

THE REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER L UTHERAN CHURCH

1054 Truman Avenue

Owatonna, MN 55060

December - 2017

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

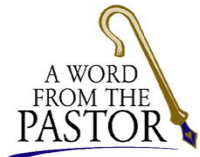
The Rev. Kirk Griebel, Pastor

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Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Get in shape! Is this a phrase you dread hearing or do you welcome the challenge? During our mid-week Advent services this year we will be making comparisons between getting in shape physically and getting in shape spiritually.

Advent is traditionally a time to think about getting in shape spiritually because it is a time when we prepare to welcome into the world and into our hearts and lives Jesus, the Savior of the world.

In week one of the series we will talk about how getting in shape physically is something that people often do together. Studies have shown that people are more likely to stay committed to a workout regimen if they have other people to help motivate them. That is why health clubs and fitness runs are so popular across the country.

Getting in shape spiritually is also something that is best done with other believers. We can all benefit from being encouraged by each other to grow in our faith.

The second part of this series will focus on the fact that many times people will embark on a fitness program to target a particular part of their body or a particular health concern. Spiritual fitness involves targeting our sinful hearts. Our hearts are at the heart of all spiritual sickness so spiritual fitness programs must focus on getting our hearts in shape.

Finally, we will talk about repetition. You simply can't get in shape without repeating the same exercises over and over again. Many find this aspect of physical fitness boring so you often see people listening to music or watching TV while they work out.

Similarly, spiritual fitness is the result of much plain old boring repetition and memorization. But it is all worth it since these spiritual workouts prepare us to welcome Jesus our Savior, into the world and into our hearts.

Our mid-week Advent services will be held at 6:30 pm on the following Wednesdays: December 6, 13 & 20.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Pastor Griebel

REVITALIZATION PRAYER VERSE FOR DECEMBER:

"My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." (Luke 1:47 NIV)

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP will once again be led by our Sunday School students and choir. We are inviting any adults who may want to be part of the service to join us too. Practices are held on the following Saturdays from 10:00-11:00 a.m.: December 12, 16 & 23.

DECORATORS NEEDED to help install our Christmas decorations on Saturday, December 2, starting at 9:00 am.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 6	Advent Worship	6:30 p.m.
December 13	Advent Worship	6:30 p.m.
December 17	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
	Jesus' Birthday Party/Cookie Walk	10:15 a.m.
December 20	Advent Worship	6:30 p.m.
December 24	Sunday Worship	9:00 a.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve	<u>5:30 p.m.</u>
	Candlelight Worship/Sunday School program	
December 25	Christmas Day Worship	9:00 a.m.
	with Communion	

BLESSING OUR SHUT-INS AT CHRISTMAS We will be reaching out to our shut-ins in two ways this month. Our Hands At Work group and the Board of Fellowship have prepared gifts for the shut-ins that will be delivered to them starting December 10.

Then on Tuesday, December 19, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. our choir will visit our shut-ins to sing Christmas carols for them. If you would like to help deliver the shut-in gifts or to join the choir for the Christmas caroling please contact Pastor Griebel or call the church office.

POINSETTIAS to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas will be sold by the Altar Guild before and after our worship services starting November 26. The cost this year is \$13.00. These beautiful plants are a great way to honor a living or departed loved ones. After the Christmas Day service the plants can be picked up to enjoy at home. Stop by the table in the narthex to order.

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS & YOUTH COOKIE

WALK During the Education Hour from 10:15-11:15 a.m. on Sunday, December 17, a birthday party for Jesus will be held in the Social Hall. During the party the Youth will be having their cookie walk. Come and celebrate Jesus' birthday and stock up on a great selection of cookies and treats. If anyone would like to donate cookies, please bring them to the Social Hall before 9:00 a.m. on the 17th.

CHRISTMAS CARDS will be available on the table in the Social Hall after Thanksgiving. Please check them out. If there is something you wish in addition to what's there, please let Peg Ketchum know.

MORE CHRISTMAS FUN The first part of our worship service on Sunday, December 17, will feature a Christmas carol hymn sing. We'll take time to sing whatever beloved Christmas carols people request.

AUTOMATIC DOORS At our October voters meeting we voted to install automatic door mechanisms on the doors at the southwest corner of the building. This will make it much easier for people in wheelchairs and those with canes and walkers to enter and exit our building. Generous gifts have been received from the Jim Blanshan and Gaynor Levos families to get this project started. If you would like to contribute to this project, place your donation in one of the envelopes in the pew racks, mark "Automatic Doors" on the envelope and place it in the offering. Thank you for helping with this important project.

88 GALLONS OF MILK ON THE SHELF! Once again this year, milk vouchers were added to our annual Altar Guild food drive. A Thrivent Action Team Grant and the generosity of Joyce Ciffra enabled Redeemer to provide 88 vouchers to the Steele Country Food Shelf. The Food Shelf distributes the vouchers to their clients who can then redeem them at our local Fareway Food Store for one gallon of milk per voucher. Last year all of the vouchers we provided were used. Thank you Thrivent and Joyce!

SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT BIBLE CLASSES

Sunday Morning - Education Hour from 10:15 to 11:15 with classes for all ages from 3 to 103. Sunday School in Room 113 and adult class in Room 115.

Tuesday Bible Study meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Morning from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. This class meets in Room 109.

REDEEMER ON THE INTERNET Our services can be seen anytime on the internet. Simply go to <http://www.owatonnalive.com/Church-services.html> and click on the picture of Redeemer.

REDEEMER ON THE AIRWAVES - Charter Cable TV broadcasts our services on Channel 181 each Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Friday at 3:30 p.m.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for the months of January to March are available on the register stand in the narthex. Pick one up for yourself and one to share.

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to Noon

PROVIDING THEIR TIME & TALENTS DECEMBER:

LAY MINISTER: Steve Frodl

READER: Steve Schmidt

ORGANIST: Janda Pitan

ACOLTYE:

December 3 – Claire Schwartz-Woosley
December 10 – Isabelle Schwartz-Woosley
December 13 - Claire Schwartz-Woosley
December 24 – Isabelle Schwartz-Woosley
December 31- Claire Schwartz-Woosley

ALTAR GUILD:

December 3 – 10 – Vicki Vannatta & Wilma Halbe

USHERS: Vaughn Kispert, Chris Blaker, Paul Kujath, Robert Grunklee

December 6 – Advent – Steve Vannatta, Steve Frodl, Ralph Bos, Wayne Christofferson

December 13 – Advent – Vaughn Kispert, Chris Blaker, Paul Kujath, Robert Grunklee

December 20 – Advent – Steve Schmidt, Tom Brage, Richard Grunklee, Jeff Dauffenbach

December 24 – 5:30 – Christmas Eve – Marvin Worrell, Steve Strusz, Ralland Lurken, Dave Fjordbak, Tanner Strusz

December 25 – Christmas Day – Steve Vannatta, Steve Frodl, Ralph Bos, Wayne Christofferson

FINANCIAL STATISTICS

As of November 19, 2017

Actual Receipts: \$136,719.39

Budget: \$155,242.18

Over (under) amount: (\$18,522.79)

DEATH: Gaynor Levos 7-16-36 to 10-24-17

RELEASED: Brian Wendel and children Lacy & Jameson Wendel to Good Shepherd in Owatonna

DECEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Barfknecht	Stacy Hansen
Stephanie Berndt	Hilbert Huber
Judy Boe	Travis Litke
Doreen Bogen	Melissa Meyer
Thomas Brage	Donald Meyer
Janice Coulombe	Laurie Moravec
Douglas Dauffenbach	Taylan Mouser
Jonell Ebeling	Jeffrey Rieser
Helen Frodl	Bradley Rollins
James C Gasner	Lori Schiltz
James T Gasner	Melody Schwartz
Kevin Gerlach	Kaitlyn Strusz
Susan Griebel	C. Nathan Vannatta
Jeremy Grunklee	Brent Hanson

NOTE: If you baptismal birthday is not on this list and it should be call the church office and it will be added.

THE COOK'S CORNER –

Christmas Reindeer Crack!

3 cups salted pretzels	2 cups bugles
2 cups Fritos	1 cup Chex mix
1 cup roasted peanuts	1 ½ cups M & M's

1 pack of white chocolate bark or melting white chocolate (I used Ghirardelli melting white chocolate)

Instructions

1. In a large bowl pour your Pretzels, Fritos, Bugles, Chex mix, Peanuts & M & M's.
2. Place the melting chocolate or bark in a bowl & microwave for 90 seconds. Stir &, if needed, heat an additional 15 seconds until it's smooth & creamy. Watch it closely, keep stopping to stir, it burns easily if you use this way! I recommend using a double boiler, easier and you always get perfect melted white chocolate.
3. Drizzle melted white chocolate over the mixture in the bowl & mix around to coat it all.
4. Once fully coated, take a large cookie sheet & pour coated mixture onto the sheet & spread it out & allow to cool completely.
5. Once cooled, break into pieces.
6. Store in an air tight container – does NOT need to be refrigerated. ENJOY!

