



CHRIST THE REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Tulsa, OK 74136

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**Raise Money While You
Shop & Browse the Web**



LWML WEBSITE UPDATES

To support Lutheran Women's Missionary League, shop at **Amazon Smile**. The products, shopping experience, and even your login and password are the same as on amazon.com. They donate 0.5% of your purchase to your charity. You can also shop at hundreds of sites through **GoodShop** and **Gumdrop**. Use **GoodSearch** when you browse the web and support the LWML at the same time. The percentage donated depends on where you shop. **\$24,010 has been raised so far through these sources for LWML!**

CTR website! We will post upcoming events, pictures of LWML at work and play, and links to a variety of resources. You can check it out at ctrtulsa.org/lwml. The LWML Oklahoma District has updated their website at oklwml.org with all of the district happenings, regular updates on our mission goals, an archive of The Voice of Service newsletters, Young Women, Forms & Resources and more. As always, you can find up-to-date information on LWML at the national level at lwml.org.



DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



INK CARTRIDGES: The LWML will recycle all the following items for you: empty inkjet and laser printer cartridges (NO Epson cartridges or remanufactured cartridges). Boxes are located at the collection center at the south entrance of the church.

MOST Ministries collects eyeglasses and distributes them to people all over the world. A collection box is located at the collection center. For more information go to www.mostministries.org.

PAPER & OTHER RECYCLING: You can recycle all your mail/newspapers, etc. as well as cardboard, metal cans and plastic containers (no glass items) in the collection bin in the southeast corner of the parking lot.



The Cornerstone

A publication of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church

December 2018

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church is a member of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Rev. Scott Burmeister
Pastor

Suzanne Watt
Director of Christian Education

Carinna Corbett
DCE Intern

Nikki Witt
ECC Director

Connie Phillips
Office Secretary

Mary Jane Landin
Business Administrator

Angel Harris
Communications Adm.

Jacob Dregler
Music Director

Craig Amendt
Choir Director

Floyd Lemons
Property Manager

"Leading people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ"

Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:45 AM. Sunday School and Bible Classes

PHONE: 918/492-6451
Web: www.ctrtulsa.org
You can view this newsletter online!

Email:
christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org

Early Childhood Center Phone:
918-492-1416



THE
CHRISTMAS
Story

Advent Services at 7:00

December 5 - Hanging of the Greens

December 12 - Children's Christmas Program

December 19 - Advent by Candlelight

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Services at 5:00, 7:00 & 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Service at 10:00 am

CTR Christmas Party

December 9

Glennpool Conference Center

Time: 5:00-8:00

Dinner: Aila's Catering

Entertainment will be provided by

Pro-Musica Tulsa

Tickets: \$20



All Women are invited to

the LWML Christmas

Dinner "Jesus Christ is the

Greatest Gift!"

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 11

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Dinner: M&M Catering - Cost: \$15.00

Ingathering: MEND Pregnancy

Resource Center, Inc.

(diapers--sizes 3-6, baby wipes, diaper bags,

boppy and boppy pillow covers, baby gates,

potty chairs, thermometers, and lanolin)

Sign up by Sunday, December 9!

A Night in Bethlehem

Advent Program - December 12 - 6:30-8:00

Children and families can explore the town of Bethlehem together with hands on activities and experiences like: Language School with Pastor Burmeister, Blacksmith Table, The Food Market, Pottery Shop and more. Please join us.



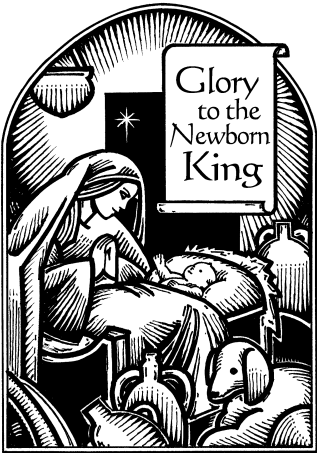


Fellow Redeemed,

December can only mean one thing! The celebration of the birth of God’s Son, Jesus Christ. I love Christmas traditions, and one tradition that I miss from Florida is having shrimp on Christmas Eve. Now I know what you are thinking, “oh just go to White River Fish Market and get some shrimp Pastor.” Well, it is not that simple. You see, we had a tradition and the guys in the family would go down to the Indian River in Titusville Florida. We would rig lights, take our nets and fill a five gallon bucket full of shrimp fresh from the river. We would lay the lights on the river floor and the shrimp would be illuminated so that we could dip our nets into the water and catch them. If the shrimp were running, you could catch your limit in an hour or so. We would then take our shrimp and clean them and boil them and serve them up on Christmas Eve. I miss that.

The church is so full of traditions. Christ the Redeemer has the tradition of the “Hanging of the Greens” service. The sanctuary is transformed into a festival of reds and whites, with Christmas trees wrapped in

Chrismons, pew candles, and poinsettias lining the walls. All of these traditions warm our hearts and put us in that Christmas spirit. But what about God? What traditions does God have for Christmas? God’s traditions are always going to be wrapped in the present of His Son, Jesus Christ. God’s tradition of sending Jesus to us through His Word and Sacraments creates much more than just a “Christmas spirit”. God pours out His Spirit through His Word and through the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. These are much more than just traditions as well. These are the very life of the church and are to be celebrated throughout the year, not just Christmas and Easter. This might be the time when you make a commitment to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. God is reaching out to you through His Word. What does God want for Christmas this year? He wants you! Amen.



“As Good As Done”

Upon the birth of the one who’d become known as John the Baptist, his father, Zechariah, praised God. Zechariah broke his none-month inability to speak with these words: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old” (Luke 1:68-70, NRSV).

Notice how Zechariah describes God’s actions as if they had already happened! In *Good News of Great Joy*, John Piper writes,



“Nine months earlier, Zechariah could not believe his wife would have a child. Now, filled with the Holy Spirit, he is so confident of God’s redeeming work in the coming Messiah that he puts it in the past tense. For the mind of faith, a promised act of God is as good as done.”

Calendar



LWML NEWS

What brings warmth and shelter to families by becoming a bed, room divider, backpack, and at times even a home???

QUILTS

HOW CAN YOU HELP??

A detailed illustration of a stack of folded linens. The stack includes a patterned cloth at the top, followed by a floral cloth, and several plain white cloths. A small bird is perched on the side of the stack.

Tie Quilts

Cut Squares

**The quilters meet
very Tuesday at 10:00
in the fellowship hall.**

Sew Squares

Join us !!
We would
appreciate your help!

[illegible]

TOTAL JOY=_____

- Pencil
- Poster board
- Scissors
- Craft pompoms (red, white, green, silver, gold)
- Glue

1. Trace large capital block letters J, O and Y on the poster board.
2. Cut out the letters.
3. Glue pompoms on one side of each letter, completely covering it.
4. Share JOY by displaying the letters in your home.

If you have questions please contact Kathy Stephen (281-782-7783) or Jody Zscheck (309-333-0861).

Vulnerable Love

God throws open the door of this world - and enters as a baby. As the most vulnerable imaginable. Because he wants unimaginable intimacy with you. What religion ever had a god that wanted such intimacy with us that he came with such vulnerability to us? What god ever came so tender we could touch him? So fragile that we could break him? So vulnerable that his bare, beating heart could be hurt? Only the One who loves you to death.

--Ann Voskamp, *The Greatest Gift*



South Tulsa Community House Awareness Sundays

On the fourth Sunday of each month, we will observe a special awareness of the needs of South Tulsa Community House by placing the grocery cart at the north entrance for your donations. Regular weekly donations will still be continued throughout each month at the collection center near the south entrance.

Donations needed include food, toiletry, and household items as well as empty prescription bottles. Let's keep filling the grocery cart, sharing God's blessings with those who are less fortunate.

FOOD DRIVE



Congratulations
and God's richest
blessings to all of
our couples

Michael & Shirley Bird	Dec. 2	40 yrs
James & Ann Holt	Dec. 3	13 yrs
Kelley & Tony Goodrum	Dec 7	27 yrs
Susan & Steven Low	Dec. 16	31 yrs
Brad & Jennifer Teegarden	Dec. 17	2 yrs
Steve & Johnna Short	Dec. 18	36 yrs
Mike & Annie Wiederstein	Dec. 18	44 yrs
Scott & Tessa Chesher	Dec. 19	20 yrs
Sid & Beverly McVey	Dec. 22	49 yrs
Dennis & Kathy Stephen	Dec. 27	43 yrs
John & Mary Gant	Dec. 29	34 yrs
Mark & Jane Holt	Dec. 29	28 yrs
Chris & Amber Carson	Dec. 30	23 yrs
Chris & Brenda Flasch	Dec. 30	29 yrs
James & Letaza Dutton	Dec. 31	24 yrs
Paul & Alyssa Whaley	Dec. 31	9 yrs

CTR FRIENDS, BUNKO & OWLS will not meet in December. They will resume their scheduled lunches and programs in January.



THE MESSIAH will be performed at First Lutheran Church (1244 S Utica) on December 1 & 2 at 5:00 & 7:30 pm. The performance is presented by the combined choirs and orchestra of Tulsa area Lutheran churches. All are invited to attend.



CTR CHRISTMAS PARTY is December 9 from 5-8:00 at the Glenpool Convention Center. Entertainment will be provided by Pro Musica Tulsae. Tickets are \$20 each. Babysitting will be provided at the church for children 10 and under. Their cost is \$5 each. Pizza and snacks will be provided for them.

LWML CHRISTMAS DINNER will be December 11 from 6-8:00. The tickets are \$15 each. All women are invited to attend.

ADVENT DINNERS will be provided by: December 5 (LWML); December 12 (Youth); December 29 (Elders). The meals will be served at 6:00 prior to the Advent service at 7:00.

The Joke Corner...

"Did you see how pleased Mrs. Smith looked when I told her she didn't look a day older than her daughter?"
"I didn't notice Mrs. Smith ... I was too busy watching the expression on the daughter's face!"

Boy: "Gladys, do you love me?"
Girl: "Yeah."
Boy: "Would you be willing to live on my income?"
Girl: "Yes, if you'll get another for yourself."

Boy: "Will you marry me?"
Girl: "No, but I'll always admire your good taste."

Every adult needs a child to teach; it's the way adults learn.



Oaks Indian Mission

The offering for this quarter will go to Oaks Indian Mission, a Lutheran ministry, that serves children from ages 4-18 from a multitude of tribal backgrounds.

Please give generously to this quarter's recipient of our Sunday school offering.



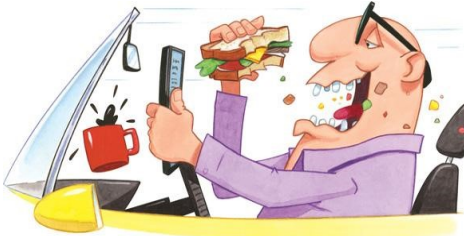
Faithful Measures

For the Month of October	2017	2018
Total Worship Attendance	1198	983
Weekly Average.....	240	246
SS/Bible Class Attendance	465	332
Weekly Average	93	83
October Giving	\$79,735	\$60,943
Monthly Budget	\$72,310	\$65,226
Year to Date Giving	\$714,102	\$695,761
Year to Date Budget	\$701,688	\$701,183
YTD Expenses.....	\$623,712	\$853,304

A Message from Take H.E.A.R.T. - Distracted Driving

Here are AAA's Top 10 Tips to Avoid Distractions While Driving

10. Fully focus on driving. Do not let anything divert your attention, actively scan the road, use your mirrors and watch out for pedestrians and cyclists.
9. Store loose gear, possessions and other distractions that could roll around in the car, so you do not feel tempted to reach for them on the floor or the seat.
8. Make adjustments before your get underway. Address vehicle systems like your GPS, seats, mirrors, climate controls and sound systems before hitting the road. Decide on your route and check traffic conditions ahead of time.
7. Finish dressing and personal grooming at home – before you get on the road.
6. Snack smart. If possible, eat meals or snacks before or after your trip, not while driving. On the road, avoid messy foods that can be difficult to manage.
5. Secure children and pets before getting underway. If they need your attention, pull off the road safely to care for them. Reaching into the backseat can cause you to lose control of the vehicle.
4. Put aside your electronic distractions. Don't use cell phones while driving – handheld or hands-free – except in absolute emergencies. Never use text messaging, email functions, video games or the internet with a wireless device, including those built into the vehicle, while driving.
3. If you have passengers, enlist their help so you can focus safely on driving.
2. If another activity demands your attention, instead of trying to attempt it while driving, pull off the road and stop your vehicle in a safe place. To avoid temptation, power down or stow devices before heading out.
1. As a general rule, if you cannot devote your full attention to driving because of some other activity, it's a distraction. Take care of it before or after your trip, not while behind the wheel.



Adapted from aaa.com



The motto for Hershey's Kisses used to be "Big things come in small packages!" That also could be a motto for Bethlehem, for baby Jesus and, indeed, for us. It's an important message to remember when we fear we're too weak to fix the world's problems, too small to fight the gigantic terror that threatens a loved one or too lacking in abilities we see in others.

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah," God declares through the prophet Micah (5:2, NRSV), "from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel." Bethlehem was a mere village. God's ruler for Israel started as an infant. His birthplace was a small stable, not a palace or temple. But size isn't everything. Big - that is, great - things can come in small packages. And thanks to the tiny baby who grew up to share immeasurably huge love with the world, God can do great things through you, too!





CTR-U Monthly Schedule

No 7:00-8:00 CTR-U activities during Advent

5:00-6:00 PM - Youth Band Practice– Jacob Drengler

5:30-6:30 PM

- ◆ Faith Friends - Gym– DCE Intern Carinna
- ◆ Confirmation Class - Library - DCE Suzanne
- ◆ Youth Ministry Bible Study– Youth Room– Pastor Burmeister
- ◆ Women's Small Group– Conference Room
- ◆ Men's Small Group - Bridal Room

6:00-7:00 PM - Advent Meals

- ◆ December 5 - LWML
- ◆ December 12 - Youth
- ◆ December 19 - Elders

7:00-8:00 PM - Advent Services - Choir practice will follow

- ◆ December 5 - Hanging of the Greens
- ◆ December 12 - Children's Christmas Program
- ◆ December 19 - Advent by Candlelight

You Can Always Tell a Lutheran ...

- * Lutherans believe in prayer but would practically die if asked to pray aloud.
- * Lutherans like to sing except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
- * Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital even if they don't notify them that they are there.
- * Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially when passing the plate.
- * Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make them too proud and conceited.
- * Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while "passing the peace."
- * Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
- * Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCA bride and an LCMS groom make for a mixed marriage.
- * Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the fellowship hall.
- * Lutherans are willing to pay up to a dollar for a meal at church.
- * Lutherans think the Garrison Keeler stories are totally factual.
- * Lutherans believe that it is okay to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.
- * You know you're a real Lutheran if you hear something funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can!

Daily Bible Reading

Week 45

Monday - Psalm 12:1-17:15
Tuesday - Psalm 18:1-22:31
Wednesday - Psalm 23:1-28:9
Thursday - Psalm 29:1-34:22
Friday - Psalm 35:1-41:13
Saturday - Psalm 42:1-47:9

Week 46

Monday - Psalm 48:1-53:6
Tuesday - Psalm 54:1-60:12
Wednesday - Psalm 61:1-66:20
Thursday - Psalm 67:1-72:20
Friday - Psalm 73:1-77:20
Saturday - Psalm 78:1-82:8

Week 47

Monday - Psalm 83:1-89:52
Tuesday - Psalm 90:1-95:11
Wednesday - Psalm 96:1-101:8
Thursday - Psalm 102:1-106:48
Friday - Psalm 107:1-113:9
Saturday - Psalm 114:1-118:29

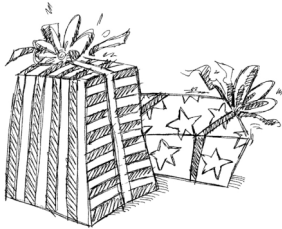
Week 48

Monday - Psalm 119:1-176
Tuesday - Psalm 120:1-125:5
Wednesday - Psalm 126:1-134:3
Thursday - Psalm 135:1-137:9
Friday - Psalm 138:1-143:12
Saturday - Psalm 144:1-150:6

STAFF GIFTS

Please consider thanking our CTR staff and showing our appreciation with a year-end Christmas bonus. You can write "staff gifts" on the memo line of your check when making contributions.

Contributions should be received no later than December 19.



Live Nativity
King of Kings - Glenpool

December 8th & 9th

6:00 & 7:30 pm

151st Street S. and Hwy 75

(SE Corner)

Live Animals

Admission is free, or donation of a nonperishable food item for local food pantry

Outdoor – bring a blanket, bleacher seating available



"HELP NEEDED"

Christ the Redeemer does a video of one of the services every Sunday morning. We create a DVD of the service. A copy of it is sent with a bulletin to all the home-bound members. We need some volunteers to help us with this recording and continued ministry.

Anyone interested, please see Jim King, Wes Speer or John Muller for further information and training.

Thank you for your needed help!



What is LHM?

Lutheran Hour Ministries is the name of the outreach ministry of the Lutheran Layman's League (LLL). The LLL along with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Lutheran Hour LHM Ministries programming includes The Lutheran Hour, Men's Network, THRED, Mission U, SENT radio and Spanish language programming. There is a wealth of resources on their website, <http://www.lhm.org>.

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) is a trusted expert in global media that equips and engages a vibrant volunteer base to passionately proclaim the Gospel to more than 100 million people worldwide each week. Through its North American headquarters and 34 ministry centers on six continents, LHM reaches into more than 50 countries, often bringing Christ to places where no other Christian evangelistic organizations are present. LHM's flagship ministry, The Lutheran Hour®, airs weekly on more than 1,800 radio stations and the American Forces Network.

In 1917, a group of 12 men attending a convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Milwaukee met to settle a \$100,000 debt incurred by the church body. They accomplished that goal, and in the process formed the Lutheran Laymen's League. The LLL next raised more than \$2.7 million to fund a pension plan for professional church workers. Rev. F. Gerhardt Kuehnert started the orphan and widows fund from his office in Crystal Lake, IL, and then served as the Exec Sect for the pension plan the LLL funded. Tom K remembers him on the phone during his childhood visits to his "Gramps" house.

Radio broadcasting started by Dr. Walter A. Maier on Concordia Sem's campus using the call letters KFUO for the radio station

In 1930, the LLL made a commitment to fund one year of broadcasting a weekly national radio program to be called The Lutheran Hour®. The first program was broadcast Oct. 2, 1930 and continues the air today, making it the worlds oldest continually broadcast Christ-centered radio program. From the show's early years to today, speakers Dr. Walter A. Maier, Dr. Armin C. Oldsen, Dr. Lawrence Acker, Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, Dr. Wallace Schulz, Dr. Dale A. Meyer, Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus and Rev. Gregory Seltz have shared God's changeless Word and offered comfort and hope to millions. Some of the prominent guests included Kurt Warner, Wynona Judd, and Barbara Mandrell.

Television broadcasting: "This is the Life" started on Television in 1952 and it was backed by the LCMS and LLL. Several now famous actors appeared: Jack Nicholson, Buddy Ebsen, and Leonard Nimoy. The program aired from 1952 until 1988, first in syndication and then on NBC. That was the beginning of a long list of film presentations, many winning achievement awards and from the Telly Awards. Today LHM offers viewers 45 programs on film that are easily viewed from a computer. To see the newest offerings that you can watch go to www.lhm.org



LUTHERAN
HOUR
MINISTRIES

People Of Christ With The Message Of Hope

Vicarage News

To friends dearly loved by the Brakhages and by our Lord Jesus Christ:

What a joy to be writing to you at one of my favorite times of the year. Advent has an extra special place in my heart, especially after years of participating in CTR's annual congregational Advent devotion. I am so happy that so many authors have joined DCE Intern Carinna in fueling this project for another season. I truly believe it was one of the most effective tools for me to connect to the people of CTR as a new member. Sharing your stories of faith has such a powerful impact. My thanks to this year's contributors, and my encouragement to each of you to make this part of your daily devotional (and musical!) preparation for the coming Christ.

It was great to see so many of you over the past month. Cherry Volberding made the trip to Edmond for worship and treated us to a visit. Debbie & Richard Burling and Marty & Rosalie Weber were down here too. And we were blessed to be surrounded by our CTR family in Tulsa as we joined in celebrating the life and victory our friend, Dodee Brockhoff, has in Christ her Redeemer. Everyone has a Dodee story. If you bumped into us at the funeral, you probably heard ours. Dodee met Suzy in the narthex on her very first visit to CTR. We had been dating a few months at that point. Within 60 seconds, Dodee was coaching Suzy to "lock this one down" and dogging me about getting a ring. Always insightful, Dodee knew what she was talking about. She was also always generously offering me books or items she thought would be helpful to me in future ministry. She was such a special person who will be remembered fondly by so many, and her contributions to CTR's foundation of worship and witness are innumerable. Moreover, we rejoice that we will see Dodee again, making heavenly music together in celebration of Savior's triumph over death.

November proved to be a busier month than I expected. Most people can infer that life gets hectic for church workers in December with Christmas programs, special events and holiday services – not to mention your own family commitments! But November seemed like good preparation here. To kick off the month, I got the chance to preach for our All Saints' Sunday worship services. Suzy sang a number of choir pieces as well. Later in the month, we celebrated Veterans Day. There was a special program at school. I served as pianist on a medley of armed forces songs. Graham enjoyed hearing Daddy practice; he was a particular fan of the Air Force's "Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder!" Our family had fun exploring Holy Trinity's annual Christmas Bazaar. Sponsored by the LWML, it brought Suzy and I back to one of our very first dates where we went to a craft show together. Aw, memories! This year, Graham even got to meet Buddy the Elf! (Our assistant pastor likes to dress up in costumes and delighted the kids with an appearance by Santa's not-so-little helper.)

All of that led up to a very busy Thanksgiving week. We had family visit early in the week while Suzy and I were still working. Later our family split up, with Suzy and Graham heading up to Kansas City early to see family. I stayed behind in Edmond. I had three Bible studies to lead that week, along with preaching dur-

ing Wednesday evening and Thursday morning worship services. I joined the rest of the family in Kansas by Thanksgiving evening. I don't know if you agree, but it often feels like our culture's commitment to productivity punishes us for taking time off. You end up working twice as hard preparing to be gone, and then you were twice as hard when you get back making up for what you missed. All that being said, I wouldn't trade away time with our family even if it meant having to do 10 times the work. Our visit with family was terrific. We got to spend time with Suzy's twin sister who is expecting her third baby, which means Graham is no longer the youngest cousin in the family. Family time at Thanksgiving meant Graham got to soak up attention from his doting Nana, Granddad and older cousins. One of our biggest hopes is a final placement after Seminary that allows us to stay in relative proximity to family, so Graham can stay connected to the relatives who have shown him so much love.

CTR has been on my mind a lot in the past few weeks as our church here in Edmond finishes its latest building project. Like CTR, Holy Trinity has grown over time with a series of building expansions. The latest finished last month and added new offices just outside the main sanctuary space. That means I've moved to the opposite side of the building. My first office was beside the school's copy room, and the only way to get to the 2nd & 3rd grade classrooms was to walk past my office. I have missed the smiling students who would always reliably say hi and wave whenever they walked by. But now, I've moved up with the rest of the ministry staff, near our DCE and Director of Parish Music. The new neighbors aren't quite as cute as the old ones, but they're still pretty cool. I am excited for the expansion at CTR, too. We were thrilled to hear the congregation met its \$2.5 million campaign commitment goal and we can't wait for construction to begin in the spring. It's exciting – not because the building is growing – but because the impact CTR is having on people's lives is growing. From the beginning, I have been proud to see how this project has put the ministry of the gospel first, growing intentionally to meet the needs of the congregation and its neighbors. I pray that progress is made smoothly and that enthusiasm for the project remains high through some of the inconveniences of construction. Of course, we are looking forward to touring the finished product and celebrating this new milestone of ministry along with you.

As I wrap up this letter, I would be remiss not to offer my thanks for the constant kindness and care we are shown by the generous hearts at CTR. It has been several years now since we have been actively among you, yet we still feel the warmth of your love. Our appreciation for your faithful financial support cannot be understated; CTR has been supremely kind in that regard. But we also thank you for each email, card, text message, and Facebook comment we receive. CTR retains a deeply treasured place in our hearts for so many reasons. Allow us to offer our prayers and gratitude for your unfailing generosity and your overflowing hearts. May the Lord continue to fill your hearts with His love, so that it overflows to those around you as we await His joyous arrival.

With Advent anticipation,
Joshua
joshua411@gmail.com
(918) 706-1632 (Joshua's mobile) (785) 393-3117 (Suzy's mobile)
2605 Greenfield Dr. Edmond, OK 73012


Join CTR on Facebook & Twitter!

Keep up with coming events, announcements, and updates about recent events including pictures. The public events page is at: <http://www.facebook.com/ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch>



The private group is at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctrtulsa/>
For the Twitter account use: @PastorBe_CTR

To join the private group, click Join Group in the top right hand corner of the page or contact James Morgan via e-mail: communications@ctrtulsa.org



DON'T TRASH THOSE COUPONS!

Military personnel and their families stationed at major overseas bases in Europe and Asia can use those manufacturer's coupons up to six months after they have expired. A box marked "Coupons for the Troops" is located at the south entrance.

Many Happy Returns

Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others,
Is the joy that comes back to you.

And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to you glad.
--John Greenleaf Whittier



"Beautiful music ...
is one of the most magnificent
and delightful presents God has given us."
-- Martin Luther

Altar Flowers

The sign-up chart is available at the information center. Write your name on the date and share the special reason for the flowers. Simply drop your \$35 check (put ALTAR FLOWERS on the memo line) in the offering plate the week before or that Sunday! You may take the arrangement home following the late service.



December

Flowers for the Altar

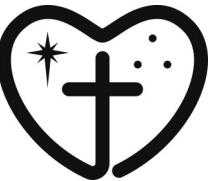
- 2: by Ann & James Holt in celebration of their 12th anniversary
- 2: by Ann & James Holt in celebration of Jim Holt's birthday
- 9: by Lynn and Sandy Moeller in celebration of Lynn's mother, Ferne's 100th birthday
- 9:
- 16: by Norm & Bernie Zanter in celebration of Sadie Losacco's birthday
- 16: by Mike & Annie Wiederstein in celebration of their anniversary
- 23:
- 23:
- 30: by Deborah Drain in celebration of Kristopher's birthday
- 30: by Marty Weber in celebration of Rosalie's birthday

The Perfect Gift

Antoine de Saint-Exupery said, "Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction." At Christmas we celebrate God coming to earth to look outward with us in the same direction, from our perspective and experience.

Jesus was an ordinary person: He learned to talk and walk like any toddler, learned a trade from his father and acquired the habits of faith from his family. In adulthood, Jesus experienced life as we all do: the challenge of hard work, grief at a loved one's death, heartache over oppression and the world's great needs - but also joy in celebration, fellowship with neighbors and deep friendship.

God personally knows our every experience, emotion and need - because Jesus, while fully divine, lived as a full human being. He has gazed at the world, life and even death from our direction, giving us the perfect Christmas gift: love.





As we prepare to enter the season of Advent, that season of the church year when we wait in joyful expectation to once again celebrate the birth of the One who is our Redeemer, there is a particular carol that I would like to draw your attention to. It is likely a carol that you have not sung before, but it is one which captures both the expectant waiting which characterizes the season of Advent, as well as the joyous strains of the celebration of Christ's Nativity.

Jacob Drengler

*What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
the birth of this our heavenly King?*

*We see Him come, and know Him ours,
Who with His sunshine and His showers
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.*

*So we will give Him, and bequeath
This holly and this ivy wreath,
to do Him honor, who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.*

*Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day
That sees December turned to May.*

*The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is we find a room
To welcome Him. The nobler part
Of all the house here is the heart.
Awake the voice! Awake the string!*

What Sweeter Music was written by the English poet and cleric Robert Herrick (1591-1674). It has since been set to music by a number of notable composers. Perhaps the most often performed setting of this text is by the contemporary English composer John Rutter, who wrote a stunning choral setting for the renowned choir of King's College, Cambridge. This Advent, at Christ the Redeemer, our choir will sing a setting of this text which joins Herrick's poem to Ralph Vaughan Williams' wonderful tune *Linden Lea*. In closing, I leave you with these words from Psalm 27, which we will sing together during the season of Advent:

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING
"FILL THE BUS" FUNDRAISERS

Lynch Creek Farm Holiday Greenery
CTR youth will receive 20% of all sales!

Online

1. Go to our dedicated fundraiser webpage <https://www.lcffundraising.com/f/798240>
2. Click the red "Shop Online" button and browse the categories of decor
3. Select the category you want to purchase from and a box will appear. Select "Give Cash Back to DCE Suzanne Watt" then click "Shop Now"
- 4.. Place your order!

Standard Ground shipping is free in the continental US and all products are shipped out directly to the recipient on the date specified during checkout. Online orders are accepted through December 16, 2018.



Yankee Candles
CTR youth will receive 40% of all sales!

Online

1. Go to www.yankeecandlefundraising.com
2. Enter our Group # 999987324
3. Place your order!

All online orders will be shipped directly to you! Online orders are accepted through January 9, 2019.

EVERY \$250 WE
RAISE PUTS A
YOUTH ON THE BUS!

Donations Only: If anyone would like to donate toward the NYG trip without purchasing an item from their fundraiser listings, donations can be earmarked to the Youth Funds dedicated account 17-00-01-34.



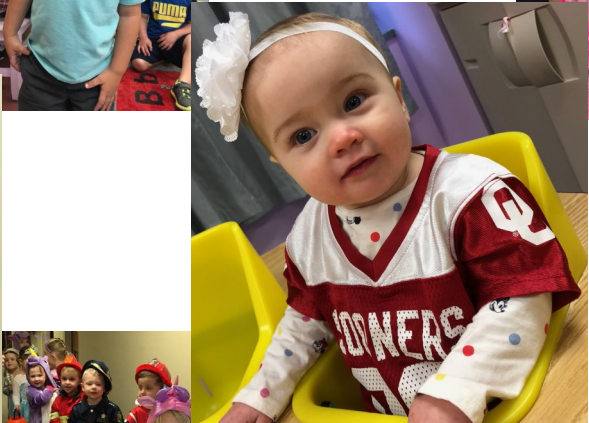
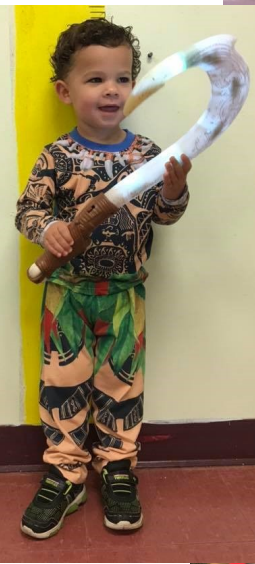
CHRIST THE REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH



ECCC



Nikki Witt, Director



Help support ECC by shopping on Amazon Smile. Simply select Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church and .5% of your purchase will be given back to the ECC.



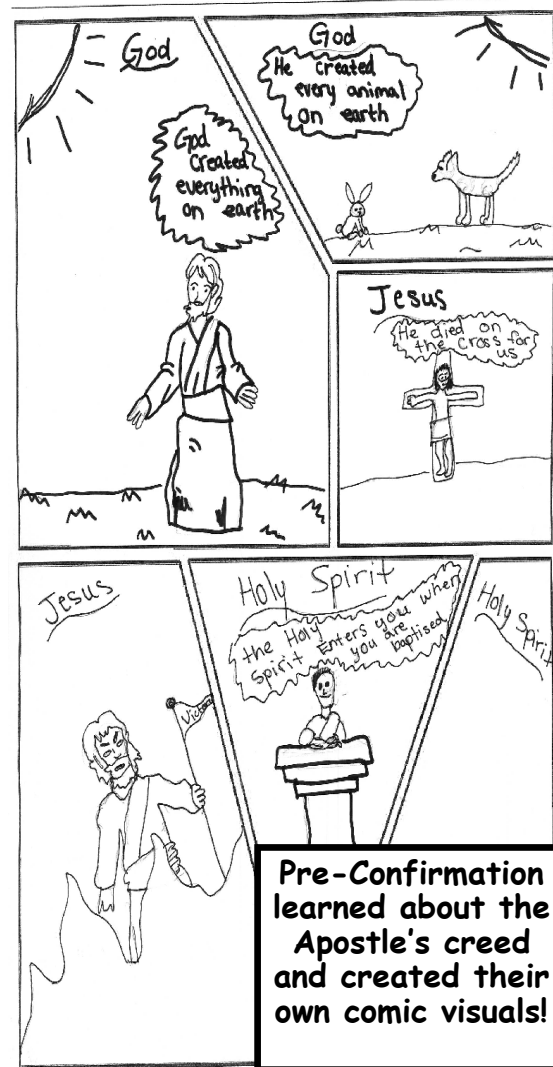


CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

CONTACT INFORMATION:
FAMILIES@CTRTULSA.ORG
918-549-0957



DCE Intern Carinna Corbett



Children and Family Ministry will be hosting an outing to Rehma Christmas Lights on December 16th. We will meet at CTR at 5:45 and head to the light together. Christmas cookies and hot chocolate will be available before we leave. Sign up by the library!

A Night in Bethlehem

Advent Program

December 12

6:30-8:00

Children and Families can explore the town of Bethlehem together with hands on activities and experiences like:

Language School with Pastor Burmeister

Blacksmith Table

The Food Market

Pottery Shop

& More

Faith Friends will celebrate Christmas with Christmas Activity stations on December 5th at 5:30 in the gym

Children's Sunday School will be celebrating Jesus's Birthday on December 16th at 9:30 in the gym

Club 345 will celebrate Christmas on December 16th from 3:00-5:00 in the gym



DCE Suzanne Watt

CHRIST THE REDEEMER YOUTH MINISTRY

Jr. High (6-8th graders)

Sr. High (9-12th graders)

<http://www.ctrtulsa.org/youth-5-12-grade/>



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

Save the Date!

Jr High Christmas Party Dec 16, 2018
HS Christmas Lock-In @ Immanuel Dec 21-22
Journey in January High School Retreat
Jan 18-20, 2019
CTR Jr High Retreat Feb 1-3, 2019
OK'D in Christ High School Gathering
March 29-30, 2019
Easter Breakfast Apr 21, 2019
National Youth Gathering
Jul 10-16, 2019

UPDATED INFORMATION ON NYG 2019



Registration for the 2019 Gathering has been submitted! A non-refundable registration fee totaling \$365 will be required and due in full by December 31, 2018 for each student. If you only paid the deposit, please remember to pay your remainder by the end of 2018. After registration the remainder of the cost to attend NYG will be fundraised. Any money not fundraised by the time of the Gathering will be the responsibility of the participant.

JR HIGH RETREAT: at Camp Lutherhoma is February 1-3, 2019. Open to youth and their friends in 6th-8th grade. Registration is \$75 each for retreat cabins. This includes bedding and towels. Due by January 15, then add-ons can be done as space allows. After the 15th you will not be guaranteed a t-shirt. You should be at the church no later than 6:15 pm on the 1st. Please eat dinner prior or bring a sack meal with you!

JOURNEY IN JANUARY HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT: at Camp Lutherhoma is January 18-20, 2019. Open to youth and their friends age 14-18 in high school. Registration cost is \$110 each for retreat cabins (those serving on the committee pay \$100). Retreat cabins include bedding and towels. Due by December 31, then add-ons can be done as space allows. After January 8 the price is \$170 a person if there is space. Cost includes transportation, meals and housing for the weekend as well as all programming and a t-shirt.

You should be at church no later than 6:30 PM on the 18th. Please eat dinner prior or bring a sack meal with you! We will return on the 20th at approximately 1:30 PM. To register, please fill out the registration form and return it with the fee or pay the fee via the online link on the youth webpage. Please also ensure you have updated your medical forms for 2019.

OK'D IN CHRIST: will be March 29-30 in the OKC area. All 8th-12th grade youth and their friends will be invited to attend. Registration information to come soon!