Spirit of the Redeemer

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

December 2024

O Wisdom

The Great "O" Antiphons are ancient prayers that have been sung in the Church for centuries in the lead-up to Christmas Eve. According to Kantor Kevin Hildebrand:

> The origin of the O Antiphons is around the eighth century. In larger cities and monasteries, it was customary to have services daily (or several times a day), and in the seven days before Christmas Eve, it became a regular practice to sing the assigned O Antiphon before and after the *Magnificat* ("My soul magnifies the Lord.") at the evening Vespers service (https://witness.lcms.org/2016/o-antiphons-what-are-they/).

Hildebrand further instructs about the form of the O Antiphons with which we are most familiar: "In the twelfth or thirteenth century, these antiphons were paraphrased into metrical, poetic verses which became the hymn, 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'" (https://witness.lcms.org/2016/o-antiphons-what-are-they/).

The first of the O Antiphons is a call to Wisdom (Dec. 17):

> O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth
> of the Most High, pervading and
> permeating all creation, mightily
> ordering all things:
> Come and teach us the way
> of prudence (*LSB* 357).

The way the hymn puts it:

> O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
> Who ord'rest all things mightily;
> To us the path of knowledge show,
> And teach us in her ways to go.
> Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
> Shall come to the, O Israel (*LSB* 357:2).

(The rest of the O Antiphons as listed in *Lutheran Service Book* on the page facing the hymn are: O Adonai/Lord (Dec. 18), O Root of Jesse (Dec. 19), O Key of David (Dec. 20), O Dayspring (Dec. 21), O King of nations (Dec. 22), O Emmanuel (Dec. 23).)

All of the O Antiphons are names or titles for our Lord Jesus who came into the world as Savior. Thus, the Wisdom called upon in the first O Antiphon is not some moral teaching or the ability to complete a Ph.D. in a field of study. Nor is it spiritual speculation that a person may learn or discover on his

Redeemer's Christmas Hymn Sing and Open House

Sunday December 15
4:30 p.m.
Christmas Hymns, Carols, and Treats 10 Days Early!

own. And it is not some secret knowledge as in the heresy of Gnosticism, a knowledge that supposedly would provide liberation of the soul from its bodily prison. Instead, the Wisdom called upon in the O Antiphon is the very person of the Son of God who condescended to take on flesh in a real body which he offered for the sins of the world. The one who "ord'rest all things mightily," the one who eternally exists, the all-wise one, was incarnate and gave himself that the sinners of the world could be made wise unto salvation through the revealed Word of God (2 Tim. 3:15).

Perhaps the book of Proverbs, above all other books in the Bible, establishes the blessedness, the power, the preeminence, the preexistence of the Divine Wisdom called upon so fervently in Advent. Through Proverbs, the first of the O Antiphons surely rises in our estimation. Therefore, we will spend our extra services in this Wisdom.

The midweek Advent service schedule is as follows:

O Wisdom

Wed., December 4 –	Text: Proverbs 1:8-33
Wed., December 11 –	Text: Proverbs 3:13-20
Wed., December 18 –	Text: Psalm 8:22-31

Services are at 7:00 p.m. There will be a meal provided each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. After the last midweek service on December 18, Amy and I will again be hosting the congregation for a **hot cider and dessert reception** in the library.

– Pastor Young

The Advent Collects

Collect for Advent 1
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Advent 2
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Advent 3
Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Advent 4
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Ongoing Prayer Needs

Please update Pastor and the church office on these needs.

Birthdays, Baptismal Birthdays, & Wedding Anniversaries

Birthdays

Baptismal Birthdays

Wedding Anniversaries

Savior of the Nations, Come

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

LSB 332(1)
Public domain

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

Redeemer's Font Committee

Altar Guild and the Church Year

I have a challenge for all the trivia fans at Redeemer the next time we have a trivia competition. Please, let me provide some questions for the event. Here are a few ideas—read carefully so that you can be ahead of the game for our next event:

Which two communion vessels hold the host?

a. Chalice and paten
b. Flagon and ciborium
c. Purificator and paten
d. Ciborium and paten

Which linen is on the alter, directly under the chalice?

a. Fair Linen
b. Pall
c. Corporal
d. Chalice veil

Which linen is placed directly under the chalice veil?

a. Purificator
b. Pall
c. Corporal
d. Flagon

Altar Guild falls under which board at Redeemer?

a. Board of Properties
b. Board of Education
c. Board of Elders
d. Stewardship and Assimilation

What color paraments are used to commemorate St. Mark the Evangelist?

a. White
b. Green
c. Red
d. Blue

How do you think you did? Are you scratching your head? Trying to remember if this was covered in your catechism? Wondering who uses these old-fashioned words? Thinking who cares, as long as the Supper is waiting for you when you get to church on Sundays?

And what does this have to do with altar guild and the church year?

Everything.

Altar guild takes care of the vessels that hold the wine and the bread under which we receive the Body & Blood of Our Lord. Altar guild takes care of the linens that hold and cover the vessels that hold the wind and the bread. Altar guild changes paraments throughout the church year.

Altar guild is a often silent, invisible committee in church. Altar guild works constantly throughout the year and sporadically here and there. Altar guild members are noisy and busy or working quietly alone in the sacristy or chancel. Altar guild is rich with symbols and beautiful objects and elbows deep in soapy water or stain remover.

Altar guild greets the Easter paraments late Saturday evening, before everyone else sees them on Sunday Morning. Altar guild spends15 minutes before you leave church on Sunday to wash and put away communion vessels. Altar guild gives 10 minutes one evening during the week now and then to change paraments for Sunday. Altar guild sees the Elders' service for others behind the sacristy door.

Altar guild is an opportunity to serve in a way that suits different gifts. Whatever your gift—working alone, working with a group, enjoying the quiet, time every week, time once in a while, washing "dishes," doing a small load of laundry at your house, following lists—it is very likely that your gift would be welcome to altar guild.

Please consider talking to an altar guild volunteer or Kim M. if you are interested in sharing your gifts. You may even learn some things to help you win the next Redeemer trivia event.

Altar Guild

Trinity HOPE Presented with LWML Grant

On November 3rd, Geal G., President of Redeemer's LWML (Lutheran Women Missionary League), presented a check to Candi Boudreau from Trinity HOPE for $5,000. The grant money is from congregation LWML mite collections. The mites are gathered together and a percentage is dedicated for LWML Mid-South District and LWML National for Mission Grants. These grants, written by various LWML chapters, are voted on at LWML conventions. Redeemer's LWML chapter wrote the funding grant that was approved for Trinity HOPE. The District Mission Grants for 2024-2026 can be found online (https://www.midsouthlwml.org/grantinfo/P-TrinityHope2024.pdf) or on the LWML table in the narthex. Your spare change, your mites, help many in need around the state, nation and globe. If you have any questions about LWML or suggestions on missions to support, please contact Geal G.

Trinity HOPE (www.trinityhope.org) has been in ministry for 25 years. Currently, Trinity HOPE provides over 1 million meals each month to children in over 260 Christian schools in Haiti. Through this work the children's physical needs are met, allowing them to focus on learning, not only their schoolwork, but also the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This grant will be used to provide over 15,000 meals during the biennium.

The civil unrest in Haiti is reaching unprecedented levels. Please pray for the safety of the children, teachers, and all involved with the schools supported by Trinity HOPE, that we can continue feeding children both physically and spiritually. Today's meal may be the one time a child hears about Jesus. In their current situation, knowing their Savior Jesus Christ is more vital than ever.

-Geal G

Redeemer's New Baptismal Font

Blessing of Redeemer's new Baptismal Font on the Last Sunday of Church Year.

The font that was installed recently at Redeemer was supplied jointly by New Holland Church Furniture of New Holland, Pennsylvania, and Henninger's Inc of Brook Park, Ohio. New Holland crafted the base out of rift-sawn red oak wood, and Henninger's sourced the carving of the marble top from artisans in Carrara, Italy.

The font was custom-designed, and a traditional eight-sided font was chosen because of the symbolism associated with the eight sides. Christ was raised on the 8th day of the week, and likewise believers received new life through baptism. Also, in the Old Testament, infant boys were circumcised when they were eight days old. With circumcision being the shadow of the substance that is baptism, an eight-sided font reminds us of that connection. Lastly, the eight-sided font reminds us of the eight souls that were saved in the flood on Noah's ark. The Flood Prayer is traditionally said during a baptism, so this symbolism provides additional reinforcement.

The font was placed at the entrance to the nave in part to provide ornamentation where there had previously been none, but also to show that we are a congregation that places an emphasis on the sacraments. The placement of the font also is in keeping with the tradition that baptism is the entrance into Christian life in the church.

The eight-sided font presented us with the opportunity (and challenge) of including carved imagery on the font. It was decided that four alternating panels would contain Luther's Rose. The remaining four panels would contain Noah's Ark, the Agnus Dei, a shell (a traditional symbol of baptism), and a descending dove which represents the Holy Spirit who is delivered in baptism. Mr. Edward Riojas was commissioned to provide graphic consistency amongst the carvings. Mr. Riojas' designs are also featured in Redeemer's new paraments.

-Chris G

A Note from Pastor Nicholas Salifu Lutheran Church of Ghana

Yesterday I visited Redeemer Lutheran Church in Naransaug. That Church was named after your Church. They were glad when I informed them you sent me an email wanting to know how the Church is doing.

We have 14 congregations, the newest is Peace Lutheran Church in Baakanga. The regular members are about 30. There are many people in the community who have said they would come to church but the devil is keeping them away. We will continue to visit them and pray for them. They Holy Spirit is active and powerful. We trust Him.

Concordia Preparatory School has more than 1000 children. We can record at least 10 Muslim children who have become Christians when they went to Senior High school. The school has dedicated teachers who do very well in Christian Education. The Small Catechism and LHF's A Child's Garden of Bible Stories are constantly used in the school. It would amaze you to hear Muslim children reciting the Ten Commandment, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed.

Brother Phil, please pray for peace in my area where chieftaincy conflict has led to the death of many people. There is curfew from 6pm to 6am.

Also pray for the Church in Ghana (ELCG) where four pastors have taken the Church to court. Their reason is that the election of a new church president in March where one of them who contested lost, was flawed. The judge has asked them to write an undertaking that should they lose the case they would pay compensation to the Church and the president who was elected. They have not written the undertaken since October 15.

I pray for you quite often. You have helped me and the Church in Ghana a lot. Please thank your congregation for us. I plan to visit the USA in May 2025. Would it possible to visit you and Redeemer Church? Let me know if that is possible so that we plan ahead.

The peace of the Lord be with you, your family and the Church.

Blessings and peace, Nicholas

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Naransaug sends you greetings. Because you wanted to see them, I worshipped with them yesterday and took some pictures for you. It is a lovely Church, they have a sizable chapel which can take (Ghana standards) 200 people.

Ghana Harvest

PRAY	DONATE
Pray that God will continue to bless this much-needed, grass roots mission. There are sill over 5,000 villages in this area that have no church. Through your prayers and God's grace, the love of Jesus Christ can be shown to these people. "as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many." II Cor. 1:11	Share some of God's blessings to you with the mission of Ghana Harvest. Give to specific needs you would like to focus on, or offer a general gift to the mission. Click this link below to give online, or mail a check to: Ghana Harvest Box 555 Collinsville, IL 62234

Proclaiming the Praises of Christ in Prague

Sept-Oct 2024

New Member Sunday
20 October

We were expecting to write to you at the end of September about our New Member Sunday. Unfortunately, the weather changed all that. You may have heard there were long-soaking rains that caused flooding here in the Czech Republic. Because of that, we had to delay our New Member Sunday, as two of them were cut off from Prague by the flood waters. We were finally able to receive with joy these new members. Among them were four adult confirmands, and two joined through profession of faith. As our ministry is to the English-speaking community of expats, there were five different nations among the six adults received—Slovakia, Taiwan, Russia, Poland, and Indonesia. The Polish man, who was confirmed, is part of our outreach work in Krakow. There is one other man there who will be confirmed soon. It is good to see the fruits of our labors.

Trip to Silesia

Ministering to those who minister to others

On October 2-4, we were able to visit our fellow missionaries who labor in the eastern part of the Czech Republic. They do extraordinary work. They offer many opportunities to learn English and use these gatherings to engage people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While they attend weekly worship in the local languages, it is always nice to worship in their mother tongue. Our visit enabled that. During our time together, we shared fellowship and meals and topped it off with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. We have decided to work these visits into our regularly-scheduled trips to Krakow after the turn of the year. Please pray for these soldiers of the cross and their work.

Fellowship Opportunities

During the month of September, we had a gathering to go bowling one afternoon. Neither Suzanne nor I are very good at it, but we enjoy being together with the saints. In October, we held a special Reformation Sunday potluck luncheon following the Divine Service. In a way, these could just be seen as opportunities for food and fun; however, these are opportunities to share each other's concerns and even to answer theological questions that are posed. So, these fellowship moments deepen the commitment to the faith as well as the ties to the body of Christ here in Prague.

The Return of the Mock Family

A few months ago, we reported that we lost a missionary family from our congregation as they moved to Riga, Latvia, to labor there. We were so sad to see them go. They had become a big part of the life of St. Michael Lutheran. Due to a number of issues, including visa problems, they have returned to us here in Prague. Thankfully, Cody is able to do his IT work from this location. They were welcomed back on Sunday with open arms and joy-filled hearts.

Trip to Wittenberg, Germany

Recently, we traveled to Lutherstadt-Wittenberg to accompany some friends visiting from the States. Wittenberg is always a nice town to visit. It is so full of Lutheran history that you sense it just walking down its streets. To our surprise, there was a gathering of the International Church Relations Conference taking place at the same time. We were invited by Rev. Dr. David Preus, our regional director, to join them for Vespers and the Divine Service at St. Mary's, the church where Luther often preached. It gave us an opportunity to reconnect with old friends: Bishop John Donkoh of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana; President Felipe Lobo of the Spanish Evangelical Lutheran Church; Rev. Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Director of Church Relations; and Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss, president of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. All of these people have been a blessing to us over our time on the mission field. The high point was definitely attending the Divine Service and receiving the body and blood of Christ. Many faithful Lutherans throughout the centuries have done that right here at this altar. And now, we have been added to that list.

Catechesis Continues

Even though we have recently confirmed four adults, the job of catechesis is not finished. In fact, it is never finished. Our Lord told His Church to "[teach] them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:20) Therefore, we keep teaching so that the body of Christ may be built up. Currently, Dale is continuing to teach two of the adults recently confirmed as they want to gain a deeper understanding of the Church's doctrines. He is also teaching one of our youth so that he can begin participation in the Lord's Supper. On top of this, we keep getting new people who need to learn and rejoice in what Christ has given His Church.

Bible Study Opportunities

In addition to catechesis, Dale leads two weekly Bible studies. The first is on Sunday morning prior to the worship service. We are studying the book of I Corinthians. The second is a Thursday night online Bible study that is currently studying The Revelation of Jesus Christ to St. John.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod
Witness Always

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Home Service Spring of 2025

As we have reported, we will be home in the spring of 2025 in order to share our work here with supporters back home. We have already received several inquiries, and we are hoping for more. Please talk with your pastor(s) and your outreach committee and let them know we would be thrilled to put you or your church on our schedule.

We thank you for reading our newsletter. We ask for your prayers for all our work. And we pray that you, too, will be richly blessed as you hold out the Word of life to a world trapped in death.

Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster, missionaries to the Czech Republic

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

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	**OR**	Mission Central
P.O. Box 66861		40718 Hwy E16
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861		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.

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Divine Service Door Offering Sunday School Voters' Assembly (Budget & Council Slate) Choir	**2** 6:30 pm AA	**3**	**4** 9:45 am Matins 10 am Bible Study 5 pm Confirmation 6 pm Supper 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer	**5**	**6** 6:30 pm LWML Christmas Open House	**7**
8 Second Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Divine Service Sunday School & Adult Bible Study Choir	**9** 6:30 pm AA	**10**	**11** 5 pm Confirmation 6 pm Supper 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer	**12**	**13**	**14**
15 Third Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Divine Service Sunday School & Adult Bible Study Choir 4:30 pm Christmas Hymn Sing followed by Redeemer's Christmas Open House	**16** 6:30 pm AA	**17** 6:30 pm Council	**18** 5 pm Confirmation 6 pm Supper 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer	**19**	**20**	**21**
22 Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:30 am Divine Service Sunday School & Adult Bible Study Choir	**23** 6:30 am AA	**24 The Nativity of Our Lord** (Christmas Eve) 5 pm Divine Service	**25 The Nativity of Our Lord** (Christmas Day) 10 Divine Service	**26**	**27**	**28**
29 First Sunday after Christmas 9:30 am Divine Service LWML Mite Collection Sunday School & Adult Bible Study	**30**	**31**				

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