

Redeemer Life



December 2024

Luke 1:35 says, “And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.” This is one of the most significant and theologically rich Christmas verses. Let me explain

First, it shows that salvation comes only from the Lord. Since the time that God gave the promise to bring a savior in Genesis 3:15, God's people have longed for the time when the promise would be fulfilled. When Jesus was conceived in Mary God not only kept that promise, it showed that God alone was able to keep that promise. A supernatural Savior required a supernatural means of arrival. If Jesus had been born in the ordinary fashion, there could be a legitimate question about why he could claim to be unique. But the virgin birth shows from his beginning the power of God in action.

Second, it unites the full humanity and deity of Jesus in one person. There are infinite ways God could have redeemed his world. But he chose to do so through his Son, perfectly equipped to do that work as both human and divine. Imagine if God had decided to simply have Jesus show up as a mature human being with no record of his past. It would be very difficult for us to understand how he is a human, like us in every way (except for sin). And if God had brought Jesus into this world as all other humans are—with both a biological father and mother—it would have been difficult for us to understand how Jesus is fully God.

The virgin birth of Jesus makes clear to us he is both fully human, having the position to save us, and fully God, having the power to save us.

Third, it makes Jesus' humanity possible without inherited sin. Every person who is born into this world comes with the sin of Adam. We belong to a human race that rebelled against God himself. And when we are born, we have both the moral guilt of that rebellion as well as that rebellion's moral corruption—which means we are both born indicted as sinners and we tend toward committing sin.

If Jesus had been born in the ordinary way the line of descent from Adam would not have been interrupted—Jesus would be a sinner as we are. But Jesus' miraculous birth means he is both like us and not like us. This seems to be the point made in Luke 1:35 where the angel tells Mary that Jesus' unusual conception by the power of the Holy Spirit would mean that Jesus himself would be born “holy.”

Luke 1:35 should not be taken to mean, however, that our sinful character is passed only from father (and not mother) to children. The Bible nowhere indicates that is the case. It is better for us to say that in this case not only did sinful nature not pass to Jesus from a sinful father, but the Holy Spirit also prevented that sinful nature from passing to Jesus from his mother.

Rejoice, my friend, in the virgin birth of your Savior. God has perfectly provided a Savior exactly suited to save you!

Pastor Jeff DeBoer



RedeemerAda



@redeemeropc



(616) 682-0800



8605 E Fulton, Ada, MI 49301

Spotlight Missions Outreach



Gift Giving Tree

Is there anyone on your Christmas list that ‘has everything’ and/or ‘wants nothing’?

Here is a great idea.



What can I give them? The gift of a hen and rooster to Christians in Haiti.

Who will oversee the gift? Missionaries working with Purposeful Pathways will distribute the gifts.

Why is this needed? Many are widowed, disabled, or unemployed due to gang violence.

How will this help? The recipient(s) will receive, care for, feed, and incubate to expand the flock over time. With one chicken and a hen, it is possible to raise a continuous supply of nutrient rich food to eat and/or sell, either as eggs or as meat. The missionaries provide training where needed.

How does it work?

1. Look for the tree with beautiful handmade ornaments and take as many as you need for gifts.
2. Take the same number of Christmas greeting cards provided or use your own if preferred.
3. Address the card to the family or individual whose name(s) the gift is given in and enclose the ornament.
4. Donate \$20 to Purposeful Pathways for each ornament given as a gift to family and friends.

*** Ornaments were made by Mary Meulenberg



Send **checks** to Purposeful Pathways, 2370 Leaning Oaks Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Online at www.purposefulpathway.org Or with **QR code**





GIVING TREE IS A WONDERFUL
OPPORTUNITY TO BLESS
ANONYMOUS FAMILIES IN OUR
CHURCH.

THE TREE WILL BE SET UP IN THE
FOYER SUNDAY MORNING THE 24TH
OF NOVEMBER WITH LABELED TAGS
FOR EACH GIFT.

PLEASE TAKE A TAG OR TWO, BRING
THE GIFT WRAPPED WITH THE TAG
ATTACHED (THIS IS IMPORTANT SO
WE CAN MAKE SURE THE GIFTS GO
TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE) AND PLACE
IT UNDER THE GIVING TREE BY
SUNDAY DECEMBER 23.

THE MERCY DEACONS

FALL 2024 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

The **Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study** will be exploring the letter of Paul to the Philippians using the study guide *Philippians: To Live is Christ* by Jon Nielson.

"Writing with warmth and frankness, Paul lays down important theological truths and uses them as the basis for transforming our lives and relationships. Ultimately he shows how we can move from selfishness and self-confidence to self-giving, contentment, and confidence in Christ." (prpbooks.com)

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study meets each week on Wednesday mornings from 9:15 to 11 a.m. There is no nursery provided. Contact Carol Chupp with questions at [\(231\) 676-0886](tel:2316760886) or caroljean135@gmail.com.

December/January Schedule: December 4 and 11 – Off for Christmas/New Year's – January 22 resume

The **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** will be studying *Behold and Believe: A Bible Study on the "I Am" Statements of Jesus* by Courtney Doctor & Joanna Kimbrel.

"This is a 7-week Bible from the Gospel Coalition that explores the "I Am" statements in the gospel of John. Seeing is believing. If we want to know who Jesus is and why He is important to our lives, we need to take a closer look at what He said about Himself. Jesus describes Himself as the bread of life, the light of the world, the good shepherd, and more. His bold words invite us to behold Him-and then to trust Him."(crossway.org)

This study will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. If you would like more information about this group, please contact Karen Faber, faberkk@yahoo.com or Greta Entingh, gretaentingh@gmail.com.

December/January Schedule: December 4 and 18. Resumes January 8 and 22, 2025 – every 2nd / 4th Wednesday

The **Thursday morning study, also known as GROW Groups**, will be studying the book of Romans using the study *In View of God's Mercies* by Courtney Doctor.

"In this 9-session study, walk through the book of Romans to discover that salvation doesn't just change your eternal future; it changes your present reality. Because of God's salvation, hope, peace, life, faith, trust, and endurance are yours.

Learn that after God saves you, He invites you to join Him on His two-fold mission -- to sanctify and transform you into the image of Jesus and to send you out into the world to share the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ." (lifeway.com).

GROW Groups meet each week on Thursday mornings from 9:15 to 11 a.m. Nursery is provided for children under three and a Little Lambs class is available for children age three to Kindergarten. Contact Carrie Hill with questions at [\(616\) 260-4282](tel:6162604282) or carrieme2@gmail.com.

December/January Schedule: December 5 – Brunch – Resumes - January 9 – Brunch – 16, 23,30

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Time: Wednesdays at 6:30 AM
Duration: 13-week study
Study Material: Galatians: The Gospel of Free Grace (Reformed Expository Bible Studies) by Jon Nielson
Location: Provisio Retirement Partners office (3790 30th St SW, Grandville, MI 49418)



Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study

You are invited to our 2024-2025 Men's Bible Study season. This year we will be journeying through the book of Romans. This book is pivotal to the foundations of the Church of Jesus Christ. Because of time allotted, we will just be hitting the highlights, or 'Survey' the book of Romans. We will be meeting every Thursday morning @ 6:30am, starting Sept.19, at the Gathering Place, a Restaurant at the corner of Thornapple River Rd se and Cascade Rd se. The restaurant has a breakfast special which helps to keep the cost low. We finish up at 7:30am to allow for job responsibilities.

We would enjoy your presence and fellowship. Please pray if God is calling you to attend.

If you have any questions, please call or text Steve Hill 616-286-2419 or shtroubleelectric@gmail.com.

Thursday Evening Men's Bible Study

The Men's Thursday evening Bible study will be at 7:00 pm from September 19-December 19 with a break on November 28 for Thanksgiving. Please see or text Adam Gorlewski for full details and to sign up – adamgorlewski33@gmail.com.

Announcements

The Lord's Supper

Will be celebrated during the morning worship service on Sunday, December 1, 2024. Prepare your hearts as we gather at the Lord's table. All items served are gluten free.

Session Meeting

The Session is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

3rd Sunday Praise Service and Redeemer Food and Fellowship Dinner

The next Praise Service and Food and Fellowship Dinner will be on December 15, 2024 – the Sunday School Children will be singing for us – be sure to invite your loved ones!! Married couples are asked to bring a main entrée and a side, others please bring a salad, side, or dessert. If you are over 65 – bring whatever you want! Beverages will be provided.

Three Opportunities for Prayer

- 1.) Redeemer Church has Spurgeon's version of the boiler room prayer meeting in Pastor Jeff's office every Sunday at 8:45 a.m.
- 2.) An Elder of Redeemer Church is available to pray with you at the front of the sanctuary near the ramp. Prayer requests could cover healing, wisdom, salvation for a dear friend or any situation or challenge that you need the Lord's help with. We are a praying church, and this is just one more way we can demonstrate our faith and reliance on our precious Lord. Any questions, please contact Kirk Harmon, harmonk3@comcast.net.
- 3.) Wednesdays at **4:00 p.m. for the Winter Months**. Please join us for prayer in the Conference Room Every Wednesday. You can also join by using the following ZOOM link: <https://tinyurl.com/ROPCPrayer>. If you have questions regarding the prayer meeting, feel free to contact Kirk Harmon at 616-897-0654 or harmonk3@comcast.net.

Women's Prayer Team

The Women's Prayer Team is available to pray with any woman at any time by request. We invite you to contact one of our members: Sharon Dykstra – Janet Schamp – Jess Helmus – Cobie Tenbrink

Redeemer Open House

The next Redeemer Open House will be on January 12, 2025, from 12:00 pm-3:00 pm at the home of Marty and Keri Huizinga. Visitors, new members, and guests are especially welcome and can sign up at any time as space permits. Current members are encouraged to sign up at least a week in advance. Sign up options will be sent out soon. Join us for a great time of fellowship and lunch!



YOU ARE INVITED TO

*Redeemer's Christmas
Praise Service &*

FOOD AND
FELLOWSHIP
DINNER

DECEMBER **15** AT 5 PM

8605 FULTON STREET
ADA, MI 49301



Redeemer Women's Ministry



We all desire to have godly contentment regardless of circumstances, good or bad; to say with David, "My heart is steadfast, O God!" (Psalm 108:1) But how do we do that? How do we remain consistent in our faithfulness to God, with our hearts resting in His Sovereignty and Goodness and trusting in His plans for our lives? In His Word, God has provided many helpful role models to teach us and show us what a contented life looks like. We will consider Joseph from the Old Testament and Paul from the New Testament to glean just a few lessons.

In the Old Testament Joseph demonstrated his faithfulness in multiple situations, both positive and negative. First, though he and his brothers did not get along, he followed his father's directive to bring food to his brothers while they were tending their flocks at Shechem. Later, after he was sold as a slave, he diligently and wisely served his master, Potiphar, and was promoted. When he was accused unjustly and sent to prison, Joseph continued to serve, and God gave him favor with the jailor. Whether running Potiphar's house or staying in the prison, Joseph maintained a heart focused on God. Then, when called upon to interpret Potiphar's dream he pointed Potiphar toward God by saying that God alone interprets dreams. What lessons can we learn from Joseph? He continued to demonstrate faithful obedience in a variety of circumstances. He rested in God, not men or situations, and acknowledged that favor came from God, not himself. Finally, Joseph demonstrated that he was able to trust God's plan when he declared that God had sent him to Egypt in order to save lives (Genesis 50:20); and he praised God for the work that He had done.

In the New Testament we see the example of Paul. He, too, was faithful and obedient in a variety of circumstances: prison, preaching, standing before kings and councils, shipwrecks, and beatings. His goal and message of proclaiming the gospel remained the same (Ephesians 6:19-20). We also see that, consistently, Paul's focus was on Christ not himself (1 Corinthians 1:31). He demonstrated a heart that was confident but humble. He prayed and gave praise to God, and he was thankful to God and to others for his care (Romans 16). These characteristics are instructive for us as we consider the attitude of our heart in a variety of situations.

Our main verse as we focus on contentment this year is Philippians 4:11-13, "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." It's so helpful to be reminded that contentment can be learned and comes through the power of Christ who strengthens us. We don't have to tough it out; but instead, look to Christ, lean on and obey Him, and operate in the power that He provides. May He help us all grow in the grace of contentment this year!

Women's Ministry Leadership Team

Beth Harmon, Taylor Miedema, Jori Orr, Lisa Thompson, Cindy Thornton, Christina VanAllen

HAVEN '25 CONFERENCE

WHAT'S NEXT?
THE WAY FORWARD AFTER
DISCLOSURE



Brad Hambrick
Pastor, Counselor, Editor of
*Becoming a Church that
Cares Well for the Abused*,
and Author of *Making Sense
of Forgiveness*



Darby Strickland
CCEF Faculty Member,
Counselor and Author of *Is It
Abuse?*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10
7:00PM-10:00PM
Pastoral Response and
Victim Care

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11
8:30AM-1:30PM
Exploring Repentance and
Forgiveness

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
FOR MORE
FORMATION:
havenofmercypr.org



REFRESHMENTS WILL
BE PROVIDED

**FAIR HAVEN
CHURCH**
2900 Baldwin St
Hudsonville, MI 49426

Conference Opportunities

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The God Who Hears

How The Story of the Bible Shapes Our Prayers

Our special guest is author, speaker, blogger, wife, and homeschooling mama, Sarah Ivill. She has written many books and Bible studies including the book "The God Who Hears." She will be speaking to us on this topic, and walking us through "How the Story of the Bible Shapes Our Prayers." It is our prayer that this conference would encourage us into a deeper relationship with God through prayer as we look at God's redemptive work throughout the Bible.

When

January 17, 2025 // 6:30pm-8:30pm
&
January 18, 2025 // 8:30am-3:00pm

Where

435 W Main Avenue Zeeland, MI 49464

Cost

Early Bird

\$35

Ends 12.16.24

Note: Registration cost includes a copy of Sarah's book, "The God Who Hears and breakfast & lunch on Saturday.

12.17.24

\$45

Ends 01.04.25

Register & Pay Online

gracefellowshipopc.com/womens-ministry

 **GRACE FELLOWSHIP**
ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN



Redeemer Mission Focus

Word & Deed Ministries: An Introduction

“And whatever you do, in word and deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Colossians 3:17

As Redeemer and Word & Deed start a relationship it is good for you all to get to know us better. We are a Reformed Christian relief and development ministry that works with indigenous (local) churches, and Christian partners to address the needs of the body and soul of those we work with in the developing world. We do this according to Biblical principles, for the glory of the Lord, in response to the command to love our neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40).

We have established over 25 partnerships in 18 countries around the world to provide educational and diaconal ministry in the communities where our partners are located. Our partners go through a vetting process to ensure a good fit and understanding of the principles of how we work. If there is a good fit we proceed with signed agreements, semi-annual project and financial reporting, correspondence, Zoom calls, and regular visits.

The majority of our partners are located in some of the poorest places in the world. We communicate the predicament of the suffering in the developing world to the people of North America so that they are given the opportunity to respond to their needs in love, motivated by thankfulness for God’s grace. We bring Christians together so we can reach out in the name of Christ to serve the poor, nurture covenant families, encourage Biblically faithful churches, and develop local leaders while empowering people to provide for themselves. Teaching the needy that providing for oneself as best as possible is good in recognizing their dignity as God’s image-bearers, having been made to work and worship and for them to love their neighbors in their unique circumstances. We are working with our partners towards local sustainability with the understanding it is Christ who blesses the work.

We have a variety of ongoing developmental projects with which we work that include Christian day schools, after-school programs, vocational and agricultural training, orphan care, medical clinics, and theological & church leadership training. Through all of our children’s projects, we are influencing the lives of over 15,000 children for Christ. The projects that they attend are the only places where many of these children hear the gospel. All of these projects are being overseen and run locally by indigenous Christians. This is very important because they are the ones who are working in their communities and know the language and the cultural idiosyncrasies of the people. That being said, the most important goal of Word & Deed projects has always been that the gospel is proclaimed in every project.

Another way we work with our partners is through one-time infrastructure projects, including well drilling, building projects, supplying medical equipment, and more. In the last few years, we have helped build over a dozen culturally appropriate Christian schools. In some cases, the local communities volunteer to help with the construction of these buildings. Many of these schools are self-sufficient in their daily operations but require help with construction costs.

Other one-time projects include the provision of good, reformed books to pastors and seminaries, the translation of reformed materials into local languages, the distribution of Bibles, and sponsoring pastor-training conferences. We have found in many places that the average pastor has little to no formal training and they need resources and training to be more Biblically astute in their understanding and proclamation of the scriptures. These tools can be invaluable to the pastors who receive them.

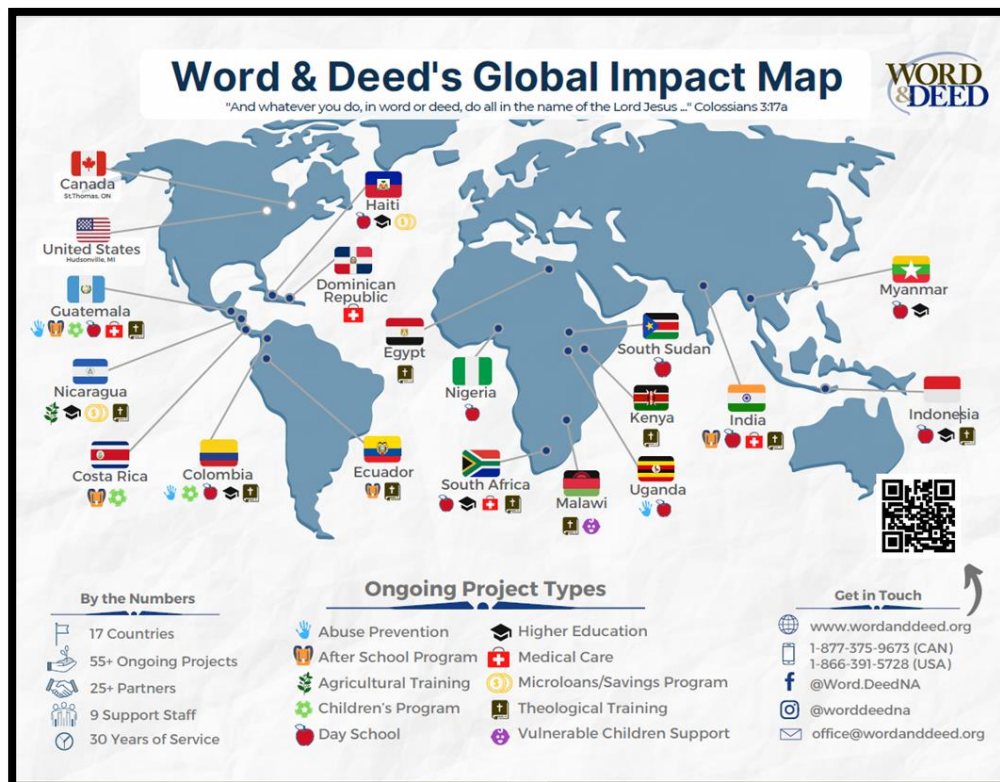
Another important aspect of our ministry is disaster relief (natural & man-made). We generally only get involved in disaster relief in countries where our partners are located or have trusted contacts. In the last four years, we have been involved in relief/food efforts that have reached over 35,000 families. So far this year we have helped with relief for Armenian refugees (ethnic purging), Haiti (food), Kenya (flooding), South Sudan (food), Malawi (food), Myanmar (political unrest), and Venezuela (emergency relief).

Relief efforts for Christians being persecuted by Hindus in Northeast India have been going on for about a year and a half. The local and federal governments have done nothing to stop it. Burning churches (over 300), and homes (over 7000), killing, and displacing thousands of people. We work with the Reformed & Presbyterian Church of Northeast India which is bringing relief to those affected.

Word & Deed has three areas of emphasis. First, a **Gospel focus** in all projects; second, working with **indigenous leadership**; and third, working with our partners toward **local sustainability** under Christ. We strive to be transparent with our supporters, keeping you updated on the ongoing work of our partners and handling the resources that the Lord has provided us with in a stewardly way. Word & Deed is accredited by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).

Please pray for Word & Deed's partners around the world, for those going through difficult circumstances, and for wisdom for the Word & Deed staff. As we come alongside our partners, we are grateful to God that you are coming alongside us.

Dave Vander Meer works for Word & Deed in the United States in Public Relations and is the Project Manager of Word & Deed projects in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Kenya. He can be contacted by calling (269) 760-0771 or by emailing dvandermeer@wordanddeed.org.



Kids 5 years old-5th Grade - Find a hiding jingle bell and complete this
Scripture Fill in the Blank from Isaiah 9:6 - turn into the office to win
a prize!

For to us a child is _____,
to us a _____ is given;
and the government shall
be upon his _____,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful _____, Mighty _____,
Everlasting _____,
_____ of _____.

Christmas Carols Emoji Game

Try to guess the name of the Christmas
carol based on the images below.























Girl's Club and Boy's Club



6:00 – 7:15 PM. Dates:
December 4

Girl's Club: Girl's Club: We are excited to be starting up another great year of Girl's Club! This year we will be studying the Fruits of the Spirit. Any young lady's 1st-5th grade are welcome to join and bring a friend! We would also love a couple more volunteers ages 16+ to join us!

Contact Jessica Boluyt (jdejong35@yahoo.com) or Arielle Suwyn (ajsuwyn@gmail.com) with questions.

Adopt-A-Friend! We are also excited to have another year of our Adopt-A-Friend program. We are looking for women to pair up with our young ladies from 1st-5th grade at Redeemer. This is a fantastic way for our young ladies and women to interact with and get to know each other!

Boy's Club: We would love to have you join us! We know not everyone can attend every meeting, so feel free to come when able. If you are a dad, uncle, grandpa, etc., you are welcome to join, and we would encourage you to share your faith and passions with these young men. Contact: Marty Huizinga at martyhuiz@gmail.com.



Youth Group

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

December Calendar

12/7 – High School Youth Group Christmas Celebration 🎄 🎄

12/8 – High School Youth Group

12/15 – Middle School Youth Group Christmas Celebration 🎄 🎄

Middle School Mall Madness!!



Middle School Youth Group

JANUARY	FEBRUARY
JANUARY 18 CANNONBURG TUBING JANUARY 19 MEETING	FEBRUARY 2 MEETING FEBRUARY 16 MEETING
MARCH	APRIL
MARCH 2 MEETING MARCH 16 MEETING MARCH 30 MEETING	APRIL 27 MEETING
MAY	SUMMER!
MAY 11 MEETING MAY ?? END OF YEAR PARTY!	SUMMER ACTIVITIES T B D !!!!

From the Session



Dear Redeemer Family,

Session held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 12, meeting at Redeemer. Your clerk was out of town for work (many thanks to Chris for taking the minutes in his absence!), so this update will be brief.

The agenda was fairly light this month. The one issue of interest was a recommendation from the Finance Committee to place \$13,000 of the combined balance between Capital Repair and Building Fund today into the newly formed Facility Improvement & Expansion Fund, with the remainder of the monies in Building Fund. Those monies would be used for architectural fees, surveys, etc. associated with facility expansion planning.

We also approved officer training for domestic abuse awareness. This is an important area that requires well thought out attention, and we look forward to learning more so we can serve victims of this terrible sin.

Our attendance figures for October are below.

	AM	PM
October 6, 2024	287	177
October 13, 2024	300	188
October 20, 2024	323	179
October 27, 2024	N/A	N/A

On behalf of session,

Mark Jurries, clerk

From the Treas\$urer:

Redeemer Orthodox Presbyterian Church			
Treasurer's Report			
July through October 2024			
	Jul - Oct 24	Budget	Variance
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Total Income	276,421.61	275,634.68	786.93
Expense			Over (under) spending
Total Christian Education	2,899.58	5,425.00	(2,525.42)
Total Church Life	6,413.18	10,823.32	(4,410.14)
Total Evangelism and Discipling	351.69	2,416.68	(2,064.99)
Total Music and Worship	11,664.44	7,866.68	3,797.76
Total Office and Administration	15,326.93	23,478.04	(8,151.11)
Total Pastoral Salary	41,165.37	67,987.92	(26,822.55)
Total Pastoral Benefits	15,751.39	34,013.12	(18,261.73)
Total Payroll	44,441.36	49,536.04	(5,094.68)
Total Premises and Overhead	44,442.15	37,646.06	6,796.09
Total Denom and Presbytery Suppo	15,281.46	15,280.75	0.71
Total Mission Ministry	15,308.32	16,500.00	(1,191.68)
Total Expense	213,045.87	270,973.61	(57,927.74)
Net Ordinary Income	63,375.74	4,661.07	58,714.67
<i>Giving toward the budget through October 31 is \$787 over budget. Expenses for the period are under budget by \$57,928. At the end of October, we had a budget surplus of \$58,715.</i>			

**Christmas Eve Service:
December 24, 2024 @ 5:30 pm**



Redeemer Food Pantry

Matthew 25:35-40

*35 For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me
40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*



In November, we were blessed to serve 25 families through the food pantry ministry. November is always a special month as we are also able to provide the staple items for Thanksgiving dinner! Families were particularly excited about this added blessing! The needs reflected in the people coming are often overwhelming and mounting monthly. Bringing joy and practical assistance and prayer in their time of need is a beautiful expression of Christ's love!

In November we were also able to speak at the Ada Business Association's November meeting and share about Redeemers Food Pantry Ministry. We were blessed to receive their bountiful food drive collection which helped refill our empty shelves. We were thankful for the food received as well as the opportunity to minister and share with the local community!

Christmas season is just around the corner! This year we will again attempt to provide a Christmas meal to each food pantry family. Please join us in providing the basics for a traditional Turkey or Ham dinner. Stuffing mix, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Yams, Corn Muffin Mix and whatever else you might consider vital or special to Christmas dinner. Perishable and Homemade items like frozen turkey or ham, butter, rolls, bread, milk, eggs, fruit, vegetables, and cheese are also VERY welcome in the few days before the 14th of December. Please make sure perishable items are marked "food pantry" and placed in the fridge or freezer in the church kitchen. You can always check in with the Hill's as the 9th gets closer to find out what items are missing or most needed. This is a great opportunity to get your family involved in serving! Thank you for enabling Redeemer to continue helping an even greater number of families with critical needs and giving to them in Jesus name. Please consider dropping donations off at the Church THIS week or coordinating with the Hill's for pick-up or drop off of perishable items.

Helpers are also needed to serve from 9:00-11:30 Saturday December 14th to set up, serve, and clean up. You will surely be blessed by serving through this outreach in Jesus name. Please call Steve Hill for more information. (616) 286-2419.



Redeemer Library

Just Do Something- By: Kevin DeYoung...Book Report: Kezia Beeke

What God wills for us in our lives is a question that any Christian at any may have about their lives. Should I make friends with them? Should I go to college? What should I major in? Should I get married? Should we have kids? How should I invest my money wisely? When should I retire? Do I have enough money for retirement? All important questions that we are pondering. How do we discern what God wants for us in our lives?

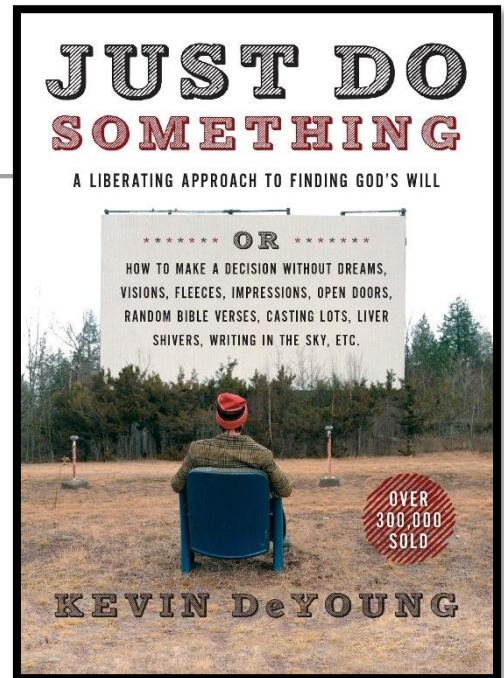
Kevin DeYoung shares in 'Just Do Something' that God's perfect decree cannot be moved. All of His laws will come to pass, and what He has ordained is right (Eph.1:11). God also has a will of desire. If He wills to tell us His plan, then He will. This is the way He wants us to live (Deut. 29:29). He wants us to do what is pleasing in His sight. There are 5 reasons DeYoung lists that we

are so eager to find out what happens. 1. We Want To Please God 2. Some Of Us Are Timid 3. We Want Perfect Fulfillment 4. We Have Too Many Choices 5. We Are Cowards. However, God is not a "Magic 8-Ball" as Kevin put it. We don't wait until the answer rolls around the ball and appears to us. That is not how God works, and in some cases- it is dishonoring to Christ. This is wrong, God has everything planned out for us, and He tells us over 70 times in the Bible to "Not Be Afraid!"

So, we have learned why we want to know the future, and why it's bad. But what can we do instead? We can live as Christ tells us to. Seek His Kingdom- always be looking for the Kingdom of Christ, because God knows exactly what we need to live. God will lead us, show us, and demonstrate again and again that we just need to trust Him. We do not need to be afraid for the future, or always want to know the future- we just need to live in the moment and trust God!

Three ways we can ground ourselves in Christ and find out what God wants for our lives: 1. Prayer!- Talk to God! Tell Him how you feel and express your feelings through words. He is the one who holds all these answers, and through His perfect timing, you will come to trust Him more and more. But that doesn't start unless you talk with Him. 2. Scripture!- This is God's word written just for you, and it has been preserved through the years so you could have a copy today. 3. Counsel!- there are other people in the body of Christ who have also struggled with these thoughts, and they are here to talk! Many times, talking with other believers is a way to grow in your own faith, and be encouraged by fellow companions.

Not all these questions will be answered right away, but over time- the God of All Wisdom and Peace will provide these questions with His perfect responses. I would highly recommend reading this book, as it provides so much insight and information as to ways to get back into the Scriptures and how to give yourself all to Christ, trusting only in Him.



**JANUARY 17-19, 2025
REDEEMER OPC**

“EVANGELISM FOR EVERYONE”



**TED POWERS IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
MIDWEST ALLIANCE,
A PRESBYTERIAN MOVEMENT DEDICATED TO
PLANTING
CHURCHES IN 14 MIDWESTERN STATES.
HE COACHES CHURCH PLANTERS AND
PASTORS.**

**TED GREW UP IN MICHIGAN AND ATTENDED
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN. HE PLANTED
AND PASTORED A CHURCH IN CHICAGO
PRIOR TO COORDINATING CHURCH
PLANTING AND PROVIDING EVANGELISM
TRAINING.**

**MIDWEST
ALLIANCE** PCA

The logo for the Midwest Alliance, featuring the words "MIDWEST" and "ALLIANCE" in a large, blue, sans-serif font. Below "MIDWEST" is a yellow silhouette of a city skyline with various building shapes. To the right of "ALLIANCE" is the acronym "PCA" in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font.

Servant Schedule

I Corinthians 12:12-13, 27

¹² There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ. ¹³ We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit. And so we are formed into one body...²⁷ You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.

Preaching Schedule

December 1

AM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

PM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

December 8

AM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

PM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

December 15

AM: Rev. Wayne Veenstra

PM: Dr. Jonathon Beeke

December 22

AM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

PM: Mr. Brennen Winter

December 29

AM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

PM: Rev. Jeff DeBoer

Mission Prayer Schedule

December 1

Mission to the World

Prayer Leader: Tyler VanRee

December 8

Caleb Nelson JARS

Prayer Leader: Brian Bangma

December 15

Words of Hope

Prayer Leader: Jon Byker

December 22

Great Lake Hub Spokes

Prayer Leader: Jim Clayton

December 29

OPC STORM

Prayer Leader: Shane Hansen

Greeter Schedule

December 1

AM: Tom & Denise

Amtsbuechler

PM: Andy & Sue Baker

December 8

AM: Nate & Emma Richardson

PM: Brian & Tiffany Bangma

December 15

AM: Brian & Kelly Bass

PM: Jonathon & Allyson Beeke

December 22

AM: Jim & Sue Biel

PM: Derek & Jessica Blok

December 29

AM: Mark & Phoebe Boersma

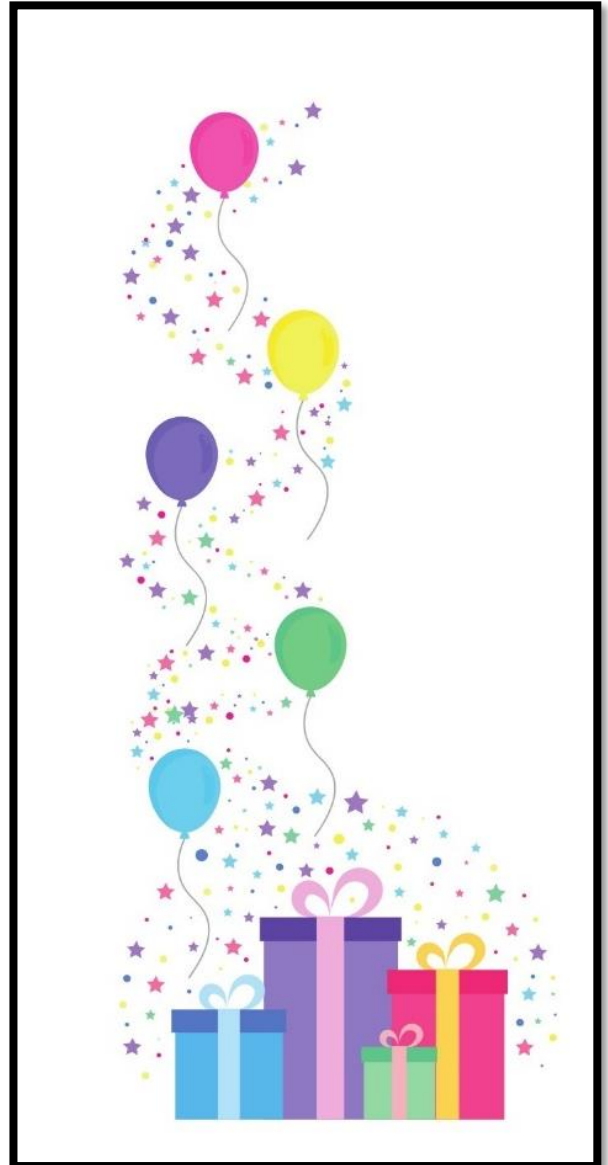
PM: Bob & Amy Bol

December:
Elder On Call
Dick Schamp
Deacon of the Month
Shane Hansen
Joel Miedema



Happy Birthday to You!!

Claire	Thornton	December 01
Timothy	Wright	December 01
Leah	DeLange	December 05
Susan	Baker	December 06
Elijah	De Boer	December 09
Zion	Herweyer	December 09
Chris	Thompson	December 11
Cynthia	Thornton	December 11
Joelle	Paauw	December 12
Jared	Bredeweg	December 13
Robert	Emerson	December 15
Kayla	VanderJagt	December 16
Joseph	Hasse	December 17
Benjamin	Noorman	December 17
Jonathon	Beeke	December 18
Daniel	Newberg	December 18
Andrea	Groenendyk	December 24
Nadia	Picknally	December 26
Jacobie	Tenbrink	December 27
Jenna	TenBrink	December 27
Dylan	Amtsbuechler	December 28
Penelope	Meyerdirk	December 30



REDEEMER WOMEN'S RETREAT



Women of Redeemer,
Join us, on the shores of Lake Michigan, for an opportunity to be filled by fellowship with one another, respite from the routine of life, and taking a deep dive into the word of God. Come and explore what it means to find **CONTENTMENT** with an inward assurance in God's sovereignty and goodness and be gifted the fruits of peace and thanksgiving in Him.

The Details:

Location: Maranatha Bible Camp: 4759 Lake Harbor Rd
Norton Shores, Michigan 49441

Date: Friday and Saturday March 7th and 8th (Friday arrival time:4-6pm and Saturday depart time:3pm)

Pre-Retreat required introduction of study: Please plan to attend one of these viewings prior to the retreat for an introduction to the study.

Date options:

Tuesday February 18th 6:30-8pm - Greta Entingh's Home (900 Pine Valley Dr Se Ada, Michigan 49301)

Wednesday February 19th 6:30-8pm - Redeemer OPC

Thursday February 20th 6:30-8pm - Debby Clayton's Home (2055 Korben Woods Court NE Belmont, Michigan 49306)

Cost: \$150.00 (includes all meals and sleeping accommodations)

Discounted rates available in addition to the opportunity to bless other women in support of covering portions of their cost.

Men of redeemer, if you are looking for a good Christmas gift, this is it!

We look forward to a time of growing our faith and growing in love towards each other.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 17