



*“Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word And Deed...”*

## **Advent Series**

Join us at 7 p.m., Wednesday evenings beginning November 30<sup>th</sup> and throughout Advent for a special Advent worship series. This series will help you focus not only on the true meaning of Christmas, but also help you to enter the Christmas season in the spirit God intended. Come; prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord Wednesday evenings this Advent season.

## **Handbell Choir**

Teens and adults are invited to join this group. A basic knowledge of music is helpful, but reading music is not required in order to be a part of this group of merry ringers. The Handbell Choir, under the direction of Pat Crom, meets Wednesday evenings at 7:45 to practice. Regular members, as well as substitute ringers are needed. This group plays for worship an average of one time per month, as well as for some of the festival worship services.

## **A Simple Service of Christmas Carols & Readings**

### ***Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>***

Celebrate Christmas morning with Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. Join us for a simple service of Christmas carols and readings at 10:30 a.m. This special service will feature the Christmas carols and hymns everyone loves to sing along with and bible readings focusing on the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Please note that there will be no 8:30 am worship service on Christmas morning.

## **Christmas Eve Worship**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

All worship services will include favorite Christmas Carols and Holy Communion.



**1:30 pm Children and Family Worship** featuring organ accompaniment and a focus on children and family.



**3:30 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship** featuring accompaniment by organ and a brass and woodwinds ensemble along with Special Music by the *Praise & Rejoice Choir*.



**5:30 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship** featuring accompaniment by organ and a brass and woodwinds ensemble along with Special Music by the *Praise & Rejoice Choir*.



**10:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Worship** featuring Handbell and organ accompaniment.

## **Poinsettias**

Order a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one or to the glory of God. These lovely red poinsettias will beautify the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve worship services. The names will also be listed in the Christmas Eve Bulletins. You may take your poinsettia home following the 10pm worship service that evening. Cost of each poinsettia is \$14.00.



**Inside:**

Thank you for Sharing your Thrivent Choice Dollars	page 2	Does Your Giving Matter?	page 3
Summer Bible Camp Sign-up	page 4	Pass the Faith Book Fair	page 5
Advent...To prepare & to get ready!	page 6	Mini-Advent Fair	page 7
More Mission & Ministry Happenings			
Transition Task Force/Call Committee   December Calendar			



The Latest  
**Word**

is a monthly publication of  
Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer  
Deadline for the January 2012 issue is:  
December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Pastors** Chris Matson  
[pastorchris@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:pastorchris@lcoorwatertown.org)  
605-794-2841 (Home)  
Bob Hansen (Interim)  
[pastorbob@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:pastorbob@lcoorwatertown.org)  
Sam Hatlestad (Visitation)  
Gary Westgard – Retired  
Kathy Hibbert - Retired

**Youth & Family Director** Brandi Kneebone  
[brandi@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:brandi@lcoorwatertown.org)

**Welcoming & Caring Ministries Coordinator**  
Nancy Brinkman  
[nancy@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:nancy@lcoorwatertown.org)

**Education Coordinator** Nettie Austin  
[nettie@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:nettie@lcoorwatertown.org)

**Program Ministry Aide** Lois Vanderfeen  
[lois@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:lois@lcoorwatertown.org)

**Preschool** Karen Kasperson & Christy Crook  
[preschool@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:preschool@lcoorwatertown.org)

**Worship & Music Coordinator**  
Robbyn Givens  
[robbyn@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:robbyn@lcoorwatertown.org)

**Financial Secretary** Julie Rude  
[office@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:office@lcoorwatertown.org)

**Administrative Secretary** Jodi Spilde  
[jodi@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:jodi@lcoorwatertown.org)

**Custodians** Gene & Vickey Rieffenberger  
[vickey@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:vickey@lcoorwatertown.org)

**Prayer Chain** Mary Jo Manzey  
882-3339  
Marilyn Chapman  
886-4858

### 2011 Church Council

**President** Dr. Gerald Rieber  
**Vice President** Gary Grewing  
**Secretary** Jane Hurlbert  
**Treasurer** Carla Peterson  
Traci Althoff Lisa Carrico  
Tammy DeLange Jodi Driscoll  
Paul Hinderaker Jayson Maguire  
Bret McGillivray Jim Miller  
Chris Owen Janelle Wishard

### Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

2001 Second Street NW • Watertown, SD  
phone (605)886-2696  
Fax (605)886-3362

[www.lcoorwatertown.org](http://www.lcoorwatertown.org)  
[office@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:office@lcoorwatertown.org)

## Memorials & Donations

### Given During the Months of October and November

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

\$10.00 in memory of Herdis Eggen  
\$10.00 in memory of JoAnn Stevens

Care Fund:

\$415.00 in donations

Debt Reduction:

\$10.00 given in memory of Shirley Sueltz

Special Gifts/Memorial Fund:

\$25.00 given in memory of JoAnn Stevens

### Treasurer's Report

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
October	72,685.11	76,682.69
Year to Date	673,008.31	667,967.08

The Mission Offerings that have come in since the middle of Oct. total \$4,892.00 (through 11/13/2011). Thank you for your generosity. Mission donations can be made at any time.

*Consecration Sunday* Worship Services are underway. Thanks to many of you for your willingness to make this successful. Results will be included in the next newsletter.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars shared** with Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer = **\$1,066.00** in November thanks to Anthony Beyer, Lori Beyer, Darwin Brinkman, Cleo Esche, Don Fryslie, Dean Gackstetter, Renee Howell, Barry Johnson, Carna Kruse, Gary Kruse, Emil Moehring, LaVerna Moldenhauer, Clarence Mutschler, Gloria Ostenvik, Connie Parliament, Larry Parliament, Dale Ronning & Patti Schull.

**Thrivent Choice Dollars shared** with the LCOOR Preschool = **\$289.00** in November thanks to Barb Andersh, Darlene Bailey, Allen Kasperson, Allen Rude, Julie Rude, Ervin Schumacher & Gertrude Schumacher.

### Ways to Give to Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer:

- Offering envelopes: the 2012 offering envelopes will be out in the Gathering Space by mid December.
- Electronic Funds Transfer: *Simply Giving* ® is available for this purpose. This provides the option for you to have your offerings deducted from your checking or savings acct. and deposited directly to LCOOR's account. Contact the church office and talk to Julie for more information.
- Bill Pay: This is another option for those whose lending institutions offer online bill payment options. Just follow the directions for your bank or credit union to create Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer as a Payee and choose to make a regular weekly or monthly offering.
- Stock Transfer: Talk to Julie Rude, Financial Secretary to facilitate the transfer.



# Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

## Words from the Pastor

---

Dear friends in Christ at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer,

### **“Consecration Sunday”**

Wednesday, November 30

Saturday, December 3

Sunday, December 4

### **Does Your Giving Matter?**

Does it make any difference what we give?

Does anybody care?

*"And Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two copper coins, which make a penny." Mark 12:41-42*

It was all she had... the whole bundle... it was not something given out of abundance, it was as if she had cleaned out her savings and checking account and took it and dumped it in the treasury. She was now flat broke... and Jesus was watching.

This is one of those stories where I wish Jesus would have gone after the woman and asked her what her gift was about... but it seemed he knew... he knew that this woman understood something that most people don't... it did not belong to her and she gave it all.

Do you think God knows what you give?

Do you think God cares?

Each day you have 24 hours of time... do you think God cares whether or not you share part of that time in an act of love and service for someone else?

The talents you have been given. Does God care whether or not you use those talents to bring light and hope into a world of brokenness? We all have money... does God care whether we are tight fisted or generous givers?

As you think about your estimate of giving, I ask that you be generous, that you grow boldly in your giving.

Jesus cares about you. Jesus also cares about what you do in his name. The Gospel reading for Christ the King Sunday is Matthew 25:31-46, read those verses and reflect on these questions.

Jesus wants you to experience the abundant life.

What observation would Jesus make about your giving?

### **Remember to include Jesus on your Christmas list**

I encourage every family to put the ministry of Christ's church on your Christmas list and give a gift for the work of God's Kingdom on earth of at least equal value as the average gifts you spend on family members Christmas presents. I find it difficult to consider how families and individuals can buy presents without taking time to consider what gift to give for the work of the church.

Remember that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season", and I ask you to put Jesus on your Christmas list?

### **Advent & Christmas Worship**

Join together for worship this Advent and Christmas Season and prepare your hearts to hear anew the gracious message of God's love given to us at Christmas.

May the peace and joy of the Christmas Season be with you now and in the coming New Year!

*Pastor Bob Hansen*



# Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer Youth Ministries Newsletter

*"Equipping the soul for the journey..."*

## LCOOR is serving the Watertown Banquet on December 5<sup>th</sup>!

### Donation List for Watertown Banquet

We are still in need of:

- 9 - 4 pound boneless hams
- 12 - cheesy hash brown casserole (2 pound recipe; mixed and ready to be cooked)
- 1 - #10 can (6lb 10oz) of whole kernel corn
- 5 packages of 24ct. ready to serve dinner rolls
- 1 - 9X13 pan of brownies
- Cash Donations

Please call and let Brandi know if you can help out with food donations. Please have the food to the church by Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> by 10:30am.

## High School Youth Group

All of our high school youth are invited to join in the camaraderie with fellow classmates while deepening our faith walk on Sunday evenings from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Come when you can!

- ✚ December 4<sup>th</sup>
- ✚ December 11<sup>th</sup> *we will make Christmas Cookies; then on December 18<sup>th</sup> 9:30am – noon we will sell those Christmas Cookies as a fundraiser for the youth.*

We will be taking a break over the Christmas and New Year holidays. Join us again on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm – 7:30pm.

**6-8 Grade Confirmation Students** will not meet on December 28<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup>. **Classes will resume on January 11<sup>th</sup>.** Enjoy the Holiday break and remember to Worship with your family on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day.

**Confirmation Pictures Are Here...** please stop by the Church office during regular business hours (M-F, 8:30am – 5:00pm) to pick them up. Or you may stop by the Welcome Center before or after the Worship services.

**The wreaths are in!** *Thank you to everyone who purchased a wreath from the youth. If you have not picked up your wreath; one of our youth will assist you after the worship services.*

## Youth Lenten Music Team

Youth Lenten Music Team will begin practice on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Practice will be Sunday nights from 7:30 – 9pm. The Youth Lenten Music Team will lead a worship service on Wednesday evenings during the 2012 Lenten Season.

## Summer Camp Sign-up

Oh the weather outside is frightful... so... let's think about summer again! There are many opportunities for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth to participate in Bible Camp this summer. Registrations are available at the Welcome Center. **Registrations and a \$100 non – refundable deposit are due Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.**



## Ski Trips

Youth and chaperones enjoy the snow at Andes Tower Hills in Alexandria, Mn. This is a great time of fellowship and a chance to get to know the youth of our church.

- ❖ January 21<sup>st</sup> High School
- ❖ January 28<sup>th</sup> Middle School (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>)

Cost is \$45 to ski and \$55 to snowboard. If you are interested in being a chaperone for either of these trips, contact Brandi in the church office (886-2696).



**Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer**  
**Education & Fellowship**

*"Light the path, Shine the way, Send the word"*

There will be NO church school from December 25, 2011 through January 4, 2012. The Sunday Church School will resume on January 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday Church School will resume on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the Christmas Holiday time with your family.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING –**  
**December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**



**PASS THE FAITH**  
**BOOK FAIR**

The Education Committee will be holding a Book Fair on **November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.**

There will be many Devotional books for children of all ages to choose from. We will also have Bible covers available to purchase for those who received their Bibles this fall. And many other items for your Holiday shopping – Books make great Christmas Gifts!

**Get Ready...He's Here!**

Join us on the afternoon of December 11<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary for the preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas Program.

- Wednesday Church School students will perform at 2:00pm.
- Sunday Church School students will perform at 4:00pm.



**Practices will be held** on the following days and times:

- Wednesday Church School – December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm and December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.
- Sunday Church School – December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am and December 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

**The LCOOR Book Club**

The next meeting is Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Youth Room. The book we are reading is **"The Christmas List"** by Richard Paul Evans.

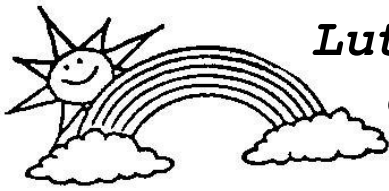
*INTRO: It was the same photograph the Tribune had used a couple of years earlier when they featured him on the front page of the business section. While the photograph was the same, the headlines could not have been more different. Not many people get to read their own obituary. LOCAL REAL ESTATE MOGUL DIES IN AUTOMOBILE CRASH*

The book club is open to anyone who wants to join in on some good reading and fellowship. Come when you can.

**Bible 101** will be taking a break through the holiday season. We will resume meeting on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.

**Men's Power Lunch** by Pastor Sam We've had a great fall with 20-26 men each week. Dave Wolsky got us off to a good start, preparing some fabulous meals. Then Don Voss cooked our Thanksgiving meal (What a feast!) and also our Nov. 30 meal. Don Scharn has volunteered to do the Dec. 7 meal. Then we'll need volunteers to do Dec. 14 and 21. No meeting on Dec. 28.

And yes, we don't just eat. We had a DVD series on Isaiah in October and November. Pastor Sam is working on the next study resource. And we continue to have our prayer time at the end of each meeting. Pastor Sam will be gone Dec. 21 but will be back for the Jan. 4 meeting. We'll continue to meet through Feb. 15, and then take a break during the Lenten season.



# Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer Christian Preschool

"We are God's children." 1 John 3:2

## Advent

### To prepare & to get ready!

Jesus is coming. We "get ready" to celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise to come again. God has shown us to receive the greatness of His love when he sent Jesus to earth as a baby. Rejoice and share in your child's anticipation for Christmas.

Our actions, the tone of our voice, and our words are reflections and an example, for our children, of God's love. It can be a challenge to show God's love and Christmas love to others if we fail to stay focused on the true meaning of Christ's birth. Here in the preschool room, our focus is on the Christmas story and each week our activities revolve around the themes of the Advent Wreath.

- Week 1: **The Prophecy Candle: HOPE.** Gabriel, an angel sent from God declares to Mary that she is special and has been chosen to be the mother of God's Son. "You will have a baby boy and you are to name him, Jesus.
- Week 2: **The Bethlehem Candle: PEACE,** Mary and Joseph travel to the City of David, Bethlehem. There is no room for them in the inn. Jesus is born, wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger.
- Week 3: **The Shepherd's Candle: Joy!** The angels appear to the shepherds in their fields and proclaim the news. "A savior is born to you this day in the City of David"
- Week 4: **The Angel's Candle: LOVE.** The love of God was proclaimed and God's plan of salvation is ours through the gift of life in Jesus Christ.

Angels, the Nativity scene, Christmas trees and candy canes are the main focus of our art activities. Our favorite Christmas songs are: *Come on Ring Those Bells, Away in a Manger, Go Tell it on the Mountain,* and *Oh Christmas Tree.*

Count down the days until Christmas by using this verse along with a paper chain during your evening prayers.

*Someone's Coming, Someone's Coming  
Do you know just who?  
Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!  
Born for me and you.  
Each day tear off one loop below  
Jesus birth draws near.  
When just the angel stands alone,  
Christmas Day is here.*



**Christmas Vacation is  
December 23 - January 3**

**Our Christmas Wish!  
May the Lord Bless You and Your Family.**  
*Mrs. Karen & Mrs. Christy*



# Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

## Women of the ELCA

*To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark*

### LWR Packing

LWR kits, quilts and soap were sent off to Minneapolis to the Lutheran World Relief Warehouse on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. This congregation's hard work and diligence to missions produced the following:

- 275 Quilts
- 188 School Kits
- 7 Personal Care Kits
- 25 Baby Care Kits
- 72 Bars of Soap

Thanks go out to those who helped pack up everything and special thanks to these men who were on hand to load the truck on that Monday morning: Dave Satter, Don Voss, Carl Hohnstadt, Marv Sherrill, Duane Kaasa, Doug Davis, & Larry Picht.

**\$536.82 was collected when the gas can was passed the weekend of Nov. 12 & 13.** These dollars will be used for the shipping of LWR kits, etc. to areas in need of these supplies. Thanks for your generosity!

## Mini-Advent Fair

**December 10 & 11**

**Needed:** Many members to make & bring goodies to sell. Examples include breads, cookies, candies, bars, trail mix, pies, etc. Please have your items to the church by Saturday, Dec. 10 @ 5:30pm or by Sunday, Dec. 11 @ 8:30am.

★ Lefse will be sold for \$6.00 per package.

If you have a crafts to donate, this is the place to bring them!

All proceeds from this event will go to:

- Mike Busbey, our missionary to Nicaragua
- SDSU Campus Ministry
- Codington County Cares

Many thanks to everyone who made lefse!

**Donut Making, Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.**  
Watch for more information in your bulletins.

### Tis the Season.....

Would you like to give a gift and support a worthwhile cause all at the same time? Consider giving a gift of love from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog, Heifer International, or World Vision. Each of these organizations has catalogs where you can purchase a wide variety of necessities from clean water to farm animals.

This could be a great way to honor someone on your Christmas list. Contact Julie Rude, Financial Secretary, @ 886-2696 for more information.

### *Session 4:* Beyond the Boundaries

***Hope Circle:*** Monday, Dec. 12 @ 7pm

Where: LCOOR

Lesson Leader: Pastor

***Martha Circle:*** Mon., Dec. 12 @ 12:00pm

Where: LCOOR

Potluck

Lesson Leader: Pastor

***Mary Circle:*** Tues. Dec. 13 @ 9:30am

Where: LCOOR

Potluck Brunch

Lesson Leader: Pastor

***Priscilla Circle:*** Wed., Dec. 14 @ 9:30am

Where: Past Times

Lesson Leader: Pastor

***Ruth Circle:*** Wed., Dec. 14 @ 10:30am

Where: 14 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE

Hostess: Maylou Austin

Potluck: Pastor

***Sarah Circle:*** Thurs., Dec. 8 @ 7:30pm

Where: Prairie Commons

Bring Christmas goodies to share

Lesson Leader: Pastor

**Lesson Leaders:** None for December

**Quilters** meet Thurs., Dec. 1 & 15 from

9am–12pm in Assembly A. Come join us!

**W/ELCA Board Mtg:** None for December



# Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer

2001 Second St. N.W. • Watertown, SD 57201

"Making Jesus Christ Known Through Word & Deed"

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

WATERTOWN, SD  
57201  
PERMIT NO.  
587

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



### Additional Worship Help is Needed this Month!

Please stop by the Welcome Center to see where you can help out. This is also a great "green card" opportunity for our confirmation age youth (grades 6-8).



**Scrip News:** Please consider supporting the Scrip program. During the month of December, the profit from sales will go into the Care Fund. This fund has been very low. A simple purchase of \$100 in groceries will add \$5.00 to this fund. Imagine what 100 purchases can do! It's not out of the question. Think holidays! If you are looking for gifts for Christmas, you have come to the right place! We have a very large selection of Scrip cards available and a "Big List" to choose from, also. The turnaround time for orders is less than 1 week. Orders are placed on Monday mornings. **(Remember, by purchasing Scrip, you also donate to our Care Fund.)** Many of the vendors are now at a higher % rate for the holidays, so the profit is higher.

A new change: Papa Murphy's Scrip comes in gift cards now. These are much more convenient.

### LCOOR 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbooks make great Christmas Gifts!

These are a great little gift for everyone on your list who enjoys good food! These hard covered, three ring binders include a bit of LCOOR's history from the past 50 years as well as 800 of the best recipes to be found submitted by members and friends of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. You get all this for only **\$10.00 a book!** Available at the Welcome Center and in the church office!

### Christmas Eve Instrumental Group

High school age youth and adults are invited to join this group in playing for the 3:30pm and 5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship Services. Saxophone, clarinet and flute players are invited to play along with the brass. See Robbyn for more information. A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center.

## *The Season of Advent*

Advent is a time of preparation. We in the Christian church take this time to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Advent begins Saturday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Lighting of the Advent Candles***

Join us in worship each week as we light the Advent candles and learn the meaning of the Prophecy candle, Bethlehem candle, Shepherd's candle and the Angel's candle.



### ***Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins***

Raise your voice in song as we travel together to care centers around the area. On December 18<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m., we'll meet at the church, board the big blue bus and begin our caroling journey to raise the spirits of shut-ins throughout the area.



We'll conclude our afternoon with a time of fellowship back at the church. Everyone is invited to share a dish to pass or bring holiday goodies.

***Christmas Memory Tree*** – This Advent season, you will be invited to remember a loved one on the Christmas Memory Tree in the Gathering Area. You will be invited to write the name of someone you wish to remember on the ornaments that will be provided and then hang the ornament on the tree. This is a wonderful way to remember those who have gone to their heavenly home and are no longer with us for the holidays.



***60+ Group Potluck & Program*** – will be held on **Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.** Prepare and bring a favorite holiday dish to share at our potluck lunch that begins promptly at 12 noon. After enjoying good food and fellowship, we will be entertained by the Watertown High School Brass Ensemble under the direction of our very own – Mrs. Jacklynn Stacey. They will provide us with Christmas music and they are sure to play at least some of your favorites! Hope you will bring a dish to share, a friend and come for a wonderful afternoon! You don't want to miss this!

## ***Time of Appreciation for Pastor Sam***

Pastor Sam Hatlestad has served Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer for the past 4 years as our part-time Visitation Pastor. He has visited and shared Holy Communion with many of those who have been shut-in, having health issues, hospitalized and those in both assisted care centers and nursing homes. He has touched many lives in his ministry with us. Pastor Sam has decided the time has come to slow down and retire from this ministry. Pastor Sam and his wife Mary will continue to live in Watertown and worship with us but this will free them up to travel more – and traveling at least some is in the picture as they are expecting their first grandchild now in December!

In appreciation and recognition of his service, we will be honoring Pastor Sam and Mary in worship on Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. A special coffee time will be held for them after worship on Saturday and at 9:30am and 11:30am on Sunday. We hope you will join us at one of those times in thanking them for their service.

Donations in his honor can be made to Joy Ranch directly or through LCOOR (please note on the Memo Line *Joy Ranch/Pastor Sam*).

### ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

'Tis the season to remember those in need of prayers. You are invited to join the Prayer Shawl group on the first and third Monday of ***December at 10am – December 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>*** in the Youth Room. You will hear the clatter of knitting needles and crochet hooks as the crafters weave prayers into the yarn that will soon be a completed prayer shawl. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, come learn – this will make a great winter time project while spreading comfort and love to those who need a 'hug from God' through a prayer shawl. To learn more about this ministry or if you know of someone in need of a prayer shawl – contact Nancy at the church office.

**Trained BeFriends** are available at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer. These trained and caring individuals will meet offsite with you and be the listening ear that you just might need. All conversations are private and confidential. For more information about the program or see how this would work for you – contact Nancy at the church office.

## **New Year's Eve Worship**

Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011 at 5:30pm  
*Say farewell to 2011 as we close out the year with worship.*

## **New Year's Day Worship**

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.  
*Welcome the new year as we continue to celebrate Jesus' birth.*

## **Coming in January:**

### ***Parenting with Faith:***

#### ***What Does this Mean?***

Parents, Grandparents and those who just love kids and/or work with children are invited to join us on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and again February 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be a time to learn more about parenting, caring and sharing as you work with your children, grandchildren and other young children, helping them grow in a loving, caring, Christian environment. Childcare will be provided while the adults have the opportunities to share and learn from each other and Suzanne Hansen. The sessions will begin at 4pm and a light 'family friendly meal' will be served at 5:30pm for all. Watch for more information to come but mark your calendar now with these dates!

Dave Ramsey's

**Financial** *Peace*  
UNIVERSITY

### **Imagine Yourself Debt Free.....**

LCOOR is offering David Ramsey's *Financial Peace University* beginning Thursday, January 12, 2012, 7-9pm. Financial Peace University is a 13-week, Christian based small group study that teaches families how to beat debt, build wealth, and give like never before. If you are interested in changing your financial future a preview of this program will be held on Dec. 11 at 9:30am and Dec. 14 at 6:00pm. If you have any questions please contact Todd Decker at 882-0117.

## ***New Member Information***

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer receives new members three times during the year. If you are interested in becoming a member or know of someone who is, please contact Nancy Brinkman, our Welcoming & Caring Ministries Coordinator, or leave your name and address at the Welcome Center. Letters to prospective members will be sent out in early January 2012. Please mark your calendar with the following dates:

- **Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm – Lutheran Basics Class** – This class is for those coming from non-Lutheran backgrounds and those of you who want a refresher on the 'basics of the Lutheran faith'. (*Not required of those transferring from another Lutheran Church to LCOOR*)
- **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30am** – Luncheon and New Member Orientation meeting held in the Great Hall
- **Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm and Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 and 10:30am** worship – New Members are received into membership

*New members will again be received in April 2012.*

### ***Prayer Chain***

Our prayer chain is ready to go '*praying*' whenever the need arises. If you, a family member or friends are need of prayers, contact the church office or one of the Prayer Chain co-chairs or email [nancy@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:nancy@lcoorwatertown.org) or [pastorchrisc@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:pastorchrisc@lcoorwatertown.org) with your prayer request.

If you'd like to be on the Prayer Chain and receive prayer requests via email please send an email to [nancy@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:nancy@lcoorwatertown.org) or [pastorchrisc@lcoorwatertown.org](mailto:pastorchrisc@lcoorwatertown.org) with "Prayer Chain" as the subject line. Those on the current telephone Prayer Chain and those who sign up for the new email Prayer Chain will receive the same prayer requests. As always if you would like to start the prayer chain you can call Mary Jo Manzey (882-339), Marilyn Chapman (886-4858) or the church office (886-2696), but now you can also email Nancy or Pastor Chris to begin the Prayer Chain.

### ***Great Hall Walking Resumes***

The Great Hall is available Monday – Friday during office hours for *Power Walking* or just your daily stroll. Come anytime from 8:30am – 5:00pm.

## Transition Task Force/Call Committee

The congregational council has formed the Call Committee to begin the work of preparing our congregation for the process of calling a new Senior Pastor. We had our first meeting on Sunday, November 20, 2011 and now will begin the process of self reflection to establish the needs of our congregation in order for us to better identify who will be the best to lead us going forward.

The call committee members are:

Barb Struwe, Chair	Paige Sullivan, Secretary	David Johnson
Julie Hibbert	Barry Tietz	Gary Grewing (Council VP)
Toby Wishard	Jerry Rieber (Council President)	
Scott Driscoll	Karlee Seim	Taylor Stacey

Before we can begin the call process the Task Force will begin to explore who we are, our history, our demographics, constitution and bylaws, and our relationship with other organizations, i.e. Prairie Coteau Conference, Synod, and ELCA. We will look at what we do as a congregation, how we do it, are we doing it well, and what can we do better. We will be asking the congregation for input in various areas and urge you to consider, as we are, the following:





1. What is our congregations mission?
2. Is it "alive" in doing God's work?
3. What is the main purpose of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer for you individually?
  - a. Are you growing in faith at LCOOR?
  - b. Are you growing in your knowledge and in your relationship with Jesus?
  - c. What programs and activities within LCOOR would enhance your faith?
  - d. How do I need to be challenged in my faith?
4. What is one thing you would like to see happen within LCOOR?
5. What is our vision for youth and family ministries at LCOOR?

It is the collective answers to these questions that will help define us and provide a guide to who will best fit our needs and direction. We will have time reserved at the Annual Meeting for updates and discussion regarding the call process and to obtain further input on the direction of LCOOR prior to completing the congregational profile which formally starts the call process with the Synod.

There will be opportunities for input from congregation members to help guide us in our search in the form of surveys, forums with members of the committee, and opportunities for individual interaction in between services during the fellowship hour. I encourage you to take an active role in participating in this process so we as the call committee can be the best informed on how the congregation as a whole wishes to proceed forward. The call committee wants to reinforce to the congregation that it is the **Congregation** who calls a new pastor, not the committee or council. Our role is to do the background work to provide acceptable candidates to recommend to the congregation for issuance of a call. As such, we need your input and support and prayers as we go through this process.

Please take the time to participate. Talk to members of the committee, to other members of the congregation, and help us to reach out to members who are not as active and encourage them to help us to find ways to meet their needs at LCOOR.

On behalf of the committee,  
Barb Struwe, Chair  
Transitional Task Force/ Call Committee

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
    <h1>DECEMBER</h1>	<b>5</b> 5:00pm Set-up/Serve the Watertown Banquet Celebration 8:30am Contemporary Worship <b>Consecration Sunday</b> Celebration 9:30am Church School (for all ages) 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30am <b>Consecration Sunday</b> Celebration 6:30pm High School Youth Group	<b>6</b> 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 2:30pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm Education Committee 7:00pm Transition/Call Committee Meeting 7:00pm Preschool Committee	<b>7 Communion</b> 10:00am Lectionary Text Study 12:15pm Men's Power Lunch 5:30pm Worship Team Pract. 6:00pm Church School Christmas Program Practice 6:00pm Church School & Confirmation Classes 7:00pm Worship (Advent Series) 7:45pm Choir/Handbell Practice	<b>1</b> 9:00am Quilting 7:00pm Patchwork & Prayer Quilting Class	<b>2</b>	<b>3 Communion</b> Education Book Fair 5:30pm <b>Consecration Sunday</b> Worship & Celebration
<b>11 Mini-Advent Fair</b> 8:30am Contemporary Worship 9:30pm Special Coffee Time for Pastor Sam & Mary 9:30am Financial Peace University Preview 9:30am Church School Christmas Program Practice 9:30am Church School (for all ages) 9:30am Call Committee meet with Founding Members 10:30am Traditional Worship 11:30pm Special Coffee Time for Pastor Sam & Mary 2:00pm Wed. Christmas Program 4:00pm Sunday Christmas Program 6:30pm High School Youth Group	<b>12</b> 12:00pm Martha Circle at LCOOR 5:00pm Trust Fund Committee Mtg 7:00pm Hope Circle at LCOOR	<b>13</b> 9:30am Mary Circle at LCOOR 2:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Executive Committee 7:00pm Church Council Mtg	<b>14</b> 9:30am Priscilla Circle at Past Times Restaurant 10:00am Lectionary Text Study 10:30am Ruth Circle at 14 10th Ave NE 12:15pm Men's Power Lunch 5:30pm Worship Team Pract. 6:00pm Financial Peace University Preview 6:00pm Church School & Confirmation Classes 7:00pm Worship (Advent Series) 7:45pm Choir/Handbell Practice poinsettia order deadline	<b>15</b> 9:00am Quilting 10:00am Book Club "The Christmas List" by Richard Paul Evans	<b>16</b>	<b>17 Communion</b> 5:30pm Worship
<b>18 Communion</b> 8:30am Contemporary Worship 9:30am Church School (for all ages) 9:30am Youth Fundraiser selling Christmas Cookies 10:30am Traditional Worship 3:00pm Christmas Caroling NO High School Youth Group	<b>19</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 12:00pm 60+ Potluck & Program 5:30pm Worship & Music Meeting	<b>20</b> 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 2:30pm Staff Meeting	<b>21 Communion</b> 10:00am Lectionary Text Study 12:15pm Men's Power Lunch 6:00pm Church School & Confirmation Classes 7:00pm Worship (Advent Series) 7:45pm Choir/Handbell Practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Preschool & Pre-K Christmas Break Dec 23-Jan 3 Office Closes at noon	<b>24 Communion</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 1:30pm Family Worship 3:30pm Candlelight Worship/Brass & Woodwinds 5:30pm Candlelight Worship/Brass & Woodwinds 10:00pm Candlelight Worship/Handbells
<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> NO Contemporary Worship NO Church School 10:30am A Simple Service of Christmas Carols and Readings	<b>26</b> Office Closed Preschool & Pre-K Christmas Break Dec 23-Jan 3	<b>27</b> 2:30pm Staff Meeting	<b>28</b> 10:00am Lectionary Text Study NO Men's Power Lunch 5:30pm Worship Team Pract. NO Church School & Confirmation Classes 7:45pm Choir/Handbell Practice	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Office Closes at noon	<b>31 Communion</b> 5:30pm Worship Blessing of Quilts, Infant Blankets & Prayer Shawls