of Lutheran Disaster Response-Eastern Pennsylvania. We are so very thankful for your support.

Sincerely,  
The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Ollikainen, Executive Director

### Annual Reports are due

Please submit your report to me by January 6, 2017. 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

Dear Holly,

Truly enjoyed being back at Redeemer this past Saturday. It was wonderful seeing so many familiar faces again. Jessica did a wonderful job as did Mike Parker, as well as did my grandson Myles who called the bingo numbers. There was another young man who helped Myles that was wonderful also. I won 3 games! Truly a great time and the food and drinks were great too! There were a number of children who were helping and removing papers and plates from the table. They were really wonderful! Jessica and Mike did an exceptional job!

God Bless you and Everyone at Redeemer,

Love,  
Winnie (the Pooh) Ferguson



Dear Friends of Doctors Without Borders,

On behalf of Doctors Without Borders, I want to thank you for your generous work fundraising to support our organization. We are truly honored that you selected us as the beneficiary of your annual Mission Festival. Your efforts contributed \$745.50, which will help us to respond immediately to emergencies as they arise by providing urgently needed medical care and humanitarian aid to thousands of vulnerable people around the world. Thank you, and everyone who participated, for getting involved and for helping to make a difference.

Right now, thousands of Doctors Without Borders volunteers are working around the world—in Liberia, Syria, Central African Republic, and in nearly 70 countries—delivering emergency medical care. Every day we are able to save lives because of the generosity of supporters like you. Thank you again for your efforts.

Kind Regards,  
Jeremy Wells, Fundraising Events Manager





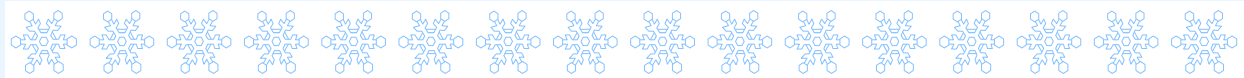
# Thank you!

Dear Redeemer Family,

We want to thank all our Redeemer family for all the thoughts and prayers, cards and call as I go through my battle. As of today, December 12th, I have one more chemo treatment scheduled. After that I am to go on hormone therapy. We hope that will put the cancer at bay.

Thanks again.

Wayne and Sharon Degen



## Redeemer Ringers



### **Redeemer Ringers Christmas Eve 2016.**

First row: Marty (director), Karen, Trish

Second: Denise, Diane, Jordan, Scott

Third: Alex, Cindy, Gail, Tony

Back: Sean

Missing: Christine

## WELCA News



Thank you to everyone who donated to the WELCA thank offering held the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We were able to send \$173.00 to the national Women of the ELCA.

Thank you to everyone who baked and/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 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the parish hall. Devotions will be offered by Ilene Kersten, refreshments will be donated by Linda Winter and Rita Solt. Mark your calendar and come out on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> (third Tuesday of the month) – even if you have never been to a WELCA meeting in the past.

All Redeemer women are welcome.  
Rita Solt,  
WELCA President

## Reformation 500 News and Notes

Martin Luther Quote:

“This is the way with the Holy Scriptures: when you think you have learned everything in them, you must again start at the beginning. “

### **Reformation Event**

(during the Annual Cook-off )

LET'S CELEBRATE WHO WE ARE

Saturday, January 14, 2017

How often do we hear that a person needs to know where he/she came from – personal and family background – nationality – have your DNA tested? Do we know who we are as Christians???

On Saturday, January 14, 2017 at the evangelism cook-off, Redeemer is honored to host Professor Chris Palladino from Cairn University. Many Redeemer members have met Chris since he attends worship at Redeemer with his wife, daughter, and son.

Chris has studied the Reformation – then and now - and is willing to share his knowledge with us in a round-table type of discussion. So, bring your own knowledge to share on Saturday, January 14th. Luther wanted Christians to learn so badly that he, himself, translated the Bible from the Greek and Hebrew into the language of the people. Let's explore who we are as Christians!!!

## Christian Education/Sunday School

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Praying you all had a glorious Christmas and an exciting New Year! Christian Education has had a nice winter recess from classes so, *“Are you ready to jump back into the Bible?”* The teachers are definitely ready, so let’s start the New Year off refreshed and ready to learn and live the good news of our Lord and savior, Jesus Christ!

January 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday school returns to the classroom to begin our lesson on Daniel and the Lion’s den and Epiphany. We are continuing the year’s theme God keeps his promises hearing how God speaks to us and that we can trust in his word.

Confirmation class resumes January 8<sup>th</sup> with Mrs. Jones. If you know any Jr. High teen that has not completed confirmation please contact Denise Robinson or Lynda Jones or the church office. If you have a child who is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or older who would like to receive First Holy Communion instruction, please get in touch with Denise Robinson. A parents meeting and instruction will begin around the beginning of Lent.

Adult Bible study resumes Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and senior studies, Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. This is a great time to join in the discussion and fulfill your New Year resolution to dig deeper in the Bible with your peers.

Redeemer would like to thank the SCS children for participating in the Christmas pageant December 18<sup>th</sup> as we dedicated this service to one of our greatest Bible story tellers, Alice Skinner. She will be missed but her love of the Bible and teaching children will inspire those who continue to teach Sunday school at Redeemer Lutheran church.



Alice leading the story rotation- VBS



## DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY---

1<sup>ST</sup> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

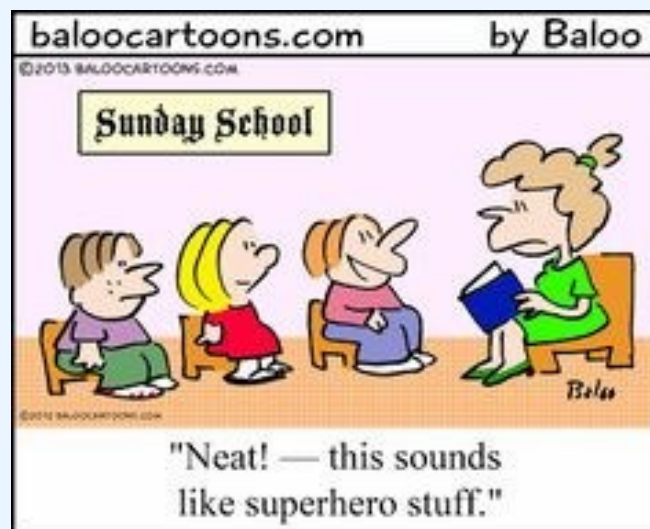
3<sup>RD</sup> Shared meal ministry 6pm

8<sup>TH</sup> – EPIPHANY, NO YOUTH IN WORSHIP; GOD'S GLOBAL BARN-YARD COLLECTION , Daniel and the Lion's den, Daniel 6

15<sup>TH</sup> - Daniel and the Lion's den, Daniel 6

22<sup>ND</sup> - Daniel and the Lion's den, Daniel 6

29<sup>TH</sup> - service day



# Christmas Pageant



## January Server Schedule 2017



<b>January 2017</b>	<b>9:30am Worship</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>1/1/2017</b>	<b>Setting 3 Communion</b>	Rev. Soenke Schmidt-Lange
Acolyte/Crucifer	Patti Finn	
Lay Assistant	Denise Robinson	
Altar Guild	Gail Blinstrub, Joan Dunn	
Counters	Don & Rita Solt, Annette Carson	
<b>1/8/2017</b>	<b>Service of the Word</b>	Rev. Soenke Schmidt-Lange
Acolyte/Crucifer	Georgia Woodford, Damian Thomas	
Lay Assistant	Deb Farnham	
Altar Guild	Kim & Gary Overbagh	
Counters	Don & Rita Solt, Annette Carson	
<b>1/15/2017</b>	<b>Setting 10 Communion</b>	Rev. Soenke Schmidt-Lange
Acolyte/Crucifer	Billy Clark	
Lay Assistant	Gail Blinstrub	
Altar Guild	Kim & Gary Overbagh	
Counters	Don & Rita Solt, Annette Carson	
<b>1/22/2017</b>	<b>Service of the Word</b>	
Acolyte/Crucifer	Cindy Oser	
Lay Assistant	Andy Martinsen	
Altar Guild	Rita Solt, Linda Winter	
Counters	Marsie McMullen, Marilyn Hrywnak	
<b>1/29/2017</b>	<b>Setting 3 Communion</b>	
Acolyte/Crucifer	Scott Ditcher	Annual Meeting following worship
Lay Assistant	Lori Meola	
Altar Guild	Rita Solt, Linda Winter	
Counters	Marsie McMullen, Marilyn Hrywnak	





**Join Us for our Annual Cook-off**  
**Saturday, January 14, 2017 @ 5:00 pm**

**This year in honor of our 500 Yr. Reformation we will be celebrating with a German Theme. We encourage you to bring your favorite German food to share and enter your item in the Cook-off.**

**Everyone is welcome.....enjoy delicious food, have fun and good fellowship.**

After dinner, please join us for an evening of interactive presentation by Christopher Palladino. Christopher teaches courses on history, geography, sociology, and education at Cairn University in Langhorne. He also serves as the section chair of Teaching and Learning for the New York State Political Science Association, and as an adjunct professor teaching the history of art for AMBEX, in Regensburg, Germany. He regularly leads professional development workshops on interdisciplinary teaching, learning, and development, and enjoys taking groups of students into New York and Philadelphia for lectures and museum tours.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Appetizer

\_\_\_\_\_ Entrée

\_\_\_\_\_ Dessert

Name of Item:

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.





## Financial Condition for the period ending December 18, 2016

Current Fund Income	\$104,891
Donations/Reimbursements	\$ 13,780
Expenses	<u>\$121,131</u>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (2,460)</b>

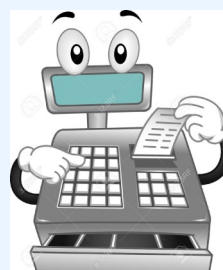
## Restricted Fund Balances

Building Maintenance	\$5865.00
Raise The Roof	\$17,470.00
Search Fund	\$470.00

Redeemer Lutheran Church is still collecting tapes from Redner Supermarkets and Brown's Shop Rite Stores. We do receive a percentage of money from these tapes which goes to the Current Fund. Please try to keep them current. There is a basket on the shelf in the Narthex for the tapes.

Thank you for your help.

Katherine Patelunas



# Sharing God's Bounty

## January

### A New Year – New Opportunities

Each new day brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there's something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the January calendar on the wall. This is the year we'll accomplish great things!

God doesn't necessarily call us to do great things, however. God asks that we be trustworthy in small things (Luke 16:10-11). To that end, God gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesman, and scientific farmer – come to mind. God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we've been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God's praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

That's why God gives us gifts and abilities; that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God's glory and the good of his people. The motivation to do this comes from the same one who gave the gifts! Just as God was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but his greatest gift, his Son, so we are motivated by love for God to serve those he calls us to serve.

*The Scriptures call each of us to a deeper awareness of the wonders of God's blessings, the gifts that he has showered on us in so great an abundance, and to the challenge to use those gifts and talents creatively and responsibly.*

***But just as you excel in everything ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us, see that you also excel in this grace of giving.***

2 Corinthians 8:7

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
1/29/17**



***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 29,  
2017. Please indicate what item you will bring,  
below.***

***Name:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***# Attending:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***I will bring:***

***Salad:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Entrée:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Dessert:*** \_\_\_\_\_

## Legacy Story: Lydia Cochran



Lydia Susan was born (April 22, 1958) and raised in Philadelphia PA. Her parents Margarete and Aurel Frantz had her baptized at Tabor Lutheran Church. After moving from Second Street and the Boulevard to NE Philadelphia in 1963, the Frantz family found Faith Lutheran Church where Lydia and her older sister, Inge, attended Sunday School. Since their father was a carpenter, he often helped out with the church building renovations. Lydia was always happy to announce, "My daddy is a carpenter, just like Jesus' daddy!"

In the early 1970s, the family attended St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church, where Lydia participated in the Youth Choir and Youth Group activities regularly. There she attended Confirmation classes, learned the meanings of church symbols and the difference between Martin Luther and Martin Luther King. Lydia was 14 years old when she received her First Holy Communion and was confirmed with her class. Each student was required to memorize a Bible verse to say in front of the congregation. Lydia chose John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." It was a proud moment to become a member of the congregation and get your own box of offering envelopes!

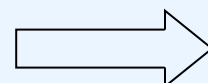
While in high school, Lydia had friends who attended Bethesda Presbyterian Church; they all participated in the Sunday and Wednesday evening Youth Group meetings. Each meeting there was a

Bible study, singing accompanied by guitar or piano and volleyball playing. It was a lot of good fun. Lydia became a member of Bethesda, which was also part of Christian Endeavor (a group of Churches in Philadelphia). Each month Christian Endeavor would meet at one of the churches for a Hymn Sing; everyone and anyone could attend and fellowship with other Christians. It was wonderful!

Lydia graduated from GWHS in 1976, majored in nursing at FHSN and became a Registered Nurse in 1981. After moving to Langhorne, PA in 1982, Lydia discovered that the friends she'd had in high school were no longer at Bethesda and things were different. She wavered in her faith and did not attend church that much. After awhile she decided to seek out local Lutheran churches, to "get back to her roots." It was then that she visited Redeemer Lutheran Church. When she walked in, the then pastor, Pastor Boyer, said, "Are you lost? \*\*Welcome home." And Redeemer has been her home ever since—nearly 30 years. As a new parishioner of Redeemer in 1987, Lydia joined at a time when a trip to England was planned. It was a great experience to travel to the UK with members who became her friends and mentors.

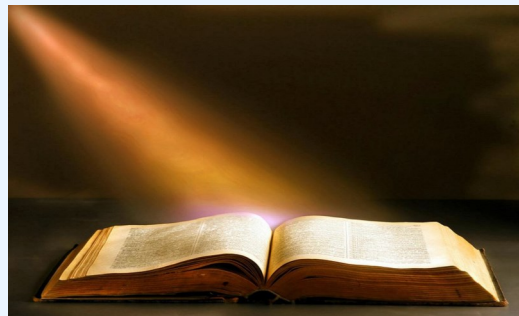
In 1988, Lydia was working full time while continuing with her nursing education, eventually earning her BSN from Penn State. Soon after this, a blind date with Joseph R. Cochran led to wedding bells on November 18, 1989. The two were wed by Pastor Boyer and a year later they were blessed with a daughter, Jolene.

Over the years at Redeemer, Lydia served as an Usher and Greeter, been in charge of the Nursery, volunteered as a Sunday School teacher for 16 years, played hand-bells for 2 years, and helped with VBS for numerous years. When Pastor Boyer died (~1999), there was an upheaval and much transition for the members of Redeemer. It was difficult but many persevered through it all. Redeemer was blessed with Pastor Esther, and she became someone Lydia could confide in and would reach out to during the good and the harder times in her life. She is grateful to have had her guidance and prayers. Lydia needs and desires the fellowship of the church; she misses it if she can't attend.





***To the Youth and Young Adults of today:*** remember to live by the Ten Commandments, make prayer a daily practice, even if it is just to say 'thank you' for your life, loved ones and nature. Be grateful for your parents and grandparents. They have lived through a lot and are very knowledgeable; they can teach us much, if we only stop and listen. Love and respect them, offer your services to the church to make them prouder. Lydia's grandfather never went to bed without saying his prayers; she remembers listening at the bedroom door! Lydia misses her dear mother who always told her, "What you learn, you learn for yourself and no one can take that from you." Keep God in your heart, prayer is the key to God; always keep that Key close to you!



## MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



### What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

### What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.

# Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?  
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.  
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY: A E I O

" \_ M T H \_ L \_ G H T \_ F

T H \_ W \_ R L D. W H \_ \_ V \_ R

F \_ L L \_ W S M \_ W \_ L L N \_ V \_ R

W \_ L K \_ N D \_ R K N \_ S S."

J \_ H N 8:12, NIV

## January Birthday's and Anniversaries

### January Birthdays

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