

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

72 Main Street
Binghamton, NY 13905
(607) 722-1029
Redeemer_Lutheran@hotmail.com
Redeemberbgm.org
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Pastor's Message

I want to thank everyone for your prayers and thoughts and care (and cards) during this year for my family. 2023 has been a most difficult one for us, and your care has made it more bearable!

Grieving, as I have counseled many, and as I am learning again myself, is something that isn't planned out. There are certain aspects of grief that Elizabeth Kubler-Ross identified in her book, On Death and Dying, from 1969, and called "stages of grief," but these don't occur at known intervals, and one can move back and forth among the different "stages" of grief throughout the grieving process. Grieving is also something that is never finished. Instead, one moves into more and more being able to live in the new reality we find ourselves in. The littlest things can move one to tears without warning. So, for all who are continuing to grieve, give yourselves space and time to grieve the way you need to grieve. Some need to be with people, others need to be alone, others are helped by both at different times. We are all different, and need different things to move through the grief we are experiencing.

Holidays can be difficult for anyone who is grieving. While others are celebrating, you may not be in the mood, and that is ok. In the past, those who were grieving wore black, and draped their homes in black to signify this was a person and household that is grieving. Such was helpful in knowing how to minister to these people well. We don't really do this today, so we really do not know who is grieving. Please take care with people during the holidays, especially those you don't know. We never know what another person is dealing with.

As a follower of Christ, it is our calling to minister to everyone, to those who are grieving, and those who are celebrating. This is what St. Paul means when he said, *"I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings."*¹ Obviously, those who are grieving and those who are celebrating will be ministered to quite differently, but it is our calling and honor to minister in all these occasions. Grief is a process that can take at least a year or even longer much of the time. Again, it really doesn't have an ending, but over time the reality begins to settle in. A year will have a grieving person going through a lot of firsts without the person they are grieving: Holidays, birthdays, regular gatherings, etc. These will be times to allow the grief to wash over us, and realize we will need extra time to settle into the new reality.

As we begin a new year, may we focus on our Lord's presence in our lives, and lean on God when we need that extra support, but also look to God in the good times as well. We tend to forget that God's presence is important always. God's presence supports us in difficult times and spurs us on to godly action (ministry) in the good times, where we can be supportive to others who need our help. I will end with an Irish Blessing for the new year!

"May your mornings bring joy, and your evenings bring peace.

May your troubles grow few as your blessings increase.

May the saddest day of your future be no worse than the happiest day of your past.

May your hands be forever clasped in friendship and your hearts joined forever in love.

Your lives are very special, and God has touched you in many ways.

May his blessings rest upon you and fill all your coming days."

[The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version](#) (1 Co 9:22–23). (1989). Thomas Nelson Publishers.

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JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

7TH CALM Judy Mica Guerin
14th Pastor Jeff Bohan
21st CALM Linda Martin
28th Pastor Jeff Bohan

ASSISTANT

7th CALM Linda Martin
14th SAM Dave Banner
21st CALM Judy Mica Guerin
28th CALM Linda Martin

FEBRURAY WORSHIP LEADERS

4th CALM Judy Mica Guerin
11th Pastor Jeff Bohan
18th CALM Linda Martin
25th Pastor Jeff Bohan

ASSISTANT

4th CALM Linda Martin
11th CALM Judy Mica Guerin
18th SAM Dave Banner
25th CALM Linda Martin

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

6th Zoe Hause
13th Donald Staub
14th Jamie White
19th Joshua Monforte
19th Jennifer Wales
26th Joseph Monforte
26th Scott Staub
28th Doreen Aleccia
29th Ashley Stampfler

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

5th Abby Mandak
8th James Kalka
8th Austin White
12th Gabby Shepard
16th Tim Lewis
29th Ute Loeffler

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

20TH Don & Joyce Darling



ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 28, 2024

Everyone is welcome to attend after service

PRAYER LIST

This Prayer list is provided to encourage the members and friends of Redeemer to be in constant prayer to God, and to remember the special needs of the people listed below in prayer during the week.

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Tim Angel | Jack Ferguson | Marguerite Monforte |
| Heather B. | Noreen Fonnsbeck | John & Pat Moynihan |
| Stephanie B. | Michael G. | Kay Nearing |
| Tom Bernardo | Carol Goldmbeski | Russ Pingrey |
| Paul (Bear)Bentley | Trudy Gray | Barb Rader |
| Debra Bixby | Jeremy Harris | Al Roggenbaum |
| Dean Black | Kamdyn Hartung | Linda Schofield |
| Jeanine Black | Jeremy Harris | Bob Scone |
| Michael Bohan | Bernice Hill | Nga Shumadine |
| Jenni Brant | Houser Family | Linda Ulrich |
| Jordan Brundege | Wendy Joy | Helga Vest |
| Doris Conroy | Angel Lair | Patricia Watson |
| Mayla Conroy | Caden Lair | Margaret Whinton |
| Steve Conroy | Barbara Lidestri | John White |
| Patricia Conroy | Toni Loeffler | Rinny White |
| Alexis Daniels | Ute Loeffler | Jeanette Wickham |
| Antonio Daniels | Ravely Mathurim | George Yarnes |
| Cathy Demaree | Joe Monforte | Annette |
| Tom R. Escandel | | Pam F. |
| | | Amy |

Serving In the Military & Police

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Damin Badger | Jack Ferguson |
| Matthew Bialk | Peter Jensen |
| Duncan Bedlion | Washington DC Police |

To add or delete from this please call Alice 204-0964

Or email **redeemer_lutheran@hotmail.com**



*Council President Russ is not feeling well
So there will be no news from him till the Annual Meeting
January 28, 2024 after Service*

OUTREACH 2023 ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY/FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

A blessed 2024 is wished for all of you- our church family, our neighborhood, our community, our country, and our world.

We all look around and see the overwhelming need for the Light of Christ everywhere. Thanks to our caring and generous Redeemer family, efforts have been made to keep His Light shining on the corner of Chapin and Main Streets.

Redeemer folks, together with our partners at Trinity Memorial, and the friends of Sunflower Park, continue to join with the Food Bank of the Southern Tier to distribute food once a month. We thank Trinity for not only the use of their facility, but also with their help in the food distribution.

In addition, Redeemer's food pantry continues to hand out food the last Saturday of each month. Many thanks to all who support this endeavor- whether in donations of food, or in the labor of ordering, stocking, bagging or handing it out. The need continues to grow, as is evident in the climbing number of folks seeking food.

During the past year, several sidewalk ministries were conducted- including our annual Ashes to Go (which is a popular and sought out services), handing out bag lunches, root beer floats, cider & donuts and winter wear. During these events, more than seventy Bibles have been accepted by those seeking Him.

It is evident that many are seeking His Light- and we plan to continue with our participation with the Food Truck, our own food pantry, our Ashes to Go and with our Sidewalk Ministries.

Our winter wear distribution began in December, but hopes to get in full swing after the holidays. Many thanks to all contributing items to hand out- especially those donating hand-made items- including the 1st Ward Senior knitting group. These events could not happen without all of you helping. You are His shining Light- may it glow ever so brightly in 2024. Blessings to all of you. Thank you!! Linda Martin

READERS WANTED

As we are getting back to normal (whatever that is these days)
I'm still hoping that I can get a few more people to offer up their services to
read on Sundays. I want to thank those who have already done it and
offer to do it again. BUT now I'm looking toward those who don't think they
can and I know that you can!

So if you would like to read one Sunday please let me know, I

Will print out the readings in large print to make it easier

I know you all out there just wanting to read

So give me a call, or stop in the office!!!!

Thanks Alice



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Proposed Budget for 2024

| | Budget 2023 | Expenses 2023 | Proposed Budget 2024 | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| A. Pastors Salary & Benefits | | | | |
| 1. Our Saviour Package | \$25,320.00 | \$25,320.00 | \$26,586.00 | |
| Subtotal | \$25,320.00 | \$25,320.00 | \$26,586.00 | 5.00% |
| B. Staff Salaries and Benefits: | | | | |
| 1. Church Secretary | \$9,969.00 | \$9,866.25 | \$10,530.00 | |
| 2. Organist | \$5,400.00 | \$5,200.00 | \$6,750.00 | |
| 3. Supply Pastor | \$1,050.00 | \$525.00 | \$1,050.00 | |
| 5. Employer Taxes (Soc.Sec.,Medicare) | \$763.00 | \$758.70 | \$805.00 | |
| 6. Insurance (Workers Comp./Disab.) | \$500.00 | \$402.89 | \$500.00 | |
| Subtotal | \$17,682.00 | \$16,752.84 | \$19,635.00 | 11.05% |
| C. Administrative Services: | | | | |
| 1. Office Supplies | \$1,100.00 | \$1,164.31 | \$1,200.00 | |
| 2. Postage | \$150.00 | \$73.91 | \$150.00 | |
| 3. Payroll Services | \$900.00 | \$903.12 | \$950.00 | |
| 4. Telephone & Internet | \$1,750.00 | \$1,707.52 | \$1,800.00 | |
| Subtotal | \$3,900.00 | \$3,848.86 | \$4,100.00 | 5.13% |
| D. Physical Plant: | | | | |
| 1. Gas and Electric | \$13,000.00 | \$10,145.06 | \$13,000.00 | |
| 2. Water and Sewer | \$700.00 | \$886.10 | \$700.00 | |
| 3. Plant Repairs and Equipment | \$3,000.00 | \$3,439.08 | \$5,000.00 | |
| 4. Janitorial & Maintenance supplies | \$2,000.00 | \$1,466.46 | \$2,000.00 | |
| 5. Insurance (Plant and Umbrella) | \$6,202.00 | \$6,202.00 | \$5,571.00 | |
| 6. Snow Removal/Lawn Care | \$1,200.00 | \$1,210.00 | \$1,200.00 | |
| 7. Debit Reduction (RRF Loan) | \$9,900.00 | \$9,793.01 | \$0.00 | |
| Subtotal | \$36,002.00 | \$33,141.71 | \$27,471.00 | -23.70% |
| E. Ministries of the Church: | | | | |
| 1. Synod Commitment | \$2,500.00 | \$2,500.00 | \$2,500.00 | |
| 2. Broome County Council of Churches | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | |
| 3. Conference Dues | \$500.00 | \$500.00 | \$500.00 | |
| 4. Lutheran Homes | \$150.00 | \$150.00 | \$150.00 | |
| Subtotal | \$3,450.00 | \$3,450.00 | \$3,450.00 | 0.00% |
| F. Programs of the Church: | | | | |
| 1. SYNOD Conference, Retreats & Seminars | \$1,200.00 | \$439.00 | \$800.00 | |
| 2. Altar Supplies | \$150.00 | \$38.97 | \$150.00 | |
| 3. Music & Worship | \$350.00 | \$354.59 | \$400.00 | |
| 4. Devotional Materials | \$500.00 | \$660.76 | \$775.00 | |
| 5. Christian Education | \$350.00 | \$312.04 | \$400.00 | |
| 7. Second Service | \$500.00 | \$202.96 | \$500.00 | |
| 8. Flowers | \$300.00 | \$180.75 | \$300.00 | |
| 10. Publicity | \$350.00 | \$270.00 | \$350.00 | |
| 11. Bulletins-Sundays and Seasons | \$349.00 | \$403.00 | \$400.00 | |
| Subtotal | \$4,049.00 | \$2,862.07 | \$4,075.00 | 0.64% |
| TOTALS: | \$90,403.00 | \$85,375.48 | \$85,317.00 | -5.63% |

This is the proposed budget for 2024. Bill Hinkley will go over the rest of the budget On Sunday December 14, 2024 after service at coffee hour.

FOOD PANTRY

Greetings! I'm writing this before the December Food Pantry, but I wanted to let you know that in the 11 months of this year, we have served 200 different families; providing much needed food for 122 children, 331 adults, and 61 seniors.



Although we do receive food from Chow, and the left-overs from the So. Tier Food Bank mobile food truck, your food and monetary donations make a huge difference to our neighbors.

This year, Alice was able to get a grant from Trinity Memorial Church which enabled us to purchase a large freezer. This has increased our storage to be able to provide meat every month to those who utilize our pantry.

Our Saviour Church in Endwell has been helping stock our pantry every month. Gretchen Tomik asks their membership to donate certain items, and she brings them with her to the monthly pantry and stays to help distribute the food. The members of the home church Journey of Faith came and helped distribute the food one month.

Many thanks to those who help keep the pantry going:

Alice, Bobbie and Joyce for ordering and picking up food from Chow

Rich, Phyllis, Bill H. and Marylou for loading the food not distributed at the

food truck that is brought to our pantry

Paul, Cassie, Patrick, Joe, Rich, Alice, Phyllis, Bill, Amanda, Steve, Skye and

Lorne for unloading vehicles and stocking the shelves

Sigrid, Linda, Paul, Bear, Cassie, Inez, Patrick, Gretchen, Angelique, Bill L,

Toni and Joe for registering people, distributing the food, restocking the shelves, and cleaning up after the pantry

And, a great big THANK YOU! to all the members of Redeemer for your continued donations and support, without whom we would not be able to adequately serve our neighbors. Blessings, Judy MG

Welcome To
SANCTUARY

2023 Sanctuary Service

This year, the 9th year for Sanctuary Service, was a busy year.

Bishop Miller II visited the service, and found the service unique, spiritually fulfilling, and providing a much needed welcoming place for those not welcome at other churches.

Mission Director Pastor Imani Olear visited and encouraged us to apply for 2 grants, which we received. These grants will not only help the Sanctuary service expand and enhance the service, but it will also help us upgrade our sound and video equipment for both services. Bill H., Rich W. Joe and I are working with Mike D. at Our Saviour to upgrade our equipment.

With the support of both of Redeemer's congregations, two people attending the Sanctuary service who were on parole have completed their requirements and are now off of parole.

Through our connections with Synod, Joe and I are now on the Gender Justice Task Force working to bring equity for people of all genders and sexual identities. It

engages in education, advocacy in our local communities, the state, and around the world. We currently have seven members of the LGBTQ community attending services.

We purchased a new piece of equipment with funds from the grants. We purchased an "Owl". It's a camera, microphone, and speaker all in one. It has a 360 degree camera which picks up the whole room. The microphone picks up the sound from different speakers in the room.

The sound from the speaker is really great! People who are on zoom can be easily heard by others in the room. We plan on being able to use the Owl at other zoom meetings, for example the Annual Meeting, if anyone cannot attend in person. We have connected with some pastors of other churches in the Synod who have people who would like to attend a service where they are welcome. They have offered their support in promoting the Sanctuary service.

We look forward to the coming year – celebrating our 10th anniversary, and serving the needs of marginalized people.
Many blessings for the New Year! Judy MG

**If you would like the newsletter mailed to you instead of emailed please call
Alice at 607-722-1029.**

All of our worship services are broadcast live on Facebook!

Please go to <http://facebook.com/redeemerbgm>, at 10:00 am Sunday, to view the live stream. If you miss worship, you can watch the complete service on YouTube or on our website, <http://redeemerbgm.org>.

Spread the Good News!

**If you have something that you would like put in the newsletter,
Please give me a call or stop by the office. Always like to hear from everyone
And know what's going on at Redeemer Lutheran! Alice**
