

Redeemer Happenings

March 2024



A hardened Heart

The 2 sons in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son could not have been more different. The older son worked tirelessly in the fields for the good of the family. The younger son took off with his share of the family inheritance and spent it on "a life of dissipation" (Luke 15:13). Yet both the older and younger son actually had the same problem: they failed to understand the immense blessings that came with being a son of their father and living in their father's house.

At various times in your life, you might have identified with either son— that's the genius of Jesus's parable! In this article, we will take a deeper look at the actions of the older son to see the ways in which we might need to let go of certain attitudes and misconceptions that isolate us from God and from one another.

A "Slave of the Father"

We know enough about the older son to understand that he would have never left his father's house with his inheritance in hand. No, he was a dutiful son. He is the person we all want to be; the one who is loyal, faithful and can be counted on to complete the job assigned to them. The older son in the parable acted as if he were a slave of his father. "Look" he says to his father, "all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders" (Luke 15:29). Perhaps he didn't think that his father would be merciful if he did fail in some way. And so resentment and bitterness began to build in his heart.

How easily we can fall into the same mindset! We might be tempted to relate to God as an employee would to his boss rather than as a child to his father. We might be unaware of our inherent dignity as a son or daughter of God or how much the Lord loves and cares for us, even when we fail.

For reflection: How has my working so hard to please the Lord obscured my experience of the blessing of living as a son or daughter in the Father's house?



What is it with the attached pictures? Well, lightning strikes at RLC too, and more than at each Sunday's 10:00 a.m. service! This past June at the church house



next door, lightning hit a tree in the yard and took down the power



lines. Through the miracle of woodworking and the skill of Tim Akre, the burnt tree trunk morphed into some quality bowls. It is amazing how the Lord works.

In 2023, Redeemer Lutheran Church (RLC) consisting of: our Pastor, Staff, Leadership Team and we, the congregation, continued RLC's ministry within and without our location at Preston and Main. A church is more than a physical structure. Many, Church led events during the year showed what can happen when people work together. RLC continued to offer online services and the You Tube option of watching the service again, and maybe again at a later time, remains unique.

In 2023, many groups continued their weekly use our building. Weekly usage required regular maintenance and repair; you know that group we call property management. Word has it these people actually know how to cook pancakes, sausages and serve a mean cup of coffee too.

RLC's house next door saw our long-term tenants, thank us for their time and hospitality and move to a bigger house. The vacancy allowed for a team of talented volunteers to paint and refurbish the interior. This was a team effort. Rather risk forgetting to name one of the many volunteers, a BIG THANK YOU to everyone will suffice.

Pastor Trent always thanks each Sunday's team of volunteers who: open the building, greet visitors, usher everyone, provide communion, play music, record and project the service online, host coffee and conversation and clean up at the end of the day. We are always looking for helpers and to get your name on the list, call Monica at 306 374-7585. We continually update our pictures on the wall at the place of welcome. If you are not there or want to update the picture, please let us know.


The Treasurer's report appears elsewhere within this report and a breakdown of the 2023 giving statistics appear below. Thank you to all the family/giving units that used: Pre-Authorized Debits (PAD); e-transfers; weekly attendance and good old Canada Post to meet and often exceed their 2023 commitments. Records showed that in addition to time and talents, the following 159 Giving Units supported RLC in 2023 with financial contributions:

Between \$1-\$499	33people	\$3000 over \$4999	9 people
\$500—\$999	29 people	\$5000- \$8999	8 people
\$1000-\$1999	46 people	Over \$9000	7 people
\$2000-\$2999	27 people		

Thank you and God Bless – Stewardship Committee

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

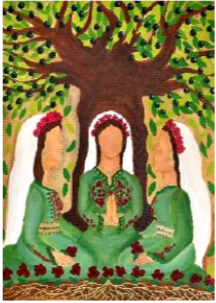
**March 17 after worship
Wear green!**



Men's Prayer Breakfast will be **Saturday, March 16
at 8am @ Smittys.**

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME

**MEN'S PRAYER
BREAKFAST**



World Day of Prayer 2024

Please join us for a **World Day of Prayer Service and refreshments at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 812 Preston Ave., Saskatoon on Friday March 1 at 2:00pm.** This year's service was World Day of prayer is a prayer movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience with the experience of Christians from other countries and cultures and to bring hope to women touched by injustice.

More information about our community's service is available from Redeemer Lutheran 306 374 7585 or redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net

The World Day of Prayer is coordinated by the E-mail: wicc@wicc.org; Website: www.wicc.org
www.facebook.com/WICCCanada

I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love



Naomi Circle—Tuesday, March 26

2:00 pm @ Aspira Hunter Village, 250 Hunter Road

For information on Aspira please contact Winnie Gellner 3062492414.

If you need a ride, do not hesitate to contact Becky Wilson 306 230 5695.

We will be using the March study copy in the Gather magazine.



REBEKAH CIRCLE

Rebekah Circle March Bible study will be held on **Tuesday, March 19@ 7:00 pm. in the Fireside Lounge.** Charlene Neumeyer will be our study leader. All ladies are welcome to attend.

EVERYONE IS INVITED to the Next INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT



Sunday, March 3rd at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

On our journey through Lent, it will be a time to "prepare" as we plant **Easter gardens**, sing songs, hear stories and share a **Sandwich lunch** together.



All are welcome! Bring yourself, friends, neighbours, students, family, children, grandchildren –All Ages!



OLDER BUT WISER LUTHERANS

The next gathering of OWLS will be on **Thursday, March 21 @ noon**. We will have lunch and then be entertained by Darrell Utley. **RSVP** by **Tuesday, Mar 19** to the church office. We will be limiting numbers to 35 so call early! Cost: \$10/person

No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience

FINANCIAL UPDATE



We had a deficit of \$1,747.56 before the fund account revenues and expenses for January 2024. The envelope giving for January 2024 was \$17,841.00. Thank you to everyone who had so generously contributed to Redeemer's operations throughout 2023. Audited financial statements for 2023 will be presented at the next annual general congregational meeting on March 17 and will be included in the annual report available prior to the meeting.

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 redemer.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/>

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 your donation. Please contact the church office if you would like to take advantage of this giving option.

Please note that you may also 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.

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

Ron Litzenberger

THE
BRIDGE

TICKETS ARE
AVAILABLE NOW!

Taste & See
25th Anniversary

MARCH 22ND, 2024

PRAIRIELAND PARK HALL B

DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM - DINNER AT 6PM

\$100 PER PLATE - \$800 FOR A TABLE OF 8

PLUS SERVICE CHARGES AT PURCHASE

DINNER BUFFET - WORSHIP - TESTIMONIES

**COME AND CELEBRATE
25 YEARS OF MIRACLES WITH US!**

*"Come and see what God has done;
what awesome miracles He performs for people!"*

Psalms 66:5

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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Saskatoon SK
S7H 2V2

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E-mail: redeemer.luth.stoon@sasktel.net

Office hours

Monday to Thursday 9am-12pm & 1-4
(Friday afternoon office is closed)

A Community of
Life & Love,
Hope & Healing



We're on the web!
redeemersaskatoon.ca

I FIND JOY IN
EVERY DAY, NOT
BECAUSE LIFE IS
ALWAYS GOOD,
BUT BECAUSE
GOD IS.

Join Us On



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.