

Next Steps - January 2018

Next worship gathering, February 4

Join us Sunday, February 4, at 9:30 a.m., here at Old Irving Brewing. We hope you'll come and invite a friend to come with you! In the meantime, we hope you'll participate in Sunday worship at our North Avenue or Park Ridge sites.

The Story

Please pick up a free copy of *The Story*, which our whole congregation is reading together.

New Year's Open House at the Stuhlmullers', today

Pastor Matt and Steph invite you to their home this afternoon for food and fellowship anytime from 3-6 p.m. They'll have plenty of food and drinks for the whole family and some activities for kids. After the rush of the holidays, let's recharge our batteries together as a church community. There's no need to bring anything except yourselves. The Stuhlmullers live at 100 Forest Place P40, Oak Park, IL 60301. There is free street parking available on Sundays.

World Hunger Goal Met

In 2016, the Metro Chicago Synod of the ELCA (our denomination) called on its congregations to raise \$1 million for ELCA World Hunger by October 2017. We're happy to announce that that goal was met and exceeded. A total of \$1,060,000 was raised to fight hunger around the world!

Explore Your Gifts, January 13

Next Saturday, January 13, we'll have an Explore Your Gifts workshop at Redeemer North Avenue, a chance for you to home in on your best spiritual gifts and think about how God might want to use you in a unique way in the year(s) ahead. We'll start at 9 a.m. and finish by noon. There's no charge to do the workshop, but you do need to register ahead of time so that we can send you a gifts inventory to be completed before we meet. To sign up, email the office at redemeroffice@comcast.net. If you have any questions, email Pastor Carol (carol@redeemerchicago.com).

First Core Team Meeting, January 14

We're looking for a team of people willing to support Redeemer's mission in three key ways: (1) by showing up regularly for worship gatherings, (2) by taking on a role of responsibility (for example, greeting at the front door or serving communion), and (3) by supporting our mission financially. We're inviting anyone who wants to explore being a part of this team (not necessarily committed to it) to participate in our first Core Team meeting, next Sunday, January 14, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at Keeler Gardens (3631 N Keeler Ave). We'll be looking forward at how to become the growing, thriving, loving community we believe God is creating among us!

Monthly Faith In Action Opportunity, January 18

Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children (1072 National Pkwy, Schaumburg, IL 60173) on January 18 from 8-9:30 p.m. We'll hand-pack nutritionally complete meals into bags which will be shipped around the world. Children over 5 are able to participate. Because we have a limited number of spots, please sign up by contacting Dan Quest (dan@redeemerchicago.com).

Bible study, January 29

We'd love for anyone considering being a part of the Redeemer Portage Park Core Team (not necessarily committed to it) to participate in an upcoming Bible study. We'll be exploring a passage from *The Story* together on Monday, January 29, from 7:30-8:45 p.m. at the Schwichs' (4819 W Hutchinson St, Apt 2R).

Stateville Prison Visit, February 10

A group from Redeemer will be visiting Stateville Prison on Saturday, February 10. This is a highly rewarding ministry as we go cell to cell, handing out copies of the Spiritual Survival Guide for Prison and Beyond and praying with inmates. If you're interested in going or just want more information, please get in touch with Ben Blobaum (bblobaum@gmail.com or 224-392-1834) as soon as possible. Names needed to be submitted well in advance for clearance to enter the prison. Even if you're not sure, if you think you *might* want to go, let Ben know.