



PAULA S. HELGA S. & CATHY L. DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

RLC Newsletter

January 2020

A Message from Pastor Allman

The Reverend Nicky Gumble describes Vision as a *“holy discontent – a deep dissatisfaction with **what is** combined with a clear grasp of **what could be**. It is a picture – a mental sight – of the future that inspires hope. Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision is a nightmare! But vision with action can change the world.”*

Proverbs 29:18 reads, *“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”* Vision is not ours to create. Vision comes from God as revelation. As individuals the best way to receive God’s vision/revelation is to pattern our lifestyle and activity after Jesus. We are to become as Christ-like as possible. This cannot be a one-time decision and it will not happen overnight. It involves a daily decision to live

each day in the way that Jesus has taught us.

As the Body of Christ at Redeemer, we have elected leaders to the Council, selected leaders for each ministry team, and staff members; all of whom are here to guide us into God’s preferred future for Redeemer. It is essential that everyone at Redeemer be following God’s vision/revelation for Redeemer. As individuals each of us can pray for our leadership to receive God’s vision/revelation and for the courage to move Redeemer in that direction.

Why would that require courage? Because God’s Vision may require change, and change is not easy. Mark Twain is credited with saying that the only person who likes change is a baby with a full diaper. Change is difficult in the church because people

become content to do things the way we have always done them. When God’s Vision (*holy discontent*) requires a change then we have to choose to obey or disobey. Neither decision is easy.

Author and business analyst Jim Collins wrote that *“Good is the enemy of great;”* meaning that many businesses and people never attain greatness because they settle for “good enough.” While reading this article you may have been thinking that we already have a “good” Church, which is true; although, God’s preferred future for Redeemer is not to settle for “good enough.”

When I started here almost seven years ago God gave me a Vision for Redeemer, from Jeremiah 29:11, *“I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not*

disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for." My daily prayer is that God lead me so that I can guide Redeemer into God's preferred future; and, I ask that you pray every day for me and for Redeemer's leadership. Let that be a New Year's Resolution you never break.

Pastor Allman ✝



Support for others

(Collection boxes are on the narthex counter)



Thank you for donating items for the food pantry in the narthex closet. Please remember, NO open packages or containers.



News from the Office Administrator January 2020

Wheew! The holidays are a very busy time in the church world. January will also be a full month, with the annual meeting coming up at the end of the month. It would be great if those who are writing articles for the annual report could get those done and sent to Kadie as soon as possible. The report is a very large project to assemble so anything you can do to assist with this would be appreciated.

January 15th is the WELCA general meeting featuring Officer Jeffrey Merry who is our liaison officer. Officer Merry works very hard to keep us all safe, leading presentations on a variety of topics that are especially relevant to our population. On the 15th he will be talking about senior safety and scams. There are so many different scams running that it is a challenge to stay on top of it all. This presentation will give you some tools to combat this issue.

At Redeemer we have an active Visitation/Communion Team! They visit and take communion to our many home bound members. Our Parish Nurses help with medical questions and concerns. Helping our people in these ways is a blessing both to the recipients as well as the caregivers. If you are interested in serving with either of these teams, please give me a call or send me an email: Susan 813-634-1292 or carekeepersccr@gmail.com. You will be blessed!

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, Jan 1- Office closed New Year's Day

Thursdays at 10:00 AM – Bible Study in Buhr Hall. Refreshments will be served! No Bible Study Jan 2.

Friday, Jan. 10 at 12:00 PM – Women's Bible Study in Buhr Hall

Wednesday, Jan. 15th 10:30 AM – WELCA general meeting with guest presenter Office Jeffrey Merry

Monday, Jan. 20 at 5:00 PM – Movie Night and Potluck dinner.

Thursdays, Jan. 23 at 12:00 PM – Alpha sessions are beginning again!

JANUARY STEWARDSHIP

by Pastor David Allman

I must confess that I sometimes wonder how many people actually read these articles. In my most pessimistic moments I think people see the word “Stewardship” and quickly move on to the next page; while they may be thinking “*The church is asking for money again.*”



While money is part of stewardship, and a very important part, it is not the only part. Two other parts include how you spend your time; and, how you use your God-given gifts and talents. Some people use their time and talents in ways that will help them make and keep as much money as possible. For example, America's 10 wealthiest people gave an average of 0.94% of their net worth to charity in 2018. By contrast the average American gives about 3.7% to charity; and, the average Lutheran gives about 2% to their church.

When asked, most Lutherans will say that how much money they give to the Church is between them and God. We, at Redeemer, could not agree more; and, that is why we encourage everyone to have a frank and open conversation with God to ask God how much money to give, how much time to give, and how to best use those God-given talents to serve God. If God was not part of the decision, then God has not been part of the conversation.



Prayer was an essential part of Jesus' earthy life. In fact, Jesus prayed so long and so often (sometimes all night) that his disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. These were devout Jews who had been taught ritual prayer since childhood; yet there was something different about the way Jesus related to God in prayer. If anyone knew the Will of God it was Jesus, yet Jesus modeled for us the need to be persistent in conversation with God.

On December 8th (in a sermon) I shared some statistics that about 33% of Protestants attend worship regularly; 44% of Christians say they pray once a week, once a month, seldom or never; and, while 87% of Christians say they own a Bible, 76% say they seldom or never read it. Those are the three ways in which God reveals himself to us, so I cannot help but wonder how those people know what God wants for and from them.

As we enter a new year and a new decade, let me encourage you to make New Year's Resolutions to spend more time in worship, spend more time in prayer, and spend more time in God's Word. Amen.

**The average Lutheran gives about
2% to their church.**



Social Ministry & Benevolence Thank you!

Good Samaritan Mission

Pastor Bill and Theresa were overwhelmed by the generosity of Redeemer's contribution to their Christmas Blessing Event. JoAnne Owens and Jane Trefren delivered the toys and check to the mission. Many of the toys were purchased by the Thrivent Team led by Noah and Pastor David Allman. By supporting this event, we were able to impact many lives in a very positive manner. The clients are invited to pick out presents for their family. They use their earned chips to purchase gifts. If you are interested in volunteering at the mission, go to their website or stop in at the office in the Taco Bell shopping center. May we continue to bless our community.



Theresa Cruz accepts a check and toys for GSM. Jane Trefren and JoAnne Ownens presented these gifts on behalf of Redeemer Lutherans giving congregation.

Lutheran Disaster Relief

Through our generous donation we were able to send a check to support relief. The organization will choose where the money will be used. We are able to impact many lives far and near who experienced natural disasters.

Merry Christmas and may God continue to bless us!

Social Ministry Team

January Benevolence

Samaritans Alzheimer's Auxiliary

ALZHEIMER'S RESPITE CARE

Free help is just a phone call away for residents of the Greater Sun City Center Area.

What is free Respite Care?

Respite Care provides a few days of help for your loved one while you take time for yourself. It is free because the Samaritan Alzheimer's Auxiliary financially supports this wonderful opportunity.

Where is it offered?

You may have your loved one stay at an Assisted Living Facility for up to seven days, have someone come in from a Home Health Agency, or utilize daycare at a Senior Center for up to 50 hours.

How can you contact us?

Visit the Samaritan Services office, 1207 N. Pebble Beach Blvd, or call 813-634-9283.

Soap Drive

Soap bars for Lutheran World Relief will be collected during the month of January. Bars must be new, bath size, and individually wrapped. They can be placed on the table in the narthex. Thanks for your support of this project.



January

Evangelism

For *Christian Today* an Australian magazine, Danielle Jones writes about “Awkward Evangelism” saying: *On my top ten list of fears, next to wasps, shark attacks and missing clearance sales, was evangelism. The mere idea of walking up to a stranger and handing them a pamphlet or asking them in an intrusive monotone if I could share with them about Jesus made me feel nauseous.*



She goes on to write that most people, likely including many of us, do not appreciate an uninvited intrusion into our day or life, no matter what the subject matter, even if it deals with eternal salvation. Most people, again likely including us, do not like generic forms of evangelism which sound like an impersonal, rehearsed speech.

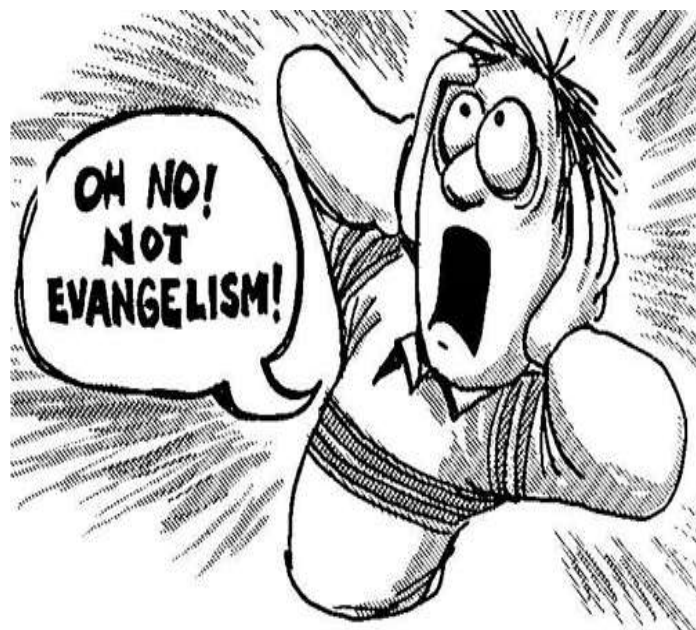
In my humble opinion I think most people are, in the right context, open to talking about their spirituality and beliefs. The question to ask is whether we are willing to actively listen before we speak. Actively listening is a learned skill. Before we can learn it, we may have to unlearn the practice of formulating our response while the other is speaking and jump in with our comments

as soon as the person pauses for a breath. Active listening involves practiced silence and completely focusing on what the other is saying. It may mean waiting a long time before responding.

The previously mentioned author cites how Jesus approached ordinary people like the Samaritan woman at the well. He began their conversation by simply asking for a drink of water, and ultimately taught her about the living waters of eternal life. She, in turn, spoke to the people in her village and invited them to “come and see” Jesus for themselves.

Everyone has been given a specific gift or talent from God. Some of us may be great at holding an engaging conversation, while others are good at writing, or making people laugh, or painting, or dancing. That means that we are not limited in the way in which we share our faith story. Rather we are gifted in the way in which we share our faith story (conversation, writing, laughing, painting, dancing, etc.).

Our responsibility is not to “make” others believe what we believe. We simply share why we believe what we believe, and likely we will plant a seed or water a seed that has already been planted. Growing that seed to maturity is up to God...

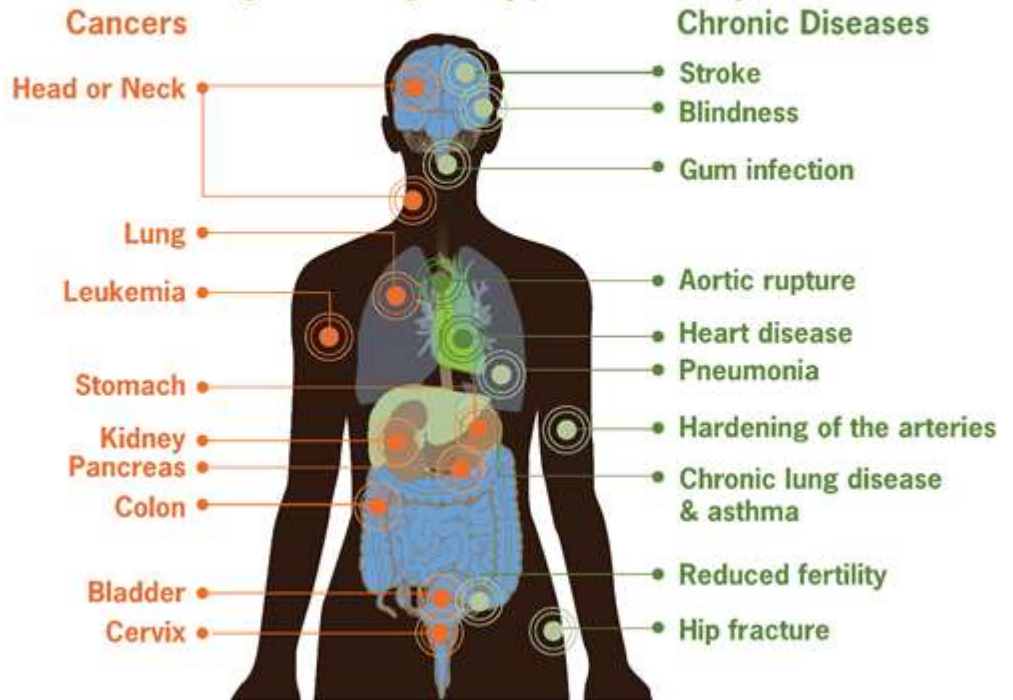


From Parish Nurse Team



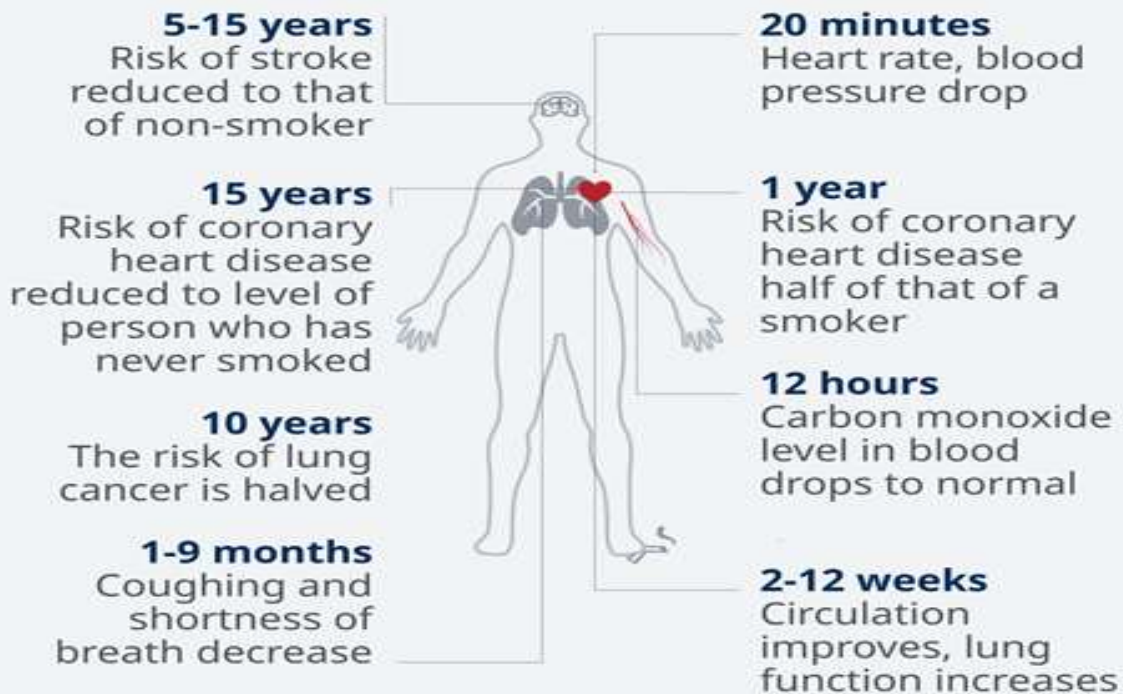
Risks from Smoking

Smoking can damage every part of the body



The effects of quitting smoking

Health improvements and time required



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3rd – Howie Warfield**
- 7th – Marlene Scharback**
- 8th – Richard Meredith**
- 10th- Mary Ann Romano**
- 12th- Shari Fleming**
- 14th –Dorothy Earl**
- 15th – David Cockerham**
- 17th – Janine Johnson, Jon Ruse,
Janet Thompson**
- 19th- William Coryell, Patricia Kahle**
- 20th - Mary Ihrke**
- 22nd –Miriam Zane**
- 23rd – Dieter Quitsch, Jane Sturmer**
- 25th – Nancy Almaguer**
- 26th – Noreen Thompson**
- 27th – Ruth Balagna**



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st – Elmer & Betty Mack**
- 2nd – David & Deya Schierenbeck**
- 11th – Jay & Audrey King**
- 21st – Kay & Dale Lyndahl**
- 26th – Dieter & Judy Quitsch**
- 27th – Nancy & Bill Frey**



We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect please let us know. Thank you!



Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sunday, Jan. 5 10:00 AM	Dale Lyndahl	Dale Lyndahl, Kay Lyndahl, Arlene Hansen	Kay Lyndahl
Sunday, Jan. 12 10:00 AM	Debbie Andrews		Dan Pollert
Sunday, Jan. 19 10:00 AM	John Minor	Lucy Ann Clark, Walter Geissler, John Minor	John Minor
Sunday, Jan. 26 10:00 AM	Lucy Ann Clark		Hal Wold
Sunday, Feb. 2 10:00 AM	Kay Adkins	Kay Adkins, Dick Fricke, Wendy Kitzman	Dick Fricke



Unable to assist on Sunday or would like to be added to the schedule?

Please call Carolyn Cole so she can make adjustments to the worship assistant schedule. Thanks.

Carolyn can be reached at 813-812-7527.

Jan. Usher Team	January Altar Guild	Sound
Tina Schwartz's Team	Erika Barfels, Kathie Hackett, Jane Trefren	Bill Adkins





Volunteer Help Needed

Rummage Sale - We are in need of men to help carry plastic bins and racks out of our shed **on Friday, January 3 at 9:30 AM**. Sign- up sheet will be on the welcome table.

Christmas clean up - We need volunteers to assist in taking down the holiday decorations and securing them for next year. We will be meeting at the church **Saturday, January 4th at 9:00 AM**. We need all the help we can get. Please consider stopping by to see how you can lend a hand.



Wheelchair needed

We would like to have a few more wheelchairs available for people to use on Sunday's. If anyone has a wheelchair they are no longer using or knows of one that is available that they might be willing to donate please let the office know. Thank you.



Please save the date:

Fun night

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH,
5:00 PM**



Join us for Fun Night this month on January 20th at 5:00 PM. Bring food item to share for 8-10 people. We will have beverages available.

This month we will be watching "Run the Race," a story written by brothers, Tim and Robby Tebow. *"All-star athlete Zach Truett finds glory on the high school football field – working to earn a college scholarship and a ticket out of town. When a devastating knee injury forces Zach to the sidelines, his brother laces up his cleats to compete in track and field. Despite the setback, there seems to be one silver lining for Zach – he soon develops a budding relationship with a young nurse who works at the hospital."* Bring a friend, preferably one who does not attend any church, so they can "Come and See" what they may be missing out on at Redeemer.



Concert by Cypress Creek Students

First and second grade students from Cypress Creek Elementary School presented a short concert in Buhr Hall on December 11th. It was a joy to hear sweet young voices and see their enthusiasm. Through a Thrivent Action Team card by Hazel Crosby, reward items for their behavior modification program were purchased and donated. The offering from those attending was used for gift cards for the program as well as meeting special needs.



Cypress Creek 1st and 2nd graders had their very first holiday performance at Redeemer on December 11th.

Women of the ELCA Meeting

WELCA will meet on **Wednesday, January 15th** beginning with refreshments at **9:30 AM**. Following a presentation by Deputy Sheriff Merry on "Crime Trends and Personal Safety", there will be a devotion and short business meeting. All Redeemer women are encouraged to attend. Remember to wear your Redeemer name tag if you have one.

Women of the **ELCA** 

Crime Trends and Personal Safety

Are you aware of the latest scams and crimes in our area and do you know how to best protect yourself? **Deputy Sheriff Jeffrey Merry** will have a presentation in Buhr Hall on **Wednesday, January 15th at 10:00 AM** in which he will present crime trends and personal safety. **Everyone** is invited to attend and hear information that can protect you. Friends are also welcome. This is also your opportunity to speak directly to Deputy Merry.



Sunshine Christmas Gifts

Thanks to everyone who helped with the gift bags either by baking, assembling, or delivering. The gifts should add a little cheer to someone's day (and a few calories too). Thanks to Honey Ashley for organizing the event and Vlado Michna for the Thrivent Action Team card that helped cover the expense of the items, as well as postage for the many cards that Honey sends.



Eva Michna prepares a gift bag to be given to one of our home bound members.





Prayer List Proposal

Our church has a prayer list for the following purposes: to encourage individuals; to unify the people of the church; to reinforce a person's commitment to talk to God and seek God's peace.

We have listed the prayer list policy below for everyone to review. Please keep these items in mind when you are adding someone to the prayer list in the future. Please call Kadie in the office if you have any updates to make regarding the prayer list.

Policy:

--Any person's name published on the church's prayer list should always be with that individual's expressed permission.

--People requesting prayer support may ask to be placed on the prayer list for a specific length of time. If a time period is not specified, then the maximum time period will be thirteen Sundays unless another request is submitted.

--People requesting prayers for friends or family may ask for a specific time period for the listing; otherwise, a length of four Sundays will apply.

--People making prayer requests would be most helpful if they supplied their name and contact information. Prayer requests should be made through the pastor and/or a staff member verbally and/or by completing the prayer request form found outside the church secretary's office.

--Prayer requests for specific health issues should not list the health issue in writing or be verbally discussed in order to comply with the HIPPA Privacy Rules.

Fellowship Helpers needed

We have such a wonderful time during fellowship drinking coffee and eating treats together. The fellowship crew could use some additional weekly helpers. The team has a great time working together while they set up, serve, and clean up afterwards. Please consider lending a helping hand. Many of us might not be available to help every Sunday, and that is okay. If you have some extra time one day, please stop in and offer some help. Maybe you could help pour coffee, put away food items when we are done, or even wash or dry the dishes. Both men and women would be useful to us. There is a signup sheet on the lectern in Buhr Hall. Please signup to help one Sunday. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Your Fellowship Team



Bible Study

Members, visitors, guests, and friends, please join us on Thursdays at 10:00 AM for Bible study. The current topic is Proverbs. No prior knowledge of the Bible is required, and you don't even need to bring a Bible. One will be provided for you.

Refreshments are served and it is FREE!



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets at **noon** the 2nd Friday of each month. Women's Bible Study will meet again on **January 10th**. Susan Wold and Paula Simenson co-lead the Bible Study.

A new topic from the Gathering magazine is discussed every month.



We are called! By Kathryn A. Kleinhans

Reformer Martin Luther used the word "vocation" or "calling" to refer to all aspects of human life. We are called to respond to God not just in our personal relationship with God but in our relationships with family and friends, in our work, and in our communities. This four-part Bible study will explore stories from both the Old and New Testament. As we reflect on how our biblical forebears heard and responded to God's call, we will gain insight into how God is calling us—and how God may be calling others through us.

Session 1: Hearing God's Call

This session focuses on men and women in the Old Testament. Some of them heard and recognized God's call clearly. Others struggled to realize that it was God who was calling them or exactly what God was calling them to do. What can we learn from their stories?

About the author: The Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhans, Ph.D., serves as dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.

All women are welcome to attend, so come join us at noon on January 10th and bring a friend.

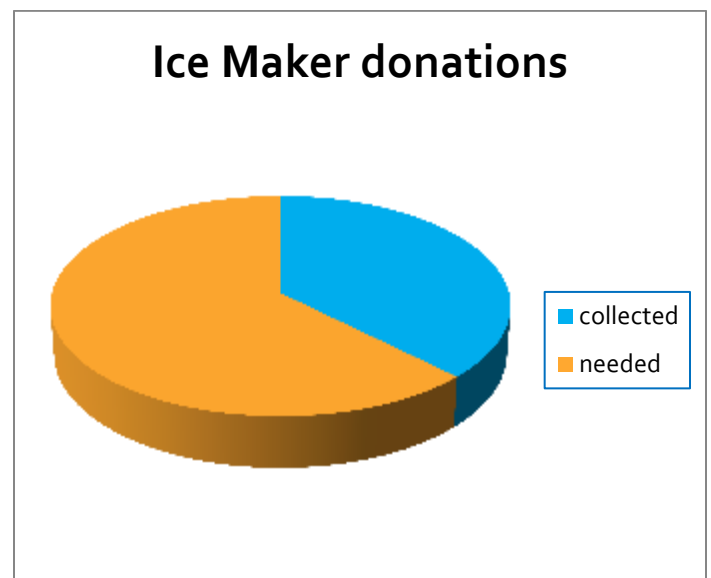


Ice would be nice

You may remember reading last month that council had voted to replace our current ice maker with one that will consistently perform the one task it is supposed to do.

The research has been done and we have selected a new icemaker. The price tag with a 3-year extended warranty is \$2,670. The giving tree in the narthex has a picture of the ice machine with pricing information as well. The budget did not include money for this item so if you would like to contribute to the new icemaker, please use your offering envelopes and on the blank line write "ice maker".

As of the time this article was written we have collected \$1,001.01, that puts our glass at nearly half full thanks to a donation from the Fundraising Team. Only \$1,668.99 to go! Thanks for helping us with this request.



The people of Redeemer believe in the power of prayer.

Bill Allen, Gerry Barnicle, Becky Bergman, Meta Boesel, Marilyn Bohl, Diane Brace, Fran Bullock, Chuck Buskirk, Maggie Byrd, Delores Casper, Lenora Chapman, Roger Clark, Anne Clouser, Carolyn Cole, Peggy Collins, Bill & Katharina Coryell, Carol Crawford, Hazel Crosby, Traudel Deeds, Dottie Earl, Audrey & Joe Ercegovich, Patty Fricke, Jim Glass, Oliver & Kathie Hackett, Nancy Hayes, Ken Heindel, Mary Jane Hermanns, Jay & Audrey King, Anne Koehler, Jean Kostka, Louise Kunard, Cheryl & John MacPhee, Sandy McCaw, Alice Miller, Louise Neam, Caroline Nensewitz, Sharon Olson, Dick & Dorothy Paulson, Nancy Payne, Nancy Philips, Gerda Regelin, Fred Ristow, Mary Ann Romano, Marlene Scharback, John & Patti Schaefer, Margaret Scott, Mariam Sorby, Myrna Strom, Patrick Sturmer, Sam Thompson, Jane Trefren, Sylvia Wicktor, Ted Wilson.

Our Family and Friends

Ashley & Zach Allen, Allan & Phillis Amlee, Roman Amon, Mike Arnold, Dana Axinger, Lois Barrett, Abigail Bayless, Tim Berns, Max Bokma, Lu Ann Bordwine, Steve Bullock, Carrie Burt, Bud Clark, Connie & Frank Castro, George Clark, Doug Cockerham and family, Norma Cole, Bob Collumb, Skyler Collumb, Toni Collumb, Orv & Marlene Conner, Portia Conway, Diane Cowell, Julia Cox, April D'Alessio, Thomas Deakin, Melissa Dickinson, Steve Evans, Mark Everman, Peggy Farrell, Edward Ferrara, Cindy Freeman, Jo Anna Freeman, Katherine, Austin & August French, Meg Gallagher, Mauricio Garcia, Carol Gray, Marie Grazino, Ernestine & Bob Greenslate, Bob Grotheer, Matt Gunter, James Harkins, Bill Hahn, Hannah family, Miranda Harris, Karol Harrison, Leonard Hermanns Jr., Diane Heindel, Michael Hillard, Airriana Holmes-Smith and family, Sandy & Bob Janicek, Harrison Johnson, Marion K., Kathleen Kelleher, Tracey Kirk, Andy Klunk, Gary, Joan, & Mike Kollerman, Aurora Kunnard, the family of Betty Larssen, Mark Lucas, Ron, Vance & Bridgette Lumme, Annie Mangen, Zoe Marcus, Emily Marks, Keri Lynn Marston, George Martin, Terry Mattia, Brooke Melton-Hardy, Dennis Michel, James Miller, Mary Fran Miller, Tracey Mineo, Amy Minor, James Neuenschwander, Amy Newman, Sheila Nicholson, David Nuchols, Kristina Piazza, Melissa Pickinson, Robert Poetzsch, Scott Potochny, James Pottinger, Kelly Powell, Renee Quackenbush, Joe Raymond, Neil Rich, Ed Robb, Lori Robb, Mary Rollins, Hope Rund, Jane Ruth, Victoria Rymer, Steve Sanfilippo, Dan Schierenbeck, Renata Schirmacher, The family of Annaliese Schmidt, Joan Schollmeyer, Lynn & Patrick Sheridan, Florence & Richard Silvis, Mary Soja, Christine Solimeno, Jeff Sommers, Richard Steinbruck, Pastor Peter Stiller, Pedro & Aura Suarez, Mia Theo, Lucas Thor, Bobby Timm, Jim Tucker, Patty Tyrol, Melvin Vore, Agnes Wagaman, Stephanie Warner, Alex Watts, Karl & Oneta Wiechers.

God bless our country, our first responders, and our military men and women.

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Office Closed	2 9:00 AM-OA Meeting 5:45 PM-Bells Practice 6:45 PM-Choir Practice	3 9:30 AM-Quilters	4 9:00 AM Christmas Clean up
5 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	6 10:30 AM-AI- Anon	7 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Meeting 1:00 PM-Barbershop practice 3:30 PM-AA Women's Group	8 9:30 AM-WELCA Board Meeting 11:00 AM-Worship & Music 1:00 PM-Social Ministry Meeting	9 9:00 AM-Parish Nurses Meeting 9:00 AM-OA Meeting 10:00 AM-Bible Study 5:45 PM-Bells Practice 6:45 PM-Choir Practice	10 9:30 AM- Quilters 12:00 PM- Women's Bible Study	11 11:00 AM Dottie Erickson Memorial Service
12 10:00 AM-Worship	13 10:30 AM-AI- Anon	14 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Meeting 1:00 PM-Barbershop practice 3:30 PM-AA Women's Group	15 9:30 AM-WELCA General	16 9:00 AM-OA Meeting 10:00 AM-Bible Study 5:45 PM-Bells Practice 6:45 PM-Choir Practice	17 9:30 AM- Quilters	18
19 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	20 10:30 AM-AI- Anon 5:00 PM Movie Night	21 1:00 PM-Barbershop practice 3:30 PM-AA Women's Group 7:00 PM – Finance Team Meeting	22	23 9:00 AM-OA Meeting 10:00 AM-Bible Study 12:00 PM-Alpha 5:45 PM-Bells Practice 6:45 PM-Choir Practice	24 9:30 AM- Quilters	25
26 10:00 AM-Worship Annual Meeting 11:45 AM-BP Check	27 10:30 AM-AI- Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting	28 10:00 AM-RLC Staff Meeting 1:00 PM-Barbershop practice 3:30 PM-AA Women's Group	29	30 9:00 AM-OA Meeting 10:00 AM-Bible Study 12:00 PM-Alpha 5:45 PM-Bells Practice 6:45 PM-Choir Practice	31 9:30 AM- Quilters	

Rummage Sale drop off January

every Monday 9:00 AM-noon; every Tuesday 9:00 AM – noon; every Wednesday noon – 3:00 PM