

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS

SING



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Redeemer *Reflection* Newsletter

*To Know Christ, Grow In Christ, and Go As
Christ Himself Does*

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REDEEMER REFLECTION

SING! 'Tis the Season

A couple years ago, my children really got into one Christmas song, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing." It seemed like every five minutes they would yell at the top of their lungs, HAAAAARRRRKKKKK THHEEEEEEE HHHEERRRAALLLDddd... I'm sure you can imagine the volume level! Another problem arose because they only knew half of the first verse. Thus, ONLY the first half was sung. It became the anthem of the Holdorf home, not only in Advent and the Christmas season, but into the Epiphany season as well. Looking back on it, was it loud? Yes! Did I wish to hear the rest of the hymn? Yes. Was I kind of done singing that particular hymn once Christmas was over? Yes. However, I wouldn't have changed it for the world!

Those kids were proclaiming God's praise with that first verse every time they opened their mouths, "Hark the herald angels sing, 'glory to the newborn King.'" What's beautiful, is that every time we join in singing those old familiar hymns, or those new Christmas songs on the radio, we are



praising God. We are praising Him for sending His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, born of Mary in Bethlehem long ago. What did He come to do? Well, the rest of "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" gives us the answer. Verse

three states, "Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth." Wow! Good news for you and me!

So, this Advent and Christmas season, sing! Sing with gusto. Sing like a

little kid. Belt it out. Sing with vigor in church. Sing with enthusiasm in your car. Praise Almighty God for what He has done in sending His Son!



Merry Christmas!

Pastor Zach Holdorf

FLOOD BUCKETS

On October 30, Redeemer Lutheran Church made 100 flood relief buckets as a service outreach event. We married this event with a congregational potluck

<https://www.facebook.com/698489044/videos/pcb.10161810519329045/871211710720391>



meal to make it more convenient and fun for all who were willing to participate in preparing the buckets. Age was not a detriment. Everyone was encouraged and welcome to help.



Check out the Redeemer Jackson Facebook page for a great video by Claudina K., a Redeemer member who helped organize



this event. It walks you through the set up for "building" the flood buckets.



SITTING AND SINGING

by Kimber Walsh, CFLE

I still remember vividly leaning over my mother's arm in church each Sunday, following the end of her beautiful fingernails as they guided me through the hymns. It's a practice I am forever grateful for. I learned how to sing sitting there. I remember the feeling of my small voice entering the humongous sanctuary of my childhood—could God hear it?

There are other times I have sat too—at the piano, hymnal open, plunking out the melody line of a hymn as I sing along; in my dorm room or common area with friends huddled around a hymnal or two; and in my children's bedroom in the dim light just before they go to sleep. Our hymns are a rich treasure. They teach the faith and remind us over and over again what God has done for us, and what promises we can still anticipate. Sitting and singing have always been part of my life.

God promises the corporate worship services are where we gather together to receive His good gifts through the Word and Sacrament, but the hymns are a gift, too. There are more times than I



could possibly count that the words of a hymn have come to mind to provide comfort, to convict, or to bolster. When

my thoughts and heart swirl at the mention of the troubles of the world: "o, thou who changest not, abide with me" or when I'm feeling the heaviness of it all: "o, what peace we often forfeit, o what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer." And so, I sit and I sing. I sit and sing with my children because I want them to have a refuge from the storms of life, too. I want them to almost automatically call to mind God's Word in the lyrics. I want them to hum or whistle the tunes while they go about their days. I want them to get excited and say, "we sing this at home!" because it is a song of our family; it is a song of our faith. I want the hymns to be their life's anthems as they have been mine.

And so, we keep sitting and singing.

O SWEET, LOVING GOD,

When I sleep too long,
Oblivious to all
Your many
blessings,
Then, please wake
me up,
And sing to me
Your joyful song.
It is a song without
noise or notes.
It is a song of love
beyond words,
Of faith beyond the power of human
telling.

I can hear it in my soul,
When You awaken me to Your presence.

Mechthild of Magdeburg



Upcoming

EVENTS

☺ **Thursday, December 1—Chancel Meeting** in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m.

☺ **Sunday, December 4—Voters' Meeting** immediately following second service in the Sanctuary.

☺ **Thursday, December 8—LWML/Women's Ministry Christmas Brunch** at 10:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Connection Room.

☺ **Ongoing Thursday Coffee with Pastor Bible Study** at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. The book of **Revelation** is the focus for this study for the next several months. For those of you who can't make the Thursday class, it will also be offered on Sunday mornings.

☺ **Ongoing: Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.—Adult Bible studies and Children and Youth Sunday School** Two adult classes offered: *Revelation* in the Lower Level Connection Room, and *Praying the Psalms* in the Upper Level Library.

☺ **Advent Dinners— Meals will be from 5:45-6:15 p.m.** each week, prior to midweek worship services. **November 30, December 7, and December 14**, join in the fellowship and share a meal before worship.

☺ **Wednesday Advent Worship Services—at 6:30 p.m.** November 30, December 7, and December 14.

☺ **Thursday, December 15—LWML/Women's Ministry Meeting** at 10:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Connection Room.

☺ **Saturday, December 17: Mobile Food Pantry** at Trinity from 10:00–11:30 a.m. ***This is a change from the usual 4th Saturday of the month to the 3rd Saturday, due to Christmas Eve.*** Redeemer partners with Trinity in this outreach to serve the community. We need and ask volunteers to **be there and available from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Remember: 3rd Saturday, December 17** this month.

☺ **Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve Worship Services—at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.**

☺ **Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day Worship Service—ONE service at 9:30 a.m. No Sunday School or Bible Classes. Celebrate Jesus' Birthday Today!**

BUT I CAN'T

by Craig Britton, Director of Ministries

The three-word title of this brief article is an expression that most of us would associate with children. Children who have been asked by parent or a teacher, perhaps, to do something they think is above them. Over their heads. Or simply too difficult. But I argue that it is not just children, not just little ones, who “depend” on the escape valve of “but I can’t.” No. I know plenty of bigger people, and so do you, who run to the refrain cited before whenever they are confronted with the ugly side

of life's requirements. We have all been there. We are skilled at running from the things we don't like.

It's not uncommon to hear someone say the following: "People's two



greatest fears are death and public speaking." That is an accurate statement for many. Of course, none of us wants to die. But with nearly as much

hesitation, most people would shy away from saying anything before the watchful eyes and ears of a crowd. All of that to lay the groundwork for what among Christians may be added to the fear list. "Don't make me sing for anyone." The retort may come, "Oh, your voice isn't so bad." Then, the final resistance: "But I can't." There it is. I can't sing. It doesn't matter how quietly I may attempt it. It doesn't matter how small the crowd is. I can't sing in front of anyone.

So, my aim in this article is to encourage everyone who loves the Lord to sing. To Him. He is the audience of our praise whether spoken or sung. And honestly, He is the only One who matters. God loves to hear from His children on many fronts, but He especially loves the songs of His people. I wonder if perhaps that was in His mind when He inspired a goodly number of author/composers to write and compile the book we know as the Psalms. I've recently been teaching a Sunday school class on "Praying the Psalms." And in my class, I'm teetering

on whether to make the open challenge to my students to not only read, not only learn to pray the psalms, but to sing them. They are songs after all.

In his epistle, the apostle James says this: "Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms" (James 5:13b). Note the encouragement to God's people to sing with good cheer. And in this example, James specifies what God's people should use to aid the lifting of their voices: the Psalms. Now we don't readily know the melodies of ancient Israel. In the hymnal of our church body, we are given

musical phrases to learn to sing the psalms. That can be helpful. But try this: take a few lines of a psalm

you love and simply sing the words to your own melody. Most of us have tunes bouncing around in our heads. Or use a melody you know that might fit the words. No shame in borrowing. But sing. SING! Sing to Him. You know that the LORD is your Shepherd. Now, sing that truth to Him. He'd love to hear that from you.

And by the way, "Yes you can."



TOPIC FOR JANUARY

The *Redeemer Reflection* newsletter is produced in order to encourage and

rejoice with each other in personal victories and faith milestones in our lives. But it's also to share where God is leading us as the church, and what He expects of us, now and in the future. The *Reflection* also highlights how we are interacting with our local community and within the church itself. We want to reflect Jesus in our personal lives, as well as to and in the world around us.

The writing prompt for January is **EVERLASTING**. Send comments, information/photos, and articles by the 15th of each month, to bennitt49@yahoo.com, to be included in the following month's newsletter. All submissions are appreciated and prayerfully considered.

SING! Make A Joyful Noise!

by Peggy Bennitt

But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength; yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your lovingkindness in the morning, for You have been my stronghold and a refuge in the day of my distress.

Psalm 59:16

Do you like music? Do you love to sing? When a favorite hymn, a popular praise song, or a top hit from your younger years starts playing, don't you just want to sing along? At the top of your lungs? Doesn't it just blow all the stress out of you? Doesn't it just shoot that parlor pallor out of your system?

Every now and then, when my husband takes my car rather than his truck, his hearing takes a brutal hit

when he first turns the key. I like to *feel* my music when I'm driving. His idea of loud and mine are quite different, even when it comes to sports broadcasts or newscasts where our sound preferences are often reversed. But we are told in the Bible, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." The psalmist doesn't say, "Hum quietly along," does he? Or "lip-sync My praise." Heavens no! "...Shout for joy... to the Lord! (Psalm 65:13)

And now, along comes Christmas! YAY! More reason to make that joyful noise unto

the Lord, right? That little baby born in a manger is the God of the universe, come to earth to pay our debts and give us eternal life and

salvation. In John 15:13, Jesus says, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." This is why He came. It's that little baby from the manger, grown up, and speaking words that carry our salvation in them. How amazing that He would do this for us.

But He doesn't want us to mourn His death, because He died to pay that price to settle that debt for sin. That bill is marked paid, and this birthday of our Lord is to celebrate new life and our hope for the future. Eternity with Jesus



is ours! This Baby Jesus is our salvation in human form. There is no greater gift.

Christmas is the perfect time to sing with a loud voice. Let's "sing until the whole world hears" about this gift that saves us all.

*O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord,
Let us shout joyfully to the
Rock of our salvation.*

Psalm 95:1



DECEMBER

Dave & Dawn Schuen
December 20, 1991

Loren & Jill Kielhorn
December 21, 1974



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Emma Kestner	12/01
Sharon Rumohr	12/01
Brennen Schnebelt	12/01
Evelyne Jones	12/02
Payton Boyer	12/06
Matthew Mogle	12/06
Debra Moyer	12/07
Russ Jean	12/08
Leah Heffner	12/10
Marvel Jones	12/12
Rachael Wingle	12/13
Nyla Arvy	12/14
Carol Faris	12/14
Debora Rockwell	12/14
Lorenz Keilhorn	12/16
Janie Boyle	12/17
Tom Polzien	12/17
John Smith	12/17
Cameron Boyer	12/19
Kaylee Hoyt	12/19
Ellie Hoyt	12/19
Tom Crutchfield	12/21
Juli Smith	12/22
Art Kneueppel	12/23
James Seidzik	12/24
Larry Finton	12/24
Jesus	12/25
Carol Rose	12/25
Madalyn Royal	12/27

BUT I CAN'T SING A LICK

<http://redeemerjackson.org/devotions/but-i-cant-sing-a-lick/> Posted by Craig Britton on November 3, 2022.

If there is an anxiety in the people of God about heaven, I think this may be it: people are concerned that they aren't good singers. And heaven is portrayed as a place of great and unending song. During our earthly pilgrimage, I have encouraged many that the Scripture says to "make a joyful noise" for a reason. Now I don't sweat the singing stuff because I am a trained musician. My training has seen more focus on the instrumental side, but I love to sing, too. But I'm no pro at it. I make my own "noises" at times.

"Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of the godly." So begins the Psalm for the week (Psalm 149). It begs the question, "why?" We know there are many reasons to sing the praises of our great God. May I point our attention to one verse of this great hymn? Verse 4 declares, "For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; He adorns the humble with salvation."



Did you read it? Do more. Think on that brief sentence. Savor it. God takes pleasure in you, in me.

And in so doing, He gives us a new wardrobe. He expresses His pleasure in adorning us. Our very garments in heaven will remind us, and continually declare to one another, the pleasure the Lord has in us. His saving us pleases Him. There really is nothing more to say about it. It is too good to be true.

But God said it.

CHRISMONS

by Peggy Bennitt



Redeemer's Christmas tree is a true Chrismon Tree, decorated only with traditional Chrismon ornaments. The tree is usually put up during the first



week after Thanksgiving. What a great way to introduce the Advent season to everyone.

The photos in this article are of a few



of the Chrismons you will find on Redeemer's Chrismon Tree. *Chrismons* are white with gold decorations of beads, ribbon, glitter, or other gold

white, or red trimmings. It is not uncommon, however, to see these ancient Christian designs in other



colors than white and gold and on many traditional Christmas trees. But the Chrismon ornaments symbolize Biblical and theological concepts that most believers recognize.

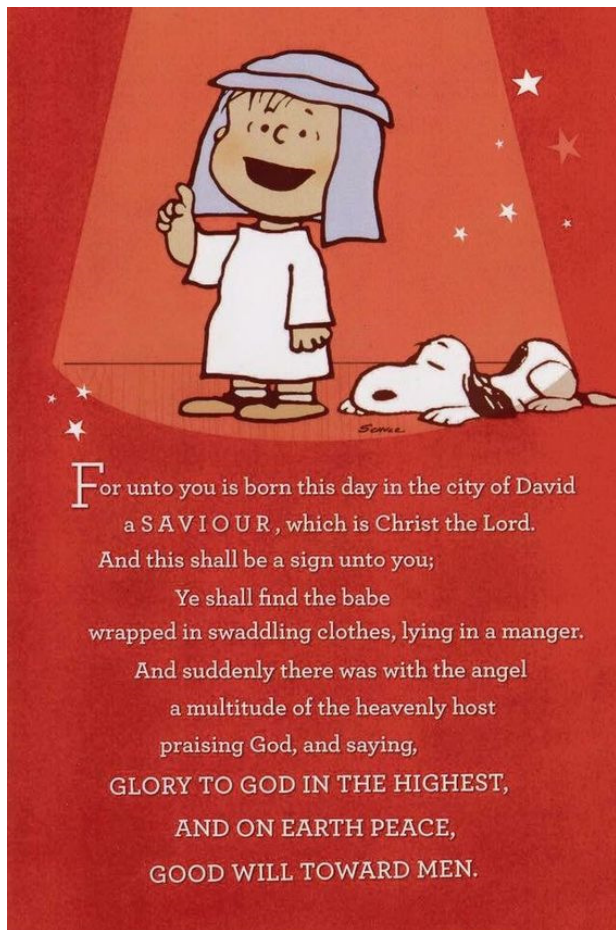


Before or after a service, feel free to take your child(ren) up to the tree and let them point out symbols/shapes they may already know, such as stars, crosses, the manger scene, angels, etc.

Please enjoy the tree and look closely at the ornaments, remembering the

reason for the season and whose name the season carries.

CHRISTMAS!



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is a group of Christian women

who serve people around the globe as well as locally, through mission projects and collection of "mites" (which are small amounts of change or coins collected into small boxes) to be used to support Gospel outreach and human care projects worldwide.

To help with this ministry, small Mite Boxes are available on the table outside the church office. The Mite Boxes are collected every 5th Sunday, or your "mites" can be dropped into the large Mite Box on the Ministry table display at any time. Any woman of Redeemer is welcome and encouraged to come to an LWML meeting whenever you are able, and we'd love to have women join us as a partner in ministry.

WOMEN OF REDEEMER CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

by Sue Simonsen

On Thursday, December 8, from 10:00 a.m. until noon, LWML will host a Christmas Brunch for all women of Redeemer, in the Connection Room in the lower level of the church.

Please join us for food and fellowship, and bring your favorite Christmas cookies to

enjoy and share with others.

There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby/narthex area if you would like to



attend. By signing up, you help us plan for food and set up for the event.



Please come and be a part of this celebration of Jesus' birth. What a great time of year to share fellowship

time and the spirit of Christmas with friends and faith family. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend or two. See you then!



ANNUAL VOTERS' MEETING, DECEMBER 4

Redeemer will have its Annual Voters' Meeting immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service on December 4. Please plan to attend as there will be discussions and voting on some key

orders of business. Some of the topics that will be addressed are as follows:

- Update on Strategic Plan
- Sanctuary Renovation Update
- 2023 Budget
- Nominations for Leadership Officers: President, Vice President, and Secretary
- Validity of absentee voting, and legitimacy of the possibility of livestream voting and digital options.

These important issues will be discussed, and voting will take place for the normal operational necessities for the church and property.

Pray for our church, and for the current leadership, as well as those yet to be elected. Continue to pray that God will lead us all, granting us the goal of Christian unity, and the focus on God's will for us in this time and in this place. May our God guide us and give us open hearts and ears as we contemplate the future of His church here at Redeemer.

DON'T
FORGET
THE



