

Spirit of the Redeemer



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENN.

November 2019

Baptism

“What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s Word” (Small Catechism). Baptism is a holy washing by which sinners are cleansed according to the Word of promise. Baptism “works the forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare” (Small Catechism). The true God claims sinners with his name, and the benefits of Christ’s atoning work are given freely. “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word” (Eph. 5:25-26).

In this month that begins with All Saints’ Day, we remember that through baptism we have been brought into “the communion of saints” (Apostles’ Creed). The Bible says, “You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:11). We are made holy and members of the of the body of Christ in Baptism. Therefore, the Old Adam is daily drowned and a new man arises to live by the Spirit, as we have been baptized by water and the Spirit. We rejoice that “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor. 5:17).

Luther says, “To baptized in God’s name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself” (LC IV 10). He also teaches that Baptism “cannot be simple, ordinary water, for ordinary water could not have such an effect. But the Word does it, and this shows . . . that God’s name is in it. And where God’s name is, there must also be life and salvation” (LC IV 26-27). Lastly, Luther maintains,

In baptism, therefore, every Christian has enough to study and practice all his or her life. Christians always have enough to do to believe firmly what baptism promises and brings – victory over death and the devil, forgiveness of sin, God’s grace, the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with his gifts. In short, the blessings of baptism are so boundless that if our timid nature considers them, it may well doubt whether they could all be true (LC IV 41-42).

What a privilege and blessing, then, to continually proclaim to ourselves, “I am baptized into Christ”! (LSB 594). We who are weak and fear death may say with confidence and certain hope, “I am God’s own child. I am baptized into Christ” (LSB 594).

– Pastor Young

For the Month of November

Ushers:

Altar Care:

Sunday Morning Refreshments

Nursery Volunteers

Birthdays

Baptismal Birthdays

Wedding Anniversaries

Golf Outing

Sunday November 3

9 Holes

Percy Warner Park

Meet there 1:30pm

All Golfers! 7-90 years old!

Interested? Contact Ron or Lynn S to be included and for more details.



What Are The Five Solas of the Reformation?

Dr. Scott Keith

The Evangelical (Lutheran) Reformation which we celebrate every October 31 changed Christianity permanently. As a way of confessing the significant doctrinal changes which occurred during the Reformation, the “Five Solas“ of the Reformation, which are no more than Latin theological slogans, were developed.

The Five Solas are:

- + Scripture Alone +
- + Faith Alone +
- + Grace Alone +
- + Christ Alone +
- + To the Glory of God Alone +

Contained herein is a brief examination of each of these five theological slogans.

Sola Scriptura

By saying “Scripture Alone,” Christians acknowledge the Bible as God’s living Word. It is not the book that we worship but the Savior of Whom the book speaks. Jesus is God’s living Word to us. Thus, Luther’s explanation of the Third Commandment in the *Large Catechism* says: “The Word of God is the true holy thing above all things. Indeed, it is the only one we

Kroger Community Rewards Program

Are you a Kroger shopper? If so, you can link your Kroger Plus Card to their Community Rewards Program online and Redeemer will receive a quarterly check. Redeemer has elected to place these dollars in the Sanctuary Renovation Fund. In fact, we just received a check for \$56.98. Simple, easy stewardship! Contact Redeemer’s office for details on how to participate.

Christians acknowledge and have. Though we had the bones of all the saints or all the holy and consecrated vestments gathered together in one heap, they could not help us in the slightest degree, for they are all dead things that can sanctify no one. But God's Word is the treasure that sanctifies all things. By it, all the saints themselves have been sanctified. At whatever time God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work are sanctified by it, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word which makes us all saints. Accordingly, I constantly repeat that all our life and work must be guided by God's Word if they are to be God-pleasing and holy. Where that happens, the commandment is in force and is fulfilled."

(Martin Luther, *Book of Concord, The Large Catechism*, "Third Commandment")

Sola Gratia

By saying "Grace Alone," Christians acknowledge that their salvation is given to saved sinners solely by of God's mercy shown on account of Christ alone. God's Grace is not only an object but is a part of His character. Rather, grace is part of who God is. It is an attitude with which He views us sinners as His children, by His great love, on account of Christ. The Reformer and colleague of Martin Luther, Philip Melancthon, explains in his *Loci Communes*: "Grace signifies gracious acceptance, to the mercy of God, on account of the promise of Christ. As Paul says in Romans 5:15: 'free gift by the grace.' That is, we are called by the Holy Spirit and to eternal life. Further, the exclusive participle 'only' or 'alone' used with the word of grace, signifies that it is a gratuitously given remission of sins and reconciliation. The exclusive participle alone does not exclude our repentance and good works, but it rather eliminates the condition of all of our dignity and transfers the whole cause of our salvation to the benefit of the mercy shown us in Christ, so that it is clearly certain. Therefore, we are justified freely by His grace, that is, by God's mercy, so that we understand that we are pleasing to God, not on account of the dignity of our works, but on account of Christ."

(Philip Melancthon, *The Loci Communes Theologici*, 1535)

Sola Fide

"Faith Alone" saves the sinner. Faith is simply this: that we trust in the mercy of God on account of Christ alone as our only hope for salvation. This Paul says in his letter to the church at Rome: "What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.' Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness." This faith, or trust, is not a work of our own, but a work of God within us. Thus, Martin Luther describes it this way: "Faith is and indeed must be a steadfastness (ein steadfasten) of the heart, which does not waver, wobble, shake, tremble, or doubt, but stands firm and is sure of its case. Do not think lightly of faith. It is a work that is of all works the most excellent and the most difficult. Through it alone you will be saved, even though you were obliged to do without all other works. For it is the work of God, not of man as Paul teaches in Ephesians 1:19: 'and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might.' The other works He performs without our co-operation and through us; This alone He works within us and without our co-operation (sine nobis)."

(Luther, Martin, and Ewald M. Plass. *What Luther Says*, An Anthology. Saint Louis:Concordia Pub. House, 1959.)

Solus Christus

The Solus Christus, Christ Alone, of the Reformation is not just a theoretical matter; it is a question of life and death. The Scriptures present Jesus Christ as the only mediator between the holy God and sinful man. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus..." (1 Tim 2:5). God saves sinners propter Christum (on account of Christ alone), or solus Christus, only because of Christ. This is the heart of the matter. The Biblical claim is that the Law of God justly stands over the children of Adam. We are to love our neighbor in a particular way, the way described in the Ten Commandments. We cannot do this fully, even in

the most outward way, not even as Christians with the Holy Spirit within us. But even if we could, it would still not be enough to justify us before God. The Law commands us to love our neighbor “from the heart.” “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart...” (1 Pet 1:22), without any vested interest on our part. Our obedience to the Law in the case of our neighbor is to be purely for our neighbor’s good, not in any way for our good. Anyone who does not measure up to this unchanging and non-negotiable standard of God’s Law stands under God’s just condemnation and wrath now and forever. Apart from a God-given, Law-satisfying mediator, every one of us stands before the righteous God as guilty and justly condemned by His just Law. Someone is going to have to satisfy divine justice, but we have not done so. Nor can we do so. Someone is going to have to pay the penalty for our sin because we cannot pay it. Thus Christ alone is our only hope for salvation.

(Modified from Rod Rosenblatt, *Christ Alone*)

Soli Deo Gloria

Soli Deo Gloria is the slogan that developed out of the Protestant Reformation to communicate the belief that it is God and God alone Who is to receive the glory for the wonders of His work of our redemption. By confessing Soli Deo Gloria, Christians acknowledge that all of the benefits of this earthly life, as well as the free gift of their salvation and the life everlasting, have come to them by God’s hand alone. This realization causes the Christian to proclaim that all the credit, merit, and glory ought to be ascribed solely to God. Even the Christian’s trust in the mercy of God on account of Christ, which we call faith, is a gift of God and not a part of any human work. As the Scriptures say: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Rom 1:16) And also, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” Also, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.” (John 15:16) Salvation, and every good gift is of

the Lord from beginning to end. Yes, I must believe. Yes, I must respond. Yes, I must receive Christ. But for me to say “yes” to any of those things, my heart must first be changed by the eternal and efficacious power of God the Holy Spirit given through the proclaimed Word that is Christ. Thus we confess, Soli Deo Gloria.

<chrome-extension://oemmndcblldboiebfnladdacbfmadadm/https://s3.amazonaws.com/shop-downloadable-products/2016/10/28132138/What-Are-The-Five-Solas.pdf>

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from Prague in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

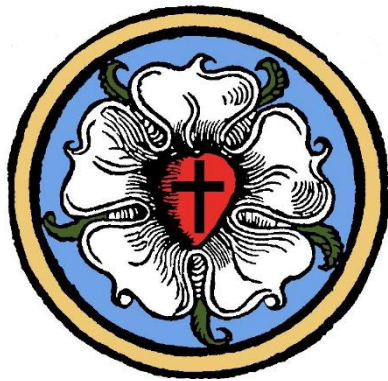
Just yesterday we traveled to the eastern part of the Czech Republic to the town of Olomouc. We went there to encourage the three lay missionaries who are serving in that area. And what a great visit we had! We heard from them of their tireless work and desire to see the Gospel spread among the people of that area. So, we prayed, we communed, and we shared some great fellowship.

Your support of our work is multiplied in moments like that. A part of our work here - among many other items - is to bring encouragement and pastoral care to those missionaries. Because of you, it happened yesterday. Thank you so much! And we pray that we too will bring the Gospel to the people of Prague while you bring it to where you are.

We commend you to Christ,
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Your Missionaries in Prague, Czech Republic



The Luther Rose, also known as the Luther Seal, is easily the most recognized symbol for Lutheranism, and for good reason. Martin Luther personally oversaw the creation of this symbol. It provides a beautiful summary of his faith, a faith that is common to all Christians, of every place and every time. Here is how Luther explained the meaning of his seal:



"Grace and peace from the Lord. As you desire to know whether my painted seal, which you sent to me, has hit the mark, I shall answer most amiably and tell you my original thoughts and reason about why my seal is a symbol of my theology. The first should be a black cross in a heart, which retains its natural color, so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. For one who believes from the heart will be justified" (Rom. 10:10). Although it is indeed a black cross, which mortifies and which should also cause pain, it leaves the heart in its natural color. It does not corrupt nature, that is, it does not kill but keeps alive. "The just shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17) but by faith in the crucified. Such a heart should stand in the middle of a white rose, to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. In other words, it places the believer into a white, joyous rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). That is why the rose should be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and the angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). Such a rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in spirit and faith is a beginning of the heavenly future joy, which begins already, but is grasped in hope, not yet revealed. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that such blessedness in Heaven lasts forever and has no

end. Such blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable, most precious and best metal. This is my *compendium theologiae* [summary of theology]. I have wanted to show it to you in good friendship, hoping for your appreciation. May Christ, our beloved Lord, be with your spirit until the life hereafter.

Amen." *

(Description originally found at lcms.org)

Matching Gift opportunity with Project Trinity Hope - Haiti

Project Trinity Hope, the school feeding program in Haiti that our church is supporting, has been blessed to have a very generous donor commit to match every new recurring donation established this school year. It has to be a "recurring" donation meaning a weekly/bi-weekly/monthly pledge gift. But regardless of the amount (up to \$500,000), **the total annual new donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar.**

In addition, if an existing donor increases their current recurring donation the amount of the increase will be eligible for the match also.

Please consider starting or increasing your existing pledge and encourage your children to also consider a new pledge to help share the love of Jesus. Any size gift can make an impact – as at only \$0.25 per meal every dollar of new recurring pledge with the matching gift will provide 8 meals to the children (\$1 + \$1 matching gift).

Below is a link to the website where you can select one of three programs to direct your donation but remember it must be a "Recurring" donation to qualify for the matching gift. Just go to the website link, click "Donate" and then choose "Setup Recurring" for your donation.

<https://www.trinityhope.org/donate>

Contact: Keith Logan



The Silent Auction will open on Sunday, October 27th downstairs in the fellowship hall. You can begin bidding at the Reformation pot luck. The auction will conclude with another pot luck on Sunday, November 24th. Items for donation are being received any time between now and the final week of the auction. As well as the typical holiday, home décor, themed baskets, etc, we are also accepting donations for a children's auction table. Baked goods are also needed and should be brought on the day of the auction. You can purchase your Thanksgiving desserts at the auction.

2019 Silent Auction Proceeds will benefit:



Inspiritus - Formerly Lutheran Services of Georgia and Lutheran Services in

Tennessee – serving low-income families with enrichment programs to teach and empower children and families. Programs include MyCanvas, a mobile youth art enrichment program serving low-income children in the middle TN region. The program is designed to help children cope with daily stress and frustrations, nurture self-esteem and self-confidence in the participants, and encourage children to find their voice. Another program is Healthy Gardens which equips low-income communities with the knowledge and tools they need to grow their own garden to supplement their meals.



Ghana Harvest – A Lutheran Ministry in Upper East Ghana, Africa

Concordia Preparatory School in Bawku Town was established in

2012. It is part of Pastor Salifu's ministry. Although the newest building on campus has been in use since 2016, it is still under construction. Each year the goal is to complete a classroom to add the next grade to the school the following year until they have all 12 grades and living quarters for boarding students. Concordia is the ONLY school in this remote area that

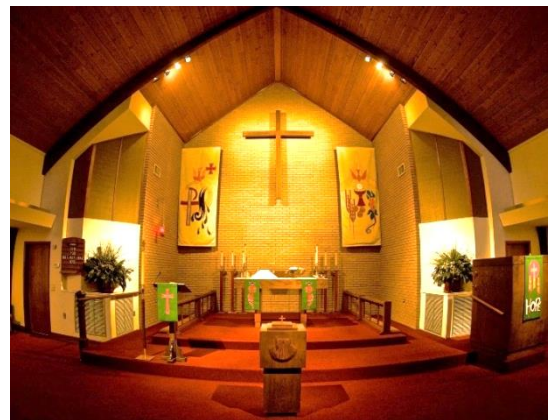
offers a sound Christian education in an area with many of the Islam belief and Idol worshippers. Children of all beliefs have enrolled and some are already bringing their parents to understand the love of Jesus Christ.

Global Lutheran Outreach – Missionaries in Tanzania



Eric and Andrea Funke are missionaries in Tanzania. Eric teaches math, physics and computers at Mwadui Lutheran

Secondary School. Linda teaches a guidance and counseling course at the school and works with the Lutheran church on community development projects. Eric's family are friends of the Hedricks. A new Lutheran high school is opening in Mwanza in January, but they still need to finish the laboratory building and a kitchen. Also, their school has an outreach clinic and they are completing a new building for the clinic and need to purchase furniture and equipment.





Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague



September 2019



Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise

Lord God, to Thee we give all praise,
With grateful hearts our voices raise,
That angel hosts Thou didst create
Around Thy glorious throne to wait.

They never rest nor sleep as we;
Their whole delight is but to be
With Thee, Lord Jesus, and to keep
Thy little flock, Thy lambs and sheep.

The ancient dragon is their foe;
His envy and his wrath they know.
It always is his aim and pride
Thy Christian people to divide.

But watchful is the angel band
That follows Christ on ev'ry hand
To guard His people where they go
And break the counsel of the foe.

For this, now and in days to be,
Our praise shall rise, O Lord, to Thee,
Whom all the angel hosts adore
With grateful songs forevermore.

Text: Philipp Melancthon
Lutheran Service Book #522

Art: Albrecht Dürer



The Holy Gospel is read for
St. Michael's Day

St. Michael's Day - A Day to Celebrate!

The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels (September 29) only falls on a Sunday every 5 to 6 years. So, when it does fall on a Sunday, it seems wise that St. Michael the Archangel Lutheran Church (Prague) should celebrate it in grand style. And why not? After all, the angels are confessed every Sunday when we say the Nicene Creed, stating that God the Father has overseen the creation of all things, visible and invisible. And so, as we gathered on the last Sunday in September, we pulled out all the stops and praised God for His angelic army that guards us.

It is easy to fall into the error that this teaching on the doctrine of the angels is childish stuff. Perhaps, we have been led to believe it is merely something we tell children so that they will sleep soundly. But this doctrine of the angels is an important one, not only because of the holy angels who aid and pray for us (Hebrews 1:14; Zechariah 1:12), but also for the evil angels who seek to mislead us and bring great evil upon us (1 Peter 5:8; 1 Timothy 4:1).

This is especially true when we talk about missions—not only those done by missionaries who live elsewhere, but whenever and wherever the Church bears witness to its Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. We are told in Daniel 12 that Michael the Archangel will guard the Church, especially in the latter days (i.e., here and now). We need his protection for which the Lord Jesus appointed him. We should praise God for His angelic army that guards us and that protects us from the roaring lion's fangs. God sends these ministering spirits to assist us and to assist the proclamation of the Church, as seen in Revelation.

So, in our prayers we ought to ask the Lord to send His angelic army to aid His Church in its work. And we ask you to join in that prayer for the sake of the salvation of many people, both here and there where you are. We clearly live in a time where mankind thumbs its nose at God and His will as expressed in the Law. How often we are confronted with evil that is proclaimed as good and good proclaimed as evil! The rot and decay of this world reminds us of the warnings about which the apostles wrote (2 Timothy 4; 1 John 4:1; 2 Peter 2:2). But even so, we are promised the victory as long as we hold fast to the Word of Christ's testimony (Revelation 3:11). It is our calling to share that victory with others through the witness of Jesus' message (Luke 24:46-47).

Now that St. Michael's Day has come and gone, we are in the last weeks of the Church Year. As we move toward the holidays and, especially towards Christmas, we pray that the visitors in your church and here in Prague might be confronted with the Gospel of salvation found in Jesus alone. May His angels guard you in that task! Amen.





We thank the Lord for all of the ministries that support us. This month, we especially give thanks for:

The English District
LCMS

Grace Lutheran
Women's Ministry,
Redford, MI

Thrivent Financial
Appleton, WI

Our address in Prague:
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Bubenečská 365/41
160 00 Praha 6
Czech Republic

The church address in Prague:
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
V Jirchářích 14/152
110 00 Praha 1
Czech Republic

Please, pray for Dale's upcoming ear surgery

Please, pray for our Czech language learning classes as well as for the Greek and Hebrew being taught.

Please, pray for our Sunday School and Adult Bible Class which began anew this month.

There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

Our email address is
Dale.Kaster@lcms.org

Upcoming Surgery on Dale's Ear

Dale has been dealing with a major loss of hearing in his right ear for quite some time. It has been diagnosed as otosclerosis, a hardening of one of the tiny bones God put in our ears. We first learned about a surgery to fix it back in 2013 as we were preparing to deploy to Ghana, West Africa. It did not fit into our time table then because you cannot fly right away after the surgery. So we waited. African hospitals are not the best, so we did not pursue it there. We had hoped to get it fixed while we were stateside doing our support raising last year, but again it did not fit into our timetable. So, now we are here in the Czech Republic, and the medical situation is as good as the States. Therefore, on October 31, Dale will be having ear surgery in the town of Benešov (about 30 km south of Prague). The doctor performing the procedure is a highly regarded expert, and we have a lot of peace about it. Our only concern is that Dale will be at the mercy of a lot of non-English-speaking nurses. (The doctors are all English fluent.) He will be hospitalized for three days. So, we are trying to learn as much medical Czech as we can before the stay. Your prayer for our learning and their understanding would be greatly appreciated! As well as prayers for a successful surgery and speedy recovery.



St. Michael's Day Fellowship

Our congregational family celebrated St. Michael's day not only in worship but also with a potluck luncheon. We had a wonderful time spending the afternoon together. As we have people of many ethnicities, we were able to try different foods from the USA, from here in the Czech Republic, and even from Pakistan. It was delicious and we were able to give away some food afterwards to help the homeless as well. We will be trying to hold fellowship events from time to time as ways for us to share Christ's love.

A Busy Time at Our Parish

Many of the things we have written about before are still going on. Deacon Damašek is still being trained, learning Greek, doctrine, and good exegetical skills. Our Czech classes are challenging but very enjoyable. There is the monthly trip to Olomouc in the eastern part of the Czech Republic to bring the Sacrament and to share some fellowship with our lay missionaries. Dale still occasionally leads the Czech language liturgy at different times of the month. And there is the weekly schedule of office hours and worship. On top of those, Dale is doing Hebrew readings with a young man of our parish who is planning to attend the seminary in the USA starting next year.

However, we are also seeking to establish new points of contact with English-speaking people here in Prague. We are looking into all sorts of advertising for the English-language service as well as encouraging our members to invite people to join us. And we thank God for the increase we have had lately of locals who have visited the congregation. We pray that the Word will grab their hearts!

Please, pray for the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic (ECAVvCR). Know that we pray for your parishes in the States!

We commend you and your witness to Christ!

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster

Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic

To support the LCMS through the work of the Kasteters, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod **OR**
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Mission Central
40718 Hwy E16
Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include "Kaster – Czech Republic," in the memo line. Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/kaster.

<h1>November 2019</h1>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>All Saints' Day</i>	2
3 All Saints' Day (observed) 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service Door Offering Choir 1:30 Golf Outing @ Percy Warner Park (ages 7-90, contact Ron or Lynn Suedekum for details) Daylight Saving Time Ends 2am	4 8 AA	5	6 10 Bible Study	7 12 Confirmation	8	9
10 Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service Choir	11 8 AA	12 6:30 Council	13 10 Bible Study	14 12 Confirmation	15	16 8:30 Men's Reading Group
17 Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service Presentation of Budget & Council Slate Choir	18 8 AA	19	20 10 Bible Study	21 12 Confirmation	22	23
24 Last Sunday of the Church Year 9:15 Education Hour 10:30 Divine Service LWML Mite Collection Choir Silent Auction Closes Pot-luck	25 8 AA	26 10 Ladies Home Improvement Group	27	28 10 Thanksgiving Matins Service Thanksgiving Day	29 6:30 Church Work Day - Decorating for Christmas Season	30 9 Church Work Day - Decorating for Christmas Season

Find our newsletters online at:
<http://redeemernashville.org/newsletter/>

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