

Winter 2022 *Tidings*



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A Letter from Pastor Lisa

“Little Boy in a Redeemer T Shirt”

Sometimes I think what I most want you to know about Redeemer is exactly what I'm supposed to keep to myself. But I want to tell you this—because your faith, prayers, and financial support of Redeemer is what drives me—standing in for Christ, and representing you.

On a recent Sunday, I preached a (long) sermon, partly on how Redeemer is a church of both Mercy and Might. Yes, it is a house of worship built of majestic, imposing brick. Yet we operate more like the household churches nearly 2000 years ago—praying, reflecting on scripture, and focusing our efforts on meeting the needs of our neighbors, many of whom approach us first as strangers.

Alex texted me in the final moments of the Confirmation class on the Major Prophets: A homeless mother and her son awaited me in the Sanctuary. Filled with warm soup from the Noon Run, they sat in the warm embrace of the Church of Mercy and Might. She looked young, worried, and determined. Her five year old son, in pajama pants and a winter jacket, followed my face, smiling when I smiled. All the shelters were full. WHY ARE ALL THE SHELTERS FILLED?? the Major Prophets would have raged. Actually, WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR SHELTERS?? would be their rant. Her partner beat her and was in prison. Her mother's apartment was so cold and drafty that the children couldn't sleep. She was calling 211 every hour, hoping to hear of open beds. In the meantime, she had half of the \$65 dollars needed to get a hotel that night, and wanted her son to get a shower before he went back to school the next morning. We talked and prayed together, then I went downstairs to retrieve some Pastor's Discretionary funds and a grocery card that one of you had given me. I told her that if she needed a clean layer, to help herself to one of the Thrivent or Redeemer t shirts on the front pew. When I came back, my breath caught when I saw that she had placed a Redeemer t shirt over her son's winter coat—one more layer of protection on the little life that kept her from giving up.

During our entire time together, the young mother held a Bible from the pew rack in her hands. She read it while she waited for me. “I've never actually read this before. It's speaking to me.”

“Take it with you.”

Friends, this is perhaps the most compelling reason why we remain church at the corner of 19th and Wisconsin Avenue. We are invited to be Gospel for those in their times of desperation, and together, with God's blessing, we can respond to their pleas for help. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming Events

Advent & Christmas

2022 Schedule

Midweek Advent Services:
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

 November 30th
Redeemer

 December 7th*
Pastor Lisa's

 December 14th*
Scott & LuAnn's

 December 21st
Location TBA

Christmas Eve Service:
December 24th
4:00pm

Christmas Day Service:
December 25th
10:00am



*RSVP to admin@redeemermilwaukee.org



New Members Welcomed,

December 11th

Join us in welcoming new members during worship with a reception to follow. If you'd like to

Epiphany Worship at Hephatha,

January 6th

Hephatha Lutheran Church, located at 1720 E Locust St., will be having an Epiphany worship at 6:00pm.

Annual Meeting, January 29th

The 2023 annual meeting will take place following worship.

Fearless & Faithful Update

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” 2 Corinthians 9:6

Winter Focus: Taking Stock

As we approach the season filled with the extremes of our culture (materialism and excess) as well as the extremes of our climate (cold, freezing, ice), this is an opportune time to take stock of what we sow during our short human experience:

- | Will we be remembered as being fearless and courageous in our advocacy for others,
- | As generous to a fault in sharing our blessings, and,
- | As faithful to our God and those we love in our lives?

As a new associate member of Redeemer and a volunteer on the Faithless & Fearless Campaign, I am ashamed to admit how often I fall short in my own life. Yet, it is the promise of redemption through Christ that allows us to wake fresh each morning with a clean slate.

This imagery of the clean slate has been a daunting one for the Partner Division of the Faithful & Fearless campaign, tasked with raising \$1.8 million from outside the Redeemer congregation. It’s my pleasure to work with very talented volunteers on this goal, and we are excited to report we have over \$0.7 million committed as of November 1, 2022. The delay in construction phases has aided our work in that we have more time to continue to approach foundations, corporations, and individuals and families to support Redeemer’s campaign. We ask for your prayers for us and for those we approach to be fearless and courageous, generous and faithful to our God and those we serve as the church at 19th and Wisconsin.

Brenda Skelton
Associate Member
Campaign Volunteer



REDEEMER
Fearless and Faithful



A Message From Pastor Mike

Friends at Redeemer,

I can hardly believe it, and it is sad to realize that my time as pastoral intern at Redeemer is already starting to come to a close. My last Sunday will be January 8th, 2023, which means that I still have all of Advent with you to celebrate Jesus coming into the world, but I know that it will come fast. I'm looking forward to our Midweek Advent worships especially since some of them will be hosted in people's homes:

November 30th, 6:30pm: Redeemer Lutheran Church

December 7th, 6:30pm: Pastor Lisa's

December 14th, 6:30pm: Scott McIntosh & LuAnn Blohm's

December 21st, 6:30pm: Location TBA

From worship, to Zoom Bible Study, to Confirmation, to Thursday Pantry, I have been so grateful to be a part of this community for the past year and to witness all the ways God is moving at Redeemer. I'll never forget spending Ash Wednesday at Redeemer with forty of us packed in the lower lounge by candlelight. As we sang, distributed ashes, ate dinner, and dipped beeswax candles with Charlie in blue and yellow for Ukraine, I was struck by the diversity and intimacy of our little community. There was something uniquely holy about the worship and the conversations we had afterwards that included men from the Rescue Mission, college students in the dentistry program, lifelong members of Redeemer, and middle schoolers whose families had just joined. There was an unshakeable feeling that evening that this was exactly what Jesus was imagining when he told us to pray for the kingdom of God to come.

It is with great joy and hope that when I look into the future, I continue to see this community's dedication to sharing the love of Jesus one hug, one song, and one meal at a time.

Peace and God Bless,
Pastor Mike

Thank you and good luck, Pastor Mike!



New Member Spotlight

Rebecca Moczulewski

What prompted you to visit Redeemer for the first time?

My friend and colleague, Rev. Joe Ellwanger recommended I connect with Redeemer in search of volunteers for my school on 25th and Wisconsin Ave. After meeting Pastor Lisa and Pastor (Intern) Mike, I couldn't wait to attend worship and meet the community. It wasn't long before I decided to become an associate member.

Where did you grow up? Were you raised in a faith tradition?

West Allis. Catholic.

Volunteer at MACL

Do you find joy working with children?

Do you have an hour or two each week to serve God by supporting an elementary or middle school-aged child or small group of children in a classroom setting?

Are you looking for a meaningful experience that will meet a critical need in our community?

If you are interested, please contact:
Rebecca (Weitzer) Moczulewski
Art Teacher, Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language
2430 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53233
reb.mocz@gmail.com



What's your favorite Bible story/verse and why?

Love so much of Scripture—that's really tough! Maybe the loaves and fishes. It's countercultural; it's about abundance rather than scarcity. I am moved by the way that Jesus gets people to see and feel that, to change people's hearts. That is the real miracle!

If you had a completely free day, what would you choose to do?

Spend more quality time with friends and family. If I truly had some time, I'd spend it drawing and painting. I am a portrait artist, represented by AYZHA Fine Arts Gallery in the Grand Ave. Mall. Watercolor is my favorite medium. I also enjoy reading and cycling with my husband Bob.

What has surprised or impressed you during your time at Redeemer so far?

The warmth, caring, and generosity of the community, Pastor Lisa's leadership, the music, the outreach--so many things!



A Message From Jeff Bray

From your music director...

Throughout this fall, Pastor Lisa gave me an opportunity to join her in taking the Center for Action and Contemplation's online course, The Meaning of Mary Magdalene. We wrestled with the amazing course material that gave me much insight into this important "Apostle to the Apostles." As Pastor Lisa preached in November, Mary Magdalene clearly understood and deeply followed the message of Jesus. Learning more about this misunderstood leader in our faith opens doors to ways of becoming a kinder and gentler church institution that is so needed in these divisive times. I am grateful to the parish community for this continuing faith formation experience.

Redeemer Choir continues to evolve and grow as a "festival choir" that serves on special Sundays from time to time. I believe that a choir program that allows for individuals to measure out their participation on an occasional basis sets the Redeemer Choir up for success, without the burden of weekly rehearsal time or expectation. Choir sang this fall for Reformation Sunday in October and Christ the King Sunday in November. Our next festival choir date will be the Christmas Eve service, Dec 24th at 4:00 pm. I encourage you to attend our 30-40 minute rehearsals on December 4, 11 and 18 at 9 am in the Sanctuary.



In addition, I invite anyone—young or old—to prepare a Christmas piece (on piano, flute, violin, etc.) to enliven our Christmas Eve service! Please call/text me at (414) 731-0590 or email music@redeemermilwaukee.org.

Peace,
Jeff Bray, Music Director

Refugee Resettlement Team

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) recently requested the assistance of Redeemer's Refugee Resettlement team to provide support for a Ukrainian gentleman who recently relocated to Milwaukee from the war-torn country. The team of congregants, who participated in several LSS-led trainings this year, will soon be learning more from LSS about the relational support needs of this individual, who does not need home furnishings but does need to learn how to use the bus and access support resources in Milwaukee. Please stay tuned for updates if opportunities arise for the larger congregation to support this individual and please pray for our efforts.

-Abby Schumwinger, Team Lead



Financial Report Winter 2022

Season's greetings to you and your family,

As another year comes to an end, Redeemer can be thankful once again for your kind generosity. We are on track to finish the year strong with our congregational giving and to accomplish our ministries within our planned budget for 2022. The following numbers are as of Monday, November 21st, 2022:

Redeemer's Total Income: 217,995.80\$

Total Expense: 238,680.64\$

Although the income number is less than the expenses currently in this report, we still have Advent Season in which our church truly shines. As most of our budgeted expenses have been paid up for the year, we will look forward to the income stream to match if not surpass the total expenses. Redeemer has always been good stewards, and we anticipate another great ending to the year. Please remember Redeemer in your year end giving, and may you have a blessed Holiday Season.

God's Peace,
Chan D Tran, Treasurer

Thank you Bill and Judy!



Bill and Judy have lovingly served Redeemer for several decades as keepers of the sacristy: changing the paraments, setting up for communion, decorating the altar and sanctuary, running errands to Stempers, and much, much more. We thank them for their dedication over the years and we welcome 10 additional volunteers to the new formed Altar Guild, led by Cheryl Walker.

Dear Redeemer Church -

We were completely surprised by the kind words of gratitude and thanks for our years of "behind the scenes" care of Sacristy duties last Sunday (11/13.) It was always our pleasure to be able to assist in any way we could.

When Pastor Lisa told us how people came forward to take care of altar duties we were grateful knowing many wanted to help!

Thank You for the beautiful flowers, the lovely sentiments expressed in the card and the treasures in the gift bag.

It has been a medical journey these past few months, but we are hoping that each new day brings us closer to a full recovery for Bill.

Warmest regards,

Bill & Judy Standiford

