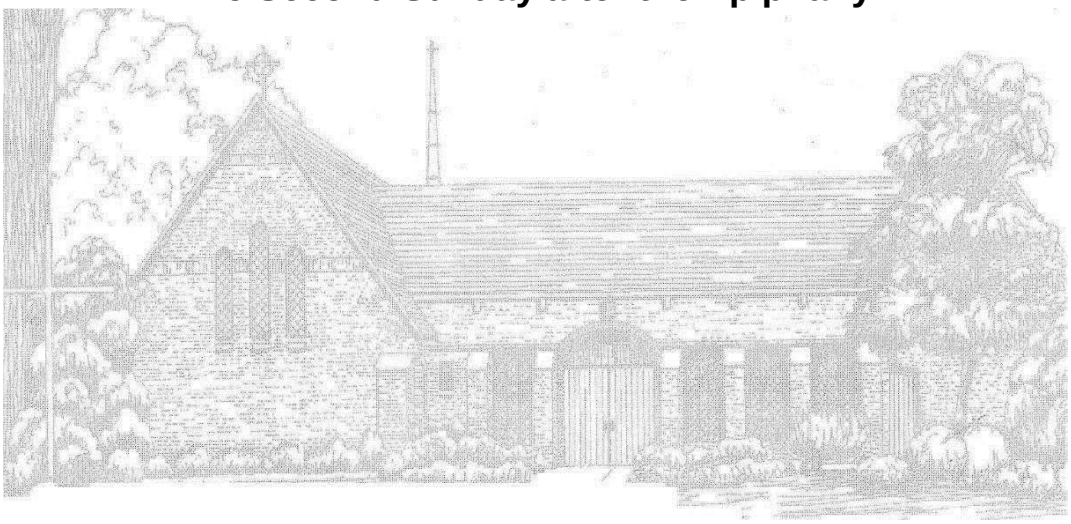
NEWS AND NOTES

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

"The church is the church when it exists for others."-**Bonhoeffer**

January 14, 2018
The Second Sunday after the Epiphany



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For upcoming Redeemer Lutheran Church and School events and our monthly calendar please check our website **www.redeemerwestfield.com**

Free on line subscriptions to the **NJ District Grapevine**
Go to www.njdistrict.org and use the "Join the E-news List" button

IN OUR PRAYERS Contact the Prayer Chain: Gretchen at 908-757-3647 prayers@redeemerwestfield.com

Christians persecuted for their faith; Redeemer: Please set aside some time every Wednesday noon wherever you are to pray for the continuing revitalization and renewal of Redeemer Church and School and Trivium Academy of New Jersey, for more laborers sent into the harvest field.

Mission of the Year: Dr. Kristen Schmaltz– Compassion Evangelical Hospital, Guinea, West Africa

Mission of the heart: Margret Kritsch Anderson. Please see News & Notes for more information

prayers for medical care: Cathy Agolia's sister, **Carol** Colfax.

recovery for those facing addictions, their rehabilitation journeys and their families that love and support them: Lu Moller's grandson, **Ryan** Samuel.

health issues: Rich Elbert's father, **Bill.**

healing:**Dick** Ahnert

home: friend of Lu Moeller, **Melanie** Ritten**.**

life situation: **Lynn**

rehab: Patty Fredas & Ava LaMacchia's, Aunt **Lillian**.

recovering after surgery: **Earl** Carpenter; Susan Caldwell Nelson's brother**, Stephen; Ava** Rosky, **Pete** Fredas; **Sam** Calello; **Inge;**. **Brett** Robertshaw; **Pete** Gardner.

shut-in: **Janet** Santichen; **Elinor** Nielson; **Ann** Krommenhoek; Gwen Cleaves mom, **Carolyn** Engelken.

surgery: Martha Goff's sister, **Betsy**.

testing & treatment: Ann Minski's brother**, Mark.**

treatment: Beverly Green's cousin**, Yvonne** Wray; Rachel D'Anna's Uncle, **Matt**; Ava La Macchia's Godmother's daughter, **Maria**; Susie Hung's nephew, **Connor;** Heidi Griswold's mother**, Rose.**

January – Redeemer Church - its revitalization and renewal.
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Congregational families to pray for this week: Newman, Nicodemus, Nielson, O'Brien. Olbeter.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF REDEEMER SERVING WITH THE ARMED FORCES-Lu Moller's grandson**, Thomas Putnoky Jr.;** Cynthia Newman's friend**, Nick;** Patty Fredas & Ava LaMacchia's cousin**, Stephan** Durso**; Bayard** Smith-RLS EC4 dad.

Please like Redeemer Lutheran Church & School on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/RedeemerWestfield

Please like us on Instagram at redeemerwestfield

FAMILY CORNER

Sunday Nursery

Although parents are encouraged to worship with their young children, there are times when you may want to use the Nursery for children under 5 years old.
It is located in Room 105 near the church office. Ask an usher for directions. Our nursery attendants are Katie and Brio. Please be sure to use the sign-in.

CHILDREN ARE MEMBERS

We are glad you are worshiping as a family today. Here is another tip from parents who've been there. We are glad you are worshipping as a family today. We know God will bless this experience to enrich your family life. With your child, prepare a personal offering. Let your child place her individual gift into the offering basket. What a wonderful habit to nurture! God's words and promises for stewards apply t children too!

Lutherans For Life

"The church must be reminded that it is … the conscience of the state … It must be the guide and the critic of the state … If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority." *Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

JANUARY 14, 2018

taking faith home

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesus Calls Us;
o'er the Tumult

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What does it mean to you to be called by God?
- When have you sensed God calling you to be a servant of God's love?
- Psalm 139 speaks of a God who knows us and cares for us very intimately. What does it mean to you to have a God who cares for you and knows you so personally?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Samuel 3:9-10.

It is easy to accept that pastors have a call from God, but we all have a call from God, one that begins in baptism. Eli tells Samuel to listen to God's call to Samuel. Philip tells Nathanael to "come and see" (John 1:46). Psalm 139 gives praise to God who knows and cares for the psalmist quite personally (verses 1-3). When do you sense the call and care of God? Who helps you listen to and recognize God in your life? Pray the following prayer:

Pray: **Dear God, you have called me by name and send me out into your world to do your work and will each day. Help me to hear your voice and to do your will for the sake of Christ who has come to bring salvation to all. Amen.**

SERVICE

When Jesus called Philip to follow him, Philip wanted to share the good news of Jesus with his friend Nathanael. It is an example of faith that is formed through, personal, trusted relationships. Identify a personal friend or family member to share the love and hope that Jesus brings. It can be someone who is already Christian and who could use the encouragement of your own faith practice. Fellow Christians also need the affirmation of faith that others can bring. Consider using portions of *Taking Faith Home* with that person to initiate conversation and prayer.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 139 offers one of the most personal and intimate expressions of God's care and presence for one's life in the Bible. Like the Apostle Paul states in Romans 8:38-39, nothing can separate us from God's love. Read Psalm 139 slowly several times and select a verse to reflect on during the week, one that perhaps has special meaning for your current circumstances. Memorize and pray the verse during the week.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: **www.milestonesministry.org**

JANUARY 14, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER EPIPHANY

taking faith home

We are all called to be God's servants.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	**John 1:43-51**	**Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael**
Monday	**1 Samuel 3:1-20**	**The call of Samuel**
Tuesday	**1 Corinthians 6:12-20**	**Honor God with your body**
Wednesday	**Romans 8:31-39**	**God's love in Christ Jesus**
Thursday	**Genesis 28:10-17**	**God blesses Jacob**
Friday	**1 Corinthians 1:1-9**	**Called to be saints**
Saturday	**Psalm 139**	**The Lord knows us well**
Sunday	**Mark 1:14-20**	**Jesus calls disciples**

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.
Psalm 139:1-2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:
Jesus, Son of God, you have searched me and known me. Thank you for calling me to follow you as a beloved child of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
God bless this food. God bless this day. God keep us safe in every way. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May the God who knows when you sit down and when you rise up, who is acquainted with all your ways, give you the freedom to serve the world with joy.

MILESTONES MINISTRY

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Dear Redeemer family,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Thank you so much for your generous and gracious gift to our family this Christmas. We give thanks to God for you and are joyfully looking forward to seeing our LORD's Holy Spirit working in and through our congregation to touch the hearts and minds of all around us. In Jesus' everlasting name.

Gary Timm, Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church and School

Dear Redeemer Family,

Thank you for all of your Christmas cards, kind words and thoughtful gifts for me and my family given to us this Christmas.

Have a blessed New Year!

Helen Diana

Dear Redeemer Family,

Thank you for your Christmas cards and gifts. It was very kind of all of you.

Helene Rose

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES
January 7TH Deusiane & Rich Morlock 12TH Anniversary
14TH Corinna & Anthony Parsio 1st Anniversary
15TH Patt & Doug Kelly 46th Anniversary
15TH Mirta & Roy Sarcona 46th Anniversary
16TH Ann & Bill Hoelterling 64th Anniversary
19TH Michael & Kimberly Beck 10th Anniversary

Lenten Mid week Meals to support 6 weeks of Lenten Wednesday worship services commencing on February 14th, 2018:

As a Thrivent member, you have access to its action grant program. An action grant provides seed money of $250 to permit Lenten midweek meal community outreach so that we can invite others to worship & to fellowship at Redeemer Church. We would help you to register online for the action grant. Once approved, the seed money arrives in the form of a Visa gift card. You can select the catered meal or other church members can be recruited to execute the next portion of this program. Level of involvement is up to you all the way from application to meal execution or just the action grant application.

In order to apply for a Thrivent grant, there is a need to apply before the time constraint of 22 days before the event date . Ash Wednesday, February 14th is less than forty days away. Please contact Grace DiBartolomeo at 908-400-0996 or at parished@redeemerwestfield.com if interested in volunteering one of your Thrivent action grants or to answer questions regarding this program.

Submitted by Grace DiBartolomeo

Altar Guild Flower Committee –

The new Flower Chart for 2018 is up.

Won't you consider placing flowers on the altar one Sunday during the year to celebrate a special occasion or in memory of a loved one? You can reserve a Sunday in the future and make your donation closer to the date.

If it weren't for donations from the congregation the Altar would be bare. Sometimes there is a week that we do not receive donations. When this occurs the Altar Guild draws on past generous donations to cover the cost of the flowers. However, we can not cover the flower costs on a regular basis.

You can reserve any Sunday in the year. Simply follow the directions listed below.

2018 Altar Flowers
January 21 and 28 are available for flower donations

To donate to the Altar Flowers all you need do is:

1. Check the sign-up list in the Narthex for an available week (there can be more than one family a week).
2. Fill out an envelope and index card with the necessary information (there is a sign in Narthex explaining the procedure).
3. Place the index card and **$30.00 donation** for the flowers in the envelope **(checks made out to *Altar Guild*).**
4. Return the envelope to the index box or Kathy Calello's church mailbox.

DO NOT PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE.

5. If you are reserving a Sunday several months in advance you can just fill out an index card with the information and follow up with a donation closer to the date you are reserving.

After 11:00 service you can either take the flowers or leave them to be distributed to a shut-in or some one we have been praying for.

UPDATE:

Just in time for mid-winter doldrums, we have some new reading material for our very young readers. Look for this material on the window ledge shelf in Luther Hall and enjoy spending time with your child(ren) in reading.

"I Love You, Alfie Cub":	by Angela McAllister and Daniel Howarth
"All The Families"	by Margaret Wise Brown
"Love Song of the Little Bear"	by Margaret Wise Brown
"All the Little Fathers"	by Margaret Wise Brown
"One More Rabbit"	by Margaret Wise Brown

Submitted by Carole Baldasty

CHARITY CORNER, 2018:

Scarves, scarves and more scarves!!! Thank you to everyone for knitting and crocheting scarves for the veterans during 2017. Four individual shipments, totaling more then 70 scarves were made to the WWII Museum in New Orleans for re-distribution to veterans in nursing homes, veteran facilities, etc.

We will continue with scarves for 2018 but for a different purpose and different requirements. An organization formerly known as the "Orphan Foundation of America" has re-named themselves as "Foster Care to Success". Just two short years ago almost 270,000 infants, young children and teens were removed from their homes to protect them from situations that may have led to physical and/or psychological harm. Once in the foster care system some of these infants, children and teens were able to return home to improved conditions but many more remained. In many states within the US, children will "age out" of foster care by age 18. With nowhere to go, many will lead a short but tragic life on the street. Lawmakers and child advocates are working to improve this daily and there are some changes for the better forthcoming. In the meantime, the Foster Care to Success program is working to insure that every young adult leaving the foster care system receives a hand-made scarf to remind them that all good wishes accompany the scarf and "wrap" them in love.

Requirements for the scarves are that they be in RED or shades of red, such as dusty rose, burgundy, cherry, etc. Size requirement is 5"-8" wide and 60" long. Fringing is optional but fringe length should not be calculated into the 60" length requirement. If you would like to add a personal touch, affix a small note to your scarf and provide your first name and a note of encouragement and washing instructions for the scarf.

Patterns for knitting and crocheting will be provided but feel free to use any pattern of your individual choosing. A variety of yarns will also be available. Look for patterns and yarn on the shelving in the Luther Hall Library area by the side door. In the meantime if you would like more information on this valuable ministry, or if you don't knit or crochet but would like other ways to help, visit their WEB site at www.fc2success.org. God bless your handiwork for someone else's benefit.

Carole Baldasty for Hands for Warmth

MISSION OF THE HEART
JANUARY 2018

MARGARET KRITSCH ANDERSON FUND

The great American novelist, Thomas Wolfe, penned these sentiments about death in his novel "You Can't Go Home Again" published posthumously in 1940.

to die: "to lose the earth you know for greater knowing; to lose the life you have, for greater life; to leave the friends you have loved, for greater loving; to find a land more kind than home, more large than earth."

The promise of life eternal with our Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest promise we ever receive, but the sorrow over losing someone loved is sharp and keen. When Margaret Kritsch Anderson went to work in her capacity as a law enforcement ranger for the National Park Service on that fateful day, January 1, 2012, she could not have known she would give up her earthly life at the hands of a deranged individual. She left behind to mourn, her husband, Eric, children, Anna and Katie, her parents, Pastor Paul and Dorothy Kritsch, her siblings, Peter and Sarah and their families and a host of friends and loved ones. The Fund was begun in her memory to assist Eric in the establishment of college funds and in meeting daily living expenses for Anna and Katie. The children were very young when Margaret died and her loss continues to be a major void in their young lives.

Please be generous in your giving for this family and continue to remember them in your prayers as they cope with this tragedy. For most of us New Year's Day is joyous and a celebration of new beginnings. For the Anderson, Kritsch(s) and Beylon families they are a tragic reminder of the fragility of earthly life. God bless your giving.

"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces..."
Isaiah 25:8

Carole Baldasty for the Missions Team

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

If you're a visitor, please introduce yourself after service today. We'd be happy to meet you and to answer any questions you may have.

Pastor	*Gary Timm*
Music Director	*Susan Caldwell Nelson*
Organist	*Susan Caldwell Nelson*
Director of the SONShine and Hosanna Choir	*Janice Haer*
Altar Guild	*Ava LaMacchia, Katrin Elbert, Kathy Calello, Rachel Rosky*
Acolyte (8:30)	*Caleb Timm*
(11:00)	*Ava Rosky, Kyle Griswold*
Communion Assistant (8:30)	*Rich Elbert*
(11:00)	*Gerry Cleaves*
Counters	*Earl Carpenter, Gretchen Dombro*
Deacons (8:30)	*Edna McClure*
(11:00)	*Marc DiBartolomeo*
Flower Distribution	*Kathy Calello*
Lector (8:30)	*Mike Agolia*
(11:00)	*Kathy Calello*
Ushers (8:30)	*Anthony Parsio, Peter Fredas*
(11:00)	*Sandro DiBartolomeo, Mike Kzirian*
Coffee Hour	*Corinna Parsio*

The flowers on the Altar are given as a thank offering in celebration of our son Art & Vanessa's wedding on Saturday, January 13, from Helene & Jim Rose.

*V*olunteers are needed in all areas. Can you help? Please call the church office for more information on these and other service opportunities.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, January 14	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:50 a.m.	Coffee Hour
	10:00 a.m.	Intergenerational Bible
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	**NO** Confirmation Class
Monday, January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
	OFFICES CLOSED	
Wednesday, January 17	3:30 p.m.	SONShine Choir
	4:10 p.m.	Hosanna Choir
Thursday, January 18	9:20 a.m.	Mom's in Prayer
Saturday, January 20	9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
Sunday, January 21	8:30 a.m.	Worship
	9:50 a.m.	Coffee Hour
	10:00 a.m.	Intergenerational Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	Worship
	12:30 p.m.	High School Youth Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class

BIBLE READINGS ENCOURAGED: Join us in these readings this week:
Readings For next Sunday's Service:

Jonah 3:1-5,10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31(32-35); Mark 1:14-20.