



# Redeeming The Times

## Officers

### *Chairman*

Rick Kortekaas

### *Vice Chair*

### *Treasurer*

Diane Peterson

### *Financial Secretary*

Nancy Loscheider

### *Recording Secretary*

Angie Boyd

### *Asst Recording Secretary*

Val Strugar

### *Elders*

Dana Borchardt

Mark Box

Jerry Crowe

Phill Gorath

John Kruse

Kelly Morris

Adam Morrow

Russ Shields

### *Trustees*

Dennis Dixon

Jim Eckert

Ron Larson

Tim Howg

Clyde Thurnau

### *Christ's Crew Chairperson*

Bob James

### *Parish Nurses*

Greta Crowe

Mary Hepola

### *LWML Chairperson*

Judy Peterson

### *Preschool Board Chairperson*

Becky Seeley

## Staff

### *Administrative Asst*

Linda Morrow

### *Preschool Director*

Krystine Jurvelin

### *Preschool Teachers*

Donna Derby

Jessica Dixon

### *Custodian*

John Kruse

### *Pastor*

Chris Gorshe

## February Greetings!

Greetings in the name of our Risen Savior Jesus! Winter has finally set in during the start of this second month of 2012. But frigid temps cannot slow ministry at Our Redeemer.

There are exciting things happening. Centershot is in full swing. Several of our youth and parents have been enjoying their time together on Thursday nights to join archery skills and Bible study. I have heard great things about the program so far, and I heard rave reviews from the people I talked to at one of their recent events. I have personally enjoyed practicing with the new bow that I received as a Christmas gift. It has been a joy to share this hobby with so

many of our members. And I have especially enjoyed watching those members use their interests in service of the Gospel.

The leadership of Our Redeemer continues to make changes as needed to adjust to staffing needs. The voters decided at the annual meeting to eliminate the Call for an associate pastor from Concordia Seminary. Instead, a committee has been formed which has been asked to further research our options. They will make a recommendation within six months how to proceed. My hope is that it will not take quite so long.

The voters also decided to form a com-

mittee tasked with formulating a job description for a new office staff person dedicated to treasurer/human resources responsibilities. That position has been filled by volunteers in the past, but the job has grown with each year that our budget and staff have grown. It currently requires more time and responsibility than is fair for us to ask of a volunteer. The committee has already met since the annual meeting and their recommendation will be presented to the board soon.

The new year comes with a "changing of the guards" on our Church Board. Brad Johnson has completed

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## **PLEASE JOIN US!**

### Worship:

Sunday—9AM

Wednesday—7PM

### Education Hour:

Sunday—10:30AM

## **CONTACT US!**

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# Dollars and Sense



2011 Budget	\$437,073
Needed monthly	\$36,423
Received in Dec.	\$36,517
Over/ <u>short</u>	\$94
Est. over/ <u>short</u> YTD -	\$15,924
Growth Fund—Dec.	\$500
Growth Fund—YTD	\$3206

This is the final report presented at the voter's meeting in January. The details are from the 2011 budget reflecting numbers for the month of December. It is important to notice that these figures are budget based. It was suggested at the voter's meeting that a change should be made to the monthly newsletter because the financial page is always "doom and gloom". The numbers given always indicate that we are behind. In fact, if you look at the figures above, you will see that **according to our budget** we were \$15,924 behind what we need for the year 2011. That does not mean that our bank account is overdrawn nearly sixteen thousand dollars. A budget is merely a tool to help us to wisely use our funds.

The truth is, that we ended the year with a surplus of nearly \$40,000. How does that happen? The people who are responsible for using these funds are responsible people. They spend only what they need. Many of the categories in our budget were underspent this year, leaving a sizable amount of our contributions in the bank account.

I was asked to change the financial page to include "real time numbers" rather than budget amounts. I will do so,

but with reservations. A budget gives us a goal. Goals should be intentionally set so that they are realistically attainable, but also lofty enough to encourage growth and progress. We have collectively set a budget as our goal. If I no longer use the budget figures, then we are no longer aiming for that goal. If I use "real time figures" my fear is that our members will be complacent with the status quo month after month as long as we're not overdrawn. But our expenses change dramatically from month to month. Some months we pay out huge sums for things like insurance premiums. Some months we pay for snow removal, and other months we don't. Having a budget in place helps us to stay on course.

Yes, the real time figures indicate that at the end of the year we are \$40,000 in the

black. But that is very nearly what we would have paid Pastor Bill or a new Associate September through December. If that staff position had been filled our end of year figures may very well have been "doom and gloom".

So, I am proposing a compromise. I will continue to include the budget figures as Pastor Bill did before me. But I will also include the "real time numbers" so that you may rest assured that there is money in the bank. I respectfully request, however, that you try not to become comfortable or lax when we are "doing just fine". May our giving be done cheerfully in response to God's great love rather than grudgingly given when it looks like we won't make it or lazily given when it looks like we will.

## Extra Giving?

Sometimes people have been extra blessed and they ask for ideas at the church for how they might give above and beyond their regular tithe. Here are some ideas of "needs" you might consider:

- \* Preschool Scholarship Fund
- \* Our Redeemer Lutheran Benevolent Fund
- \* Ruby's Pantry Benevolent Fund
- \* Extra Mortgage Payments
- \* Missionaries: Mark Peske & Hicham Chihab, Rob Lutz
- \* New Paraments for the Altar & Pulpit
- \* New Bibles for the Sanctuary
- Talk to Pastor Chris if you would like to give to any of these "needs".

## Fiscal Year 2011

### Current Month: December

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
<u>Total Income</u>	41,539.99	46,727.82	112.49	-5,187.83
<u>Total expense</u>	41,539.55	59,120.88	142.32	-17,581.33
<u>Income less expense</u>	.44	-12,393.06	—	12,393.50

### Annual Budget, Year to Date Actual:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
<u>Total Income</u>	498,479.00	<b>491,881.16</b>	98.68	6,597.84
<u>Total expense</u>	498,479.00	<b>451,090.43</b>	90.49	47,388.57
<u>Income less expense</u>	0.00	<b>40,790.73</b>	—	-40,790.73

This is the report as it is given by the treasurer from our Shepherd's Staff program for tracking church finances and membership data. The column that you especially want to notice is the Year to date Actual income minus the total expenses, which gives us a surplus of \$40,790.73. I've bolded and italicized these figures for you.

# I Love to Live The Story...

## The Season of Lent

“Lent is a time for giving things up,” we tell ourselves. Yes, it is. But for a good reason. Lent is the time we remember how much our Lord Jesus Christ gave up for us. In former times, Christians were told to give up eating meat on Fridays during Lent. The reason? It was on a Friday (Good Friday) that Jesus gave up his “meat” - his flesh, his life—for us. So every time someone had a meatless meal on Friday, that person was supposed to think, “I’m giving up meat today because on a Friday Jesus gave up so much for me. Thank you, Jesus!”

Why did the One we have seen and heard to be God’s beloved Son have to give up his life for us? The very first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, tells us that story. On Ash Wednesday we learn again how Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord God in the Garden of Eden. God created Adam “from the dust of the earth,” the story said. God had given Adam and Eve everything in the garden to eat—except the fruit of one tree. “In the day you eat of that one, you will die,” God warned them solemnly.

But they were tempted by Satan and they disobeyed. God confronted them in the Garden: “What have you done?” and reminded them of the consequences: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” That is why many Christians observe Ash Wednesday by wearing ashes on their foreheads. That’s also why the scripture readings for Ash Wednesday urge us to “return to the Lord, your God”

by confessing our sins and seeking God’s forgiveness (“Create in me a clean heart, O God”). Those are thoughts we should try to keep on our minds throughout the season of Lent.

*I Love to Live the Story: A Guide to Understanding and Celebrating The Christian Church Year* by Arden Mead and King Schoenfeld

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will observe Lent again this year beginning on Wednesday, February 22 with Ash Wednesday at 7PM. We have chosen to keep our 7PM worship time. Please note that that is different from past years. Also, please note that the LWML group has decided not to host a soup supper this year. As of the date of this printing I am not aware of any other groups who have decided to take the lead on the soup suppers. If you or your group would like to spearhead the effort this year, please call the church office to coordinate it. Keep watching the church bulletins and the MIC in the Narthex to find out when/if we will be gathering before the Lenten Services for a meal.

The theme for Lent this year is “Words of Life From The Cross” Please join us as we look at the words Jesus spoke which draw us closer and closer to the celebration of Easter on Sunday, April 8.

### **Ash Wednesday:** The Pardoning Word

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

### **Midweek 2:** The Promising Word

“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

### **Midweek 3:** The Faithful Word

“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46)

### **Midweek 4:** The Compassionate Word

“Woman, behold, your son!” . . . “Behold, your mother!” (John 19:26–27)

### **Midweek 5:** The Suffering Word

“I thirst.” (John 19:28)

### **Midweek 6:** The Dying Word

“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit!” (Luke 23:46)

### **Maundy Thursday:** The Remembering Word

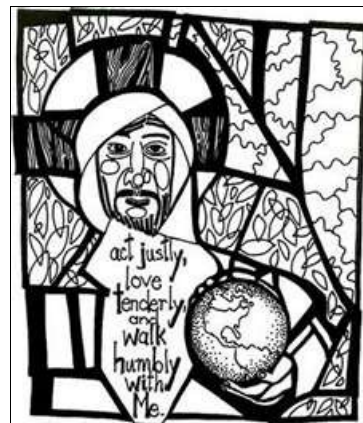
### **Good Friday:** The Fulfilled Word

“It is finished.” (John 19:30)



*“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”*

*Psalm 51:17*



NEXT MONTH: The season of Lent and its History!

## CONTACT US!

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## Receiving, Teaching, and Reaching for our Redeemer!

### Consider the Mission –

*The mission of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church is to receive God's Word in order to teach our members to reach our neighbors for our Redeemer to the Glory of God.*

### See the Vision –

*In 3 years we see a church that praises and glorifies God so that...*

*People of all ages are so filled with God's Word that they live it and share it.*

*A growing number of people are discovering and using their God given gifts and abilities.*

*People are coming closer and closer to God and one another in worship, mission, and ministry.*

We're on the web!

[www.ourredeemercohasset.org](http://www.ourredeemercohasset.org)

Our Target —————>

Youth, Missions, Family Ministries, Discipleship

## Membership Changes

### New Members:

\* Lisa Bechtold

### Deaths:

\* Dale Jordan  
\* Dorothy Westling



### Events to expect:

#### Vision Advance—

Saturday, Feb. 4 @ 9AM.

#### Ash Wednesday—

Wed., Feb. 22 @ 7PM.

#### Lenten Services—

Wednesdays @ 7PM.

### Circuit Forum Held in Bovey

The Circuit Forum was January 29 at 2:30 PM. Rev. Don Stauty was elected Circuit Counselor by the pastoral and lay-delegates present. Four Overtures were also presented and discussed. All of the Overtures were passed with some revisions. The topics included; revamping the SMP program, The 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and Worship practices in the LCMS. All of them will be sent to floor committees for the District Convention. If you have further questions, please talk to Pastor Gorshe or Phill Gorath



## February Greetings!

(continued from front page)

his term as our board chairman. Rick Kortekaas has taken his place. Other changes are noted on the cover page of this newsletter. Thanks to all of those who served their terms, and to all who have agreed to serve in the new year. The new officer installation will be on Sunday, February 12 during Sunday Worship. Please notice that one of our positions has not been filled. No one has accepted the nomination to become the Vice-Chairman of the congregation. The Vice-Chair is a two year commitment. The first year is spent learning the ropes from the current chairperson, and the second year the vice-chair becomes the chairperson. If you would prayerfully consider becoming ORLC's newest vice-chairperson, please let Rick Kortekaas know ASAP.

Another decision on the part of the voters was to adopt the 2012 budget. The financial reports and budget figures are discussed further in the *Dollars and Sense* article.

In Christ,

Pastor Chris Gorshe