

DECEMBER 2023



Redeemer
Lutheran Church, ELCA

REDEEMER REPORTER

The newsletter of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Boise, Idaho

A decorative graphic with a blue and purple background, featuring white stars and text for church services. The background has a textured, shimmering effect with small white dots and larger white stars. The text is in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

MIDWEEK
SERVICES
DEC. 6, 13, 20 @ 7PM

A SERVICE FOR
THE WEARY
DEC. 21 @ 7PM

CHRISTMAS
EVE
DEC. 24 @ 5PM

How Can a Weary World Rejoice?

O Holy Night is one of my favorite Christmas songs, not just because the music itself often necessitates someone with powerhouse vocals to sing their heart out, but also because of the lyrics. From the very beginning of the song, the combination of the compelling music and lyrics stir in the listener's hearts a sense of expectation and hope, that maybe, just maybe, these worlds are true:

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Til' he appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees; O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

But then the music stops, and we're left with a question. How can a weary world rejoice? Knowing what we know, seeing what we've seen, how could we possibly rejoice? We are each experiencing our own weariness, in our own lives and as we respond to what we are witnessing in the world. In the midst of war, violence, illness, hunger, poverty, a climate crisis, a housing crisis, a mental health crisis, an opioid crisis, another election cycle, and continued division, all alongside trying to keep up with the pace of life that never seems to slow down, we are weary. How could we possibly think of rejoicing?

This Advent, we'll be spending time in Luke's Gospel, where we find the birth narratives of John the Baptist and Jesus of Nazareth. It's in these two birth stories, filled with weariness, fear, connection and joy, that we find ways that a weary world can rejoice. Over these next several weeks, we will search in the Word for hope that we can hold onto in all of our weariness.

It's not only us, members of Redeemer and people who happen to be reading this newsletter, that are in need of hope and joy in a weary world. The whole world is weary, and there are, I'm sure, people in your life right now who are feeling weary and could use a word of hope. During this season, I invite us to do something that isn't the most "Lutheran" – invite people to church. The next few Sundays there will be postcards available for you to take with you and give to people you know. The postcards have information on the services that we will have throughout Advent alongside Sunday morning: Wednesday Evening Prayer, A Service for the Weary on the Longest Night, and our Christmas Eve service. This invitation to invite others is not with the intent of getting people in seats and money in plates– it's because we know that the world is weary and in need of hope. And we trust that whether the people we invite come or not, just the simple act of invitation will give others a glimpse of the hope and joy that God offers each of us.

In this Advent season, may we wait expectantly for our Savior, the one who gives us reason to feel joy. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Mariah Mills



ALL IN THE FAMILY

DECEMBER
Celebrations
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gloria Jay	12/07
Julia Lebouf	12/08
Linda Echtenkamp	12/12
Keith Hammer	12/19
Elise Miltner	12/20
Linda Alexander	12/28
Lynette Simpson	12/30

*Keeping in
Prayer*

CARES AND CONCERNS

Mike Wallick
Jill Carlson
Pam Mayer
Roger Oldenberg
Bonnie Yamaski

GRIEVING

Family of Ed Blakeslee
Family of Judi Ratzleigh (Anderson)
Family of Kathryn "Kitty" Patton, McCaskill/Patton
Family of Anna McCully - Dale Frank's sister
Family of Pastor Stan Hoobing
Family of Cheryl Walsh
Family of Rodger Albers
Family of Charlene Kidner
Family of Kari Spencer

MILITARY

Seth Erickson
Devan Irons
Logan Kostick
Jonathon Negron
Jon Savage
Jim Schmeits
Brian Waybright

Esther Circle Cookie Day!

Esther Circle is meeting December 11 at 12:00 for a luncheon and annual packing and distribution of cookies to members and friends. Anyone that would like to help us with this event is encouraged to join us for lunch and packaging or by donating a couple dozen cookies. It's a really fun event and recipients of these cookies are so happy to be thought of by Redeemer members.

WWW - Wash, Wipe, Wear

Happy Fall and almost winter in Boise! This months WWW distribution in November went very smoothly, thanks to two volunteers who helped along with Jean Pollock in handing out items. Lisa Gravett and her exchange student from Bosnia, Marija Papuga, helped out. We had over 75 people come through for the community hand out. We gave out 300 rolls of toilet paper, 75 toothbrushes, and 75 tubes of toothpaste, and 1875 diapers. Thanks also to Gale Faber for picking up the diapers, and Linda Alexander, Martina Ngabonziza, Ruth Makovsky, Sandy Woodall, and Gracelyn Jones for packaging everything on the Thursday before.

MOM

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

October - November

Agency for New Americans

Sponsor a family at Christmas

Please note MOM on your check written to Redeemer Lutheran Church, or designate gift online at redeemerboise.org

On-going Community Needs

Your Rags to Riches

Please continue donating old towels, dish rags, and cotton t-shirts.

Little Free Pantry

non-perishable food

Gas Card Donations - \$25



Please help us beautify our church for Christmas by purchasing a red poinsettia for \$14. There will be a sign up sheet with 18 plants for purchase. After you have signed up for one, money can be placed in the offering plate designated with "poinsettia" or online. Thank you!



If you want to order online use this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RhUtHhEuVlhyCcqvO9CTWya6T7Jjoe5gFmnZc2V0Bw/edit?pli=1#gid=0>



Camp Christmas

Sign up here!
\$25/family



lutherheightsbiblecamp.square.site/camp-christmas

Join us for our first annual Camp Christmas event for all ages!
Celebrate the season with activities, games, story telling, crafts, camp worship*, and more.
Come for some or all!

***BOTH LOCATIONS CLOSE WITH CAMP STYLE WORSHIP FROM 3:30-4PM
WORSHIP IS FREE! JUST SHOW UP!**

TREASURE VALLEY:
KING OF GLORY LUTHERAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 3RD
FROM 1-4PM*

TWIN FALLS:
OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
DECEMBER 10TH
FROM 1-4PM*

Register at lutherheightsbiblecamp.square.site/camp-christmas

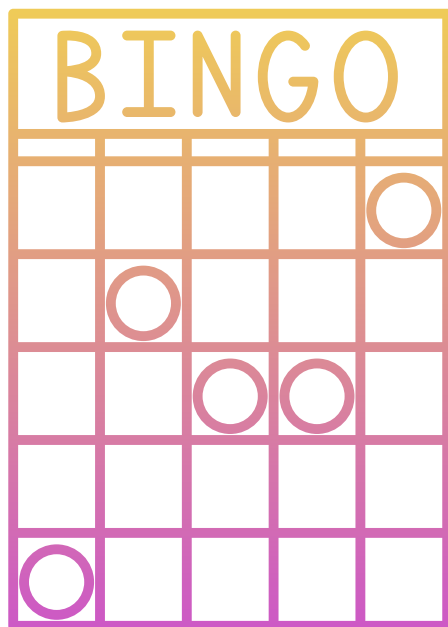


Dannette and The Blakeslee family want to express their heartfelt thanks for the support shown by Redeemer in celebrating Ed's life. The care shown by the lovely service and the delicious lunch were much appreciated!
Thanks to all of you!

Giving Tree

Working with Lutheran Community Services we will have an opportunity to share Christmas gifts with families in need. There is a tree in the Fellowship Hall with gift tags for you to chose. If you take a gift tag please return it unwrapped to Redeemer by December 14. We will be wrapping gifts during the Open House that day.

Merry Christmas!!



SAVE THE DATE

Redeemer Bingo Night

Save the Date! Bingo night at Redeemer hosted by the Confirmation Group.

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

6:30 - 8:30.

Light refreshments included. Please come and bring friends. All ages welcome.

Financial Report

Profit and Loss Statement

	Sept 2023 Actual	October 2023 Actual	Monthly Budget	Annual Budget
Income	\$9742	\$8542	\$12,513	\$145,960
Expenses	\$12,944	\$11752	\$12,513	\$145,960
Net gain/Loss	(\$3202)	(\$3183)	(\$5389)	(\$20,421)
	Oct 2022 YTD Actual	Oct 2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income	\$110,094	\$107,053	\$120,933	\$145,960
Expenses	\$84,939	\$105,536	\$131,577	\$166,381
Net gain/Loss	\$25,156	\$1516	(\$10,643)	(\$20,421)

Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2023

	As of 10/2022	as of 10/2023
Women's Checking	\$1270	\$890
Good Samaritan fund	\$1692	\$1692
Regular Checking	\$52,784	\$56,220
Regular Saving	\$99,587	\$30,745
Mission Investment Fund	\$22,818	\$23,560
Endowment Fund	\$249,631	\$284,350
Total Assets	\$421,512	\$410,435

Total Income for the month of October 2023 was below budget by \$(3,971). Offering income for October was \$(2,563) below budget. Total income YTD through October is below 2022 total income by \$(3,042). Total expenses for October were below budget by \$(6,177). Total Net Loss for October was \$(3,183) and YTD gain was \$1,516. October YTD gain was below 2022 by \$(23,640) and \$12,159 above budget YTD. Note that a Balance Sheet comparative of 2022 and 2023 account balances through October has been included again this month (see above).

Thank you for your continuing financial support of Redeemer's mission.

Submitted by Larry Kidd Redeemer Treasurer

MERRY Open House

SAVE THE DATE

Join us in December for community, cookies and cheer!

What: Redeemer & LCSNW Holiday Open House

When: Thursday, December 14th, 3 - 6 pm

Where: 2920 Cassia Street, Boise

(Visit in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Mariah & Michael also invite you next door for savory snacks at the newly renovated parsonage.)



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LUTHERAN
Community
Services
NORTHWEST

A STORY OF HOPE



It was midnight and Safe Families staff gathered at the Boise airport to meet a 6 month old baby, her mom, and a volunteer host family. The baby's father had taken her to Chicago and then abandoned her on a doorstep. Baby was placed into foster care and somewhere along the way, she was harmed. We supported mom to bring her baby back home.

Today, baby is getting lots of love and staying with Safe Families' host family while her mom, a full time student, works on finding a new home. The families visit weekly and mom breathes a sigh of relief, "*Without Safe Families, I wouldn't have my baby.*"



We are grateful for our ministry partnership with Redeemer! Your partnership is providing space and support allowing us to reach more families in need.

Help us keep children safe and families together!

We invite YOU to be part of the ministry.

Volunteer
Donate \$
Connect with us



In 2023, we provided 29 families:

1,614

Hours of Respite Care

400

Nights in a Safe Bed

266

Hours of Mentorship

100%

Families Reunited!



Reach out to find out how you can help or stop by and visit us at Redeemer. We'd love to meet you!

LCSNW.org/Boise 208.509.2431

Email: safefamiliesTV@lcsnw.org