#### KEEPING CHRISTMAS CONT.

Throughout this series we will describe and discover how we, like Dickens' main character Ebenezer Scrooge, have failed to keep Christmas and how we, like he, are in need of a visitation; not by three spirits, but by the *Holy* Spirit (1 Cor. 2:12), with the result that we find and celebrate what the Lord most wants us to have — and keep — this Christmas.

Each week, we will consider one of the spirits that visited Scrooge, and the corresponding message that the Holy Spirit wants to convey to us through His Word and the Birth of God's Son at Christmas:

**December 4** The Ghost of Christmas Past – "Sorrow"

**December 11** The Ghost of Christmas Present – "Repentance"

**December 18** The Ghost of Christmas Future – "Transformation"

"Bah! Humbug!" was Scrooge's favorite saying. What does that mean? "Bah!" is a kind of dismissive expression. "Humbug" refers to "deception." That's what Scrooge thought of Christmas. He thought it was nothing more than foolish trickery. Why? For one thing, Scrooge was carrying around a lot of sorrow — baggage that turned him into what Dickens called "A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous old sinner!" He had been abandoned in a boarding house as a boy, and lost the love of his life because

he loved the idea of becoming wealthy more than he did the girl who loved him. That sorrow became a chain that weighed down his soul. You and I carry our own sorrow and it interferes with us truly "Keeping Christmas."

The ghost of Christmas Past came to "reclaim" Scrooge. In the same way, Christ came to ransom, or reclaim us. The ghost takes Scrooge on a journey all the way back to his childhood. Then the next ghost takes Scrooge to the present day where he must confront the world that he has created for himself. He learns of the way that others speak of him and his scrooginess. He is shown that the actions of the present will shape his future – but that future is changeable. So it is for us Christians. Christ forgives our past and as we turn from our sin He then works in and through us to fashion a future for us – a better one.

How do we hope to "keep Christmas" this year? How might we serve those around us as a way of keeping Christmas well? The Apostle Paul underwent his own "visitation" as he was overcome by the blinding light of Christ. In that experience, Paul was transformed by the

only power that can transform any of us: the grace of God. It is the Spirit's power that enables us to die to self. And it is God's grace that gives us new life, the life of Christ. May we keep it well.

Keeping Christmas with you,

Pastor Augie

## R E J

### WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Pastor, Rev. Augie ladicicco pastor@redeemerbythesea.org, (760) 431-8990

Family Ministry Director, Jeff Moeller jeff@redeemerbythesea.org, (760) 431-8990

Office Manager, Rachelle Iadicicco om@redeemerbythesea.org, (760) 431-8990

Preschool, Darjene Graham missdee@redeemerbythesea.org, (760) 431-8293

Church Council President, Dan Bitner president@redeemerbythesea.org, (760) 729-2682

Trustees, Rocky Collins rockycollins@msn.com, (760) 438-1142

Prayer, Jo Brandt prayer@redeemerbythesea.org, (760) 729-0112

### WHO ARE YOUR ELDERS?

Otis Haarmeyer

o.haarmeyer@gmail.com 936-537-4256

Your elders are a resource to you for your spiritual and ministry needs. Feel free to contact them with any needs or concerns — or just to say hello!

They are: Charles Um, Otis Haarmeyer, Ken Swick, Dave Berrier, Jim Brunner, Carl Gehring, Lyle Meyer, Wayne Chapman, Jerry Meyer, and Tom Burke



### **GROWTH GROUP NEWS**

Our Growth Groups continue to provide people an opportunity to connect with other believers and do life together in a supportive and faith-nurturing cluster of friends.

## FAITH THAT WORKS! IS STILL CONNECTING

This Growth Group continues to explore the Sunday sermon series over a pizza and NFL Football at Pizza Port in Bressi Ranch. This month we connect on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a great group to take a test drive in the Growth Group experience.

- Jeff Moeller

## COLLEGE/YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS REUNION

Young adults pursuing their careers and college students are invited to connect with another and celebrate the birth of Christ on Wednesday, December 20 at Casa de Moeller, 3705 Arapaho. From 6:30- 9 you can enjoy dinner, entertainment and a gift worthy of regifting. No shopping or preparing for this one, just bring a friend and reconnect. RSVP by emailing Jeff at jeff@redeemerbythesea.org.

- Jeff Moeller

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The new Bible study begins on Monday, January 9th and Wednesday, January 11th at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be available at the Monday study.

It is called "Faithful, Abundant, and True" and presented by Kay Arthur, Priscilla Shirer, and Beth More.

Member books are \$15 and the sign up sheet is in the lobby.

God is faithful. His provision is abundant. His promises are true. Recorded live at the Deeper Still event, this is a 7 week study made to fit into women's busy schedules and only requires 15-30 minutes each day.

#### **MOPS**

We are having a fun time in our MOPS meetings. Recently our craft was to make some home-made hot cocoa. They were very nice when completed and could be given as a gift. We will be taking a long break from meetings due to the holidays; Our Next Meeting is January 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

- Suzan A. Colgan,

#### **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

Thursday, December 15th is our next Grief Support group 1:30 P.M. in the fellowship hall. Topic: Grieving with Hope.

- Norma Russell

#### **EAT PRAY MAKE**

Come join our Growth Group Eat, Pray, Make on the first Tuesday of the month at 4:00pm at Panera's on Palomar Airport Road. Bring your crocheting, knitting or any stitchery you are working on. Blessings!

- Ellen Bitner, 760-729-2682

#### FAITHFUL ABUNDANT TRUE

Featuring
KAY ARTHUR
PRISCILLA SHIRER
BETH MOORE

- Kay Arthur teaches from basically, the entire book of Hebrews! Hebrews is both an example of God's faithfulness and a challenge to believers to be faithful in difficult times.
- Priscilla Shirer teaches from Ephesians 3:20-21 on God's abundance. A fundamental basis for every believer is the absolute reality that God can do whatever He chooses to do. God's ability empowers our faithfulness.
- Beth Moore teaches on the topic of discernment.
   In these difficult days it is absolutely essential that we learn to trust the Holy Spirit to enable us to determine what is true and what is false.

- Evelyn Meyer

#### **ELDERS**

The Elders will send Christmas cards to our members again this year. It's our way of showing we care and also remind them that we are family at Redeemer. We want to thank Pastor and his staff for their efforts this year. His positive and progressive leadership has been a blessing to our ministry. Regarding activities, the Elders worked with Pastor on planning the Christmas schedule and worship services. The Elders will also have confirmation interviews this month. We wish all a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays. A lot of blessings have happened to our ministry this year and the future looks bright in '17. Think about starting the New Year by getting involved in your passion!

-Otis Haarmeyer

#### **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Carl & Barbara Gehring	Dec 4
Hugh & Kathy Morris	Dec 20
Otis & Di Haarmeyer	Dec 20
Kathy & Robert Seemann	Dec 21
Jan & Greg Bishop	Dec 27
Buck & Alice Lehmann	Dec 31
Clarence & Anja Loomis	Dec 31

#### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Jason Sylvester	Dec 2
Sam Russell	Dec 3
Suzanne Hughes	Dec 4
Bryan Oliver	Dec 5
Tom Shanahan	Dec 5
Ralph Krogfoss	Dec 9
Gretchen Bolton	Dec 12
Kevan Bustillos	Dec 14
Chuck Denton	Dec 15
Laura Cyphers	Dec 16
John Bacon	Dec 16
Carol Jensen Scoffin	Dec 16
Carole Gomez	Dec 17
Dean Menante	Dec 17
Jeanne Robinson	Dec 18
Eileen Erickson	Dec 18
Otis Haarmeyer	Dec 21
Jo Voertman	Dec 22
Kellie Granito	Dec 22
Sara Oliver	Dec 23
Monique Russell	Dec 24
Rocky Collins	Dec 27
Aaron Redl	Dec 29
Joan Wilson	Dec 29
Kim Glassman	Dec 29
Nona Isaacson	Dec 29
Norma Russell	Dec 30
Frank Wallner	Dec 31

## NAVIGATING THE FUTURE

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu melek olam.

Blessed are you Lord our God, Sovereign of the Universe.

Our God threw the stars into space.

We have much to be thankful for in Christ.

The Church nominating committee for open council positions has done a tremendous job. All six council positions are now filled as one slate that will be voted on as a group at our next voters meeting on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for your service, time and effort.

Nominating Committee:

Dorothy Doughty, Fay Bacon, Buck Lehmann,

Pastor Augie, Charles Um, Kay Boland, Jo Voertman, Mike Batherson, Ken Voertman and Barbara Gehring also shared their helpful wisdom and insight. We are grateful.

As always Gods Ministry begins with prayer, continues in prayer and ends in prayer. The church council is about the business of the church and these individuals have responded to His call. We will continue to lift them up in prayer as God ministers through their faithful service.

Thank you.

Kindest regards,

Dave Taylor

## NEW MEMBER WELCOME—OCTOBER 23, 2016

## BRYAN AND SARA OLIVER AND JAXON

Bryan and Sara moved to Carlsbad 4 months ago. Bryan grew up on a sugar cane plantation in Hawaii. He enjoys spending time outdoors with family and travelling.

Sara grew up in Lafayette, CA. She is a stay at home mom so she enjoys spending time with family, going to the beach, and creating art. She was previously employed as an Interior Architect in store design.

#### DAN BRADEN

Dan's hometown is Boerne, TX. He has been in California for a year and a half and lives in Oceanside. He is a Marine UH-1Y (Huey) pilot stationed at Camp Pendleton, and is currently deployed in Okinawa.

#### **ASHLEY DITMER**

Ashley's hometown is Belfair, WA and has been in Carlifornia for a little over a year. Since May she has been living in Del Mar. She is a Marine CH-53 helicopter pilot stationed at Miramar, and is engaged to Dan.

#### JEN MOITOZA-JOHNSON

Jen grew up in La Jolla and has lived in CA all of her life. She went to Berkley and then UCSD for medical school. She completed her residency at Scripps and now works there. She met Matt on New Year's Eve of 2014. And they were married on November 5th of this year. She loves to cook, hike, try new restaurants and wine tastings. She also enjoys working out at bootcamps, Orange Theory Fitness and Yoga. She loves to read and bake.



## **FELLOWSHIP**

The party's over, it's time to call it a day!

We hope you enjoyed last night's party! It was the last major event for the outgoing Fellowship Committee. We want to thank the congregation for the tremendous support that we have received over the past years — we couldn't have done it without you! It is your willingness to volunteer and be involved that makes Fellowship possible.

Many, many thanks to the Haarmeyer's for opening their lovely home for us, and to everyone who assisted — many hands make light work.

Please pray for the new committee and continue to be the supportive and caring volunteers you have always been.

Remember — Soup Suppers are coming starting March 8th!

God Bless,

Dorothy, Ellen, Hilda and Rhonda

### **BRIDGE GROUP**

Lunch with Audrey Wickstrand, our hostess, on November 18th set the stage for the two table bridge group and the visiting and camaraderie was terrific and the cards could have been much better. Your Bridge Coordinator came in with low score so I speak from experience.

Guest Player Ruth, substituting for Jo Voertman, placed top scorer followed by Marie Voien with the second high score.

2016 has been a good year of fellowship for this Small Group of RBTS members and friends and we enjoy meeting in members home on the 4th Friday of the month. Most often we begin with dessert served at 12:30 and follow with bridge, finishing approximately 4 PM.

If you enjoy playing Bridge and would like to join the group please contact me at 760-707-6677 or e-mail me at fobacon@att.net and I will be happy to include you on the list. We enjoy having players who wish to participate but prefer to be on the Substitute List.

We meet again on January 27, 2017, at the home of Jo Voertman. We thank God that your eye surgery was successful, Jo. God is good!

- Faye Bacon

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

THE BOOK OF CONCORD also known as the LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Beginning in February the Adult Bible Class (9:45am) will celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CHRISTIAN REFORMATION initiated by Dr. Martin Luther by examining the book of Concord.

Every Pastor and Teacher in our Lutheran Churches over the past 500 years at their ordination has sworn unqualified agreement with every teaching it proclaims and rejection of every error it condemns. In the past most translations of these confessions into English have been rather tedious in their grammatical construction. In 2005 Concordia Publishing house produced the most readable and user-friendly translation from the original Latin and

#### **BIRTHDAY GROUP**

On FRIDAY, November 4, we celebrated the birthdays of Faye Bacon, Bill Barnes, Tom O'Donnell, Mavis and Dale Wade at Dini's Bistro.

It was a lovely sunny day and half of us had a gorgeous view of the Pacific. Dessert for the Celebrants was a chocolate mousse parfait. We did get an extra dessert which was a first for the group, at least since I have been in charge. We contributed two hundred four (\$204) to Kathy's Legacy.

Congratulations to Faye Bacon and George Ann Barnes for winning the wine raffle.

Our next celebration will be for Celebrants: John Bacon, Cordelia Degner, Otis Haarmeyer, Suzanne Hughes, Norma Russell, Carol Scoffin, Jo Voertman, Frank Wallner and Joan Wilson on THURSDAY, December 8 at 11:30 a.m. at Macaroni Grill, 2655 Vista Way in Oceanside (next to Barnes and Noble). Lunches range from twelve (\$12) to (\$18) dollars.

In addition to your lunch we request a one dollar contribution per celebrant which will go to Concordia University — Irvine.

Everyone is welcome to join us but reservations are needed. To make yours, contact Jo Voertman, 1-760-721-6674, jvbythesea@cox.net.

- Jo Voertman

German known as CONCORDIA - The Lutheran Confessions. Now it is much more feasible that the original intent of these confessions that they be provided to every Christian not just a "book for Pastors". The history and sacrifice that produced these confessions are in themselves amazing let alone the clarity and power of their use of God's Holy Scriptures. Pastor Roy Faulstick will moderate the study that is scheduled to begin on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> between services. The book CONCORDIA - The Lutheran Confessions is available for \$30—contact the office to order your copy! They will be ordered at the end of December. This would be an appropriate EPIPHANY (January 6<sup>th</sup>) gift to your household!

- Pastor Roy Faulstick

#### FAMILY MINISTRY CORNER

When we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5:6

#### THE LAW OF POWER

I used to coach the varsity soccer team for Lutheran North High School in St. Louis. We began each season with a training camp where we would determine our team goals. Without exception those athletes would choose as their goal to win the MO State championship. They believed they had the ability. In mapping out the path to the championship they realized their own limitations and powerlessness on the skills and abilities of their opponents. So each year hey would make adaptations to this goal.

I sense children have a similar experience. They feel indestructible, independent and are overconfident but then reality hits. In their desire to be powerful and independent, they learn they are powerless and dependent. If we parents don't get in God's way, children make some adaptations and learn a valuable life lesson, the Law of Power.

Each child needs to have the ability to control something, to have power over something. Parents give children chores, allow them to compete in athletics, perform a recital or solve a relationship challenge. A child's well-being and growth depends on their ability to assess the reality of;

- What they do and don't control.
- The extent of this control.
- How to adapt to that which they can't control.

Mature people understand the limits of their power and influence. They invest in what they can control and let go of what they don't control. Children don't start there. They run into the ocean and its crashing waves and rip currents with extreme joy. They assert this power and expect their parents to share the

same perspective. The child's point of view is not reality-based and so they experience 2 challenges.

- 1. Children always attempt to have power over that which is not theirs.
- 2. In their attempt to control the uncontrollable they lose sight of that which they do control.

The Law of Power teaches children what they can and can't do in regards to themselves. Specifically, it instructs children they do have the power to choose who they depend on, like family and friends. The Law of Power teaches children they can do what they are able to do. Behaviors and understandings can be adjusted. Children can learn from failure and improve. This law also shows children they can't survive without others. They can't do whatever they desire. Finally, the Law of Power teaches children that one can't avoid consequences or failure.

This is the reality of the human condition. We live in a fallen world and are powerless to change it. Yet we are totally responsible for living within it. Our Heavenly Father has the solution and the Holy Spirit drives us to receive it. Jesus Christ has paid the debt that we can't pay. We need a Savior because we are powerless. Our Heavenly Father is all-powerful and rescues us through His Son, Jesus. So as you do your parent thing, keep in mind the Law of Power. Show your children Jesus and His unlimited power and love for them. Help them to see the reality of His grace in your life and theirs.

- Jeff Moeller, DCE Family Ministry Director



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School has seen a lot of changes this past year in a very good way. Several new children have been added to God's kingdom, the addition of new teachers, new bibles for the children and the rebranding of the Sunday School, to name a few.

The rebranding of the Sunday School to "Faithcraft Kids" has created such excitement amongst the children, they can't wait to see what's next! I can't thank Kathy Hemphill and Alicia Haase enough for their creative abilities and bringing this vision to reality.

We are currently practicing for the Children's Christmas Program on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for a yummy dinner at 5:00 pm followed by the performance at 6:00 pm. Immediately following the performance, a Birthday Party for Jesus will be held in the Fellowship Hall, so be sure to signup on the Connection Card to reserve a spot!

As we continue to grow, so does our need for teachers and check-in for the 8:30 service and a Snack Coordinator for the 10:30 service. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a part of the team.

Until next time, keep serving the Lord....

- Rhonda Sutherlin Sunday School Director

## VETERANS DAY 2016

On Sunday, November 13th, Redeemer celebrated Veteran's Day with the Army & Navy Academy Color Guard, guest Preacher Rev. Robert Crossan, Captain USN (ret) and special pie and ice cream fellowship after both services.

This year we drew special attention to WWII veterans. Eugene Overway, Redeemer member, served in World War II. Here he is proudly wearing the pin he was presented.

Thank you to all who have served.



December 15th:

9:30 am AM 3's & PM 3's

\*NO LUNCH BUNCH OR ENRICHMENT

December 16th:

9:30 am AM 4's

11:00 am Kindergarten

1:30 pm PM 4's & Bonus

\*NO LUNCH BUNCH OR ENRICHMENT

Performances will be held in the

RBTS Church Sanctuary
6600 Black Rail Road





### STUDENT MINISTRY

Our Youth Ministry is a wonderful opportunity for young people to connect with a community of believers and to make friends. The many fellowship, service and spiritual growth experiences are designed to equip young people for life of faith in Jesus Christ.

- Jeff Moeller

#### THE HUDDLE

This high school fellowship and leadership development opportunity meets each Sunday morning at 9:45-10:25 in the Lounge.

#### PROJECT EPHESUS

Is a weekly gathering of HS students at Starbucks on W. Loker. We meet Tuesdays at 7-8 PM for a Bible study and prayer.

#### CONFIRMATION

Is a Sunday morning study of the basics of our faith for young people in grades 6-8. We meet in Room 3 at 9:45-10:20 AM.

#### 613

Is midweek Confirmation class for Jr. High youth each Wednesday at 6:13-7:30 PM. A dinner is provided

#### JR HIGH YOUTH WIN LASER TAG CHALLENGE

It was no competition for our Jr. High students. They easily defeated the high school youth and the adult/college counselor team. Led by Connor Lynaugh, Andrew Bennett and Jonah Glassman, the Jr. High youth tagged their competition with 205 points. The 20 participants were treated to a pizza victory celebration and were reminded God seeks to tag all people. Instead of using laser light, He uses us to shine the

light of Christ in the lives of others.

## WINTER RETREAT RETURNS TO PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

Youth in grades 6-12 need to register now for the adventure January 20-22 at Palomar Christian Retreat Center! This retreat explores what it is like to live out John 15, abiding in Jesus and bearing fruit! The registration fee of \$100 includes food, lodging and program. This year our program includes team building, horseback riding and the zip line. We leave that Friday at 7 PM and return to church Sunday by noon. Med release and registration fee are due Sunday, December 20!





#### **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

"Giving Sacrificially to God's Work"...Christmas is the time when we think of the "gifts" we give to our friends and loved ones. Shouldn't this also be true that this is a time when we give "gift" to our Lord?

This year the Christmas Offering will be divided equally to three areas.

- 1. Redeemer's Benevolent Fund This will help replenish our fund to assist those in need (both within our congregation and outside). Additional funds enable us to assist more people.
- 2. Mission Fund This will support short term-mission trips from Redeemer. Two trips are currently planned for next summer: 1.) a youth trip to the Navajo Nation in Arizona, and 2.) the BC (British Columbia, Canada) Mission Boat.



Additional funds will be used to support worldwide mission organizations.



3. Semper Fi – This is a non-profit organization that provides support to wounded soldiers and their families throughout all branches of the military. Our funds will go directly to the Camp Pendleton local Oceanside office.



You can make contribution using your Christmas offering envelope or the green envelope in the pew, or online.

Christmas Offering envelopes can be placed in the offering plate on any Sunday in December.

Thank you for your generosity!

# DECEMBER SERMON SERIES

December 4
The Ghost of Christmas Past
"Sorrow"

December 11
The Ghost of Christmas Present
"Repentance"

December 18
The Ghost of Christmas Future
"Transformation"

## SALT AND LIGHT

An election has taken place but the struggle continues regarding the proper separation of Church and State. Is this a new challenge? Not really - in 1939 Professor Koehler wrote in his book, *A Summary of Christian Doctrine*, "When the State faithfully and effectively tends to its business, it is a minister of God for the good of the Church; its members may then lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty... When the Church faithfully tends to its business, it will teach its members to honor and obey magistrates, to support the government with their prayers, taxes, and service, and will thus train them to be loyal and lawabiding citizens."

But, what happens when government oversteps into the realm of religion? When the State ignores the sanctity of life; when the State infringes on religious liberty supposedly protected by the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment; when the State changes the traditional definition of marriage. What is a Christian to do? Koehler states "Although the government may allow what God forbids and forbid what God allows, it may not command what God forbids and forbid what God commands." And when it (government) does, as Peter and the apostles found when preaching the Word of the Lord, they responded to the authorities according to Acts 5:29, "We must obey God rather than man."

To help you understand how this works in today's society, the Redeemer LWML along with the Salt & Light Ministry will host a special program with guest speaker, Dran Reese, Founder of the Salt & Light Council. She will speak on the very topic that so many Christians feel conflicted, the "Church's Role in Civil Government". This important program will take place on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 6:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to attend call the Church Office @ 1-760-431-8990 so that proper planning can take place for seating and refreshments.

Understanding that the church has the responsibility of being our nation's moral voice, we as Christians

seek wisdom on these complex issues. Programs like this will help all of us to choose the path of Godliness over secularism.

Proverbs 2:12-15

Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse, who leave the straight paths to walk in dark ways, who delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil, whose paths are crooked and who are devious in their ways.

- Dan Bitner

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Redeemer by the Sea's Women's Ministry along with the Salt & Light Ministry invite the men and women of Redeemer to a special program,

Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Dran Reese, founder of the Salt & Light Council will be speaking on the topic of the

Church's Role in Civil Government". This is an opportunity to learn how the Church can become a positive influence and witness for our Christian values in government, media and education.

The Women's Ministry will hold their January business meeting including a light supper at 6PM in Youth Lounge. Those men who will be coming w/their wives are welcome to a light supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6PM. Otherwise men are invited to come at 6:45PM for only the program. We are extending this program invitation to other North County Churches, too.

Childcare will be provided upon request. Watch for further information in the Sunday bulletins and connection cards in order to sign up for the light supper, attending the program and/or childcare.

- Barbara Gehring