

Our Week as Redeemer Church

12-01-2021

Our Week as Redeemer Church: News, Updates, & Resources

LAST SUNDAY

Last Sunday, we finished up our message series, *Why did Jesus die?* How did a Jewish rabbi come to be worshipped by people of every language and tribe, most of whom aren't of Jewish background? In his letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul describes God's plan to tear down the dividing wall of hostility between Jews and non-Jews through the single sacrifice of Jesus on behalf of all people, regardless of their ethnicity. God's desire was to make one new humanity out of the two, all under the universal lordship of his Son, Jesus Christ.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Sometime this week, re-read Ephesians 1-2, asking God to open your eyes to ways you can more fully live as part of God's one new humanity.

THIS SUNDAY: IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We're continuing to hold both our 8:30am and 11am worship services in person. Masks are required inside the building for people over two years old, and our music will be sung by the music leaders (we ask the congregation to sing quietly or hum along).

THIS SUNDAY: LEARNING HOUR

Come be a part of our learning hour between worship services!

9:45am Sunday School (preschool through 5th grade) in the Family Room

10am Youth Group (6th-12th grade) in the conference room

10am Adult Bible Discussion at the tables in the gym

CHURCH DECORATING, THIS SUNDAY

Stick around after the 11am worship service this coming Sunday to help decorate the church for Christmas. We'll have pizza delivered around 1:15pm for lunch.

OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 11

Come to church on Saturday, December 11, from 4:30-6:00pm for an outdoor Christmas party! We'll spend time outside in fellowship with hot coffee and a hot cocoa bar, time for singing Christmas carols, and fire pits to stay warm and make s'mores.

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

Come celebrate the birth of our Savior this Christmas season through these special worship services:

Sunday, December 19, 10am (ONE SERVICE) - Children's Christmas Program

Friday, December 24, 4pm & 10pm - Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 25 - NO WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, December 26, 10am (ONE SERVICE) - A Service of Lessons & Carols

CARE PACKS FOR NEIGHBORS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

We're collecting items to put together care packs for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. If you're able to, please [bring items from this list](#) to church on a Sunday morning (there's a collection bin in the back of the sanctuary), or [contact Pastor Dan](#) to arrange a different drop-off time.

CHRISTMAS FOOD DONATIONS, DECEMBER 5 & 18

Celebrate this season of giving by dropping off non-perishable food items at Third Place Chicago (4651 N Milwaukee Ave) on Saturday, December 18, between 11am and 2pm. Donations will support the work of St Cyprian Food Pantry in feeding our neighbors in need. This coming Sunday, December 5, during worship, we'll also be collecting non-perishable food donations for the Maine Township Food Pantry.

GIVE GOOD GIFTS THIS ADVENT SEASON

This season, let's join together to generously support ELCA Good Gifts, an initiative through our denomination that allows us to help change lives all over the world. ELCA Good Gifts partners with churches and organizations that make a difference in sustainable development, education, and discipleship. Good Gifts can be given through Redeemer by choosing the Good Gifts option on our website's [Give](#) page, or by designating "Good Gifts" on an offering envelope or check's memo line.

GROWING TOGETHER: STEWARDSHIP 2021

As part of this year's stewardship campaign we are highlighting different aspects of our life together at Redeemer. This past Sunday, we provided an update on what's been taking place at Third Place Chicago. If you missed it or want to see it again, [you can read it here](#).

TORN BOOK DISCUSSION, STARTING JANUARY 23

Between worship services on January 23, January 30, and February 6, we'll take some time to discuss the book *Torn: Rescuing the Gospel from the Gays-vs.-Christians Debate*, by Justin Lee. Lee founded a nonprofit, interdenominational organization called the Gay Christian Network, and he writes about creating constructive conversations on controversial issues. *Torn* is an accessible, thoughtful, and generous memoir that helps faithful Christians approach questions that have often been painful and divisive within the Church. If you're interested in being a part

of these discussions, there are [links to buy the book here](#). Order a book and start reading! (We'll be discussing the book as a whole at each discussion, so have the whole book read by January 23 if you'd like to participate.) Questions? Email [Pastor Peter](#) or [Pastor Dan](#).

ONGOING GROUPS, RESOURCES, & OPPORTUNITIES

CENTERING PRAYER: WEDNESDAYS, 7PM

Meet in the Redeemer Church sanctuary on Wednesdays at 7pm for 20 minutes of silent Centering Prayer. Everyone is welcome! Explanation and instructions are provided. It's a peaceful way to re-center yourself on God in the middle of the week. Please plan to wear a mask.

BIBLE STUDY: EVERY OTHER THURSDAY, 7:30PM

Connect with others and study God's word, every other Thursday, 7:30-8:30pm, on Zoom (next meeting December 9). We're working our way through the book of Matthew. No preparation is needed; just join when you can. If you're interested in joining, please contact Pastor Peter (peter@redeemerparkridge.com).

WOMEN'S GROUP ADVENT STUDY: EVERY OTHER THURSDAY, 7PM

Our women's connection group meets every other Thursday, from 7-8pm, on Zoom. Our next meeting will be this Thursday, December 2. During November and December we will be doing an Advent study based on the video series *Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas*, by Adam Hamilton. Drop-ins are welcome, and no preparation is required. All women are invited to participate. For more information, contact Karen Katamay (karen@redeemerparkridge.com).

MEN'S GROUP: EVERY OTHER THURSDAY, 7PM

The Redeemer men's group meets every other Thursday, from 7-8:30pm. We gather in a hybrid format in person in the church sanctuary along with those participating via Zoom. Our next meeting will be this Thursday, December 2. Contact Joe Duea (duea1rep@sbcglobal.net) with any questions.

REDEEMER BOOK CLUB: MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6:30PM

Everyone is welcome to participate in Redeemer's book club. The next meeting will be Monday, December 6, at 6:30pm, at Redeemer Church. We'll discuss [The Awakening, Kate Chopin](#). Please contact [Linda Gonzales](#) with any questions.

SHARE YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS WITH REDEEMER'S PRAYER TEAM

We have a faithful team continually praying for our congregation. To share your prayer requests or to be added to the team, please email redemerprayerteam@gmail.com. (Do you have updates on your recent prayer requests? Please send a quick email to let our team know!)