

REDEEMER REVIEW

REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD CHICO, CALIFORNIA NOV/DEC 2026 VOL. 40 No. 06

from the Pastor...

Dear Saints of Redeemer,

Since the church year does not correspond to the calendar year, this newsletter article will speak of endings and beginnings. The month of November will feature the last Sundays of the church year. While these Sundays are still part of that “never-ending green season” (maybe you recall that description from a couple newsletters ago), there is an emphasis on “last things” during the last Sundays of the church year. That is to say, the Scripture readings as the church year comes to an end teach us how to be prepared for the great Last Day when Christ will come again. While there aren’t any added ceremonies for these “last Sundays,” the gentle reminder to remain faithful because Christ is coming back gives us hope in the midst of our often hopeless world, and is a nice lead-in to the Advent season.

Advent might come at the end of the calendar year, but it is the beginning of the church year. So, much as people might make “new years resolutions,” I encourage new church year resolutions at the beginning of Advent, specifically things that may benefit your spiritual life, such as starting a new Bible reading plan or spending a few extra minutes in prayer each day. But despite Advent being a beginning, it is more so a time of preparation, a penitential season to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord, on December 25th. Not as penitential as the season of Lent, certainly one of the themes of Advent is repentance; and while fasting is not as widely practiced during Advent as during Lent, we do still fast in our Sunday worship services, omitting the Hymn of Praise until we can joyfully sing it with the angels upon the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“Advent” is derived from a Latin word simply meaning “to come,” and this becomes a three-fold emphasis of the season. First, we look forward to celebrating again how Christ came into the world as the baby in the manger in Bethlehem. Second, we give



thanks for how Christ still comes to us today, in the Means of Grace, Word and Sacrament. Third (and this is how Advent relates back to those last Sundays of the church year), we anticipate and prepare for when Christ will come again, as ruler and judge on the Last Day. Thus, anticipation and preparation is our focus during the season of Advent. Anticipating and preparing for Christmas. Anticipating and preparing our hearts and minds for Christ to come to us by means of

Word & Sacrament, in particular the Lord’s Supper. And anticipating and preparing for the Last Day.

That focus on anticipation and preparation is emphasized by the most well-known and most common Advent tradition, the Advent wreath. Created by a German Lutheran pastor in the 1800s, the Advent wreath originally was a visual aide for children to anticipate and prepare for Christmas. Having about 24 candles on the wreath, each day a new candle was lit, and thus children could count how many days remained until Christmas based on the number of unlit candles. More than likely, the candles for Sundays were larger, and so as the Advent wreath gained popularity in the early 1900s, it was the four large “Sunday” candles that were retained on Advent wreaths and lit during Sunday worship services. As the light gets brighter from more candles being lit, we know that Jesus Christ the light of the world is getting closer, and we await His coming with eager anticipation and we prepare to meet Him by faith.

Now, I have been asked if the candles on the wreath have any special meaning or significance or names (one possibly has heard of the hope candle, or peace candle, or shepherd’s candle, or Bethlehem candle). Aside from the visual significance of the approach of Christmas, I am sorry to say there isn’t a special meaning for each individual candle. As for the names of the candles, those are modern developments (probably not more than 50-60 years old) that reflect good marketing for an Advent theme or focus. Some may say, “but pastor, what about *(continued page 5)*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Brothers and Sisters,

As I write this column, I find it hard to believe that we are coming towards the end of the calendar year. With the end of the year and the impending start of 2027, that means we have some upcoming church business items to tend to.

On December 6th, we will hold our annual voters' assembly that has two main items: the election of officers and board members, as well as the annual budget presentation. Both items need considerable participation and prayer from our members.

First, for the elections I ask you to think about volunteering to serve the congregation as an officer or on one of the boards. We can use all the help we can get. Some of our boards, such as the Deacons and the Trustees, are at minimum levels. Your time and talent can be put to good use. If you are interested, please reach out to Pastor, me or any board member and we would be happy to guide you in the right direction.

The budget is never a fun topic, but it is a necessary one. The Church Council will prepare the budget during our November meeting, and work to balance it to the best of our ability. We will work to publish the budget in advance of the voters' assembly, so that you can review it and come prepared with any questions or comments at the meeting (or beforehand).

As I reflect on the last two years serving as President of the congregation, let me leave you with part of a hymn that often plays in my head. It reminds me that I place my trust in Him to provide us with guidance and answer our needs.

"I am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" (LSB 729, fourth stanza)
*I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Every day and hour supplying
All My Need.*

In His Service,
Jacy Krogh

Voters' Assembly

Dec. 6

CHURCH STAFF

REV. BRENNAN DEFORST,
PASTOR

JACKIE VIEIRA, OFFICE
MANAGER

JAY ERWIN, ORGANIST
OFFICERS

JACY KROGH, PRESIDENT
MATT MAGUIRE, VICE
PRESIDENT

BRUCE HOLDERBEIN,
FINANCIAL MANAGER

RACHAEL THOMASON,
SECRETARY

BOARD OF DEACONS

* JAY ERWIN

FRED SHERMAN, III

TIM WENSLAFF

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JAY ERWIN

TIM LANGE

KEITH SIEMENS

BOARD OF EVANGELISM

* TIM KRESSIN

BOARD OF FELLOWSHIP

LINDA ALLEN

MARILYN BROWNFIELD

SHERRI HARDY

ROBIN MAGUIRE

DIANE SCOTT

CAROL VARLEY

SHIRLEY WILSON

BOARD OF YOUTH

*DIANE SCOTT

*BOARD CHAIR

ASLEEP IN JESUS



David Lawrence Bunting

August 31, 1959 - September 30, 2026

Special Services

Eve of National Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 24 - 7:00 p.m.

Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16

Matins 12:00 Noon - Evening Prayer 7:00 p.m.

The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

Christmas Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.

The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day

Friday, December 25

Divine Service, 10:00 AM

New Year's Eve - Eve of the Name of Jesus

Thursday, December 31

Matins 12:00 Noon

Epiphany of Our Lord

Wednesday, January 6

Matins, 12:00 Noon



DIGITAL DAILY DEVOTIONS

Lutheran Hour Ministries:

[https://www.lhm.org/
dailydevotions](https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions)

Higher Things:

[https://higherthings.org/
content#reflections](https://higherthings.org/content#reflections)

Portals of Prayer:

[https://www1.cph.org/
portals/default.aspx](https://www1.cph.org/portals/default.aspx)

LUTHERAN PUBLIC RADIO

Listen to good Lutheran radio programs at Lutheran Public Radio (LPR App), Issues Etc., KFUE, St. Louis. 94.3 The Bridge.

PASTOR'S SERMONS

KKXX.net - Tunein.com
KKXX 930 AM, 103.9 FM
Saturday & Sunday
1:00 & 5:00 PM

North State Redeemed -
Apple Podcasts

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

KKXX.net - Tunein.com
KKXX 930 AM, 103.9 FM
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 PM

BIBLE STUDIES

Children's Sunday School
8:45 a.m.

Adult Sunday Bible Class
8:45 a.m.

Thursday Bible Study
9:30 a.m.

Redeemer Review

Deadline

December 20

LWML

Lutheran Women's Missionary League sponsors the Mite Box Mission. The most recent funded grant was to St John's Lutheran Church in Fallon, Nevada.

Their church sponsors a "Room to Grow Childcare Center" which is a ministry for St John's. Since 1993, it has provided high quality Christian child care. The current facility, built in 1996, needs repairs and renovation. These changes will make the center more inviting to new families as they continue the mission of Christ-centered childcare. The funded amount was \$6,975.

Thank you to all who contribute to mites here at Redeemer. The first Sunday of each month is designated as "Mite Box Sunday". However, donations are joyfully accepted anytime. The donation box is located in narthex. So far, this year, we have sent in \$685.54 of which \$168.97 was contributed by Brownsville Lutheran Church.



THANK YOU

Pr. DeForest, Pr. Jordan, and all the saints at Redeemer,
I would like to extend my sincerest thanks for the more than generous scholarship from your church. I also apologize for the delay in a response - I did not receive your card until my parents dropped it off on a recent visit.

I'm amazed that it has already been a year and a half since I was able to visit your church on the Seminary Kontoroi tour. I trust that the Lord has continued to bless your ministry, and I thank God for all your labors, even from the distant East Coast of Maryland. The Lord has certainly been good to me and my new wife Meredith, and we look forward to serving the Church as pastor and teacher for many years to come. God bless you all.

In Christ,

Nate and Meredith Dembow

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

06 STEPHEN FRATALLONE
13 REV. ROBERT ROBERTS
13 LINDA SWEET
22 DON THURMAN
23 JOEY MAGUIRE
25 LAYLA HOFFMAN
25 LIAM HOFFMAN
27 MATT MAGUIRE

DECEMBER

05 CHELSEA JOHNSON
09 TIM LANGE
09 DOTTIE TEFELSKI
09 CAROL VARLEY
12 FRED SHERMAN, III
14 SHERRI HARDY
17 DR. NORM MCCANN
20 JERRY BRANDT
24 AVAGAIL GRADO
25 TONI LANGE
26 ALICE DURFEE
28 BRANDON SIEMENS
28 MICHAEL THOMPSON
30 HAROLD URNESS

BAPTISMS

NOVEMBER

06 WARREN LOFINK
09 TIM KRESSIN
13 KEITH SIEMENS
17 RANDY SIEMENS
18 BRIAN MARSHALL
18 AVAGAIL GRADO
18 NATHANIAL GRADO
24 YUFEI WENSLAFF
27 CANDACE THURMAN
27 JACY KROGH
27 ALICIA SCOTT

DECEMBER

03 LOUISE URNESS
04 WILLIAM COTTER
06 BRI LOFINK
08 MEGAN GODSIL
08 CYNDIE HOLDERBEIN
17 TODD THOMPSON
24 YUHUAN WENSLAFF

from the Pastor... continued

the pink candle, it must have a special meaning?” Historically the color for Advent was violet (hence Redeemer’s more violet-colored Advent candles), reflecting the penitential character of the season. The third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete*, emphasizes joy and rejoicing. What do you get when you take the black (penitential focus) away from violet? The color pink! So to match the paraments for the Advent season there are three violet (or blue) candles and one pink candle. And speaking of the color blue, why does Redeemer have blue paraments for Advent? Blue, due to its association with the Virgin Mary, was historically a secondary color for the season of Advent. Some churches, to emphasize the differences between Advent and Lent, went with that secondary color of blue for the season. I imagine that was the case for Redeemer somewhere in the past 100 years.

Advent wreaths aren’t just for churches, but they can also be used in your home. You could purchase a small wreath and candles from a church supply company and light the appropriate number of candles each night, possibly during a time of prayer or reading a devotion. Besides wreaths, other Advent traditions include extra worship services, usually on Wednesdays, which I hope you will include in your schedule this year, as well as decorating for Christmas and setting up nativity scenes. I am a big fan of decorating over the full season of Advent (one week the tree goes up, then after a few days or a week the lights, then ornaments, etc. etc.) to again emphasize the anticipation and preparation aspects of Advent. I’ve also heard of families who set up nativity scenes, but at first it’s just animals, shepherds, and an empty manger in the stable. Then on Christmas Eve, Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus are added. Then finally on Epiphany the Wise Men and Camels join the scene. Setting up the nativity scene in stages helps keep the seasons separate when they move so quickly from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany right as the calendar moves into a new year.

This is already my longest newsletter article, but I still haven’t spoken about Christmas. I will be brief. The season of Christmas in the church year is short, only about 2 weeks long, and it’s filled with feasts and festivals, including of course Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, but also the Circumcision and Name of Jesus on New Year’s Day, St. Stephen’s Day on the 26th, St. John’s Day on the 27th, and the Festival of the Holy Innocents on the 28th. The themes of the season emphasize the peace and joy of the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ. In our worship services, all the omitted portions from Advent return, along with other festive ceremonies like processions and recessions. Because of the joy of the nativity of our Lord, white is the color of the season. The brightness of the Christmas season is put on full display with the addition of the Christ candle to the center of the Advent wreath, a large, white candle and the only named candle since it is placed in the wreath upon the birth of Jesus the Christ. Despite its brevity, the light of Christmas continues in the season of Epiphany, of which I have written back at the beginning of 2026.

As usual, you may have questions about things that I overlooked in the writing of this article. Whatever your questions might be about the different seasons of the church year, I would love to answer them, so please don’t hesitate to ask me, especially in Bible study so that others can benefit from the question as well! And now, with brief reflections on the seasons of the church year complete, I begin to consider what to write about in 2027!

The Lord be with you. ~Pastor DeForest

END OF THE CHURCH YEAR

1 Chronicles 16:34

34 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalms 103:2

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH YEAR

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Isaiah 43:18-19

18 Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.

19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

(ESV)

THE ROOFING PROJECT



Sierra Roofing began tearing off the old roof on the Sanctuary on August 31. Help was needed to cover the altar, pews, organ, etc., which was coordinated by the Board of Trustees. Everyone's help was appreciated each Sunday, after service, to cover the altar, chancel, nave, pews, organ and balcony with plastic covers. Help was also needed each Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to uncover everything, vacuum, and dust.

Pictured above is the half completed portion of the roof facing the quad. Once this side was finished, the roofers took a brief break to finish another project and then resumed work on the other side.

Pictured to the right is the prepped portion of roof at the back end facing the parking lot.

Concrete tiles were used and have an expected lifespan of 50 to 100 years.



ACOLYTE

AARON ASHWORTH
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

ALTAR GUILD:

BONNIE HUNT
THEISA MARTIN
HAROLD URNESS
LOUISE URNESS

COUNTER:

PAT LILLIE

USHERS:

JACY KROGH
TIM LANGE
TIM WENSLAFF
YUHUAN WENSLAFF

DRIVERS:

JAY ERWIN
BRUCE HOLDERBEIN

DEACON OF THE MONTH:

NOVEMBER

JAY ERWIN

DECEMBER

TIM WENSLAFF

DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

FRED SHERMAN:

ALLEN - HUNT

TIM WENSLAFF:

JOHNSON - RUBKE

JAY ERWIN:

SAWYER - ZIEGLER

REDEEMER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Jan. 1 - Sep. 30, 2026

INCOME

OFFERING	135,068.39
OTHER	101,000.00
SCHOOL LEASE (5%)	4,008.08.
REDEEMER HOUSE	14,850.00
FACILITY USE	1,980.00
INTEREST	2,049.41
TOTAL	255,476.47

EXPENSES

TOTAL	<u>172,250.68</u>
NET INCOME	83,225.79
RETAINED	<u>74,080.13</u>
BALANCE	157,305.92

*See the Office Manager
for more information.*

THE ROOFING PROJECT *Continued*



Pictured at left is the finished Hawthorne Ave. side of the roof and picture below is the finished quad side of the roof over the Sanctuary.



Thank you to Sierra Roofing for a job well done.

HVAC UPGRADE

Alternative Heating and Air has installed both HVAC units in the sanctuary. We are grateful for the work of Tom Vierra and his team.



HOMEBOUND

BRENDA BELL
678 BUTTON WILLOW LN #28
CHICO, CA 95926

PATRICIA BODI
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THERESTERIBURCH@GMAIL.COM

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OROVILLE, CA 95966

JACKIE EICHELBERGER
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CHICO, CA 95928

LARRY POHLAD
2265 MACLOVIA AVE APT 160
CHICO, CA 95928

ELAINE RUBKE
255 BRUCE RD RM 223
CHICO, CA 95973

FAREWELL & GODSPEED:

We bid Farewell & Godspeed to the Moutard family as they moved to North Carolina in October.

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Facebook:	facebook.com/RedeemerLutheranChico

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