

OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWS

December 2023

Heaven Is My Home

This past year has been painful to many people. Two of our members have left the Church Militant here on earth, and joined the Church Triumphant in Heaven above. Others have had close friends do the same. Others are carefully watching relatives who may soon join those who have gone before. For all this suffering, that of those leaving have this concern: Have I said goodbye to all whom I love? Have I told them how much I do love them? Have I let go of all the baggage of this earth? For those of us who remain, and who still endure, the pain will last longer in that feeling of emptiness, of loss. In due time, though, God delivers all into Hope and Contentment. *He Is Lord of All, and All Is Well In His Eyes.*

“I reckon,” said Saint Paul, “that the sufferings of this present world are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.” (Rom 8:18) If we believe with all of our heart that this is true, then when we think about pain and death on this earth, we’re not looking at the whole picture unless we also think about the Joy of Heaven. It would be leaving out one whole side of the discussion. Scripture and tradition – traditions which reach back before the days of Christ – habitually put the joys of Heaven into the scale against the pain of this life, and no understanding of pain can be had without looking at what comes after. People are very hesitant these days to discuss Heaven, and outside of Church never seem to do so. We are afraid, I suppose, of being accused of being dreamers, of being told that we are trying to escape so-called reality, of running away from seeking to make this earth a happy world here and now. But, either there is a place which the Lord has prepared for us from before the beginning of the world, or there is not. And if not, “... then we of all people are the most to be pitied.” (1 Cor 15:19) Faith in Christ is Faith in His Promises.

There are some who suggest that the reason we don’t talk about Heaven is that we don’t really love it, and are not looking forward to being there. We’re afraid that it’s not what we expect. But, truthfully, that’s all we ever really wanted. Heaven is where all things make sense. It’s where all worries are destroyed. It’s where we walk once again with the Lord. Everything else in all the created world reflects only an aspect of the joys of Heaven. Everything that has ever taken possession of our hearts are but hints of it – tantalizing glimpses, promises never quite fulfilled, echoes that die away just as they catch at the ear. But, if there ever came an echo that did not die away, but continued to grow and swell, then we would know it beyond all doubt. And that’s what it will be like one day, for those whom the Lord loves, and who love the Lord.

A consequence of all of this is that the sooner we realize that what we really desire beyond all measure is to see the face of God, then the sooner we can become content in this life with all that comes to pass. Whether it is the pain of personal illness and disease, or the pain in the heart of seeing one we love suffer and die, or even if we’re looking at the good parts of our lives, everything comes into perspective when we look to the greatest gift – the gift of Heaven. Even the good gifts, you see, do not seem good if we think that we will find ultimate fulfillment in them. If we think we will find fulfillment in a wife or husband, then we will be disappointed. If we think that we will find fulfillment in an advanced college degree, then we will be dissatisfied. If we think that a new car, a new home, or any material thing will give us fulfillment, then we are certain to be broken-hearted. When we see that all the good, as well as all the pain, are but precursors of the world to come, then we can enjoy all of it. We can delight in the good, rejoice with one another; and we can cry with one another over the pain, yet endure. For we know that God’s gifts are sure, that His fulfillment is true, and that His promises never fail. We are His, and His home is ours.

In Christ,
Pr. Jeffery H. Leichman

December Voter's Meeting

Please plan to join us for the December Voter's meeting on Sunday December 10th immediately following Worship.

Adult Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 11:00 am in the Parlor

Hunger Jar is located on a stand at the top of the steps.

Coffee and...

Please join us for our special December Birthday celebration at 'Coffee and...' following Worship on Sunday December 3rd.

Church Decorating Day will be

Friday, December 1 at 12:00 pm. Since this is during the lunch time hour, we will have Sloppy Joes available for you to enjoy before, during or after the decorating.

End of the year donations

In the event you are considering a special donation before the end of the year, please remember the donation must be received in the Church Office no later than Sunday December 31, 2023.

Donations received after the 31st will count towards 2024 regardless of the date on the envelope or check.

Thank You!!!

Are you a Thrivent Member?

Have you directed your Choice Dollars? Please remember to check your Thrivent account at least on an annual basis and indicate where you would like to have them directed. Both Our Redeemer and Sonshine are included in the recognized recipients and would appreciate being designated. Thrivent provides this free of charge to members, so remember to take advantage of their generosity!

Wheeling Township Food Pantry Wish List

The Wheeling Township food pantry needs the following items: Cereal, Fruit (Pears, Peaches, Pineapple, apple

Sauce), Soup (Cream of Chicken, Beef Broth, Chicken Broth, Beef Vegetable, Chicken Noodle), Meat products (Beef Stew, Chili, Corned Beef Hash, canned chicken, Spam), Beans (Red Kidney, White Northern and Cannellini). Items need to be dropped off at the Wheeling Township office located at 1616 N Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights. Questions can be directed to Julie Villarreal at 847-259-7730.

New Outreach Idea - As an extension of Summer Suppers, we are considering having a Food/Necessities Pantry. We are looking for anyone interested in learning more about this opportunity or have some input that may be of help in researching this new idea. Please feel free to contact Stacey Hall or Traudy.

Poinsettia Orders

Watch the Bulletin Announcements for more information coming soon.

Thank you in advance to everyone who gave a donation to help purchase items for families through the Adopt-A-Family Program. With God's love working through you and with your generosity, these families can now have a more enjoyable Christmas.

Calendars - Once again, the Prison Ministry at St. Edna is collecting calendars for those incarcerated for the next year. We would like any 2024 calendars that you will not be able to use including single sheet, pocket and wall calendars. All are greatly appreciated by the many prisons we have distributed them to in the past. The chaplains for the various correctional centers distribute these freely to the incarcerated. Please help our excess become a gift to those who have not. This is also a sign of hope to those incarcerated that others care, and they are not alone in their situations. God always gives us hope, let us pass it along.
Sue Perek

Network Name and Password

ORLC Network Name: ORLC-Sanc-WiFi

Password: OrLcWiFiWax214

ORLC Outdoor Network Name: NETGEARACA35F-SETUP

Password: sharedsecret

Click-meeting link:

Ourredeemerph.clickmeeting.com

Website

ourredeemerprospectheights.org

contains links for online worship, Bible

Studies, Bulletins, Monthly News, and Online Giving. Check it often.

Email address for Pastor Leichman is:

Pastor@ourredeemerprospectheights.org

Prayer Request Information

If you have a prayer request, please notify Jim Burmeister via text at (847) 343-3798, Phone (847)934-5963 home or (847)343-3798 cell; or via email at elder@ourredeemerprospectheights.org.



December

- 3 – Nathalie Santiago
- 4 – Sue Perek
- 5 – Kathleen Butler
- 6 – John Hall
- 7 - Carol Snelson

- 11 – Kent Greenholt
- 24 - Rose Wirsing
- 26 - Hedy Beer
- 27 - Traudy Burmeister

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

December 9 – Don and Marian Campion



DECEMBER

December	3	9:00 am	First Sunday in Advent With Communion Coffee and... December Birthdays
	5	4:30 pm	BOD Meeting
	6	11:00 am	Adult Bible Study
	10	9:00 am	Second Sunday in Advent No Communion
		10:00 am	Voter's Meeting
	13	11:00 am	Adult Bible Study
	17	9:00 am	Third Sunday in Advent With Communion Coffee and...
	20	11:00 am	Adult Bible Study
	24	9:00 am	Fourth Sunday in Advent No Communion Coffee and...
		5:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight service
	27	11:00 am	Adult Bible Study
	31	9:00 am	First Sunday after Christmas Coffee and...