

Dickens Fest 2014

Update from Redemption Lutheran Church St. George, Utah



Picture: Redemption's booth at Dickens Fest 2014

Dickens Fest - St. George, Utah

Each year the annual Dickens Fest comes to St. George and offers our community a four day "travel back in time" to a 19th century Victorian England landscape. Over 200 vendors line the "streets" constructed inside our local Dixie Center. Two performance stages are active all day and evening long from 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Thousands of locals as well as visitors from Las Vegas and other regional communities make the Dickens Fest a must-attend-event. We just concluded this year's event this past Saturday and were most pleased to be a part of the scene.

Redemption Lutheran and one other local ministry were the only two churches to host booths on the streets of this replicated olde-world London town. A couple other local congregations also hosted performance groups on one of the two entertainment stages. Thousands walked past our booth during the four days. Hundreds, approximately 500 stopped long enough to exchange a greeting and receive our complimentary Christmas Greeting Cards. Dozens stopped and lingered a bit longer to discuss what Redemption is offering to them and the community. We are most grateful for the opportunity to have met these souls and look forward to possibly reconnecting soon.

Dickens Fest Visuals



Roughly every two hours these 8.5 foot tall "spirits" strolled through the streets and greeted the guests and vendors of the festival. Once in a while you would catch the spirit of Christmas past placing his boney hand on the shoulder of an unsuspecting guest ... "the look" on their faces as they turned to see the imposing figure was an absolute riot.

Additional street performers keep the streets alive and Dickens-like as well.

Abbreviated versions of Oliver and Dickens' Christmas Carol perform each evening at 6 and 8 p.m. The guest-count surely rises as the evening hours emerge. Many come to the festival primarily to view the theater groups share these timeless classics.

Throughout the day the stages host musical groups from local high schools, grade schools etc. There's always a Victorian Christmas buzz in the air.



Dickens Fest advice: if you love to be caught up in the commotion and the din of a huge crowd ... attend the festival anytime from 4:00 p.m. Friday until it closes at 9:00 p.m. Saturday.

If you prefer to steer clear of the Beatlemania atmosphere you will want to plan a trip anytime Wednesday, Thursday or early Friday. Pictured to the left is one of the lightly populated streets of the festival.

Redemption's Crew and Booth



Who would turn down complimentary greeting cards and a "Merry Christmas" wish from these two characters? "Grandma and Grandpa Q" made the trek over from Phoenix to St. G. to help us keep Redemption's booth appropriately staffed and running during the entire four day run of the festival.

It appeared that the retired pastor had a great time meeting with some of the festival-goers. Grandma was also very helpful to us though several "I got lost out there in those streets" episodes almost had us calling on the authorities to locate a missing granny.

Seriously, we "couldn't have done this without them" applies.

Thanks a' plenty go out to John and Sandie Quandt for their assistance and support.

Redemption's pastor and his wife Mary jumped into their Victorian duds and played along as well. Many thanks to our Vegas friends Ralph and Sharon for outfitting us. Sharon even provided the vest of Mark the museum director a.k.a. "the beard of knowledge" who shows up on *Pawn Stars* from time to time. Nice work Sharon!

A big surprise occurred on Saturday when the festival directors announced over the public address system that the winner of the vendor's best costume award goes to "Redemption Lutheran Church." A free plug for us amidst the throng of Saturday festival goers!



Big Shout Out to Mary - we arrived on Tuesday, December 2nd to find an open-air pop up tent designated for our use. Within seven hours, a dedicated and talented pastor's wife threw together our booth! Well done Mary ... well done, and thank you.

With this booth we have shared Redemption's name and presence with many. We've also publicized our official **open house days for January 15th-17th.**

Follow us on our website (www.redemptionsg.com) as more and more details unfold.

Merry Christmas to each and every one of you.

A Savior has been born to you, He is Christ the Lord!

