



# 2018 NETWORK

## REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Jason Kouri, Pastor

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### *Happy New Year 2018!?*

Isn't that a cliché which we have heard over and over? I like it when people tell me instead to have a "Blessed New Year"! There is nothing wrong with "Happy New Year 2018". But in the year number "2018", no reference to God or Jesus is usually made. The same can be said for the word "happy". Jesus is sort of a not welcomed guest. Yet, both 2018 and happiness have much to do with Christ.

Just for fun, try this one on people: "Happy New Year 2018 of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!" Now you're rocking (with me at least)! Just look at the faces of people if this is your wish to them. You'll probably surprise most people or make them uncomfortable, if not afraid you are part of a cult and want to recruit them. "Bless-ed" (pronounced in two syllables) means "heavenly happiness". To be "blessed", ("bless'd" one syllable) means being granted favours and good things by God. My friends, have a bless-ed and bless'd new year of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! In other words, may the Lord Jesus make you happy and give you many good blessings.

How can I dare to invite Jesus in the New Year? Isn't He just for Church - and that's on Sunday? The year 2018 is actually another new year of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is not the new year of the world and the devil. In French, we used to say: "in the year of grace of our Lord" ("l'an de grâce de notre Seigneur"). The world belongs to its Maker, the Word made flesh. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us some 2018 years ago. So, it is the year of our Lord and another year of good grace for you who believe in Him. In addition, all non-believers are invited to take part in that wonderful grace of God in Jesus: free forgiveness by His blood, a God who loves us and who welcomes His children in Heaven.

Did you know that January 1 is the feast of the Circumcision of our Lord and of His Name? On the day of His circumcision the Virgin's son was given His name according to the angel's instruction. His name shall be "Jesus" because "He will save His people from their sins". So, the New Year always begins under the gracious Name of our Saviour Jesus.

May you live under His wondrous Name of love for all of 2018 and unto life everlasting.

Love in Christ,

*Pastor Jason*

*Have A  
Blessed  
New Year!*

## **General Assembly Meeting November 19, 2017**

*The following minutes were taken at the November 19th General Assembly Meeting and will be approved/amended at the June 2018 meeting of the General Assembly.*

The meeting was held after Sunday service with 28 members present. A light lunch was available. Board President, Gary Whitson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m. The meeting package was distributed to all members prior to the meeting, as requested, either by e-mail or hard copy, and additional copies were available at the meeting.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Kouri.

### **Review of Previous Minutes:**

**Motion:** It was moved by **Peggy Helliker** and seconded by **Mary Pyne** to adopt the minutes of the June 18, 2017 General Assembly Meeting as recorded. **Carried**

**President's Report:** President, Gary Whitson's report was presented in the package. He reviewed his report and commented on the positive aspects of the Luther movie presentation on October 26, 2017.

Gary Whitson also noted that a number of facility improvements have been made or are in process, including the new handicapped accessible door, the replacement of the broken window in the Narthex, new roof exhaust fans, repairs to our aging organ, the replacement of the Pastor's microphone (including a spare), and the purchasing of new folding tables and chairs for the church hall. Other repairs or replacements will be required for our aging premises. Peggy Helliker advised that a way to support the costs of roof replacement would be to have each member/family buy a bundle of shingles for the project.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Kouri's report was included in the meeting package. He asked for questions from the floor.

Barb Ryder asked Pastor if he would consider leading a Bible study group. A time for this study to take place was discussed and will be reviewed by the Worship Committee and then sent to the Board of Directors for approval. Pastor will ask for input.

**Director of Finance Report:** Michel Poliquin, Director of Finance, reviewed the financial report included in the meeting package.

The first page of his report related to Donation Liabilities (Package Page 10). A line by line explanation by Michel indicated that a total of \$26,141 was designated for distribution to various missions. Of the \$26,141 set aside for donations, \$13,562 has been donated. The donation for French hymnals for Africa will be paid out when the invoice is received. The balance (\$10,704) has been set aside for donation as worthy causes are identified in 2018.

The second and third pages of his report related to the 2018 Budget (Package pages 11 and 12). The following comments were made by Michel. An increase of 10% for Electricity and Water and an increase of 25% for Gas has been built in to the budget. This was deemed necessary according to current trends. The mortgage has been paid off. Office expenses have been increased to allow for proposed purchases for a new photo copier when our contract runs out in February 2018 and new computers and better internet connection. Salaries are down due to the fact that Pastor's car allowance has been changed to mileage charged for business. The property upkeep allocation allows for small improvements plus the purchase of tables and chairs. The 2018 budget total is \$239,005. The fourth page of the report was on the U.S. account (Package Page 13). Currently we have \$1,705 U.S. or \$2,186 Canadian in our U.S. account.

Pages 14 to 20 laid out the Giving Strategy and Advice for the congregation.

Sheila Ginn spoke about giving to missions and the need to support our own mission, that of Redeemer Lutheran Church, as well as being prudent in how we direct our mission dollars outside our church.

A complete copy of the Financial Report is on file with the minutes.

**Motion:** It was moved by Betty Smith and seconded by Ken Burchill to accept the 2018 Budget as presented. **Carried**

At this point in the meeting, Michel Poliquin surprised the assembly with the ceremony of "Burning the Mortgage" and Sheila Ginn distributed decorated cupcakes complete with red chocolate "flames".

**Ministry Group Reports:** Reports from the Directors of Facilities, Worship, Witness and Outreach, and Fellowship were included in the meeting package as well as a report from W.O.R.S.H.I.P (Women of Redeemer, Sharing, Helping In Prayer).

**Election of Officers:** Ken Burchill presided over the election for Board positions for 2018.

**President:** Gary Whitson has agreed to let his name stand for President. There were no other nominations from the floor.

**Motion:** It was moved by **John Smith** and seconded by **George Laucek** that nominations be closed. **Carried**  
**Gary Whitson declared President for 2018.**

**Vice-President:**

The following name was put forth for election; Jerry Shuster.

**Motion:** It was moved by **Brian Rose** and seconded by **Rick Higgins** that nominations be closed. **Carried**  
**Jerry Shuster declared Vic-President for 2018.**

**Director of Finance:** **Michel Poliquin** remains as director of finance for year two of a two year term.

**Secretary:** Sheila Ginn agreed to let her name stand for a second term as Secretary.  
There were no other nominations from the floor.

**Motion:** It was moved by **Michel Poliquin** and seconded by **Jane Anne Rose** that nominations be closed.  
**Carried** **Sheila Ginn declared Secretary for 2018**

**Directors at Large:** The following names were submitted to run for Director at Large positions: **Barb Barraclough, Kim Ebert, Dan Hansen and Lee Schooley.** There were no other nominations from the floor.

**Motion:** It was moved by **Sheila Ginn** and seconded by **John Smith** that nominations be closed. **Carried**

**Barb Barraclough, Kim Ebert, Dan Hansen and Lee Schooley declared Directors at Large.**

Brian Rose and Betty Smith remain as Directors at Large in the second year of their two year terms.

**2018 Board of Directors:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Gary Whitson</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Jerry Shuster</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Sheila Ginn</b>
<b>Director of Finance</b>	<b>Michel Poliquin</b>
<b>Directors at Large</b>	<b>Barb Barraclough, Kim Ebert, Dan Hansen, Brian Rose, Lee Schooley, Betty Smith</b>

There was **no support** from the General Assembly for a motion to give the Board of Directors the authority to appoint two additional Directors at Large, if required.

**Election of Delegates to District Convention:**

Gary Whitson and Pastor Kouri addressed the need for a delegate to be elected for the District Convention in Anne Arbour, Michigan, June 19-21, 2018 and for a delegate to be elected for the Circuit Forum conference call, January 23, 2018 to elect a circuit visitor.

**Michel Poliquin** agreed to stand for both positions and was elected by the General Assembly to fill those positions.

**Other Business:**

Pastor Kouri encouraged the congregation to support the processes that have been put in place for the effective administration of Redeemer policies and procedures.

He asked all to work together to accommodate the concerns of all. Gary Whitson urged us to appreciation each other's talents.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Kouri.

**Motion:** It was moved by **Dan Hansen** and seconded by **Janice Maxfield** to adjourn the meeting at 12:37 p.m. **Carried**

Sheila Ginn, Secretary

# W.O.R.S.H.I.P. NEWS

## (Women Of Redeemer Sharing Helping In Prayer)

### NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at noon. Following the lunch we will be discussing our plans for 2018. If you would like to participate in the lunch preparations, please contact Sheila Ginn by email at [sginn@cogeco.ca](mailto:sginn@cogeco.ca) or by calling her at 519-542-3663. Bring a friend. All are welcome. Thank you.



### FEBRUARY MEETING

We will have a guest speaker for our February soup lunch on February 28. The topic will be Alzheimer's disease. We are asking the men of the congregation to join us for this event. Watch for further details in the February Network and in your weekly bulletins.



### SPECIAL EVENT IN FEBRUARY



A Valentine's tea is being planned with a tentative date of Thursday, February 8. We will be inviting the CWL ladies from St. Benedict's, Our Lady of Mercy and St. Joseph's parishes. With this tea, the women of Redeemer are reciprocating the hospitality shown to us last June when we were invited to OLM where the CWL acknowledged the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. We were presented with a white rose for planting on our property, and we participated in the planting of a similar rose at OLM. More details will be available in your Sunday bulletins and the February Network.

### STUDENT ENCOURAGEMENT PROGRAM

The second mail out will be sent out at the beginning of February. If you have a student who you would like added to the list, please forward their name and postal address to Sheila Ginn at the email in the church roster, or leave the information in her mailbox at the church.



### CONFIRMAND SECRET PALS

The Christmas lunch at the home of Pastor and Julie Kouri on Saturday, December 9 was a success with all confirmands and their secret pals in attendance. Thank you to Pastor and Julie for hosting the gathering. Please continue to support your secret pal. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Ginn at 519-542-3663, or [sginn@cogeco.ca](mailto:sginn@cogeco.ca).



# MORE W.O.R.S.H.I.P. NEWS

### SPRING PROJECT

When you are cleaning out closets or putting away seasonal items etc., please save your gently used handbags for the handy hand bag project that we will be organizing in the spring. **Before bringing your items to the church, please contact Sheila Ginn.**



### FUNERAL RECEPTIONS

If you would like to be a part of the Funeral Reception Team, please contact Sheila Ginn at 519-542-3663, or by email. Volunteers are necessary so that we can provide families with caring service during their time of need. Both men and women are a part of this group.



### KITCHEN NEWS

Please refer to the user friendly maps posted in the kitchen to locate dishes, utensils, etc. When working in the kitchen, **please return items to their proper places** and ensure that all used items are emptied and cleaned before being put away. Clean up in the kitchen is being done on an ongoing basis. **Anyone wishing to donate items to the kitchen should first contact Sheila Ginn.**

### PRE-AUTHORIZED OFFERING PROGRAM

Many of our members have now signed up to take part in a pre-authorized offering program administered through Faith Life Financial.

**You are able to sign up anytime** to take part in the pre-authorized offering program.

**This type of giving is strictly voluntary.**



We are allowed three funds to which we can contribute. They are "**Weekly Offerings**", "**Building Fund**" and "**Non-Budget Missions**".

If you want to donate to any other category ( ex. Food Bank, CLWR, Altar Guild, Memorial Fund etc.) you will have to do it through the offering plate.

Michel Poliquin, Director of Finance will answer any questions about this program. If you would like a form to fill out to participate, please speak to Jane Anne in the church office.



Our church supports the work of The Inn of the Good Shepherd by gathering non-perishable food and cleaning supplies (no fresh fruit or vegetables please). You can help with this outreach ministry by picking up some extra items the next time you shop. Items may be placed in the "treasure chest" in the narthex. At this time of year, many in our community rely on the donations to the Inn to help put food on their tables. Items that are always appreciated are:

canned pasta	pasta & sauce	baby diapers
canned fruit	peanut butter	laundry soap
large cans of juice	juice boxes	baby formula
school snacks	powdered milk	hygiene products
potato side dishes	rice/pasta side dishes	dish soap

## CHURCH STATISTICS

### FUNERAL

December 21, 2017

**James Sperling**

January 9, 1943 – December 16, 2017



Members are reminded that those who wish to do so may make donations to the Redeemer Choir in Jim's memory. Please indicate this on your offering envelope, or use one of the special envelopes for memorial donations that can be found in the church foyer.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Correction to address for  
**Doug & Nadine Lasenby**

**1041** Mike Weir Drive  
Bright's Grove, Ontario N0N 1C0

**New address for Carol Davidson**

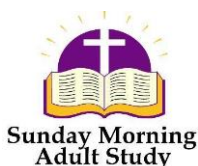
1310 Exmouth Street, Apt. 225  
Sarnia, Ontario N7S 3X9



## Interested in joining a Bible Study?

There's still time for you to let us know if you would like to be part of a new Bible Study group on Sundays. We will look into planning this new worship opportunity at the next Worship Committee Meeting if we have enough interest.

Please contact the church office  
before January 15<sup>th</sup>.



Sunday Morning  
Adult Study

## 2018 Church Telephone Directory

Please make a stop at the small table in the foyer to check your listing that will be in our 2018 Telephone Directory. Put a check mark ✓ beside your listing if all is correct. Make any additions or deletions necessary.

If you are not in our directory and wish to be, please add your name and information on the sheet in the back of the book. We welcome the addition of your email address, as this saves on mailing costs.

We hope to have the new directories ready to distribute in early February.



## MISSION SUNDAY & SOUP LUNCH SUNDAY, JANUARY 21



Pastor Kouri has arranged for a Mission Sunday celebration to take place on Sunday, January 21, 2018. The Rev. Dr. Timothy Rossow will be the guest preacher for Sunday worship, and a soup lunch will follow in the church hall with a presentation by Dr. Rossow to follow.

Rev. Dr. Timothy Rossow is the Director of Development for Lutherans in Africa. He served Bethany Lutheran Church in Naperville, IL as the Sr. Pastor for 22 years (1994-2016) and was Sr. Pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran in Dearborn, MI prior to that. He currently resides in Ocean Shores WA with his wife Phyllis. He regularly teaches in Africa. He also paints watercolors, reads philosophy and golfs. He is currently represented in two art galleries in the Pacific Northwest. His M Div is from Concordia, St. Louis and he has an MA in philosophy from St. Louis University and a D Min from Concordia, Fort Wayne.

A sign-up poster is in the church foyer for those wishing to attend. Please indicate the number in your family/group that plan on taking part in this lunch event.

If you would like to participate in the preparations for the soup lunch, please contact Sheila Ginn at 519-542-3663 or [sginn@cogeco.ca](mailto:sginn@cogeco.ca) for details.





## Redeemer 2018 Board of Directors

President: Gary Whitson  
Vice-President: Jerry Shuster  
Secretary: Sheila Ginn  
Dir. of Finance: Michel Poliquin

Directors at Large: Barb Barraclough  
Kim Ebert  
Dan Hansen  
Lee Schooley  
Brian Rose  
Betty Smith



*Thank you to those members who have completed terms and have served us faithfully!*

**The minutes of the November 2017 General Assembly meeting can be found in this month's Network.**

**Please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Directors with any concerns or questions you have. The Board meets regularly on the second Wednesday of each month.**

### THANK YOU TO REDEEMER MEMBERS

As in past years, December was an extremely busy month for Redeemer members. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who took time out of their own busy personal schedules to help out with the many activities and services at Redeemer during December and the Christmas season. Blessings and God's peace and love to you and your families in 2018.



*Gary Whitson*

### DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS



*Thank you to those people who have placed flowers on the altar in 2017 in memory of a loved one, or to commemorate a special occasion. If you would like to donate flowers in 2018, please check the new Flower Chart in the hallway on the bulletin board and sign up there. If you have any questions about the placement of flowers, please contact Jennie McPhail, Altar Guild Chairperson at 519-336-3055.*

### MEETING OF ALTAR GUILD

The next meeting of the Altar Guild is scheduled for Saturday, January 13 at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

Pastor Jason will be giving a short talk on "Holy Baptism".



Sarnia NeighbourLink has a client in need of help in January to help pack household contents, and in February to help unpack after a move on February 1.

If you are able to offer some assistance, please telephone the NeighbourLink office at 519-336-5465 and speak with Brenda Cowan, Director of Client Services.

### The Holy Alphabet

**A**lthough things are not perfect  
**B**ecause of trial or pain  
**C**ontinue in thanksgiving  
**D**o not begin to blame.  
**E**ven when the times are hard  
**F**ierce winds are bound to blow  
**G**od is forever able  
**H**old on to what you know.  
**I**magine life without His love  
**J**oy would cease to be  
**K**eep thanking Him for all the things  
**L**ove imparts to thee.  
**M**ove out of "Camp Complaining"  
**N**o weapon that is known  
**O**n earth can yield the power  
**P**raise can do alone.  
**Q**uit looking at the future  
**R**edeem the time at hand  
**S**tart every day with worship  
**T**o "thank" is a command.  
**U**ntil we see Him coming  
**V**ictorious in the sky  
**W**e'll run the race with gratitude  
**X**alting God most high.  
**Y**es, there'll be some good times,  
and yes some will be sad, but  
**Z**ion waits in glory ...  
where we'll be forever glad!+



# SERVING AS WE WORSHIP IN JANUARY 2018

## JANUARY 7, 2018

**USHERS:** F. Brown, B. Loerke, G. Laucek, H. Wygergangs  
**COUNTERS:** A. Gidla, D. Cook  
**LECTOR:** Kim Soeder  
**COFFEE:** George Laucek  
**ACOLYTE:** Lowell Behm  
**COMMUNION:** B. Cadman, J. Roszell  
**ALTAR:** J. McPhail, D. Cook, J. Schooley, J. Behm  
**ALTAR LINENS:** Carolyn Kutz

## JANUARY 21, 2018

**USHERS:** I. Lough, C. Lough, B. Bork, B. Rose  
**COUNTERS:** B. Lumley, S. Devingt  
**LECTOR:** Barbara Ryder  
**COFFEE:** Sheila Ginn  
**ACOLYTE:** Léa Kouri  
**COMMUNION:** M. Poliquin  
**ALTAR:** B. Smith, K. Mutis, D. Paisley, J. Huzevka  
**ALTAR LINENS:** Carolyn Kutz

## JANUARY 14, 2018

**USHERS:** B. Cadman, J. Cadman, T. Yarc, J. Mutis  
**COUNTERS:** J. Shuster, R. Klages  
**LECTOR:** Barb Barraclough  
**COFFEE:** Bill & Jane Cadman  
**ACOLYTE:** Matthew Heno  
**COMMUNION:** B. Cadman, G. Laucek  
**ALTAR:** J. McPhail, D. Cook, J. Schooley, J. Behm  
**ALTAR LINENS:** Carolyn Kutz

## JANUARY 28, 2018

**USHERS:** R. Steinman, C. Lutz, J. Roszell, R. Honke  
**COUNTERS:** C. Lough, I. Lough  
**LECTOR:** Bill Cadman  
**COFFEE:** Kelly Mutis & Kristian Barraclough  
**ACOLYTE:** Lowell Behm  
**COMMUNION:** R. Steinman, P. McPhail  
**ALTAR:** B. Smith, K. Mutis, D. Paisley, J. Huzevka  
**ALTAR LINENS:** Carolyn Kutz

## BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY



Jan. 1 – Fred Behm  
 Jan. 4 – Acelyn Brown  
 Jan. 5 – Ruth Machan,  
 Jim Saul, Diane Cox,  
 Tom Jackson, Taylor Clark  
 Jan. 6 – Tessa Bowles,  
 Barbara Gaudreau,  
 Mitchell Paisley  
 Jan. 7 – Len Meere,  
 Ben Wilson  
 Jan. 9 – Shirley Gunn,  
 Jadyn Clark

Jan. 10 – Jaime Guthrie,  
 Julie Guthrie  
 Jan. 11 – Terry Easterby,  
 Peter Gruening,  
 Doris Kusnir  
 Jan. 12 – Sue Downey  
 Jan. 16 – Jade Soper  
 Jan. 17 – Connie Lough,  
 Alex Klemm  
 Jan. 20 – Abraham Gidla  
 Jan. 21 – Joe Kusnir,  
 George Laucek,  
 Joseph Messeroll  
 Jan. 22 – Robert Kirk  
 Jan. 23 – Léa Kouri  
 Jan. 24 – Betty Smith  
 Jan. 25 – Kaitlyn Rivait,  
 Megan Rivait, Tony Yarc

Jan. 26 – Bob Robinson  
 Jan. 28 – Barb Barraclough,  
 Tara Saul  
 Jan. 29 – Brian Rose  
 Jan. 30 – Ted Cooper,  
 Jean Roszell  
 Jan. 31 – Kathy Dunlop

happy,  
 happy  
 birthday  
 to you!

## ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY

Derek & Louise Brazier  
*January 12, 1990*

Arlo & Katie Moen  
*January 18, 1964*

Andy & Donna Schmidtmeyer  
*January 25, 1986*



***Please advise the secretary of any errors or omissions in our birthday & anniversary lists.***

# January

*And God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night, and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years."*

**Genesis 1:14**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 9:00 am Men's Bible Study  7:00 pm Redeemer Choir	5	6
7 10:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 	8	9 9:30 am Living Way Bible Study 4:15 pm Confirmation	10 7:00 pm Board of Directors 	11 9:00 am Men's Bible Study  7:00 pm Redeemer Choir	12	13 10:00 am Altar Guild 4:30 pm Worship 
14 10:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 	15	16 9:30 am Living Way Bible Study 4:15 pm Confirmation	17 7:00 pm Sunday School Teachers 	18 9:00 am Men's Bible Study 	19	20 4:30 pm Worship 
21 <b>Mission Sunday</b> 10:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 11:30 am Soup Lunch 	22 ← 	23 9:30 am Living Way Bible Study 4:15 pm Confirmation	24 12:00 pm WORSHIP Soup Lunch & guest speaker 	25 9:00 am Men's Bible Study 	26	27 4:30 pm Worship 
28 10:00 am Worship 10:30 am Sunday School 	29	30 9:30 am Living Way Bible Study 4:15 pm Confirmation	31			