

THE REDEEMER REPORTER

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

1054 Truman Avenue

Owatonna, MN 55060

January 2012

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Rev. Kirk Griebel, Pastor

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Dear Fellow Redeemed,

Brock Lee from the Young Earth Creation Organization returns to Redeemer this month for another week of his Creation Seminars. The dates of these free seminars will be January 16 to 20 and they will run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. each evening.

A simple supper will be available for purchase for those who would like to have a bite to eat. Serving for the supper will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Brock's topics this year include dinosaurs, the science of Genesis, dating the earth and evolutionary propaganda. His newly updated traveling Creation Museum will be set up for viewing. He will also have for sale the various DVD's he has produced through his ministry over the years including DVD's from last year's seminars.

It is important to study what the Bible says about creation because creation is one of the teachings of the Bible that is under attack. If the enemies of the Bible can get us to doubt the reliability of the creation account, they may be able to get us to doubt the reliability of other parts of the Bible too.

We could even be led to question what the Bible teaches about salvation through faith in Christ. If the world was not created by an all-powerful, all-knowing God as the Bible says, then why should we care about how Jesus came into the world and saved us from our sins?

Those who have heard Brock's presentations have found them to be easy to understand and based on sound scientific evidence. Attendees will become more convinced of the reliability of the Bible and what it teaches about creation and salvation. It will definitely be worthwhile to hear these presentations.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Pastor Griebel

THE NEXT NOISY OFFERING will be held on Sunday, January 15. Bring your coins and loose change. This noisy offering will be used to help pay our winter heating bill.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS AT REDEEMER

Sunday Morning during the Education Hour Pastor Griebel will start the New Year with a study of the Israelites' exile to Babylon and their return from exile.

Wednesday Morning This class will resume on January 11 at 9:30 with a study of Holy Baptism from Luther's Small Catechism.

MARCH FOR LIFE Sunday, January 22, is the 39th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in America. The annual Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) March for Life will take place on this day at 2:00 p.m. on the steps of the Capitol building in St. Paul. The Owatonna Bus Company provides free chartered bus rides to anyone who wants to attend the March for Life. The bus will leave from the parking lot of Sacred Heart church at Noon and return by 4:30 p.m. To sign up for the bus ride to the March for Life call Peggy Nelson at 451-0881.

Over the years thousands of Minnesotans have participated in this peaceful and uplifting demonstration of support for the unborn. It is truly inspiring to see so many people joining together to defend the rights of the unborn.

UNDECORATE THE CHURCH We will be taking down the decorations and storing them away till next year on Saturday, January 7 at 9:00 a.m. Hope you can help!

Board of Fellowship/Evangelism

INSTALLATION AT PEACE Rev. Dan Provost has accepted the call to be pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Claremont. A service of installation for Pastor Provost will be held at Peace on Sunday, January 15, starting at 2:00 p.m. with a reception to follow. Everyone is invited to attend.

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES Please be sure to pick up your 2012 envelopes from the table in the narthex. Each box has the envelopes needed for the entire year. THANK YOU for your continued support of the work of the Lord at Redeemer.

DARTBALL The next dartball match is on Thursday, January 12, starting at 7:00 p.m. here at Redeemer. Once again we will be playing against the teams from Trinity, Medford and Peace, Faribault. New team members are always welcome. Free training is provided.

LARGE PRINT copies of the hymns and readings we will use in the worship service on Sunday are available from the ushers at each service.

PORTALS OF PRAYER for the months of January to March are available on the register stand in the narthex. Pick one up for yourself and another to share.

RIDES FOR CHURCH If you are in need of a ride to church, please call the church office.

JOYFUL RESPONSE Joyful Response electronic offering program is a very simple way for members to give their offerings electronically instead of writing out checks. If you need a form to sign up for Joyful Response, contact the church office.

REDEEMER ON THE AIRWAVES Charter Communications offers a one hour broadcast of our services on Channel 8 at 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays and at 3:30 p.m. Fridays.

LUTHERAN HOUR radio broadcast on KDHL 920 a.m., and KJLY 93.5 fm on Sundays 6:00 p.m., and WCCO 830 am at 6:00 a.m. To listen to the Lutheran Hour at any time or find out about other resources available from the Lutheran Hour, simply go to their website, www.lutheranhour.org.

SIGN UP FOR ALTAR FLOWERS If you would like to provide flowers to beautify our altar for worship on a Sunday morning, simply sign your name on the Flower Chart located on the bulletin board next to the office. If you are giving the flowers in memory of a loved one, or because of a wedding/anniversary or birthday, you may indicate that on the chart and that information will be put in the bulletin. Once you sign up, place a check for \$19.00, made out to Redeemer Lutheran Church, in an envelope marked "Altar Flowers". Take it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. If you wish to have a special arrangement, contact the church office.

ALTAR GUILD We collected 144 pounds of food and \$210.00 cash donations for the Steele County Food Shelf. Thanks for all your support and help.

SUNDAY SCHOOL Thank you to the Sunday School children for a wonderful Christmas Program about the real meaning of the "Twelve Days of Christmas." You all did a great job! Thank you to the Sunday school teachers for their time and dedication to our Sunday school children in Sunday School and preparing for the Christmas program. Thank you to the parents of the children for helping them to learn their songs and lines for the Christmas program and for bringing them to our Saturday morning practices. Thank you to Pastor Griebel for directing and to Janda Pitan for music accompaniment for the program.

The Fellowship Committee did a wonderful job helping with the "Birthday Party" for Jesus. Thank you to Kim Strusz for making Jesus' birthday cake; it tasted great! Thank you to the Kuchenbecker family for their donation of the treat bags for the children of our Congregation. Thank you to Steve Frodl for donating the straw bales for the manger scene.

Just a reminder that Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 8, 2012 due to the holidays.

Have a joyous Christmas and a Blessed New Year!
Board of Education

YOUTH GROUP Thank you to the Youth and their parents for a great "Cookie Walk." The cookies looked and tasted great! Thank you to those who donated cookies for the "Cookie Walk." Thank you to the Youth Parents for your time and dedication to the Youth Group and all of their activities. The Youth Group would like to thank the Congregation for their continued support throughout the year. We would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!

CELEBRATIONS: Call Church Office 451 – 2720
Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
except for the Noon hour.

PROVIDING THEIR TIME & TALENTS IN JANUARY

ACOLYTES:

January 1	Ashley Coulombe
January 8	Alex Burns
January 15	Ethan Hollingsworth
January 22	Katie Mensing
January 29	Cole Bergeman

LAY MINISTER: Chuck Rappe

ORGANIST: Janda Pitan

USHERS: Steve Schmidt, Tom Brage, Richard Grunklee, Jeff Dauffenbach, Chuck Rappe, Dave Fjordbak

STATISTICS

Date	Attendance	Communion	Offering
Dec. 4	74	53	3462.00
Dec. 11	104	89	3314.52
Dec. 18	169		3911.76

BIRTHDAYS

Anna Dauffenbach	1-1
Lisa Stewart	1-2
Larry Mensing	1-3
Kenneth Long	1-4
Steve Vannatta	1-5
Alyssa Huxford	1-5
Ruth Koehler	1-5
Susan Robertson	1-5
Terri Sittig	1-5
Jennifer Anderson	1-8
Jimmy Marik	1-9
Roxanne Tesch	1-10
Lois Hunt	1-11
Jasmine Wisch	1-11
Patricia Luedtke	1-13
Brent Grunklee	1-16
Brogan R Dawley	1-17
Lois Erdman	1-18
Scott Proulx	1-18
Gwen Sammon	1-18
Tyler Stursa	1-18
Donald Radue	1-19
Donna Hanson	1-20
Robert Dunker	1-20
Brian Wendel	1-21
Lauretta Gasner	1-21
Florence Huber	1-21
Karissa Mouser	1-22
Vaughn Kispert	1-23
Steve Schmidt	1-23
Pamela Fritz	1-24
Christopher Nelson	1-25
Dawn Grunklee	1-29
Ryan Boerner	1-30
Sharon Ulrich	1-30

NEW ADDRESS

Marion Hartwig
650 El Dorado St NE Apt. 163
Owatonna, MN. 55060

LETTER FROM CALEB SCHEWE "OUR" SEMINARY STUDENT

Dear Members of Redeemer Lutheran,

Merry Christmas from the Schewes in Fort Wayne, IN! We pray the joy of our Lord's birth is with you through this cold and dark time of the

year and that the lengthening of the days reminds you that the true light has come into the world!

The funny and sometimes a little depressing thing about working at Hobby Lobby is that we're getting all kinds of summer decorations put up in the store. Christmas at Hobby Lobby was in full swing from September through November; now it feels like a thing of the past. I suppose that has helped me appreciate Advent more. Advent seems to keep Christmas at bay until the appointed time. I've gained a deeper fondness for Advent by working at Hobby Lobby than I ever did at the seminary! God works in mysterious ways!

Things have been so hectic for Sarah and I that not a whole lot has changed. She's been working a lot of extra hours at Hobby Lobby because several workers quit. Christmas time isn't a good time to try and train new cashiers or department workers. Instead, the rest of the workers had to make up for it. But we still thank God for providing the jobs and managers who are flexible with our schedule.

My classes are going alright. I haven't started on any big papers or research projects. I am done with the placement interviews. One interview focuses on our "preference" and the other interview focuses more on my pastoral approach. Both went very well.

Our running nonsense still continues into a colder month of December. Perhaps you've wondered, "just what type of sickness compels 2 individuals to run every day for 28 months consecutively?" (I use that language because often times it feels like some mental sickness to me). Well, to answer the question, I can't say we've always enjoyed it. In fact, many times we dread the run. We've had to wake up at 5a.m. to "get our run in." But, the whole thing started from one of our cross country friends in college. This friend ran every day for 6 years, missed a few days for some injury or illness, and managed to start back at day 1, then 2, and so on. Sarah and I were both amazed that the person started right back at it. So one day after a random run I said "That's one day of consecutive running!" Sarah laughed and rolled her eyes or something. But lo and behold, we ran the next day and it was day 2! And so it goes beyond 800 days. It has been very good for us together and we're always happy when "the run for the day is done."

We do pray that God is blessing you through the colder times. He has been gracious to us. The weather has been mild, in fact beautiful the last 2 days. We also pray that your Advent, Christmas, and New Year celebrations are filled with lots of joy! We can't thank you enough for the

many blessings we've received from your hands!
God has been gracious to us and has done
wonderful things for us through you.

In Christ,
Caleb and Sarah

THE JANUARY VOTERS MEETING will take place on Sunday, January 22, after the 9:00 a.m. worship service in the Social Hall. The main items on the agenda will be approval of Redeemer's budget for 2012 and nominations for circuit and District offices.

Summary of Minutes of previous meetings:

Special Voters Meeting September 11, 2011

Steve Frodl called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. Pastor Griebel opened the meeting with a prayer. Members attending: 41.

Steve Frodl opened the meeting explaining the process of getting bids for a new furnace.

Roger Bogen, Chair of the Building Committee, presented the information his committee has gathered in the bidding process. Three companies were approached to present bids. Roger presented the three bids. The bid from Block Plumbing with a margin for unforeseen cost totals \$40,000 and is the bid recommended by the committee, rebates from the city might reduce this to approximately \$36,500.

At a previous meeting the voters approved the bequest of \$20,000 from the Bea Lieb estate be spent on this project, leaving a deficit of \$16,500.

A question about asbestos was asked, this was considered and costs for asbestos removal are included by the winning bid.

Steve Frodl presented a plan to borrow the additional money from LCEF plus a little extra if needed, \$20,000. This would be added to the current loan of \$32,000, with a 10 year term resulting in a payment of \$560 a month. This is lower than the current payment because of the favorable interest rate available now.

Motion made and seconded to accept the bid from Block Plumbing. Motion was amended to include electrical work, the amendment was voted on and carried, the motion with amendment was then voted on and it carried.

Motion was made and seconded to borrow \$20,000 from LCEF for 10 years. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Regular October Voters Meeting October 23, 2011

Dallas Ketchum called the meeting to order at 10:28 a.m. Pastor Griebel opened the meeting with a prayer. Members attending: 24.

Minutes of the July 24, 2011 and September 11, 2011 meetings were reviewed and accepted as written.

Brian Reuss presented the treasures report; the \$20,000 loan that was approved at the September 11, 2011 meeting will be reduced to \$10,000 because of furnace fund donations. All bills are paid.

Roger Bogen, Chair of the Building Committee, presented the information about the furnace project. The total cost is \$35,570, \$20,000 has been allocated from the bequest of the Bea Leib estate, \$9,150 has been received from various donations, \$3,520 from the OPU rebate leaving a balance of \$3,030.

Chuck Rappe reported for the Board of Lay Ministers. A list of releases was presented; a motion was made and seconded to approve these releases, the motion passed. (Released: Corey, Sara & Kathryn Ihrke; Gerald and Janice Lewison; Brian, Mary Beth, Matthew & Mitchell Seykora; Bobbi Kenow; Stephanie & Debra Rollins; Brooke Seykora; Bernice Norton; John, Catherine, Karl & Brianna Heldt; Chad Dauffenbach; Brandi Cashman; Curtis Berry.). The attendance requirement for confirmation was reviewed and a make-up plan has been adopted. The board has also been discussing communion regulation. Pastor and his wife were presented a gift as October pastor appreciation month.

Stephanie Reuss reported for the Board of Christian Education. Average attendance at Sunday School has been 22. The Christmas program is being planned for Sunday, December 18, 2011 at the 9:00 a.m. Church service. The Cash Wise food booth earned \$545.38 for the Youth. The peach fund raised \$4372.23 selling 540 crates, the youth voted to donate \$2,000 to scholarship fund. The youth will serve the 5th Sunday breakfast on October 30, 2011.

Pastor's report. Pastor thanked the group for the gift. WRAP (White Ribbon Against Pornography) group information was presented. A Circuit forum will be held as required before district convention. Campus ministry properties at the U of M and Minnesota State Mankato are being sold by the District.

Steve Frodl reported on the Endowment fund. He explained the various funds and rates. \$99,193.38 is the fund total.

New business: Pastor presented a request for circuit forum designees; Pastor and Eric Dowling were presented. Motion made and seconded to approve these designees. Motion carried. At the January voters meeting we will discuss nominations for Circuit and District offices.

The meeting was adjourned. Pastor closed with a prayer.

PROJECT COMMUNITY CONNECT

The following basic hygiene items are being collected to distribute to homeless people at "Project Community Connect" on January 26.

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| -toilet paper | -bars of soap |
| -shampoo | -toothpaste |
| -toothbrushes | -razors |
| -shampoo/conditioner | -deodorant |
| --white tube socks | -small laundry soaps |

To donate any of these items drop them off at Steele County Public Health, 635 Florence Avenue, Owatonna, by January 24, 2012.