



The Redeemer Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 12

December, 2011



Christmas

Christmas! It is my favorite season of the year. I've listened to Christmas music since October. I love to fill my life with Christmas Spirit: Welcome everyone every day with a great smile of joy and center our life on love and giving. It's a wonderful time of the year. I wish all 365 days were Christmas Days.

During the Christmas season, everywhere I go I hear Christmas music that praises the birth of Jesus and names Jesus as the King of all and the Messiah. Somehow, no one gets offended by the lyrics of Christmas music regardless of their different religious backgrounds. Isn't it amazing? How powerful are the words they sing unconsciously or consciously through Christmas music! I really thank God for allowing us to have Christmas at least once a year to put Jesus' song in people's hearts and melt those hardened hearts during this season.

I say Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year because it is a great time to reach out to the community and invite people to join the joyful fellowship of Jesus Christ. People's hearts are already softened by Christmas Spirit. So, hearing of the good news of Jesus Christ is not that offensive in the community if it was before. It is the time for me to go out into the community and meet people for Christ.

I just share what I know about Christmas with people I meet at the mall or market or wherever, wherever I see an opportunity, and invite them to Church, not just to ORUMC but the Church near their home. I experience a great joy I cannot describe with my words afterward. Try it if possible. It is fun. I personally do this especially during this time of the year because the community is so ready to hear about Jesus even through Christmas in the community is somewhat commercial-oriented.

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Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

United Methodist Church

1600 W Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg IL 60194-3900

(847) 882-6116

email: orumc@orumc.org

Website: www.orumc.org

Worship Services:

9:00 and 10:30 am and 6:33 pm

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. Sunny Ahn

Church Secretary:

Donna Echtner

Director of Youth Ministries:

Marianne Rogenski

Minister of Christian Education:

Rev. Elizabeth Bowes

Editor:

Jerry Mc Daniel

I feel like there is some misunderstanding between “Christmas vs. Xmas.” The origin of the word Xmas is simple. For centuries it has been a perfectly acceptable shorthand for the word “Christmas.” The “X” in Xmas comes from the Greek letter *Chi*, which just so happens to be the first letter in the Greek word for Christ. Since very few of us are Greek scholars these days, many have mistaken the “X” for a mathematical variable—as in, a way to avoid the religious connotations of the Christmas holiday. Others have taken it a step further, believing that the “X” actually crosses out the term Christ—as in, “taking the Christ out of Christmas.” While the historical evidence doesn’t support the “war on Christmas” interpretation, the pop culture status of Xmas isn’t so clear. Since many of the religious groups battling the supposed “secularization of Christmas” have identified the X-word as an anti-Christmas slur, it’s largely avoided.

No matter how people want to call this holy day, it is the day to celebrate our Savior Jesus’ birth. Jesus is the reason for the season! Therefore, let us sing together, “Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive their king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.” My FROG is dancing during this time of the year. It’s leaping, hopping, skipping and jumping. By Fully Relying on God, we can dance in the presence of God. Receive our King, Jesus! Prepare him a room in us! Let us sing! Merry Christmas!

Ribbit!

Pastor Sunny

NEW SECURITY SYSTEM Effective December 5

Over the past few months members of ORUMC have installed a security system for our church. The system will be activated Monday, December 5. Access to the building will change as follows.

1) MAIN ENTRANCE

Use of the intercom located to the left of the MAIN ENTRANCE will be required Monday-Friday during business hours when a staff member is present. The call button on the intercom will connect the visitor to the office. The staff member will release the control and allow the door to be opened.

2) NURSERY ENTRANCE

Persons possessing a key may enter any time by using the door at the NURSERY ENTRANCE. The door MUST REMAIN LOCKED during business hours while the system is activated.

3) NORTH ENTRANCE

Between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday – Friday, the NORTH ENTRANCE will be used exclusively by those whose children attend Christain Corner Children's Center. An individual access code will be assigned to each family. CCCC's schedule mirrors that of School District 54.

4) EXITING

When the system is activated, the entrance door is held shut by the system. You must exit the building via the right hand door.

5) AFTER HOURS

When staff members are not present the system will be de-activated and all doors will be accessible by key.

We ask for your patience as we work out the "bugs" in the system. A huge thank you to **Marshall Nystrom, Jeff Oster, and Jim Naatz** for donating time and material to make this system possible at no cost to the church.

Thank You,
Board of Trustee's

A Gift Idea for Grandpa (and the "grandpas" in your life)

by Bruce Bedingfield

I'd like to suggest a gift for the grandfathers on your Christmas list—*Daily Meditations (with Scripture) for Busy Grandpas* by Richard Frisbie. I should say right off that Mr. Frisbie is an author who lives in the Arlington Heights neighborhood where I grew up. Regrettably, I didn't know Mr. Frisbie well then (yet I've spent every morning this year with him through this book of daily devotions.) His book came to my family's attention because he attended my father's memorial service and one of the devotions refers to my nephew's tribute to his grandfather.

I do believe that all grandfathers of faith would appreciate this daily devotional to read through 2012. I've certainly enjoyed reading it through my first year in that wonderful new role.



by Rev. Elizabeth Bowes

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our first annual Advent Extravaganza a huge success! Mark your calendars for next year Sunday, November 18, 2012.

From Longing to Receiving - An Adult Advent Study

All are welcome to join us for an adult Advent study entitled "From Longing to Receiving." We gather in room 1 at 9:10AM on Sunday mornings.

Nov 27: Longing for God's Saving Help - Isaiah 64:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37

Dec 4: Anticipating God's Presence among Us - Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8

Dec 11: Recognizing God's Work among Us - Isaiah 61:1-11 and John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec 18: Receiving God's New Gifts to Us - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 and Luke 1:26-38

Longest Night Worship Service Tuesday, December 20, 7:00 p.m. A Service of Healing and Hope

For many of us, Christmas is a bittersweet time of year. It is a time for remembering both persons and events that have been a part of our lives, but that are now changed or gone. This worship is a quiet, meditative service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Join us for a time of healing.



"What's happening in Bethlehem?" December 24 Christmas Eve Service - 4:30 p.m. Family Service - Christmas Drama

Join us for a dramatic retelling of the Christmas story with a candle light service at the end. This promises to be a very special service for children and families.

December Calendar for Children and Youth Ministries

Dec 4 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 No Sunday school
Communion Sunday- *choirs sing*
- 10:30 Worship
- 11:30 NO Junior High SS &
Confirmation
- 7-8:30 Sr. High Youth Group@ORUMC

Dec 11 3rd Sunday of Advent

- Christmas Music Program in both
worship services
- 9:00 Sunday school
- 11:30 Junior High SS & Confirmation -
Wesley Hall/Lunch
- 7-8:30 Sr. High Youth Group@ORUMC

Dec 18 4th Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 Sunday school
- 10:00 Youth Group Trip into the city
- 10:30 Worship

Dec 25 Merry Christmas

No children's Sunday school or youth programming.

Jan 1 Happy New Year

No children's Sunday school or youth programming.

Normal Programing resumes Sunday, January 8

December/January Children's Sunday school Service Projects

~ Children's Sunday school offering collected in November and December will go towards "Gifts from the Heart" a church-wide Christmas service project that buys gifts for children in need.

~ Heifer Project – make sure you get your Heifer bank so you can collect coins as you count down to Christmas. The money collected will go towards buying sheep, ducks and chickens for those in developing countries.

Looking Ahead Save the Dates

First Friday Film Fest

Friday, January 6, 7:00 p.m.

All are invited to watch the movie "UP." Beat the winter-blues and get out of the house and join others to watch the movie "UP." **Rev. Elizabeth** will lead discussion after for those who can stay.

Bullying Seminar

Monday, January 30, 7:00 p.m.

Luke Pepper will lead us in understanding the dynamics and diversity of bullying in our culture. And what a biblical and theological response should look like. This offering is open to all ~ including outside guests.

Events for 7th - 12th graders

Ski Trip

January 27-29

Leave Friday around 5:30p.m. return Sunday 11:30a.m.

30-Hour Famine

February 24-25 Famine Sunday

February 26 both services



Matthew Young	12/5
Blake Breda	12/7
Joseph Dombek	12/8
Chalisa Kulprathipanja	12/14
Abigail Hill	12/21
Jill Murphy	12/22
Dominic Gomes	12/27
Brendan Gorvett	12/27
Eric Theile	12/27
Nick Pope	12/29



Youth News

by Marianne Rogenski

Sr. High Youth Group

December

- 4 Youth Group at ORUMC 7-8:30 p.m.
- 11 Youth Group at ORUMC 7-8:30 p.m.
- 16 Worship at Mission Church in Roselle - 6:00 p.m.
- 18 Youth Group to Chicago! 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- 21 Service Project at nursing home and lunch noon-3:00 p.m.
- 25 NO YOUTH GROUP—Merry Christmas!

January

- 1 NO YOUTH GROUP—Happy New Year!
- 8 Youth Group at ORUMC 7-8:30 p.m.
- 15 633 Worship at ORUMC 6:33 p.m.
(NO YOUTH GROUP)
- 22 Youth Group at ORUMC 7-8:30 p.m.
- 27-29 Ski Trip!
- 29 NO YOUTH GROUP

December 16, worship at Mission Church in Roselle - 6:00 p.m.

This is an evening event and we will meet at ORUMC and caravan to Mission Church. We will experience worship with many other youth groups in the area and then caravan back to ORUMC for pick-up. Watch email and Facebook for details in the next week or so!

December 18 Youth Group trip into the city - 10AM-5:30PM.

This trip is for all Junior High and Senior High youth. Activities will include: looking at the Windows @ Macy's, a private tour of the Chicago Temple (1st UMC Chicago) including the Chapel in the Sky, and time to shop at the Christkindlmarket @ Daley Plaza (across from the Temple); site seeing downtown, and/or Ice Skating at Millenium Park (weather, crowd level and time permitting).

We will meet at the Schaumburg Metra Station at 10AM and return by 5:30PM. For a 10:12 train departure and a 5:23PM return. Cost of a round-trip Weekend Metra ticket from Schaumburg is \$7. Other cost would include: money for lunch (\$12-15 suggested) and extra money you'd like to have for shopping, ice skating, etc. (Skate rentals were \$10 last year). Friends are welcome but their parents must fill out a permission slip prior to the Dec. 18 departure date.

Please let Marianne or Rev. Elizabeth Bowes know that you will attend, and see one of them for a permission slip.

December 21—Sr. High Service Project and Lunch

We will meet at noon at Frankly Yours, 1820 W. Irving Park Road, Schaumburg. We will then be at Cedar Village, 1325 Mercury Drive, Schaumburg, to do crafts and play BINGO with the residents. Pick up at 3pm will be at Cedar Village. Please let Marianne know by December 14 if you plan to attend.

Appalachia Service Project (ASP)

This is a home repair ministry and a summer mission opportunity for high school students and their adult leaders. We do still have a few spots available for youth so please see Marianne as soon as possible if you are interested.

Upcoming dates

January 11—meeting for everyone, 7-8:15 p.m.

March 22—meeting for everyone, 7-8:15 p.m.

633 Worship is back!

Join us on January 15 at 6:33 p.m. for a fun, upbeat, worship service!

Famine is coming!

All Jr. and Sr. High students are invited to participate in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine which will be February 24-25, 2012. This is an overnight retreat where the students ask for sponsors and go on a juice fast for 30 Hours. All monies raised go to World Vision to help fight hunger in the world. The students are at the church for the majority of the fast participating in games, fellowship, Bible study, and discussion. Famine Sunday will be February 26. Please contact Marianne if you have questions and be on the lookout for the participant packets at the beginning of January.

ADVENT 2011 at ORUMC

11/26 (Sat, 10 a.m.): Hanging of the Greens

12/11 (Sun, 9 & 10:30 a.m.): Musical Service

12/20 (Tue, 7 p.m.): Blue Christmas Service

12/24 (Sat)

4:30 p.m.- Family Christmas Eve Service

7:30 p.m.- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

11 p.m.- Candlelight Communion Service

12/25 (Sun, 10:30 a.m.): ONE Christmas Service

1/1 (Sun, January 1, 10:30 a.m.): ONE Worship Service

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year From the Staff

It has been our honor to serve Christ by serving you this year as your staff.

We appreciate all the help so many of you have given us to make our church more effective. We wish for you a spiritual Christmas and a New Year full of deep joy.

Rev. Dr. Sunny Ahn, Senior Pastor

Rev. Elizabeth Bowes, Christian

Education Minister

Marianne Rogenski, Youth Director

Catherine Scott, Chancel Choir Director

Ron Zenke, Contemporary Music Director

Karen Moore, Redeemer Ringers Director

Donna Echtner, Secretary



Blood Drive

December 1, 3:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Our Redeemer's will host the Schaumburg area blood drive Thursday, December 1 from 3:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Brenda Raffaelli will be signing up donors at church, but you can feel free to drop in without a reservation.

Habitat for Humanity

December 3, 7:00 a.m.

Meet in the church parking lot December 3 at 7:00 a.m. to caravan to the Lake County Habitat site. Plan to return by 4:00 p.m.

Caroling and Potluck

December 17, 3:00 p.m.

All members and friends are invited to join in caroling and a potluck supper on Saturday, December 17. We will meet at 3:00 p.m. in the church parking lot for caroling visitation and return to church at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck supper in Wesley Hall.

The event is organized by Young Adults Ministry. Please contact Jen Mottar or the church office if you would like to have a caroling visitation on that day or have any questions or suggestions.

CROP Walk Totals

This year 65 walkers raised \$3,760 to touch the lives of people here in our community and around the world. These were new records both in number of walkers and money raised.

Walking with our church family to do God's will....Priceless!!!

Thanks again. We look forward to walking with you again next year.

Edie Machonis

Carolyn Meneely

CROP Walk co-ordinators



Gifts from the Heart

Bring Gifts December 4

Thanks to all who signed up to provide Christmas gifts for children helped by ChildServ. This year ChildServ asks that we spend no more than \$40 on each child.

Please bring the unwrapped gifts to church on Sunday, December 4.

If you would like to help on December 4, or have any questions, please contact **Carol Hollingsworth** at 847-310-0491.



Community Crisis Center

The Crisis Center emergency food pantry is BARE. They are having an Emergency Food Pantry Drive. A list of nonperishable foods most needed is on the window outside of the office.

They had to SUSPEND the coat giveaway because they have no coats. Coats, winter jackets, hats, gloves and scarves are needed for women, men and children. Donations can be left in the church office.

Thursday, December 15, is the Toy Give-away at the Hemmens in Elgin. If you would like to join with others from ORUMC who volunteer to help with this very worthwhile event, please contact **Carlene Thompson** ASAP at 630.837.4490. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. in two hour shifts. There is also set-up day on Wednesday from Noon until 6:00 p.m.

The Center needs all greeting cards (the entire card) to recycle and sell for a money making event which is on-going. They have made thousands of dollars from them.

Offering Envelopes

If you have offering envelopes, please use them on Sunday. It makes the bookkeeping so much easier. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like a box of envelopes, please contact **Donna** in the office. Thank you!

Feeding the Hungry

This week and every week please buy a little extra when you do your grocery shopping and bring your donations to the church on Sunday morning. Donated items are used to stock both our church food pantry and the Hanover Township food pantry.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food.” Matthew 25:35



Help Decorate the Church *Saturday, Nov 26, 10:00 a.m.*

Our narthex and sanctuary are beautifully adorned each year to welcome everyone who enters during the Advent and Christmas seasons. However, it doesn't magically happen. We need a group of eager volunteers of any age.

We will decorate on Sat., Nov. 26 at 10:00 am followed by a pizza lunch. No need to bring anything. Can you help? If so, please contact **Jill Wood-Naatz** at jill.woodnaatz@gmail.com, or 847-884-7709.

United Methodist Women

December 6, 6:00 p.m.

The United Methodist Women invite all women of God to join their 4th quarter meeting on Tuesday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. It's a potluck dinner gathering.

Please save the date and speak to **Mary Zalay** or **Melinda Taylor** if you have any questions.

Church Ladies Nite Out

December 14, 6:00 p.m.

Note Date Change

ATTENTION ! ATTENTION ! NOTE THE CHANGE OF THE DATE! The Church Ladies will be going out on Wednesday, December 14 (instead of the usual 3rd Wednesday) to Macaroni Grill on Higgins Ave. at 6:00 p.m. The change is due to Hanukkah being on the 3rd Wednesday.

Please join us and bring a friend for fellowship, good food and good fun. If you have any questions, please call **Bev Wilkes** at 847-885-2311.

In January we will be back to the 3rd Wednesday (January 18) and we will be going to Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant on Irving Park near Barrington Road.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!



United Methodist Men

December 10, 8:00 a.m.

All men of the church are invited to join the UMM for a breakfast meeting Saturday, December 10 at 8:00 a.m. After breakfast we will assemble the UMM Holiday Snacks.

United Methodist Men

*Elgin District Advent Breakfast
at Our Saviour's UMC*

December 17, 8:00 a.m.

All men of the church are invited to join with UMM men from around the Elgin district for breakfast, fellowship and Advent worship at Our Saviour's UMC.

Breakfast is at 8:00 followed by worship and a business meeting.

United Methodist Men Holiday Snacks

The United Methodist Men are taking orders for their Garlic Parmesan Pretzels and Puppy Chow Holiday Snacks. Orders will be available on Sunday, December 11 after both services.

The delicious treats make great munchies for family and friends during the Christmas holiday and they are excellent as gifts for co-workers. Please check out the samples of the goodies and place your Holiday Snack order ASAP.



Personal Notes



Our congregation extends deepest sympathy to **Mary Zalay** on the death of Mary's mother **Mae J. Marshall**.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Doug** and **Carolyn Meneely** on the birth of their grandson, **Dylan Evan Meneely** born on October 18.

Congratulations to **Betty** and **Fred Miller** who celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary.

From Hanover Township-- Dear Our Redeemer UM Church Members:

On behalf of Hanover Township Welfare Services, I would like to thank you for your generous donation. Your contribution makes it possible for us to keep the shelves of our Food Pantry stocked in these hard economic times.....

Once again, thank you again for your generous donation.

Brian P. McGuire
Supervisor

New Members

Please welcome the new members who joined *Our Redeemer's* on November 13.



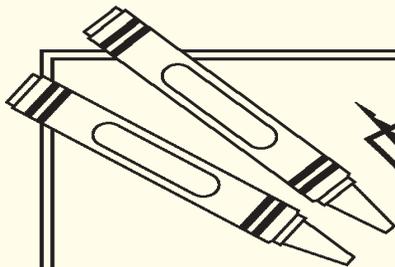
Pam Miller



Greg Noxon



David Willeumier



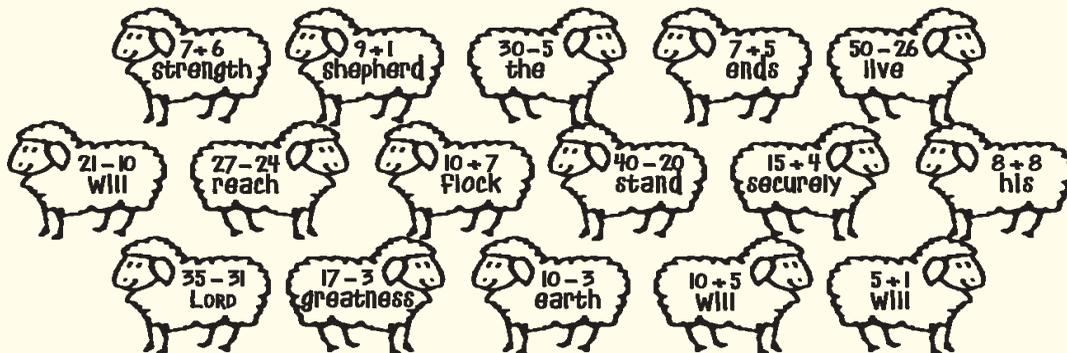
PUZZLE



A PROMISED RULER

Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

Directions: To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.



"He _____ and _____ his _____

in the _____ of the _____ And they _____

_____, for then _____

_____ to the _____ of _____."

M I C A H 5 : 4 , N I V

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV



Christmas is coming so all of us who are procrastinators need to take note. As a church family we need to think about our yearly display of Christmas Poinsettias. What a more wonderful way to celebrate new life than with the addition of flowers to the church. These flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus born to save us all.

We invite all who love to celebrate Christmas with the beauty of flowers to help us adorn the church with beauty in celebrating our savior's birthday. Here at ***Our Redeemer's*** we purchase flowers and then "lend" our flowers to the church until after Christmas when they may be taken home. It is easy, as we do all the work for you. We order them, arrange them and then make them available for you to take home.

To participate, you may order a white, pink or red poinsettia. Please fill in the order form below and place with your payment in the offering plate or in the beautifully decorated special basket located in the narthex. The prices of this year's flowers are \$11.00 each.

Sunday (December 18th) is the absolute deadline for placing your order. Please order early so that our florist may save us his very best selection and also ensure we are guaranteed to receive just what we order.

Name _____

Phone _____

Choose Qty : White _____ Pink _____ Red _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

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