



The Redeemer

Review

Proclaiming Christ into the 21st Century

Volume 12

December, 2015

Pastor's Corner

Bethlehem

But you, Bethlehem, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” (Micah 5:2)

When the Old Testament prophet, Micah, wrote about Bethlehem it was in the context of being insignificant. But the ancient prophecy was filled with hope because out of this little town will come a ruler over Israel. The Gospel writers noted this particular claim of Jesus Christ, born of Mary and nurtured in the workshop of Joseph back in Nazareth.

Bethlehem was also known as the “House of Bread.” From ancient of days, bread is the staple of life that moved civilizations and nourished humanity. Jesus said to his disciples, “I am the bread of life, he who comes to me will not hunger and will never thirst.”

We are all familiar with the background



story of Christmas when Joseph and Mary travelled all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem in order to fulfill the mandate of the Romans for a census. Bethlehem was the ancestral town of Joseph. Today, it is about an eighty to ninety mile trek on very good roads.

I was blessed with an opportunity to travel to Bethlehem this year, passing through Israeli border checkpoint with the “Wall” that separated the West Bank from Israel a dominant presence. Our church group walked the short distance from the bus stop area to the Church of the Nativity. The neighborhood road that we walked in was uphill; the Palestinians were hospitable. I was thinking about the “House of Bread” metaphor and I was looking for a local bakery on the route. I found instead the “House of Falapel” in one corner and for a couple of shekels, I treated myself to a mid-morning snack.

(cont on pg 2)



No Room at the Inn

Redeemer Review

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Our Redeemer's

United Methodist Church

1600 W Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg IL 60194-3900

(847) 882-6116

email: Call for email address

Website: www.orumc.org

Worship Services:

9:00 and 10:30 am

Pastor:

Rev. Romir R. Esguerra

Church Secretary:

Donna Echtner

Director of Youth Ministries:

Marianne Rogenski

Editor:

Jerry Mc Daniel

(cont from pg 1)

We entered the church and touched the “star”, where tradition says was the exact place where Jesus was born. Holiness filled the room and we sang the familiar hymn-“Silent Night” but in a very hushed respectful way. In my heart, I was singing the “Hallelujah Chorus” for the Savior was born in this place. Reading Micah’s prophecy side by side with Luke 2:6-7 was a holy moment:

“The time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

Jesus Christ was born for us and I pray that in our celebration we will continue the legacy of faith and the Good News to all people especially in such a time like this. Thank you for your commitment to be a part of our mission and ministry at *Our Redeemer’s United Methodist Church*.

Join us for our activities and services this December.

December 5- Saturday- Advent Festival from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.,

December 13- Sunday- Music Festival Sunday 9:00 and 10:30

December 24- Christmas Eve Services - 5:00 p.m. (Drama and Family Service) 7:30 p.m. (Carols and Lessons) 11:00 p.m. Communion Service.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from **Rev. Romir R. Esguerra** and Staff of ORUMC: **Donna, Marianne, Ron, Cathy, Karen, Sue, Colin, Kim and Sarah**



Behold, All Things Are Become New

by Jon Montgomery

For over a decade, Heifer International (www.heifer.org) has been a giving opportunity at ***Our Redeemer's***. Children and adults alike participate, whether it is through the Fill-the-Ark banks the children use to collect coins or by purchasing an animal to give to a family in need. In thinking about Heifer this year, I was struck by how this time-honored ministry also can be a source of renewal for both giver and recipients alike.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

As this scripture indicates, for Christians, the power of “new” is not about novelty or newness for its own sake; it is more about *becoming* new. In other words, being renewed is an ongoing process. God renews us day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16). There are many ways in which He renews us. He renews us by His love and grace. God also renews us when we participate in acts of renewal. Each time we worship, we learn, we forgive, we serve, or we give, we are renewed.

So, perhaps, what is renewing about Heifer is that it taps into one of these acts of

renewal: the act of giving. Each discussion we have with our children about what coins to put in the Sunday School Fill-the-Ark bank renews our commitment to sharing about giving with our families. Each animal we purchase renews our commitment to impact the world in a positive, sustainable way. For those who receive the gift of a Heifer animal, without question, it is renewing for their family but also for their community. Because with Heifer, the impact of each initial Heifer gift is multiplied as recipients agree to Pass on the Gift by giving one or more of their animal's offspring to another person in need in their community.

This Christmas season, please consider purchasing an animal as a gift for a family member or friend, especially for that hard-to-shop for person on the Christmas list. By giving the gift of Heifer, we allow others to participate in the spirit of giving and renewal with us. Starting December 6th and ending December 20th, after each service, we will have a table available in the Narthex for those interested in supporting Heifer.

If you have any questions about Heifer or want to help with Heifer this year, please contact **Jon Montgomery** (jamnjl@aol.com or at 630-830-6831).

Are You Using Giving Envelopes?

Please use giving envelopes to help ensure your giving is recorded accurately. Contact Donna if you need envelopes.



by Marianne Rogenski

Youth News:

We are having a great time in youth group—we are going through the Bible from beginning to end using The Story. There are videos, skits, and more while we learn about God and His plans to have a relationship with us.

December 6—6:30-8:30pm—join us for youth group—we will be having a Christmas celebration!

After that, no youth group in December—see you back on January 10!

December 5 is the Advent Festival at church—we need youth to help with crafts and games. If you are available please talk to Marianne! Pizza dinner will be provided!

Are you interested in going Christmas caroling this year? If so, please contact Marianne right away! We will try to put something together one Sunday afternoon in December!

ASP (Appalachia Service Project) News:

If you are going on this trip—June 11-18—please attend the meeting on January 14, 7-8pm, at church.

If you have not yet let Marianne know

that you are going on the trip please do so! Also, if you have friends that you are inviting that is great—but let Marianne know that also!



Education News:

Our Sunday School continues to be amazing—thank you to the kids, the families, and the teachers for your support!

There will be no Sunday School on December 27.

Please join us for our Advent Festival on December 5, 4-6pm!

Mark your calendars for movie night—January 9, 5-8pm!



Olivia Adamitis	12/17
Owen Adamitis	12/17
Abby Hill	12/21
Dominic Gomes	12/27

Thanks to Marianne for cleaning up our out of date birthday list. Please make sure to give Marianne all of your children's birthdays.



UMW Meeting and Potluck *December 1, 6:30 p.m.*

Are you filled with the Christmas Spirit? Let's start the month of December enjoying an evening out with our UMW "girlfriends."

Mark your calendars for the United Methodist Women Holiday Meeting and Potluck on **Tuesday, December 1 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Our evening's fun will be held at church in the Wesley Room. Everyone should bring a dish to share for our Potluck dinner, as well as a gift-wrapped White Elephant item for exchange.

Our business meeting will include the results of our Heavenly Treats fundraiser and finalization of our 2015 Mission Disbursements.

We extend a big "THANK YOU" to all of the bakers and buyers for making Heavenly Treats a success.

We look forward to seeing you on December 1 - save the date!

Reminders from the Office *Has Your Phone Number Changed? Do we have your LATEST email address?*

If you have any doubts - please email Donna with your phone numbers (home and cell) and email address: donna@orumc.org



Holiday Snax

The UMM have been taking orders for Puppy Chow (for people) and "Killer" Garlic Pretzels starting November 22 with delivery December 13.

All men of the church are invited to attend our regular meeting on December 12 at 8:00 a.m. We will be preparing holiday snax for delivery December 13.



Gifts from the Heart

by Carol Hollingsworth

On behalf of ChildServ and the children, I would like to thank the generosity of the 58 individuals and families who sponsored 91 children for our Gifts from the Heart program. It is always so heartwarming to see the response from our congregation for these children, from infants through teenagers, who otherwise, would not have quite as bright a Christmas.

Thanks from all of us to Glen and Carol for again sponsoring Gifts from the Heart.

Christmas Mail for the Military

by Betty Miller

Can you imagine what it feels like to be far away from home and loved ones, to feel alone and afraid, and to receive a letter from a stranger that says I care about you and haven't forgotten that you are there?

You can be that voice to the thousands of service members still serving in dangerous places around the world. If you would like a response, enclose your letter in a self-addressed (no stamp necessary) envelope along with a blank piece of paper. Send to:

OSOT America
1807 S. Washington Street
Suite 110, #359
Naperville, IL 60565

The Red Cross no longer sponsors a national Holiday Mail for Heroes P.O. Box .

Advent Festival! **Sat, December 5, 4-6 p.m.**

There will be games, crafts, and more for the kids in Wesley Hall and all adults are invited to the Hanging of the Greens in the sanctuary.

This event is for EVERYONE—there will be something for you to do if you will come! From 5:30-6 p.m. we will have a pizza dinner together.

We hope that all can come and join us as we celebrate this season together.



Community Crisis Center

by Sally Donaldson

Annual Coat Give Away - Gently used heavy winter coats for all members of a family as well as hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and boots are needed for the Annual Coat Give Away. They **cannot** use lightweight or spring items, sweatshirts or long trench coats. The Give Away ends in February.

Toiletries : Nail clippers and emery boards, feminine hygiene products

Medicine Chest Items: (all items must be new, sealed and with current dates) non-alcohol cough syrup and non-asprin pain reliever (for adults and children), antacids, RID shampoo, anti-diarrhea medications, Orajel, Pedialyte, band-aids, antibiotic ointment, gauze, adhesive tape, disposable thermometers, peroxide, rubbing alcohol, facial tissues

CCC Food Pantry is always in need of canned fruit, canned meat meals, beef stew, chili, etc. Also needed are cereal/oatmeal, jelly, peanut butter, mac and cheese, pork and beans, powdered milk, saltine crackers, soups, spaghetti and marinara sauce, spaghetti type canned items, tuna, and hand can openers.

Please place your donations in the CCC bins located in the closet left of the Information Desk, located in the Narthex.

Thank you so much for your wonderful donations and continued support.

**You're invited to Rev. Dr.
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
FAITH IN ACTION
ASSEMBLY**

Monday, January 18, 2016

by Jill Wood-Naatz

In the spirit of Dr. King, please join members of Our Redeemer's Faith in Action Team for a time of worship and action at this year's King Day assembly. Candidates for State's Attorney have been invited to share their stance on restorative justice. Elected officials will be asked to join us in our quest for economic justice, ending police brutality, creating opportunities for people with records, funding education, and preventing violence.

This year's assembly will be held at **First Baptist Congregational Church, 1613 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago from 9:30 am – 12:00 noon.** We will meet at church and car pool together to the assembly. You can sign up in the narthex and get more information about this event beginning December 13.

Your Faith in Action Team members are **Annette Brown, Jack Denny, Ellen Kobylewski, and Jill Wood-Naatz.** Supportive team members are **Jon Montgomery and Pastor Romir.**



Personal Notes



The congregation extends deepest sympathy to our pre-school director, **Justyna Peron-Podgorski** on the death of her father, **Stan Peron.**

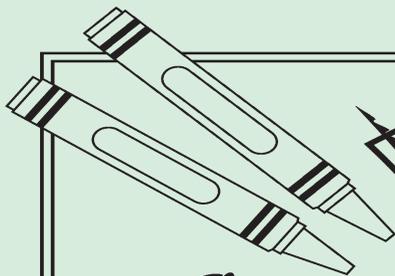
Blue Christmas

**Blue Christmas Service
Hosted by Prince of Peace
Lutheran Church**

**Saturday, Dec 12, 4:00 p.m.
930 W. Higgins Road
Schaumburg 60195
847-885-7010
www.princeofpeace.net**

**Feeling grief and loss, the Blue
Christmas service offers
peace, comfort and healing.**

Come join us.



PUZZLE

The star of Christmas

When Jesus was born, a star led the wise men to him.

Directions: Place the words in order, by their numbers, on the blanks below to complete Matthew 2:10, NIV.

1 When

2 they

3 saw

4 the

5 star

6 they

7 were

8 overjoyed

9 Matthew

10 2:10

“ _____ , _____ .”

_____ , NIV

Answer: “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.” Matthew 2:10, NIV



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The cold has come early this year which reminds us that advent and Christmas are closer than we realize. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ child, it is time for the *Our Redeemer's* tradition of "decking the halls" with poinsettias. What a wonderful way to celebrate new life! These flowers will be displayed in the sanctuary to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus who came to save us all. We invite all who love to celebrate Christmas with the beauty of flowers to help us adorn the church in celebration our savior's birthday. Here at *Our Redeemer's* individuals order and pay for the flowers and then "lend" them 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 from our florist, arrange them and then make them available for you to take home.

To participate, you may order white, pink or red poinsettias. Please fill in the order form below and place with your payment in the beautifully decorated special basket located in the narthex or in the offering plate. We have a new florist this year so we need to do things a little differently. The price of this year's flowers is \$10.25.

Sunday, December 13, is the absolute deadline for placing your order. However, if you want pink or white, we need to know a week before that (December 6). Our new florist wants to make sure they have enough of white or pink to meet our needs and so the early deadline for pink or white.

Name _____ Phone _____

Choose White (\$) _____ Pink (\$) _____ Red (\$) _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Our Redeemer's United Methodist Church

1600 W. Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg, IL 60194-3900

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