

Redeemer Happenings

January 2023



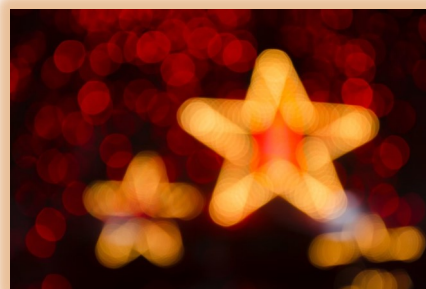
Revelation 21: 1-6 CEB

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a [betrothed] beautifully dressed for [their beloved.] I heard a loud voice from the throne say, "Look! God's



dwelling is here with humankind. [God] will dwell with them, and they will be [God's] peoples... Then [God] said to me, "All is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will freely give water from the life-giving spring."

It is the day we can be born [Silent Night]
Yet all around the world is torn [Holy Night]
But we bring calm and we bring light [Silent Night]
Our stars together make things bright [Holy Night]



Dear people all around the world
Let us unite and we will show
How Light has changed us,
How Light has helped us grow.

These are the words to the Threshold song from our Advent series *Calm & Bright* that would have been sung on January 1. As we reflected on the words of Silent Night, we remember that the last verse of "*Silent Night*" ended with "*Christ the Savior is born.*" And now the story continues. Even though we feel as if the Christmas "season" is over and the tree is quick to come down, the real story begins again in the renewal of our very souls as God nudges us toward new life and possibilities in the new year. What is being born within us? How have we been changed by the light we have celebrated in the last few weeks? What new vision have we gained and what will we do with it?

God of this new day,

we open ourselves to hear your call to new life.

As we anticipate the new year and all its possibilities, help us to always remember that nothing is ever finished, God is not done with us. Indeed, God is ever making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.



Rebekah Circle January Bible study will be held on **Tuesday, January 17 @ 7:00 pm. in the Fireside Lounge.** Agnes Goodman will be our study leader. All ladies are welcome to attend.

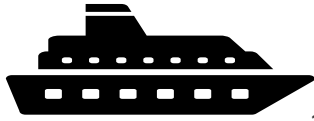


Thank you to our “snow removal angels”, Pastor Trent, Tim Akre, Kelly Erickson, Tim Halstead, Vern MacEwen and Ed Miller who cleared the snow from the flat roof on the church building this week!



Thank you to these worship assistants for the month of January:

<u>Sundays</u>	Communion Prep	Powerpoint		Sound	LiveStreaming (YouTube & Camera)	Accompanist	Reader	Usher
		<u>Build</u>	<u>Run</u>					
January 8 Epiphany	Mary Lou & Bruce	Wendy	Wendy	Tanner	Tim	Stephanie	Audrey	David
January 15 2 Epiphany (green)		Blair	Blair	Beate	Corla	Dale	Brenda or Terry	Ron
January 22 3 Epiphany (green)		Elaine	Charlene	Elaine	Lavina	Laura	Sylvia	Hans
January 29 4 Epiphany (green)		Becky	Becky	Kelly	Bob	Josh	Heather	Ed



Staying the Course

What awaits the world in 2023 is anyone's prediction. We started 2022 with world-wide COVID concerns and economies suffering. At the end of 2022, COVID remained a concern while governments worked to mitigate its impact. Within Redeemer Lutheran Church (RLC) our in-person worship experience gained some traction and attendance, and others continued to worship online. How can we not help but stay the course in 2023?

During the year, Russia declared war on Ukraine. Surprisingly to Russia, the Ukrainian people, with help from countries around the world have valiantly fought to keep Ukraine for the Ukrainians. When watching the nightly news, it is easy to fall into a belief that nothing good exists in our society these days; not true.

RLC as a congregation continued its global support with specific contributions to some agencies and through Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Locally, we have a kindred spirit who keeps us abreast with the needs and experiences at Father Vachon School. The Food Bank donations gathered in November and December filled the back of a Sienna van! I know the donations were gratefully received as when the available staff showed up to carry many loads into the building words to the effect that "Oh boy, you guys brought a lot of stuff" were heard. Merry Christmas from RLC was all that we needed to say before driving off into a snowy blustery day.

Where does staying the course take us? The writers of the letters to the Hebrews may have some insights for us. In Chapter 12 at verses 1 and 2 from the English Standard Version states:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

God has shown us the way. Do not be overwhelmed with negativity that may come your way. A few years ago, the "paying it forward" movement generated much interest. If you are looking for a course to chart each day, try paying it forward to someone you know or maybe even a stranger.

Trust that the Lord will guide our leaders, at every level, to make the right decisions. Remember that even the smallest pebble dropped into a pond of water causes ripples throughout that pond. All of us have a compass to chart a course that makes a difference in our lives and the greater community. Together, let us chart that course through the challenges of 2023.

FINANCIAL UPDATE



The unaudited financial statements and trends for 2022 show that we had a surplus of \$15,162.03 before the fund account revenues and expenses. The surplus for December was \$7,568.71. The envelope giving for 2022 was \$303,346.02, about \$21,000 more than budgeted. Thank you to everyone who had so generously contributed to Redeemer's operations throughout 2022. Audited financial statements for 2022 will be presented at the next annual general congregational meeting.

The unaudited financial statements also show the amounts and the agencies that members had contributed to throughout the year. A total of \$16,154 was donated by members to agencies such as CLWR, LuMinHoS, the Salvation Army, the Saskatoon Food Bank and others.

An offering plate is located at the top of the stairs in the sanctuary for you to drop off your donation as you enter or exit the church service. In addition, the following options are available for you to make a donation:

1. Mail to or drop off a cheque at the church

You can mail a cheque directly to the church office. Mailing address: 812 Preston Avenue, Saskatoon, Sask. S7H 2V2. You can also drop off a cheque in the mailbox at the front of the church or in the church office.

2. Interac E-Transfer using online banking

We are set up for automatic deposit. If you use online banking, you may make a payment to Redeemer Lutheran Church by:

- i. Logging into your personal banking account, add Redeemer Lutheran Church as a recipient using the email address redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net
- ii. Enter the desired amount and click send. Instructions on how to send and receive an e-transfer are found on Interac's website: <https://www.interac.ca/en/consumers/products/interac-e-transfer/>
- iii. You should follow up with an email to Becky at redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net advising her of your donation.

3. Monthly PAD donation

You may request to sign up for a monthly **Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)** donation. This option allows you to automatically make your donation monthly by allowing the church to debit your account for the donation. Please contact the church office if you would like to take advantage of this giving option.

Please note that you may **donate marketable securities** to the church. This will allow you to eliminate any capital gains taxes and allow you a tax donation credit at the same time. Further details may be found at the following link: [Gifts of publicly traded shares and stock options - Canada.ca](#)

Please contact the church office for details on making a donation of marketable securities.

Thank you again to everyone for your donations to the church and maintaining your financial commitments in 2022.

Ron Litzenberger

A THINKER'S TEA PARTY

- A lecture series meant to gather
community and share conversation

@ The Refinery - 609 Dufferin Ave.
Lecture in the theatre starting at 7 pm,
Tea, coffee & refreshments will be offered

Admission: Silver Collection

www.emmanuelrefinery.org



JAN 31, 2023

**WOMEN COMPOSERS IN THE
ROMANTIC PERIOD
- Amanda Lalonde**



FEB 28, 2023

**RACE AND STEREOTYPES: Understanding
and Addressing Stereotypes in Canada
- Scott Thompson**



MAR 28, 2023

**THE BIBLE - WHAT IS IT? AND
WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
- William Richards**

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A Community of Life & Love, Hope & Healing



DO GOOD; SEEK JUSTICE
(Isaiah 1:17)

**Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity**

SAVE THE DATE! **January 18 -25, 2023**

The theme for 2023 comes from the Minnesota Council of Churches as its offering to the world prayer movement in response to the injustice experienced by people of color in the United States and the whole world, demonstrated by the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in 2020.

As Christians seek unity among themselves through the observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, may God also offer healing to the whole human race.

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We're on the web!
redeemersaskatoon.ca

Join Us On
You Tube

If you are unable to worship with us in person, join us each week at 9:50 am on YouTube by clicking this link:
[Redeemer Lutheran Saskatoon - YouTube](#)

This link is also available on the homepage of our website redeemersaskatoon.ca at any time.

You can also go to this same link at any time afterwards to view the service if you are unable to join at 10am. We encourage you to hit 'subscribe' on our YouTube page, so that all future worship services will be highlighted for you. If you have any questions or need assistance in connecting to our YouTube site, just give us a call and we will be glad to help you out.