

December 2019

REDEEMER EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

The Master's Touch



From the Pastor's Desk

So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18)

I like to do my own yardwork, but I am not very good at it. In my yard, the plants I intentionally nurture usually die. The plants I am intentionally trying to kill off usually blossom. Years ago, I had a plant on my patio that surprised me. After a spring of doing my best to make sure it thrived, summer won out. The once green plant was a leafless, brown-gray mass. I would glance at it through my patio glass-door as visual proof of my shortcomings as a gardener. I was tempted to throw it away, but I was too lazy. From my kitchen table, I stared at the leafless mass all that fall and into winter.

To my surprise (and humility!), March weather prompted the plant to begin its life cycle again. One Saturday morning I glanced out the patio door and caught a tiny bit of green. I assumed it was a gecko and ignored it. Another splotch of green 3 days later. Before too long, the plant I had known the past spring was back. It continued despite my futile efforts and it continued despite my neglect. Whatever "death" I saw on the surface, life was stirring below, where I could not see it.

Every Christian must learn to see that in life, two different realms are operating at

the same time. We have our physical world in which we see all the things around us. But there is also a spiritual world, in which there are things that matter deeply to God, things we might not easily see. During a winter in which we only see the physical death, God is nurturing new life under the surface.

For centuries Christians have used the time before Christmas (Advent) to intentionally develop the qualities we need to survive when we cannot see the life God is nurturing beneath the surface. During life's winters (both physical and spiritual) it is not

our physical circumstances which give us strength. Instead the deep roots of Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love will

sustain us when our circumstances cannot. We may not be feeling very hopeful or loving but that's the catch – we develop these qualities despite our circumstances, not because of our circumstances. This December, when you pass a plant that has shed its leaves and looks dormant, take a moment to remind yourself that life is still there.

- Mark Mohrweis

Mark@RedeemerECC.org



Council Corner - MaryRose Ratcliff

Greetings Redeemer Family!
I grew up in Milwaukee, WI, and was raised in the Catholic Church. I came to Texas in 1976 and have been here ever since. More than anything, I wanted to be a mom and have a dozen children. Thank goodness God knew what was best for me and gave me half of a dozen – once I



started having children I couldn't imagine what it would be like to have twelve! He continued to grant the desire of my heart and blessed me with seventeen grandkids and a great-grandson with a sister on the way. Having a big family certainly has challenges, but the joy my family brings me is beyond measure.

Continued on page 2.

Council Corner (continued from page 1)

In my early twenties I stopped going to church. It wasn't making sense to me anymore, and I started questioning what I knew about God and religion. I knew God was with me and I continued to pray but didn't start attending church again until the late nineties. A friend of mine invited me to visit Redeemer a few times and I did – the church felt good and right, but still I didn't become a regular. Easter Sunday 2004 God decided I had waited long enough, woke me up and told me to go to church. This time I listened, came to Redeemer and I'm still here. From the first moment, I was welcomed and loved by people that had never seen me before, and I knew my heart had found a home.

In 2002 I became a widow and spent the next few years evaluating my life and preparing for whatever God had planned for me. In 2008 He brought a wonderful guy named Doug into my life, and in 2017 he became my husband. Two years later he is still a wonderful guy and I could not "do life" without him.

Being the Discipleship Chair is the first time I've been on the church Council. The Discipleship Chair works to provide programs and resources that will assist Redeemer

members and visitors in developing and deepening their relationship with God. Children and Adult Education is a primary focus. This includes ensuring the curriculum used in our children's classes is age appropriate with content that falls in line with our goal of ensuring that every child learns about God, that they are loved by God and that God has a plan for each of them. Learning Bible stories and Scripture is included in every lesson. We also strive to minister to the parents and families of the children with help learning and navigating the path toward a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Adult Bible studies and Sunday School provide an opportunity for delving deeper into the Bible and learning how the Bible is relevant in our lives today.

Right now I am excited about the decision to hire a full-time Associate Pastor that will focus primarily on the youth but also assist with the administrative part of Discipleship. I'm looking forward to 2020 and I believe that Redeemer will continue to grow in both size and strength as we seek God's direction and guidance.

- MaryRose Ratcliff

MaryRose@RedeemerECC.org

Advent Dinner

Sunday, the 8th at 5:30 P.M.

Join us for a fun evening of entertainment, fellowship, and great food! The BBQ meat is catered. The side dishes and desserts are potluck.

Ticket Costs

\$6 for adults & \$3 for children

Under 5 years are free

Help Needed

Setup:

We will need lots of help after the worship service on Sunday, to move chairs, set up the tables, and decorate.

Food:

Help prepare and serve food and drinks.

Clean up:

We will need lots of help cleaning up.

Contact Sheryl:

sherylsmith123@verizon.net



Angel Tree Ministry & Christmas Outreach

"One in 28 children in America has a parent behind bars. These children often feel abandoned, ashamed, and alone. But they don't have to. Give these children the joy of *Angel Tree*!"

Beginning Sunday, December 1

Find the display in the lobby to see how you can help these families.



Helping an Angel is As Easy as 1-2-3:

1. **Select an angel** from the Angel Tree in the lobby beginning **December 1**. You will follow the instructions given to you that correspond with the particular angel you chose.

2. **Purchase a gift** (costing \$25) and wrap it.

3. **Deliver the gift** following the directions given for your angel by **December 22**.

Low on Funds? Contact Pastor Dieula to Volunteer to Help with One of These:

Deliver Angel Tree Gifts on behalf of Redeemer members who are unable to deliver their gifts.

Pray for the families who will be touched by this ministry. Thanks!

To Help or Ask Questions:

Please contact Pastor Dieula Previlon at dieula@redeemerecc.org.

Angel Tree Children of an Incarcerated Parent - We are partnering with *Angel Tree*, a program of Prison Fellowship, to connect parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts given on their behalf.

Redeemer Families and ESL Students in Need - We are also aware of the needs of families within the walls of Redeemer and our ministries. These families will be on the tree as anonymous.

Missionary Families - Our missionaries both local and international serve God in the trenches every single day and we want to remember them with a special gift.

Children's Musical: The Christmas Story



Sunday, December 22
10:45 a.m.

The children of Redeemer will lead us in worship by performing a musical of the Christmas story.

After their musical they will go to their classrooms for a Birthday Party for Jesus!

Parents, if you want to help or if you have any questions, see Megan Edge, Luetta Milbrandt, or Julie Persson.

Practice Times:

Sundays, December 1-15
during the worship service
Saturday, December 21 at 9:30 a.m.

FAREWELL CELEBRATION!

HONORING PASTOR DIEULA
AS SHE STARTS A NEW JOURNEY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

6:30 P.M. IN REDEEMER'S SANCTUARY

Be sure to join us as we say goodbye to Pastor Dieula.

We will be celebrating her 5 years of ministry with us and praying a blessing over her as she transitions to where God has called her next.

The theme is "Dessert Potluck." Bring whatever dessert is your favorite to bake, buy, or share. If you want to bring a note of encouragement or a gift card, those are welcome as well.

Finally, if you would be interested in helping with last minute plans for this event, or if you can help with set-up or work in the kitchen please let us know.

Contact Pastor Mark to get plugged in. (mark@redeemerecc.org)



Pray for Our Pastoral Staff Search!

As we say goodbye to Pastor Dieula, there is a big change on the horizon with our staff.

Our congregation made the decision in October to combine her position along with our open youth pastor position into one full-time position. The new position will serve in our Discipleship department. It will primarily emphasize youth ministry but also provide leadership in some much-needed administrative tasks within Discipleship ministries.

We covet your prayers for this search! The advertisement for the job will go live in December and we will be collecting resumes the entire month. During December we will also give an update on the formation of a Search Committee.



Interviews will begin in early 2020 with the hope (but no guarantees) of a candidate by the spring of 2020.

Specifically, you can pray that the advertisement gets to the right places so word would spread. Pray that God would prompt candidates to apply. Pray for the church Council to refine the job description so that it is realistic but also addresses our biggest needs.

Pray for those being asked to serve on the search committee, that God would make it clear if they are called to serve this way.

Questions?

Contact Pastor Mark at Mark@RedeemerECC.org or Council Chair Tasha Moore at [Tasha.Lynn.Moore \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:Tasha.Lynn.Moore@gmail.com).



Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24 at 6:00 P.M. & 11:00 P.M.

Everyone is invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with us! Our Christmas Eve worship service is made up of traditional Scripture readings, Christmas carols, and lighting candles. In order to accommodate people's various traditions and needs, we have two time options:

- A "family friendly" time at 6:00 P.M.
- A "midnight" service at 11:00 P.M.

Join us for whichever time works best for you.

New Year's Eve Game Night!

Tuesday, December 31

7:00 P.M. to Midnight

Redeemer's Fellowship Hall

We'll provide the food!

Bring your favorite game to play.

Everyone is welcome to join us!

Stay as long or short as you like!

Bring the kids in their jammies & a sleeping bag!

**Invite your friends and neighbors
for a safe, fun way
to ring in the New Year!**



Save the Date: Taking Down the Greens

Saturday, January 4, 9:00 A.M. We will need your help!

Your participation will make it fun to:

- Put away Advent decorations
- Start 2020 out fresh and clean
- Get to know each other

Please help us prepare Redeemer for 2020! Contact Joy Persson at [joy.persson \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:joy.persson@gmail.com).



Thank You So Much!!! **-from our staff**

Dear Redeemer,
We want to thank everyone in the congregation so much for the generous financial gift we all received as part of Pastor Appreciation month in October. It is a privilege and a joy to serve this congregation. Your encouragement and support means so much to us. Thank you all!!!
Love,
Mark, Dieula, Cassie, and Lori



Volunteers Needed for 2020 Scholarship Committee



We are entering our third year for Redeemer's \$1000 Endowed Scholarship for a local high school graduate!

We are looking for volunteers to be part of the Scholarship Committee for 2020.

If you want to read student applications and help bless a graduate next spring, please

contact Pastor Mark at Mark@RedeemerECC.org.

Please pray for the scholarship committee as they look for the special recipient in 2020. Also pray for guidance for the students as they apply for scholarships and make plans for the next steps they take in life after high school graduation.

2020 Budget Committee

Please pray for Redeemer's Council and the Budget Committee this month as they look at our finances and work on a budget for 2020.

This year's Budget Committee is:

- Randy Clark
- Gaylon Hull
- Mark Mohrweis
- Warren Leonhardi
- Jake Petty
- Deb Christopher

Their job is to look at our finances and giving trends, estimate next year's giving and income, listen to all the ministry leaders and consider their budget requests, and propose a budget to the Council. Then, at the January 26, 2020 congregational meeting, the Council will propose the new budget for congregational approval.



Check Request Deadline **Sunday, December 15**

In order to close out our books, get a proper financial report, and help our budget committee, we need to have all check requests and reimbursement requests for 2019 turned in no later than December 15.

1. Fill out a Check Request Form (found in the office) and paper clip your receipt and any documentation you have. (Be sure to keep a copy.)
2. Turn it in to the appropriate Council Member or Staff Person for approval.
3. A Council Member must approve and sign all disbursement requests and turn them in no later than Sunday, December 15. Allow several weeks for check reimbursement.



Meet People and Form Friendships

Men's Breakfast



The 1st Saturday of the Month

December 7 at 8:30-10:00 A.M.

Men, join us in Fellowship Hall for breakfast, fellowship, and prayer. Invite a friend or neighbor. Bring your sons or father. Come make some new friends. Let's walk alongside each other as we follow Christ!

Contact Steve Hall at [StevenRileyHall \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:StevenRileyHall@gmail.com).

Redeemer's Book Club Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7

NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION:

Sunday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m.

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

Redeemer's Book Club meets to discuss one book a month from a wide variety of genres, fiction, non-fiction, secular, Christian, classics, contemporary, etc.

Join us once in a while or every month! Invite your non-church friends, too!

Questions? Contact Lori Vriend at Lori@RedeemerECC.org.



ESL Classes

Mondays & Wednesdays

6:00-8:30 P.M.

in Fellowship Hall

We have two beginning level English classes: Basic and High Beginning. Both classes have 24 students from all over the world.

Want to help? Many of our students come straight from work and are hungry. We need donations of snacks! Contact Lori@RedeemerECC.org

Penny Manna



Help us bless those in need! Let God take what is considered worthless and magnify it for His Glory!

Collect those unwanted pennies and coins and place them in the Penny Manna jar located in the church lobby. All donations are sent to Covenant World Relief (covchurch.org/relief).

Iglesia Christiana Emanuel International

Iglesia Emanuel is a Spanish speaking church that rents Redeemer's building on Wednesday evenings for Bible study and on Sundays at 1 P.M. for worship. They often have music practice at Redeemer on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings.



Study, Learn, and Grow



Bible Studies for Adults

Deepen your faith, get to know God better, understand more of the Bible, develop friendships that help you grow!

Wednesdays at 7- 8:30 P.M.

Join us for a verse-by-verse study of the book of **Revelation** led by Pastor Mark. We are meeting in room 110 of the Christian Education Wing. Contact Pastor Mark at Mark@RedeemerECC.org for details.

Sundays at 9:30-10:30 P.M.

Join us in Fellowship Hall (A) as we study **Kay Arthur's Lord Teach Me to Pray**. Bible study will not meet Sundays, December 22nd and 29th. Questions? Contact Ron and Julie at [rjpersson \(at\) Verizon.net](mailto:rjpersson@verizon.net)

Note to Parents: We are sorry, there is currently no childcare or class for younger children at these times.

CREW Youth Group

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 P.M.



Redeemer CREW (Christians Reaching Everywhere Worldwide) is our youth program for **middle school and high school** students. They meet in Room

108. Have questions, or want to volunteer to help? Contact Joy Persson at [Joy.Persson \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:Joy.Persson@gmail.com).

Nursery Care

Sunday Mornings, 10:30 A.M. to Noon



Infants from birth up to age 2 are cared for in room 115.

Toddlers (2s & 3s) meet in room 114.

There is also a **"Cry Room"** at the back of the sanctuary for nursing

momms or fussy babies. Questions about our Children's Ministry? Contact our Discipleship Chair, MaryRose Ratcliff at MaryRose@RedeemerECC.org.

Children's Church

Sunday Mornings

We provide age-appropriate opportunities for children to learn and have fun during the worship service.



The toddlers meet at 10:30 A.M. to noon in room 114.

Preschool—Kindergarten meet from 10:30 A.M. to noon in room 113.

Grades 1-5 join their parents during the first part of the worship service at 10:45 A.M. Then, during the offertory, they are dismissed to room 109 for their own worship time.

GIFTS

God's
Girls
In
Faith
Together
Selflessly



A discipleship group for girls in 4th & 5th grades.

Meets on most Tuesdays 6:15-7:15 P.M.

Led by Megan Hull and usually meets at Julie Persson's home.
[rjpersson \(at\) Verizon.net](mailto:rjpersson@verizon.net)

Celebrate Recovery (CR)

Join us every Thursday at Redeemer!

All are welcome to this place of fellowship and support!

Join us for any or all of these activities:

6:15 P.M. - Unwind & Eat: Join us as we relax and eat dinner together. We usually have a home-cooked meal.

7:00 P.M. - Worship God: Join us for music, teaching, inspiration, and testimony in the sanctuary.

8:00 P.M. - Share what is on your heart: Men and women meet separately in smaller rooms for Open Share time.

9:00 P.M. - Café Koinonia: Have a cup of coffee and a snack, look for an accountability partner, or just get to know people.

Come walk with us as we seek healing and wholeness in Jesus Christ!

Everyone is welcome!

Volunteers needed.

To learn more or volunteer to help,
contact Steve or Lyn Hall at
RedeemerCR@gmail.com.



Praying with Each Other

Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting

10:00-10:30 A.M.

Come pray with us for whatever is on your heart! Want healing? Concerned about something? Join us in praying for the church, each other, and our community. We meet in the Prayer Room to pray as the Spirit leads.

(Sorry, no childcare provided at this time.)



Prayer Requests

- **Sunday's Welcome Pads**—Unless you direct us otherwise, we type up the prayer requests written in the Sunday morning Welcome Pads and print them for those who pray in the Prayer Room on Wednesday evenings.

- **Email Your Requests**—Requests and praises emailed to the church or to Lori@RedeemerECC.org are forwarded to our prayer partners via

email and added to the list for Wednesday night prayer.

- **Call Us**—Call the church (972-466-0054) if you have a confidential or urgent prayer request. Our pastors and staff will be happy to pray with you.
- **Healing Prayer**—We believe God can heal bodies, relationships, spirits, and minds. If you would like prayer: call the church office or come to prayer on Sunday morning.

The Prayer Room is Open

Sundays at 9 A.M. to Noon

Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 P.M.

The prayer room is open for anyone who would like to gather to pray. A prayer guide with the congregation's prayer requests is available in the prayer room.

December Dates

Please join us in praying for these people on their special day:

Happy Birthday!

12/01	Bethany Milbrandt
12/04	Mark Mohrweis
12/13	Matt Bass
12/16	Elly Joiner
12/17	Janet Brode
12/18	Jose Luis Salazar
12/23	Kimberly Hull

Happy Anniversary!

12/13	Matt & Patti Bass
12/16	Steve & Michaelle Schwartz
12/26	Elvis & Eunice Obinma
12/28	Jake & Kimmy Petty

If we do not have your special day, please let us know so we can add you to the list.

Find Us on Facebook

Redeemer: www.facebook.com/#!/redeemercarrollton

Redeemer Women's Fellowship:
www.facebook.com/#!/roups/226778084046250/

Redeemer CREW:
www.facebook.com/#!/groups/157436294355726/



Redeemer's Website

www.RedeemerECC.org

Listen to sermon podcasts, learn about our ministries, see our calendar, give online, and much more!

Our Denomination

Redeemer is a member of **The Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC)**. To learn about our denomination, our college and seminary, what we believe, and the many Covenant ministries, departments, and activities, visit our webpage

www.covchurch.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/#!/covchurch.



Redeemer Covenant Church Contributions Report

Monthly As Of: 09/30/19

General

General - (Less eGiving)	22,012.50
eGiving	3,802.53
Total Monthly General	25,815.03
Facilities (Less Rent)	99.65
Rent	800.00
Total Monthly Facilities	899.65

Designated

Penny Manna	3.00
Back to School	19.95
Benevolence/Crisis Relief	319.94
Church Mission Trip	99.40
Total Monthly Designated	442.29

Total Monthly Contributions

(Less Rent) **\$26,356.97**

Total Monthly General

Contributions **\$25,815.03**

Budgeted General Contributions **\$31,869.86**

Difference **-\$6,054.83**

Year-to-Date Contributions:

General

General - Excluding eGiving	181,354.94
eGiving	56,681.06
YTD Total General Contributions	\$238,036.00

Facilities

Facilities (Less Rent)	883.91
Rent	6,600.00
YTD Total Facilities	7,483.91

Designated

Youth Missions	4,323.91
Penny Manna	60.06
Back to School	1,674.02
Benevolence/Crisis Relief	2,429.05
Church Mission Trip	472.82
CR/Evangelism	50.00
YTD Total Designated	8,959.86

Total YTD Contributions (Less Rent) **\$247,879.77**

YTD Actual General Contributions **\$238,036.00**

YTD Budgeted General

Contributions **\$290,015.75**

Add: \$20,000 one-time gift **\$20,000.00**

Difference **-\$31,979.75**

% Difference **-11%**

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Day of Advent Angel Tree Bible Study 10:30am Be the Bridge 4pm	2 ESL 6pm	3 Council Meeting 7pm (NO GIFTS)	4 ESL 6pm 7pm: Bible Study, Prayer, CREW, Iglesia Emanuel	5 Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6:15 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	6	7 Men's Breakfast 8:30am Book Club Christmas Party
8 Bible Study 10:30am Angel Tree Set up for Advent Dinner 12pm & 4pm Advent Dinner 5:30 p.m.	9 Woven Potluck 12pm ESL 6pm	10 GIFTS	11 ESL 6pm 7pm: Bible Study, Prayer, CREW, Iglesia Emanuel	12 Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6:15 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	13	14 Farewell for Pastor Dieula 6:30 p.m.
15 Bible Study 10:30am Angel Tree Check Reimbursement Deadline Book Club 6:30 p.m.	16 ESL 6pm	17 GIFTS	18 ESL 6pm 7pm: Bible Study, Prayer, CREW, Iglesia Emanuel	19 Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6:15 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	20	21 Children's Christmas Program Practice 9:30am
22 Children's Christmas Program 10:45 a.m. Angel Tree Ends	23 Office closed No activities	24 Christmas Eve Services 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.	25 Merry Christmas! Office closed No activities	26 Celebrate Recovery • Dinner 6:15 pm • Meeting 7 pm • Share Groups 8 pm • Café Koinonia 9 pm	27	28
29	30 Office closed No activities	31 New Year's Eve Game Night 7pm- Midnight	1/1/2020 Happy New Year! Office closed No activities		SAVE THE DATE 1/4 Men's Breakfast 1/4 Taking Down the Greens 1/9 ESL resumes 1/9 Ladies' Potluck 1/11 Wednesday activities resume 1/15 Book Club resumes 1/26 Annual Meeting	PURPLE = Fellowship Hall RED = Sanctuary GREEN = CE Wing PINK = Whole Church ORANGE = Office BLUE = Prayer Room BROWN = Sanctuary Annex

Redeemer

Evangelical Covenant Church



Contact Us

1518 East Frankford Road

Carrollton, TX 75007

972-466-0054

FAX 972-323-1413

Info@RedeemerECC.org

Senior Pastor – Mark Mohrweis

Mark@RedeemerECC.org

Associate Pastor – Dieula Previlon

Dieula@RedeemerECC.org

Office Administrator – Lori Vriend

Lori@RedeemerECC.org

Music Leader – Cassie Watson

CassieWatson_music@yahoo.com

Youth Leader – Joy Persson

Joy.Persson@gmail.com

We are
on the web!

[WWW.
RedeemerECC.org](http://WWW.RedeemerECC.org)

www.facebook.com/redeemercarrollton

Redeemer is a member of
The Evangelical Covenant Church
www.covchurch.org

Redeemer Covenant Church

Our vision is to be
a multi-ethnic community
that is committed to
walking alongside
anyone seeking healing or
wholeness in Christ.

Worship at Redeemer

Worship Services

Please join us in worshipping our Lord on Sundays at 10:45 A.M.

Advent Sermon Series

December 1 - Jeremiah 29:1-14 "So You're Telling Me There's a Chance!?!?"

December 8 - John 14:27 & Matthew 5:9 "No Easy Peace"

December 15 - Ecclesiastes 9:7-10 & 1 Peter 1:3-9 "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas (Joy)"

December 22 - Colossians 3:12-14 "No Such Thing as a Nudist Christmas" Plus, the Children's Christmas Musical

December 29 - Matthew 2:13-23 "Happy Christmas, War Just Started"

Master's Touch Submissions

To submit information or an article, e-mail it to Lori at Lori@RedeemerECC.org.

Submissions are due no later than the 20th of the month in order to be considered for publication in the following month's newsletter.

Submissions will be reviewed by RCC leadership for approval and are subject to editing.

Office Hours

Monday: 9 AM — 4 PM
(Pastor Mark's day off)

Tuesday: 9 AM — 4 PM

Wednesday: 9 AM — 4 PM
(Staff meeting 2 — 3 PM)

Thursday: 9 AM — 4 PM

Friday: 9 AM — 4 PM
(Lori's day off)

Saturday: Closed