

OUR REDEEMER MONTHLY NEWS

January 2021



As I walk the halls of Open Arms Child Development Center, I see the “carpet files” laid out on the floor to assist in getting the children to “line up at the wall”... One file for each letter of the alphabet. ‘A’ is followed by ‘B’ then ‘C’ and ‘D’ and so on... somewhere around where ‘G’ should be, things get a little jumbled. Turn the corner and it almost seems to get back in order, but then after ‘W’ followed by ‘X’ comes ‘Y’ and suddenly ‘L’ and ‘M’ break in before we get to ‘Z’ – and that is turned sideways!

Interestingly enough, that seems to be a metaphor for the way 2020 has unfolded, doesn’t it?! Somewhere around where ‘G’ should be in our lives... it all seemed to go sideways. And we are all experiencing some degree of “pandemic fatigue” at this point, so trying to straighten things out just doesn’t seem to be worth the effort.

Thanks be to God (notice the Big ‘G’) that we don’t have to make sense of all this mess. He has come into our world and has begun the restoration of ALL creation. That is what we celebrated this Christmas. And that is what we can continue to celebrate as we go through Epiphany this season.

In the natural progression of the English language, that word – “epiphany” – seems to have taken on a whole different connotation in the secular world than what is meant in our faith-based lives. In today’s society, having an “epiphany” means ...“an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking.” For our faith lives it means the manifestation of Christ, the divine and long-awaited savior, having come into our midst. The reality is that Christ has come and saved us from our sin and the condemnation that results from sin. The striking event that we will see at Good Friday is that He has died in our place. And the meaning that brings to us comes with His resurrection and the promise that we, too, inherit eternal life with and in Christ. What an Epiphany!

May this season bring you continuing joy as we celebrate the Light of Life enlightening our world!

With Christ,
Pastor Jim Kirschenmann

Mid-Week Bible Study:

“Christ Plus Nothing, a study in Galatians” – 7pm Wednesdays

The 6-Session Bible Study that begins on January 6, 2021 will be **“Christ Plus Nothing, a study in Galatians”**. This study helps us remove the lens of performance-based rules we often feel we need to follow in order to be “accepted” by God or “approved” by others.

Wheeling Food Pantry Wish List:

The Wheeling Township food pantry is in need of the following items: **Carrots, Pasta Sauce, Tomatoes (diced or stewed), Peas and Ravioli**. Items can 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

Calendar Collection

Sue Perek and the Prison Ministry team are collecting Calendars for the year 2021. If you receive any that you cannot use, please bring them to the Church office for collections. The needs of the Correctional Centers in Illinois are great for these items. Your donation is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about the collection, please call Sue at 224/558-6544. Thank you for your assistance.

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 b4jtjd@comcast.net. This is a new email address for us. Our old address is no longer in use.

Attention Amazon .com users!

If you make online purchases from Amazon.com, you can help Our Redeemer. You can have a donation from Amazon sent to Our Redeemer based on your smile.amazon.com purchases.

Simply login to: smile.amazon.com with your normal login information and designate Our Redeemer as the recipient. Enter Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in the Search box and scroll down until you find us. Amazon does the rest. We get a 0.5% donation of eligible purchases.

Questions – see Jim Burmeister





Gifts of Love for the Lutheran Home



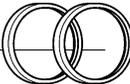
The Auxiliary of Lutheran Home and Services is collecting "Gifts of Love" to be used as gift items to cheer residents as they help them celebrate their birthdays. The following new items are suggested:

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

Donations can be brought directly to the Lutheran Home.
Thank you



January 7 – Justin Burmeister
20 – Ruth Koelper
22 – Paul Gebert
23 – Betty Berta
27 – Anne Schultz

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

January No Anniversaries in January

