

# OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWS

## December 2019

### That's the Good News

***The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,  
Romans 5:20***

Bill Wilson and Bob Smith, co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous, once visited a lawyer who was a hardened alcoholic. Confined to bed because of violent behavior, the man had no choice but to listen to their stories of recovery. But as soon as they started talking about a 'Higher Power', the lawyer shook his head and said, 'It's too late for me. I still believe in God but I know He no longer believes in me.' How sad – and misguided! Are you worried that God won't accept you because of your sins? You don't have to be! Paul says, '*Where sin increased, grace increased...more.*' And he should know, because before his Damascus Road conversion he was '*Public Sinner Number One*' (1 Timothy 1:15). Afterwards God used him to reach the world with the gospel (see Acts 17:2). 'Grace' was so central to Paul's message that he mentions it in the very beginning of all his Epistles. That's because he understood that by trying to stand on your own merit before a Holy God, every time you mess up you feel like a failure – unloved, unworthy, and unaccepted. Psychologists say we try to conform to the image of us that's seen by the most important person in our lives. So can you imagine what would happen if you started seeing yourself as God sees you? The truth is, you're His redeemed child and He sees you through the blood of Jesus, which cleanses all your sins (see 1 John 1:9). There's nothing you can do to make God love you more, and nothing you can do to make Him love you less! And that's the good news!

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for Your unending Grace, Mercy, and Love. This sustains me to keep going forward. In the precious name of Jesus, Amen.

#### **Celebrate December Birthdays at "Coffee And..."**

Come and celebrate God's gift of life during "Coffee And" immediately following church on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. We'll sing "Happy Birthday" and share in some tasty birthday treats.

#### **Christmas Caroling, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2 PM:**

Come and join us for an afternoon of Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Meet at Our Redeemer at 2 PM. After Caroling everyone is invited to go out for a bite to eat. If you have questions, please talk to Laurie Drake.

**Service at Aspired Living:**

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 **PM** Our Redeemer will lead a Worship Service at Aspired Senior Living in Prospect Heights. Volunteers are needed to assist Pastor and the residents during the service. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Pastor Rod.

**Wednesday Morning Bible study:**

Wednesday morning Bible Study continues on Wednesdays during the month of December at 11 AM in the parlor.

**Wheeling Food Pantry Wish List:**

The Wheeling Township food pantry is in need of the following items: **Beverages (coffee, juice, tea etc...), Cereal, Cream Soups (cream of chicken, cream of mushroom, cream of celery), Pasta, Tomato products (diced, paste, pureed, sauce, stewed etc...)** Items can be dropped off at Our Redeemer and placed beneath the preschool bulletin board.

**Church Lunch and Christmas Decorating Day:**

Please come join us on Monday December 2 at 12:00 noon to help make our Church festive for the Advent/Christmas season. We will first enjoy some fellowship and a provided small meal before decorating. Any questions, please see Traudy.

**Christmas Gift Card Drive:**

**THANK YOU – THANK YOU – THANK YOU!!!** Your generosity and support helped us order over \$1,000.00 worth of gift cards. These gift cards will be used to purchase toys and family necessities for Wheeling Township needy families, foster children in the Lutheran Child and Family Services system and Toys for Tots. God has surely blessed us with so very many caring individuals with such big hearts! Thank you again! Traudy and Danielle.

**ORVE:**

If you are interested in singing in the Choir on Christmas Eve at the 7:00 pm service, please contact Cheryl Gerson via email at [cgerson@saint-paul.org](mailto:cgerson@saint-paul.org) or cell phone at 847/530-8216. Rehearsals will be held Saturday mornings on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> with rehearsal time to be determined. We will only sing if there are enough people interested. I am hoping to sing in 4 part harmony if possible, Thank you! Cheryl



1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	December 1 <sup>st</sup>	With Communion
Advent Midweek 1	December 4 <sup>th</sup>	No Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	December 8 <sup>th</sup>	No Communion
Advent Midweek 2	December 11 <sup>th</sup>	No Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	December 15 <sup>th</sup>	With Communion
Advent Midweek 3	December 18 <sup>th</sup>	No Communion
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	No Communion
Christmas Eve Candlelight	December 24 <sup>th</sup>	With Communion
Christmas Day	December 25 <sup>th</sup>	No Communion



## Gifts of Love for the Lutheran Home



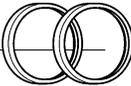
The Auxiliary of Lutheran Home and Services is collecting "Gifts of Love" to be used as gift items to cheer residents as they help them celebrate their birthdays. The following new items are suggested:

Kleenex (120 - 160 count), Birthday Cards, Pens, Pads of Paper, Games, Puzzles, Handkerchiefs, Bar Soap, Packaged Tooth Brushes, Tooth Paste, Deodorant and Lip Balm

A box for these donations is available across from the Welcome Center.  
Thank you



December	3 – Nathalie Santiago	11 – Kent Greenholt	24 – Rose Wirsing
	4 – Sue Perek	12 – Les Thielman	26 – Hedwig Beer
	5 - Kathleen Butler	18 – Chrissy Gebert	27 – Traudy Burmeister
	6 – John Hall	18 – Vicky Gebert	
	7 – Carol Snelson	23 – Jeanne Zundel	

**Celebrating**   
*An Anniversary This Month*

December 9 – Don and Marian Campion

